



American Legion
Department of Vermont
Monthly Bulletin

September 2021

"For God and Country"



DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT COMMANDER

Catherine M. Jester

My Fellow Legionnaires,

I hope this month's newsletter finds you all happy and healthy and looking forward to the beautiful fall that the Green Mountain State is famous for.

Thank you to Sr. Vice Scanlon and Department Chaplain Coonradt for organizing the 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony at Middlebury Post 27. It was well attended and was very moving. I know there were many other ceremonies throughout the state. Hope, resilience, and unity lifted us up as a nation then and continues today. We promise to "Never forget".

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the October Fall Conference held at Vergennes Post 14. Internal Affairs is working on the agenda. National Vice Commander Bates from Rhode Island will be visiting Vermont during Fall Conference. We look forward to show-

ing Commander Bates our great state and learning from him. If you have ideas for topics please get with PDC Royal Sheeley. The cost of the lunch will be \$8.00 and the Post will also provide coffee for the morning.

Mid-Winter Conference is scheduled and will be held at the Double Tree in South Burlington on January 21-22. Hotel and banquet information will be in the October Newsletter.

Membership for 2022 is off to a great start. I just received a membership report from National and Vermont has met the first goal of 50 percent. Is your post having an "Early Bird" dinner? This might help generate some additional membership if they can get a free meal by paying early.

National Convention in Phoenix was a success. National Commander Paul Dillard from Texas was elected as our National Commander for 2021/2022 (see his bio in the bulletin on page xx). Cory Bates from Rhode Island was elected as the National Vice Com-

mander for the Northeast Region and hails from Rhode Island. We are hoping to have both National Vice Commander Bates and National Commander Dillard visit our great state in the upcoming year. We listened to some great speakers but one that resonated with me the most was Micheal Barrett, the 17th Sgt Major of the Marine Corps.

Mark your calendars for National Convention in 2022 in Milwaukee Wisconsin.

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance and I look forward to visiting your post home this year.

My motto for the year -
"Have a goal for tomorrow, a plan for today, and remember the lessons of yesterday."

For God and Country,

Catherine M. Jester
Department Commander





PAUL E. DILLARD

NATIONAL COMMANDER AMERICAN LEGION



Paul E. Dillard was elected national commander of The American Legion on Sept. 2, 2021, in Phoenix during the organization's 102nd national convention. His theme as national commander is "No Veteran Left Behind." He first joined The American Legion in 1969.

A native Texan, Dillard graduated from Whitesboro High School in 1965 before joining the U.S. Navy and serving in Vietnam through four campaigns including the Tet offensive. He later received an honorable discharge as a radarman second class petty officer from the Navy Reserve before attending Grayson County Junior College and East Texas State University.

Dillard worked several years in the manufacturing business as an engineer, plant manager and director of manufacturing in Tennessee. Upon returning to

Texas, he accepted a sales representative position with Sherman Foundry and became its airplane pilot. A career change was made when he and his wife, Donna, began their family and he entered the insurance business specializing in employee benefits and later forming Dillard & Gann Insurance.

As a paid-up-for-life member of American Legion Post 265 in Lake Kiowa, Texas, Dillard served as post commander, vice commander, adjutant and judge advocate. He coached American Legion Baseball for more than 10 years and served as his post's Boys State chairman.

Dillard served the 4th District as commander and vice commander and served the department as sergeant-at-arms, Membership & Organization chairman, National Security chairman, Uniformed Organization chairman, Board of Trustees chairman, and he served on the Finance Committee and the Long-Range Planning Committee. He was elected as Department of Texas commander in 2007.

On the national level, Dillard has served as Alternate National Executive Committee member, consultant to the Insurance

Committee, Distinguished Guest Committee, Children & Youth Committee, and Media and Communications Council. He has served as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, chairman of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and chairman of the Legislative Commission. He was elected as national vice commander in 2013.

Dillard married Donna in 1983. They have two sons, William and his wife Allison, and Jonathon and his wife Karri, and two grandsons Jarrett and Lukas. All are members of the American Legion Family. Donna has been an active and dedicated member of The American Legion Auxiliary for several years and has served in numerous positions of leadership at all levels of the organization, including department president in 2017-2018.



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In Memory of the Thirteen Hero's who gave their All in Afghanistan on August 26

“These men and women made the ultimate sacrifice so that others could live. They were and will be forever remembered as heroes,” Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said in a statement. “ My heart and my thoughts are with their families. They, too, have made the ultimate sacrifice.”





SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Tom Scanlon

The Annual Convention is behind us and the slightly warm 110° Phoenix days have changed to the 40° Vermont mornings. I am so glad I am home where life is a little bit slower and quite a bit cooler.

We just marked the 20th Anniversary of the horrific events of September 11th. This date only rivals the attack on Pearl Harbor. However, on that day a short 20 years ago we again learned about bravery and dedication. Not from our military but rather from our emergency responders, and particularly the fire services. On that sunny morning in September 343 firefighters of one fire department perished in a single event in New York City. Fire department responders, police officers of various agencies, and medical personnel ran to the scene of the Twin Towers prior to their tumbling to assist those in the building. With selfless courage and dedication to others, many of these individuals perished. This scene of heroism was also found at the Pentagon, and on United Flight 93 where the heroic actions of the flight attendants and a group of passengers thwarted an additional act of terrorism, causing the plane to crash in Pennsylvania where all 44 on board perished. Nearly 3,000 died as a result of these acts of terrorism. We must never forget them.

At noon in Middlebury the Fire Chief struck the fire bell five times repeated in four series. This was followed by four blasts of the air horn on a Fire Department pumper truck. This was the start of the Memorial Service conducted by the Department. This striking of the fire bell is a fire service tradition dating back to the mid 1800's. Long before radios, pagers, cell phones or just phones, announcements from HQ were sent to firehouses by a system of bell commands and telegraph. When a firefighter died in the line of duty, HQ would transmit five bell strikes, repeated four times. This is known as "striking the four fives" and it occurred on 9/11 and continues to this day.



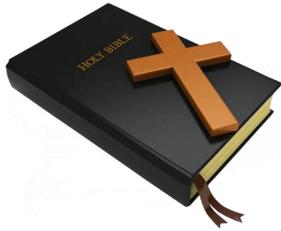
Our Department Chaplain Ken Coonradt was the catalyst for this event in that he wanted to ensure there was a Department Memorial Service. He asked if it could be conducted in Middlebury being that Post 27 is fairly central and had enough room. Under Chaplain Ken's tutelage plans were put in motion and a respectful and wonderful event was conducted. Speakers included our Department Commander Cathy Tester, Sons of the American Legion Commander Jeremy Revell, President of the Vermont American Legion Auxiliary Francisca Massey, the Middlebury Fire Chief, and the Sheriff of Addison County. The keynote address was by Brigadier General Brian Carpenter, VTARNG (Retired), who is also Chair of the Middlebury Select Board. The Invocation and memorial prayer were rendered by Chaplain Ken and the closing benediction was done by Sons of the American Legion Chaplain Dave Hendee.

(Continued on page 5)

A touching and heartwarming American Legion Family event. Thank you Chaplain Ken for making this happen.

For God, Country & Community

Tom Scanlon



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Ken Coonradt

Howdy Legionnaires,

Last month I told you about the Bennington Select Board questioning the need to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Well, after much hollering and screaming by our community, they have come to their senses and decided our Allegiance should and will stay. Praise God.

I am sitting at our breakfast table, looking out the window and suddenly notice that our maple trees have a certain hue to them. Then I realize they are beginning the late summer, early fall color; still green but showing a readiness to become yellow, orange and red. Ah, we all know what that means, autumn time. While it will be a beautiful time it also means cooler weather and too soon the coming of flurries.

All this is a little reminder of God's seasonal design. We in this area of the country are so fortunate to have such discernible Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter seasons. This year's rain has provided an abundance of flowers and greenery everywhere. Our lawn needed to be mowed every 3 or 4 days. My neighbor's gardens were popping with everything from sweet corn to peas and cucumbers, and of course lots of weeds.

Oh, we have a trumpet flower bush just outside our kitchen window, it's still blooming with bright orange trumpet shaped flowers. The hummingbirds are going crazy as they fly inside the flowers to get the succulent juices. These birds are one of the many miracles of God and I sincerely hope all of you are able to see outside and appreciate God's creation, it's color and activity.

So, let's be thankful for our four seasons and enjoy each one to the fullest. And we should appreciate God's creation of "us" in His image.

Although we're still enduring some bumps and bruises regarding the pandemic I feel sure this thing will wear itself out soon; we must be remain prayerful and patient and stick to the protocols. Unfortunately, we've had several positive cases at the Veterans Home recently. Our prayers are with you all.

Please pray for the folks in Afghanistan and all of our men and women serving around the globe.

Keep the faith!

God Bless,

Chaplain Ken



NORTHERN AREA COMMANDER

Mark Cloutier

Welcome fellow Legionnaires.

Where did the summer go? I can't believe that it is already September and the

leave are starting to change colors here in the NEK.

As we all know COVID number are starting to rise again due to the Delta Variant, please folks let's be safe out there.

I just returned from National Convention in Phoenix, AZ. It was interesting to say the least getting out there, but once settled in and got used to the heat I had a great time and learned a lot from all the different speakers. I never realized how much influence that the American Legion has with different programs.

One event that I was able to attend was the luncheon for the Legionnaire Insurance trust. As a member of the American legion family you are eligible for up to \$5000 coverage at no cost to you. They also have other programs at a low cost such as, Cancer Care insurance, Emergency assistance, and

Identity Theft protection. These are only a few of the benefits that they offer. So, post commanders and adjutants please spread the word to your members to visit www.TheLit.com and sign up.

Because of difficulties with mylegion.org, Dept HQ is still unable to get us a membership report for the 2022 membership year. We are told that it will be up and working with in the next couple of weeks. Also, don't forget to finish up membership for 2021 as well.

Our Fall conference is right around the corner and will be held at Vergennes post 14 this year. Please stay tuned for more information on this. I can be reached at **802-371-8097**, by email post7adj@gmail.com, or just shoot me a message on Facebook.

Mark Cloutier
Department of Vermont
Northern Area Commander
For God and Country

From the past NECman

It has been an honor serving the American Legion Department of Vermont for the past two years as the NECman.

Thanks to Dave Woodard for filling in for me a few times. I wish him luck in his old but new job as Alternate NECman.

I wish Ron Larose the best of luck in his new job as American Legion Department of Vermont NECman.

All have a great Legion year and stay healthy.

Fred LaTour



DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Brian Markwell

And it's already September with Fall Conference coming up next month on October 23. We will be meeting at Post 14 in Vergennes, Vt. For those who haven't been there before, the address to plug into your Garmin is 100 Armory Ln, Vergennes, VT 05491.

One of our goals this year is to increase the participation rate of Legion Family members in the Legionnaire Insurance Trust. This is a program that is no cost to currently active Legion Family members providing an up to \$5,000 benefit for death while involved with Legion related business or travel and a \$1,000 benefit for non-Legion related death. It's quick and easy to sign up at the website:

www.theLIT.com. Takes less than 10 minutes. For those without an email address, I suggest you work with a relative or friend who does and use their email address to have the verification email sent to activate your account. Anyone who has signed up since 2015 should still be good according to the people at the LIT booth at convention. I'm guessing that isn't very many since the numbers for 2020 show that only 360 Vermont Family members were participating in this program resulting in the Department of Vermont receiving \$3,278. By increasing our numbers of Legion Family members in this program, we can increase the amount the Department receives from this program. Of course, this free insurance is just the teaser to get members to sign up for other low-cost insurance protection to Legion Family members offered on the LIT website. This past year these 360 members paid in for insurance policies a total of \$55,388 in premiums collected at an average cost of around \$154. The different types of policies available include Disability Income, Cancer Care Expense, Travel Accident, Long Term Care, Medicare Supplement, Surgical Benefits, Medical, Dental, Accidental Death, Identity Theft Protection, Auto and Homeowners Insurance. Just some things to think about and maybe comparison shop

with what you may already have or may purchase in the future.

There will be a computer set up at the Fall and Mid-Winter conference to assist anyone wishing to take that opportunity to sign up for this insurance on the spot.

Another issue I would like to address is the Posts conducting their own membership processing. As some of you are aware, some posts send in their membership paperwork to the Department office in Montpelier to be input and forwarded to National. Recently some of these transmitted batches have been "lost" in the system and attributed to the ongoing issues with converting over to the new system. On the other hand, posts processing their own memberships have not reported any "lost" submissions. It may not be instantaneous, but the memberships submitted online by the posts do show up after a few days. It saves these posts the time and postage of having to send the paperwork to Montpelier. If any post is interested in finding out how this process works, I am more than willing to walk you through this process. Bring your laptop, checking account information and at least one member, new or renewal, to establish this online process. I'm looking forward to working with you in getting this up and running for your post if you have not established it already.

See you in Vergennes!!

As always, if you have any questions or need help with something, please feel free to contact me at adjvt@talofvt.com or 1-802-999-1026.

For God and Country,

Brian Markwell

Dept of Vermont Adjutant



SECOND DISTRICT COMMANDER

Lou Furry

Greetings Legionnaires,

By now I'm sure you are all aware of the scam emails that have been going around with Department Officers' names on them. Just in case you may not be, I will share my experience with them (embarrassing as it may be) and how I was *almost* taken in by it. Most of these emails went straight to my spam folder and I never even saw them, but one of them made it to my inbox. That particular one happened to carry the name of our Dept. Commander and arrived before I saw the warning email put out by Department. Now, this is by no means a criticism of Dept. Commander Tester in any way, shape or form. Our Department officers did absolutely nothing wrong and were as much victimized by these scammers as those of us who received the emails. That said, here's how it went:

From Dept. Commander:

Lou, Are you free at the moment?

Being both 2nd District Commander and Department Legion Riders Director, and knowing that most of Department was at or on the way to Convention in Phoenix, I thought it was not unreasonable that Commander Tester might have needed some sort of information so I replied:

I am now. Sorry, I just saw your email. I was busy earlier.

It was when I received the following response that I knew a scammer was at work:

Lou, I am in a conference meeting right now as I

would be working till late, but need you to get me some Gift t Cards. Could you pick a few Google Play Gift Cards for me, when I'm done with the meeting I will reimburse you. I tried purchasing online but there was no luck.

At that time, the emails went into the trash.

The moral of the story is that no matter how internet savvy you are, you (along with everyone else) are still at risk of falling victim to these scammers. Be Careful, Be Aware, Be Skeptical.

Our organization, The American Legion, from the local Legionnaire to the highest levels of the National organization, does important work on behalf of veterans and their families and their communities. The thought of some criminal attempting to disrupt that work and victimize any Legionnaire just makes my blood boil. I say again, Be Careful!

I very much want to stress that none of what I have written here is intended to cast any negative light on Commander Tester or any other Department Officers whose names you may have seen attached to these emails. They had absolutely nothing to do them. Their names were used without their knowledge or approval. The responsibility lies squarely on the shoulders of the criminals who used them.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lou Furry

2nd District Commander

Vermont Commissioning

Here is a good video of the Commissioning if you did not get a chance to watch live.

Best, Bill Mattoon

<https://twitter.com/i/broadcasts/1RDxIPyrbwNXL>





THIRD DISTRICT COMMANDER

Joe Zickmund

Membership is the lifeblood of the American Legion. I'm not just referring to dues (although vitally important), I'm talking about participation at the Post level. It seems many posts recycle the same slate of officers over and over. It's my impression that this is because they lack the participation and willingness to serve from other members. Meeting turnouts are typically a very small percentage of membership, and many posts have officers filling more than one role or vacancies due to lack of volunteers.

My plea is a simple one....get involved.

Your perspective, experiences and knowledge are needed. If being an officer isn't of interest, how about volunteering and/or just attending the meetings? As we seek ways to improve and grow, your input is invaluable and needed. We are the caretakers of the American Legion. This is our time to carry the torch and to maintain and grow it. Our parents and grandparents did a great job of this but now we carry that mantle. One day, we will pass it to our children and grandchildren. Let's tend to and grow it so when we hand it off, we're proud of what we accomplished, and we can know we did our part.

Joe Zickmund



FIFTH DISTRICT COMMANDER

Lewis Graham

National Convention was inspiring as always. It is amazing what The American Legion as a whole contributes to veterans, children and youth programs and our communities over the space of one year. It still happens, even during the restrictions of a pandemic.

Talking with Legion members from other states and National and seeing their accomplishments recognized and applauded amplifies the mission value of this organization with a clarity that is hard to quantify when the accomplishments of each post are separated from the whole. It shows what an avalanche can result from many snowflakes.

The District Caucus is next Sunday,

September 19, at 10:00am at Ludlow Post 36. Please plan to attend. I want to hear your ideas and suggestions for the rest of our year and have a couple of my own I would like the District to consider. There will be a lunch available for \$10. Three dollars will go to the District and the rest to the Post.

As always, membership is critical to our success. Our District 5 quota for 2022 is 1830 members. That is slightly less than our quota for the last year, so it is certainly well within our reach. The October goal is 55% of that. As of July 14, 2021, the end of our yearly membership period, we had 1791 members in our district. When we let the world know all the good the Legion does for our veterans, and welcome

home the deployed, surely we can recruit, renew and retain members. Plan to keep a couple applications in your wallet so a casual conversation may give you an opportunity to interest someone joining us in our service. (And carrying applications for the whole Legion Family is a good idea as well.)

I look forward to seeing you at the District Caucus and in my travels to Posts around the District as well. Any questions or suggestions, give me a call at 802-279-0441.

Lew Graham

Welcome New Department Service Officer

Larry Thompson

Welcome to our New Department Service Officer (DSO) for the American Legion. Larry Thompson was appointed for a five year team as the DSO. Larry currently is in the office at White River Junction.

Larry graduate from Saint Michael's College with a B.A. Business Administration. He served four years in the Air Force and 26 years with the Air National Guard, retiring as AGR.

Over Larry's military career he deployed to: Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq, Panama and Puerto Rico.

Larry has continued his education with a certificate in Accounting from SNHU and has taken three Service Officer courses with American Legion and a private course for service officers.

Please join me in welcoming Larry.

Larry can be reached at
Lawrence.Thompson1@va.gov



ADDISON COUNTY COMMANDER

Alan M. Smith

Hoping we are not heading into another shutdown but it doesn't look good. I will be scheduling evaluations soon. If you need help or have questions give me a call. We will be hosting a booth at Addison County Field Days in 2022; I will provide more details as the date draws closer. We are in the middle of lounge renovations at Post 19 and will be moving into the function hall for the months of September and most of October. Now is the time to concentrate on membership as the initial wave is over.

Alan M. Smith



CALEDONIA COUNTY COMMANDER

David Perron

September, Fair season has approached us lets think Membership and get out there meet and greet people. Invite them to a Post meeting. Membership starts with you!!!!!! Let's make are Post stronger and healthy.

Please let me know if I can do anything to help with anything you folks need.

COUNTY COMMANDERS- Time to get out there and visit your Post for Evaluations, I like to visit early so you have time to re visit and check their improvements.

WE CAN DO THIS.

Thank you all for serving. Contact #'s Home-525-3895 Cell 272-2793 Perrondavid323@yahoo.com

Thank you.

David W Perron



BOYS STATE CHAIRMAN

Dave Cobb

September Update

The following delegates represented Vermont at the American Legion Boys' Nation Program at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia from July 23 – 31, 2021. Vermont was selected to send four delegates in 2021 because some states did not hold a program this year.

We have received word from our delegation that Boys' Nation was a life-changing experience. Congratulations to the National Office and Boys Nation staff for coming together to navigate these COVID waters and bring about this experience.

Simon Rosenbaum	Vermont Commons School
Wyatt Luce	Colchester High School
Carter Monks	Mt. Abraham Union High School
Gavin Young	Union 32 High School

Now that school is back in session, we are beginning our outreach in preparation for Boys' State 2022. We are working our communication plan to maintain a presence within the Vermont school guidance community to rebuild the knowledge base of American Legion programs.

At the June Annual Meeting, Boys' State received donations in excess of \$3,000 to support an upgrade of our computer infrastructure. We wish to recognize the work of Adjutant Linda Perham. Linda was instrumental in publicizing this need and championing this cause. Linda, thanks for rallying the troops on behalf of Boys' State!

We recognize the generosity of the following components of the Vermont Legion family:

Post #13, Post # 64, Post # 24, Post # 61, District #4, Post #84, District #5, Franklin County, Post #36, Post # 19, Post # 31, Post # 01, Post # 47, Post # 03, Post # 27, Post #53, and Post # 50.

At present time, we are analyzing our needs, and promise to make good and efficient use of this support.

That's a wrap for now. We are looking forward to seeing one and all in-person at our next meeting.

For God and Country,

Dave Cobb

Director.

SUICIDE

If you or someone you know is experiencing suicidal thoughts, please call the crisis line at 1-800-273-8255, press 1 for veterans. You could also text at **838255**.





DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

Victor J. Stone

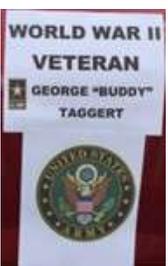
UNEXPECTED CONNECTIONS

This year the Orwell Labor Day Parade-aside from the usual aggregation of Farmall tractors, bag pipers, horse units, and Shriner clowns-brought together two dedicated Vermont Legionnaires, Burt Reynolds and George 'Buddy' Taggert, who share a variety of very interesting connections. Aside from being long-time members of Vermont Posts, both are 95 years old, both served in WWII artillery units, and both were stationed on the island of Leyte, Philippines at the same time. Yet were it not for Commander Catherine Tester's invitation to these two veterans to participate and be honored in the above mentioned parade neither of them would have been aware of their shared experience of 77 years ago.

Burt enlisted in the USMC as a fresh 17 year old out of High School. After training he was dispatched to Hawaii and then on to Leyte Island as a communication specialist in a Marine artillery battalion. As a Legionnaire, Burt has served Brandon Post #55 in a number of capacities including Post Commander. He is currently the Post's chaplain.



Orwell
Parade
Color
Guard
from Fair
Haven
Post #49



Buddy joined the Army after High School and eventually made his way to Leyte in an Army artillery unit. He was later stationed in Japan as part of the initial occupying force. He is a 75 year member of Crippen Fellows Post #50 and over the years has held every office in the Post. He currently serves on the Post's Executive Board.

Parade Car
driven by
Commander
Tester with
WWII Vets
Burt Reynolds
and George
Taggert



It was a delight to meet and spend time with these two gentlemen and learn of their wartime experiences. They, of course, got a kick out of learning about their posting proximity and similarity of assignments. Both gave a hearty laugh when they jointly recalled the unending days of rain and mud during their tour of duty in the Philippines.

George Taggert,
Commander
Catherine Tester,
and Burt Reynolds



Mutual Helpfulness

The history of The American Legion is such a powerful one. There was a group of veterans with no benefits who decided to form an organization to support one another. In the last line of the preamble, it says we are here for mutual helpfulness.

The words mutual helpfulness are important. Our role as legionaries is to support each other. We are to support our veterans and our community. Mutual helpfulness does not mean I will do something for you if you do something for me in return. There are no conditions on this phrase.

Now that is a tall order because you can't solve every problem. But we should look within ourselves and say "can I do more?" Are we supporting the veterans in our community? Am I? Is The American Legion supporting the Auxiliary and visa versa. Is The American Legion Riders supporting the post programs? Are we communicating across the entire American Legion family and promoting mutual helpfulness?

I know personally I can do better. There are many individuals and posts that can. Mutual helpfulness also involves other levels of the organization. How many of us are asked to support in other levels but fail to do so? How many of us are encouraging our members to grow in this organization?

All too often we fail to encourage others because we are selfish. We have a strong post leader, and we don't

want to loose that volunteer because they accept another role. By holding them back, we are doing a disservice to our post and the organization. We should be empowering our leaders instead of shackling them down.

The knowledge I have gained in the 32 years I have been a member, especially the last 15 years I have been more active are invaluable to the positions I have held in that time. While there is a lot I can learn, there is also a lot I can share. I want to encourage you to remember the last line of the preamble and be mutually helpful to one another. Be mutually helpful to the veterans in your post and the ones that are not in it. Remember the torch our forefathers have passed to you. We have been charged to grow our posts and the organization so we can stand before congress with the power to be mutually helpful to our veterans.

We are charged to make an impact in the lives we touch. In a world where patriotism is under attack, it is up to us to educate those around us. It is up to us to support those around us. It is up to us to be ambassadors of this great nation.

I charge you to remember the last line when you make decisions in The American Legion, in your dealings with fellow legionaries and in the way you respond to requests.

Dave Woodward

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

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Melodie Ashford

Executive Administrator

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Veterans Affairs

800-827-1000

www.va.gov

American Legion
Headquarters

317-630-1200

www.legion.org

Vermont Office of
Veterans Affairs

802-828-3379

www.veterans.vermont.gov

The Dodge House
95 Crescent St
Rutland, Vt 05702

Dear Fellow Veterans;

Winter is quickly approaching and many struggling and homeless veterans, come to our Veterans Assistance Office, located at the Dodge House. Many are in need of winter boots in various men and women's sizes. Keeping their feet warm and dry has made a significant difference.

Our supply has slowly depleted and we are reaching out to ask for your participation in providing new boots to needy veterans. We have secured a vendor that provides low cost boots for \$50.00 a pair. We are hoping to purchase 50 pair this year.

If you have any questions regarding our boot project or how to help us reach our goal, please feel free to contact me at dodgehouse_vao@comcast.net

God Bless our Veterans,

Christina Morgan

Executive Director



SEPTEMBER 17TH

Mesothelioma Guide

Good Morning,

My name is Alex Campbell, and I am an outreach coordinator for Mesothelioma Guide, an advocacy organization dedicated to helping inform the public about a rare cancer called mesothelioma. Our mission is to educate people about how asbestos exposure is dangerous and can lead to this disease.

I am contacting you today in hopes of developing a partnership between your organization and mine, Mesothelioma Guide, to better inform veterans about mesothelioma and how they may be at risk. Veterans make up the single largest group of people affected by asbestos illnesses, comprising almost one-third of all diagnoses each year. The reason is simple: asbestos exposure in the military.

I would like to offer our help with serving your community of veterans. The Veterans page of our website (<https://www.mesotheliomaguide.com/veterans/>) offers free, veteran-specific resources and support for patients and families nationwide. If you add this link to your resources page (<http://vtlegion.org/>), I feel it would be a valuable resource for your community.

We also have Carl Jewett, a Retired Naval LCDR **with just under 24 years on active duty in the submarine force**, on staff as a **VA Accredited Claims Agent specializing in asbestos-related VA claims. He has helped hundreds of veterans throughout his career and** is always happy to speak with Veterans and their families about Mesothelioma and VA Claims and how he can help them.

Feel free to reach out to Carl Jewett through our toll-free number (1-888-600-7642) with any questions. Especially if you have other VSOs on your team helping to file claims for veterans with mesothelioma, as he can provide expert advice free-of-charge if needed.

I look forward to hearing from you, and please feel free to check out our social media accounts linked below.

Respectfully,

Alex Campbell Community Outreach

Mesothelioma Guide

<https://www.mesotheliomaguide.com/mesothelioma/>

FALL CONFERENCE

A reminder to all. The Fall conference will be held on 23 October 2021 at Vergennes Post 14. We are looking forward to enjoying the Hospitality of Post 14. National Vice Commander Bates from Rhode Island will be visiting Vermont during Fall Conference. We look forward to showing Commander Bates our great state and learning from him. We hope to have a good turn out for a informative and productive Fall Conference. Some of the topics that always need to be revisited are the proper protocol for official Legion dinners, some of the more frequent mistakes made at Post meetings with respect to Roberts Rules, required record keeping, and any new legislative issues from Montpelier that impact our Legion Posts. There is still time to let me know if there is a specific topic you feel we should address. Please contact me prior to 30 September, either by Phone at 802-287-4188, or E-Mail at root98@comcast.net.

For God and Country,

PDC Royal E Sheeley
Chairman, Dept of VT Internal Affairs Committee

Greetings Riders,

I hope you've had an awesome riding season so far.

Strangely enough, being newly retired for the past month, I haven't had anywhere near the riding opportunities I had hoped for. Apparently, the old saying that you're busier after retirement than when you were working every day is true....

I did have the opportunity to participate in the annual United Motorcyclists of Vermont Toy Run, at least. It was good to get out and see some of the other ALR Chapter members there. Attendance was down a bit this year, likely due to the rainy morning that day, but things cleared up by the time the ride started at noon and it turned out to be a good afternoon.

As always, I wish you safe travels and keep doing what you do!

Ride Safely

Lou Furry

Director

American Legion Riders

Department of Vermont



upcoming **EVENTS**

Dates	Event/meeting	Location
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2021

September	19	5 th District Caucus 10:00 am	Ludlow Post 36
October	23	Fall Conference	Post 14, Vergennes
December	10	Open House Department of Vermont	

2022

January	21-22	Mid-Winter Conference	Double Tree, Burlington
	21	Mid-Winter Banquet 5:00pm	
	22	Department Executive Committee Meeting (DEC)	following Mid-Winter Conference
April	10	Department Executive Committee Meeting (DEC)	Montpelier Post 3

POST EVERLASTING

PION, BERT J	01
MACAERT, JAMES E	01
GREENO, SR., GARY	01
DEUSO, EDWARD M	01
BIGGIE, MICHAEL E	01
ADAMS, ROBERT C	04
ROSE, ARTHUR A	14
BOYLE, THOMAS J	14
GRTREUTER, MARY ANNE	14
JAQUISH, RALPH D	14
LAPETE, WILFRED P	14
VOLPICELLI, ANTHONY J	14
BEDARD, BRADLEY N	19
STEWART, CONRAD J	19
SHELDON, MAURICE A	36
WALASEWICZ, STANLEY J	36
HUGHES, ROBERT B	39
LEACH, CRAIG W	39
HUGHES, HUGH J	39
DURRUM, STANLEY W	39
SENECAL, PAUL J	39
PERRY, GLENN L	47
NICHOLS, JR., WILLIAM D	100



“Whereas, we humbly bow to the will of Devine Providence, while ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of distinguished service to our country and outstanding contributions to American Legion comradeship. The American Legion does mourn the passing of these comrades.”

WHAT IS THE LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST?

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Paid benefits to Legionnaires and their families of over \$1 billion



Provides financial support of over \$91 million to support state department activities and VA&R efforts



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LEGIONNAIRE
INSURANCE TRUST



Department of Vermont American Legion

“Foliage Gas Raffle”

1st Prize

2nd Prize



Donation: 3 Tickets for \$5.00

Drawing: Fall Conference, October 2021

Mail tickets and payment to:

Department Headquarters
126 State Street, P O Box 396
Montpelier, VT 05601-0396

Fall Foliage Gas Raffle Tickets

 <p>Department of Vermont American Legion "Foliage" Gas Raffle Donation-3 Tickets for \$5.00</p> <p>Drawing : Fall Conference, October, 2021 1st Prize-\$250 gas card 2nd Prize-\$150 gas card</p>	Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____
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 <p>Department of Vermont American Legion "Foliage" Gas Raffle Donation-3 Tickets for \$5.00</p> <p>Drawing : Fall Conference, October 2021 1st Prize-\$250 gas card 2nd Prize-\$150 gas card</p>	Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____
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STUFF A SHANTY



For a list of acceptable items please visit:
<https://vtsupports.org/shopping-list/>
Or
<https://www.adoptasoldier.com/wish-list>

FOR VETERANS

ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TO ADOPT A SOLDIER & VT S.U.P.P.O.R.T.S.

FAIR HAVEN LEGION POST 49
SUNDAY OCTOBER 10, 2021
8 AM TO 12 PM

*ITEMS CAN ALSO BE
DROPPED OFF AT:
EVERYDAY FLOWERS
200 MAIN ST.
POULTNEY, VT
OR
EITHER POST ANYTIME*

CASTLETON LEGION POST 50
SUNDAY OCTOBER 17, 2021
8 AM TO 12 PM