



AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

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September 2025

Bulletin

Messages from the Department Commander, Senior Vice Commander,
District Commanders, and County Commanders

Department Commanders Message – William “Bill” Brothers

District & County Cmdrs. Messages -

Fall Conference Itinerary – PDC Clark “Sparky” Ferris

National Commander to Visit Vermont – Itinerary & Banquet Info

Public Relations Message – Melvin McKnight, Barre Post 10

Department Commander

William “Bill” Brothers

Greetings Legionnaires,

Another month has flown by; they are going fast for sure!

We had a great National Convention, and I want to congratulate National Vice Commander Eastern Division – PDC, Ron LaRose on his appointment and congratulations to our new NEC – PDC, Joseph Zickmund along with Alt NEC PDC, Mark Cloutier! We all should have a great year ahead.

Thank you to everyone that has helped out at all the Memberships Rallies at the County fairs this year. Special thanks go to our Sr. Vice Commander – Fred Wilson, Auxiliary Executive – PDP Corrinna Colson for all you did getting these events going and our Admin. - Melodie for what you did with assisting in these. I personally thank all who attended and volunteered their time, it was a success to say the least, and we had a hell of a good time joining together and working the membership mission. We are doing great so far so let's keep the momentum going! Don't forget to do your Buddy Checks to let your Veterans in your community know you are thinking of them and to see if they need any assistance.

I will be starting my visitations to Posts in October when I get back from Indianapolis. We also have the National Commander – Dan Wiley from Kansas coming for a visit in October, looking forward in taking him around Vermont to visit Posts. We also will be taking him to Jay Peak to show him how beautiful Vermont is during foliage season. Information pertaining to his visit and banquet are in this bulletin. I hope to see many of you at our stops.

We are coming up on our Fall Conference quickly Saturday October 25th @ Colchester 91. The Internal Affairs Committee assures me it will be a day worth attending with some training and more! If you have something specific you would like discussed, please contact Clark “Sparky” Ferris and let him know. Info is in this bulletin.



I would be remiss if I didn't send a special shout out to So. Area Commander – Bill Charron. Thank you for all your support in assisting Fred Wilson and I on the membership drives at the County fairs. You have been extremely helpful, and we thank you for that. My Commander Project flyers are in this bulletin, both are worthy causes, take a look. October is going to be busy, I will see you out on the trail!

For God and Country,

William “Bill” Brothers
Commander, Dept. of VT

Senior Vice Commander – Fred Wilson

Dan K. Wiley of Kansas was elected National Commander of The American Legion on August 28, 2025, in Tampa, Florida during the 106th National Convention.

As National Commander, Dan K. Wiley is a strong advocate for The American Legion's “Be the One” mission to prevent veteran suicide. “Be The One” initiative is to reduce the rate of veteran suicide. Lessening the stigma associated with mental health treatment and empowering everyone to take appropriate action when a veteran or service member may be at risk – one life at a time. He emphasizes inclusivity in the American Legion Family through the theme, “Better Together”!



Congratulations to Ronald LaRose for his outstanding dedication, unwavering integrity, and exemplary leadership. His commitment to veterans, community, and ceremonial excellence reflects the very spirit of our mission. Ron was elected as one of our five National Vice Commanders.

I attended the convention as a delegate and was a member of the Finance Committee. No dues increase is anticipated for 2026-2027. Retention of members has a direct effect on our finances. Retention is a legacy-builder. Whether you are rallying current Legion members or rekindling ties with past ones, the goal is the same: deepen connection, honor service, and make every interaction feel like returning home.

USA 250 Challenge to kick off The American Legion's celebration of our Nation's 250th birthday. The challenge is a major part of how The American Legion will celebrate the historic occasion, now through July 4, 2026. Participants complete 250 hours of wellness activities such as yoga, meditation, and other forms of mindfulness.

Fitness activities: Participants may choose to walk, bicycle, or cover 250 miles (or hours) any way they choose. **Community service:** Participants achieve 250 hours of community service or reach the 250 bars of a community service project. Let's do your part.

Moments of Silence & Bell Tolling in remembrance of the attacks on 9/11/2001 :

- 8:46 a.m. – Flight 11 strikes the North Tower
- 9:03 a.m. – Flight 175 hits the South Tower
- 9:37 a.m. – Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon
- 9:59 a.m. – South Tower collapses
- 10:03 a.m. – Flight 93 crashes in Shanksville
- 10:28 a.m. – North Tower collapses

NEVER FORGET!

Happy 78th birthday to the United States Air Force on September 18th, 2025.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day on September 19th.

Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day are on September 28th.

As membership chairman, I am asking my Northern and Southern Area, District and County Commanders for help in setting up membership drives. They will include one-on-one personal phone calls and messages. Looking for volunteers and locations to host these events. RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT IS THE GOAL.

Important dates in October 2025: Fall Conference 10/25/25 Colchester Post 91; National Commanders visit 10/27-30/25 and Halloween 10/31/25. BOO!

For God and Country.

Fred E. Wilson, Jr.

2fredwilson@gmail.com

917-763-0354

Senior Vice Commander



National Executive Committee – **PDC, Joseph Zickmund**

Freshly returned from the National Convention that was held in Tampa, Florida, I'm feeling reinvigorated and as dedicated as ever to serve the Legionnaires of Vermont.

First, I want to thank all who supported and voted for me to serve as your National Executive Committee representative for the 2025-2027 term. I am honored and appreciative of your faith in my ability to represent you on the national level.

Although elected in June, I was officially installed in Tampa with the other NEC members from all departments. National Commander Wiley has asked me to serve as a member of the Liaison Committee with the Media & Communication Commission. I look forward to the education that will surely provide and using that knowledge here in Vermont.



In Tampa, I served on the Credential and Rules committee. During that meeting a new Chairperson and Secretary were elected. The delegate strength for the convention was certified and the Standing Rules of the Convention as outlined in the Uniform Code of Procedure was approved. I found it interesting that our delegate strength certified at 1776 delegates – with Vermont having 14. Two significant numbers representing the birth of our nation and the order of statehood for Vermont.

Commander Wiley will be visiting at the end of October. There will be a banquet in his honor, and I hope to see many of you there. Fall Conference is coming up too and is always educational and a great opportunity to share ideas and to learn what's happening around the state. Details about both events are included in this bulletin. Thanks again for your support and confidence.

For God, Country, and the American Veteran,
Joe Zickmund NEC/PDC



Northern Area Commander – Roy McKinnon

Greetings Comrades,

Membership is going well and we are, as a State close to reaching 50% membership. The Senior Vice is planning Membership Training and promoting a membership drive throughout Department. I will be asking District Commanders for a sponsoring Post and volunteers from each District to participate in this program.

With Summer ending soon and school starting, it is time to connect with high school counselors to promote Boy's State, Girl's State, Law Cadet, Eagle Scout, Scholarship and the Oratorical programs. Please make sure that your local high schools have the information needed and have someone follow up with the counselors.

For God and Country,
Roy (Buzz) McKinnon
Northern Area Commander
1-603-331-5000
buzzmckinnon5000@gmail.com



Southern Area Commander – William Charron

Greetings Comrades,

September marks the beginning of the “BER” months—a time when the leaves begin their brilliant transformation and a crispness settles into the air. As we prepare for winter, many of us feel the familiar ache in our bones, a gentle reminder from arthritis that colder days are ahead. It's during these seasonal shifts that a simple act of kindness can mean the world.

I encourage everyone to take a moment for a buddy check. A phone call, a visit, or even a short message can lift spirits and remind our fellow veterans that we stand together—not just in person, but in heart. A kind word can brighten even the gloomiest day.

This month also brings solemn reflection. We remember the tragedy of September 11th, when nearly 3,000 innocent lives were lost in an attack on our way of life. Since then, over 5,850 first responders have died from long-term illnesses caused by exposure to toxic dust and debris. We honor their sacrifice and pray for their souls.



On a brighter note, our posts are buzzing with renewed energy. Community dinners, early bird events, and member recognition gatherings are bringing people together and strengthening our bonds. These activities are more than social—they're a testament to the enduring spirit of The American Legion.

Let's keep the momentum going. Reach out, show up, and continue to build the kind of community we all believe in.

For God and Country

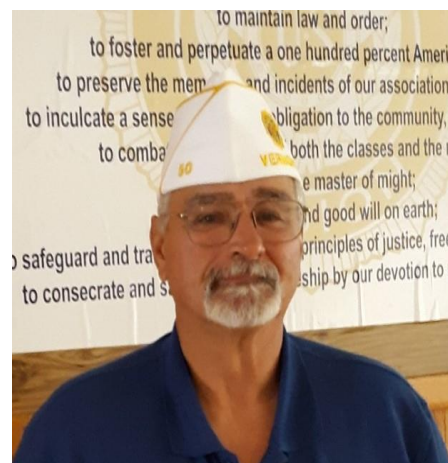
Bill Charron
Southern Area Commander

Dept. Chaplain – Stephen Frost

Warm and Hardy September Greetings, Legion Family!

I hope this finds you well, happy and healthy, and that you are among the group of people who finds Fall a pleasant sequel to the warmer days of Summer.

In this season, I metaphorically begin to “pack my cheeks”, much like the critters who urgently rush about, putting in food stores and downing their nests and hibernation areas. I, too, am busy with Cindy, preparing our grounds for the magnificent and mysterious Winter, God has planned for us.



My prayer is for each of us, to be in a spiritual place, where we may view the coming of Winter as a challenge of our mettle, with a fervent belief, that, with God's help, we will emerge, unscathed and victorious. Let us begin to embrace the notion of this, and the TRUTH of our Lord and Savior, that we will find this a Blessed time of tranquility and beauty. The falling of leaves is something I relate to, as shedding any burdens we carried in the past, and, as the trees go dormant, we are able to rest and repair,.....Thanks be to God for this impending respite.

Cindy and I were delighted to attend the annual Legion Convention in Tampa, as Delegates, and were pleased with the state of our American Legion and its programs, as well as the Auxiliary and their programs. We have MUCH faith in our Vermont contingent of National Officers and look forward to the fruit of their participation. PDC Mark Cloutier, Corrinna Colson, Executive Director/Membership Chair of ALA Dept of VT and National Eastern Division Membership Chair, Cindy ELL, (Frost), Pres. Dist. 4, ALA Dept of VT, VA&R Deputy Chair and myself, are soon to attend the Columbia University “Train the Trainer” National

Certification Course, for Be The One. We look forward to bringing this training to All in our Legion family.

Cindy and I, invite each of you to join the US 250 program of The American Legion, celebrating 250 years of Freedom and Service. It is a commitment to perform buddy checks, service hours, and other activities to accumulate 250 hours or acts of service, (combined). We hope you join us. Sign up through the AL website and there MAY be a free T-shirt in your size, available!

Attention Commanders and/or Adjutants!!

Please forward name and contact information of your currently serving Chaplains, so I may compile a list and reach out to them. My email is callfrosty12@gmail.com, and my phone number is (802) 345-5108. If you call, please leave a message, as I am rarely immediately available by phone. I'm planning an event for the Chaplains and could use your help in reaching out to them. Thank you!

May God Bless each of you, and may we continue to count our blessings, that He has chosen us to serve.

Dept. Historian – Carl King

Greetings American Legion Family

It was 24 years ago, on September 11th, 2001, at 8:46am, that the world as we knew it was forever changed. On that horrific morning, many deeds were done that took the lives of 2,977 innocent people. Amongst those who tragically lost their lives were: 344 Firefighters, 72 Law enforcement officers, 422 Emergency services and First responders, 55 Military personnel, and many, many more. Without a doubt, this was the most heinous act that has ever occurred on U.S soil. Hence the prolific cry and mantra of "We Will Never Forget " World Trade Center—2,753 lives lost The Pentagon—184 lives lost, Shanksville, Pennsylvania—40 lives lost



{We DO NOT include in those numbers the terrorists who perpetrated this evil and heinous act of violence upon America. Their numbers are irrelevant, reflecting zero worth. We don't give value to terrorists or their lives.}

As we remember this solemn moment and day, let us now bow our heads and give a few moments of reflection, remembrance, and prayer. (Moment of silence) I want to encourage all of our Post Historians and Post Commanders to perform a remembrance ceremony on 9/11 at each individual post. To honor those fallen and lost. To establish a tradition that will allow this day to live in perpetuity.

Thank you to ALL the Legionnaires, Sons, Auxiliary for the awesome work done at the County fairs this year. Your great efforts have netted our Legion Family with new members across the board. We have been getting the word out that the Legion is here to help veterans, families, and community. Great leaps and bounds are being made every day by dedicated and motivated Legionnaires throughout this beautiful State!
We are getting RESULTS!!!

I was honored to be part of the team that attended the Vermont National Guard's Open House Event in South Burlington, VT on Sunday, September 7th, 2025. We were the V.I.P guests. Those in attendance were: Department Commander-Bill Brothers, Sr. Vice Commander- Fred Wilson, Southern Area Commander- Bill Charron, Department Historian, 2nd District Commander, Post 21 Commander and Adjutant- Carl P. King

In case you didn't know, Vermont has the distinct honor of being " First to Defend " on 9/11. It was our VT aircraft that were up in the air and defending Americas airspace first!!! We set the bar and standard!!! GO VT!!

!

We had the pleasure of meeting members of one of the finest fighting forces that Vermont and the U.S.A has to offer. We got to meet and greet a lot of potential future Legion Family members. We got them excited and interested in joining!!! We were asked many questions about our experiences, and places we had been. We fellowshiped with everyone.

We toured the facilities, the grounds, and we got to see and touch the latest and greatest high-tech and bad ass gear and aircraft known to man!!! *(Trust me when I say we are very well protected, and they are capable of achieving any task put before them)*

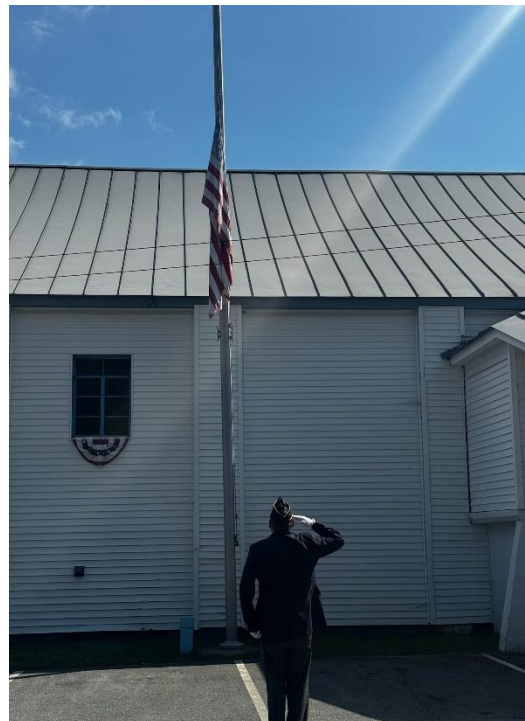
The day and event were both a success!!!

Please keep me and Headquarters posted of any events or pictures you wish to share with your fellow Legion Family members. We cannot attend or advertise events unless you share with us, so we then can share with everyone.

Stay safe, enjoy the Fall weather that is coming.
Take photos. Take videos.
It's your history. Let's share it.

Until next time Legionnaires...

Carl P. King
Department of Vermont
HISTORIAN



1st District Commander – Victor Stone

During the recently concluded Champlain Valley Fair, Joe Gilmond, Addison/Chittenden County Commander, anchored the American Legion Outreach Table for the ten-day run of the fair. The Legion table was active between 10:00AM and 6:00PM each day and greeted visitors, well-wishers, and veterans.



Along the way several applications for membership were handed to interested military veterans. Many thanks to Colchester Post 91 for supporting the American Legion presence and providing most of the manpower. Many thanks to all who participated over the course of this event: Joe Gilmond, Barb Bushaw, Henry Lingo, Bill Charron, Richard Baptie, and yours truly.



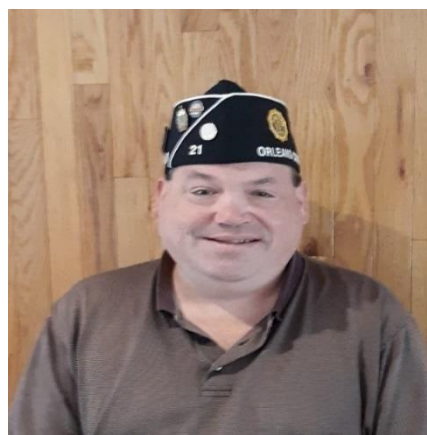
Addison/Chittenden County Commander Joe Gilmond and Colchester Post Commander and PDC Barb Bushaw at the AL stand on the last day of the fair.

2nd District Commander – Carl King

WOW! just WOW!

I am so proud to be part of the Vermont Legion Family. I had the pleasure of working with some of the finest people from all over our beautiful State during our Legion Family membership drive booth at the County fairs.

We put in many hours and many miles to make these events successful. And boy has our efforts paid dividends. Big Time!



I especially want to give a huge shout out to Executive Administrator, Melodie Ashford-McGrath and Auxiliary Membership Chairwoman Corrina Colson. You two have taken care of all the logistics and coordinated all these events which helped facilitate our great success. We appreciate it.

I experienced fellowship and met people I wouldn't normally cross paths with unless I were at these events. I was energized by this and my passion for our Legion family has deepened and my knowledge enriched by interacting and conversing with fellow veterans and their families and community members who just care and are thankful for our service and they too want to give back and be part of something bigger than themselves. What an awesome and profound experience you can only get through the Legion family. I can't wait till next year's fairs so we can get out there and get people excited about joining the Legion Family or contributing in other various ways. Plus getting to work beside wonderful Legionnaires and the opportunity of meeting new ones is just that much more enticing.

As 2nd District Commander, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for all members and officers who showed up to work at the fairs in our district. Every bit of effort counts to the greater whole and Ya'll stepped up and put boots on the ground and got the job done and won! I would also like to express my thanks and gratitude to our very own Department Commander Bill Brother who has vigorously been the spearhead of these membership drives. His passion and dedication to the Legion Family is without a doubt pure, honest and to the core! Bill Brothers is a tried-and-true Legionnaire and a model to be followed.

Thank you, Southern Area Commander Bill Charron. You took the time and drove up to our area to contribute to the membership drive efforts. You also were our spokesperson for the televised interview on Newport Dispatch Facebook page. You provided pertinent information about what we do as a Legion Family and the services we provide for our veterans and their families as well as the surrounding communities. You represented the Legion in fine fashion. Thank you, 5th District Commander "Lou" Graham, for coming to show solidarity and unity amongst our Districts and Areas. You did well and we appreciate it.

Thank you, Orleans County Commander Robert Messier, for working every night shift at the Caledonia and Barton fairs and filling in on any shift that was needed. Your dedication to the Legion Family is evident and showing. Keep up the good work! To all those not mentioned, Thank you for your efforts and contributions to our Legion Family. Without all of you, we could not be as successful as we were and are!!!

1. Caladonia Fair- 12 Legion, 6 S.A.L, 4 Auxiliary
2. Barton Fair- 12 Legion, 10 S.A.L, 17 Auxiliary

ATTENTION County Commanders: Caladonia, Essex, Orleans. It is Post evaluation season once again. I encourage you to start making arrangements with your Posts now to schedule times to meet and greet the Post Commanders and get to know each Post and what they are doing and what they are all about as individual Posts. Educate them. Encourage them. Empower them. Just a reminder to all those involved, that the National Commander, Dan

Wiley, will be visiting Vermont October 27th, 28th, 29th. Orleans County Post 28 Jay Peak will host the N.C, and entourage on the 28th. Showcasing our 2027 Convention site at Jay Peak Resort, and then showing him around Post 28, all while celebrating and recognizing our 2025 Legionnaire of the year Commander Mike Starr. Congratulations Commander Starr. Well deserved. Keep up the good work!

Finally, I want to remind everybody that we are losing too many of our veterans to suicide. Always be on the lookout and be ready to help someone in need. NEVER LEAVE A MAN BEHIND!!! Only our sincere efforts can tackle this. Always be ready to...BE THE ONE!!!

For God and Country
Carl King
Commander District 2
Dept. Historian

3rd District Commander – Christopher Wood

Hello from the District Three communities of Washington, Orange, and Lamoille counties. Welcome to fall, leaf peepers, and pumpkin spice beverages.

The National Convention is over, and we can now settle into what the new fiscal year will bring us with things like the end of fair season, the Fall Conference, and membership quotas. Northfield is leading the new member challenge in District Three, and I wonder if it is the monthly breakfast on the first Sunday that is bringing them in. Lucas Herring makes a mean omelet!



September 11 is on the horizon, and it occurred to me that we are approaching a time that is as far away from that fateful date as the attacks on Pearl Harbor were for my generation. We must teach the lessons from these events. Remember how many people joined the military because of 9/11. We must never forget.

By the time you read this, the September 11 target date for membership for 50% will likely have passed. Onward to October and 55% of quota. In District Three 10 out of 14 posts have already achieved over 50%, and six posts are over 60% of their membership. Nice strong starts for many of the District Posts. I know from my own post that the membership has already slowed down to a trickle coming in, and all the HLM and PUFL are accounted for. Now the hard work begins as we contact those that didn't renew after the first notice and find out why they are either waiting, on the fence, or not planning to renew.

Do you have a quick answer for why they should renew? Are you able to articulate the four pillars of the American Legion that explains "what the legion does"? What is the value to them of being a member? Every Commander and Adjutant should be able to answer these questions!

4th District Commander – Joe Bump

Hello Comrades,

The weather is changing quickly. It seems like Summer was here and gone.

This week I am attending the 2nd Annual 911 Remembrance at Walmart in Bennington. Hope to see some of you. Hard to believe it's been 24 years.

The County Commanders and I will be going out to visit the Posts. I look forward to seeing you and visiting. Ask your County Commander about the new and improved Evaluation form. We are using them this year.

Fall Conference is on October 25th. Put it on your calendar and plan to attend. Do some Buddy Checks and look at memberships. We are on track to reach our 50% goals and a lot of you are there. Keep up the great work! Take care of yourself and your families.

For God and country

Joe Bump,
District 4 Commander



5th District Commander – Lewis Graham

Greetings Legionnaires:

For the past few weeks, I have been helping out the rest of the Legion Family at various County Fairs around the State to promote membership in the Legion Family. It was a pleasure talking to the general public and a few members were gained. However, the number of new members compared to the staff hours, and effort involved was quite minimal.

A couple days ago I was talking with another Legionnaire, and we discussed the dwindling numbers of members in all the veteran clubs, other community clubs and even the churches. At the end of our talk, we had decided that we cannot keep on promoting the idea that our organizations are the only ones needed to support the veteran community. We need to mingle with the entire civilian community,



wake them to the need out there and convince them we need their helping hands even if they are not eligible to belong to the Legion Family.

I was surprised how many of the people I spoke with had no idea the Legion was active in their town or community. We are the best kept secret, along with many other service organizations under the radar. Let's get out and toot our horn. The National Convention "consolidated report" is a wonderful encouragement for those who go and experience it. It is on the web for those who care to watch it. But if we keep our effectiveness to ourselves we will stay a secret. We need to spread the word and get the outside world to know and participate too.

For God and Country

Lew Graham
District 5 Commander

Bennington County Commander – Dolores Krawczyk

Sept. 11th was Patriot and National Day of Service and Remembrance. We had many join us in Bennington, Vermont to honor those we lost because of the terrorist attacks. The ceremony started at our local Walmart at 8:10. Our planning meetings will begin this year and continue through next year from the 25th anniversary of 9/11. Dates to follow.



I am honored to have been appointed by the American legion State Commander Bill Brothers and the endorsement of the 4th District Commander Joe Bump to hold the office of Bennington County Commander. Thank you for your mentorship and leadership. I will be making my visits tom the Posts in the County informing them of upcoming events and evaluations.

There will be a Membership Roundup on October 18th 900 hrs thru 1300 hrs at Bennington Post 13. I would hope Commanders and Adjutants attend. Bring your friendly phone voice.

Post 13 will have the expertise of the State Department Service Officer – Larry Thompson to assist with initial and/or supplemental claims. Please contact me at 802-440-2030 to get signed up for an hour time slot. Date October 3rd, 9 am - On

I ask that you donate a small hygiene product and bring it to Fall Conference where a box will be set up. The hygiene products will be delivered to the VA Hospital at White River Junction. Thank you for your support.

Orleans County Commander – Robert Messier

I would like to first thank all those that volunteered their time at the county fairs signing up new members. Overall, I think this was very successful. I enjoyed my time working at the booth at the Caledonia County Fair and the Orleans County Fair. I worked with some wonderful people and met a lot of good people.

New at Jay Peak Post 28 in North Troy, VT, they now have pool on Saturdays. You can contact that post if you would like to join them or just stop by for a drink and some fellowship. They have a good group there and you will be welcomed by all.

Newport Post 21 in Newport, VT is keeping themselves busy and like the other posts in Orleans County, has a hall available if you need to hold an event. On Fridays at 6:30, there is Bingo. On Sundays at 13:30 are horseshoes. At least while the weather is good. Tuesdays at 6:30 is music/entertainment. I will get clarification on their Thursday event and perhaps add that to the next bulletin. Their hall rental is \$300 for the public or \$150 for members. Their bar is open 2PM to closing daily but is closed New Years and 4th of July.

You could join Orleans Post 23 in Orleans, VT for a drink or general chatter with the good folks there. You will be welcomed by all. Barton Post 76 in Barton, VT does not run a bar, but they do so many other good things. Details on these two posts will come in another bulletin.

I will be looking to start Post evaluations during the month of October so I will be reaching out to posts to schedule a convenient time for them. I will not be doing the evaluation of



Orleans Post 23 as I am a member of that post. I will reach out to the district commander or perhaps another county commander to take care of that.

Thank you all and stay safe.

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Robert B. Messier

(802) 487-5118

Member of American Legion Post 23

Orleans County Commander

Washington County Commander – Wayne Goulet

Legionnaires,

Today is September 11, the 24th anniversary of the attacks against our country that took the lives of 3,000 people. We must never forget this day. Anyone alive at the time and old enough to remember can precisely tell you where they were when the attacks took place.

These attacks shook the foundation of the United States and changed our way of life. As we reflect on that day, let us not forget the lives that were needlessly lost. Furthermore, let us not forget the brave men and women of the armed forces that took up arms to ensure another September 11th would never occur again.

Many of these brave men and women are members of the Vermont American Legion. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to these selfless patriots. Additionally, we owe just as much thanks to their families for their sacrifices as their loved ones went off to war to defend our nation. These loved ones still sacrifice for their nation and community as members of the Sons of the American Legion and Auxiliary.

Today is a day of reflection. Today is a time to not only thank the veterans that responded to the 911 events, but also the family members who supported and continue to support these military members.

Wayne Goulet

Washington County Commander

DISTRICT & COUNTY COMMANDERS 2025 - 2026

1ST DISTRICT – Victor Stone, victor.stone2@myfairpoint.net

Addison/Chittenden County - Joe Gilmond, navydkesws@gmail.com

Franklin County – Phil Pearo, logcabinstables05440@yahoo.com

2ND DISTRICT – Carl King, carlking73@yahoo.com

Caledonia County – Angela Marshall, james3girlz@gmail.com

Essex County – Scott Leigh, sleigh1992@yahoo.com

Orleans County - Robert Messier, robert.of.newport@gmail.com

3RD DISTRICT – Christopher Wood, chriswood0869@gmail.com

Lamoille County – Charles Burnham, cbsto@me.com

Orange County – Larry Hart, larryhart64@gmail.com

Washington Cty – Wayne Goulet, waynegoulet@gmail.com

4TH DISTRICT – Joe Bump, makc57@comcast.net

Bennington County – Dolores Krawczyk, doloreskrawczyk57@gmail.com

Rutland County – Richard Baptie, rbaptie24@gmail.com

5TH DISTRICT – Lewis Graham, vermonter@charter.net

Windham County – Steve Martin, stemar647@gmail.com

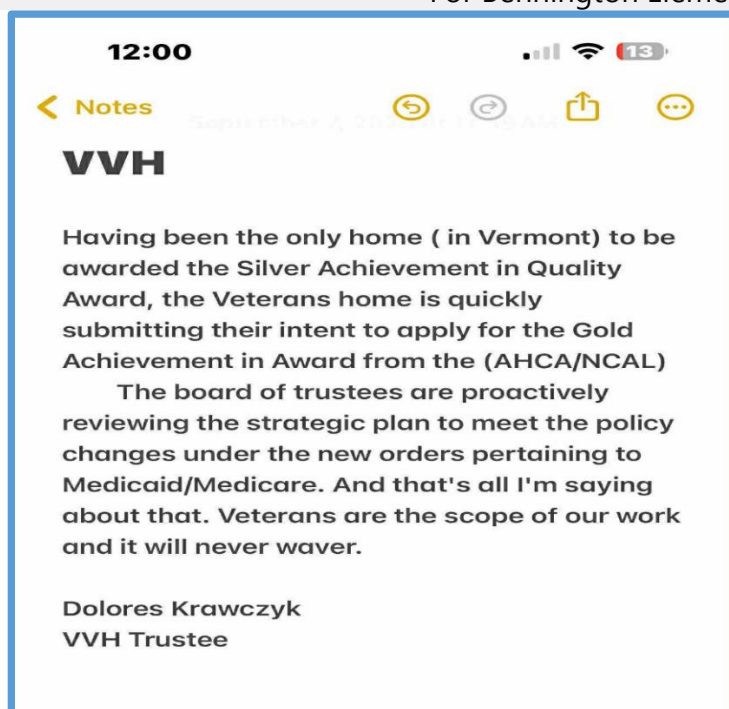
Windsor County – Fred Stebbins, stebbinsf1@gmail.com

Dolores Krawczyk – Children & Youth Chair & VVH Chair

A special Thank you to The Vets Home residents and staff for the box of back to school supplies for local students. Also many thanks to the following:



Donation from Salem Dentistry
For Bennington Elementary School.



William Brothers

2025 - 2026

"Department Commanders Project"



Special Olympics Vermont serves the entire state of Vermont, providing athletic opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities. We currently serve over 2,000 athletes and offer 13 Olympic-style sports and 9 statewide competitions, including four state-wide Games.

WHO WE ARE

Special Olympics Vermont is a small, highly collaborative organization serving athletes with intellectual disabilities statewide

.....

*Please consider donating to my Commanders Project. Checks may be sent to
Department Headquarters, P.O. Box 396, Montpelier, VT 05601-0396*

Please write "Special Olympics" in the memo line

Thank you. Bill Brothers, Dept. of Vermont Commander

American Legion
Department Commander
William Brothers
2025 - 2026
“Outstanding ROTC”
Award



Award Amount: \$2,000

Award Qualifications:

- **Outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership ability.**
- **Outstanding qualities of military leadership, discipline, character, and citizenship.**
- **Accomplishments in both military and academic endeavors, and reflects the ideals of patriotism.**
- **A Cadet who has demonstrated academic excellence by being in the top 25% of his/her academic class.**
- **"For maintaining the highest school academic grades.**

The Cadet must be selected and recommended by an academic staff person; this information must be sent to the Department for review. Selection will take place with a panel of (5) Past Department Commanders appointed by the Department Commander. The winner will be announced in May and invited to the Department Annual State Convention in June to receive the Award. Information will be sent to ROTC Programs in Vermont only.

To support this Project, make checks payable to: Dept. HQ's, PO Box 396, Montpelier, VT 05601-0396
Memo Line: ROTC Award



Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events

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Fall Conference – Legion Family
Colchester Post 91
October 25, 2025 – 9 AM (Agenda in this Bulletin!)

National Commander Dan Wiley Visits Vermont
October 27th - 30th (Information in this Bulletin!)

National Commanders Banquet Flyer Attached

Department Directory coming to you soon!

DEC Meeting Called!
After Fall Conference 10/25 Colchester Post 91

Post Everlasting
Gone, but Never Forgotten...

Maguire, James ... 08
Jerome, Donald ... 14
Prentice, John ... 14

Cox, Daryl ... 19
Cook, Gerald ... 19
Pinney, Sr., Erwin ... 87



Fall Conference- October 25, 2025

Colchester Post #91

“Leadership Roundtable”

9:00 am Opening ceremony- Dept. Commander William Brothers

9:10 am N.E.C. Joseph Zickmund: Report

(Note: Times may vary between speakers)

9:20 am DSO Report- Larry Thompson

9:30 am Protocol #101- PDC Clark “Sparky” Ferris

9:45am Constitution & Bylaws “Format” - PDC Dave Woodward

10:00am ***Breakout Sessions*/ 15-20 min. per station**

(Note: Each speaker will have his own station. At the sound of the bell everyone will switch tables until everyone has visited each station.)

- Table#1 - PDC Joe Zickmund- Running a Post Meeting
- Table#2- PDC Mark Cloutier- Membership Retention
- Table#3- PDC Stub Sherman- Leadership “the Role of District & County Commanders
- Table#4-Dept. Chaplain- Stephen Frost and Cindy Ell- **“Be The ONE”**
- Table#5- PDC Fred Latour- Consolidated Reports

Noon Break for Lunch*

1:00pm Liquor Control Board- Q&A

2:00pm Crystal Lake Historical Society (Barton, VT.)- President Brett Thayer - Veteran’s artifacts

***Lunch - Goulash, Tossed Salad, Cold Drinks - \$8.00 Courtesy of Colchester Post #91**
(Agenda may be subject to change)

American Legion National Commander

– Dan Wiley VISIT/Itinerary

ARRIVAL: Sunday, October 26th 12:27 P.M. – BURLINGTON AIRPORT

HEAD TO HOTEL AFTER ARRIVAL –
Hampton Inn by Hilton Colchester
42 Lower Mtn Drive, Colchester
Hotel #802-655-6177

3:00 P.M. Meet and Greet at Green Mountain Post 1 – St. Albans

5:30 Dinner at Windjammer Restaurant, Burlington (*Invite Only*)

After Dinner back to Hotel (*Hampton Inn by Hilton, Colchester*)

(POC: Dept. Adjutant – Brian Markwell, 802-999-1026

(*Group for Sunday pickup: Zickmund, Brothers and Markwell*)

Monday, October 27th, 8:00 am Breakfast (TBD Hotel or elsewhere)

10:00 AM Travel to White River Junction VA Hospital Tour

(Lunch with DSO – Lawrence Thompson)

1:30 PM Windsor Post #25 Meet and Greet, Windsor

2:45 Sugarbush Farm, Woodstock VT (Cheese and Maple Tour)

3:30 PM – Ora Paul Post #24 (TBD) Meet and Greet, Woodstock

3:30 p.m. – Travel Back to Hotel

6:30 – Dinner at The Shanty on the Waterfront, Burlington

After Dinner Back to Hotel

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Tuesday, October 28th, 8:00 AM Breakfast (*TBD Hotel or elsewhere*)

9:30 AM – Noyes House Museum, 122 Lower Main St, Morrisville, VT 05661

10:15 AM Travel to Jay Peak Resort for Foliage Tram Ride

12:30 PM – Lunch/Meet and Greet Jay Peak Post 28

2:30 PM – Meet and Greet Newport Post 21

3:30 Head back to Hotel (*Hampton Inn by Hilton, Colchester*)

6 PM – Dinner at The Lighthouse Restaurant, Burlington

Back to hotel after Dinner

(POC: Dept. Adjutant – Brian Markwell, 802-999-1026)

(Group for Monday: Brothers, Matthews, Cloutier, Markwell, King)

Wednesday, October 29th 8:00 AM Breakfast at Hotel (*Hampton Inn by Hilton, Colchester*)

9:30 AM Tour of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream Factory, Waterbury

10:30 AM – Randolph Veterans Cemetery Visit

12:00 Noon – Lunch at The Melt Down Restaurant, Barre

1:30 P.M. (*TBD Visit with Governor Phil Scott or LT. Governor John Rogers*)

2:30 PM – Morse Farm Maple Sugar Works, Montpelier

4:00 PM – Meet and Greet Sorrell Maynard Post 63, Northfield

National Commanders Banquet

Social 5:30 PM/Dinner 6 :15 PM

Montpelier Post #3, 21 Main Street, Montpelier

After Dinner back to Hotel

(POC for dinner: Melodie Ashford-McGrath 802-461-5346)

Thursday, October 30th – Return to BTV Airport for a flight out at 6:00 A.M.

(POC: Dept. Adjutant – Brian Markwell 802-999-1026)

(Itinerary subject to Change)

American Legion

National Commander - Dan Wiley

"Visits Vermont"

Banquet

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

5:30 P.M. Social – Dinner 6:00 P.M.

Montpelier Post 3, 21 Main St., Montpelier, VT



Menu: Chicken & Biscuit - W/Peas & Carrots,

Tossed Salad, Butternut Squash and Apple Crisp for Dessert

\$15 Per Person

**Mail your checks to: Department HQ's, PO Box 396, Montpelier, VT
05601-0396 – Memo Line: Banquet**

Deadline: Oct 21st

Post PR for Department Bulletin – Melvin McKnight, Barre Post 10

The goal of public relations in an American Legion Post is to provide a favorable image of The American Legion and its programs benefiting veterans, youth and communities in the community being served. A post may have a public relations (PR) committee, a Post officer, or a member with interest and ability.

The public relations staff must determine what various publics in the post and in the community need for information from the post, analyze sources within the post to provide what and how it is needed, plan how to meet the needs, and implement to evaluate results.

The ultimate source for any post to develop its public relations program is the **Public Relations Toolkit**. In over 100 pages, this document covers the subject from “What is Public Relations?” to a multitude of tools, including many pre-written fill-in-the-blank scripts. The **Toolkit** is available for download at www.legion.org/publications under Media & Communications.

Every writer in the Post Legion Family who contributes to public relations should have fingertip access to the **Publication Style Guide**. This guide was developed to assist PR staff to be consistent in all written products with the goal of having a uniform style. The success of a correctly written product gains respect for the author and, more importantly, admiration and appreciation of the organization represented. The **Style Guide** is available for download at www.legion.org/publications under Media & Communications.

Sections of the **Style Guide** include quick tips; the use of abbreviations, acronyms and capitalization; titles; and more. Examples:

- **Capitalize the “t” in The American Legion** only when referring to the main organization or [always] the **“T” in Sons of The American Legion**. If the name is followed by another word or words, use a lowercase “t”: *the American Legion Family, the American Legion Riders*. Do not abbreviate *TAL*.
- **Abbreviations**. Write dates without *st, nd, rd, th*; *April 3*, not *April 3rd*.
- **American Legion Auxiliary**. Also *the Legion Auxiliary or the Auxiliary*. [Never *Ladies Auxiliary*.] Do not capitalize “the” except when starting a sentence. Do not abbreviate *ALA*.
- **Months**. When used with a specific date, abbreviate only *Jan., Feb., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.* Spell out when using alone or with a year alone.
- **Times**. Use figures except for *noon* and *midnight*: *8 a.m., 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m.*
- **State names**. State name abbreviations are used in text: *Vt., N.H., N.Y., Mass., Conn.* Use two-letter Postal Service abbreviations only with full addresses, including ZIP code: *VT, NH, NY, CT*. Postal code abbreviations for eight states are not abbreviated in text are *AK (Alaska), HI (Hawaii), ID (Idaho), ME (Maine), OH (Ohio), TX (Texas), UT (Utah)*. Also, *District of Columbia (DC)*. There should be two spaces between the state abbreviation and the ZIP code in a mailing address.

The information above is from another helpful tool, the Associated Press Stylebook, 56th Edition, on which the Legion style guide is based.