



MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIIONNAIRE

THE DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Volume 17 Issue 1

July 2026

Commander's Corner



Department Commander
Robert Jerdan

Message from the Department Commander: A Journey of Gratitude and Service

To my fellow Legionnaires and the members of the Department of Massachusetts,

As I settle into the responsibilities of this office, I am reminded daily of the profound trust you have placed in me. To every Delegate who supported my candidacy at our recent convention: thank you. I am deeply honored by your confidence, and I am fully committed to working tirelessly to uphold the values of the American Legion and to serve the needs of our Department.

The true heart of our organization is found in our presence within our communi-

ties and our unwavering commitment to the future. Over the past few weeks, I have had the privilege of witnessing this commitment firsthand.



Robert Jerdan elected
Department Commander

It was a sincere honor to participate in the Bunker Hill Day Parade. Standing alongside so many of you to honor our shared history and the sacrifices that secured our freedom was a powerful reminder of why we serve.

Continued on Page 2



Inside this issue:

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT	3
DETACHMENT COMMANDER	4
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT	6-7
MEMBERSHIP	8-11
AMERICANISM	12
CONWAY AWARD & C&Y	13
AMERICAN & FOREIGN BORN CITIZEN	14
ROTC & COMMUNITY SERVICE	15
MARKETING	16
EDITORIAL	19
VA	21
AROUND THE DEPT.	22-25
LEGION MEMBERSHIP	26
AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP	27
SAL MEMBERSHIP	28
POST EVENTS	29-32

BE THE ONE

Equally inspiring were my visits to Boys and Girls State June 14th and June 17th. Sunday and Wednesday evening. Seeing these young leaders engage with the principles of our government was truly heartening. Investing in our youth remains one of

our most vital missions, and seeing their enthusiasm gives me great confidence in the future of our nation.



Commander Jerdan administers the Oath of Office to the Squantum Post

I have also had the pleasure of visiting several of our Posts recently. These stops have been a highlight of my early tenure, offering me

the chance to express my sincere gratitude for the incredible work you do on the ground every day. Your hospitality and dedication are the backbone of this Department, and hearing your ideas and concerns is my highest priority.

Since our last communication, I also had the privilege of marching in the Braintree Day Parade on June 27. It was a wonderful opportunity to represent our Department and engage with the community, showcasing the pride we all share for the American Legion.

As we move forward into this new term, I am excited about the progress we will make together. Our strength lies in our unity, and I look forward to visiting more Posts, hearing your stories, and working alongside you to support our veterans and our communities.

Thank you for your continued support and for everything you do for the Department of Massachusetts.

For God and Country,

Robert Jerdan (Bobby)

Department Commander 26-27

Department Of Massachusetts American Legion

"ONE TEAM ONE FIGHT"



HELP WANTED

The Department of Massachusetts is seeking a member to assume the responsibilities of the editor of the Monthly Newsletter the Massachusetts

E-Legionnaire

Anyone who is interested should contact the Department Office

Hello, my name is Lisa Gauthier, the newly installed President of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Massachusetts.

This year, I look forward to working together with my Legion Family to bring awareness about POW/MIA.

This is my theme POW/MIA. I am raising funds for TOURS OF DUTY. As many of you may know, TOURS OF DUTY is a 501c3 that helps in the discovery, recovery & identification of our missing soldiers. I hope you will join me in helping to raise funds for them.

I also want to make sure POW/MIA flags are flown along with our American Flag. And, to ensure that all our Posts have a POW/MIA Table displayed.

This is very important to me.

We must NEVER FORGET them.



Congratulations!

Lisa Gauthier

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

PRESIDENT 2026-2027

With pride and admiration, we congratulate **Lisa Gauthier** on her installation as **Department President of the Massachusetts American Legion Auxiliary for 2026-2027.**


Your dedication, leadership, and commitment to serving veterans, military families, and communities across Massachusetts inspire us all.

We wish you a successful year as you lead with vision, compassion, and service.

“Serving Veterans, Supporting Families, Strengthening Communities.”

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 193
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Congratulations and Best Wishes for a Wonderful Year of Service!



Testimonial Banquet in honor of Department President

LISA GAUTHIER

Date: Saturday October 17, 2026

Time: Social time 4 Meal 5PM 6PM “The Mighty King Snakes”

Place: Eugene M. Connor Legion Post 193
295 School Street
Winchendon, MA 01475

Donation \$45.00

Please make checks payable to: **LISA GAUTHIER**

Please mail checks to :

LISA GAUTHIER
139 ELM STREET, WICHENDON MA 01475

For additional tickets contact your District Director

RSVP BY: October 1, 2026



Detachment
Commander
Jesse Limanek

Greetings Department of Massachusetts American Legion Family,

As your newly re-elected Detachment Commander, I am very excited about the coming year. In particular, I am looking forward to working side-by-side with Commander Robert Jerdan and President Lisa Gauthier to support the veterans throughout the Commonwealth and to help advance The American Legion and all its programs. I would also like to congratulate all of the newly elected and appointed officers throughout the Department, Detachment and Auxiliary. It is going to be a great year!

Looking ahead, there is still much work to be done! In the coming weeks, I will be continuing all of the efforts we initiated over the previous year. The most important issue that I will be focusing on once again in the short-term is communication. Feel free to reach me by email at commander@salmass.org or find me on Facebook.

I am also working on my calendar and hope to be able to attend as many Post/Squadron events as time will allow. If you have a special event coming up and you would like me to attend, please let me know.

The Detachment is still looking for help. If you know of any blue hat or dual member who would be interested in helping us in our mission, please have them contact me at their earliest convenience. Any and all help will be appreciated.

Finally, I would like to Congratulation Team 125 and Post Adjutant Mitchel Keil for a successful march from Coast-To-Post. It was an honor to be part of the Post 125 Family for a few days as a participant in the American Legion's Challenge 250 in effort to bring attention to the needs of our veterans and raise funds for the Veterans and Children Foundation. Mission accomplished!

Happy 250th Birthday America! May God continue bless you and guide all who live within your borders for many years to come.

Jesse Limanek
Commander for the Detachment of Massachusetts

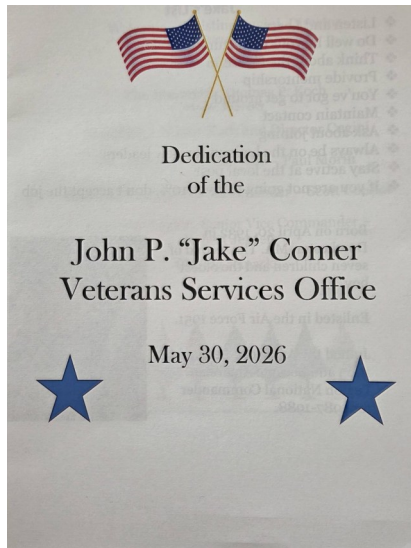


SAVE PAPER.
SAVE POSTAGE.
SAVE TIME.



QUICKLY AND EASILY RENEW ONLINE
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS






Jake's List

- ❖ Listen and Learn
- ❖ Do well by your opportunities
- ❖ Think about the future
- ❖ Provide mentorship
- ❖ You've got to get around
- ❖ Maintain contact
- ❖ Ask about joining
- ❖ Always be on the lookout for new leaders
- ❖ Stay active at the local post
- ❖ If you are not going to give 110%, don't accept the job

Born on April 20, 1932 in Dorchester, MA. The second of seven children and the oldest boy.

Enlisted in the Air Force 1951.

Joined the American Legion in 1963 and became American Legion National Commander for 1987-1988.




The American Legion
Department of Massachusetts

RM 546 - 2 STATE HOUSE
BOSTON, MA. 02133-1044

(617) 727-2966, Email – deptadjutant@masslegion.org, Website – masslegion.org

July 2026

Hello Fellow Legionnaires,

“We The People” and “For God and Country” are not catch phrases but establishments of a great country and a great organization. One started the greatest nation on Earth and the other created the most transformative organization within this great nation. “We The People” have taken more people out of poverty than any other document created in the world. As with any human endeavor our Nation is not perfect. We as citizens strive as a nation to live up to the words “We the People”. Our Nation every day to create a more perfect union. Our forefathers knew the United States was not perfect but just strive to be a more perfect union could lead to the creation of a Nation that would take on autocracy, tyranny, and poverty. Our Nation’s achievements have been life altering, moon landing, cure of polo, and civil rights. Now our Nation is celebrating its 250th birthday this month and we Americans owe the greatest debt to those who came before and made the ultimate sacrifice and through their efforts we are still here as a Nation. We should live our lives to make them proud. We should live our lives to become not only better citizens but to become better human beings. The American Legion lifts the ideals found in the “We the People” by own preamble with the words “For God and Country”. The American Legion remains steadfast in our efforts through our pillars to make sure a “government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth” as Abraham Lincoln most eloquently stated in his Gettysburg Address. The American Legion works continue the legacy of all prior citizens through compassion and kindness. The American Legion remains a grassroots organization. The day-to-day work Legionnaires do every day often goes unnoticed, but it truly doesn’t go unnoticed by those who we serve in our ranks and our community. We do not seek praise or fame. We want our National to continue with its ideals and values found in the document “We the People”. We understand that it nothing cannot be done without each other or God. We as veterans and family members of veterans recognize how great our country can and should be. As you celebrate our 250th Birthday remember all our fellow Americans who have come before us and live or lives to make them all proud

“Saving lives changing lives”

Yours in Comradeship,

Lisa A. McPhee

Lisa A. McPhee

Department Adjutant

***Our Mission: Inspiring America by strengthening and supporting our military,
veterans and their families***

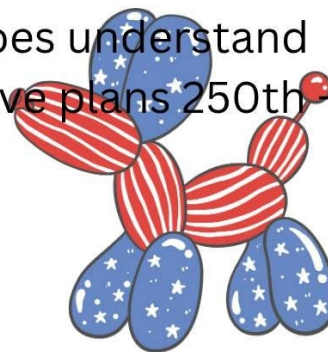


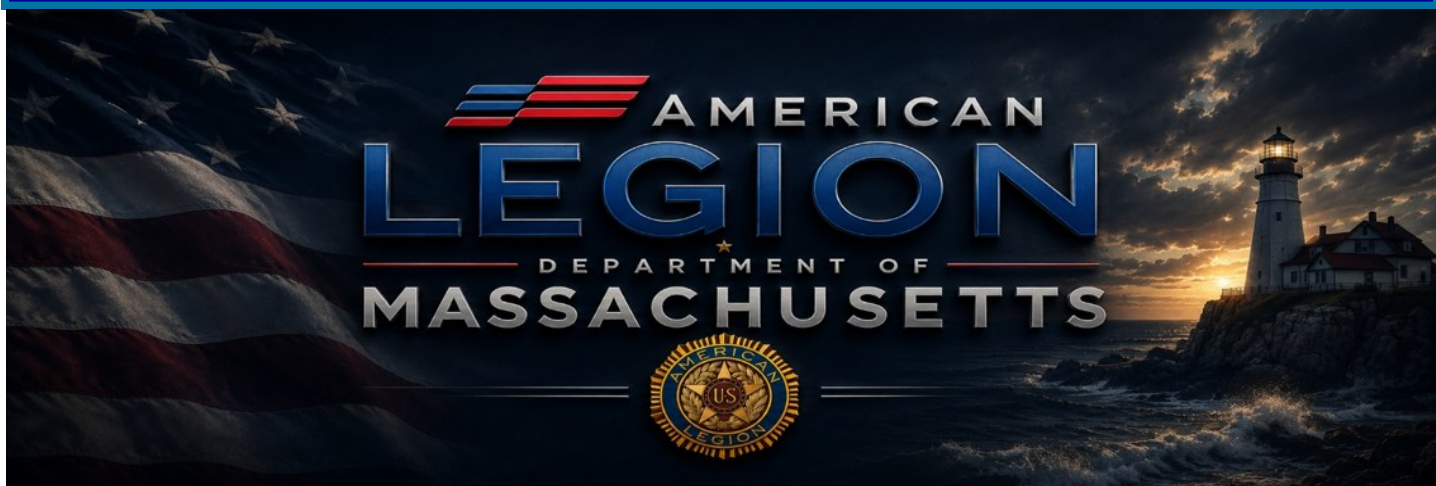
Your invited to Walk
with
COMMANDER JERDAN
Boston 250 July 4th parade

This year's parade will start in Copley Square and end at Faneuil Hall. The parade will kick-off at 9AM, so please be on-site no later than 8:30AM. We will be in Division Four.

The Department Commander would like a resounding participation from all levels of the Department of Massachusetts (Post-District-Department). The Commander does understand that many Legionnaires already have plans 250th July th.

RSVP to Dept Adjutant





Building the Future: Membership Plans for the 2026–2027 Year

By Drew Pajak, Department Senior Vice Commander

As we prepare for another year of service to veterans, their families, and our communities, the Department of Massachusetts is focused on one of the most important responsibilities entrusted to us—growing and strengthening our membership.

Membership is far more than numbers on a report. Every new member represents another veteran connected to a support network, another advocate for veterans' issues, and another individual carrying forward the mission of The American Legion. Our success as an organization depends on our ability to reach today's veterans while remaining committed to those who have built this organization over the last century.

For the upcoming membership year, we will continue to emphasize a simple but powerful mes-

sage:

JUST ASK.

Many eligible veterans have never been personally invited to join The American Legion. Others may have allowed their membership to lapse because no one reached out and explained the value of remaining involved. The easiest and most effective membership tool available to every Legionnaire is a simple conversation. By asking veterans to join, renew, or become active again, we can make a tremendous difference in our posts and communities.

Reaching the Next Generation of Veterans

The future of our organization depends on our ability to engage younger veterans. Today's veterans are looking for opportunities to serve, network, and build camaraderie. Throughout the coming year, we will provide resources and promotional materials designed to help posts connect with veterans from all eras of

service.

We will continue developing modern recruitment materials that highlight what The American Legion does every day through veteran advocacy, community service, youth programs, and support for military families. We must ensure that veterans understand that The American Legion remains as relevant today as it was when it authored the GI Bill.

Expanding Women Veterans Outreach

Women are one of the fastest-growing segments of the veteran population. The Department will continue to support outreach efforts aimed specifically at women veterans by providing posts with tools, messaging, and resources that demonstrate that The American Legion welcomes and values their service.

Our goal is not simply to recruit women veterans, but to create environments where they feel welcomed, appreciated, and em-

powered to become leaders within our organization.

Embracing New Opportunities Through Gaming

One of the most exciting initiatives being explored is American Legion Gaming. Competitive gaming, tabletop gaming, and online communities provide opportunities to connect with younger veterans who may not initially walk through the doors of a traditional post.

By embracing these new forms of engagement, we can build relationships with veterans who share the same values of teamwork, leadership, and camaraderie that have always defined The American Legion.

Strengthening Our Posts

Membership growth starts at the post level. Throughout the year,

we will continue sharing best practices from successful posts across Massachusetts. Recruitment efforts must be paired with retention efforts. Welcoming new members, involving them in meaningful activities, and helping them find a purpose within the organization are essential to long-term success.

Posts that focus on community service, veteran assistance, youth programs, and visible local engagement consistently attract and retain members. We encourage every post to evaluate what makes them unique and use those strengths to tell their story.

A Department-Wide Team Effort

Membership is not the responsibility of one chairman, one officer, or one committee. It be-

longs to every Legionnaire.

Whether you recruit one member or twenty, your efforts contribute to the continued success of The American Legion Department of Massachusetts.

As we begin this new membership year, I ask every member to make a commitment to reach out to at least one veteran. Invite them to a meeting. Bring them to an event. Share your story and explain why you continue to serve through The American Legion.

Together, we can ensure that the Department of Massachusetts remains strong, vibrant, and prepared to serve future generations of veterans.

The mission remains unchanged.

**Veterans Strengthening America.
For God and Country.**



MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

The Department of Massachusetts

Have some news!
Share it in the E-Legionnaire
Monthly Deadline is the 25th
Email : Fmacdonald53@comcast.net

★ SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ★

National Membership & Squadron Activities

JULY LAUNCH

THE MEMBERSHIP YEAR!

July In. December Out.

★★★
JULY 1
NEW MEMBERSHIP
YEAR BEGINS!

EXECUTE EARLY. BUILD MOMENTUM.

<p>1</p> <p>START RENEWALS IMMEDIATELY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin outreach on July 1 • Do not delay initial contact • Prioritize members who are active and engaged <p><i>Early action drives early results.</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>FOCUS ON ACTIVE MEMBERS FIRST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact your most engaged members • Secure early renewals quickly • Build visible progress within the first weeks <p><i>Build momentum from the start.</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p>USE PERSONAL OUTREACH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call or text members directly • Keep communication simple and personal • Avoid relying only on mass messaging <p><i>Personal contact increases response rates.</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p>CONSIDER AN EARLY BIRD INCENTIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce optional early renewal incentives • Allow flexibility for each squadron • Keep it simple and easy to understand <p><i>Incentives create early action.</i></p>
<p>5</p> <p>TRACK YOUR PROGRESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain updated records of renewals • Monitor outreach efforts • Identify members who still need contact <p><i>Track it. Manage it. Grow it.</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p>COMMUNICATE CONSISTENTLY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use meetings, texts, email, and social media • Reinforce <i>July In. December Out.</i> • Keep messaging clear and repeated <p><i>Consistent messages drive consistent results.</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p>BUILD MOMENTUM EARLY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize early renewals • Share progress with members • Encourage peer-to-peer outreach <p><i>Momentum now. Success all year.</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p>HOST A KICKOFF EVENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a July membership event or gathering • Use it to encourage renewals • Create energy and engagement early <p><i>Great events create strong engagement.</i></p>

KEY MESSAGE ★ **The membership year has begun. *Renew now.* Stay active. *Stay involved.* Honor does not expire—and your membership should not either.**

<p>LEADERSHIP REMINDER</p> <p>A strong July builds a successful year. Early momentum matters.</p>	<p>FINAL REMINDERS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Renew Early: legion.org/sal-renew 2 Ensure every member has updated telephone and email contact information.
---	---

★ **LAUNCH STRONG. STAY ACTIVE. FINISH STRONG.** ★ **JULY IN. DECEMBER OUT.** ★





Massachusetts Endorses Jodie Pajak for National Commander



At the annual Department Convention held on June 5-7, 2026 in Marlborough MA the entire delegation unanimously endorsed our own PNCE, PDC Jodie Pajak for the High Office of National Commander of the American Legion. That endorsement is now forwarded to our National Organization. This is the first step in a long journey and we wish Jodie well in this endeavor and are all here to support her



Americanism—DVC Chris Manning

The Americanism Team worked tirelessly on many fronts this year first helping with the Scouting program, Camporee was the 19th—21st of June at Camp Collier in Gardner Mass. They had many events and on Sunday awards were handed to those competitors who won various titles. The Americanism Team had voted unanimously to award American Born Jillian Battles and Foreign Born Roswitha Ladue, they both received their Eagles at our June Convention.

Working with our communities we were able to assist their Veterans and Youth to be able to enjoy Holiday meals in some areas where the need was greatest. Flags and Books were a tremendous tool we utilized educating our Youth on the history of our country and it's flag in our many communities by District Officers and our local Posts.

The Team looks forward to another year of success following the direction of our 4 Pillars and celebrating our 250 th Birthday with many events scheduled across the State at the Post and Department levels. To all enjoy time with family and friends during the Summer months take time to attend some of the Legion Baseball games in support of our Youth!!





Patrick J. Leonard, Jr., Post Historian of Braintree Post 86 of the American Legion, recipient of the John J. Conway Award for Community Service with Community Service Chair Ryan Howe and DSVIC Ronert Jerdan. Presented at the American Legion Department of Massachusetts Annual State Convention, Saturday, June 6, 2026, at Marlborough, Massachusetts.

Photo from December, 2025 when the Braintree Sword was returned to the Mayor. The sword is a replica which was carried by Mr. Gordon Campbell of Braintree, Massachusetts, a founder of the recreated "Braintree Third Volunteer Militia" in 1976 for the Bi-Centennial. It was carried in many reenactments for decades thereafter. It was donated to the Braintree Post by Mr. Campbell's son, Geoffrey Campbell.

Happy 250th Birthday to all and I hope that you celebrate on Independence Day our freedoms in this great country with your family and communities. As the new Chair of the Children and Youth Committee for this coming year, I am excited to work with you covering all the topics of this important committee. The purpose of the American Legion's Children and Youth Committee is part of the plans, programs and activities designed to:

- Assure care and protection for children of veterans.
- Improve conditions for all children and youth with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home.

- Preventing social and physical ills of children and youth where possible, using services of, and cooperating with, sound organizations and agencies for children and youth.
- Maintain a balanced program that provides for the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs of children.

There is support for these programs on the national, state, and local levels. Temporary Financial Assistance grants and the Child Well-Being Foundation grants are two of the larger programs run through National. Locally C&Y programs adapt to the unique needs

of their communities with some examples to include holiday events, family fun days, warm winter clothes for kids in need, after school programs among many others. I hope to bring awareness to our membership on how we can help and support our children and youth. I look forward to finding out what YOU do in your Posts and communities, so that others can build on these ideas and add more along the way. Children are our future and we must ensure that they are given the opportunities to thrive and grow along the way.

This years recipient is currently a Freshman in college and an Auxiliary member of Unit 124 and for the last five years with her “Bags for Bravery” has organized a donation campaign to gather items for deploying Troops and for Veterans. Jillian has often said, “I don’t feel like our Troops and Veterans are appreciated as much as they should be, so as one person, I try to do as much as I can to change that.”

As Chairman for our Department Americanism’s team It is with great pleasure that I introduce our American Born Award recipient, Jillian Battles



Jillian Battles



Roswitha Ladue

This years Foreign Born Award went to Rose Ladue she was born in Germany where she met her Husband William Ladue. She worked with Veterans Groups over seas and then coming to the States she volunteered with Hospice and Honor Veterans in conjunction with Hospice Nationwide and the VA. Rose joined the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 266 as well as the American Legion Riders. She spent many years volunteering for Christmas Parties, even played the Easter Bunny for a kids event in her town. She has assisted with the Women's Empowerment Center in Springfield Mass to giving out food to our Veterans and their Families. She is that Women who constantly put her words into action throughout her life.

My fellow Legionnaires,

As we close out another remarkable year, I would like to take a moment of personal privilege to extend my sincere appreciation to the ROTC Committee for their dedication and hard work. Over the past five years, this committee has achieved truly impressive progress. Five years ago, most awards were issued solely through the Department; this year, every award presented came directly from a Post. That transformation reflects your com-

mitment, your persistence, and your belief in strengthening the bond between our Posts and the youth we support. As Chairman, I thank each of you for the role you played in making this possible.

As we move into a new year, we welcome new challenges and new opportunities. The committee has worked diligently to connect Posts with their local high school units, and we will continue to encourage and strengthen those relationships. At the same time, we now have an addition-

al area to focus on: our colleges. While Posts will continue to work closely with high schools, we hope to see Districts take a more active role in supporting the colleges within their boundaries that host ROTC programs. Finally, I want to welcome back all returning committee members and extend a warm welcome to our new members. We look forward to another year of growth, collaboration, and the exciting accomplishments that lie ahead.

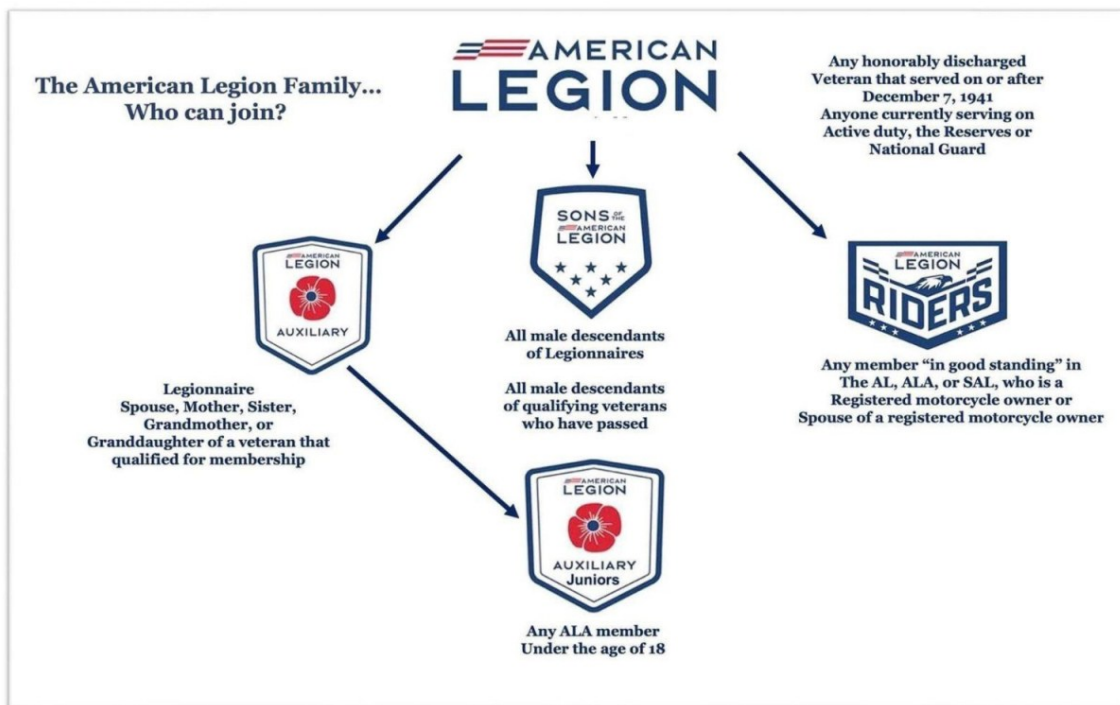
My fellow Legionnaires,

First, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to last year's Community Service Committee for their dedication, hard work, and thoughtful review of all submissions. Your efforts in evaluating each entry and selecting the award recipients reflect great credit upon our organization and the spirit of service we uphold.

As we embark on a new year, I would also like to welcome our newly appointed committee members and welcome back those returning from last year. I hope each of you is looking forward to another productive and rewarding year. To our new members, I trust you will find your time on this committee meaningful and enjoyable. I am eager to see the out-

standing work our Posts will accomplish in the months ahead, especially as we join the nation in celebrating our Country's 250th Birthday of Independence.

Together, I know we will continue to honor our mission of service and strengthen the impact we make in our communities.



Hi American Legion Family!

Hope you're all having an awesome summer! Can you believe it's already the start of our new Legion year, 2026-2027? A huge shout-out and congratulations to all our new leaders stepping up at every level, from our local posts all the way up to the department. We're so excited to see all the great things you'll accomplish, and we're here to support you every step of the way!

Speaking of great things, we had some fantastic news from our recent convention sweepstakes! Thanks to all of your incredible

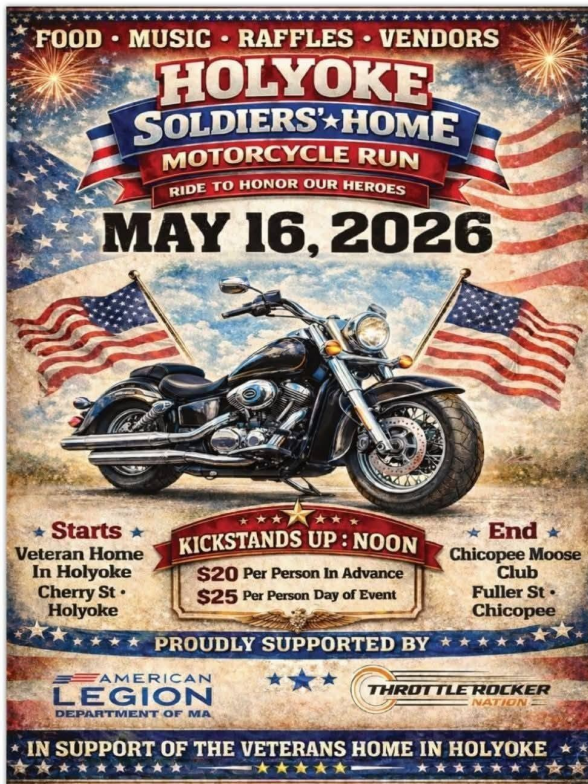
generosity, we raised over \$7,000 for our general fund! That's a huge win, and it wouldn't have been possible without everyone who participated. A big congratulations to all the lucky winners too! Every dollar truly makes a difference.

With this fresh new year, we're also getting ready to dive into our marketing and fundraising efforts! Get ready, because our popular annual address label campaign is just around the corner! You'll be receiving your handy return address labels in the mail a bit later this summer. We really hope you'll consider making a donation

when they arrive, because every penny from this fundraiser goes directly to support our crucial Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program. This means we can continue providing essential services and support to our brave veterans when they need it most.

And hey, if you ever have any brilliant marketing ideas or suggestions that could help us spread the word or raise more funds, please don't hesitate to reach out to our committee. We'd love to hear them!

Warmly,
Mike Davis



American Legion Family members make their way from the Massachusetts coast through Boston’s historical sites to northwest corner of the state, raising \$2,800 for VCF.



When Mitchell Keil, Adjutant of North Adams Post 125 heard about The American Legion’s **USA 250 Challenge**, he set a grandiose goal, one that would incorporate fitness, fundraising and his home state of Massachusetts’ historical ties to the birth of America. He, crafted his vision , walking from Race Point Lighthouse In Provincetown to his home Post in North Adams, over 250 miles! to benefit the Legion’s Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF).

Overall, the 10-member group of American Legion Family members raised over \$2,800 for VCF, which provides grants for military families in need and funds for accredited service officers to assist veterans with their claims benefits.

Our Detachment Commander Jesse Limanek joined the walkers, stating that he started training around six month prior, pushing himself to do 250 miles to prepare for the long march. An added benefit, Jesse says, is that he dropped about 25 pounds during his preparations. Our Department Commander Robert Jerdan joined in with the walkers as they walked through the historic sections of Boston on the Freedom Trail. Mitch said “This is the footprints of where they were — like different locations about Paul Revere’s ride, the Green Dragon Tavern, where they call it the headquarters of the revolution. You just start to really think and internalize of, ‘Wow, this is what it took. Just to think of how vast the area was and from Boston to Lexington where we walked on the battlefield too, where the shot heard around the world was.’”

To get the full article go rto [A 250-mile walk to support veterans and celebrate America | The American Legion](#) and there is still time to assist in the fundraising goal donate by check to American Legion Post 125. Memo: 250 Mile Walk.





HOW TO ACCESS

★ THE GRASSROOTS ACTION CENTER ★

Send a message to your Congressional Representatives, expressing your support on multiple legislative initiatives.

- 1** Go to **legion.org**
- 2** Click on the **“ADVOCACY”** link at the top of the page
- 3** Select **“GRASSROOTS ACTION CENTER”** from the drop-down menu
- 4** Choose a bill to support (e.g., **MAJOR RICHARD STAR ACT**)
- 5** Send the pre-filled message to your Congressional leaders.

It's that easy. *Together*, we can send **25,000** messages in support of a bill!

AMERICAN LEGION

VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

**SEND MESSAGES ALL YEAR LONG:
DAILY, WEEKLY, EVERY WEEK, ALL YEAR!**

Let me share some information from the Spring Meetings in Indianapolis. First of all, The American Legion is again the official partner for the Army-Navy game. Enhancements this year will include the following: Expanded merchandise opportunities with earlier production timelines; increased promotional efforts; and strategic promotion from CBS and the host city. As reported at the meeting of the Marketing Commission, the partnership continues to serve as a high-profile platform for brand visibility, mission awareness, and membership outreach. Also reported on was continuing website design improvements. The Legion magazine will see changes in early 2027 to include a change in the format size to save on increasing postage rates, along with additional pages to be added.

Have you signed up for the Grassroots Action Center at www.legion.org? Go to the website and look for “Legislative advocacy and resources toolkit”. Here you can sign up for the Action Center and once you have done so, future emails will provide a link with a pre-written letter that you can use and send it directly to your US House and/or Senate representatives. On the web page there is also a lot of useful information on how to connect with members of Congress and their staff. Personally I have been doing this for some number of years now. If we do not make our voices heard, our representatives and their staff will consider that we just don’t care.

And with National elections coming up this November, it is as important as ever to have your voice heard. Will you join me in contacting Congress about the issues we care about? I will note that this should be an ongoing process. One email a year is not enough! Once a month should be a minimum. Let your voice be heard. Also, don’t forget to vote this coming November!

Remember: BE THE ONE. Saving lives. Changing lives. One at a time.

John Lenotte, National Executive Committeeman Department of MA; Member, American Institute of Parliamentarians. Local Board Member, Selective Service System. I may be reached at jplenotte@gmail.com



The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are excited to announce implementation of the *Veterans Expedited TSA Screening (VETS) Safe Travel Act of 2025*. Veterans enrolled in VA health care who have a service-connected disability of permanent blindness or require the use of a VA-issued wheelchair or prosthetic limb, now can receive TSA PreCheck® at no cost following successful completion of all TSA enrollment requirements. For more information on the program, requirements, and any related questions please visit the websites below:

[TSA PreCheck for Qualifying Disabled Veterans | Transportation Security Administration](#)

[How You Can Get TSA PreCheck For Free As A Veteran With A Disability | Veterans Affairs](#)

VSO Engagements
Office of the Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

The day had finally arrived. It was a bright sunny day, but it was still a little cool outside. Everyone warmed up fast as they entered the Webster Timber Lanes Bowling Alley. People were shaking hands and extending pleasantries to those they had not seen for a while. Then the thunder of the balls going down the alleys began, as the strikes into the pins made a sound like fireworks on the Fourth of July.



This is not just a simple bowling tournament, though. It's an annual reunion for comrades to come together and raise needed dollars for children that are facing some of the most difficult challenges in their young lives. Everyone who comes to support this program every year knows they are making a change in their hearts and minds and fostering mutual helpfulness to thousands of children across Massachusetts.

We have a special award program called "Pins for Partnership", where we ask bow-lers to see if some-one will sponsor them for so much a point or even

donations to add their total. This year, the award went to Nonantum Squadron 440. They raised an incredible amount of \$3,600 for this award program. That is the highest amount that has ever been presented in the history of the tournament. What an incredible and outstanding achievement.

After all the raffles and donations were counted and the expenses were paid, the total raised for the tournament was the absolute extraordinary and unbelievable amount of \$11,697.30. This means each hospital - Baystate Children's Hospital, UMass Memorial Healthcare and Boston Children's Hospital—will be receiving \$3,899.10. This brings our total raised in the 15 years of having this tournament to \$114,393.00.

The "Partnership for Kids" program has been in existence for 17 years. Many Posts, Units, Squadrons, Rider Chapters and individuals make donations directly to the hospitals in their area. We have reached a major milestone this year. With the combination of direct donations and the proceeds of the bowling tournament combined we have now eclipsed the \$200,000.00 mark with an absolute fantastic amount of \$211,939.55

This year, Baystate Children's Hospital received \$5,900.77, UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center received 6,400.77 and Boston Children's Hospital received \$6,600.76 for a total of donation in 2026 in the amount of \$18,902.30.

Words cannot express the gratitude and dedication that has been shown by everyone who has ever been on one of the bowling teams, all the people who have helped with the tournament and those who have just come to join in with the fun and comradery of the day making this program a major success. Also, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has donated directly to the hospitals.

You have put a smile and uplifted the dreams of thousands of Children as they deal with the most trying times they will face in their young lives. This past 17 years is a true testament of what The American Legion stands for in helping our veterans and our children.



POSTCARDS SENT TO VETERANS CLAIM ENTITLEMENT TO EXTRA VA BENEFITS OR ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS.

The Department of Veterans Affairs sent a release to make veterans aware of a new postcard scam. Fraudulent postcards are being sent claiming that you, or your spouse, are entitled to “extra VA benefits” or additional payments, including CHAMPVA, TRICARE and dental coverage, regardless of a VA disability rating. The VA stresses not to fall for it.

These scammers claim to be affiliated with VA, and they might instill a sense of urgency, pressuring you to contact them as soon as possible, or within five days. Their goal is to get you to call the number provided. Once you do, they will often use flattery and praise regarding your military service to gain trust. The scammer will attempt to obtain personal identifying information like your Social Security Number, bank account details or other sensitive information.

Never give this information over the phone or on the internet.

VA is monitoring the situation and urges you to remain vigilant against these fraudulent attempts to steal personal identifying information.

The VA encourages you to:

- Refuse to engage.
- Do not call unverified numbers.
- Hang up immediately if you are contacted by unsolicited numbers.

If you miss a VA benefits payment, notice a discrepancy, or suspect suspicious activity with your direct deposit, contact VA right away at 1-800-827-1000.

If you suspect you have experienced fraud, you can find out more and report to the appropriate agency at [VSAFE.gov](https://www.vsafe.gov) or by calling 1-833-38V-SAFE.

The VA shared the following common scam tactics:

Unsolicited postcards, emails, texts or social media messages: Scammers will send communication claiming you qualify for extra VA benefits.

Fake authority on calls or emails: Scammers may pretend to be VA officials and claim there’s a problem with your benefits or account.

Phishing attacks: Scammers may send emails or text messages that appear legitimate but are designed to steal personal information through malicious links or attachments.

Payment requests: Scammers

might demand payment using unconventional and untraceable payment methods, such as gift cards, wire transfers, bitcoin or prepaid debit cards.

Social media interactions: Scammers may try to build trust through social media messages or friend requests, only to exploit that trust for their own financial gain.

To protect yourself:

Never share any personal or financial information with unverified contacts.

Don’t act on urgent requests from people you don’t know. Legitimate VA communications will not pressure you to respond immediately or provide sensitive information.

If you receive a suspicious postcard, email, text or call, do not call the number provided or click on any links.

Always verify the sender’s identity; when in doubt, call VA directly at 1-800-827-1000.

Be cautious on social media. Ignore friend requests or messages from people you don’t know or recognize.



**Juneteenth
Remembrance
Ceremony**

Friday June 19
6:00 pm

Mt. Hope Cemetery
355 Walk Hill St, Boston, MA
02131

Grand Army of the Republic Plot
"Let Freedom ring!"

For more information email wmcarter16@hotmail.com or rodfrazeruvow@gmail.com

It was an honor to attend tonight's Juneteenth Remembrance Ceremony at Mount Hope Cemetery in Mattapan. This inspiring and educational ceremony was sponsored by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the William E. Carter American Legion Post #16. As we reflect on Juneteenth, we also honor generations of African American Service Members and Veterans whose service, sacrifice, patriotism and legacy are an essential part of America's history. [The American Legion Department of Massachusetts](#) [Boston Vets](#) [Mary-dith Tuitt](#)



Department Commander visits Hull Post 140



Department Commander Robert Jerdan introduced Past Department Commander Fred White at the Quincy Veteran's Memorial Stadium, Korean War Memorial Ceremony



Department of Massachusetts Commander Bob Jerden installs new officers at Squantum Post 382, where he is also a member. June 12, 2026. (Photo by Dept. Aide Bob Lewis)



Past National Commanders—Dan Wheeler, Dan Dillinger, John P. “Jake” Comer, David Rehbein and Paul A. Moran.



AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY TOWN HALL
with NATIONAL COMMANDER CANDIDATE
MATTHEW SHUMAN

Join Trailing Candidate for National Commander (27-28) Matthew Shuman for an American Legion Family Town Hall! Come hear from the candidate, ask real questions, and make our Legion Family better.



Dept. of Massachusetts
Saturday, June 6th 2026
1:30pm - 2:30pm



Start Date	Time	Event	Location
7/12/2026	1:00 PM	District 1 Meeting	Sheffield Post 340
7/20/2026	7:00 PM	Adjutants Meeting	Zoom
7/28/26	6:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Zoom
8/4—8/8		Jr Law Cadet	State Police Academy
8/17/26	7:00 PM	Adjutants Meeting	Zoom
8/26/26	6:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Zoom
8/28-9/3		National Convention	Louisville
9/12/26	10:00 AM	Finance Committee	Stoughton Post 89
9/12/2026	11:00 AM	Membership Meeting	Stoughton Post 89
9/12/2026		Department Executive Board	Stoughton Post 89


2026 Membership Standing *as of June 28, 2026*

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1125	1068	94.93%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN/HAMPSHIRE	3169	2969	93.69%
4	WORCESTER	4303	3997	93.45%
5	MIDDLESEX	3347	3092	92.38%
6	NORFOLK	2206	2062	93.47%
7	SUFFOLK	1123	1055	93.94%
8	ESSEX	2313	2215	95.76%
9	BRISTOL	2260	1823	80.66%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3404	3274	96.18%
297	CAPITOL HILL	405	1230	285.38%
462	HEADQUARTERS	848	511	60.26%
	National Quota	24,503	23296	95.07%



ALA Junior Member Activities

ALA Junior members volunteer with other girls in their age group in many engaging activities:

- Learning about patriotism and how to show respect for the American flag
- Helping military families in practical ways such as mowing yards and helping military kids become acclimated at a new school
- Distributing poppies and raising awareness, especially on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, so our veterans know we care about them
- Practicing leadership by organizing service projects
- Earning service patches while learning about ALA programs
- Demonstrating responsibility for future scholarship, college, or military service applications

If you are a female ALA member 17 years of age or younger and love our country, imagine attending a regional or national meeting focused on Junior Activities with a hundred girls who could become your lifelong friends! The American Legion Auxiliary encourages young women to lead the way in continuing its legacy of serving veterans, the military, and their families.

2026 Membership Standing *as of June 21, 2026*

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	202	204	100.99%
3	HAMPDEN/ FRANKLIN HAMPSHIRE	637	594	93.25%
4	WORCESTER	1064	1012	95.11%
5	MIDDLESEX	949	948	99.89%
6	NORFOLK	365	297	81.37%
7	SUFFOLK	95	80	94.74%
8	ESSEX	629	643	102.23%
9	BRISTOL	263	214	81.37%
10	PLY/BARN/ NAN/DUKE	754	700	92.84%
462	HEADQUARTERS	149	124	83.22%
	National Quota	5,107	4,826	94.5%

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION THE MILLENNIUM
 A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion
 Sons of The American Legion | PO 1055 | Indianapolis, IN 46206 | www.legion.org/sons

Subscribe at: www.legion.org/information-center/in-the-media/e-newsletters

Memorial Day throughout the Detachments
 TX: Legionnaires, Sons and Scouts join together to support wellness
 Leading Candidate Skelley: Bricks of Honor Project
 Trailing Candidate Monserud: Welcoming Home Pvt. Wright
 Membership: July In, December Out
 National Convention Update: Louisville '26
 A Legacy Worthy of the Name: PNC J.R. Stillwell

Special to The Millennium: National Commander William Clancy III
National Commander Clancy as USA 250 Approaches: "We Have the Power to Shape the Future"

The 250th birthday of our country is upon us!!
 All of us, as members of the SAL, are privileged to be in the positions we are in at this time in our country's history!

So many Sons are also helping to lead events to celebrate America's quarter-of-a-millennium birthday across the country, and to those that are doing so I say bravo and well done.



As I travel around the USA attending so many amazing events and meeting so many of our members doing great things and running our great programs, I think a lot about America's next 250 years and the ongoing role of The SAL in shaping our country's future.

Keeping America strong and patriotic. Making sure that our veterans and those actively serving (sometimes in harms way) are ALWAYS taken care of and appreciated.

Making sure that each generation of young Americans grows up with opportunities to be leaders, and are instilled with the desire to serve community, state, and nation.

WE HAVE THE POWER TO SHAPE THE FUTURE!

THE SAL IS ON THE GO! Our membership ranks are swelling. All of our programs are strengthening. We are inspiring all Americans that we encounter to think beyond themselves, and think about serving the greater good.

We need to keep up the great pace we are at! Reach more people. Make the SAL and The American Legion Family an organization that every citizen, every kid, and even every immigrant knows; more than just knowing us ... is inspired by our actions and the values we promote!

So get out there, my brothers! Make your Post the center of your town's 250 Celebration. Make your Post vibrant! Engage the public by filling your Post with not just fun, but **Fun with Purpose!**
 God bless you all, and carry on!



Top Ten Detachments 2026 Membership Percentage

1. Philippines	145.83%
2. Dist. Of Col.	135.96%
3. Utah	118.95%
4. Latin America	110.87%
5. South Carolina	105.47%
6. South Dakota	105.05%
7. Idaho	104.46%
8. France	104.19%
9. Wisconsin	103.94%
10. New Hampshire	102.60%

Statistics as of 01 June 2026

BE THE ONE

Go to Masslegion.org/newsletter for your copy

The SAL National Photo and Video Contests are an excellent opportunity to showcase the outstanding work our members perform every day in support of our Four Pillars and their communities. Memorial Day activities, community service projects, membership events, and other recent programs make great submissions.

I encourage Detachment, District, and Squadron leaders to actively promote these contests and follow up with their squadrons to ensure they are aware of this opportunity.

Submissions must be received by June 30, 2026.

Contest Information and forms are also available on the National Website <https://www.legion.org/./sons-of-./publications-and-forms>

Let's showcase the service, pride, and brotherhood of the Sons of The American Legion across the nation.

Thank You for your Support

Kevin Chaplin SAL National Media and Communication Commission– Chair

2026 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of June 28, 2026

	District	Goal	Current	%
1	BERKSHIRE	232	232	100.86%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN / HAMPSHIRE	674	610	90.50%
4	WORCESTER	996	989	99.29%
5	MIDDLESEX	1362	1282	94.13%
6	NORFOLK	836	954	114.11%
7	SUFFOLK	173	181	104.62%
8	ESSEX	443	509	114.89%
9	BRISTOL	286	227	79.37%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	780	677	86.79%
	National Goal	5783	5663	97.92%



★  ★

Post 98
Saturday morning
Coffee break 

 **Veterans, Aux, and Potential Members**

American Legion Hall
32 Beach st
8:00—10:30
Come on down

★

HINGHAM FRIDAY VETERANS' COFFEE
EVERY 3RD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
9:00AM – 10:30AM
GRAND ARMY HALL 358 MAIN ST. HINGHAM
GUEST SPEAKERS FOR EACH EVENT
COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED
MEETING DATES:
MAY 16TH, JUNE 20TH, JULY 18TH, AUG. 15TH,
SEPT 19TH, OCT. 17TH, NOV. 21ST, DEC. 19TH
TEMPORARY CONTACT: DAVE IRWIN
781-910-2377
FIRST COFFEE IS FRIDAY MAY 16TH

Coffee Hour

Last Friday of the Month

09:00 - 12:00

 **Free**

American Legion North Adams

American Legion North Adams Post 125

FUNday !!!

4th Sunday of the Month

Lunch	Meat Tables Begins at 3PM	Queen Of Hearts
<p>We will service a simple lunch starting at 12:00pm until sold out or 3pm.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win. 2. Win various cuts of meat or other prizes. 3. Tickets are randomly drawn, and winners receive their prizes. 	<p>The QOH with begin 15 minutes after the last Table is raffled.</p>





Post Events



Veterans' Coffee Hour: Third Wednesday of each month
Please come and enjoy coffee, fresh pastries, donuts and fellowship.

American Legion Post 0234
402 West Main St Northborough Ma. 01532

Open to all local area Veterans.

RIDE TO SUPPORT OUR TROOPS ★
AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 113
• HELL OR HIGH WATER CREW •
Benefiting **OPERATION TROOP SUPPORT**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026 ★

<p>📍 American Legion Post 113 14 Church Street Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA</p> <p>★★ COST ★★</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rider: \$25 • Passenger: \$10 • Walk-ins: \$10 	<p>🕒 Registration: 9:30 AM 🕒 Kickstands Up: 11:00 AM</p> <p>★ EVENT HIGHLIGHTS ★</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic group motorcycle ride • Food & refreshments • Raffles / 50-50 drawing • Music & camaraderie • Rain or Shine • All bikes welcome!
--	---

CONTACT: Sam Demao 1-978-808-9786
🇺🇸 Ride with Purpose. Ride with Pride. Ride for Our Troops. 🇺🇸

AMERICAN LEGION POST 3 GOLF TOURNAMENT
JULY 6TH 2026
10AM SHOTGUN START
AT BEVERLY GOLF AND TENNIS

\$125 PER PERSON
TEAMS OF 4

RESERVE AND PAY ON POST3.ORG
OR BRING A CHECK AND SIGN UP IN PERSON AT THE POST

A CATERED LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT POST 3 AFTER



Post Events

Give 10 to EDUCATION

DROP OFF IN BAR NOW TIL AUG 15TH

227 Main St
Oxford, MA

EVERY ALA MEMBER CAN GET INVOLVED WITH GIVE 10 TO EDUCATION

The ALA's Give 10 to Education program collects needed items in multiples of 10 –

- ✓ 10 PENCILS
- ✓ 10 NOTEBOOKS
- ✓ 10 RULERS
- ✓ 10 GLUE STICKS

ANYTHING A SCHOOL MAY NEED!

Thank you for supporting our students and our schools!

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

★ SUPPORT ★ DONATE ★ MAKE A DIFFERENCE ★

MARSHFIELD FAIR

Since 1865

★ 158TH ANNUAL ★

VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

AT MARSHFIELD FAIR

SUNDAY AUGUST 30, 2026

FREE ADMISSION FOR VETERANS, ACTIVE DUTY & GUARD/RESERVE

VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR CONNECT WITH LOCAL RESOURCES & SUPPORT

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED. BUILDING COMMUNITY. PROVIDING SUPPORT.

MARSHFIELD FAIRGROUNDS
140 MAIN STREET
MARSHFIELD, MA 02050

FAIR HOURS
12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR & EXHIBITS OPEN DURING THESE HOURS

★★★ FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY! ★★★

RIDES • EXHIBITS • FOOD • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT • AND MORE

Thank you to our veterans and military families. FOR MORE INFORMATION
★★★ WE APPRECIATE YOU. ★★★ 617-888-6636

Plymouth Post 40 Auxiliary Annual Scratch Ticket Raffle



Book of \$10.00 (\$1,000.00) Massachusetts Official Scratch Tickets

Tickets are 1- \$10.00 or 3-\$20.00

Winner will be drawn on September 26, 2026 – Post 40 American Legion Appreciation Day!

Contact the Unit President Maureen MacDonald @ MMACDONALD47@yahoo.com for your tickets!

The American Legion
PFC Edward A. Ribeiro Post 40

Family

Installation Ceremony
Friday July 31, 2026
6:00 PM

Please join us to congratulate and honor our Post, Unit, Squadron and Riders Officers and Members

Refreshments for those attending the ceremony
Sign up at the Post



The Wall That Heals



September 15-20, 2026 Yarmouth, MA



Ride Escort/Volunteers
Sponsorships and Donation Needed



Open 24/7 Rain or Shine

***Tuesday** Sept 15 Escort

***Saturday** Tours -Sunset Taps

***Wed** Sept 16 WALL Setup 8am -
Volunteer Training Highly
recommended 6 PM-1 Hour
Echo Taps

***Sunday** Sept 20, Wall closed
1:45pm Closing Ceremony 2 pm
dismantle "The Wall That Heals"

***Thursday** Sept 17 Opening
Ceremony Time TBD &
Sunset Echo Taps

***Friday** Sept 18 Echo Taps-
Light the Night Ceremony
Agent Orange Awareness



For More Information Contact:
Debi Robinson Chairman (253) 226-1588
Barbara-Anne Foley Co-Chair (508) 237-3349



Email: info@TheWallThatHealsYarmouth-2026.org

www.TheWallThatHealsYarmouth-2026.org



**Massachusetts
E-Legionnaire**

The Massachusetts E-Legionnaire is the official publication of the Department of Massachusetts American Legion and is published at least 12 times per year

The American Legion
Department of Massachusetts, Inc.
Room 546-2, State House
Boston, MA 02122-1099
email: fmacdonald53@comcast.net

Editor

Francis J. MacDonald, Jr.

2025-2026 Officers

Commander

Robert Jerdan

Sr. Vice Commander

Drew Pajak

Vice Commanders

Chris Manning
S. Ryan Howe
Cindy Lacoste

Historian

Adam Doud

Executive Committee Women

Mary Standish

Sergeant-at-Arms

Robert Desrosiers

National Executive Committeeman

John Lenotte

**Alternate National Executive
Committeeman**

Sandra Davis

Service Officer

Mike Whalen
Dana Sheehan

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Do you have an article or news announcement to share with the rest of the Department of Massachusetts? If so, please follow these basic guide-lines for submissions.

- Submit your text in Microsoft Word format (.doc) or as a text file (.txt or .rtf). Save your file as the same name as the article, so we can easily keep track of it. Be sure to make it clear who the author is, whether it's you or if you are just forwarding it to us. • **WE LOVE ARTICLES WITH PHOTOS**, or any other kind of images! Include photos and/or artwork for articles *separately* (NOT embed-ded in the article) as high resolution (300 dpi, or better) JPGs. Please name these files accordingly so we can track them along with your article. Let us know in your e-mail of any corresponding captions, and/or name of the photographer if necessary.

- Spell check everything! Especially people's names, web addresses, etc. You can help us greatly here by simply running your spell check function in your word processing program.

- **E-mail everything directly to us at fmacdonald53@comcast.net no later than the 25th of every month for it to appear in the very next issue.** This way we have plenty of time to work with in case we need to clarify anything with you.



Want to Subscribe to Mass E-Legionnaire:

Send your email address to: deptadjutant@masslegion.org or to the Editor at fmacdonald53@comcast.net.

Still receiving correspondence through the U.S. Postal Service? Send the Department office your Name & Address and you will get a hard copy mailed to you.

The American Legion, Dept. of Mass, Inc.
24 Beacon Street
Room 546-2, State House
Boston, MA 02133



Follow the Department of Massachusetts on Facebook @

The American Legion Department of Massachusetts