



MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

THE DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Volume 16 Issue 11

April 2026

Commander's Corner



Scott M. Conner
Department Commander

What a Month!!
Right on the heels of my banquet, and again, thank you to all that attended. The Department's delegates headed off to Washington for the DC Legislative Conference. Always great to run into acquaintances, sit in on National Security presentations, Veterans program committees, and so on. Before we "Stormed the Hill" we heard from VA Secretary Collins during a well hosted afternoon by Matt Jabaut, with Committees giving reports. Someone must have bumped one of the teleprompters, causing the presenters to adjust, which was rather entertaining. It's always an adventure to go to the Hill to meet with Congressional Legislators,

some were fortunate to meet with their designated Legislator, others met with aides, and a couple were even thwarted by locked doors. The next day, back to the Hill, with National Commander Wiley promoting the agenda of The American Legion before the Veterans Committee, nice job Commander. Just got back into town and off to the Squantum Post for Sr. Vice Jerdan's testimonial, a nice afternoon. Next stop, Oratorical Finals at Clinton High School, great job Oratorical chairperson Adjutant McPhee. The Oratorical winner hails from Shrewsbury High School. Pradya Cowlagi will represent the Department at Hillsdale College for the National Oratorical finals, we wish her the very best. On the 20th of March the National Commander arrived. A group of us accompanied the

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**BE THE
ONE**

Commander around Boston to show off why "this is where it all began". The old State House, Kings Chapel, Faneuil Hall, just to name a few stops. We noticed the quizzical look on the Commander's face (a retired judge) and reminded him that cannabis is legal in Massachusetts, thus all the happy faces. DEC and the Commanders Banquet the next day, great showing by the Department. For those of you that have been to the Best Western in the past, we witnessed a miracle, all the elevators were working, Huzzah! Thank you to DVC Pajak for chauffeuring us around in a 15 passenger stretch van on the notorious roads in and around Boston, anyone know a good chiropractor? Just kidding.

Youth programs are on the horizon: Boys/Girls State, Youth Law Cadet, Scholarship Programs. Hope your Post is looking to invest in today's youth and you're willing to sponsor a high schooler in one of our programs. If you are looking to sponsor someone, but don't have a candidate, please reach out to the program managers. Scholarship season is upon us. A hint to optimize success: Make sure to provide a copy of the sponsoring members paid up membership card, and have the applicant sign the application. Congrats to the Son's and good luck with their bowling tournament, this event is full.

We hit our goal of 90% for membership, thank you to all that put in the effort to get us there. 95% is next, April 8th. Historically, this is the toughest one. SrVC Bobby Jerdan is ready to assist, reach out to him. Let us assist with your Pillar Programs ie: Americanism, Children and Youth, and Community Service. Each District has a chairperson, along with the Department Vice Commanders. Americanism - DVC Chris Manning, Children and Youth - DVC Drew Pajak, Community Service - DVC Ryan Howe.

Did you **BUDDY CHECK** today!!

Get involved. Many District and Department committees have vacancies, and there are many great opportunities to be found. Reach out to your District Commander and find out what's available. Did you know that any Legionnaire can attend a District Meeting, or a Department Meeting. Does everyone at your Post get E-Legionnaire? If not, sign them up, please.

NEXT DEC - June 4th - Marlboro - See you at Convention

Did you Grass Root today! Ask your Legislator to pay the Coast Guard!!

Scott M. Conner
Commander
Department of Massachusetts
774-239-6162
Scottscpo@gmail.com



Purple Up! for Military Children

April is the Month of the Military Child, and across Massachusetts we proudly join communities in celebrating Purple Up! Day on April 15th.

Military children serve too. They experience frequent moves, new schools, long deployments, and the uncertainty that comes with having a parent in uniform. Their resilience, courage, and adaptability inspire us all.

As members of the American Legion Family Department of Massachusetts, our mission calls us to support veterans, active-duty service members, and their families. Through our Children & Youth program, we stand alongside military families and ensure their children know they are seen, supported, and appreciated.



How Legion Family Can Participate:

Wear purple on April 15th.

Recognize military children at Unit meetings.

Partner with local schools to raise awareness.

Share photos and stories on social media.

Send notes of encouragement to military families in your community.

Purple represents all branches of the military combined — a reminder that we support every child connected to service.

Let's make this April a visible and meaningful show of support. When we Purple Up across the Commonwealth, we send a strong message of unity and appreciation.

Thank you for all you do every day to serve our veterans and their families. Together, we continue to strengthen the American Legion Family and the communities we call home.

Sofia Elizabeth Blake Department President

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State



High school students who have completed their junior year are competitively selected and sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary units for this program, where they learn about the political process by electing officials for all levels of state government and actively running a mock government. The participants are assigned to mock cities and either the "Federalist Party" or "Nationalist Party."

Assistance from dedicated ALA volunteers ensures the program's nonpartisan governmental, patriotic, and civic objectives are carried out through interactive learning. Though the week is filled with many learning opportunities, there is always time for fun and the formation of long-term friendships.

Candidates should be keenly interested in government and current events, and show strong leadership abilities. Because the structure of state and local government varies, ALA Girls State programs may vary in content and method of procedure, but each adheres to the same basic core values.



Detachment
Commander
Jesse Limanek

Greetings Department of Massachusetts American Legion Family,

This past month marks the high point in my tenure as Detachment Commander. I have traveled to our nation's capital to pay respects to those brave men and women who served this great country in times of war and peace, and met with my Congressmen to lobby on behalf of our veterans. I then made my way to Quincy to support Robert Jerdan's candidacy as the leading candidate for Department Commander. I celebrated the American Legion's 107th birthday at my home Post. I had opportunity to pay respects to the American Legion's National Commander, Dan Wiley, in Marlboro. And, I traveled to Vermont to participate in the Sons of the American Legion Northeastern Region's Unofficial Gathering and celebrate the Homecoming of Sons of the

American Legion National Vice-Commander Jeremy

Revell. I am truly thankful to the Detachment for placing its trust in me to represent the 5800 blue-cappers that call Massachusetts home.

Looking ahead, we have a lot of work to do in the weeks before our Convention in June.

April's membership goal is 90%. Currently, about a third of our Squadrons have either met or exceeded that goal. I would ask that all Squadron officers focus on their membership. If you have collected dues, please transmit the per capita as soon as possible to either the Department by mail or directly to National through MyLegion. And, to the officers at the Posts with Squadrons, please check on and assist them if assistance is warranted.

To the Department's District officers: do you have a representative of the SAL attending your meetings and reporting the progress of the Squadrons within your district? If not, the Detachment could use your help. Whether the representative is a Son, Dual-Member or Legionnaire, we need someone who can serve as a liaison for the Detachment at the Dis-

trict level. If you know someone willing to lend a hand, please contact me directly.

We are also looking for Sons or Dual-Members to serve at the Detachment level. There are several vice-commanderships, numerous committee chairmen, and other officer and assistant officer positions that

will be open at Convention. If you or someone you know are considering running the chairs, now is the time.

One of the most glaring issues that runs through all of the Squadrons in the Detachment is how many members do not have up-to-date contact information in MyLegion. Every Squadron should make it their goal before the new membership year begins to review your entire roster to ensure that every member's information is accurate and, if not, make the necessary changes. The Detachment cannot help you with membership if we cannot contact your members.

And lastly, please do not forget that both your Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) and Squadron Data Reports (SDR) are due. Copies should be sent to both National and the Detachment prior to Convention.

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Remember: everything you do for your Post, the veterans, and your community helps our national organization fulfill its mission of service. Please make sure you get those reports in so we can remind Congress why together the American Legion Family is the greatest advocate for our veterans and their families in the country.

God Bless,

Jesse Limanek

Commander for the

Detachment of Massachusetts



Convention Store

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
**CONVENTION
STORE**

SHOP ONLINE:
**Mass107Convention.
ItemOrder.com**

A QR code that, when scanned, likely leads to the online store. The QR code has a small American Legion logo (a knight on horseback) in the center.

Ordering deadline May 10, 2026



The American Legion Department Of Massachusetts

24 Beacon Street · State House Room 546-2 · Boston, MA 02133 · (617) 727-2966

February 23, 2026

Greetings Legionnaires,

Things are moving right along in the Department of Massachusetts. We just finished a fantastic visit from our National Commander Dan K. Wiley. Glad to see so many of you at the National Commander's Banquet Saturday afternoon.

Massachusetts American Legion College is May 16, 2026, at Post 318 Quinsigamond. Please contact the Department Office if you want to attend (617-727-2966)

We are now onto our Department Convention, June 5-7, 2026. Looking forward to seeing plenty of new faces at our Family Get Together on June 4 th . The entertainment this year will be a Neil Diamond Cover Band. All information was in the mail to Posts last week in March. Even if your Post does not attend the convention, please try to pick up your Post membership cards.

Legion Baseball will be in full swing with the All-Star Game held at Adams Field on July 6,2026. The State Finals will be hosted by Post 59 Milford on July 25-30, 2026. The Regional Finals will be held at Fitton Field starting August 5, 2026. The American Legion World Series will start August 13, 2026, in Shelby, NC.

If your Post is interested in hosting the Department on the Road please contact your District Commander or Department Office and we can set up some dates for the Department at your Post.

107th National Convention will be held in Louisville, KY this year. All information can be found on our department website; masslegion.org.

Yours in Service

Lisa A. McPhee

Lisa A. McPhee
Department Adjutant

Veterans Straightening America Since 1919 and into the Future

*The American Legion was built on and committed to four key pillars that still stand today:
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth*

**Spring Training for Our Ranks:
April Membership Update**

As the frost finally retreats from the Berkshires to the Cape, April brings more than just the return of the Red Sox and the spirit of Patriot’s Day to our Commonwealth. It marks a critical turning point for the American Legion Department of Massachusetts. April is Children & Youth Month, and there is no better time to remind our communities—and ourselves—why our membership numbers matter.

Why April Matters

While the rest of the world is focused on spring cleaning, we are focused on Spring Recruiting. Our strength in the State House and in Washington D.C. is a direct reflection of our roster. When we advocate for veteran benefits, we aren’t just speaking for those in the room; we are speaking for every veteran across Massachusetts.

Focusing on the Next Generation

As we celebrate Children & Youth

Month, let’s use our programs as our best recruiting tools:

Boys State & Youth Oratorical: These programs are the "gold standard" of the Legion. Invite parents and local educators to your Post this month to see the impact we have on the leaders of tomorrow. **Family Inclusion:** Modern recruitment is about the whole family. Consider hosting a "Family Day" or a spring BBQ to show younger veterans that the Legion is a place for their spouses and children, too.

The "Final Push" Mentality

We are entering the final quarter of our membership year. If you have members who haven't yet hit "renew" for 2026, now is the time for a personal touch. A phone call or a quick visit is significantly more effective than a third automated email.

The Goal: Let’s ensure every Post in the Department hits their 100% target before the state convention. We aren't just "chasing numbers"—we are

growing our ability to serve.

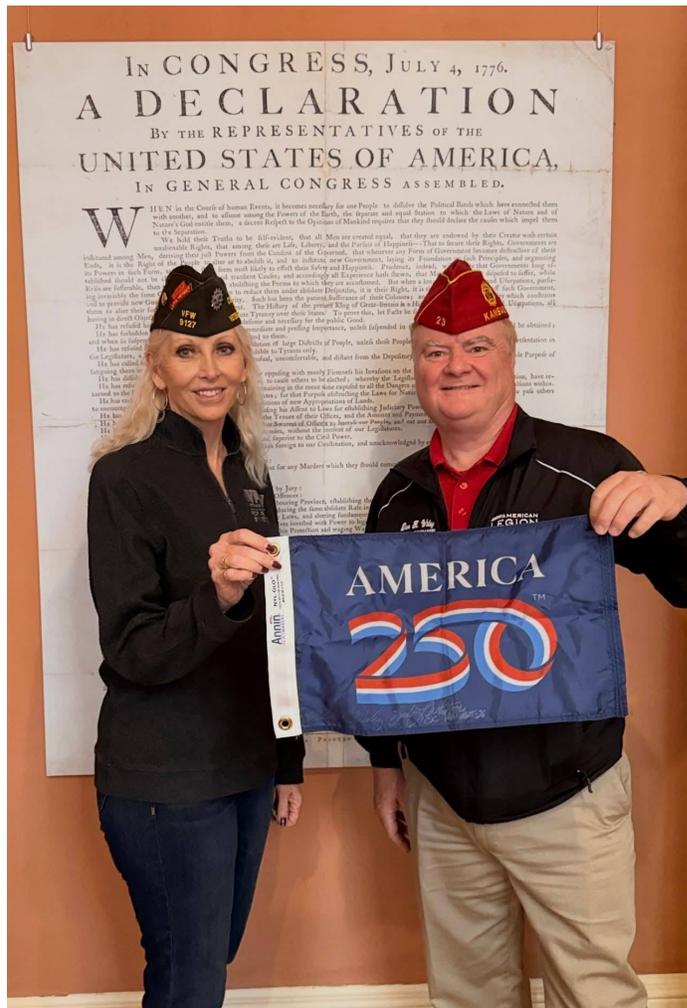
Action Items for Post Commanders & Adjutants:

Audit Your Roster: Identify members who haven't renewed and assign "buddy checks" to reach out personally. **Patriot’s Day Presence:** If your town has a parade or ceremony, ensure the Legion is front and center with membership applications in hand. **Highlight the "Why":** Remind potential members that their dues support the Service Officers who help veterans navigate the VA right here in Massachusetts.

Let’s make this April the month we put our membership growth into high gear. Thank you for your continued service to the Department and your fellow veterans.

Robert Jerdan (Bobby)
Senior Vice Commander 25-26
Department Of Massachusetts
Candidate for Department
Commander 26-27





National Commander of the VFW Carol Whitmore and National Commander of the American Legion Dan Wiley



The City of Boston

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF BOSTON, WE RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE SERVICE OF

Dan K. Wiley
National Commander
American Legion

In appreciation of your steadfast leadership and unwavering commitment to America's veterans, service members, and their families. Through your service as National Commander of The American Legion, you continue a proud tradition of advocacy, patriotism, and community that strengthens our nation and honors the sacrifices of those who have worn the uniform.

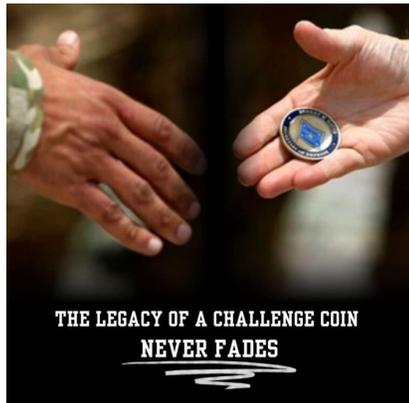
The City of Boston is proud to welcome you and grateful for your dedication to those who served.

Michelle Wu
Mayor





The Long History of Challenge Coins.



The concept of awarding a coin to mark achievement or belonging is far older than the American military. It spans civilizations, conflicts, and eras of honor-based traditions that shaped what challenge coins represent today. How many of us have collected coins during service and after?

Ancient Foundations in Rome. The earliest roots of challenge coins can be traced to the Roman Empire. Soldiers who performed exceptionally in battle were sometimes rewarded with special coins featuring the emblem of their legion. Unlike normal pay, these coins were meant to be kept as personal tokens of valor. They symbolized identity, loyalty to a unit, and the pride that came from service, all ideas that remain central to modern challenge coins.

Tokens of Loyalty in Europe.

During the Renaissance, rulers commissioned portrait medals to commemorate significant events or reward faithful service. These medals were often carried

or displayed, symbolizing connection and recognition very similar to the role challenge coins play today. In the seventeenth century, French Protestants created communion coins that believers used to identify themselves to one another during periods of persecution. This use of a coin to prove identity and membership echoes the later military tradition of carrying a coin to show one's connection to a specific unit.

The Modern Coin Emerges in World War I.

We most commonly trace the challenge coin, as we recognize it today, to a story from World War I. A wealthy American lieutenant ordered bronze medallions for his squadron to build morale. One of his pilots carried the medallion in a small pouch around his neck. Enemy forces shot down and captured the pilot, stripping him of all identification, but he eventually escaped and reached French forces. With no documents to prove who he was, the pilot presented his medallion bearing the squadron's emblem. The coin saved his life and the tradition of carrying one as a symbol of identity and protection began to take shape.

How Challenge Coins Became a Military Tradition.

After World War I, the practice of creating and carrying challenge coins slowly spread. During the

Vietnam War, the tradition accelerated, especially among Special Forces units. Coins became markers of elite missions, unit identity, and camaraderie. The now well-known "challenge" ritual, where Service Members must present their coin when prompted or face buying the next round of drinks, gained popularity during this time. The practice reinforced unity, readiness, and accountability. As the U.S. military expanded its roles through the Cold War and into the twenty first century, challenge coins became common across every branch. They moved from a niche tradition to a military-wide symbol of honor, service, and achievement.

Even as their history stretches back centuries, challenge coins have never lost their original purpose. They continue to symbolize pride, identity, and achievement. Service Members exchange them through handshakes, display them in shadow boxes, carry them on deployments, and use them to commemorate milestones in their careers.

Many veterans proudly collect the coins they earned, each one representing a story. A deployment survived. A mission completed. A friendship formed. A moment of recognition that still matters years later.

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The Legacy Lives On. From the legionary coins of ancient Rome to the mission-specific tokens carried by today's elite warriors, challenge coins have always symbolized loyalty, brotherhood, achievement, and identity. They are reminders of where Service Members have been, what they have endured, and the people who stood beside them through every mile, mission, and moment of sacrifice. The tradition continues today in units across the world, passed from hand to hand in quiet recognition or proudly displayed as a testament to service. A challenge coin is small in size, but the meaning it carries can last a lifetime. The legacy of these coins endures because the values they represent, courage, commitment, and honor, are timeless. (Credit: <https://soldiersangels.org/military-challenge-coins-history-tradition/>)

Spring is right around the corner, with it comes much for our Youth in the way of Softball, Baseball and Scouting. The American Legion is very active with all of these programs, we are already planning for our yearly Scouting Camporee in Gardner Mass. There is much to do to ensure all goes well for our Scouts. Many have attended our first zoom meeting, all have been given their different tasks to cover from CPR First Aid to all competitions on the many ranges we have for our Scouts. We hope to have many come to assist and also attend these many

events, spend the day with our Scouts Cheer them on during the weekend events. Look forward to seeing you at Camp Gardner!

Legion Baseball will be here before we know it, there are many teams representing our State playing weekly throughout the Summer months. Stop by and support your local teams as they play to be the best in their respective areas. There are Posts who financially support these teams along with Coaches who give freely of their time to ensure these players get the most out of the season. We look forward to attending the

finals enjoying time together as a Legion Family!

It's Girl Scout Cookie Month March 2026 Support your community buy some COOKIES! Each year they are to be found at our Markets looking to give us treats and in the process they can return the favor to the community with the funds they raise through various events.



 AMERICAN
LEGION**MASSACHUSETTS****Department****Legion College**

Saturday

May 16th

9:30 AM

Quinsigamond Post 318**180 Greenwood St, Worcester****Topics include:**

- Leadership & Gaining Momentum
- Team Building & Mentorship
- Eliciting Change & Change Management
- Oddities of Post Operations
(The stuff not in the book)

Lunch & Coffee will be provided

To register contact Department Office
DeptAdjutant@masslegion.com or (617) 727-2966



BOYS STATE COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
RM 546-2 STATE HOUSE BOSTON MA 02133
617-727-2966

To: All Post Commanders and/or Boys State Chairmen
From: Mark Avis, Chairman Massachusetts Boys State

Massachusetts Boys State 2026 - Sponsor Form

The 2026 Boys State Program will be held at Stonehill College, North Easton, from Saturday, June 13, 2026 to Friday, June 19, 2026. This year, the cost of sponsoring each boy is **\$400.00 for the regular tuition**, or **\$375.00 for the early bird discount** before **APRIL 1, 2026**.

Regardless of how you choose to pay, you must complete the sponsor form online at **sponsor.maboysstate.org**. There are two payment options, **Debit/Credit Card** or **Check by Mail**, follow the instructions when promoted on the online form. If you are paying via Check by Mail, please also complete the form on page two of this letter and include it with your check.

All payments for the 2026 Boys State Session must be received by May 31, 2026. The first 400 students will be accepted. We encourage you to actively seek outside co-sponsors (e.g. local elected officials, businesses, or banks) to help pay for these boys to attend.

Boys chosen to attend Boys State should be interviewed by the Post. Each Post should explain the Boys State program in detail to the boys and their parents so that they will know what is expected of them through their participation. The Boys State website (**maboysstate.org**) contains a wealth of information, including videos, photographs, program schedule, and program descriptions. Students and parents should be directed to this resource for information and announcements.



Scan QR Code to Complete Sponsor Form

Form Link: sponsor.maboysstate.org

Payment Options: Check by Mail or Debit/Credit Card

Cost: \$400 (\$375 before April 1st)

Please email info@maboysstate.org for issues filling out the form.

PLEASE COMPLETE FORM ON PAGE 2, IF YOU SELECTED CHECK BY MAIL

 AMERICAN
LEGION
MASSACHUSETTS
BOYS STATE**MASSACHUSETTS BOYS STATE 2026****Sponsor Supplement Form (Check by Mail)****DIRECTIONS (Must complete all 4 steps)**

1. Complete the Sponsor Form via sponsor.maboysstate.org
2. Fill out **all the fields below**.
3. Make your check payable to “**The American Legion**” and designate “**Boys State**” in the memo of the check.
4. Mail this form and check to Massachusetts Boys State Chairman, **Mark Avis, 14 Shaw Street, Palmer, MA 01069.**

NUMBER OF BOYS SPONSORED _____ CHECK AMOUNT _____

District # _____

Sponsoring Post # or Organization _____

Post Point of Contact _____

Post POC Phone # _____

Post POC Email _____

All fields above are required***Please mail this page and check to Boys State Chairman*****Mark Avis, 14 Shaw Street, Palmer, MA 01069**

As you may be aware, a few weeks ago, several Legion members from our Department attended the annual Washington DC conference. Members of the MA delegation went to the House and Senate buildings to meet with elected officials and/or Congressional staff to review the Legion's legislative priorities. The 2026 Legislative Agenda, Point Papers and Priorities are available at www.Legion.org/Advocacy/legislative. If you have not seen this, it is important to review the positions of the American Legion.

In my personal opinion, there is way too much division within Washington DC. One thing that we call all do is contact our representatives in both the US House and US Senate. (I suggest using email) Let them know if you do OR do not support their votes and positions on legislation. As I noted last month, voting records can be found at some of the following: www.congress.gov; <https://vote-usa.org>; <https://knowyourvotes.com>. At Congress.gov, it is very easy to find and email members of Congress.

Given the current situation, I don't believe in waiting until the November elections to make my voice heard. Once every 2 years is NOT enough. Something that I personally use all the time is The American Legion Grassroots Action Center. www.legion.org/advocacy Grassroots Action Center.

I firmly believe that the right to vote is a duty and a privilege. You probably have family and friends who say their vote does not count. The numbers prove that statement to be wrong. Let's be an EDUCATED voter!

On another note, as NEC, I want to thank everyone who helped to make National Commander Wiley's visit to MA a success! Great job!

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





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.

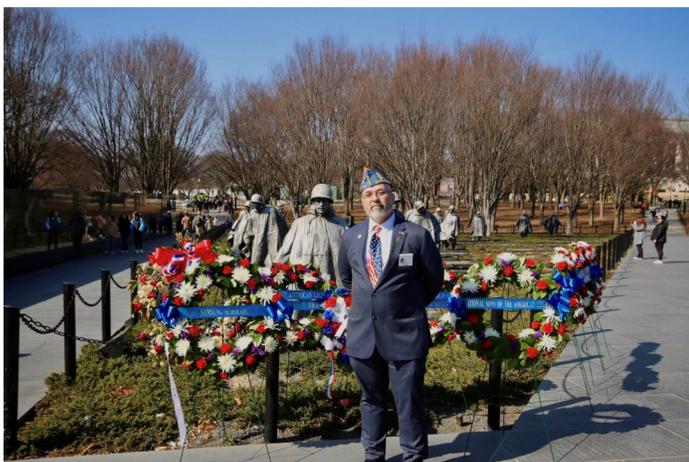
It's that easy. *Together*, we can send **25,000** messages in support of a bill!

AMERICAN LEGION

VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

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







Dracut Post 315 recognized as a Golden Gloves Community Champion

We are thrilled to report that on Thursday, February 26th, the Dracut American Legion Post 315 were recognized as one of the Community Champions during “Military Appreciation Night” at the Golden Gloves.

The Lowell Golden Gloves honored our local champions, including Tiffany Lever from the Lowell Vet Center, VFW Post 662 Lowell, and our own Dracut American Legion Post 315.

This recognition highlights the Legion’s outstanding service and continued commitment to supporting our veterans and the local community.

A special thank you to Post Commander Dick Ducharme, Post Adjutant Barry Kuntz, and Sons of the American Legion Commander Mike Schiripo (pictured here) for their exceptional leadership and dedication.

Around the Department—District Four Raffle

District 4, Worcester County, Armed Forces Steel Sign Raffle 6”x24”

USCG-USMC-ARMY-USAF-NAVY

During the months leading up to the June Department Convention Division 4 will be selling raffle tickets at upcoming D4 Meetings, Post visits, and at the June Department Convention.

\$10 for a chance/ticket.

Great for your Post, VSO office, Sr Center, or game room.

Final drawing will be made at the June Department Convention.

Collected funds will go to the general D4 account for general D4 needs.



"The Sons of the American Legion Squadron #40 in Plymouth recently brought the community together for a joyful and heartwarming Early Easter Breakfast, creating a morning filled with laughter, connection, and festive cheer for families of all ages.

Guests were treated to a delicious breakfast while enjoying a lively atmosphere designed especially for children. A special highlight of the event was the appearance of the Easter Bunny and a Magical Unicorn, who delighted kids with photo opportunities, smiles, and plenty of magical moments. The excitement continued with a fun-filled raffle and the distribution of stuffed Easter eggs, adding an extra layer of surprise and joy for the young attendees.



The event not only provided a memorable experience for families, but also supported the Sons of the American Legion’s ongoing mission to serve veterans, their families, and the local community. With strong attendance and enthusiastic participation, the Early Easter Breakfast was a wonderful success bringing people together in the spirit of giving, celebration, and community pride."



HOLYOKE SOLDIERS HOME MOTORCYCLE RUN

Greetings,

We write to you on behalf of **The American Legion, Department of Massachusetts** and **Throttle Rocker Nation**, who have proudly partnered to continue the honored fundraising efforts begun in 2011. These efforts have provided vital financial support to the **Veterans Home at Holyoke** (formerly the **Holyoke Soldiers' Home**), helping to enhance the quality of care and services available to our local veterans.

The **Veterans Home at Holyoke** is a full-service veterans' center and hospital located in Holyoke. In the summer of 2022, planning began for a new, state-of-the-art facility that reflects Home's renewed commitment to providing the highest standard of care for our Commonwealth's veterans. The Veterans Home continues to deliver a comprehensive range of services, including long-term care, outpatient medical and dental services, and social work support, along with specialized programs and events designed to enrich the lives of those who have served. The facility operates under the direction of the **Massachusetts Department of Veterans Services**, maintaining its proud tradition of **honor, dignity, and compassionate care**.

Our mission is to support and enhance the quality of life for local veterans at the Veterans Home at Holyoke. To fulfill this mission, we have established a **Morale, Wellness, and Recreation Fund** dedicated to improving the daily lives of the residents. Our organizations work to **bridge the gap where state funding ends and community support begins**.

We are proud to announce the return of our signature event—the **Annual Holyoke Soldiers' Home Motorcycle Run**—on **May 16, 2026**. Over the years, this event has achieved tremendous success, contributing more than **\$300,000** in direct support to the Veterans Home at Holyoke.

Please review the **sponsorship opportunities** to find the giving level that best fits your organization. We also gratefully accept **cash donations** and **in-kind contributions** of goods or services.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and continued support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us directly at **(413) 531-1073** or **holyokesoldiershomerun@gmail.com**.

Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of those who have sacrificed so much in service to our nation and our freedom.

Sincerely,

Louis E Brault Jr

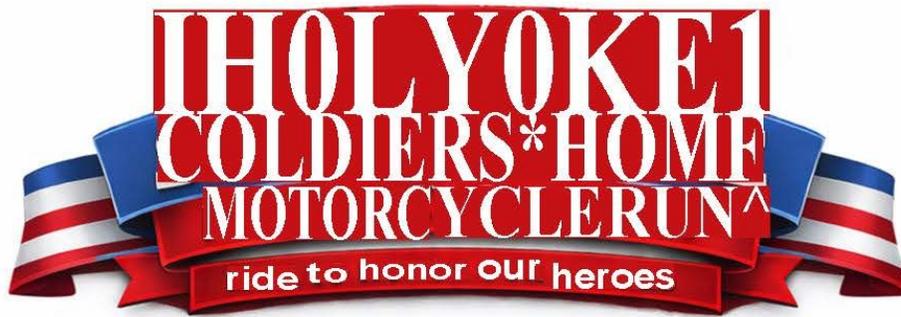
Legion Riders Chairman

American Legion Dept of MA

Bob Kaine Alves

Owner

Throttle rocker Nation



Sponsorship Opportunities

Proceeds benefit The Veterans at the Veterans Home in Holyoke

Business Name _____

Contact Person _____ Mobile _____

Email _____ Website _____

*** SPONSORSHIP DEADLINE APRIL 20, 2026 ***

PLATINUM - Donation \$5000

- Certificate of Appreciation
- Business logo listed on event t-shirt
- Business Name/Logo mentions on social media & Web Page
- Booth space at Opening Ceremony (10x10)
- Business Name/Logo on Select Promotion Materials
- Booth space at After Party event (10x10)
- Sponsorship announcement at event
- Mentions in related advertising
- 8 complimentary tickets and 8 t-shirts

GOLD - Donation \$2500

- Certificate of Appreciation
- Business Name listed on event t-shirt
- Sponsor announcement at event
- Mentions in related advertising

SILVER - Donation \$500

- 4 Complimentary Event Tickets
- Company Name/Logo on Select Promotion Materials
- Sponsor announcement at event

BRONZE - Donation of \$250

- Certificate of Appreciation
- Vendor Booth After Party (10x10)
- Business Name/Logo on social media & web site
- 2 Complimentary event tickets

Please make your check or money order payable to "HOLYOKE SOLDIER HOME RUN"

www.HOLYOKE SOLDIERSHOMERUN.com



Start Date	Time	Event	Location
4/7/2026	7:00 PM	Americanism Committee	ZOOM
4/18/2026	12:00 PM	D3 Banquet	Chicopee Post 452
4/20/2026	7:00 PM	Adjutants Meeting	ZOOM
4/21/2026	7:30 PM	Children & Youth	ZOOM
4/22/2026	7:0 PM	D6 Meeting	Squantum Post 382
4/23/2026	7:00 PM	D9 Meeting	Berkley Post 121
5/24/2026	1:00 PM	Memorial Day Ceremony	Massachusetts National Cemetery
6/4/2026	2:00 PM	Department Executive Committee Meeting	Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel Marlboro, MA
6/4/2026	6:00 PM	Pre0Conventin Get-Together	Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel Marlboro, MA
6/5-6/7		Department Convention	Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel Marlboro, MA


2026 Membership Standing *as of March 27, 2026*

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1125	1034	91.91%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN/HAMPSHIRE	3169	2828	90.15%
4	WORCESTER	4303	3826	89.22%
5	MIDDLESEX	3347	2977	89.12%
6	NORFOLK	2206	1979	89.94%
7	SUFFOLK	1123	997	90.47%
8	ESSEX	2313	2092	90.62%
9	BRISTOL	2260	1737	77.17%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3404	3140	92.39%
297	CAPITOL HILL	405	1128	284.69%
462	HEADQUARTERS	848	488	57.90
	National Quota	24,503	22,226	91.18%

Next Target Date 4/8/2026 95%

We are the American Legion Auxiliary.
 We are called to serve.
 We respect our country and the service of those who defend our freedoms.
 We are loyal to our United States Constitution and to those who protect it.
 We are humbled by the courage of our veterans and their families.
 We are alone, yet we stand together.
 We are daughters, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers. We are family.
 We are of every color. We are of every faith.
 We are of every age.
 We are anyone and everyone.
 We are common and extraordinary.
 We are citizens.
 We live in small towns.
 We live in suburbs.
 We live in cities.
 We work in fields, in factories, warehouses, offices, at home.
 We are a community. We help one another.
 We love our flag and all that it stands for.
 We are many. We are one.
 We are the American Legion Auxiliary. A Community of Volunteers
 Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families.
 We commit ourselves to the ideal: *Service Not Self.*

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	202	195	96.53%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN HAMPSHIRE	637	552	86.66%
4	WORCESTER	1064	975	91.64%
5	MIDDLESEX	949	841	88.62%
6	NORFOLK	365	280	76.71%
7	SUFFOLK	95	81	85.26%
8	ESSEX	629	585	93.00%
9	BRISTOL	263	200	76.05%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	754	659	87.40%
462	HEADQUARTERS	149	113	75.84
	National Quota	5,107	4,481	87.74%

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion

THE MILLENNIUM

Sons of The American Legion | PO 1055 | Indianapolis, IN 46206 | www.legion.org/sons

Volume 3 | Issue 3 | Number 1 | March 2026

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

Inside YOUR SAL Newsletter this Month

- Randy Timms (WI): Leadership Succession
- Washington Conference 2026
- New York: Squadron donates \$2K towards new van for vets
- South Dakota: Heroes of the Court
- Indiana: Squadron makes Donations to Community Organizations
- Pennsylvania: SAL Member raises fund and awareness for homeless
- SAL 100 Committee
- Wisconsin: Freezin' for a Reason

HAPPY 107th BIRTHDAY
AMERICAN LEGION
Founded 15 March 1919 - Paris, France

Special to The Millennium—Clive R.A. Seydell (MI), Detachment Commander

Michigan Represented at the 92nd Annual National Pilgrimage

The 92nd Annual National Pilgrimage honoring President Abraham Lincoln began February 11, 2026 in Springfield, Illinois, with the American Legion Family Leadership Reception. National and Department leaders gathered in fellowship ahead of the annual observance, reinforcing the unity that defines The American Legion Family.

During the reception, National Commander Bill Clancy of the Sons of The American Legion addressed those assembled, emphasizing continued service and strengthening the bonds across the Legion Family. His remarks set the tone for the commemorative events that followed.

Hosted by Springfield Post No. 32, the Annual Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln has been held every year on February 12 since 1935, making it the longest-running commemoration of President Lincoln's birthday. What began as a tribute organized by World War I veterans has grown into a nationally recognized tradition honoring our 16th President and the enduring principles he defended.

On the morning of February 12 — President Lincoln's birthday — members of the Legion Family attended the American Legion Family Breakfast before assembling at the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield Hotel. Participants then proceeded in procession to Oak Ridge Cemetery for the solemn wreath-laying ceremony at Lincoln's Tomb.

Submitted Photos: Commander Clive Seydell at the Lincoln Pilgrimage, flanked by Commander's Lady Stephanie and National Commander Clancy

Continued on Page 2 >>>>

Top Ten Detachments
2026 Membership Percentage

1. Dist. Of Col. 115.73%
2. Utah 108.75%
3. Philippines 108.33%
4. South Carolina 93.79%
5. Wisconsin 93.13%
6. Florida 90.40%
7. Idaho 90.17%
8. Iowa 89.54%
9. North Carolina 89.43%
10. Latin America 88.13%

Statistics as of 05 March 2026

BE THE ONE

A National Newsletter of the Sons of The American Legion

Go to Masslegion.org/newsletter for your copy

2026 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of March 27, 2026

	District	Goal	Current	%
1	BERKSHIRE	231	229	99.13%%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN / HAMPSHIRE	674	566	83.98%
4	WORCESTER	998	879	88.08%
5	MIDDLESEX	1362	1097	80.54%
6	NORFOLK	836	872	104.31%
7	SUFFOLK	173	152	87.86%
8	ESSEX	443	400	90.29%
9	BRISTOL	286	193	67.48%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	780	557	71.41%
	National Goal	5783	4945	82.93%

Next Target Date: 4/8/2026 90%




★ ★

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	Queen Of Hearts
We will service a simple lunch starting at 12:00pm until sold out or 3pm.	Begins at 3PM 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.	The QOH with begin 15 minutes after the last Table is raffled.





2026 Milford Baseball Alumni Golf Tournament



Hosted By:
Milford High Baseball & Milford Post 59 Legion Baseball

Location:
Shining Rock Country Club
91 Clubhouse Lane,
Northbridge, MA 01534

Date: April 18, 2026
Check-In / Registration: 12:00 PM
Shotgun Start: 1:00 PM

Prizes for:
1st, 2nd, 3rd place, longest drive & closest to pin (Men + Women)

Sponsor a Hole:
\$100 per hole
Includes signage at one of the 18 holes
Please contact Alex Dion at adion@milfordma.com
or Steve DiVitto at sdivitto@milfordma.com to request a sponsorship.

Cost: \$175 - Make out check to:
Milford Legion Baseball Club
PO Box 585
Milford, MA 01757

This is a fundraiser event for both the Milford High School Baseball Team and the Milford Post 59 Legion Baseball Club. All proceeds will benefit the two programs hosting the event and enhance their player's experience.

Google Form (Registration)



Venmo



Milford Legion Baseball Club: PayPal



AMERICAN LEGION POST 3 PRESENTS

POKER RUN

MAY 16TH @ 11AM

AMERICAN LEGION POST 3
8 WASHINGTON STREET

BEST HAND WINS!
1 FOR \$15 • 2 FOR \$20
FULL DAY OF FOOD & FUN!

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
"BE THE ONE"
VETERAN SUICIDE
AWARENESS & PREVENTION

PRE-REGISTER OR DONATE AT: POST3.ORG

SAFETY FIRST!
RIDES PROVIDED FOR A SAFE RIDE HOME.
PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY!

LEAVE THE POKER RUN ANYTIME, TURN IN YOUR CARDS TO OUR STAFF.

In Memory of Jodi Wall



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 ★

📍 American Legion Post 113
14 Church Street
Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA

🕒 Registration: 9:30 AM
🕒 Kickstands Up: 11:00 AM

★ **EVENT HIGHLIGHTS** ★

- Scenic group motorcycle ride
- Food & refreshments
- Raffles / 50-50 drawing
- Music & camaraderie
- Rain or Shine • All bikes welcome!

★★ **COST** ★★

- Rider: \$25
- Passenger: \$10
- Walk-ins: \$10

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

FOOD • MUSIC • RAFFLES • VENDORS

HOLYOKE SOLDIERS' HOME
MOTORCYCLE RUN
RIDE TO HONOR OUR HEROES

MAY 16, 2026

★ **Starts** ★
Veteran Home
In Holyoke
Cherry St •
Holyoke

★ **End** ★
Chicopee Moose
Club
Fuller St •
Chicopee

★ **KICKSTANDS UP : NOON** ★
\$20 Per Person In Advance
\$25 Per Person Day of Event

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MA

THROTTLE ROCKER NATION

★ **IN SUPPORT OF THE VETERANS HOME IN HOLYOKE** ★



**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

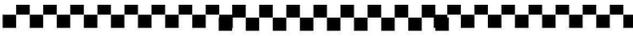
A CATERED LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT POST 3 AFTER

**AMERICAN LEGION DISTRICT 10
ANNUAL GET TOGETHER
SUNDAY MAY 17TH 12:00PM
SANDWICH POST 188
20 MAIN ST. SANDWICH**

On Sunday May 17th at 12:00pm District 10 of the American Legion will hold its annual Get Together. The Get Together is open to all District 10 Legion organizations. (Sons, Auxiliary and any other groups) The cost of the event is **\$20**.

Lunch includes
Chowder, green salad, chicken, potato, vegetables, bread and butter and dessert.

There will be **50/50** and gift baskets to raffle off
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JVC JIM RICHMAN
AT 617-688-0303 OR EMAIL AT Katchie4us@yahoo.com
If your Post could donate a gift basket. I would greatly appreciate it. Please contact Jim Richman
DISTRICT MEETING STARTS AT 10!



Fallen Riders MOTORCYCLE Swap Meet

Time to spring clean your garage and sell or swap your unwanted motorcycle parts and accessories.

**SATURDAY
APRIL 11, 2026**

8 AM - 1 PM

Free to participate and attend

Chester P. Tuttle Post 279
88 Bancroft St, Auburn, MA 01501

**50/50 Raffle
Food for Purchase**

For more information
contact
Lance at 774-272-2842



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DISTRICT 4 vs. DISTRICT 5
MINI GOLF
FUNDRAISER**

THE BATTLE OF THE DISTRICTS

DISTRICT 4 AUXILIARY CHALLENGERS **DISTRICT 5 AUXILIARY** CONTENDERS

RAISING FUNDS FOR VETERANS & AUXILIARY PROGRAMS

WHEN: SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026 at 9:00 AM
WHERE: Trombetta's Farm, 655 Farm Rd Marlborough Ma 01752
****SPONSOR A TEE: \$50** ★ COST: \$20 per Person (teams of 4)**

PRIZES **PRIZES FOR BEST TEAM & WORST TEAM** **RAFFLES**

TO REGISTER CONTACT:
District 4 Lisa Gauthier at 978-350-7755 or LisaGauthier1959@yahooouts
District 5 Sukie Blake at 978-710-1432 or Siouxquebee512@gmail.com



Post Events

ABOUT HOMEFRONT STRONG

HomeFront Strong, formerly known as the Brookfield Institute, is an organization dedicated to building resilience in veterans and military families through targeted programs and resources.

Our work builds resilience through a focus on community, belonging, and access to services with a special focus on bridging gaps for those who serve in the Guard and Reserves.

Your participation in our annual golf tournament supports programs like:



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOMEFRONT STRONG VISIT:

www.homefrontstrongus.org

Call: (508) 499 - 9589

Email Jennifer at:

jennifer@brookfieldinstitute.org

THANK YOU TO OUR MAIN SPONSOR:

THANK YOU TO OUR HONORARY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON:

Cindy Lacoste, US Navy Chief Petty Officer, Ret.



HERITAGE COUNTRY CLUB

85 Sampson Rd.
Charlton, MA 01507
(508) 248 - 5111

CONTACT DETAILS

For more information about the golf tournament contact Jennifer at: (508) 499 - 9589 or jbaublitz@homefrontstrongus.org



Golf Tournament

5TH ANNUAL CHARITY EVENT

MAY 1ST, 2026

TO BENEFIT PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

EVENT DETAILS

REGISTRATION	9:00 A.M.
SHOTGUN START	10:00 A.M.
LUNCH	12:00 P.M.
COCKTAIL HOUR	3:00 P.M.
STEAK DINNER & AWARDS	4:00 P.M.

CONTESTS

- Hole-in-One
- Longest Drive, him/her/+65
- Closest to the Pin, him/her/+65
- Top Team (male, female, mixed)

COST PER PLAYER: \$150

IF RECEIVED BEFORE 3/15, THE COST IS \$135 PER PLAYER

Includes:

- Cart fees
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Giftbags

COST TO ATTEND DINNER & AWARDS CEREMONY ONLY: \$35

Dinner options include:

- Steak
- Chicken
- Vegetarian pasta



Scan the QR code to register or visit:

www.homefrontstrongus.org/events/golf/

SPONSORSHIPS OPPORTUNITIES

All sponsors are recognized online as well as in the tournament program. There are many sponsorship packages available to meet your needs and include benefits like golfer admission, hole signs, exposure across online platforms tournament printouts, and recognition on tournament signage.

For more details visit:

<https://events.golfstatus.com/event/operation-soaring-eagle-2026>



SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

- Tournament sponsor: \$3,500
- Lunch sponsor: \$2,000
- Dinner sponsor: \$2,000
- Tech Sponsorship: \$2,000
- Platinum Plus Sponsor \$1500
- Platinum Sponsor \$1000
- Golf Cart Sponsor \$1,000
- Golf Ball Sponsor \$1,000
- Diamond Sponsor \$750
- Beverage Cart Sponsor \$500
- Gold Hole Sponsor \$500
- Silver Hole Sponsor \$250
- Bronze Sponsor \$100
- Auction item or raffle prize donor

REGISTRATION

The best way to register to play or purchase a sponsorship is through our website. You can scan the QR code below or visit the site at:

<https://homefrontstrongus.org/events/golf>

If you prefer to register by mail and pay by check, please complete and mail this form.

FULL NAME(S) & COMPANY NAME

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

ADDRESS

PACKAGE SELECTION & TOTAL

Please indicate if you are registering to play, purchase a sponsorship, and/or attend dinner only.

Cost per player is \$135 if received before 4/1/2026. After 4/1, it is \$150. Cost for dinner only is \$35



Make checks payable to:
HomeFront Strong
P.O. Box 903
Palmer, Ma 01069



Post Events

 Veterans Association of Bristol County theVABC.org



OUTRAGEOUS GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026
SWANSEA COUNTRY CLUB
299 MARKET ST SWANSEA, MA
8:00 AM REGISTRATION
9:00 AM SHOTGUN START
2:00 PM LUNCH

We have packages from individual golfers to corporate sponsors

SPONSORS & GOLFERS SCAN HERE!




 **18th Annual Women Veterans Network Conference**

Saturday, May 16, 2026
8:00am to 3:00pm
 Four Points by Sheraton Norwood
 1125 Boston-Providence Turnpike
 Norwood, MA 02062

EMPOWERING HER VOICE, HONORING HER SERVICE

Highlights:
 Learn about programs and services directly from veteran-serving organizations, including the VA and EOVS
 Attend information sessions and engaging presenters
 Experience self-care options from skilled professionals

TO REGISTER:
<https://bit.ly/3MR50qP>



 The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

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
- *Wednesday** Sept 16 WALL Setup 8am - Volunteer Training Highly recommended 6 PM-1 Hour Echo Taps
- *Thursday** Sept 17 Opening Ceremony Time TBD & Sunset Echo Taps
- *Friday** Sept 18 Echo Taps - Light the Night Ceremony Agent Orange Awareness
- *Saturday** Tours -Sunset Taps
- *Sunday** Sept 20, Wall closed 1:45pm Closing Ceremony 2 pm dismantle "The Wall That Heals"




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

 **THE WALL THAT HEALS**
 VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER
 A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND
 FOUNDERS OF THE WALL

HIRAM O TAYLOR POST 189 - STERLING

PATRIOTIC MEAT RAFFLE!



SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026 • 1 PM

Eight Point Sportsman's Club
 147 Beaman Rd, Sterling, MA 01564

WIN GREAT MEAT PACKAGES!



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

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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: deptaddjutant@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.
Room 546-2, State House
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