



# MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

Volume 16 Issue 1

June 2025

## Commander's Corner



### **Congratulations Scott M. Conner Department of Massachusetts Commander 2025-2026**

To Past Department Commander Blake, thank you for your stewardship of the Department. Leadership during your tenure of the "chairs" and your year as Commander will certainly bear fruit for the future.

A heartfelt thank you to all who have supported me and provided critical guidance as I "climbed" the chairs. The mentorship interaction has been

tremendous and certainly has helped me along the way. With the guidance and inspiration, Jake, Paul, Jodie, John, Nelson, Lisa, Grace, Frank, Milt, Kenny, Larry, Jim, Sandra, Mike, Louie, Sally, Tony, and many, many, many more, we will help guide the Department of Massachusetts for the future. With membership successfully passed to Sr. Vice Commander Jerdan, I am ready for the challenge of new adventures. The Vice Commanders are ready to support the programs of The American Legion. Sr. Vice Jerdan - Membership, Vice Commander Pajak - Children and Youth, Vice Commander Howe - Community Service, and Vice Commander Manning - Americanism.

**Appointments:** District Commanders, please submit your appointment lists; program leads need to know who's who. And more importantly, who to invite to committee meetings.

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Events to capitalize on, Flag Day, Independence Day, Community Events, Semiquincentennial Events, Boys/Girls State, Scout Camporee in Gardner, Youth Law Cadet "Student Trooper", and there's more!.

Why not catch an American Legion Baseball game during the 100th Anniversary year, State finals in Quincy, and Regional Finals in Worcester? Go see a Women's Fastpitch Softball game. As I wrap up, a couple of housekeeping items, please, use the "Chain of Command". And try to avoid the "reply all" tag on emails.

My Commander's Charity will be Operation Comfort Warrior.

First DEC - September 13th, Baldwinville Post.

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



In Loving Memory of James Leroy Flattes Sr.

August 25, 1934 – May 13, 2025



James Leroy Flattes Sr., a proud U.S. Army Veteran and lifelong member of the American Legion, passed away peacefully on May 13, 2025, at the age of 90.

Born on August 25, 1934, in Boston, Massachusetts, James was the beloved son of Ruth (Jackson) Flattes and Teofilo Flattes. He led a life defined by duty, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to both his country and his community.

James served honorably in the U.S. Army for many years and continued to support fellow veterans through more than six decades of active involvement with the American Legion. During his tenure, he held numerous leadership roles, earning the admiration and respect of his peers.

After his military service, James pursued a career as a truck driver—a profession he approached with the same dedication and sense of purpose that marked his military life. Known as the “neighborhood dad,” he was a dependable, welcoming presence whose home and heart were always open.

James was a man of great passions—among them, building model trucks and collecting military crests, hobbies that reflected both his creativity and pride in his service.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Vivian, and his second wife, Dorothy, as well as his son, James Flattes Jr. He is survived by his loving children: Valerie, Richard, Lawrence (wife Kelley), Julia, and Ronald (wife Gail). His memory will also live on through his cherished grandchildren: Jonathan, Shylicia, Ama, Dara, Ra-Shaun, Breanna, Shawnelle, Donnell, and Shawn; and his great-grandchildren: King Jonathan, Dakota, Ares, Yalianisse, Kharlie, Zyan, Javel, Limaj, and Zayden.

James is also survived by his siblings, Iris Oden, Roberta Stutzenberger, Riccardo Flattes, and Bobby Flattes. He was preceded in death by his sisters Donna Cooke, Linda Westin, Gloria McCall, and his brother Francisco Flattes.

He leaves behind a host of nieces, nephews, extended family, and dear friends who will miss his laughter, wisdom, and steady presence.

James Leroy Flattes Sr. lived a life marked by service, compassion, and love. He was a man who touched many lives and whose legacy will endure in the hearts of all who knew him.

He will be dearly missed—but never forgotten.

Plans for a memorial service in Massachusetts will be announced.



## Thank You—PDC Nelson Issak Blake

### **A Heartfelt Thank You to the Department of Massachusetts American Legion**

As my term as Department Commander comes to a close, I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the Department of Massachusetts American Legion for the incredible honor of serving as your Commander.

It has been a true privilege to lead an organization built on service, camaraderie, and a steadfast commitment to veterans, their families, and our communities. Over the past year, I've had the opportunity to witness firsthand the dedication of our Legionnaires across the state—from the smallest towns to the heart of Boston—working tirelessly to uphold the values of our great organization.

Thank you to the department staff, officers, and post leaders for your partnership and your unyielding support. Your hard work behind the scenes and on the front lines made every success possible. I'm especially grateful for your confidence in me and your willingness to work together to meet challenges head-on.

To the members of the American Legion Family—Sons, Auxiliary, and Riders—your energy and commitment brought strength and unity to every effort. Whether it was through community outreach, youth programs, or veterans' advocacy, your impact has been felt and will continue to inspire.

Most importantly, thank you to the Legionnaires across Massachusetts. Your service to our country did not end when you hung up the uniform—it continues every day through your involvement in the American Legion. I am proud to have served you, and I look forward to continuing that service in new ways.

Serving as Department Commander has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I leave this role filled with gratitude, pride, and hope for the future of our organization. Together, we have upheld our mission, strengthened our community, and honored our fellow veterans.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

**Nelson Izaak Blake**

Department Commander 2024-2025

The American Legion, Department of Massachusetts



Members of the American Legion Family:

I am deeply honored and humbled to accept the position of Department President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Massachusetts.

This organization, built on unwavering principles of service, patriotism, and community, has been a guiding light in my life. I am proud to walk in the footsteps of so many remarkable women who have led with dedication, compassion, and strength. I promise to carry forward that legacy with the same energy and sense of purpose.

I want to begin by extending my sincere thanks to outgoing president, Donna Blattenberger. Your leadership, dedication, and compassion have inspired us all. You leave behind a legacy of strength and service.

Fellow officers, unit members, and the entire American Legion family — thank you for the trust placed in me. This is not a role I take lightly. Together, we will continue to honor and serve our veterans, support military families, and invest in our communities.

My theme for the year is Unsung Heros, and my project will be Honor Flight New England.

Together, we will focus on revitalizing our units, enhancing our programs, continuing to advocate for our veterans and their families. Let's continue to be visible in our communities, proactive in our outreach, and unwavering in our mission.

I want to thank my family and friends for their love and encouragement. And to every member here today, thank you for the work you do, often behind the scenes, always from the heart.

As we step into the new year together, let's remember the legacy we uphold, the heroes we honor, and the future we shape.

For God and Country — let's lead with purpose, serve with pride, and carry our mission forward with unity, dedication, and heart. Always remember to Be The One.

Thank you and may this be a year of meaningful service and lasting impact.

*Sofia Elizabeth Blake*  
*Department President*



**Congratulations  
Detachment of  
Massachusetts  
Commander  
Jesse Limanek**

Greetings Department of Massachusetts American Legion Family,

As your newly elected Detachment Commander, I am very excited about the coming year. In particular, I am looking forward

to working side-by-side with Commander Scott Conner and President Sophia Blake 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 much work to be done! In the coming weeks, I will be working on ways to communicate with all of the active squadrons throughout the Detachment. While as of this writing I do not have access to the official commander's email address, I will soon. In the interim, feel free to contact me at my personal email address – [jlimanek@verizon.net](mailto:jlimanek@verizon.net) – if you need to reach me beforehand.

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

Finally, the Detachment is 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.

My God bless the United States of America and continue to watch over all those currently serving under its flag, all those who have served this nation with honor and distinction, and their families,

Jesse Limanek  
Commander for the Detachment of Massachusetts



The American Legion's "Igniting Growth: The American Legion's Plan of Action for the Upcoming Membership Year" outlines a comprehensive strategy to bolster its membership through a three-pronged approach: Cultivating a Culture of Growth, Strategic Recruitment, and Retention Through Engagement. The plan emphasizes modernizing communication, actively reaching out to new generations of veterans, and fostering a more inclusive and engaging environment within posts.

### Key Strategies:

**Cultivating a Culture of Growth:** This section focuses on enhancing brand awareness and communication. It calls for consistent messaging that highlights the Legion's mission and value, modernizing online presences (websites and social media), forging strategic partnerships with veteran-friendly organizations and educational institutions, and engaging with local media to share success stories. Internal communication is also prioritized through e-newsletters, postcards, "Buddy Checks," and personalized outreach.

**Strategic Recruitment:** The plan advocates for proactive and adaptable recruitment methods. It stresses the importance of "showing, not just telling" the tangible benefits of membership, regularly showcasing the impact of Post activities, and implementing a robust welcome process for new members. Targeted outreach includes setting up membership tables at diverse community events, leveraging digital tools for online advertising and social media campaigns, encouraging "passive recruitment" by current members, and providing business cards with applications for easy sign-ups. Recruiters are encouraged to be knowledgeable and invite potential members to "join and make it better" if they have objections.

**Retention Through Engagement:** This crucial element focuses on keeping existing members active and involved. It promotes identifying members' interests and connecting them with relevant Post activities, fostering an inclusive environment, and regular check-ins with inactive members. Reinforcing the value proposition includes promoting multi-year renewals, regularly reminding members of benefits and discounts, and being transparent about how dues are utilized. Post revitalization and modernization are also key, with suggestions for facility improvements, diverse activity offerings (including family-friendly events and community service), technology integration, and positioning Posts as community hubs.

### Overall Vision:

The plan concludes by emphasizing that its success hinges on the collective effort of every Legionnaire. By embracing innovation, prioritizing meaningful engagement, and continually demonstrating the profound impact of The American Legion, the organization aims to ensure a vibrant and growing future, honoring its past by securing its future, and continuing its sacred obligation to America's veterans.





## Marketing

Greetings, American Legion Family. I hope this edition of this publication finds you and all of your loved ones in good health and good spirits as summer is almost upon us.

With another Department Convention behind us, a new American Legion year begins. I would like to thank all who participated in our convention 50-50 online raffle and our traditional mail in sweepstakes. Your donation helped your department and its programs. Congratulations to all the winners.

The start of a new American Legion year brings with it our annual fundraising efforts of the label program. Your labels should arrive in July so, please, be on the lookout for these in your mail and consider a donation as funds raised are earmarked for Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

As always, if you have any marketing ideas, please bring them to the attention of the committee.

Mike Davis PNEC Marketing Chairman



## Americanism

I would like to take the opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the dedicated members of the Americanism committee for their truly outstanding work throughout the past year. Their unwavering commitment to our shared goals has been deeply appreciated, and I am very grateful for all of their efforts.

Bob Jerdan

Americanism Chairman 24-25

Candidate for SR Vice Commander 25-26



## Grassroots Information

Interested in what the Legion is advocating for in Congress on ***The Veteran's Role in Supporting the Military?*** Check out our information papers in the Legislative Toolkit. This is a great starting point for a conversation with your elected officials!

As part of our ongoing Grassroots efforts, LegDiv staff is available to provide **Grassroots Training** tailored to the hosting Department's needs. If you are interested in hosting a Grassroots training event, please contact [grassroots@legion.org](mailto:grassroots@legion.org) or [ejohnson@legion.org](mailto:ejohnson@legion.org).

You can find relevant legislation and the Legion's stance on them in the [key legislation section of VoterVoice](#).

***Register for Action Alerts today at <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Register>***

## American Legion Northeast Baseball Tournament Program Book Ad Order Form

Support the American Legion Northeast Regional Baseball Tournament in celebration of the American Legion's 100th Anniversary by reserving an advertisement in the program book. The tournament will take place from Wednesday, August 6th through Sunday, August 10th at Hanover Insurance Park at Fitton Field on the campus of Holy Cross College in Worcester, MA. This event is being hosted by **Shrewsbury American Legion**

**Post 397.**

### 100th Anniversary Premium Pricing

*All premium pricing includes advertisements, banners at the game, recognition during the games, and tickets to the Worcester Bravehearts specified below.*

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum - 150 Free Tickets | <b>\$10,000</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold - 100 Free Tickets     | <b>\$7,500</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver - 75 Free Tickets    | <b>\$5,000</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze - 50 Free Tickets    | <b>\$2,500</b>  |

### Ad Sizing and Pricing

*All ad pricing includes tickets to the Worcester Bravehearts specified below.*

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Back Cover - Full Page Color<br>+50 Tickets  | <b>\$2,500</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Front Cover - Full Page Color<br>+40 Tickets | <b>\$2,000</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page - Black and White<br>+20 Tickets   | <b>\$500</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Half Page - Black and White<br>+10 Tickets   | <b>\$300</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter Page - Black and White<br>+4 Tickets | <b>\$200</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ad Booster                                   | <b>\$100</b>   |

### Ad Guidelines

- ☒ Payment is due with order.
- ☒ Only print-ready PDF or JPEG files will be accepted. Ad must fit into the designated ad size (above and on back) - ad will be re-sized if needed.

### Payment Options

- ☐ CHECK  
Please make checks payable to:  
Shrewsbury American Legion Post 397

- ☐ CASH  
Send payment, ad, and order form to:

Masis Staffing Solutions  
c/o Gloria Little  
1331 Grafton Street  
Worcester, MA 01604  
glittle@masisstaffing.com

**DEADLINE: MONDAY JUNE 30, 2025**

### QUESTIONS?

Contact Name: Chris Desantis

Email: cdesantis@masisstaffing.com

**We appreciate your support. A copy of the program book will be sent to all advertisers.**

## ***“TEAM KANSAS”***

Proudly Presents



**DAN K. WILEY**  
For National Commander  
2025-2026



Dan was born in Lawrence KS. He graduated from Lawrence high school in 1983. After graduation Dan attended Kansas State University. While serving an internship through the American Angus Association in the summer of 1985 near Baltimore, MD he met Sonia Hamm at a board meeting for the Maryland Junior Angus Association.

Dan and Sonya married in June of 1986 and Dan left for Air Force basic training in July of 1986. After basic training and Lackland Air Force Base, where he was an honor graduate, Dan attended technical training at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi MS.

He was then stationed and spent his entire enlistment with the 341st Strategic Missile Wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Great Falls, MT where he was

twice named Airman Administrator of the Quarter.

Upon being discharged from the US Air Force Dan completed his bachelor's degree in business at the College of Great Falls in Montana. Dan returned to his hometown to attend law school at the University of Kansas. Dan graduated “Order of the Coif” ( top 10 percent) and served on the University of Kansas Law Review.

He then joined a law firm in Leavenworth KS which would eventually become Murray, Tillotson & Wiley.

Dan was appointed the City of Leavenworth Municipal Judge on July 1, 1997 and served in that capacity until December 31, 2008. He was then appointed by the Governor of the State of Kansas District Court Judge in December of 2008. As Judge Dan helped establish and presided over the Leavenworth County Veterans Treatment Court

He and his wife, Sonia, have two children Austin and Christy who are members of the American Legion Family. Sonia has been an active and dedicated member of the American Legion Auxiliary and has served in numerous leadership positions at the Unit and District level

Dan has served as Post, District and Department Commander. He serves as the National Executive Committeeman for Kansas and has served on numerous committees at the national level. He is a member of ANAVICUS, Past Department Commanders Club and the Sons of The American Legion.

Dan earned his eligibility for the American Legion through his active duty service in the United states Air Force during the Panama conflict. He attained the rank of Sergeant E4.

## ***“TEAM COLORADO”***

**Proudly Presents**



**JOHN W. “JAY” BOWEN**  
For National Commander  
2026-2027



Jay was born in Wynne Arizona and moved to Memphis TN when he was three months old. He grew up in a Memphis suburb and lived in the same house until he joined the US Army.

Jay met his childhood sweetheart, Jackie Walker while attending high school. After completion of his US Army Advanced Individual Training in January 1972, and heading to the Federal Republic of Germany, Jay and Jackie married.

When Jay retired from the US Army, the family moved to Blytheville, AR, where Jay served as a distribution manager for Bush Brothers and Company providing oversight to three major departments including shipping and receiving.

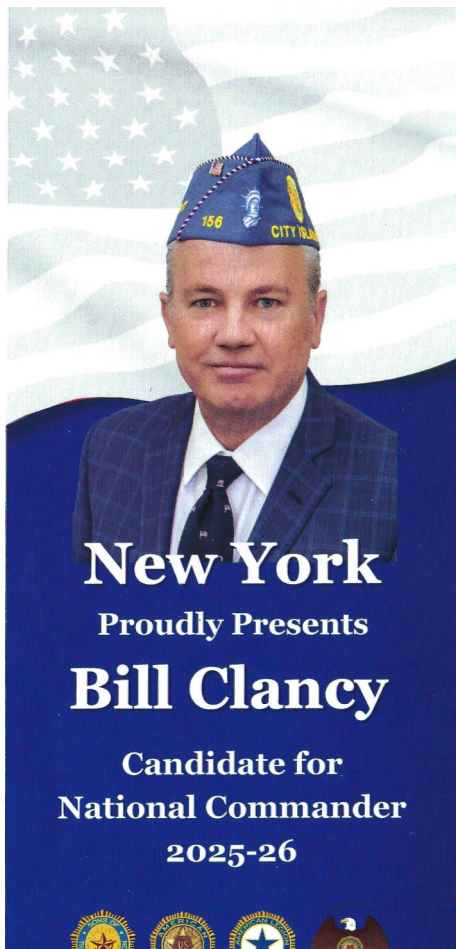
After leaving Bush Brothers Jay and family who have backed the Memphis area where he worked for his brother and sister-in-law as a telecommunications engineer. It was during this time that Jay and Jackie joined and became active in the American Legion family and several other community organizations. Jay’s and Jackie’s work in the community resulted in being awarded the “Key to the City of Bartlett” prior to relocating to Colorado Springs.

Jay and Jackie have two sons: John Jr. (Micah) and Robert (Angie) and four grandchildren Brandon, Kyle, Morgan, and Parker all are members of the American Legion family.

Jay graduated Summa Cume Laude from Arkansas State University with a Bachelor of Science degree, and a Master of Arts degree from Webster University.

Jay has served as a Post, District and Department Commander and has held various other positions. He has served on many committees and commissions at the national level. He is a member of the Son’s of the American Legion Squadron 209, ANAVICUS, Past Department Commanders Club (President in 2022).

Jay earned his eligibility for The American Legion through his 20 years of honorable service in the U.S. Army in Air Defense Artillery. His career ranged from Vietnam through the first Gulf War on Terror in 1991. Jay rose through the enlisted ranks to Staff Sergeant and then was appointed as a Warrant Officer. Jay retired as a Chief Warrant Officer–3.



A native of City Island, The Bronx, New York City. He has been a member of The American Legion since birth as his father and grandfather were Past Commanders of Post 156, and his mother and grandmother, members of Unit 156 in which his mother Mary Anne was a Past Unit President.

Bill's grandfather was a Carpenter's Mate in the US Navy aboard a YMS1 Class minesweeper which he help build at the Nevins Shipyard at City Island. His ship cleared mines off the coast of Normandy and in the Mediterranean. Bill's dad was a U.S. Army Airborne Combat Engineer from 1961 to 63 with service at Fort Benning GA, West Point NY, France, and Fort Lewis, WA.

Bill is a graduate of Boy's State, as well as The Legion Auxiliary Freedom Foundation program in Valley Forge PA. He is a 33 year, founding member, and the first Adjutant of Squadron 156, which at 198 members is the largest Squadron in lower New York. He has served in almost every Squadron role including four terms as Squadron Commander. He served 3 terms as the Department Vice Commander and was the New York Department Commander in 2018. He was a member of the National Children & Youth Committee for two years and then became Committee Chairman. He moved to Chairman of the National Internal Affairs Commission for two years at which time he helped move the Commission beyond its traditional role to also lead innovation and process improvement in many aspects of the organization.

Bill is a graduate of Iona College with a degree in Finance and Columbia University with a degree in Management. He worked for 10+ years as a Business Develop Executive at American Express before leaving to start Urban Upkeep a New York City property Management firm that employs more than 40 people.

Bill is a member of the US Eagle Scout Association and the recipient of the US Congressional Silver Medal for Community Service. He sat on the Advisory Board of Einstein Hospital in the Bronx for five years and is President of the Board of Trustees of Pellham Cemetery

He resides on City Island with his wife Kurstal and two sons, Geir and Stenn, both active members of Squadron 156. Geir and Stenn are also active scouts, little leaguers and sailors.



Past National Vice Commanders at the Department of Massachusetts Convention: PNVC Larry Marcouillier DE, PNVC Gene Pica RI, Current NVC Chuck Robins Sr., PNVC Frankl MacDonald, MA, PNVC Mark Avis, MA PNVC Corey Bates, RI



Inaugural "Flags for First Graders", Paxton Elementary School.

As a member of the National Media & Communications Commission, in May I attended the Spring meetings in Indianapolis, IN. There is always good information on what is currently being worked on as well as information for the future. We have the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year and this year is American Legion Baseball's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Below is some of what is being planned.

### **250 Ways to Celebrate America.**

**Programs for Post/Unit/Squadron/Chapter participation will include:** Fitness- 250 hours of group activity; Buddy Checks – wellness checks on 250 veterans; Riders – ride 250 miles and raise \$250 for Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF) ; Suicide Prevention – sign up 250 participants to complete Be The One training; Community Service – fulfill community service project. Flag oriented books are being developed for both teens and younger readers. National HQ staff will be at Bunker Hill in June and Philadelphia in the Fall – covering the rebuilding of Tun Tavern, original home of the Marine Corps!

**Revenue & Fundraising Opportunities.** \$30 entry fee for t-shirt proceeds to VCF; Post fundraising challenge - \$250 to VCF; Merchandise – medal, coin, pin for caps, proceeds to VCF.

Next steps from National HQ are coordination with internal teams; identify influencers; National Convention event; National Commander's message/PSA; web page; toolkit and resources.

### **American Legion Baseball – 100 years.**

**Media being created.** A Centennial Bookazine (similar to what was done for the Legion's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary), which will have @ 88 pages, will be sold at Shelby games and online at \$10 per copy; updates to Legion.org, social media, Dispatch and Dugout; a video, toolkit and physical display. The American Legion magazine will have information on Why Cooperstown honor American Legion Baseball; Congressional Resolution; Centennial Classic in Milbank; NY Yankees to recognize American Legion Baseball as well as other MLB recognition. Digital Media Coverage will include: Hall of Fame Classic; American Legion Graduate of the Year; Induction at Cooperstown.

**Be the One.** The web page is being updated and additional resources are being added.

**New member toolkit.** Online at [www.legion.org/publications](http://www.legion.org/publications).

There is a lot of great information that can be downloaded at the National website. And is regularly being updated. Watch for updates from National!

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

John Lenotte, Alternate National Executive Committeeman – Department of MA; Candidate for National Executive Committeeman; Past Commander, Department of MA; Past Commander, District 8/Essex County; Past Commander, Post 4 Haverhill MA; Member American Legion National Media & Communications Commission. Local Board Member, Selective Service System. Member, American Institute of Parliamentarians. I may be reached at [jple-  
notte@gmail.com](mailto:jple-<br/>notte@gmail.com)

### **SAVE THE DATE – September 26 – 29, 2025 Combined Americanism Conference**

We are pleased to announce that this September the Americanism Commission will again be hosting its annual National Americanism Conference. This year's segments will be offered in-person in Indianapolis, Indiana. Registration for conference segments will open June 1, 2025. A link to book your stay at the Sheraton Circle Centre Hotel will also be provided. Detailed agendas regarding each conference segment will be made available on the Legion website by early September. The point of contact regarding conference registration is Americanism staff Stacy Cope or Steve Cloud. Inquiries regarding program agendas may be directed to each respective Program Manager in the Americanism Division. Department Program Directors, Chairmen, staff, and volunteers across the entire nation are invited to participate in the 2025 National Americanism Conference. Conference attendees will be responsible for their own lodging, meals, and transportation costs associated with attending the conference.

### **National American Legion College (NALC) Application**

We're pleased to share that the updated 2025 National American Legion College (NALC) application is now available!

View the application and full details here: [American Legion College | The American Legion](#)

**Be The One** -As part of The American Legion Be the One mission to end veteran suicide, we have joined forces with Columbia University to develop training for those who want to learn more about interacting and responding with veterans who may be in crisis.

After the training, participants will be able to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to determine at-risk individuals.
- Identify risk factors and warning signs
- Outline the types of suicidal ideation and four behaviors that indicate imminent risk.
- Communicate effectively with an individual who may be at risk of hurting themselves.

Members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to take part in this training and share the training with their communities. **Goto [Legion.org/advocacy](https://legion.org/advocacy)** for additional information.

Upcoming Training Dates

June 17, 2025 : 5:30-7 PM Eastern

June 26, 2025 : 2:30 –4 PM Eastern



## POW/MIA Ceremony



# POW/MIA Ceremony

September 7, 2025 @ 1:00 pm  
Aboard the USS Massachusetts  
Battleship Cove, Fall River, MA



**All are Welcome!**  
**Collation served after ceremony at**  
**American Legion Post 303**  
**73 Ocean Grove Ave, Swansea, MA**  
**Contact Ken Starks @781-708-7934 or**  
**Tony Dias @ 508-369-4223**

**.WASHINGTON** — The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced that its [Health and Benefits mobile app](#) has achieved more than 3 million downloads since its launch in 2021.

The app, which has 1.4 million active users, provides Veterans access to a variety of VA health care and benefits information directly from their mobile phones, enabling users to:

- Refill and track VA prescriptions.
- Review appointments.
- Review claims and appeals status.
- Submit evidence for claims and appeals.
- Review VA payment and direct deposit information.
- Locate the closest VA facilities.
- Access the Veterans Crisis Line.
- Show proof of Veteran status.

“VA’s Health and Benefits app gives Veterans fast and convenient access to a host of important information, from appointments to prescriptions and benefits,” **said VA Acting Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology and Acting Chief Information Officer Eddie Pool.** “We encourage all VA-enrolled Veterans to stay connected and informed by downloading the app.”

[Learn more about the app and download it.](#)



Many more pictures on the  
Department of Massachusetts  
Facebook Page



Department of Massachusetts at the Massachusetts National Cemetery for the Memorial Day Ceremony



District Seven at Mount Hope Cemetery



Lining up at the Town Hall.



Rifle squad.



Various veteran groups gathered to recognize BMC Durfee students participating in the NJROTC program on May 20, 2025. American Legionnaires Commander Lisa Borges and Sergeant-At-Arms Scott Isaacson from the Fall River Post 464 were in attendance. In this photo community leaders attending the event pose for a group photo. (L to R: Fall River Veteran Service Officer Talos Farris, Isaacson, Naval Science Instructor Chief Petty Officer William Squires, Senior Naval Science Instructor Lieutenant Commander Derrick Randle, Brigadier General Lisa Ahasey and Borges.



Fall River Post 464 Commander Lisa Borges and Sergeant-At-Arms Scott Isaacson award NJROTC Cadet Donovan Chhem The American Legion Military Medal. (Photo by Vice Admiral Walter Massenbur, ret.)



Around the Department—Sandwich Post 188 & Bourne Post 230



Members of the Sintoni family, friend and neighbors in Sagamore MA for a ceremony for Memorial Day at the Joseph E. Sintoni marker in Sagamore MA. The Joint Honor Guard from Clark-Haddad Post 188 and the 26th Yankee Division Post 230 fired a volley.



Fall River Post 464 remembers Fall River native and well known WWII veteran Manny Carvalho. (Left to Right Legionnaire Lenny Tavares, Post Chaplain Andy Goddu, Legionnaire Robert Silva, and Senior Vice Commander Robert Guinen. (Photo by Post Commander Lisa Borges.)

It has been a little over one year since the city of Fall River honored the life of one of its most known senior veterans and Fall River native, as he passed away, May 18, 2024. Manny Carvalho served his country as a soldier during World War II in the U.S. Army. It has been reported by The Herald News (a Bristol County paper) he was, "A member of the U.S. Army's Armor Corps who had just served under General Patton in World War II's North African Theatre." Many local veterans heard him tell his story of his survival of the sinking ship on November 23, 1943, her Majesty's Transport (HMT) Rhona; a story kept secret until the late 60s.

According to the article published in the Herald News of November 2020, by Greg Sullivan, the Rhona, "Had been hit and sunk by the lethal new product of German war technology: the guided missile. About half of the men on the Rhona lost their lives that day." Manny said he was below deck

when the missile hit, portside. He scrambled topside and managed to grab a life preserver. Then, he jumped off the sinking ship, 'I was one of the lucky ones,' he said.

Carvalho described what he remembered to Sullivan talking about what it was like once he was in the water. It was full of gasoline and oil and Carvalho didn't know how to swim. He saw or at least heard other soldiers, some of them his buddies, struggling in the darkness and rough seas near Casablanca. They would bob up once, maybe twice, and then disappear, he said. To learn more about Carvalho's experience you can read Sullivan's news article at this link: <https://www.heraldnews.com/story/news/2020/11/10/fall-river-veteran-recalls-being-saved-from-rhona-in-deadly-us-military-maritime-disaster/43065769/>

After Carvalho's death, he was 99, the city of Fall River honored him with many veteran groups and city officials attending his burial. The Post decided to hold off until his stone was put in place and then winter set in so, they waited do their small ceremony in the same month of his passing a year later.

On May 10, 2025, Fall River Post 464 took time to visit the quiet gravesite, read a prayer, laid down a bouquet of red, white, and blue flowers, and did their solemn salute to thank him for his friendship and for being the life of many veteran events. He travelled around town bringing joy to everyone he met, even showing up to a few legion meetings. It was nice to remember him as the small group shared why they were happy to know him.



Fall River Post 464 Senior Vice Commander Robert Guinen places flowers on Manny Carvalho's gravesite. (Photo By Post Commander Lisa Borges)

For more historical information on the Rhona here is a link to a US Naval Institute article: <https://www.usni.org/magazines/naval-history/2024/december/rohna-disaster>



## Around the Department - Nonantum Post 440

The American Legion Nonantum Post 440 Sons Squadron treated and honored the members of the Auxiliary Unit 440 with a catered candlelight dinner on Saturday March 8th, 2025 at The Post 440.

Members of the Sons donned their best formal attire to serve the women of the Auxiliary, who have done, and continue to do, so much for the Post 440 and America's Veterans.

The evening kicked off with Squadron Chaplain Al Cecchinelli saying a blessing of the food and asked for God's blessings on the continued efforts of the Auxiliary.

Master of Ceremonies, and past Commander, Paul Pasquarosa stated "In years past, the Auxiliary had performed simply as a support group for the efforts of the Legionnaires and the Sons. That is no longer the case, for almost the past several years the Auxiliary, under the leadership of President Donna Cottens, has not only expanded their membership incredibly, but has initiated and executed several fundraising events and projects in support of our Veterans, Military Families, Veteran Programs, and local Community causes. This dinner honoring the ALA is long overdue and the members of SAL are more than happy to finally express our gratitude in this grand manner".

Dignitaries in attendance included; Florence Publicover, ALA Dept of Mass Past President & Advisory Committee, James Comer, Past National Commander of the The American Legion, Sandy Desrosiers MA ALA District 5 representative and past 440 Sons Commander Nick Pasquarosa, a waiter most extraordinaire!

The event was catered by Kial Conway and featured stuffed mushrooms, salad, warm bread, roasted potatoes, chicken marsala, topped off with an array of pastries for dessert. Throughout the evening, the ladies had their choice of various wines imported all the way from the Legion's Bar.

Each woman was presented with an individually wrapped red rose that was presented to them by their personal waiter.

Sons Squadron leader Dave Snyder recognized all the Auxiliary Members for their generosity, dedication to Post 440 and commitment of service to others.

They also took a moment to recognize a few ladies who for the past several years who show up, stand up, and speak up, regarding the events put on at the Post. Each of these ladies received a legion scarf.

They are:

Donna Cottens, Helen Caudill, Louise Civetti, Kathy McDougal, Beth Damato, Ginny Gardner, Sande Young, Genia McDonaugh, Ora Mountain; Lydia Odea & the effervescent Florence Publicover

All in all, it was an extraordinary night to remember and a fitting tribute to an amazing group of selfless women.



Veterans Association of Bristol County [theVABC.org](http://theVABC.org)

# SHEROES *Ice Cream Social*

Saturday, June 21

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Elks Lodge #118

4500 N. Main St.

Fall River, MA 02720

Join the VABC and guest speaker Andrea Gayle-Bennett, Deputy Secretary of the Executive Office of Veterans Affairs, as she shares key insights from statewide listening sessions conducted with women veterans, highlighting ways to better support their unique needs.

A light lunch and ice cream will be provided.

This event is exclusively for women veterans.  
To attend RSVP to Kim by 6/13/25  
call (508) 679-9277

Start Date	Time	Event	Location
6/14-6/20		Boy & Girl State	Stonehill College, Easton MA
7/26-7/30		Baseball State Tournament	Adams Field, Quincy MA
8/6-8/10		Baseball Northeast Regional	College of the Holy Cross, Worcester MA
8/23-8/28		National Convention	Tampa, FL

**AMERICAN  
LEGION** 2025 Membership Standing *as of May 29, 2025*

**Department Membership Standings 2025 Membership Year**

**District 7: Suffolk 95.62%**

**District 4 Worcester 95.04%**

**District 8 Essex 92.85%**



	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1195	1103	92.30%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN/ HAMPSHIRE	3422	3163	92.43%
4	WORCESTER	4432	4197	95.04%
5	MIDDLESEX	3623	3278	92.49%
6	NORFOLK	2319	2151	92.76%
7	SUFFOLK	1142	1092	95.62%
8	ESSEX	2442	2247	92.85%
9	BRISTOL	2475	2184	88.24%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3573	3312	92.70%
297	CAPITOL HILL	423	402	95.04%
462	HEADQUARTERS	1689	761	45.06%
	National Quota	26,576	23,968	90.19%



	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	190	200	105.3%
	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN			
3	HAMPSHIRE	670	608	90.7%
4	WORCESTER	1037	1037	100.0%
5	MIDDLESEX	940	922	98.1%
6	NORFOLK	337	332	98.5%
7	SUFFOLK	103	92	89.3%
8	ESSEX	612	615	100.5%
9	BRISTOL	268	257	95.9%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	765	736	96.2%
462	HEADQUARTERS	184	121	
	National Quota	5,106	4,920	96.4%



Goto [Masslegio.org/new](https://masslegio.org/new) and click on the Millennium for the latest news

## 2025 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of May 29, 2025

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	228	226	96.68%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN / HAMPSHIRE	748	639	86.16%
4	WORCESTER	983	940	95.52%
5	MIDDLESEX	1256	1322	105.02%
6	NORFOLK	835	755	90.42%
7	SUFFOLK	196	162	82.65%
8	ESSEX	442	420	95.02%
9	BRISTOL	280	252	89.29%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	790	725	91.52%
	National Goal	5758	5430	94.49%



## Post Events



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





## Post Events



### Post 397 Shrewsbury American Legion Baseball Northeast Regional Fundraiser



Drawing on  
August 8th



To support our team with hosting the American Legion Baseball Northeast Regional Tournament, we are raffling a signed, numbered, framed limited-edition print of "The Homecoming, A Snapshot of History" by John D. Shaw. Not only is it signed by the artist, it is also signed by eight veterans of the Pacific Theater of WWII. This print depicts F4U Corsairs of VMF 214 flying over the Golden Gate Bridge in 1945 while Navy ships and troop transports pass underneath as troops returned home. A certificate of authenticity comes with it.

Tickets are one for \$5 or three for \$10.

For more information, contact Post 397  
post397ma@gmail.com

**Bastards Never Die**

50 ⚡ 50  
RAFFLES  
DRINKS  
FOOD

*In Loving Memory of*  
**RAYMOND G TOURVILLE**  
6/16/97 - 9/15/24

5:30 - UNTIL THE  
LAST BIKE LEAVES  
THE LOT

**BIKE NIGHTS**  
\*EVERY THURSDAY\*  
**POST 188**  
20 Main St. Sandwich, MA  
All proceeds going to the  
**RAYMOND G TOURVILLE MEMORIAL  
FUND**



## 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:

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