



# MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

Volume 15 Issue 1

July 2024

## Commander's Corner



Commander Nelson Isaack Blake

Hello and welcome to all of the Massachusetts American Legion Family. I would like to introduce myself. I am Nelson Izaak Blake and I am the recently elected Department Commander for the 2024-2025 legion year, as I was elected at the 105th department convention,. Many of you might remember me from my many years behind the camera at many legion family events.

As this Legion year is just starting lets not hold back

on membership and reaching out in our community. There are veterans that we are missing out on or that we have let their membership expire. No veteran should be left behind as all veterans should have a voice in this outstanding Department. As I said at convention I am here to serve all. Which means I am here to serve from the Blue hat member who is the lifeblood of the organization, to our wise and knowledgeable Past National Commanders who are the sentinels of knowledge.

We will also serve along with our program The Sons Of The American Legion, who help us with our many other programs and serve along side of The American Legion Auxiliary.

In this year I would love to

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see Massachusetts legion family work as one.

I would like to see growth, as a department, in membership. It is our job and as I said it a lot last year "Just do your Job"

Membership is not just one person job. It's all of our jobs as legion family members. We should be handing out bunches of Bronze Brigade awards at convention, if we are all doing your job and not just letting this outstanding organization disappear.

We as a department have many issues that we may be confronting in or own posts, districts or even from within the commonwealth we need to push the needs of all veterans in the commonwealth as we are the voice of the voiceless and the bodies that can be counted on when changes need to be made. We are the veterans that can fight the fight, no matter what needs to be done we are here to make the legion family strong and to help our fellow veterans, even if they are not part of our organization.

On a lighter note, here is hoping to see as many of you at the national convention in New Orleans in August and after the convention we have many many chances to promote membership in this outstanding department.

Yours in service,

Nelson Izaak Blake  
Department Commander



## Membership Awards—Bronze Brigade

**Gold Brigade:** A Legionnaire who recruits 50 or more new members (excluding any transfers) into The American Legion by the May target date will qualify for this award. The gifts awarded to a Gold Brigade recipient will depend on the number of times he or she has qualified for this award).

**Silver Brigade:** A Legionnaire who recruits 25 to 49 new members (excluding any transfers) into The American Legion by the May target date will qualify for this award. A silver pin and certificate will be awarded. NOTE: Silver Brigade and Gold Brigade awards cannot both be awarded to a recruiter during the same membership year.

**Bronze Brigade:** A Legionnaire who recruits 15 to 24 new members (excluding any transfers) into The American Legion by the May target date will qualify for this award. A Bronze Brigade patch and certificate will be awarded. NOTE: Bronze, Silver and Gold Brigade awards cannot be awarded to a recruiter during the same membership year.

To my American Legion Family,

Congratulations to all of your new officers. We look forward to working together and having a successful year.

It is an honor to be able to reach out to the American Legion Family and share what brought me into this organization and "Why" after all these years I am still a member.

I only walked into American Legion Post 122 because a friend asked me to and told me they had Country & Western Music, which to this day is my music of choice.

Not too long after, I began working there parttime as a bartender. Of course, this brought me into contact with some very special ALA members, namely Mary Dodson and Audrey Sarfde. One night they called me over and said they would like me to join the Auxiliary if I was eligible especially as I worked there. I told them I was eligible as my dad was a WWII Navy Veteran. Thus, I became a member of Methuen Unit 122 in 1969. These new friends treated me like an equal from day one, which is very important. So, like those ladies reached out to me, I am reaching out to those of you who are eligible to join but have not.

Until I asked him to join the Legion, the subject of being a member had never come up. In fact, dad never talked about his time in the service. I can still see my father sitting by the jukebox, having a beer and playing "**I Did it My Way**" by Frank Sinatra.

I had grown up knowing about my dad was a veteran as he was in and out of the VA Hospital in Togus, ME many times over the years. He would always come home bragging about the volunteers and bring us gifts they had helped him make. It makes me proud to say, "**I am one of those volunteers.**" When I walk through the door at the Chelsea Soldiers Home and see the smiles on our Veteran's faces, it makes me so happy. They, too, have become like family to me.

The Membership Theme of "**A Country Reunion**" goes back to my beginning as a member and to the 1989 -1990 year when I served as Dept. President and used Country Music as my theme. Having a husband who sang and played that type of music was a bonus.

Having the privilege to share information in the E-Legionnaire provides an awesome opportunity for us to make friends along the way we may never meet in person as I did when I worked in the Dept. Office several years ago. So many good things have happened in my life due to my membership in this great organization.

We will continue to stress the importance of how much the "**Be the One**" program is helping to save lives.

In Service, Not Self

Donna Blattenberger  
Department President

The 2025 Membership “Renewal” period begins fresh on 1 July 2024. So the question that comes to mind is “If a new member is signed up for 2025 Membership year, are they eligible for Legion benefits 1 July through 31 December 2024 (new member). A discussion for another day. Hopefully everyone (meaning Posts) has new membership cards. Remember, as with any other program, Scouting, Youth Sports, Mason’s, Rotary, strong membership is essential. Membership gives us the strength in not only our own programs, but a voice in Congress. To get noticed in Congress, you must be loud, and 2 million voices can be very loud. Our programs and Veterans benefits depend on a loud and clear voice.

**Retention:** I’m going to pick on my own District for a minute. Though new members are certainly needed to enrich The American Legion, retaining our current membership is just as, if not more, vital. 377 paid members from 2023 did not renew for 2024, ouch!

187 ~ 1- 4 yrs of mbrshp, 190 ~ 5 – 76 yrs mbrshp. Why does a member with 20 continuous years not renew? Maybe we should Buddy Check, and invite them back to the Post, just a thought. 109 non-renewing members are from the GW/Terrorism group, these Veterans are the “younger” ones we seek, but they are slipping out the back door. Also, 14 WWII veterans did not renew, I know, but they all didn’t. Couldn’t we pay their dues. These numbers only reflect District 4, Department wide we lost 1400+ (as of 6-3) out the back door. Imagine, with the 1400 non-renewals, and the 850 new members (great job, by the way), we could be close to the front stage at the National Convention.

**Training:** Many great training programs, especially for membership can be located at [Legion.org/training](https://legion.org/training). Membership moments with Matt Jabaut (National Membership & Post Activities Chairman), Training in a Box – Membership Development & Retention and Membership recruitment are just a few topics that are available.

**Magic Wand:** Sorry no magic wand here. Just hard work, knowing where to look. The membership team will be providing you with the information and the tools for another great year. We will also be creating membership teams in each of the 9 Districts. More info coming to the District Commanders soon.


**Kudos:** To all the Districts and Posts, very encouraging new membership numbers, and the Department’s overall retention numbers being a full .5% above national avg, shows momentum as we further distance ourselves from the pandemic. Great job from everyone. Let’s continue this growth and have a great year to come.

Thank you, please call your membership team for support (or suggestions) and use your [MyLegion.org](https://mylegion.org) account to effectively review your membership health.

Thank you,

Scott Conner  
Sr. Vice Commander  
Membership Chairman  
Department of Massachusetts



\*\*Tonight history was made! The state of Massachusetts held its 1st ever American Legion Softball game!  \*\*

\*\*Here's the game changer recap: Cherry Valley Post 443 Victorious Over Post 117 Framingham\*\*

\*By GameChanger Media\*

Cherry Valley Post 443 triumphed over Post 117 Framingham 6-1 on Tuesday.

Post 117 Framingham got on the board in the first inning after #4 singled, scoring one run.

Chloe Tuttle singled, helping Cherry Valley Post 443 tie the game at one in the bottom of the third.

In the bottom of the fifth, Cherry Valley Post 443 broke up the tie when Tuttle singled, scoring two runs. Then a line out by Ava Lamothe followed to extend the lead to 6-1.

Erin Connor led things off in the circle for Cherry Valley Post 443. She allowed three hits and one run (zero earned) over three innings, striking out four and walking three. Mia Manca threw three innings of scoreless ball for Cherry Valley Post 443 in relief, allowing zero hits, striking out nine, and walking two.

Cherry Valley Post 443 accumulated nine hits in the game. Grace Dias and Tuttle were a force together in the lineup, as they each collected two hits for Cherry Valley Post 443 while hitting back-to-back. Tuttle led Cherry Valley Post 443 with two runs batted in, going 2-for-2 on the day. Dias, Anna Diggins, and Ava Askren each stole multiple bases for Cherry Valley Post 443, stealing a total of eight bases in the game.

#4, #1, and #3 each collected one hit for Post 117 Framingham. #4 went 1-for-3 at the plate and led the team with one run batted in. #9 led Post 117 Framingham with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, piling up five walks for the game.

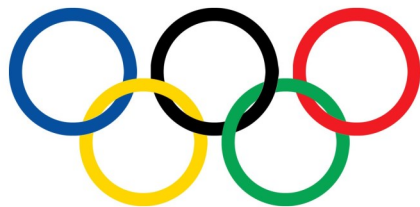
[#MassLegionSoftball](#) [#CherryValleyPost443Softball](#) [#InauguralSeason](#) [#HistoricGame](#) [#CommunityPride](#)

# Kate Powers Girls State 2021

From Massachusetts Girls State, to Massachusetts Girl State Staff, to the 2024 Olympic Trials



Kate Powers was a 2021 Girls State Citizen from Hopkinton High School. She was a Redshirt Freshman this past year at The University of Kentucky on the track and field team. She primarily throws the Weight and the Hammer. After her best throw of 215'7"/65.72 meters she moved her to third all-time in the UK all-time performers list, placed her ninth in her first NCAA Outdoor Championships and qualified for the 2024 Olympic Trials. Kate has been on the MA Girls State Staff the past two years and was set to attend the 2024 program before qualifying. We are so excited for Kate to compete to represent the United States in Paris!





American Legion posts in good standing can request ceremonial rifles. These rifles are property of the U.S. Army and are only on loan to posts. All information pertaining to ceremonial rifles, including the storage of, requests forms, damaged or unserviceable rifles and more, is found on [page 115 of The American Legion's Post Officer's Guide](#).

To request ceremonial post rifle(s), ammunition or surplus military equipment:

**Complete this form**. Please note that only a post commander or post adjutant may submit this request. The request form requires a physical address (not a

P.O. Box number), a telephone number, a contact person, the number of active members, and the post commander's or adjutant's signature. The recipient must be a person, not a place of business. State the number of rifles desired, up to a maximum of 15. Failure to include any requirement will result in the letter of request being returned to the post.

1. **Forward the form to your department headquarters**, Attn: Department Adjutant. All requests for surplus military equipment must first go through your department headquarters to verify the legitimacy of the post making the request. Your department headquarters will forward the completed and approved form to the National Security Division at The American Legion's Washington, D.C., office.

To [request clips, download the form](#). To [request blanks, download the form](#).

It is important to provide the request form to your department headquarters and not the U.S. Army TACOM as that will only delay the process.

Once TACOM receives the properly endorsed request provided by The American Legion's Washington office, processing will begin and an eligibility package will be sent to the post. The package will include the checklist and forms required for completion by the post commander or adjutant. Return the original forms to TACOM. At this time, it takes approximately 90 days for rifles to be shipped after receipt of the eligibility requirements from the post. Currently, TACOM only issues M-1 Garand rifles. The U.S. Army TACOM website, [tacom.army.mil/ilsc/donations](http://tacom.army.mil/ilsc/donations), is a good source for questions on the military weapons and equipment program.

Greetings American Legion Family. With department convention behind us and the summer heat arriving early I hope this edition finds you and your loved ones in good spirits as a new American Legion year begins.

With summer comes our first American Legion Department fundraiser and that is our yearly return address label program. Labels will be distributed by the national organization on behalf of the department later this month. Please consider a donation when you receive them as monies raised by this program are earmarked for the department's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation fund which helps veterans recover from illness, disabilities and ailments and is of course the first of our "Four Pillars". Any donation helps in this continuing and worthwhile endeavor.

Please remember we can all be involved in increasing brand awareness of The American Legion by wearing any type of American Legion apparel whether it be a hat, T shirt or polo shirt. This will often lead to people asking you about the organization. Please let people know what we do and that we are still here and still relevant and important to the community, state and nation. We can often be our best one on one marketing tool.

Mike Davis PNEC Marketing Chairman

 Legislation— VotersVoice

The American Legion's Legislative Division uses VoterVoice as its grassroots advocacy platform for connecting American Legion members and advocates with their members of Congress. VoterVoice allows The American Legion to contact every member of Congress on large, national campaigns as well as target specific members on key committees that pertain to The American Legion's legislative priorities.

In 2023, The American Legion conducted action alert campaigns that resulted in nearly 48,000 emails sent to Congress by Legionnaires and advocates.

**Contact your congressional representatives**

You can contact your representative through our campaigns located on our Legislative Action Center, [votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home](https://votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home). Be sure to share The American Legion's legislative priorities using the Legislative Agenda when you contact their office. While you are there be sure to sign up for our legislative alerts so you can stay up to date on all of The American Legion's legislative campaigns.





Congratulations to all the new officers at Department, District and Post level for the year 2024-2025. Although many Posts do not meet in July or August, now is the time to solidify plans for the upcoming year. Waiting until September will cost you months of work. The Legion Officers Guide, page 20, offers an Analysis of Post Operations. This can be a good self-audit. There is a lot of great information in the Guide, I recommend everyone take a look at it whether you are a new Officer or have not reviewed it in some time. As noted in the past, the first step in recruiting is retention. Look at who has not paid their dues in the last few years and reach out to them. Another point often overlooked is communications. Are you letting your members know what is happening at the Post? Are you communicating with your local community, including leaders?

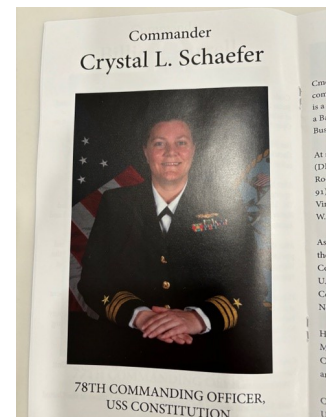
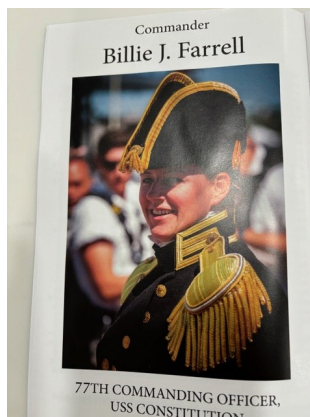
As we approach the 4<sup>th</sup> of July along with the fireworks and barbecues, let us not forget the true meaning of the holiday. INDEPENDENCE DAY. The formation of our great country. July 4, 1776. Next year will begin the celebrations, recognizing the beginning of the American Revolution some 250 years ago. I look at this as 2 years of not only looking back but also looking forward. How far we have come as a nation and how much more we have to accomplish. Not as separate political parties or our varied backgrounds. But that we are all Americans! Our diversity is a strength. Let us not have some use it to try to divide us.

It is not too early to think about how we can be involved in the celebrations. What is your community planning? Is your Post involved? This will be a good time to show community involvement and may lead to gaining some new members.

Note: In 2026 the Tall Ships will be returning to Boston and the USS Constitution will be leading the parade! Personal Note: Big thanks to Milton Lashus and Judy Hall for allowing my wife Elaine and I to join them at the Change of Command ceremony at the USS Constitution on June 21. A once in a lifetime experience. The first female Commander relinquishing command to the now 2<sup>nd</sup> female Commander!

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

John Lenotte, Alternate National Executive Committeeman Department of MA;  
 Past Commander, Post 4 Haverhill MA; Past Commander District 8 Essex County and Past Commander, Department of MA.  
 Member American Legion National Media and Communications Commission. Member, American Institute of Parliamentarians.  
 Local Board Member, Selective Service System. I may be reached at [jplenotte@gmail.com](mailto:jplenotte@gmail.com)





The American Legion was one of several veteran service organizations who gathered in Washington, D.C., today to urge passage of H.R. 8371, the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act.

Chanin Nuntavong, executive director of The American Legion’s Government Affairs Office in Washington, D.C., joined with former Sen. Dole, as well as representatives from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Wounded Warrior Project, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Disabled American

Veterans, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), Military Officers Association of America and the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. All of the participants called for passage of H.R. 8371, with Nuntavong opening his remarks focused on how the legislation can benefit rural veterans.

Nuntavong shared the story of Dan and Jeri McKeaney, who were in a motorcycle accident while riding with the local chapter of their Marine Riders Group. Both were transported to a hospital by Emergency Air Medical Services (EMS), which Dan credited with saving his life.

“He credits the extraordinary pre-hospital care from the EMS team and believes he's alive today because of them,” Nuntavong said. “Section 143 (of the bill) ensures that rural air ambulance services receive the funding they need to continue offering these vital, lifesaving services.

“This bill will also strengthen rural America. Rural veterans encounter distinct challenges in accessing healthcare. In an emergency, every minute counts, which is why Emergency Air Medical Services can make the difference between life and death.”

Other key provisions of the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act include:

- **Increasing Home-Based Care Resources.** Expands access to home- and community-based services at every VA medical center, which would provide severely ill and aging veterans with more and better options to receive their care at home rather than in institutions.
- **Improving Access to Care.** Helps ensure that decisions between veterans and their VA providers about seeking care in the community are honored. Enhances access to critical residential rehabilitation treatment programs for mental health and substance use disorder treatment.
- **Honoring the Fallen.** Expands education benefits for surviving families. Removes archaic language that penalizes surviving spouses from moving forward after their loss.
- **Supporting Homeless Veterans.** Raises the grant and per-diem rate for veteran homelessness providers who partner with VA and provide rideshares to veterans for medical, housing and employment appointments and ensure veterans can get the resources they need to be lifted out of homelessness.

· **Caring for Caregivers.** Creates mental health care grants for certain caregivers who become strained by the demands of providing help and support to veterans with heightened needs. Provides a pathway to advocacy for organizations to provide veteran families support navigating VA's caregiver and long-term care services.

"We also advocate for veterans' right to choose where they spend their final days," Nuntavong said. "Currently, the VA provides burial support only if the veteran passes on VA property. Section 30, known as Gerald's Law, aims to extend this benefit to veterans who wish to spend their remaining time at home. Named after Gerald Elliott, a proud Legionnaire, this section honors his story.

"Gerald, like many veterans, faced the choice between spending his final days in a hospital or at home with his family. He chose home, but due to an obscure federal regulation, his family did not receive VA support. This change seeks to rectify such situations, ensuring that all veterans and their families receive the support they deserve."

Nuntavong also pointed out the education and employment component of H.R. 8371 and the negative impact of failing to pass the legislation. "H.R. 8371 puts veterans to work," he said. "In the past five years, 14,000 women and men have graduated from the Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET-TEC) program. VET-TEC has provided these veterans with the skills and knowledge to compete for in-demand tech sector careers. In addition, graduates reported salaries that can support them and their families. Without Section 102, VET-TEC would be shuttered."

Dole also spoke, calling for a sense of urgency from Congress. "Like all bipartisan initiatives, each side was asked to make some sacrifices. Now, the time has come to move this bill forward and deliver all its promises," she said. "The resources, reforms and improvements contained in this legislation are precisely the types of advances that only Congress can provide. And I don't see how we can truly care for our veteran community if we wait another day to get it passed.

"For all those who have served and all those considering service in the future, this is a moment to show that we can put politics aside, even when it's an election year, and come together to perform a most noble responsibility: to care for all who have borne the battle. Bring this bill to the floor now."

Nuntavong closed by offering a frank message about the importance of passing H.R. 8371. "If the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act is not passed, all the programs we have discussed today are in jeopardy," he said. "Veterans and their families and caregivers will see reduced health-care services and reduced employment opportunities."

*American Legion Family members wanting to contact their members of Congress to urge passage of H.R. 8371 can do so [here](#),*



The three recipients of the Detachment of Massachusetts Past National Commander Scholarships are named in honor of John J. Smolinsky (Ryan Borthwick), Clifford Smith (Mac Mahoney), and Brian O'Hearn (Evan Fitzpatrick).

All three scholarship recipients are alumni of Massachusetts Boys State. It's interesting to not that there were five delegates who were alumni of [Massachusetts Boys State](#) in attendance. Two of these five alumni of Boys State will be going to Stonehill College next week for the 2024 program of Mass Boys State as counselors.

Evan Gilpatrick attends Bates College, Mac Mahoney attends Dartmouth College, and Ryan Borthwick attends Norwich University Both Evan and Mac are Samsung Scholars.

We had a special guest at the 56th Annual [Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Mass](#) Convention, National Vice Commander of the Northeast for the Sons of The American John Cook (NH).

A special thanks to NVC John Cook and his wife Denise for visiting the [Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Mass](#) Convention.

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Greetings!

It's that time again; we will be ramping up our efforts to raise some money using our 100 Mile Walk fundraiser. As many of you may be aware the national organization ended the One Hundred Miles for Hope initiative. However, I see no better way to raise awareness of The American Legion's BE THE ONE campaign than to continue our ONE hundred mile walk. This year we will be leaving North Adams Friday Night August 2<sup>nd</sup> and arriving at American Legion Post 306 in Paxton, MA Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup>. This massive undertaking requires 40 hours of active participation and months of planning. Last time we had an RV (gas & rental fee), snacks & meals, drinks, shirts and raffle prizes that were needed to be paid for. It cost us nearly \$2,000 to hold this event and we were able to raise \$5,000 in total. Our dedicated team lived a barebones lifestyle that weekend to keep our spending at a minimum and averaged 15 miles per walker.

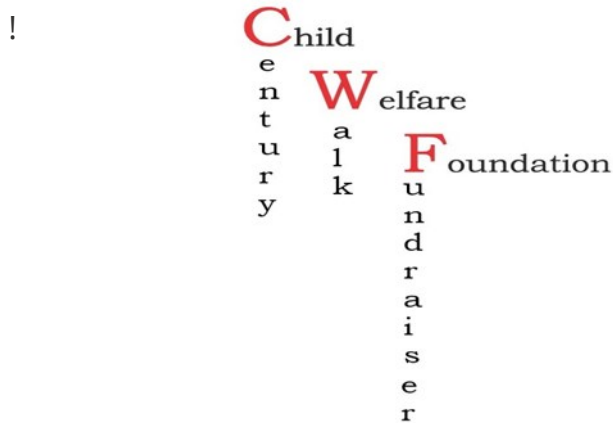
Please consider donating this year by filling out the donation form as all monies raised will be going towards Department Commander Sandra Davis' American Legion charity of the year, the Child Welfare Foundation.

All donations should be made out to American Legion Post 125 (Memo: 100 Mile Walk) and can be sent to:

ATTN: 100 Mile Walk Committee  
American Legion Post 125  
PO BOX 667  
North Adams, MA 01247



Yours in Comradeship,  
Mitchell Keil  
100 Mile Walk Committee Chair



# Donation Form:

Please mark the area next to the donation you would like to make and add the corresponding names to the bottom

You can also RSVP for the 100 Mile Walk Reception at the Paxton post below

Donation must be in by June 30<sup>th</sup> to be on Banner/Shirts

I would like to contribute:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 per person and have my/our names added to the shirts the team will be wearing

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 and have my name or organization on the banner attached to vehicle that will be with the walkers

Names:

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\_\_\_\_\_ I/We will be in attendance at American Legion Post 306 in Paxton, MA for the reception

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This year's expected route follows Route 8 South through the Berkshires, crosses Skyline Trail to link with Route 20 East, various back roads to meet with Route 67, more back roads to Route 31, then a left turn on 122/Pleasant St to the final post.

#### Rest Locations:

American Legion Post 155 Dalton, MA

American Legion Post 124 Westfield, MA

American Legion Post 207 West Springfield, MA

American Legion Post 244 West Brookfield, MA

#### RECEPTION:

American Legion Post 306 Paxton, MA  
(885 Pleasant St. Paxton, MA)



## The National WWII Museum



Entertainment provided by the Victory Belles along with the Department of Minnesota 9th District Band

### WHO

American Legion Family

### WHEN

August 25th from 6pm-9pm

### WHERE

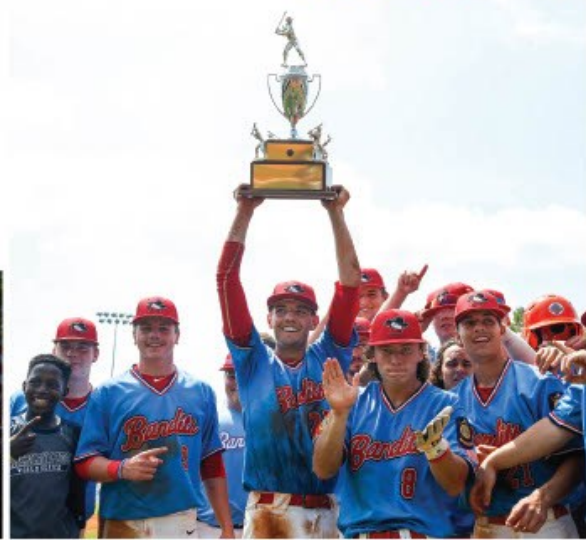
The Museum is located at 945 Magazine Street and the Museum's parking garage is at 1024 Magazine Street.



### SCAN THE CODE TO REGISTER

Advanced ticket purchase required  
Please note that all ticket sales are final, and no refunds offered  
All expired tickets are considered a donation to the Museum's Mission.





CITIZENSHIP THROUGH SPORTSMANSHIP



SCAN TO  
LEARN  
MORE



# WESTERN MASS WOMAN VETERAN EVENT SERIES

HOSTED BY WMVSOA

## Cafender



### JUNE 24TH

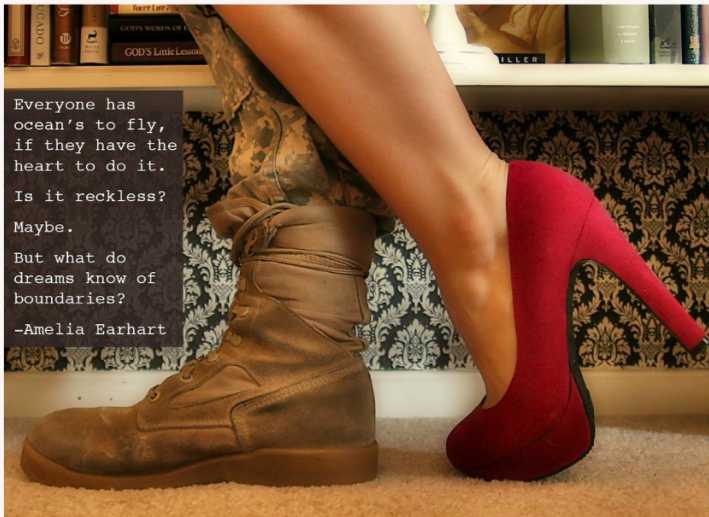
6-7  
Zumba with  
April  
7-7:30  
DAV listening  
session  
7:30-8:30  
Tea Time  
(Social Hour)

### JULY 29TH

6-7  
Paint and Sip  
7-7:30  
Home Front  
Strong  
7:30-8:30  
Tea Time  
(Social Hour)

### AUGUST 26TH

6-7  
Corn Hole  
7-7:30  
Guest Speaker  
TBD  
7:30-8:30  
Tea Time  
(Social Hour)



Please join us on the last Monday of every Month at the Granby American Legion Post 266 (74 Pleasant St. Granby, MA)

These events are free of charge and open to all women veterans and active military. Each night will be broken into 3 parts and everyone can choose to come to one or all!

OUR MISSION IS TO BRING FELLOW WOMEN OF THE ARMED SERVICES TOGETHER IN A SAFE ENVIROMENT WHERE WE CAN BOND, NETWORK, AND LEARN ABOUT RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US.

PLEASE WATCH FOR FACEBOOK INVITATIONS BY WMVSOA AND GRANBY AMERICAN LEGION POST 266



**FREE EVENT**

THE VETERAN'S VOICE NETWORK, CITY OF QUINCY, & VA BOSTON HEALTHCARE PRESENT THE

**5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

# VETERAN'S Music Festival

## VA Benefits & Career Expo

FOR VETERANS, FIRST RESPONDERS & THEIR FAMILIES

**Saturday, July 13, 2024 • 10AM-3PM**

PAGEANT FIELD, 1 MERRYMOUNT PARKWAY, QUINCY, MA

Parkinsons Pavilion • Live Music, FREE Food, Job Fair, & Special Guests

*This year we welcome*

The US Navy Seals  
**LEAP FROGS**  
Precision Parachute Team

FOR INFORMATION:  
**781-985-1551**  
greggbrasso@aol.com

**VETERAN'S VOICE NETWORK**  
www.VeteransVoiceNetwork.org

VETERAN'S VOICE RADIO LIVE EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT, 7-8 PM  
ON WPTU 95.9 WPTU

**95.9 WPTU**

**PROUD SUPPORTER**

**BECOME A SPONSOR!**

**SULLIVAN TIRE**

City of Quincy VA

**Proud Event Supporter!**



# VETERANS EXPO!



**Free Food & Fun!**

**LIVE** 

**For Vets, Troops, Family & Friends**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**  
**VA Boston Brockton Campus**  
 10 AM – 2 PM, 940 BELMONT ST, BROCKTON, MA

-  Live Bands/Music and Free Prizes!
-  Jobs and Career Fair! Bring DD214
-  Fed/State Resources and Benefits
-  Health Services and Checks
-  Military Vehicle and Equipment Displays
-  Women Veterans Seminar at 11:00
-  Kid's Zone! Pony Rides, Bounce House and More






**COOKOUT!**

\*For more information, go to [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) and search for "Massachusetts Veterans Expo", email [VABostonVets@va.gov](mailto:VABostonVets@va.gov) or call (617) 275-6101.



Boston Healthcare System



City of Brockton



With generous support from Cell Phones for Soldiers



JOIN US AS WE REMINISCE  
AND HAVE FUN AT OUR

***“COUNTRY FAMILY REUNION!”***



**TESTIMONIAL BANQUET in honor of  
Department President Donna Blattenberger**

**Sunday, September 29, 2024  
Middleton Post 227  
69 River Street, Middleton, MA 01949**

**Social Hour: 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.  
Dinner Served: 2 p.m.**

Donation: \$40.00

Make checks payable to: Methuen Unit No. 122

and Mail to: Beverly Monaco, Ticket Chairman  
30 Seneca Street, Methuen, MA 01844  
Telephone: (978) 687-1987

**Deadline for Reservations: is September 15, 2024**

. No tickets will be sold at the door.



# Around the Department— 2024 Massachusetts Convention





# Around the Department— Legislator and Law & Order



Legislator of the Year State Representative  
Steven Xiarios 5th Barnstable District



Law and Order Awardees



# Around the Department— Camporee

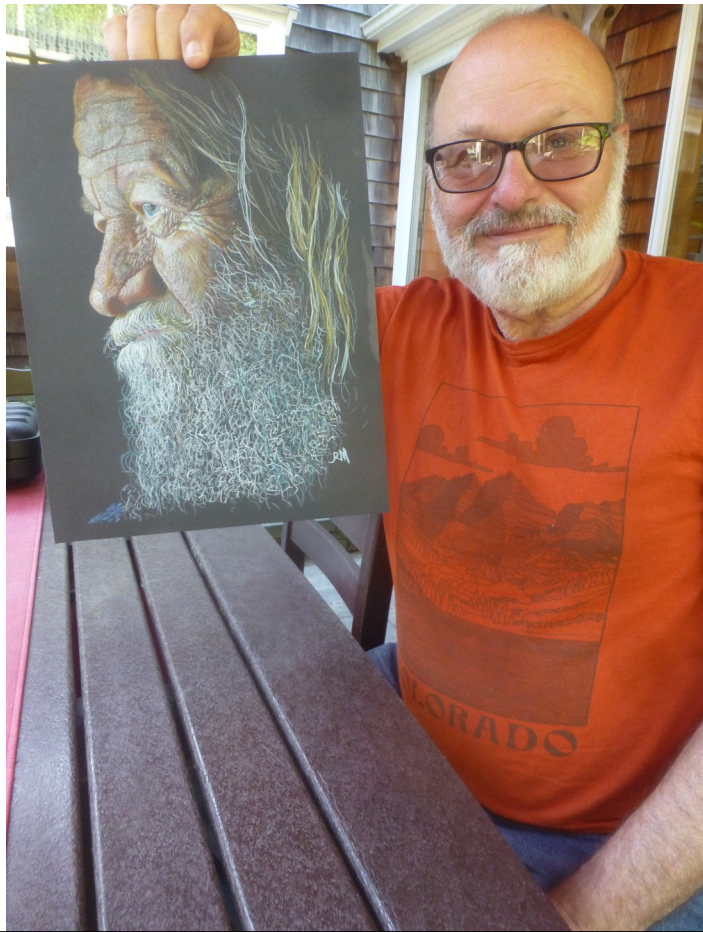






# Around the Department— Boys State





Jeff Montelo and his 1st place Drawing, Photo By Bob Lessard

Members of Middleboro's Simeon L. Nickerson Post 64 of the American Legion, recently were informed that member Jeffrey Montelo was awarded a first place gold medal for a drawing he submitted in the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival held in Colorado.

His winning artwork was of an aging bearded veteran, which was titled "Through the eyes of a Veteran." His drawing had previously won top prize in a creative art contest held at the Brockton VA Medical Center, which qualified it for national competition.

Commenting on his drawing, he stated, "As I am a non-engaging person, art is my common denominator to initiate conversations with others and I get to enjoy the end result."

Mr. Montelo, a United States Marine Corps Vietnam veteran, said this about his winning creation, "He's probably homeless and looking into his future and it looks a little brighter."

He is an active member of Post 64, where he served as Post Commander in 2014. Last weekend, at a state meeting of Massachusetts Legion officials in Worcester, he was named Commander of the American Legion's District 10, which is comprised of American Legion Posts in the South Shore of Massachusetts.

Also, he is a member of Middleboro's veterans Honor Guard, which provides a contingent of flag holders, a rifle squad and a bugler to play "Taps" at a veteran's funeral.

Jeffrey lives in Plympton, where he is an active member of the Fire Department's community response team.



## Around the Department— Adams Post 160



On May 26, 2024, the Adams American Legion host a couple of Memorial Day ceremonies. This one was on top of Mount Greylock. This is particular ceremony is to honor the Past Post Commanders of the Adams American Legion Post 160. This picture was taken halfway up the mountain where there is a watering hole of fresh spring water. This is the spot where in old Model T vehicles would have to stop to refill their radiators with the fresh water at this spot. Today the watering hole is used to make a salute to our fallen comrades.

Fourth from the right front row is Don Summers Past Post Commander of Adams Post 160. To his left is Dennis St. Pierre the North Adams Past Post Commander. On the other end third from the left is the Present Commander of



On June 15, 2024, District 1 Commander Sylvia Lefebvre played Taps for North Adams American Legion Community Honor Guard Post 125 for the fallen comrade Staff Sergeant Jacob Gallier. Jacob along with 7 others were killed during a training mission in the Sea of Japan. Kim Jacobs Mother and Ivy his wife created a coffee shop named Jakes Java in his honor. Jake leaves a wife and 2 young children.



Veteran appreciation Day on Saturday June 15th in Middleboro, Ma. Put on by the Town Veterans Agent Steve Adelman. Simeon L. Nickerson Post 64 participated by having a table with information about the American Legion. Legion members were Wayne Packard, Paul Provencher, Mary Standish and Paul Kreitzberg.



Gravestone Preservation at beautiful and historic Middle Farms Cemetery on Monday, June 3, 2024

The repairs include leveling and plumbing of gravestones. Numerous gravestones were treated with D/2 Biological Solution.

Middle Farms is a historic and beautiful neighborhood cemetery.

The team of veterans included Mark Platt, Rob Serra, Jackie Burdick, Rob Serra, and Gene Theroux - all U.S. Air Force veterans and Mike Conroy, a U.S. Navy Veteran. Volunteer Bigs Jakobowski assisted the veterans as they continued to preserve gravestones le Farms is a historic and beautiful neighborhood cemetery.

<b>8/23-8/29</b>		<b>National Convention</b>	<b>New Orleans, LA</b>
<b>9/8/2024</b>	<b>1:00PM</b>	<b>POW/MIA</b>	<b>Battleship Massachusetts</b>
<b>10/7-10/10</b>		<b>Fall Meetings</b>	<b>Indianapolis, IN</b>

**AMERICAN LEGION 2024 Membership Standing** *as of June 27, 2024*

**Department Membership Standings 2024 Membership Year**

**District 7: Suffolk 100.54%**  
**District 4: Worcester 99.03%**  
**District 10: Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket 96.44%**



	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1236	1183	95.71%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	1275	1227	96.24%
3	HAMPDEN	2438	2159	88.56%
4	WORCESTER	4422	4379	99.03%
5	MIDDLESEX	3807	3563	93.59%
6	NORFOLK	2422	2288	94.47%
7	SUFFOLK	1112	1118	100.54%
8	ESSEX	2531	2410	95.22%
9	BRISTOL	2736	2484	90.79%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3709	3577	96.44%
297	CAPITOL HILL	392	405	103.32%
462	HEADQUARTERS	1000	988	98.80%
	National Quota	27,080	25,781	95.20%

Members helping members – that’s the American Legion Auxiliary’s mission of Service Not Self in action. Hard times can fall upon us at any moment. That’s when the American Legion Auxiliary is committed to help. AEF is a national grant assistance program that provides financial assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have endured a significant financial setback as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis.

Established in 1969, the AEF was created with a bequest from the estate of Auxiliary member Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wisconsin. Five decades later, the AEF is still helping fellow Auxiliary members get back on their feet. To carry on the AEF for members in need of assistance, we need your generous support.

## Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Since the Auxiliary Emergency Fund was established, more than \$6 million has been awarded to more than 6,500 members. To continue providing this assistance, we need your generous support. Please donate today and know that you are helping make a better tomorrow for your fellow Auxiliary members.



**ALA Members, donate \$100 to AEF and receive by mail a beautiful Members Helping Members gold pin!**  
[Donate to AEF](#)

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	204	187	91.7%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	260	264	101.5%
3	HAMPDEN	347	388	111.8%
4	WORCESTER	1039	1012	97.3%
5	MIDDLESEX	906	926	102.2%
6	NORFOLK	377	304	80.6%
7	SUFFOLK	110	101	91.8%
8	ESSEX	607	610	100.5%
9	BRISTOL	279	251	90.0%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	802	756	94.3%
462	HEADQUARTERS	583	112	19.2%
	National Quota	5,514	4,911	89.1%

The Sons of The American Legion was created in 1932 as an organization within The American Legion. The SAL is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion. Together, members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion make up what is known as the Legion Family. All three organizations place high importance on preserving our American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and perhaps most importantly, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.

The SAL has study programs recommended for younger members. One such program, called "The Ten Ideals," teaches the elements of patriotism, health, knowledge, training, honor, faith, helpfulness, courtesy, reverence and comradeship. If a member completes the Ten Ideals program, he is eligible to continue with another program called the "Five-Point Program of Service." This program covers patriotism, citizenship, discipline, leadership and legionism.

## 2024 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of June 27, 2024

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	206	223	108.25%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	234	239	102.14%
3	HAMPDEN	392	476	121.43%
4	WORCESTER	948	953	100.53%
5	MIDDLESEX	1224	1219	99.59%
6	NORFOLK	941	815	86.61%
7	SUFFOLK	167	189	113.17%
8	ESSEX	394	423	107.36%
9	BRISTOL	237	272	114.77%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	689	769	111.61%
	National Goal	5432	5578	102.69%



Post 98

Saturday morning



Coffee break



Veterans, Aux, and Potential Members

American Legion Hall

32 Beach st

**8:00—10:30**

**Come on down**

Rockport, MA





# SERVICE DOG PROJECT MOTORCYCLE RIDE



**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS - CHAPTER 101 - WOBURN, MA**



**HELP US SUPPORT OUR VETERANS!**



**\$25 FOR RIDERS - \$10 FOR PASSENGERS**

**FOOD-RAFFLES 50/50-MUSIC**

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH - REGISTRATION 9:30AM - KSU 11:00AM**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 101 - 194 LEXINGTON STREET, WOBURN, MA**





## Supporting

Our Homeless Veteran's and  
Marvin's Program to Help  
Veterans



# REVOLUTIONARY RIDE OR DRIVE

## WHO DONE IT

**COST PER PERSON \$15** (Under 12 free)

**July 28, 2024**

**Starting at: Merrill L. Simons American Legion Post 130  
1010 Thorndyke Street, Palmer**

**Groups may register and start from 9:30 am to 11:00 am  
(no registrations after 11:00)**

**Ending at: Dalton-Lavelle Post 224  
190 Pleasant St. Easthampton, MA**

**Groups need to be back to post by 1 pm**

**Lunch to follow at 1pm – Lunch only \$15**

**Raffles to support  
Our Homeless Vet-  
eran's and  
Marvin's Program  
to Help Veteran's**



### Sponsored by:

American Legion Family Post  
130

American Legion Family Post  
224



# Annual



**American Legion Post 340**

## **Chicken BBQ\***

**Saturday, Aug. 17, 2024**

**4:00 to 5:30**

**\$16.00/Dinner**

**150 Dinners to Be Sold**

**Take out available**

**To benefit:**

**The American Legion programs.**

**\* Reservations Helpful Please call:**

**George Oleen (413) 229-6670**

**619 North Main Street, Sheffield, MA**



**\$20 PER PERSON**

**ANNUAL  
SOLDIERS HOME RIDE  
JULY 13 SATURDAY  
11 AM KSU / REG 9 AM**

**START AND RETURN TO THE  
BALDWINVILLE AMERICAN LEGION  
3 CENTRAL ST  
INCLUDES BBQ BY TRAILER TRASH BBQ**

**PROCEEDS WILL GO TO HOLOYOKE SOLDIERS  
HOME RECREATION FUND**

**SPONSORED BY AMERICAN LEGION  
RIDERS 373 AND 443**



# Freedom Ride

Dalton American Legion  
258 North Street  
Dalton, MA



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023**

Registration 9 -10:30am

KSU 11am

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**Breakfast by the Auxillary**

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**POST RIDE ACTIVITIES**

**Food - Drink - Raffle**

**Live music by the HOT SHOT HILLBILLIES**

**Vendors ~ Public Welcome**

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**SONS OF THE**  
**AMERICAN**  
**LEGION**



**Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 12-5 PM**

**Hanson Athletic Association**

**171 Reed St, Hanson, MA 02341**

*Proceeds will be donated to the*



**Sign up at the Whitman American Legion, Post 22**

**33 Legion Pkwy, Whitman, MA 02382**

**\$100 for a team of 5**

*Pay by cash or make checks payable to SAL Squadron 22*

**Checks can also be mailed to the Whitman American Legion - Attention: John Cameron**

**Please print the full names of your team of 5 if you mail a check or add names to the sign-up sheet  
at the Whitman American Legion**

**We will also have a 50/50 Raffle and Side Raffles at the Bowling Tournament**



**Massachusetts  
E-Legionnaire**

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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: deptsecretary@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  
Boston, MA 02133



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