



MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIIONNAIRE

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Commander's Corner



Commander Nelson Isaack Blake

The American Legion's Future: Engaging Younger Veterans or Facing Decline

Founded in 1919, the American Legion has long served as a cornerstone for veteran advocacy, camaraderie, and community service. However, as its membership base continues to age, the organization faces a critical question: Can it adapt to attract younger veterans, or will it decline into irrelevance?

The Membership Challenge

The American Legion has historically relied on veterans from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, but these members are aging out of active participation. The organization needs to bring in

younger veterans from more recent conflicts, such as those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Despite the Legion's efforts to modernize, many younger veterans view it as outdated or irrelevant to their needs.

Barriers to Engagement

One of the primary challenges in attracting younger members is the perception gap. Many younger veterans see the Legion as focused on older traditions rather than modern advocacy or social networking. Additionally, work and family obligations often prevent younger veterans from committing time to Legion activities.

A survey by the Pew Research Center found that millennials, including younger veterans, value inclusivity, flexible scheduling, and online engagement. The Legion must address these preferences by rethinking its recruitment strategies and programming.

Steps Toward Relevance

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TO ASK VETERANS
IN YOUR LIFE
HOW THEY ARE DOING

TO LISTEN WHEN
A VETERAN
NEEDS TO TALK

TO REACH OUT
WHEN A VETERAN
IS STRUGGLING



1. **Modernize Communication:** Younger veterans are digital natives who expect online access to resources and community engagement. The American Legion must invest in robust social media strategies, interactive websites, and mobile applications to stay relevant.
2. **Flexible Involvement Opportunities:** Offering more virtual meetings and events could help attract veterans who cannot attend in-person gatherings. This approach can make the organization more accessible to younger members balancing demanding schedules.
3. **Address Contemporary Issues:** While the Legion has historically focused on benefits and memorials, younger veterans prioritize issues like mental health support, job placement, and advocacy for service-related disabilities. Tailoring programs to these concerns will demonstrate that the organization understands their struggles.
4. **Build a Diverse Community:** Inclusivity is key to engaging modern veterans. The Legion should focus on representing the diverse demographics of today's military, including women and minorities, to reflect the changing face of military service.

The Stakes for the Legion

If the American Legion fails to adapt, it risks a dwindling membership base and the erosion of its influence. Younger veterans bring energy, ideas, and connections that can revitalize the organization and ensure its future. However, failing to meet their expectations could leave the Legion as a relic of the past, rather than a thriving advocate for veterans of all generations.

By embracing change and connecting with the younger generation, the American Legion has the opportunity to remain a vital institution. The stakes are high, but the rewards of renewal are even greater.

Save the Date April 5, 2025

National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr.

Is coming to Massachusetts on April 5, 2025, He will be attending our Department Executive Committee Meeting then we will have a Buffet Luncheon at 3:00 PM

**Events will be held at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel,
181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, MA**

***Watch future issues
or go to our website www.masslegion.org
for additional information.***



It is hard to believe that almost 8 months have passed since I became your Department President. And it seems like it was just yesterday I shared some of our progress over the holidays with all of you. Time sure does fly!

As I listened to all the Holiday Gift Shop reports at our January DEC Meeting, I was prouder than ever to see how much our Legion Family was working together to have such successful events. The thousands of dollars' worth of donations, the hundreds of volunteer hours that you all gave to make the holidays special for our Veterans and their families is **"Priceless."** This program just gets better and better each year.

As we received so much in donations from PDC Tony Dias, we were able to share some of it with Operation Troop Support out of Danvers, MA [\$312] and the Veterans Outreach Center [\$515] located in Haverhill, MA. Both groups were thrilled to receive these donations. Another group that benefited from these donations was St. Anne's Home for Children in Methuen, MA. [\$425]

I only decided to go on Facebook after I was elected as our National Executive Committee person. I felt that I would be better able to serve my department if I did this. It surely helped to keep me in the know on several programs, but the one I am most glad about is being able to participate in the Weekly Grassroots Newsletter which highlights how the American Legion interacts with Congress. I would recommend that all of our members look into this.

Many of us are looking forward to attending Mission Training at the Hyatt Regency in Boston on Feb. 1st. This is the first time in many years this event did not conflict with our Fall Conference. I hope to see many of you there. It is always a great learning experience.

I want to thank the American Legion for including us in meetings regarding future Department Conventions. I am also grateful that our Auxiliary Convention Committee included me in the arrangements for our Department Convention.

Many of our Auxiliary members will be attending the District 8 Four Chaplains Ceremony hosted by Groveland Post 248 on Feb. 2nd. Our thanks to D8 Commander Chris Manning for providing us with this information.

It was such an honor for our ALA to have so many of our National Leadership be invited to attend the American Legion Salute to Heros' Ball in Washington DC. Attached is a picture with our current National President Trish Ward, our next in line to be NP Pam Ray and our very own PDP Coral M. Grout who will follow Pam.

And most of all, let us remember to **"Be the One."**

In Service, Not Self
Donna Blattenberger





The American Legion Department of Massachusetts

24 Beacon Street—State House Room 546-2 Boston, MA 02113 (617) 727-2966

Good Day Legionnaires,

As we head into 2025 The Department of Massachusetts is heading into new territory for the first time in close to 20 years. As many of you know Judy Lashus (Hall yes they got married) retired last Friday and currently is sailing around the globe with her new groom. Judy we all wish you the best in the next chapter of your life. This leaves in the office yours truly Department Adjutant and Department Account now Assistant Department Adjutant Grace Conner. The Department will not be replacing Judy at this time. The plan is between Grace and I we will attempt to get all the work done. If this proves to be way too much we will revisit the idea of hiring another person. What I am asking of all of you is patience and help.

Post Leadership I ask of you to contact your District Commanders first with any problems or issues. If you are unable to reach your District Commanders please by all means call the Department office. Post Leadership do not call National, all you are doing is delaying the answer you are looking for by contacting the National organization. National will send me an email and I will contact the District Commander who in turn will try to reach the Post. This could take days and many times the issue or problem can be resolved with a simple phone call.

Secondly, please Posts that do not use mylegion.org to process membership please start using this amazing membership processing tool. The program has everything Post leadership needs such as post rosters, paid on line members, PUFL members, emails of Post members, electronic CPR (Consolidated Post Reports) among other reports. Push back I get from many Posts is I don't have a computer or I don't know how to use a computer. This where I need the District leadership to step up and help those Posts that have computer phobia (it is a thing). Districts should implement their own District Training teams and resources. Knowledge is key to the success of the Department of Massachusetts. The more Posts that control and process their membership the easier it will be for the Department office.

Training on mylegion.org can be found on legion.org/training or even better you can attend our Mid-Winter Conference February 8-9 from 10-5 at the Chicopee Elks. The Mid-Winter Conference is not just about training but about the American Legion programs. All of American Legion Family can attend, TAL, SAL, Riders, and Auxiliary. We have so much to offer as an organization many times members and the public have no idea what we do.

Finally, upcoming events that I would love to see folks at besides the Mid-Winter Conference are the Appreciation Days for Department Sr. Vice Commander Scott Conner (Post 306 Paxton May 10th starting at noon) and Department Vice Commander Robert Jerdan (Post 18 Dedham March 8th 12-3), National Commander's Luncheon (April 5th 3-5), Department Legion College (May 17th Post 435 starting at 9:30) and our Department Convention (June 6-8 at Best Western Royal Trade & Hotel –Marlborough). I hope to see you on the trail somewhere in the Commonwealth.

-Department Adjutant Lisa A. McPhee

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*



Several American Legion Family members have lost their homes.

Let's Unite in Charity

Please send donations to: **American Legion Department of Massachusetts
24 Beacon Street State House RM 546-2
Boston, MA 02133**

If sending a check please put in Memo: California Wildfires Donation

The office will accept credit cards over the phone at 617-727-2966



District 3 Presents Mid-Winter Conference

February 8-9, 2025 10 am to 5 pm

Chicopee Elks Lodge
421 Granby Rd
Chicopee, MA 01013

Lunch & Beverages Provided
RSVP BY 02/01/2025 to
deptadjutant@masslegion.org

Learn about our programs: Boys State, Oratorical, Scouting, ROTC, Be the One, VCF, CWF, TFA, NEF, Riders, SAL, Softball and Baseball

Post Commander & Post Adjutant training including, all forms, IRS 990's, State Non Profit Annual Report, Membership, Fundraising, and much more!!!! Attendance Raffle



MASS LEGION RIDERS

WHEN

**February 8th
10am – 2pm**

WHERE

Chicopee Elks Lodge

421 Granby Rd Chicopee MA 01013

Please contact Riders Department Chairman Louie Brault with any questions louisbrault@yahoo.com. Lunch will be provided. All riders chapter members in good standing are invited to attend and participate.

**WINTER
RIDERS
MEETING**

**SCHEDULE OF
EVENTS**

**MEET AND
GREET**

**CHAPTER
MEETING**

LUNCH

**RIDE
PLANING**

**STATE
SPONSORED
RIDES**

**CONVENTION
PONY
EXPRESS
EVENT**

The American Legion logo, consisting of a stylized American flag with the words "AMERICAN LEGION" in a bold, sans-serif font.

MASSACHUSETTS

Department Legion College

Saturday

May 17th

9:30 AM

Vernon Hill Post 435

Topics include:

- **Leadership**
 - **Conducting a Meeting Properly**
 - **Resolution Writing**
 - **Train-The-Trainer**
 - **Programs**

Lunch & Coffee will be provided

To register contact Sandra Davis
skeeisme@hotmail.com or (978) 879-8682

As of 1/23/2025 the department is knocking on the door of 80%. Membership Goal of 85% is just 2 weeks away, February 12th. With the holidays in the rear view mirror, we need to get on our renewals. Department retention rate is hovering right around the 75th percentile also. We have a couple of Posts with 100% Membership goal, but only 80% or so retention, let's close that back door. Kudos to D7 for leading the pack with Posts that have attained 100% Membership Goal.

As of 1/25/2025: 5717 Members are in the Grace period, meaning they have not renewed Of these 2465 have no e-mail address to send reminders to. Of the 5717, 1714 have no phone number listed in MyLegion.org And finally, 1040 do not have a phone number or e-mail listed

Essentially the Department has 5717 Legionnaires that are not in good standing, thusly they are not eligible for many benefits provided and available through The American Legion. Including membership as Legion Riders and so on. Please assist and let's get the renewals ramped up. Need assistance with a revitalization or telethon, let me know.

5 of 9 Districts made it to the 80% goal, but we are short of the 85% by a fairly wide margin.. Let's look under every stone and carpet for renewals and new members.

A little MyLegion.org homework for the Posts. Please print a copy of your post roster, give it a sweeping review and and fill in the voids, Addresses/E-mail Addresses/Phone Numbers (preferable cell, not land line). Good, accurate information will assist you in the future.

Can't say this enough: Got your permissions to work membership on MyLegion.org? If not, let us know, we can help. Before you call, make sure the Post Commander and Adjutant form is current. 29% have not submitted this form.

462 Post: At the last DEC, District membership teams were given a Telethon Kit. To assist the Posts on how to advertise and put to gather a membership event. Up to date DMS lists were provided, so please reach out to your District membership team and let's transfer the 462 members into community based Posts.

What is Membership doing to help: I will be sending a text to 3,645 members that are in the Grace period. Everybody looks at there texts, hoping for a good response!!

CPR: New Form is ready for your review, go to

MyLegion.org and download a copy today!!

Scott M. Conner,
Sr. Vice Commander, Membership Chair
scottscpo@Gmail.com
774-239-6162

2025 Membership Retention Contest

Scope: To promote and sustain increased growth through the retention of current members of The American Legion. Encouragement is to be achieved through financial awards. Retention is a forefront goal of our National Commander.

Discussion: To effectually sustain growth, current members need to renew their memberships. Providing incentives and goals as targets with a financial reward has proven to be an effective means. DMS/Holding Post 462 and the Capitol Hill Post 297 are not eligible for this program.

Eligibility: The District must have a Membership Team appointed.

Post must physically meet a minimum of 4 times per year.

Post must attain a 95% renewal/retention rate.

Post must submit "Post Data Report" by April 15th of the Contest Year.

Post must submit "Consolidated Post Report" by May 31st of Contest Year.

Post must submit "Post Roster" by May 31st of Contest Year.

Post must submit "Certification of Service Record" by May 31st of Contest Year.

Post Membership designee must be registered in MyLegion.org.

Bonus point considerations: 1/2 point for each percentage point over 95%
 Commander and Adjutants Report - 2 pts
 100% Retention by 31 December - 5 pts

Awards:	Post Membership Categories:	20 to 50	Members
		51 to 125	Members
		126 to 200	Members
		201 Plus	Members

Award: \$500.00 each category

This Retention Award program is coordinated by the Department of Massachusetts Membership Chairman. Please Contact Dept Sr. Vice Cmdr Scott Conner, scottscpo@gmail.com or at 774-239-6162 with questions.

The Marketing year reached its halfway point today with the drawing of our 50-50 raffle fundraiser on Saturday January 11th. The committee will once again hold the traditional mail in style sweepstakes at Department Convention in June. Look for your tickets to arrive in the mail as convention gets closer and please consider participating with a donation as not only can you win cash but your donation helps fund your department and its programs. The committee and department is also exploring ideas for a fundraiser between now and convention, perhaps March.

I am pleased to report that the annual label fundraiser has netted over \$18,000 so far. As stated previously, these profits are earmarked for The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Fund.

The American Legion was, as you may already know, a sponsor of the 125th annual Army-Navy Collegiate football game last month.

Also, we were the game's only VSO sponsor. Game apparel is available for purchase through Emblem Sales.

The "challenge accepted" Veteran of the Game advertising partnership with The Springfield Thunderbirds of The AHL continues to be a success in providing us great brand awareness at a reasonable price. We have had information tables at several games so far this season. Many thanks are due to all who helped in this endeavor.

As always, if you have any marketing ideas, please do not hesitate to contact the committee.

Respectfully,

Mike Davis PNEC Marketing Chairman



The Pledge of Allegiance is a promise of loyalty and devotion to the United States of America.

Here's a breakdown of its meaning: # The Original Pledge (1892)

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

The Revised Pledge (1923) "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

The Current Pledge (1954) "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Key Phrases and Their Meanings

1. **"I pledge allegiance"**: A promise of loyalty and devotion.
2. **"to the Flag of the United States of America"**: Symbolizing the country and its people.
3. **"and to the Republic for which it stands"**: Emphasizing the democratic system and the principles it represents.
4. **"one nation"**: Unity and solidarity among Americans.
5. **"under God"**: Added in 1954, acknowledging a higher power and the country's spiritual heritage.
6. **"indivisible"**: Emphasizing the importance of national unity and cohesion.
7. **"with liberty and justice for all"**: Affirming the fundamental American values of freedom and fairness.

Historical Context and Evolution

The Pledge of Allegiance was written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister and social activist. It was initially published in a children's magazine and was later adopted by schools and government institutions. Over the years, the Pledge has undergone two revisions, with the most significant change being the addition of "under God" in 1954.

Reciting the Pledge The Pledge of Allegiance is typically recited at government events, schools, and other patriotic gatherings. When reciting the Pledge, it's customary to:

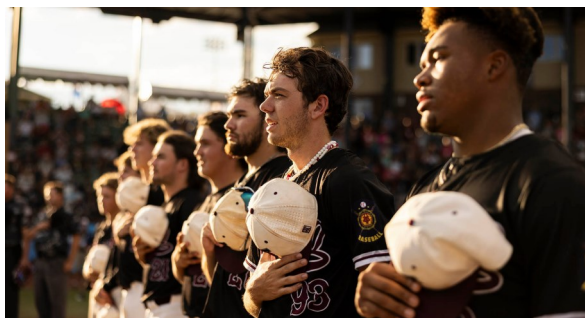
1. Stand facing the American flag.
2. Place your right hand over your heart.
3. Recite the Pledge clearly and respectfully.

Our Devotion to mutual helpfulness

Bob Jerdan DVC 24-25

Americanism Chairman 24-25

Candidate for SR Vice Commander 25-26



Spread the word: Registration for the 2025 [American Legion Baseball](#) season opened Jan. 1

at baseball.legion.org. Teams registered after May 15 may be subject to a department late fee through the final deadline of June 1. Please note that each American Legion department may set an earlier deadline for registration.

To learn more about your specific department’s state fees and deadlines, contact your department chairmen.

Help Spread Legion Softball Across Massachusetts! 🟡



We’re on a mission to grow Massachusetts American Legion Softball, and we need YOUR help! Last year, we kicked off our inaugural season with 4 teams formed by local youth softball programs partnering with American Legion posts, and now we have players from all over the state eager to play. But we need more teams to make this happen!

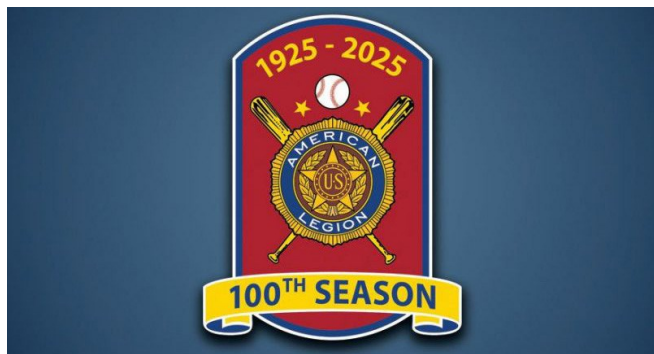
This is your chance to be part of something special. Let’s spread Legion Softball across Massachusetts and give more young female athletes in grades 8-12 the opportunity to play, compete, and build lasting memories. It's easy to get started, just form a local team and partner with a nearby American Legion post.

Fill out this form for more information: <https://forms.gle/JZuPpthDFjnw8GEx6>

Together, we can make Massachusetts Legion Softball a success for years to come! Let's keep growing the game and empowering our athletes! 🟡

🎉 [#LegionSoftball](#) [#MassachusettsSoftball](#) [#JoinTheMovement](#)





American Legion Baseball will celebrate its centennial in 2025, and we’re looking to build a collection of stories, photos and more to commemorate this milestone. And American Legion posts and Legion Baseball alumni can help.

If your post sponsors or has sponsored an American Legion Baseball team, or you played Legion Baseball, please share details and mementoes [here](#) or through the Base-

ball category on Legiontown.org.

Among the details Legion posts are encouraged to share:

- Who are some of the successful alumni who played American Legion Baseball for your program?
- What are some of the memorable moments from your Legion Baseball program?
- If you played Legion Baseball, what are some of your favorite memories and how did it impact your life?

Legiontown provides an avenue to post stories and photos about your Legion Baseball program.

The Legion’s Media & Communications Division will share some of these stories throughout 2025 on Legion.org, in *The American Legion Magazine* and across social media.

Centennial toolkit

Also, National Headquarters has created a toolkit for department baseball chairmen and post leaders to use to spread the word as we celebrate 100 years of American Legion Baseball.

The toolkit is available online [here](#). The toolkit includes the history of American Legion Baseball; sample press releases, media advisories, and social media posts; and testimonials from Legion Baseball alumni who went on to the major leagues.

The American Legion’s National Executive Committee (NEC) passed [Resolution 3](#) at the 2023 Fall Meetings to recognize American Legion Baseball’s celebration of its 100th anniversary in 2025.

The initial resolution proposing an American Legion Baseball program was passed at the Department of South Dakota’s convention on July 17, 1925. American Legion Baseball was organized “to teach practical lessons in sportsmanship and citizenship by emphasizing such qualities as loyalty, respect for the rules, fair play, courage and physical fitness.”

Keep up on plans for American Legion Baseball’s 100th anniversary celebration at Legion.org/baseball and on social media on [Facebook](#) and [X, formerly Twitter](#).



BOYS STATE COMMITTEE
THE AMERICAN LEGION
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

The 2025 Boys State Program will be held at Stonehill College, North Easton, from **Saturday, June 14, 2025 to Friday, June 20, 2025**. This year, the cost of sponsoring each boy will be **\$400.00** for the regular tuition, or **\$375.00** for those who pay for students by the **“EARLY BIRD”** registration date of **APRIL 15, 2025**, after the cost is **\$400.00**. **Please make your check payable to “The American Legion” and designate “Boys State” in the lower left corner of the check. Please use the tear-off sheet at the bottom of this notice (page 2) indicating your Post Chairman, as all future correspondence will be mailed directly to them.** All checks for the 2025 Boys State Session must be in the hands of chairman by **May 20, 2025**. The first 400 applications will be accepted. We encourage you to actively seek outside co-sponsors (e.g. politicians, businesses, or banks) to help pay for these boys to attend.

Boys chosen to attend Boys State must be interviewed by the Post Chairman, and his signature attesting to this must appear on Citizen Applications. Each Post Chairman should explain Boys State in detail to the boys and their parents so that they will know what is expected of them during their stay. The Boys State website (<http://www.maboysstate.org/>) contains a wealth of information, 2025 interest application, including video, photographs, program books, and program descriptions. Students and parents should be directed to this resource for information and announcements.

Beginning in January 2025, we will have applications available via email or regular mail. Please select the email option on the tear-off sheet if that is how you would like to receive the paperwork.

Once we have received payment for your 2025 Boys Stater

- 1. Detailed instructions will be provided in the application packets that are sent to the Post if by regular mail.**
- 2. Or emailed to the address provided on page 2**



DISTRICT	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE #
1	George Oleen	gao1964@gmail.com	413-229-6670
1	Dale Alden	aldewndale@hotmail.com	413-229-8163
3	Ryan Howe	Shawn.r.howe.yf@gmail.com	413-875-5923
4	Lisa McPhee	Lredsox1964@aol.com	978-230-6208
5	Nelson Blake	captblake82@gmail.com	978-726-8272
6	Dick Hynes	dickhynes.dbassociates@gmail.com	508-735-5509
6	Wendy Eng (CONS)	48 Payne St Quincy MA	617-584-0078
7	Matt Seto	mmseto@gmail.com	781-789-7347
8	Bruce Heisey	bbheisey@hotmail.com	978-526-4880
9	Richard Mangels	richmangels@gmail.com	774-301-0164
10	Francis MacDonald	fmacdonald53@comcast.net	508-477-0955
Chairman	Mark Avis	avis14@comcast.net	413-535-9234

TEAR OFF SHEET TO RECEIVE YOUR BOYS STATE APPLICATION

Send this form to:

Mark Avis
14 Shaw St
Palmer MA 01069

POST _____ DISTRICT _____

NUMBER OF BOYS _____ CHECK AMOUNT _____

Sponsors Name _____

Post Chairman _____ Phone # _____

Address _____ Zip code _____

High School _____

High School Contact _____

Please send the **APPLICATION** for Boys State via **email to this address:**

Email: _____



Americanism - American Born Citizenship Award

Applicant: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Criteria:

Nominee must be active in a veteran, patriotic, fraternal organization or a group which demonstrates the promotion of patriotism and the American way of life. Examples: American Legion, VFW, DAV, AMVETS or similar fraternal organizations {such as the Elks}.

Narrative:

Please provide a multi-part narrative with proper documentation to include description of activities, proof of activities (pictures/newspaper articles) designed to enrich your community.

Please see page 2 for further guidance.

Submission:

This form, with attachments must be submitted to:

Robert Jerdan (Department Americanism Committee Chairman)

P.O. Box 95

75 Craig Street

Milton, Massachusetts 02186

Or Electronically to: rjerdan@gmail.com

Application must be received NLT March 1st of submission year.

Submitted by: _____, **Post:** _____



All Entries will be judged by the Americanism Committee.
This annual award will be presented to the recipient during the Department of Mass Convention.

Department of Massachusetts Americanism - American Born Citizenship Award

Narrative (cont.), please use and attach additional sheets if needed.

Maximum: 50 points

Activity can be demonstrated individually or as a part of an organization or community service group. The activity must demonstrate the promotion of patriotism, patriotic observances, civic instructions in schools, the Americanization of legal immigrants, or providing information on anti-American propaganda.

Maximum 25 points

Activity can be demonstrated individually or as a part of an organization or community service group. Nominee must promote the American way of life and inspire patriotism by activity in programs such as Boys/Girls State, Boys Scouts, the Oratorical Contests, The School Medal Award Program baseball, flag, etiquette, etc.

Maximum 25 points

The Nominee must be performing the activity on a non-paid basis. The activity can include a wide range of volunteerism and does not exclude activity on behalf of veterans, patriotic heredity, fraternal, civic, labor or financial groups, all of which promote the welfare of the American way of life as a whole.

Member Discounts



AVIS

Your next great memory awaits. At Avis, you choose what best fits you and your trip, from the car to the accessories we've got you covered. Members can save up to 30% when you Pay Now with Avis, or up to 25% when you Pay Later.

To take advantage of your member savings, [book now](#) using **Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) G343600**.

Provider since: 2021

Discount Code: G343600 | [Visit Web site](#)



Americanism - Foreign Born Citizenship Award

Applicant: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Criteria: Naturalization papers must be viewed and returned, do not copy.

Nominee must be active in a veteran, patriotic, fraternal organization or a group which demonstrates the promotion of patriotism and the American way of life. Examples: American Legion, VFW, DAV, AMVETS or similar fraternal organizations {such as the Elks}.

Narrative:

Please provide a multi-part narrative with proper documentation to include description of activities, proof of activities (pictures/newspaper articles) designed to enrich your community.

Please see page 2 for further guidance.

Submission:

This form, with attachments, must be submitted to:
Robert Jerdan (Department Americanism Committee Chairman)

75 Craig Street

Milton, Massachusetts 02186

Or Electronically to: rjerdan@gmail.com

Application must be received NLT March 1st of submission year.

Submitted by: _____, **Post:** _____

All Entries will be judged by the Americanism Committee.

This annual award will be presented to the recipient during the Department of Mass Convention.

Department of Massachusetts**Americanism - Foreign Born Citizenship Award**

Narrative (cont.), please use and attach additional sheets if needed.

Maximum: 50 points

Activity can be demonstrated individually or as a part of an organization or community service group. The activity must demonstrate the promotion of patriotism, patriotic observances, civic instructions in schools, the Americanization of legal immigrants, or providing information on anti-American propaganda.

Activity can be demonstrated individually or as a part of an organization or community service group. The activity must demonstrate the promotion of patriotism, patriotic observances, civic instructions in schools, the Americanization of legal immigrants, or providing information on anti-American propaganda.

Maximum 25 points

Activity can be demonstrated individually or as a part of an organization or community service group. Nominee must promote the American way of life and inspire patriotism by activity in programs such as Boys/Girls State, Boys Scouts, the Oratorical Contests, The School Medal Award Program baseball, flag, etiquette, etc.

Maximum 25 points

The Nominee must be performing the activity on a non-paid basis. The activity can include a wide range of volunteerism and does not exclude activity on behalf of veterans, patriotic hereditary, fraternal, civic, labor or financial groups, all of which promote the welfare of the American way of life as a whole.

Member Discounts**CONSTANT CONTACT**

Constant Contact Description: The American Legion members receive 20% off six months, or 25% off the full year (which is an additional 10% off the standard discounts!) Pre-payment is required for these member exclusive savings.

[Click here](#) to start today!

Provider since: 2023

[Visit Web site](#)

The American Legion, Department of Massachusetts, may grant up to ten \$1,000.00 and ten \$500.00 scholarships to be used towards the expenses of education of the child/grandchild, whose parent, grandparent or legal guardian is a current member in good standing (**or** a deceased member in good standing at time of passing) in an American Legion Post within the Department of Massachusetts.

Applications shall be received no later than **April 1, 2025**. **Mail to Scholarship Chairman, Sandra Davis C/O Lou Brault 104 Johnson Rd Apt 207, Chicopee, MA 01022**

The scholarship shall be for the next school year only and limited to incoming college freshmen. The scholarship committee will make its selections before June 15th.

Scholarship payments shall be made directly to the recipient. Payments shall be made at the end of the first semester. Payment will be withheld if the student fails to remain in good standing. In event of **termination** during school year, payments must be returned to The American Legion, Department of Massachusetts.

(Ten) \$1,000.00 scholarships to be awarded, known as:

1. Frank R. Kelley Scholarship
2. Robert (Sam) Murphy Scholarship
3. H.P. Redden Scholarship
4. Mayer/Murphy/Nee Scholarship
5. Joseph H. Ellinwood (Nursing only)
6. Grace Fuller Olson Scholarship
7. Past Dept. Commanders Scholarship
8. Daniel J. Doherty Scholarship PNC
9. John P. "Jake" Comer Scholarship PNC
10. Paul A Morin Scholarship PNC

(Ten) \$500 Scholarships will be awarded with (One) \$500.00 scholarship to be given to a student entering military service directly following high school graduation. (Submit documentation of active-duty entry date with application).

(One) \$500 scholarship, known as the Leo Malloy Scholarship shall be awarded to a first-year apprentice plumber. Proof of apprenticeship must be included

Applications are available on our website www.masslegion.org

Jeff Montelo, Commander District 10, Middleborough Post 64 has once again taken first place nationally for the VA Creative Arts Festival with his figure called Halloween. Congratulations Jeff!



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Massachusetts
Children and Youth Program Annual Mini Golf Tournament**



March 30, 2025
Team Registration
\$20.00 per player

Name of Team: _____

Minimum players per team is 4 with a maximum of 5

Team Members:

Name, address, and phone of contact member and team members:

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____
- (5) _____

Please make all checks payable to ALA Department of Massachusetts and include Mini Golf Tournament in the memo.

Please send checks to Lisa Gauthier, 139A Elm Street, Winchendon, MA 01475. Deadline for all registrations is March 20, 2025.

For further information, please contact Lisa Gauthier at lisagauthier1959@yahoo.com or at (978)-350-7755



The American Legion Family

14th ANNUAL “PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS” BOWLING TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 26th, 2025
12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

WEBSTER TIMBER LANES
460 Bedford St., Abington, MA 02351

**Proceeds to benefit Boston Children’s Hospital, Bay State Children’s Hospital
and UMass Memorial Children’s Medical Center**

Limited to 22 teams – First come, first served for team sign-ups
Five Person Teams
\$25 per person / \$125 per team / \$10 for non-bowlers

50/50 Raffles | Food provided during tournament

Send payment & registration forms to:
Clifford A. Smith
53 Messenger St. Apt C, Plainville, MA 02762

Make checks payable to: Detachment of Mass SAL

*Confirmation of entry forms will be sent upon receipt of completed registration
Must be paid in full to secure registration*

**THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
“PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS”
BOWLING TOURNAMENT**

**WEBSTER TIMBER LANES
460 BEDFORD ST., ABINGTON, MA 02351**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025
12:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.**

**REGISTRATION FORM
TOURNAMENT OPEN TO ALL
POSTS – UNITS – SQUADRONS – LEGION RIDERS**

\$25.00 PER PERSON / \$125.00 PER TEAM

POST NO. _____

UNIT NO. _____

SQUADRON NO. _____

RIDER CHAPTER NO. _____

BOWLER NO.1 _____

BOWLER NO.2 _____

BOWLER NO.3 _____

BOWLER NO.4 _____

The American Legion Family “Pin Points for Partnership”

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

AWARD PRESENTED FOR MOST PIN POINTS PLEDGED

Partnership Pin Points Pledge Sheet

Make Checks Payable To: Detachment of Mass SAL

Please Return Pledge Sheet and Donations To: Clifford Smith, 53 Messenger St. Apt C, Plainville, MA 02762

Pledge's Name	Address	City, State, Zip	Phone	Amount Pledged Per Point





Grass Roots Information

Interested in what the Legion is advocating for in Congress on ***The Veteran's Role in Supporting the Military?*** Check out [our information paper](#) 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 or ejohnson@legion.org.



Voter Voice

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, votervoicenet.com/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.



AMERICAN LEGION voter voice



Washington Conference

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

February 22-26, 2025 – The American Legion's 65th Annual Washington Conference will be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel. This conference provides an opportunity for Legionnaires to meet with their respective lawmakers and hear from members of Congress and VA leadership. The National Commander will also address attendees on legislative priorities during the National Commander's Rally. More details, such as agendas and schedules, will be updated [here](#).

We are now in a new year finally. The Federal election process is behind us for 2 years but that does not mean our jobs as citizens is done until November of 2026! The American Legion National Staff is busy preparing for the 119th Congress which is now in session. Over the next few weeks they will finalize the Legion's Legislative Priorities for this session in preparation for the annual Washington DC Conference.

If you are not aware of this conference, it is an important event in the Legion year. Representatives from all 55 Departments will send members to attend. They will be briefed on the priorities and meet with members of Congress and/or their legislative staff to discuss the priorities. National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr., along with National Staff members will also present a report to a meeting of the Joint House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. Much of this will be available online, more information will be available next month.

Our job as citizens and Legionnaires is to continue to contact our Congressional Representatives in the House and Senate as to where we stand on these issues and others that come up during the year. Email is the fastest way to do so. Signing up through the Legion's Grassroots Action Center is actually the easiest way to send a message. Once enrolled, it takes about a minute! Visit www.legion.org/advocacy/grassrootsactioncenter and this will get you set up as a one-time action. Then you are good to go! Our elected officials need to hear our thoughts on legislation before they vote. Please join me in continuing to make our voices heard.

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

John P. Lenotte, Alternate National Executive Committeeman Department of MA; Past MA Department Commander; Past District 8/Essex Commander; Past Commander Post 4 Haverhill 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



New Non-Profit Miles for Military Brings Junior Enlisted Home for Moments that Matter



Contributed photo cutline information:

USMC Cpl. Nicolas “Nico” Serret., got a proper welcome at Boston’s Logan Airport Dec. 6, 2024. Cpl. Serret traded 25 hours of charity service work near his North Carolina base for a flight home from www.milesformilitary.org - an emerging charity reaching out to Veterans nationwide for support. From left is the organization’s founder, Maureen Byrne, Cpl. Serret, his cousin Dalila McManus, and friend

A Marine mom from New England has launched a non-profit that flies active-duty junior enlisted home for holidays, weddings, and other moments that matter. Miles for Military buys plane tickets that some enlisted personnel might not be able to afford in return for their volunteering at a charity of their choosing, and the organization is looking to the Veterans’ community for support as it ramps up operations for 2025.

After sending nearly 50 servicemen and women on leave to hometowns across the United States in 2024, Miles for Military founder Maureen Byrne and the non-profit’s team are hoping to bring hundreds of junior enlisted stationed across the country home for leaves in the new year.

“Just in December, we were able to send soldiers, sailors, and Marines stationed at Cherry Point, Lejeune, and Fort Liberty home to Arizona, California, Michigan, the Pacific Northwest, New England, Utah, Montana, and the great State of Texas,” Byrne said. “One of our earliest flights brought a young sailor home to meet a newborn sister.”

Byrne was motivated to start Miles for Military when, after she flew her own son home from Camp Lejeune for leaves during his USMC service, he told her that many of his fellow Marines and their families were unable to afford that same benefit. “I was shocked at how expensive the tickets were to fly my son home for the holidays when he was stationed at Camp Lejeune,” the Massachusetts native said. “He told me that most of his friends and their families could not afford flights, and that the barracks were full on holidays.”

That is when the idea to found www.milesformilitary.org took hold. “These young people sacrifice so much to serve this country,” Byrne said. “Donations fund flights. Flights sustain family bonds and morale. It just feels like the right thing to do.”



Miles for Military (Continued)

Ranks from E-1 up to E-4 earn their flights home by doing 25 hours of charity work at non-profit organizations near their base, according to former USMC Captain Tom Davin, a member of the 501 (c) 3 non-profit's board of directors. "We have had 100 men and women fulfill the volunteer obligations. As they secure leave, we book their flights."

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. (Ret.) Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., and Army Major Gen. (Ret.) Clayton M. Hutmacher serve on the organization's board of advisors. Ramon "CZ" Colon-Lopez, a retired USAF Special Forces NCO who eventually served as Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest enlisted rank in the US Armed Forces, serves on the Board of Directors.

"This is what a 'whole of nation' approach looks like—they defend our freedoms, and we find ways to support them," SEAC Colon-Lopez said.



Legislative Agenda



The Legion's key priorities for the 119th Congress are focused on several issues that impact veterans, service members, and their families, including PACT Act implementation and oversight, suicide prevention and mental healthcare access, military quality of life, paying the US Coast Guard in the event of a government shutdown, modernizing the military's Transition Assistance Program (TAP), and more.

Read the full 2025 American Legion Legislative Agenda for the 119th Congress, 1st Session:

[Download Here](#)



DETACHMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

P.O. Box 546, Dunstable, MA 01827

TO: ALL SQUADRONS

As we begin our new year of service to our veterans, our communities and our children, let us take a moment to congratulate **81** of our squadrons that have achieved at least 100% membership! This has brought our entire Detachment to **104.95%! WOW!** This shows the importance and resolution of reaching out to our members and making sure they are aware of not only the benefit but the importance and strength of their membership in our organization.

But as we go forward, it is IMPERATIVE that your squadron is properly enrolled and advertised (correct dues charged) in our online service, www.mylegion.org. In order to be sure your squadron has complete access for transmittal purposes, your adjutant or an authorized member, MUST register, as well as each year completing the Squadron Data Report (SDR) Form, which was sent this year and will be sent every year by mail. Your members now have the option to renew online...**BUT unless you tell National, how much are your dues, ONLY \$12.00 will be collected (National and Massachusetts per-capita) This shows how IMPORTANT this form is!**

In addition, we are pleased to announce the Sons of The American Legion mobile app available on both apple and android downloads. We strongly encourage taking advantage of this new service!

In addition, the forms that are vital to our administrative and documentation processes are now available online. The link for the annual Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) is <https://www.legion.org/getmedia/99193ad8-d81e-4982-b391-993e11c4a6c1/50ia1124-sal-consolidated-squadron-report-fill.pdf>.

From there, we want to be sure our squadrons know we on the Detachment level want to not only participate in your events but brag about what you do! Any fundraisers, annual patriotic events, or anything that you might want more support, let us know! We would gladly advertise your events, meetings or programs... It might even give you new ideas for events at you own squadron!

Your Detachment Commander Jim Blake, our Detachment officers and I look forward to working with all of you to achieve another "All Time High" not only in membership but all the programs serve the Veterans of our Commonwealth and our Nation!

Yours in Service

WILLIAM J. MURPHY, III

Detachment Adjutant

masal.adjutant@gmail.com 978-512-1547



Mild TBI associated with long-term effects when occurring with psychological trauma

BOSTON – VA Boston Healthcare System researchers found that mild traumatic brain injury leads to significant long-term consequences only when it occurs at the same time as a psychologically traumatic event, in a new study published in *JAMA Network Open* Jan. 22, 2025.

“Our findings suggest that mTBI alone may not drive long-term negative outcomes; it’s the combination of brain injury within a psychologically stressful context that creates lasting challenges among Veterans,” said Dr. Emily Van Etten, co-lead author and a post-doctoral fellow at the Translational Research Center for Traumatic Brain Injury and Stress Disorders, known as TRACTS, located at VA Boston’s Jamaica Plain campus.

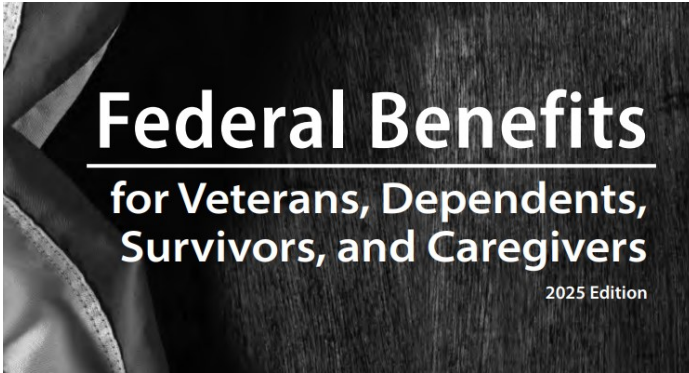
The study, “Peritraumatic Context and Long-Term Outcomes of Concussion,” analyzed data from 567 post-9/11 Veterans who participated in the TRACTS study between 2009 and 2024. Researchers found that Veterans who experienced mild traumatic brain injury, or mTBI, in the context of a stressful or traumatic event — referred to as “peritraumatic mTBI” — had significantly worse long-term outcomes including higher rates of posttraumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, postconcussive symptoms, and disability compared to those with mTBI that occurred outside of a potentially traumatic context, or those with no history of mTBI. Notably, there were no significant differences in long-term outcomes between Veterans with nonperitraumatic mTBI and those with no TBI, suggesting that mTBI’s effects may be contingent on its psychological context.

The study’s findings introduce a “scaffolding” hypothesis about the link between mTBI and PTSD, proposing that acute biological and physiological effects of mTBI may temporarily support the development of PTSD symptoms. This process could, in turn, contribute to the persistence of postconcussive and PTSD symptoms, and ultimately long-term disability.

“These results emphasize the importance of comprehensive screening and treatment for Veterans who experience a head injury at the same time as a stressful or psychologically traumatic event,” noted Arielle Knight, co-lead author and senior program manager at TRACTS. “They also highlight the need for interventions aimed at addressing the combined impact of mTBI and PTSD to improve long-term care for our Veterans.”

More information about the study is available at

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2829450>



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ “2025 VA Federal Benefits Guide for Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, and Caregivers” now is available for download [here](#). The guide contains a comprehensive listing of VA programs, including phone numbers and websites for easy reference. The annual Federal Benefits Guide contains information on most VA benefits and services, including:

Compensation.

- Life insurance.
- Pension and fiduciary services.
- Education benefits.
- Economic development and employment.
- Home loan guaranty programs and housing assistance.
- Mental health resources.

The handbook is designed to help veterans, servicemembers and their families understand the full scope of VA resources available to them after their service. It provides details on eligibility requirements for each benefit, and because VA serves different generations of veterans, it also outlines the qualification guidelines for distinct periods of service to clarify eligibility for veterans with service spanning both peace and wartime periods.

The VA Federal Benefits Guide is available in both print and digital formats. Veterans and family members can access the booklet on VA’s website, providing instant and convenient access to the wealth of information it contains. A limited number of printed copies may be available at local medical center, Vet Center or regional office. To find the nearest VA facility, go to www.va.gov/find-locations.

The information in this guide is validated by VA as of Oct. 10, 2024. For the most up-to-date information, veterans and family members should visit www.va.gov, or go to the specific links provided in this publication to access information on the program that they’re interested in, as regulations, payments and eligibility requirements are subject to change. You can also call VA at 800-827-1000 from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday to speak with a representative.



*We're
having a*

BACKYARD BBQ SHINDIG!

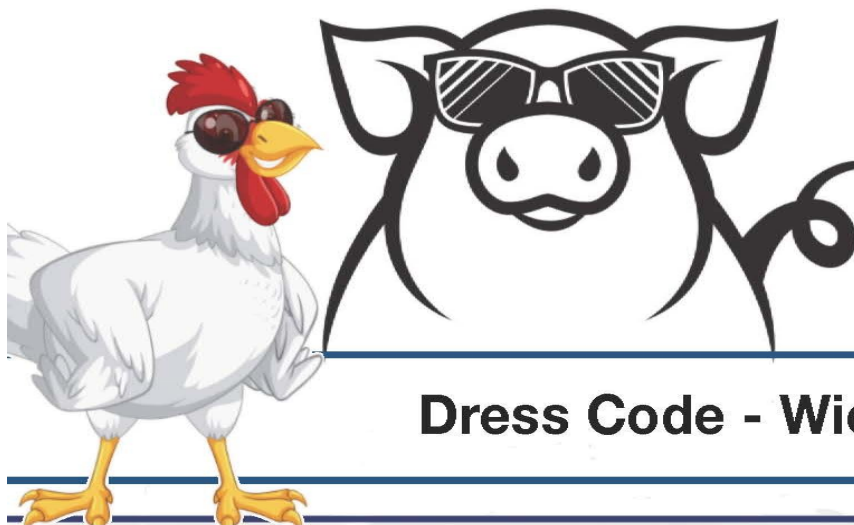


Supporting
Scott Conner
Candidate for
Department Commander

SATURDAY
MAY 10TH 2025

Social 1:00 - 2:00 pm
Chow 2:00 pm

Paxton Post 306
885 Pleasant St
Paxton, MA



Tickets
\$25 per person
For tickets or more info
call or text Grace at:
774-239-2028

Dress Code - Wicked Casual



**You are Cordially Invited
to the
Appreciation Day
for
Robert Jerdan
Candidate for Department
Senior Vice Commander**

Date: Saturday March 8, 2025

Hour: 12:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

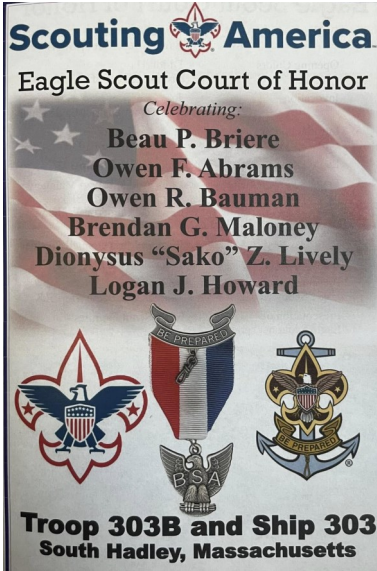
**Place: Dedham American Legion #18
155 Eastern Ave Dedham MA**

**Donation: No set donation,
give what you can
10% of proceeds will go to
Department Commander's Charity**

**Please mail checks to
Robert Jerdan
75 Craig St Milton MA 02186**



Around the Department— South Hadley Post 260



Today we honored 6 new Eagle Scouts of South Hadley Scouts BSA Troop 303B / SEA SCOUTS! This was a great day for America We were honored to represent South Hadley Sons of the American Legion and present GOOD CITIZENSHIP certificates and a cash award on behalf of the post. These Scouts are America’s future. The future is bright.

Around the Department— Students Veteran's of America and Legionaires



Student Veteran's of America National Conference. Members form Berkley Post 121, Swansea Post 303 and Fall River Posts 464 representing student veteran's in Colorado Springs!!



Homefront Golf Tournament

OPERATION SOARING EAGLE *Golf tournament*



Heritage Country Club
85 Sampson Rd.
Charlton, MA 01507



Friday, May 2nd 2025
9:00 a.m. - Registration
10:00 a.m. - Shotgun Start
12:00 p.m. - Lunch
3:00 p.m. - Cocktail Hour
4:00 p.m. - Steak Dinner, awards & raffle



\$150 per player includes: cart, Lunch, Steak dinner,
and gift bag
\$35 for dinner only
Sponsorships available at various price points

Thank you to our
2025 main sponsor:



*****Register before 3/15/2025 for a reduced rate of \$135 per player!*****

Register at:

<https://events.golfstatus.com/event/operation-soaring-eagle/details/registration-details>
or scan the QR code above
email Jen at jbaublitz@homefrontstrongus.org with any questions



All proceeds go towards HomeFront Strong programs that enhance resilience in veterans and military families through targeted programs and resources, including community peer support and the HomeFront Strong Storytelling program.

This year, we've partnered with Golf Status to offer our golfers a fantastic experience with a live scoreboard, contests, and a course GPS, all in an app players can use throughout the tournament! You can find out more at <https://golfstatus.com/app>

Thank you to our Honorary Chairperson, Cindy Lacoste, US Navy, Chief Petty Officer, Ret. for your support!



Homefront Golf Tournament

OPERATION SOARING EAGLE *Sponsorship Levels*



Tech Sponsorship: \$2,000

- Exclusive exposure throughout the tournament website, mobile app, event printouts, and live leaderboards.

Lunch Sponsor: \$2,000

- Golf for four in the tournament
- Logo on all outreach materials
- Recognition on website and social media
- Logo on tournament signage
- Recognition at tournament & on program

Dinner Sponsor: \$2,000

- Golf for four in the tournament
- Logo on all outreach materials
- Logo on tournament signage
- Recognition on social media
- Recognition on tournament brochure/fliers
- Recognition at tournament & on program

Platinum Plus \$1500

- Golf for four in the tournament
- Company logo on tournament signage
- 2 Hole signs
- Recognition on social media & on program

Platinum Sponsor \$1000

- Golf for two in the tournament
- Company logo on tournament signage
- 2 Hole signs
- Recognition on tournament brochure/fliers
- Recognition on social media & on program

Golf Cart Sponsor \$1,000

- Company logo on all golf carts
- Recognition on social media & on program

Golf Ball Sponsor \$1,000

- Logo on golf balls to included in player gift bags
- One tee sign
- Recognition on social media & on program

Diamond Sponsor \$750

- Golf for two in the tournament
- 1 hole sign
- Recognition on social media & on program

Gold Hole Sponsor \$500

- Sponsor name on two signs at hole
- Recognition on social media & on program

Silver Hole Sponsor \$250

- Sponsor name on one sign at hole
- Recognition on social media & on program

Bronze Sponsor \$100

- Recognition on social media & on program



Purchase at:

**<https://events.golfstatus.com/event/operation-soaring-eagle/details/registration-details>
or scan the QR code provided**

Start Date	Time	Event	Location
2/22/2025		Washington Conference	
3/12/2025		Legion's Birthday	
4/5/2025	10:00 AM	Department Executive Committee	Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel Marlborough, MA
4/5/2025	3:00 PM	National Commander's Banquet	Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel Marlborough, MA
5/8/2025		Spring Meetings	Sheraton City Center Indianapolis, IN

AMERICAN LEGION 2025 Membership Standing as of January 30, 2025 85% Goal 2/12/2025

Department Membership Standings 2025 Membership Year

District 4 Worcester 84.45%

District 5: Middlesex 83.27%

District 1: Suffolk 83.19%



	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1195	990	82.85%
	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN/ HAMPSHIRE			
3		3422	2843	83.08%
4	WORCESTER	4432	3743	84.45%
5	MIDDLESEX	3623	3017	83.27%
6	NORFOLK	2319	1911	82.41%
7	SUFFOLK	1142	950	83.19%
8	ESSEX	2442	1988	81.41%
9	BRISTOL	2496	1988	78.87%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3573	2890	80.88%
297	CAPITOL HILL	423	386	88.96%
462	HEADQUARTERS	1689	681	40.32%
	National Quota	26,756	21,388	80.48%



Salute to Servicemembers Award

Established in 2003, this award has evolved from honoring women veterans to honoring active duty women, to honoring all enlisted personnel who are currently serving our country in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force and the National Guard/Reserves.

Nomination Eligibility:

- An enlisted servicemember (pay grade E1-E9) currently serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Nomination Requirements:

- The nominating person submits a narrative discussing the reason for the nomination.
- A picture of the servicemember (preferably official Department of Defense photograph),
- Endorsement from a member of their command group must be included.
- The nominating form, along with all supporting documentation, must be completed and submitted by June 1, 2025, 5:00 PM EDT.

The servicemember will be invited to speak to the general assembly of the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention as a guest of the American Legion Auxiliary. If operational requirements prevent the servicemember's attendance at National Convention then other arrangements for their presentation to the general assembly will be made.

The application deadline is June 1st.

<https://www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers-Award-Form>




2025 Membership Standing *as of January 24, 2025*

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	190	175	92.1%
3	HAMPDEN/ FRANKLIN HAMPSHIRE	670	481	71.8%
4	WORCESTER	1037	791	76.3%
5	MIDDLESEX	940	685	72.9%
6	NORFOLK	337	271	80.4%
7	SUFFOLK	103	54	52.4%
8	ESSEX	612	493	80.6%
9	BRISTOL	268	211	78.7%
10	PLY/BARN/ NAN/DUKE	765	604	79.0%
462	HEADQUARTERS	184	81	44.0%
	National Quota	5,106	3,846	75.3%

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION THE MILLENNIUM
A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion
Sons of The American Legion | PO 1055 | Indianapolis, IN 46206 | www.legion.org/sons
Volume 2 | Issue 1 | Number 1 | January 2025
Subscribe at: www.legion.org/information-center/in-the-media/newsletters

Joe Guidice (NY): National Publicity & Media Communication Commission Vice Chairman

Detachment of New York raises \$66,481.37 for NY VA centers and Hope For Warriors




Submitted Photo: Detachment of NY

Every spring, the Detachment of New York, along with the Department of New York American Legion Auxiliary, runs a state-wide Walk A Thon Campaign. This year all of the proceeds benefitted the 13 VA Medical Centers, five New York state veterans homes, and Hope For Warriors. Each year since its inception, the program has grown and set a new fundraising record. This year's total donations hit a record-high at \$66,481.37, surpassing last year's total by over \$9,450.

Led by SAL Chairman PNC Christopher Cerullo and ALA Chairperson Marie Santacroce, the program asks squadrons, units and posts to either hold a traditional Walk A Thon in their community or raise funds by selling "Walk A Thon Boots" cut-outs in their communities and to their families, friends, and Legion families. The "Boots" are something similar to the shamrocks or hearts that are often seen near the checkout lines in stores. A person makes a donation in any amount (the suggested donation is \$5), writes their name on the Boots flyer, and the flyer is then displayed. Many New York Legion posts are now wallpapered each spring with the Boots cut-outs for the duration of the fundraiser. When the fundraising period is over, squadrons and units send in a check to their department office, where the funds are totaled and then the individual checks are distributed to members in the fall to present at facilities in their local areas. This year, the VA Medical Centers and veterans homes in New York state are each being presented with a check for \$1,850 from the Detachment of New York, plus the Hope For Warriors Foundation will be receiving \$33,000 from the Department of New York Auxiliary. The VA centers are able to use the money for anything that directly benefits the veterans in the facilities.

The Boots cut-outs are available to the membership online, along with all of the other forms needed to run the Walk A Thon and flyers to explain the program. New York's detachment officers and district commanders along with other members hand deliver the checks to the VA staff often accompanied by Auxiliary members and Legionnaires. Pictures from the check presentations are featured in the Detachment of New York's newsletter, "The Liberty."

"For my first time being Detachment Walk A Thon chairman, I found it very exciting to see where all this money came from. Auxiliary units, squadrons, Riders, and Legion posts. Some of the stories are so great and being the 2025 chairman once again I hope that these stories continue!" said PNC Christopher Cerullo. "Don't just mail in the check, tell your local members how and why you raise this money and how they can be a part of it, too. They can go beyond the Legion post - they can go to their workplace, they can go to their families and friends, too. I know with the help that we had during this past year, 2025 is going to be an outrageous year for the Walk A Thon."



Submitted Photo: Detachment of NY

Top Ten Detachments Membership Percentage

- Hawaii 91.79%
- South Dakota 80.15%
- Wisconsin 79.44%
- South Carolina 75.82%
- Iowa 72.70%
- Louisiana 72.34%
- Montana 71.98%
- Maryland 71.98%
- Illinois 71.56%
- Puerto Rico 70.00%

Statistics as of 30 January 2025

BE THE ONE

Happy 2025!
Inside this Month's Newsletter

National Adjutant Wright:
Volunteering Time and Talent
Ohio: The Party Before the Game

Sons on Social Media:
Snapshots of the SAL at work over the Holidays

National Reports: VCF and Membership, Membership, Membership!

Wisconsin: Welcoming a Hero Home

Freezin' for a Reason

A National Newsletter of the Sons of The American Legion 1

https://msgfocus.com/.../SAL/Jan_2025_Millennium_FINAL.pdf

2025 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of January 30, 2024

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	228	178	78.07%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN / HAMPSHIRE	748	551	73.66%
4	WORCESTER	983	715	72.74%
5	MIDDLESEX	1256	944	75.16%
6	NORFOLK	835	568	68.02%
7	SUFFOLK	196	124	63.27%
8	ESSEX	442	294	66.52%
9	BRISTOL	280	184	65.71%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	790	485	61.39%
	National Goal	5758	4043	70.22%



★  ★

Post 98
Saturday morning
Coffee break 

 **Veterans, Aux, and Potential Members**

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

Coffee Hour

Last Friday of the Month

09:00 - 12:00

 **Free**

American Legion North Adams

American Legion North Adams Post 125

FUNday !!!

4th Sunday of the Month

Lunch	Meat Tables Begins at 3PM	Queen Of Hearts
<p>We will service a simple lunch starting at 12:00pm until sold out or 3pm.</p>	<p>1. Purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win.</p> <p>2. Win various cuts of meat or other prizes.</p> <p>3. Tickets are randomly drawn, and winners receive their prizes.</p>	<p>The QOH with begin 15 minutes after the last Table is raffled.</p>





Post Events—Four Chaplains Service

SIMEON L. NICKERSON
AMERICAN LEGION POST 64
8 THATCHERS ROW, P.O. BOX 135
MIDDLEBOROUGH, MA 02346
Legion64@yahoo.com

Four Chaplains Service

February 2, 2025

At First Baptist Church

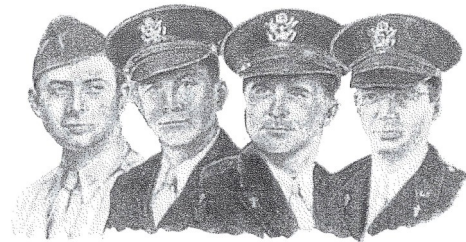
111 Plymouth St. and Route 18/28

No. Middleborough,

Service begins at 3:00pm



FOUR CHAPLAINS SERVICE 2 FEBRUARY 2025



GROVELAND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
4 MAIN ST.

GROVELAND, MA. 01834

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2025 2:00 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS
MEMORIAL SERVICE
FOR THE FOUR CHAPLAINS

Hosted by
AMERICAN LEGION POST 248
GROVELAND, MA. 01834



SUFFOLK COUNTY/DISTRICT 7, AMERICAN LEGION

FOUR CHAPLAINS SERVICE

LOCATION:
NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH
95 ROCKLAND STREET, WEST ROXBURY, MA.

DATE & TIME:
2 FEBRUARY, 1330 HRS(1:30pm),

COLATION TO FOLLOW THE SERVICE

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, COME ONE COME ALL



American Legion Post 340 Lasagna Dinner



**Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025
4:30 - 6:30**

\$15.00 Donation per Dinner
Eat in or Take Out

To Benefit:

**American Legion Boys & Girls State
Program and other Post activities**

**619 Sheffield Plain Road
Sheffield, MA 01257**

To pre-order contact Jack O'Donnell:

Tel.: 229-2739

Email: jmodonn57@gmail.com



MEAT RAFFLE

**SUNDAY,
MARCH 9TH**

**STARTS
AT 1PM**

Join us, all are welcome

**Paxton Post 306
American Legion
885 PLEASANT STREET
PAXTON, MA 01612
508-753-9252**

*Bring non perishable food
items for Veterans Food
Pantry and get Free tickets
for tables 1 and 2*





Post Events

Saturday, February 8, 2025

3 CLASSES

- 1. Cub Scouts * 10 am - 1 pm
- 2. Under 21 * 2 pm - 6 pm



(\$10 entry fee)

- 3. Adults race * 6 pm - 12 pm

(\$25 entry fee)



BRING YOUR CAR(S)
FOR OUR 60-KIT FIELD!

DONATE \$5.00 AND BRING
YOUR PIT CREW TO CHEER
YOU ON!

THE KITS MUST BE OFFICIAL
BSA-CERTIFIED.

NEED A CAR? NO
PROBLEM! WE HAVE CAR
KITS AVAILABLE.
(SEE RICH COLE OR
JEFF CONLON FOR DETAILS)

Weigh-in is Friday, February 7th 6-8:30 PM



Dudley - Gendron Post 414 American Legion
156 Boston Road Sutton, Ma 01596

The Sons of the American Legion Present
3rd Annual ADULT
PINewood DERBY

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
DISTRICT 10
ANNUAL GET TOGETHER

50/50 Raffle

65in Flat Screen TV Raffle

Basket Raffle

150 Raffle Club

SUNDAY | MAY 18TH, 2025 | 12 PM
\$20.00

Split Chicken, Baked Potato, Corn on the Cob, Salad and Cake

Bourne Post 230
77 Valley Bars Road
Monument Beach, MA 02553

CONTACT JVC RACHEL PERRON
PHONE: (207) 632-2831
EMAIL: RACHELPERRON@YAHOO.COM



Massachusetts E-Legionnaire

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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.



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