



MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIIONNAIRE

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August 2025

Commander's Corner



Scott M. Conner
Department Commander

Wow, and the summer is rolling along. Just got back from the Junior Law Cadet "Student Trooper" event at the Massachusetts State Police Academy. For the past 15 years, PNEC Louie Brault and his crew have been bringing it!! What a fantastic program. Thank you to Jake (and Flo), Lou (and Rosie) Jodie, Lisa, Mike, Sandra, Grace, Drew, Ryan, Chris, Cindy, Bill, Adam, and fellow legionnaires from 279, 275, and other Posts for being there for the participants and families. A great day for The American Legion and the Department of Massachusetts.

Just "FANTastic" to see so many of you at the Legion Baseball State finals! The Morrisette Post 294 Color Guard did a great job at opening ceremonies, and a tip of the Ball Cap to Steve Maze, event chairman, and Dick Paster, our Baseball Committee chairman. Another great season in the books. Congratulations to the Fall River Team for being crowned American Legion Baseball State Champions. Good luck in the Region 1 Tournament.

Though still in early development, The AL Ladies Fastpitch Softball program had a great season with a State Champion playoff held for the first time. Congratulations to the Post 184 sponsored, Webster softball team. What a season, thank you to the Women's Fast Pitch program chair, NEC Jodie Pajak, and her crew for another successful year. Have your Post consider sponsoring an American Legion Women's Fast Pitch Softball team today!!

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What's coming up? Legion Baseball Northeast Regionals at Holy Cross College in Worcester. Then on to The American Legion World Series in Shelby, games will be televised on ESPN ... On the National front, Membership and Post Activities Committee will meet in Indy followed up with the National Membership Workshop. I am sure that Sr Vice Bob Jerdan will bring you the latest and greatest information from the workshop.

Membership Tip: When you have a member being hesitant about renewing for the upcoming year, include in your pitch about dues being a donation to preserve Veteran programs. It's not just the Magazine, it's about the loud voice of advocacy to protect the current and future programs of the Legion. And it's off to the National Convention in Tampa, Florida. Always a great event to reconnect with fellow legionnaires, attend some seminars, and take in some of the sights in the Tampa Bay area. The update to the National Convention app is available for your phone. Check it regularly; it is constantly updated. Are we ready to have a tremendous upcoming year! I know I am! And I truly hope that you continue strengthening our community relevance and telling the story of The American Legion, the largest Veterans Service Organization in the country.

My Commander's Charity will be Operation Comfort Warrior.

First DEC - September 13th, Baldwinville Post.

Scott M. Conner
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National Commander tours Kerrville, where American Legion Post 208 has stepped up to serve as a relief center for first responders.



American Legion Post 208 Commander Robert Garcia talks with a contingent led by National Commander James LaCoursiere Jr.

During his official visit to the Department of Texas for its convention, American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere Jr. was asked if he wanted to tour Kerr County, which on July 4 experienced massive and sudden flooding that has so far left 134 people dead and more than 100 still missing.

LaCoursiere immediately said yes, and he, American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Director Cole Lyle and Texas Legionnaires took the more than two-hour drive to Kerrville to see firsthand the devastation – and the work being done on the ground by American Legion Family members.

Since shortly after the flooding occurred, [American Legion Post 208 in Kerrville has been serving as a relief center](#) for first responders and others there performing rescue and recovery missions.

“That was very heart-warming to see, how The American Legion Family stepped up and really took control of the situation in their area,” LaCoursiere said. “It’s like a command center for the communities. And adjacent to their property is where

FEMA is set up. And to see the Legion Family embraced by the community is fantastic.”

But seeing the efforts of Post 208 – as well as the support for the post’s effort coming from throughout the Department of Texas and other stations nationwide – wasn’t a surprise to LaCoursiere. He said he’s seen similar efforts as he’s toured the country and seen the results of natural disasters, from hurricane damage in Florida and North Carolina, to other weather-related damage in Georgia, Tennessee and West Virginia.

“I’m going on my 31st year with the Legion, and it does not surprise me how the Legion Family steps up and takes a very proactive role,” he said. “We’ve seen that all year in all of the areas we’ve gone into, with the Legion Family stepping up. These posts that have stepped up, you can see that they are an integral part of the community. And when you speak with the leadership in the community, they make you fully aware of that: how The American Legion is always there for them, and not just in times of disaster.”

Though it wasn’t the first time he’s toured an area impacted by storm devastation, each time remains equally jarring. “It’s heart-breaking when you see some of the scenes that you see when you’re right there on the ground,” LaCoursiere said. “You see a lot of things that you don’t see on the media. The true destruction. You still see them out there during the recovery efforts.

“It makes you think twice about what Mother Nature is capable of doing. It’s hard to talk about. You get some of those emotional stories when you speak to people in the community. They lost their homes. They’ve lost vehicles. They can’t find their pets. Things like that. But they’re right there holding each other up.”

A reminder that Legionnaires and posts in Texas impacted by the flooding are eligible for National Emergency Fund grants. Click [here](#) for more information.



Serving Communities and Building Champions: The American Legion Auxiliary of Massachusetts and American Legion Softball

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Massachusetts has long stood as a pillar of service, patriotism, and community support across the Commonwealth. As one of the largest women’s patriotic service organizations in the world, the Auxiliary’s mission centers on honoring the sacrifice of veterans, supporting military families, educating youth, and fostering American values at the local level. But its impact stretches beyond civic duty—especially when it comes to empowering young athletes through programs like American Legion Softball.

The Auxiliary: Service with Purpose

Founded in 1919 alongside The American Legion, the Auxiliary provides vital support to veterans, their families, and local communities. In Massachusetts, the Department's units carry out projects ranging from veterans’ hospital volunteering and scholarship fundraising to organizing local events that promote Americanism and civic engagement. Members work hand in hand with Legionnaires while also leading their own initiatives tailored to women's leadership, youth mentorship, and community resilience.

Each year, the Department of Massachusetts sponsors scholarships, coordinates Girls State sessions to teach government leadership, and partners with schools, shelters, and hospitals to extend help where it’s needed most. Their work may be quiet at times, but its effects are lasting.

American Legion Softball: More Than a Game

While baseball has long been a flagship American Legion sport, softball is gaining ground as an equally powerful platform for developing character, teamwork, and leadership in young women. American Legion Softball gives high school-aged girls a chance to compete at a high level while representing their hometowns and embodying the values of the Legion: duty, honor, discipline, and sportsmanship.

In Massachusetts, Legion-sponsored softball programs are helping fill a crucial gap in youth sports by offering affordable, organized play in the summer months. Many teams are supported not only by local American Legion posts but also by Auxiliary units that provide fundraising, logistical help, and moral support. This collaboration ensures more girls can access the field, compete with pride, and build the confidence that carries beyond the diamond.

A Shared Mission

What ties the Auxiliary’s civic mission and American Legion Softball together is a shared belief in investing in future generations. Whether it's by volunteering in a VA hospital or cheering from the bleachers at a softball game, the members of the American Legion family are committed to shaping stronger, more connected communities.

As the Department of Massachusetts looks ahead, expanding support for youth sports and increasing community engagement remain key priorities. The Auxiliary, with its strong legacy and committed members, is leading by example—demonstrating that service, like sport, is all about showing up, working hard, and lifting others up.

SoFia Elizabeth Blake, Department President



Detachment
Commander
Jesse Limanek

Greetings Department of Massachusetts American Legion Family,

While the summer is winding down, our work as Sons of the American Legion carries on.

For those of you who are unaware, The Sons of the American Legion is on the verge of making history! As a national program of The American Legion, we are on the cusp of surpassing the 400,000 mark in membership. Massachusetts can help in this effort. Currently, we are at 98% Detachment Strength. While many Squadrons have met or exceeded 100%, there more that have not. If you are in possession of any 2025-membership renewals, please get

them in so that the Detachment can fulfill its goal set by national.

Did your Squadron submit the required reports to the Detachment and National? All Squadrons are required to submit Squadron Data Reports (SDR) and Consolidated Squadron Reports (CSR) annually. Both reports are vital to our success as an organization. Please make sure you complete both as soon as possible.

2026 membership cards are in! Cards for all squadrons have been distributed to regional officials who will be working hard in the coming weeks to get them to you. Please make sure that the postcard included with the membership cards is fully filled out and returned to the Detachment. If you have the time, please also fill out the included SDRs for 2026 as well when you get your cards since most of the information that is being collecting on the postcard and SDR is the same.

Looking ahead, my calendar is starting to fill up. Thank you to those Squadrons that have extended invitations to me for upcoming events. I am very excited about having the opportunity to support your efforts. If you have something fun happening at your

Post, please let me know and I will do my best to attend.

I am also looking forward to the National Convention in Tampa Bay. We are truly blessed to have an exceptional group of leading candidates for next year's national officer team. I will send out any interesting and important information that arises from convention in an upcoming Commander's Message.

And speaking of emails, I have assumed full control over the commander's email account. If you need to reach me or would like to be added to one of my district message groups, feel free to do so at commander@salmass.org.

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

Jesse Limanek
Commander for the Detachment of Massachusetts





The American Legion Department Of Massachusetts

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August 2025

Greetings Legionnaires,

July 1, 2025, was the beginning of the 2026 membership year. My legion remains the best way to process membership for Posts but for those Post who prefer the pony express which is fine. I wanted to go over a few things. Post who submits their dues to the Department to process, please do not comingle Legion dues with Son's dues in one check. Please send individual checks, one for Legion and one for Sons for each have separate financial accounts.

Grace and I will be on the road for almost all of August, but don't you fret. We are taking the office with us on the road. August 5-10 we will be in Indianapolis, August 13-20 will be at American Legion World Series, and finally August 21-30 we will be in Tampa for the National Convention. The best way to communicate with the Department is via email at deptadjutant@masslegion.org or deptaccountant@masslegion.org. We will make every effort to answer all emails and phone calls.

We are onto Tampa. Those from the Legion Family attending the National Convention don't forget to take a picture with the gigantic flamingo at the Tampa airport. Send us a copy of the photo and receive a small gift. We are looking into a possible scavenger hunt while at National Convention details will be included in your Convention Packets.

What does the Department do under that shiny dome at the State House? Process membership, bother Posts with forms, send annoying emails well yes but we also do something else. We have the honor of represent you. We provide a unified voice in front of our Massachusetts Legislature. Last month the Department had an opportunity to make our unified voice heard regarding 47 different bills concerning our veterans and their families. What makes the American Legion different from all the other veteran service organizations? We do not accept any type of state or federal funding. The legislature cannot use the threat of funding reduction to keep us in line. We speak the truth. We testify on tax abatements, the proper definition of a disabled veteran, the transfer of military licensures to civilian licensures, holding our town veteran services officers accountable, and stopping wasteful spending on duplicate programs and studies. **We** as an organization have made an impact in safeguarding benefits for you and your family. The Department of Massachusetts remains steadfast in holding our elected officials accountable to our veterans.

Yours in Comradeship

Lisa A. McPhee

Lisa A. McPhee
Department Adjutant
Massachusetts

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*

Veterans Strengthening America

MEASURABLE IMPACT | AMERICAN LEGION

\$21 Billion
Amount in VA disability benefits awarded for service in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and other conflicts by over 10 million American Legion claim representatives.

114,722
Minimum number of young people administered or supervised by American Legion youth programs in 2023, including American Legion Baseball, National Service, Boys' State, Boys' Nation, O'Connell Conflict and Youth Career Lead Endeavors.

1,431,061
Number of veterans served by 841 American Legion "Ready Check" programs between 2019 and 2023 to provide financial support to 8.8 million who have served in the American Legion.

\$3.2 Million+
Minimum amount in American Legion Operation Conflict Resolution grants administered by purchase transfer items and experiences since 2007 for returning military personnel and disabled veterans.

96,691
Units volunteered through The American Legion Blood Drive Program in 2023, resulting in 1,000+ blood donations and 100+ blood donors.

\$18 Million+
Amount in American Legion Temporary Financial Award case grants issued to military and qualified veterans families with income problems of lower than an expected amount, including, for high 2023.

\$10.7 Million+
Amount in American Legion Medical Services (PACT) grants issued to military and qualified veterans families for medical services, including grants for medical equipment, medical supplies, and medical transportation.

786,654
Number of American Legion "Warrior's Journey" grants administered through January 2023, which assist in the transportation of the organization to help other veterans, including caregivers.

\$852,593
Amount in American Legion Civil War Living Foundation grants issued for 2023 to help provide grants and assist in the education, medical, emotional and spiritual well-being of young people of history enthusiasts through their work.

1,100
Approximate number of American Legion-led or supported career events for veterans and their families per year.

3,738
Operations and jobs of military and veterans organizations and programs supported through the American Legion National Memorial Challenge.

AMERICAN LEGION | IMPACT CHILDREN & YOUTH

506/\$1,645,558
Record number of newly issued American Legion Legacy Scholarships in 2023, and the amount of those awards, provided to children of military personnel who had died from an injury since 9/11 or an otherwise related VA disability claim at a 10% or greater.

\$8,034,069
Amount in direct care long-term residential care and rehabilitation services in 2023.

\$21,536,485.50
Amount in American Legion Child Strengthening Foundation grants issued since 1983 to support the education and well-being of children facing challenges beyond their control.

AMERICAN LEGION | IMPACT VETERANS

\$84.4 billion
Amount of VA disability benefits received by a single VA veteran between 2023 and 2024 who is eligible for American Legion long-term care.

3,000+
VA medical care that American Legion volunteers have provided free of charge to veterans and their families.

30,012
Number of American Legion members in 2023, and the number of the VA Volunteer Service, programs providing free medical health, dental, and hearing services.

AMERICAN LEGION | IMPACT AMERICANISM

3,950+
U.S. Flag Code requests filed by The American Legion Americanism Division in 2023.

4,839
American Legion posts that will carry flags to the 9/11 Day ceremonies in 2024.

1,538
American Legion posts that will carry flags to the 9/11 Day ceremonies in 2024.

10 million
Approximate number of young adults who have joined American Legion Baseball since its inception in 1953.

1,402
American Legion posts nationwide that have received VA's in the Challenge program to train their military residents in self-advocacy.

13,604
Participants in American Legion Big Boy Make Programs nationwide in 2024.

\$46.3 million
Amount in benefits provided in 2023, less of change from American Legion and experts' representation, assisting veterans who deployed to OIF/OA.

2,542
Number of veterans who directly received jobs through American Legion posts in 2023.

\$12 million
Amount in VA claim services administered for veterans, with fees included in 8 million American Legion representatives in 2023.

17,900
People who are a veteran, or an April 9, 2020, to assist and provide career counseling to The American Legion's War on One Campaign Program in OIF/OA.

54,105
Veterans who are over and have obtained a digital eye examination in VA claims system, 2023.

Hi Folks,

If you have received your August Legion magazine, there is a four page spread regarding the American Legion and our impact surrounding the four pillars. The office put those four pages and created a poster. The poster is 12x18 spread the word to the posts and let them know if they want one to let us know. They cost \$15.00. It is a great recruiting tool. The communities need to know what we do as an organization. Contact the Department Office Today!

August: Reigniting Our Purpose – A Call to Action for Massachusetts Legionnaires As the warmth of August embraces Massachusetts, we find ourselves in a unique position. The summer might be winding down for some, but for the American Legion, Department of Massachusetts, it's a pivotal moment to reaffirm our commitment, strengthen our ranks, and ensure our legacy of service continues to thrive. This month, our focus is squarely on **membership**. Our collective strength lies in our numbers, and every single Legionnaire plays a vital role in upholding our mission to veterans, their families, and our communities. **Why August is Crucial for Membership**

August might seem like a time for vacations, but it's also a prime opportunity to connect. Many people are reflecting on their summer, and it's an ideal time to engage potential members who may have more availability or are looking for ways to give back as the seasons change. It's also a critical period to ensure our current members are engaged and ready for the initiatives of the fall.

Our Call to Action: Every Member Matters Renew Your Commitment – If You Haven't Already! First and foremost, if your membership is due for renewal, please take a moment to renew today. Your continued dedication is the bedrock of our Department. Every renewal ensures we can continue our vital programs, advocacy efforts on Beacon Hill, and support for veterans across the Common-

wealth. Don't let your membership lapse and risk losing access to the benefits and camaraderie you've earned. **Reach Out: The Power of a Personal Invitation** Think of a veteran you know – a neighbor, a friend, a family member, a former service buddy. Have you invited them to join the American Legion? A personal invitation is the most effective tool we have. Share your "why" – why you're a Legionnaire, what it means to you, and how our Department impacts veterans' lives right here in Massachusetts. Let them know about: **Advocacy:** Our tireless work on state and national legislation benefiting veterans. **Support:** Our programs for homeless veterans, those facing hardship, and assistance with VA claims. **Youth Programs:** Our commitment to shaping future leaders through Boys State, American Legion Baseball, and oratorical contests, Law Cadet **Community:** The camaraderie and support found within our Posts. **Engage Your Post: Membership Drives & Events** Post Commanders and Membership Chairs: This is your time to shine! Organize engaging events this August that highlight the Legion's mission and offer a welcoming atmosphere for prospective members. Consider: **Open House Events:** Invite local veterans and their families to learn about your Post and the Legion. **Community Service Projects:** Show, don't just tell, the impact the Legion has in your community. **Information Sessions:** Clearly articulate the benefits of membership and answer questions. **Buddy Checks:** While focused

on wellness, these checks can also be an opportunity to gently remind members to renew or to invite eligible non-members to join. **Utilize Department Resources:** The Department of Massachusetts provides resources to assist with membership recruitment and retention. Visit our website at e.g., masslegion.org for membership tools, brochures, and information you can share. Don't hesitate to reach out to Department Membership Committee members for guidance and support. **Our Strength is in Our Numbers**

The challenges facing our veterans and communities are ongoing. From ensuring proper healthcare and benefits to combating veteran homelessness and supporting military families, the work of the American Legion is never done. Our ability to make a meaningful difference is directly tied to the strength of our membership.

Let's make August a month of renewed purpose and vigorous action. Let's grow our ranks, support our fellow veterans, and ensure the American Legion, Department of Massachusetts, remains a powerful force for good in the Commonwealth for generations to come.

For God and Country,

Bob Jerdan Dept Senior Vice Commander 25-26 Candidate for Department Commander 26-27

The American Legion, Department of Massachusetts

This is a snapshot of History of The American Legion by decades using August as the thread:

Aug/1919 - the American Legion has its charter headed to Congress (Chartered in Sept.); **8/9/21** The Legion's efforts result in creation of the US Veterans Bureau, forerunner of the VA; **8/22/41** The U.S. Navy commissions the USS *American Legion* and her World War II career begins, including landing some of the first troops at Guadalcanal, supplying a hospital, conducting rescue missions and training exercises; **8/9/46** The American Legion Boys Forum of National Government, later renamed American Legion Boys Nation, is conducted for the first time at American University in Washington, D.C.; **8/20/50** A new American Legion National Headquarters building is dedicated in Indianapolis. The 100,000-square-foot \$2.5 million structure greatly expands capacity for the nation's largest veterans organization, on State of Indiana property known as "American Legion Mall"; **8/14/51** A new seven-story American Legion National Headquarters building in Washington D.C. is dedicated by President Harry Truman; **8/24/69** The Legion's National Executive Committee establishes the National Emergency Fund as a result of the effects of Hurricane Camille; **8/26/82** The Legion presents a \$1 million check to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for construction of the Wall in Washington, becoming the largest single contributor to the project; **8/32/89** In just 60 days, The American Legion completes the

collection of more than 1 million signatures on a petition supporting a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. flag from deliberate acts of desecration, in the aftermath of a Supreme Court decision ruling that such acts are protected under the First Amendment; **8/2/90** The Legion files suit against the federal government for failure to conduct a Congress-mandated study about the effects of Agent Orange on veterans who served in Vietnam; **8/24/94** The Legion announces the creation of the Citizens Flag Alliance, a coalition of organizations and individual citizens united to work for a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. flag from physical desecration; **8/28-30/01** The American Legion passes a resolution to rekindle Blue Star Service Banner program; **Aug/05** Delegates at the 87th National Convention in Honolulu unanimously voice their support for the global war on terrorism with Resolution 169; **Aug/11** The American Legion Baseball World Series is held for the first time in the tournament's new permanent home, Shelby, N.C. Prior to this, the tournament had rotated to different cities. Total paid attendance at the Shelby contests soars to an all-time high of 86,000 total; **9/30/13** National Commander James E. Koutz announces that the American Legion family raised more than \$1.1 million for Operation Comfort Warriors during the 2012-2013 fundraising year, surpassing the original goal by over \$500,000; **9/16/17** The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational

Assistance Act of 2017 – also known as the "Forever GI Bill" because it removes time limits for veterans who wish to use it for college – is signed into law by President Donald J. Trump. The legislation is named for The American Legion past national commander who in the winter of 1943-44 drafted the Servicemen's Readjustment Act that changed the nation after World War II; **8/23/17** President Donald J. Trump signs the Veterans Appeals and Modernization Act of 2017 onstage at the 99th American Legion National Convention, in Reno, Nev; **8/24/17** Denise H. Rohan of Wisconsin is elected national commander, the first woman to hold the role in the Legion's history; **8/4/20** American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford launches the 100 Miles of Hope challenge that asks registrants to walk, run, bicycle, ride, paddle, swim or transport themselves however they like 100 miles by Veterans Day 2020, 100 days away; **8/10/22** President Joe Biden signs into law the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins Act, a historic move strongly supported and promoted by The American Legion, to provide health-care service and disability compensation to some 4 million additional veterans, mostly post-9/11, who were exposed to toxic contamination in the military.

Never forget the power and determination of the people in The American Legion!

Creating Solid Footing for the Future

We are reminded to train our replacement, who's going to be the Junior-Vice Commander, or Finance Officer, maybe a new Sgt-at-Arms. So what's training, "Here's the new Post Officers Guide, let me know if you have any questions." Though it may be considered training, is it truly effective? To some degree. Maybe send the newly appointed officer to a District or Department training seminar. Great! Not only effective training, but also they start developing or enlarging a network to help answer questions.

We are well on our way to creating a strong Post Officer. Add a dash of MENTORING and you're more apt to have a better trained and more effective individual.

Mentoring is a protected relationship which supports learning and experimentation and helps individuals develop their potential.

The purpose of mentoring is to facilitate the personal and professional growth of individuals by providing guidance, support, and knowledge transfer from experienced mentors to mentees.

With new people filling officer positions, mentoring is extremely important. All too often, we have individuals taking a post position under duress, they get "talked into" a position they don't really understand. The Post leadership should make every effort to provide that person with a mentor. And no one said you couldn't have a assistant ~~~~ or ~~~~. Maybe you didn't have time to train your replacement, such as the Post Finance Officer passed away, or the Sr Vice quit because of a personal issue. Sound familiar? And again, training is provided, but you really need to also provide a mentor. The mentor, though sage, does not need to be a subject matter specialist (ie: financial back ground), but it certainly helps. An effective mentor needs to be a good listener and supporter, and answer questions, regardless how mundane. In a nutshell, do not hover, be overbearing, etc.. Be a good solid constructive supporter, pass on the info for the member to succeed. Match up mentors with mentees that will enrich the Post, it's worth the investment.

Scott Conner
 Commander
 Department of Massachusetts
 Scottscpo@Gmail.com





Community Service—DVC Ryan Howe

As we have just finished the first month our 2025-2026 year the Community Service committee is looking forward to reviewing the great things the Posts have done in July, especially for Independence Day. As the United States is celebrating its 250th Birthday, its important to remember that we as post matter and we make a difference in our community and should highlight the great work our post do. The committee is eager and looking forwarded to see the continued hard work post are doing when it comes to the 250th anniversary of the United States. The State has put out a list of events that are taking place in August to continue with the 250th anniversary celebrations of the United States. In the month of August there are roughly 30 events taking place.

Here is the link to list that the State has put out:

<https://massachusetts250.org/events/>

Link to the Department Community Service award applications:

<https://masslegion.org/programs>



Americanism—DVC Chris Manning

A Warm Welcome Legionnaires as we start off into a new year, we have many opportunities to interact with our Communities albeit Flag ceremonies with our youth, Legion Baseball, Oratorical, Boys and Girl State to name a few of the Legion programs. We have so many resources and teams that continue to lead us in the right direction with all their tremendous efforts to reach our goals. We are always on the lookout for new team members for all of our programs. Take on a **NEW ROLE**, reach out to your District Commanders if you have an interest and time to devote to our cause.

I want to Thank all who have supported and mentored me as I start my new role as a Department Vice. I would like to be a proactive member of the team demonstrating the leadership required of me as I aim high to be a Department Commander in the future. I look forward to working with my fellow Legionnaires to keep our Communities in the forefront because **“It’s What We Do”!**



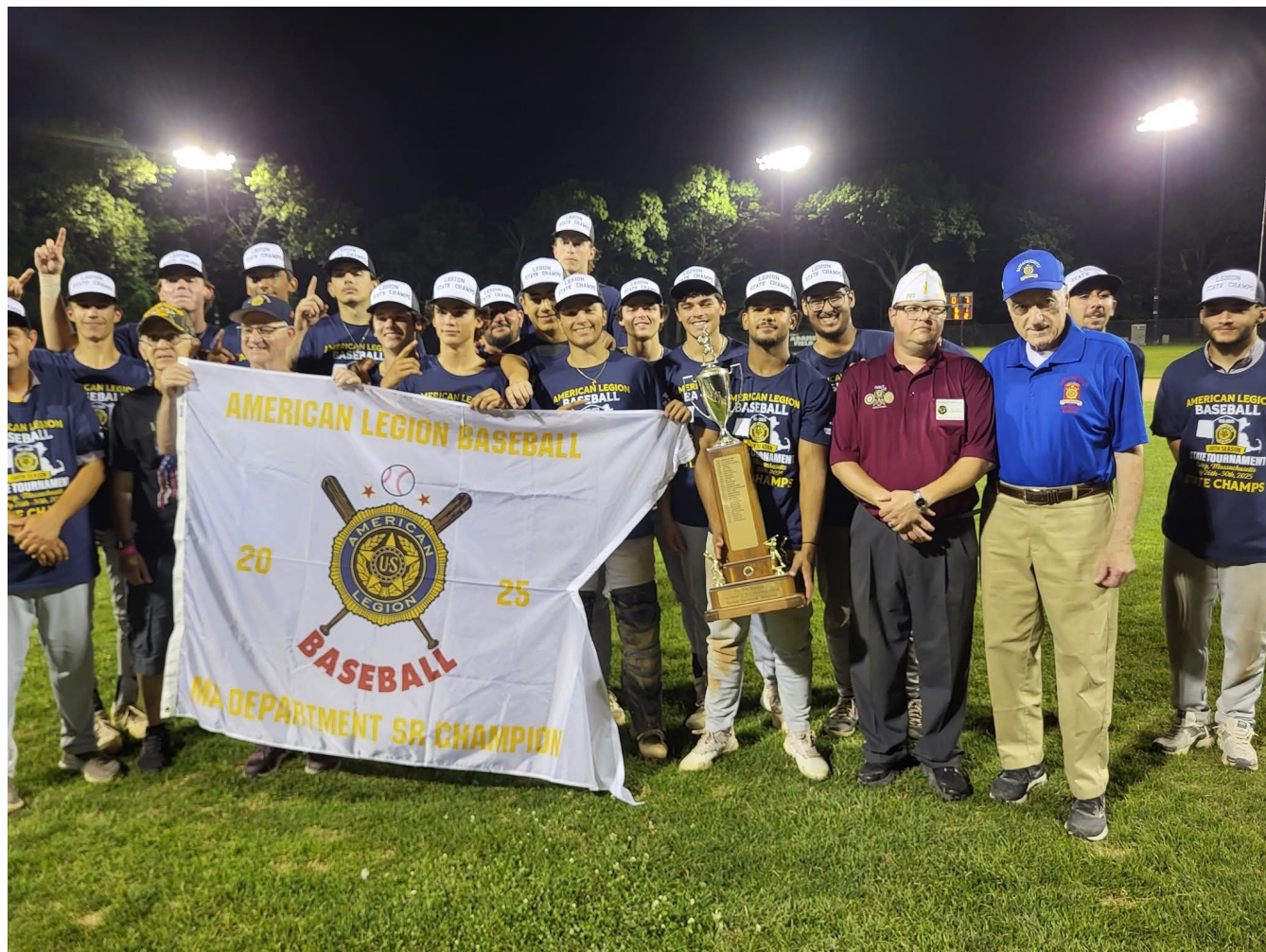
Flag Raising with 2nd Graders



Morrisette Post 294 Family Honor Guard Presents the Colors



Mayor Tom Koch, Morrisette Post Coach Steve and Baseball Chairman Dick Paster recognize Quincy and Morrisette for hosting the 2025 State Tournament.



Fall River Post 464, The American Legion Senior Vice Commander Robert Guinen and Legionnaire Bob Silvia (holding the left corner of the banner), Department Senior Vice Commander Robert Jerden (in maroon shirt) and Dept of MA American Legion baseball Chairman Dick Pasteur (in royal blue shirt) congratulate Fall River Post 464 Maplewood (Senior Division) Baseball team as they celebrate their State Champ title at Adams Field in Quincy MA, July 30, 2025.





Webster-Dudley Post 184 takes home the title with an 8-0 win over Oxford Post 58 in last night's 2025 Massachusetts American Legion Softball State Championship Game!

After an incredible season and a dominant playoff run, Webster-Dudley closes it out in style. This championship marks the end of our first-ever state playoffs and the perfect finish to our 2nd year of Massachusetts American Legion Softball.

From day one, this league was built to give young women across Massachusetts a new opportunity to grow, lead, compete, and carry on the mission of the American Legion, and this season proved just how powerful that vision is.

Congratulations to all the teams, coaches, families, umpires, and volunteers who made this season one to remember. We're just getting started, and we can't wait to see what the future holds as we continue to grow this league across the state.



IMPROVING ACCESS TO COMMUNITY CARE

Legislative Point Paper



PROBLEM:

- Access to community care is essential for veterans, particularly those living in rural areas. An estimated **5 million veterans reside in rural communities**, with approximately 58% of them enrolled in VA healthcare compared to 41% of urban veterans, underscoring the need for accessible healthcare options.
- VA's **community care costs have risen dramatically** since the passage of the MISSION Act, with over \$150 billion spent on community care providers since 2015.
- Community care providers are struggling to meet training requirements and established VA policy when prescribing potentially harmful medications like opioids and benzodiazepines.
- Billing and reimbursement have historically been pain points for community care. **Delays in payment to community providers** discourage partnerships with the VA.

KEY POINTS:

- Rural veterans depend on VA healthcare more than other veterans, and struggle with access to specialty care as well as transportation to routine and specialty care.
- The VA's community care costs have risen dramatically since the passage of the Mission Act.
- Community care providers are struggling to meet training requirements and established VA policy when prescribing potentially harmful medications like opioids and benzodiazepines.

WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO:

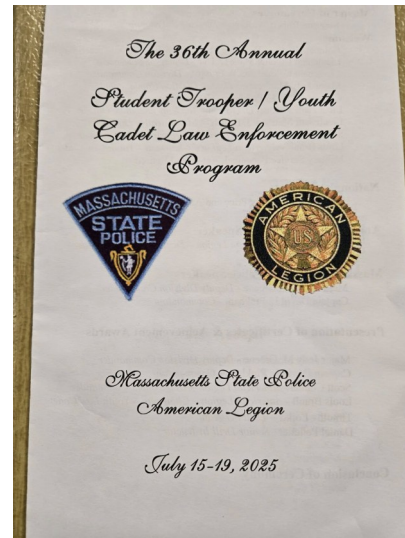
1. Hold the Office of Community Care accountable for the continuity of veteran care by increasing oversight to ensure training requirements are met and guidelines for prescribing potentially dangerous drugs followed appropriately.
2. Improve communication and transparency between VA providers, CCN providers, and veterans.
3. Pass S. 275/ HR. 740, the ACCESS Act, co-led by Senator Moran and Representative Bost.

58%

OF VA-ENROLLED VETERANS WHO LIVE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT LEGION.ORG/ADVOCACY





Saturday 7/19 final day at Youth Law Cadet with graduation. 68 student troopers led by the two mounted Troopers marched down the street and into the gym (without the horses of course) packed full with family, friends and Legionnaires. Two troopers each received a \$500 scholarship from the Dept of Mass, Kaiden Burgos and Ana Carolina Machado. All received a certificate and coin and many new found skills and a sense of accomplishment! What a great Legion program with the Mass State Police Academy!





Employment Award Winners Announced



The awards, selected by the Veterans Employment & Education Commission, will be officially presented at the national convention in August.

The Veterans Employment & Education Commission has announced this year's VE&E national awards. The official presentation will take place during the 106th National Convention, in Tampa, Fla.,

Aug. 22-28.

Award winners are:

Small Employer (1-50 employees): Camouflage LLC DBA CamoVets, Barnegat, N.J.

Medium Employer (51-200 employees): Oakhurst Dairy, Portland, Maine

Large Employer (200-plus employees): *JB Hunt Transport Services Inc., Massachusetts*

Employer of Older Workers: Defense Consulting Services, San Antonio, Tex.

Local Veteran Employment Representative (LVER) of the Year: Brian L. Seiffert, San Antonio, Tex.

Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP) of the Year: Maria Lindsey, San Antonio, Tex.

Employment Service Local Office of the Year: Redbird Workforce American Job Center, Dallas, Tex.

Enhance the Lives of the Disabled: St. Vincent DePaul Rehabilitation Service of Texas Inc. DBA Peak Performers, Austin, Tex.



Marketing

Greetings American Legion Family. I hope this edition finds you all in good health and enjoying the summer. The beginning of The American Legion Year also brings us a new marketing year. Our first marketing-fundraising campaign, as always, is our traditional address label program which you should have received in the mail by now. Please, consider a donation as funds raised from this endeavor are specifically earmarked for Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and help with such costs as providing canteen books for veterans at VA Hospitals.

We have other marketing plans in the works for the year including our continued partnership with The Springfield Thunderbirds of The American Hockey League as well as online and traditional raffles which will come at later dates.

As always, if you have any ideas, please bring them to the committee's attention. Thank you in advance for your continued support and dedication to our great organization.

Mike Davis PNEC
Marketing Chairman



Another hectic Summer with time flying by quickly. August is busy as usual on the Legion calendar with several events. Starting on the 8th is the National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis, IN. Additionally, August 6th through the 10th, The American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament will be held in Shrewsbury, MA. On the 14th The American Legion World Series begins in Shelby, NC. The championship game will be held on Tuesday, the 20th at 7pm. Games will be streamed live on ESPN3, with both the semi-finals and championship games (Monday & Tuesday) on ESPNU.

Even though it feels like we were just at the Department Convention in Marlborough, MA. In just a few weeks schools will be open again and many of us will be attending the National American Legion Convention in Tampa, FL. For those not attending, the general sessions will be available on the web at www.legion.org. I encourage you to view the convention. Prior to the general sessions, national committees will be meeting. The individual chairpersons then report on the meetings at various times during the general sessions. A new National Commander and 5 National Commanders will be elected as well as various resolutions passed. There is always a great number of impressive speakers. All this makes for a dynamic month!

Next will be Labor Day and we are all off to attend local meetings!

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

John Lenotte, Alternate National Executive Committeeman Department of MA; Past MA Department Commander. I may be reached at jplenotte@gmail.com



Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth meets with the senators



Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth speaks to students from the American Legion Boys Nation at the Pentagon. (DoD photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Madelyn Keech)

Wednesday's American Legion Boys Nation schedule included the longest scheduled offsite visits, with the senators spending more than nine hours at various stops in the Arlington area.

The bulk of that time was spent at the Pentagon, where the senators were given a tour of the second-largest office building in the world and the headquarters for the U.S. Department of Defense.

Toward the end of the tour, all of the senators took their seats in the Hall of Heroes, a room dedicated to honoring Medal of Honor recipients. And at a little after 4 p.m. they delivered a collective gasp when they realized who had walked into the room: Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.

None of the senators had been given any clue that their guest speaker would be the man in charge of the Department of Defense. Hegseth spoke for around 15 minutes and then spent the next 30 minutes being peppered with questions from the senators before receiving a standing ovation from his audience that was similar to his reception when he entered the room.

"I want you to know how motivating it is to us to see this kind of enthusiasm and commitment to serve," Hegseth told the senators. "While we're in the business here in the Pentagon of wearing uniforms and making sure we're as strong and ready as possible to defend the United States of America, I know ... the precursor to that job is ensuring we have young people who understand what a special country we live in. The United States of America is the exception to the rule in human history."

A member of American Legion Post 225 in Forest Lake, Minn., since 2005, Hegseth said the United States provides opportunities for its citizens not seen in other nations.

"Most men and women who've grown up, grew up under autocrats or kings or dictators or command-and-control economies didn't grow up with the kind of opportunities and freedom that we have in this country, where anybody from any background, regardless of where you grow up, it doesn't matter," he said. "You have an opportunity in America to achieve the American dream and succeed."

Hegseth said he hoped members of this year's Boys Nation would consider a career in service to others, which includes the military. "I'm a little biased in believing that military service is a pretty damn good route to go," he said. "It is about the purest manifestation of selflessness, of testing yourself and of giving back to your country. I hope you'll think about the Army, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, the Space Force, or the Navy, any one of them. They're all fantastic."

Hegseth said the senators in the room will have an important role to play in the nation's future.

"One of the missions I've appreciated of the American Legion for a long time is the mission of Americanism, of love of God and country, of fostering that spirit amongst the next generation," he said. "I'm looking out at an incredible group of young men here who have a chance to be a part of shaping that next generation."

"Thank you for taking the time to come to Washington and learn about our incredible country that is still leading the way for the world. And it's going to be your job when I'm long gone to continue to lead the way for us and keep us good and free and strong."

The tour prior to the time with Hegseth took each of the four Boys Nation sections along different routes that shared areas dedicated to all five branches of the federal armed forces. During its tour, the Jefferson Section was able to briefly meet with the highest-ranked enlisted servicemember in the U.S. military: David Isom, a former Navy SEAL and Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Isom spent a few minutes chatting with the senators about the Boys Nation program and then took a picture with the group.



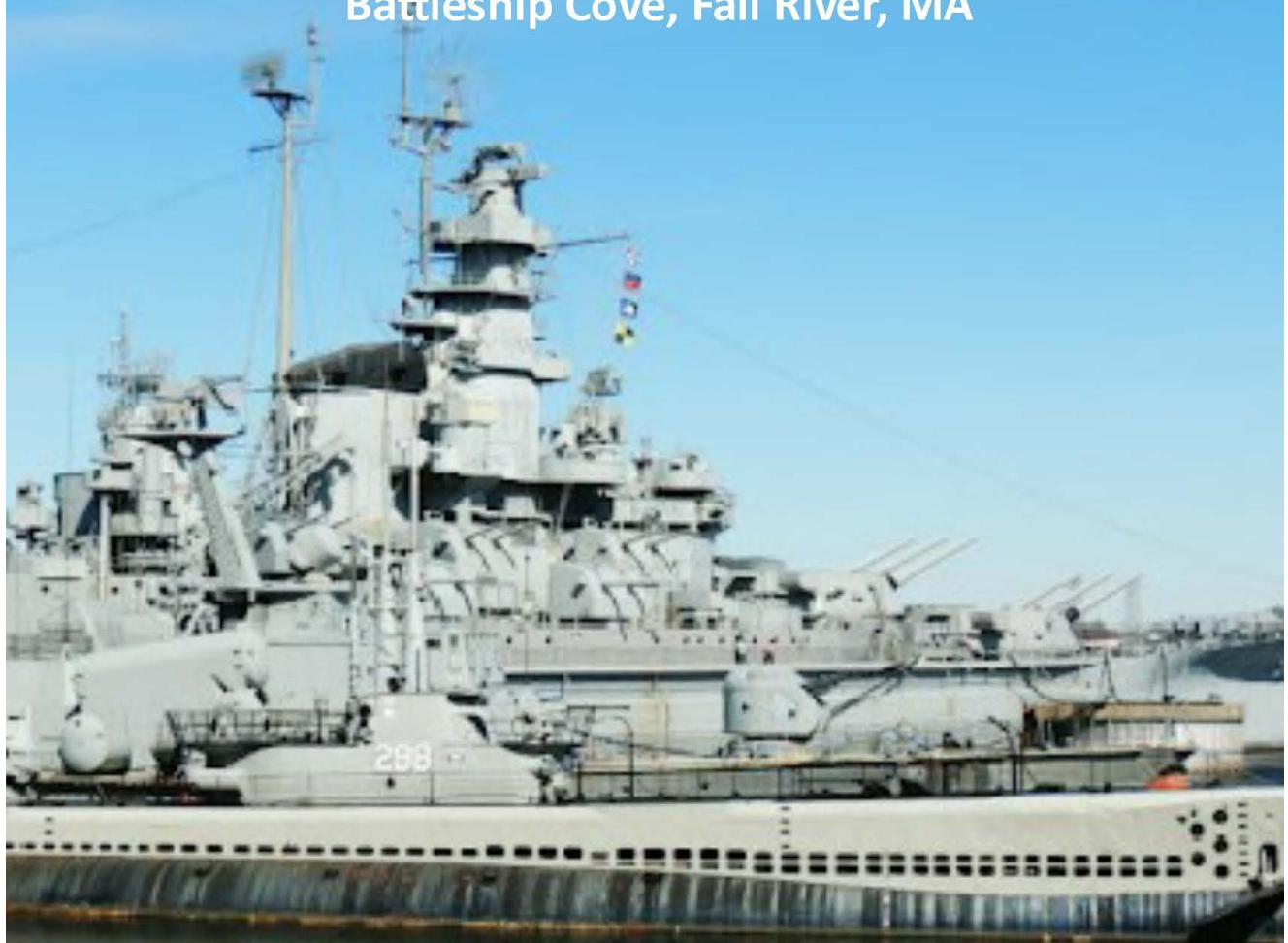


POW/MIA Ceremony



POW/MIA Ceremony

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

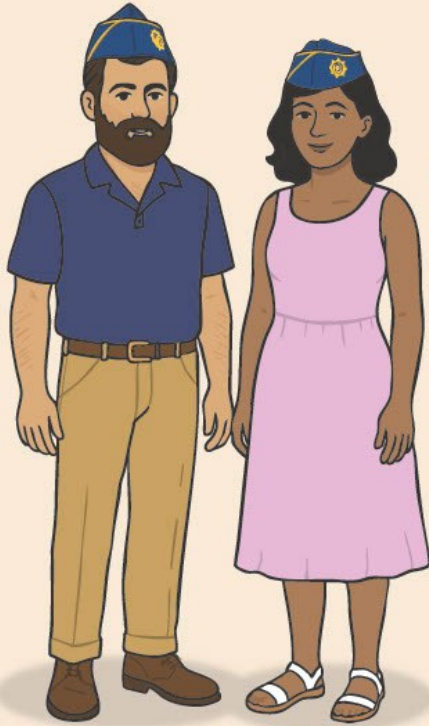


All are Welcome!
Collation served after ceremony at
American Legion Post 303
73 Ocean Grove Ave, Swansea, MA
Contact Ken Starks @781-708-7934 or
Tony Dias @ 508-369-4223



Commander's Banquet | What to Wear

Leave the tuxes and gowns at home. The dress code for this year's commander's banquet is "resort business casual." In practical terms this means collared shirts and khaki style pants with comfortable dress shoes for men and women with the addition of skirts, dresses, flats and sandals for women. No shorts or flip-flops.



UPGRADE YOUR ATTIRE

Get the official shirt for the 2025 National Commander's Banquet in Tampa, FL!

- Proceeds benefit American Legion programs, initiatives, & activities
- Order deadline July 22, 2025



For more information and to order your own scan the QR code.

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

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

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

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



Earlier this year, the [Veterans Day National Committee \(VDNC\)](#) called on professional and amateur artists to create picture perfect designs that reflect the theme of this year's Veterans Day observance. There were more than 180 entries from artists with varied backgrounds and levels of experience.

The votes are in and the winner of the

[2025 Veterans Day Poster Contest](#) is Jeremy D. Carpenter, whose creation "Unified by Service" reflects the 2025 Veterans Day theme "Service to Our Nation" by visually uniting all uniformed services under one flag and one purpose.

Carpenter is an Army Veteran living in Lowell, Arkansas, with his wife and son. Though not a professional artist, he turns to creative outlets like design, music and writing when inspiration strikes. For him, art is a way to reflect on experiences, express emotion and share meaning with others. He is grateful for the opportunity to contribute in this small way and hopes that his work can speak to others in ways that matter to them.

"Unified by Service" is "formal, structured and patriotic. It pays tribute to all Veterans regardless of when or where they served, and it emphasizes that service to the nation is not confined to one uniform, one battlefield or one generation. The eagle, flag, and seals work together to portray unity, honor and a continued commitment to freedom."

The Veterans Day [poster](#) will be displayed in VA facilities, military installations and municipal buildings across America. It will also serve as the cover of the official program for the Veterans Day commemoration at Arlington National Cemetery on November 11.

Thank you to all who used their creativity to show appreciation for our Veterans. We welcome you to enter the 2026 Veterans Day competition and we look forward to seeing your future artistic creations.





VA extends Caregiver Support Program eligibility for “Legacy” Veterans and their caregivers



Great news for Veteran families and caregivers. VA is extending eligibility for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) for certain Veterans through September of 2028. [Eligibility Press Release](#).

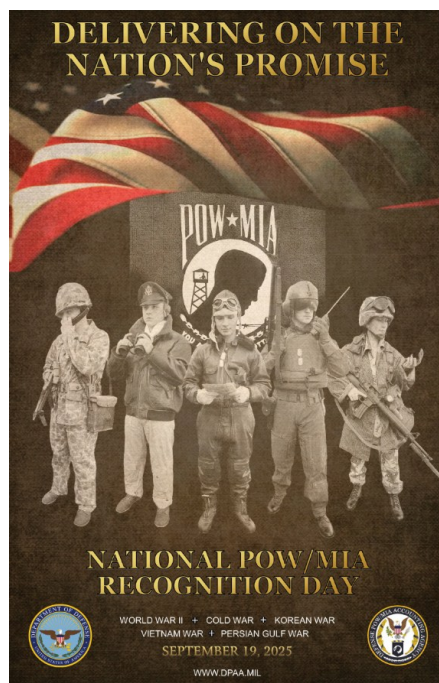
This means legacy participants, legacy applicants and their Family Caregivers remain eligible for another three years. Why does this matter? This extension provides continued access to support for approximately 15,000 dedicated caregivers—giving you more stability and peace of mind while caring for the Veteran in your life.

What PCAFC offers:

As part of VA’s Caregiver Support Program, PCAFC provides extra clinical support for family caregivers of eligible Veterans who were seriously injured in the line of duty. Program benefits include:

- Monthly stipends
- Education and training
- Respite care
- Mental health counseling
- Certain travel expenses
- Access to CHAMPVA (health care coverage for eligible caregivers)

To learn more about CSP, contact your [local team](#) or reach out to the Caregiver Support Line at 1-855-260-3274.





SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

To: **All Massachusetts Sons of The American Legion Squadrons**

From: **Mark McCue Detachment Finance Officer**

RE: **2025-2026 Detachment Commander's Charitable Project**

Fellow Sons of The American Legion members, I am honored to have been selected by our Detachment Commander Jesse Limanek to work with you this year to make the Commander's Charitable Project a success. Commander Limanek has chosen The American Legion Veteran and Children's Foundation as his charity.

The American Legion Veterans & Children's Foundation delivers needed aid for military and veteran parents who face unexpected financial hardships that threaten the stability of their homes. One-time Temporary Financial Assistance grants are used to cover housing, utilities, food and other basic needs for families with minor children at home. The American Legion Veterans & Children's Foundation also trains the organization's army of accredited service officers who at any one time are continuously working more than 750,000 benefits claims for disabled veterans and their families, free of charge.

Commander Limanek feels very strongly about the commitment we owe to our returning veterans, their families as well as the safety net the foundation provides. He is asking your squadron to join with him and your fellow Sons of The American Legion Squadrons from across Massachusetts in assisting to support the vital mission that The American Legion Veteran and Children's Foundation carries out.

How can your squadron support this year's project?

We are asking every Squadron to dedicate a weekend as the "Commanders Project Weekend". On this weekend hold a raffle, an event or events to raise money to help support our veterans and their families, through The American Legion Veterans and Children's Foundation. All squadrons that participate in this year's project will be recognized for their efforts at our Detachment Convention in Marlborough this June. The Squadron that makes the largest donation to the Commander's Project will be recognized and awarded the very prestigious Commander's Award, a travelling perpetual award that can be displayed at their Post during the 2026-2027 membership year and have your squadrons name and number engraved alongside the previous award recipients.

Please use the donation form that is enclosed. Additional forms can be found on our website salmass.org. The deadline for sending donations will be May 1, 2026. If you are planning an event and would like a representative of the Detachment to attend, please let me know.

Thank you for all you do to support our Veterans and their families. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Mark B McCue
Detachment of Massachusetts Finance Officer
878 Stafford St
Rochdale, MA 01542
508 328 0970
markbmccue@gmail.com



2025 ~ 2026

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
COMMANDER'S CHARITABLE PROJECT
AMERICAN LEGION VETERANS & CHILDREN
FOUNDATION
DONATION FORM

VCF

SQUADRON NAME:

SQUADRON #:

SQUADRON ADDRESS:

SQUADRON CONTACT:

E MAIL:

PHONE #:

DONATION AMOUNT: \$

DATE:

Please make all checks payable to:

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Mass.

Mail to:

Mark McCue

Detachment Finance Officer

878 Stafford Street

Rochdale, MA 01542

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR VETERANS AND
THEIR FAMILIES**



Testimonial Banquet in honor of Department President

SOFIA ELIZABETH BLAKE

Date: Sunday September 21, 2025
Time: Social time Noon Meal (All American BBQ) 1 PM
Place: American Legion Post 221 - Bedford
357 Great Road
Bedford, MA 01730

Donation \$40.00

Please make checks payable to:

ALA District 5 Middlesex County Council Inc.

Please mail checks to ticket Chair:

ROSEMARY TOWER
205 GREAT ROAD
STOW MA 01775

For additional tickets contact your District Director

RSVP BY: September 6, 2025

AD BOOK



TESTIMONIAL HONORING DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT SOFIA ELIZABETH BLAKE SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Advertising rates for President's Book **PLEASE CHECK AD SIZE DESIRED**

FULL PAGE	\$60.00	(APPROX 7 1/2 x 5)	\$ _____
HALF PAGE	\$40.00	(APPROX 3 1/2 x 5)	\$ _____
QUARTER PAGE	\$25.00	(APPROX. 1 1/2 x 5)	\$ _____

MICROSOFT WORD FORMAT **DUE BY SEPTEMBER 13, 2025**

Email Ads to MOEBDL@aol.com

Please mail checks for cost of Ad to Maureen Cragen
57 Houston Road
West Springfield, MA 01089

Make checks payable to Sofia Blake and earmark as Ad book
VENMO – please put in remarks.- ad book





Around the Department— President’s Banquet

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT
SOFIA ELIZABRTH BLAKE
SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

BOOSTER SHEET
DUE SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

UNIT # _____ POST # _____ SQUADRON # _____ ALR # _____
\$1.00 per person \$2.00 per Mr. & Mrs.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY - NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MIS-SPELLINGS

♥	♥
1. _____	16. _____
2. _____	17. _____
3. _____	18. _____
4. _____	19. _____
5. _____	20. _____
6. _____	21. _____
7. _____	22. _____
8. _____	23. _____
9. _____	24. _____
10. _____	25. _____
11. _____	26. _____
12. _____	27. _____
13. _____	28. _____
14. _____	29. _____
15. _____	30. _____

Mail to Maureen Cragen
57 Houston Rd.
West Springfield, MA 01089

Checks made payable to:
Sofia Blake



Email – MOEBDL@aol.com



Kathy Welch with the flag honoring PDC Bill



PDP Donna Blattenberger and Kathy Welch with the one in memory of the Veterans from Chelsea Soldiers Home.



District 8 and Post 8 Commander
Peter Whitman, USMC



From left to right in picture Commander George Bouchard Morrisette Post #294 Joe O'hara Operation Homefront Director, Kristen Paluzzi President Lincoln Hancock Elementary P.T.C & Kai Lee President Southwest Middle

The Morrisette Post and Southwest Middle School along with Lincon Hancock School teamed up to Donate to Veterans coming home from deployment. All three donated money to help with purchasing bed sheets and comforters to the soldiers as they arrive at Fort Drum in Watertown New York for their Debriefing after being overseas For Several Months. These linens and blankets will help make them feel like their home again, a small price to pay for someone protecting our nation. The sheets and blankets were needed for 200 beds while they are at Fort Drum says Coordinator Joe O'Hara of Operation Homefront located at 21 Frankin St Quincy which serves low-income Veterans and Military families. Operation Homefront is a 501 (c) 3 National non-profit Organization helping Veterans in need. Anyone interested in donating to this worthy cause or any Veteran cause may call Joe O'Hara at 617 -913-8120 or email him at joe.ohara@operationhomefront.org or stop by at 21 franklin Street Quincy Mass 02169





The members of Saugus Unit 210 sponsored a bingo at the Chelsea Soldiers Home on June 17th. Here they are with the recreation staff, our awesome volunteer Suzie, our new volunteer from Gloucester Unit 3, along with Kathy Welch and PDC Blattenburger. The strawberry shortcake was enjoyed by all.

Start Date	Time	Event	Location
8/6-8/10		Baseball Northeast Regional	College of the Holy Cross, Worcester MA
8/23-8/28		National Convention	Tampa, FL
9/7/2025	1:00 PM	POW/MIA Ceremony	Battleship Cove, Fall River MA
9/13/2025	10:00 AM	Finance, Membership, DEC	Baldwinville Post 373
9/21/2025	1:00 PM	Auxiliary Presidents Banquet	Beford Post 221


2026 Membership Standing *as of July, 2025*

	District	Goal	Current
1	BERKSHIRE	1195	289
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN/HAMPSHIRE	3422	944
4	WORCESTER	4432	1037
5	MIDDLESEX	3623	825
6	NORFOLK	2319	558
7	SUFFOLK	1142	349
8	ESSEX	2442	606
9	BRISTOL	2475	472
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3573	872
297	CAPITOL HILL	423	395
462	HEADQUARTERS	1689	203
	National Quota	26,576	6550

ALA Committee Facebook Groups are spaces on the social media network for ALA members to discuss or share about broad or narrow topics related to each committee. Groups provide an arena for organic discussion about your local programs or services and present the opportunity to cultivate brand awareness.

- [American Legion Auxiliary Historians](#) [ALA Public Relations](#) [ALA Community Service](#)
- [ALA Children & Youth](#) [ALA Education Program](#) [ALA Leadership Group](#)
- [ALA National Membership Group](#) [ALA Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation \(VA&R\)](#)
- [ALA National Legislative Group Page](#) [ALA National Security](#) [ALA Chaplains](#)
- [ALA Americanism'Pick Your Poppy'](#) [ALA Poppy Program](#)
- [AEF, American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund](#)



	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	190	201	105.79%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN HAMPSHIRE	670	624	93.13%
4	WORCESTER	1037	1050	101.25%
5	MIDDLESEX	940	936	99.57%
6	NORFOLK	337	354	105.04%
7	SUFFOLK	103	94	91.26%
8	ESSEX	612	625	102.12%
9	BRISTOL	268	264	98.51%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	765	749	97.91%
462	HEADQUARTERS	184	127	
	National Quota	5,106	5,024	98.39%

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION


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

A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion

THE MILLENNIUM

Volume 2 | Issue 7 | Number 1 | July 2025

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



We are only 3,091 members short of the 400,000 all-time membership goal!

Top Ten Detachments Membership Percentage

1. Oklahoma 114.12%
2. Latin America 112.50%
3. South Carolina 108.16%
4. South Dakota 107.96%
5. Mississippi 105.69%
6. Rhode Island 105.09%
7. Florida 105.04%
8. Idaho 103.33%
9. New Hampshire 103.15%
10. Virginia 102.96%

Statistics as of 30 June 2025


BE THE ONE

Inside YOUR SAL Newsletter this Month

USA 250
SAL 100: A Century of Serving
The Sons on Social Media: A snapshot of the SAL around the country
Iowa: Dehl post signs Sons of The American Legion charter
Member Training and Development Report, and the National Membership Workshop
The SAL at Boys State Around the Country
New Jersey: Their Children and Youth Academy and the 10 Ideals

Special to The Millennium—Mike Monsenud (IA), National Vice Commander

American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy of Arizona



ALLECA CLASS 2025

After attending the American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy of Arizona, I discovered a program that needs National attention. This is a program that is sponsored by the Department of Arizona American Legion and the Arizona Department of Public Safety State Troopers. A program that is open to 14- to 19-year-olds, which saw 46 young women and men graduating...the future of law enforcement and service in the military.


It's a program that has as director an SAL member, Matt Griggs of Arizona, who is also assisted by two other SAL members. This shows SAL leadership at work, proving that the Sons lead from the front. Cadets rise at 5am for a run, and then post the colors before heading to breakfast. After that, the days were filled with activities that included defensive tactics, DUI arrests, traffic stops, aluding, and many aspects of law enforcement that included visits from the SWAT team, EOD, and even the Arizona DPS helicopter landed for the cadets to explore.

It wasn't all exciting police work, as the cadets also learned how to make their beds, shine boots, shut off lights, and clean. They learned discipline, ethics, structure, and were pushed beyond their limits to become a better person for it. They began before 5am and most nights it was after 10pm before they were allowed to go to bed. I saw the cadets evolve and become a better version of themselves with more confidence each day.

With the ALLECA Class 2025 motto of "Train to Lead, Driven to Serve", I believe I was able to witness our future leaders being developed by the Arizona DPS and the Detachment of Arizona. The instructors came from varied law enforcement agencies throughout the state to help develop our young future leaders, which they all should be commended for. ALLECA Director and SAL National Sergeant-At-Arms Matt Griggs' motto was "Move with a Purpose" ... and I am here to tell you that by the end of the week, the cadets were doing just that.

ALLECA is a program of Americanism, and I encourage other detachments to look at developing a program that emphasizes the youth of our country. These are the ones who are going to come behind us and advocate for the veterans that served this nation.

After conversations with the cadets, I heard all the future aspirations of these young individuals.

 [Continued on Page 4 >>>](#)

A National Newsletter of the Sons of The American Legion

1

Go to Masslegion.org/newsletter for your copy

2025 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of July 18, 2025

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	228	227	99.56%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN / HAMPSHIRE	748	664	88.77%
4	WORCESTER	983	967	98.37%
5	MIDDLESEX	1256	1351	107.56%
6	NORFOLK	835	777	93.05%
7	SUFFOLK	196	178	90.81%
8	ESSEX	442	444	100.45%
9	BRISTOL	280	279	99.64%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	790	754	95.44%
	National Goal	5758	5597	97.20%




★ ★

Post 98
Saturday morning
Coffee break 

 **Veterans, Aux, and Potential Members**

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



★

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



Coffee Hour

Last Friday of the Month

09:00 - 12:00

 **Free**

American Legion North Adams

American Legion North Adams Post 125

FUNday !!!

4th Sunday of the Month

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





Post Events



Annual



American Legion Post 340

Chicken BBQ*

Saturday, Aug. 09, 2025

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

Winchendon American Legion Auxiliary Unit 193

Spaghetti Dinner

Back by popular demand

\$12 ea

September 11, 5-6:30pm

Winchendon American Legion Post 193
295 School St Winchendon, MA 01475

VERNON HILL AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 435 PRESENTS:

RIDE *Police Escorted*
For kids with cancer

In Memory of Stephen "Whispers" Dadah 12/31/65 - 5/30/24
Sunday, August 10, 2025

RIDE START: Walmart 25 Tobias Boland Way, Worcester, MA
Registration - 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM
Kickstands up - 11:30 AM

RIDE END: Vernon Hill American Legion Post 435
267 Providence St., Worcester, MA

Please bring a new unwrapped LEGO set
OR \$25 per rider \$15 per passenger

Riders and non-riders are welcome to join us after the ride at Vernon Hill American Legion Post 435, starting at 1:00 pm: Lunch will be hosted by Texas Roadhouse *\$10 non-riders
Plus music, raffles and 50/50.

For more information check out our Facebook page by going to
www.facebook.com/ALRPost435

Proceeds to Benefit:
UMass Memorial
Why Me & Sherry's House and
Notre Dame Healthcare PEDI PALS

Children's Medical Center
UMass Memorial Health
UMASS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

WATER NAME HEALTH CARE
PEDI PALS

American Legion Post 327 Hosts **2025 Veterans Golf Tourney**

Saturday, September 20 - 1130-6 pm

Norwood Country Club

(lunch/snack 1130-130pm, golf 1130-5pm, dinner 4-6pm)
\$125. Per person (cart, golf, snack, and dinner plus prize raffle)

HOLE IN ONE ON #7 \$15,000

All par 3's have prizes

-Raffle for prizes during dinner

-Closest to Pins prizes

Golfers/Donations/Sponsors welcomed

DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTABLE (vet charity org: 501(c) 19)

Proceeds benefit injured/ill/needy veterans

Info: Contact George Rollins call 703-209-2124
Post Commander AL Post 327

Make Checks to: AL Post 327

Send to: COL (ret) George Rollins

15 Kelley Road

Wilmington MA 01887

Golfer: _____

Golfer: _____

Golfer: _____

Golfer: _____

Hole Sponsor: _____

(\$100 hole/ \$50 half-hole)

Donation: _____

• NOTE: Two years ago we had a hole in one on #8 (\$500 credit card)



Post Events



Project New Hope INC.
Where Veterans Rebuild With Honor

Veterans' Farmers Market

Fresh fruit and vegetables provided for Veterans and their Families.

Worcester VA Clinic
403 Belmont St
Worcester, MA 01604
1st and 3rd Fridays
11:00 am - 1:00 pm





www.projectnewhopema.org



Post 397 Shrewsbury
American Legion Baseball
Northeast Regional
Fundraiser



Drawing on
August 8th



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

Tickets are one for \$5 or three for \$10.
For more information, contact Post 397
post397ma@gmail.com



MEDIC NOW FOUNDATION, INC. PRESENTS

2025 SALUTE TO SERVICE CELEBRATION

OCT 25, 2025

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT U.S. MILITARY VETERANS
Honor. Celebrate. Give Back.
Because our heroes deserve nothing less.

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ALL-AMERICAN
Freedom Concert
Featuring the American Bombshells

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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 guidelines 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 embedded 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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