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Special to *The Millennium*: Joseph Navarrete (NM), National Commander

Together we are Making a Difference

Our recent National Executive Committee meeting highlighted several exciting milestones for our organization. Membership continues to grow, reflecting strong engagement. We are nearing a historic milestone in membership ... 400,000 members. This achievement reflects the dedication and passion of our community, and it signals the growing impact of our mission. With continued support and engagement, we are on the verge of making history together for another year in a row. We were also proud to report that donations supporting our programs exceeded \$75,000 in a single weekend - a remarkable show of generosity that will directly impact our mission. Additionally, we reaffirmed our commitment to training and development, ensuring that our members are equipped to lead and serve effectively.



Facebook Photo: American Legion Lenoir Post 29—National Oratorical Competition

I recently had the profound privilege of participating in two events that deeply reflect the values of service, sacrifice, and patriotism. As a judge for the American Legion National Oratorical Contest, I witnessed the inspiring voices of young Americans speaking passionately about the U.S. Constitution and the responsibilities of citizenship. Serving as a judge for the American Legion National Oratorical Contest was an inspiring experience. The contestants delivered thoughtful, passionate speeches about the Constitution and the core principles of American democracy. Their insight, preparation, and conviction reminded me that the future of our nation is in capable hands. It was an honor to support these young leaders as they carried forward the legacy of civic duty and public service.

I also had the honor of laying a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a solemn act of remembrance for those who gave their lives, and a tribute to those who returned home without the recognition or respect they deserved. Laying a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day was a deeply humbling experience. It was an opportunity to honor the courage and sacrifice of those who served, especially the men and women whose names are etched on the Wall. This moment also served as a powerful reminder of the injustices many Vietnam veterans faced upon returning home. We remember not only their service, but the strength they carried through times of both war and neglect. Honoring our heritage means acknowledging all aspects of that service, especially the sacrifices that went unrecognized for far too long.



Facebook Photo: Memorial Day at The Vietnam Wall

As we look ahead, preparations are well underway for our upcoming conventions—important opportunities to come together, share ideas, and strengthen our commitment to the values we uphold. With continued unity and dedication, we will build on our momentum and ensure lasting support for our mission. **Together, we are making a meaningful difference.**



Top Ten Detachments Membership Percentage

1. **Latin America** 112.50%
2. **Oklahoma** 106.68%
3. **South Carolina** 106.29%
4. **South Dakota** 105.49%
5. **Mississippi** 104.05%
6. **Florida** 103.45%
7. **Rhode Island** 103.22%
8. **Idaho** 101.81%
9. **New Hampshire** 101.55%
10. **Hawaii** 100.75%

Statistics as of 05 June 2025

BE THE ONE

Inside *YOUR* SAL Newsletter this Month

A Look at Memorial Day Weekend

Editorial: “*Memorial Day and America 250.*”

Florida: Post Family helps Post 158 rebuild after 2024 Hurricanes

National PMCC: Snapshots of Service Awards submissions

Newshound: Our Young Sons

Utah: Sons “rescue” flags so that they can be honorably retired

National Convention Preview

New Jersey: Cookies for Vets





**Russell "Rusty" Myers III (NJ),
Editor, "The Millennium"**

**From Memorial Day to
"America 250"**

To quote President Abraham Lincoln, *"we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."*

Much of this month's newsletter highlights President Lincoln's sentiments about what would become Memorial Day. Sons could be seen handing out poppies, placing flags, being part of parades and BBQ's, and hosting events which honored our fallen heroes.

That is one of the "Four Pillars" after all - **Americanism**. We stand here as "male descendants of veterans of all wars" making a solemn pledge to "safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy."

You see, the preamble we read at every official event isn't just something we're supposed to do as a part of a script on how to run a meeting, it outlines each and every reason why we as Sons of The American Legion exist.

We just completed a month of honoring serviceman past and present, and now moving into June and July we focus on that pillar of Americanism and the words in that preamble. Once we move past Independence Day on the 4th of July, we become an amazing part of American history ... **"America250."**

What an incredible time to be alive—to see the 250th birthday of this nation!

04 July 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and the birth of a nation. An opening of sorts of the America 250 celebration began in April. Per National Headquarters, "Two Lights for Tomorrow call[ed] for the display of two lights on the evening of April 18 ... commemorate[ing] the night of April 18, 1775, in Boston when silversmith Paul Revere rode to Lexington, Mass., warning minutemen and households about the approach of British forces."

So over the next few months—perhaps starting with Flag Day on 14 June, we can all start planning on how to celebrate this amazing milestone in our collective history. Stay tuned to *The Millennium* for more!



**Mike Monserud (IA), National Vice
Commander Midwest**

Everyday is Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a day that many say is celebrated only once a year, but I say it differently. Every time I put my cover on it is Memorial Day for me. I remember the stories my grandfather used to tell me and how important it was to make sure that veterans are taken care of because if we do not do it as an American Legion Family, then who will.

We all wear an SAL cover because of someone else who took an oath to defend our country and would give their life to do so. So, when I put on my cover I am reminded of my grandfather and his service to this great country. They deployed to places that many never heard of and for some, it would be the last place they ever saw. So we owe it to them to always remember them and celebrate their memory everyday as it is Memorial Day.

From the trenches of France to the beaches of Normandy, to the Battle of the Bulge, to Guadalcanal, to the sands of Iwo Jima, to the "Frozen Chosin" of Korea, to the jungles of Vietnam, and to the desert of the Middle East, and mountains of Afghanistan, we don't know them all, but we do owe them all. That is why we are "Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage" as "male descendants of all the wars." We must carry on their memory, and continue to serve our veterans. If not us then who, and if not now, then when ... so wear that cover proudly, tell your veteran's story, and honor them everyday as if it was Memorial Day.



Editor's Photo: Some of the 7,500 flags honoring our veterans at Glendale Cemetery in Bloomfield, NJ

THE MILLENNIUM

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All information must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon the twentieth of each month and must be made electronically by emailing the editor at rusty.myers@ymail.com

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**Anticipated Millennium
Distribution Schedule in the
Digital Newsletter email:**

- 09 July 2025**
- 13 August 2025**
- 10 September 2025**
- 08 October 2025**
- 12 November 2025**
- 10 December 2025**

Also, get the newsletter on Facebook a few hours after it's released:

[www.facebook.com/
SALMillennium/](http://www.facebook.com/SALMillennium/)



Memorial Day

Over Memorial Day Weekend, we as a Legion Family honored the service and sacrifice of a nation. This month's *Millennium* showcases the Sons of The American Legion's commitment to honoring the memory of the fallen ... being "Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage."



Facebook Photo: Squadron 43 (Brownsville, TX) honoring our departed veterans with flags



Facebook Photo: Squadron 605 (Dallastown, PA) handing out candy and American Flags to spectators at their town's parade

Tag Your Photos #SALSTRONG



Facebook Photos: The Sons of Essex County, NJ at their town's Memorial Day events. Squadron 70 (Nutley, NJ) at right, and Squadron 140 (Millburn, NJ), left—the recently reactivated SAL 140 started out by spearheading an effort to put the "Hometown Heroes" banners around town.



Facebook Photo: Squadron 55 (Buena Vista, CO) preparing flags along the street for their parade



Facebook Photo: The Sons of Squadron 46 (Chambersburg, PA) on Memorial Day



David L. Kaput, American Legion Post 42 (Evanston, IL)

Memorial Day Rifle Team

Evanston, IL Post 42 held its 2025 Memorial Day ceremony to remember and honor its citizen-soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for our great nation. In addition to recognizing veterans in attendance, the Post 42 Rifle Team offered a salute before the playing of Taps and a closing invocation.



The Rifle Team members are from left to right in photos: Joe Jefferson (team leader), John Powers, David Kaput (team administrator), David Madison (Post 42 SAL Commander), and, not shown, Ian Darbyshire (team armorer).

The Rifle Team joins the Evanston, IL Post 42 annual remembrance ceremonies on Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day. They fire WWI-era M1 Garand rifles, using .30-06 Springfield blank cartridges in en-bloc clips. During the year, the Rifle Team holds safety and practice sessions, meets for planning and camaraderie, and invites anyone interested in learning more to contact David Kaput at DKaput2000@gmail.com. No experience is required, but a dedication to remembering and honoring our fallen citizen-soldiers through commitment to team participation is necessary.

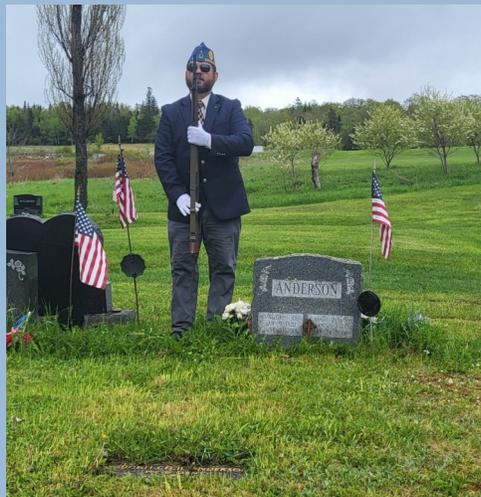


Submitted Photo: Post 42

Memorial Day Photos from Across the Detachments



Facebook: Squadron 170 (Utica, SD) placing flags



Facebook: Squadron 2 (Stockton, ME)



Facebook: The Post 260 Family (Attica, OH)



“Spotted by a Son”

In April’s “Spotted by a Son”, we asked if you could find the “Battlefield Cross”. It was in the COTA Article, on Page 2...

The newsletter email went out on Wednesday 14 May at 10:04am, and by 11:00am we had a winner...

Shawn Morecraft Squadron 90, Marshall, IL



Submitted Photo: Shawn Morecraft (IL)

Morecraft has been Sergeant-at-Arms for his squadron, and currently sits as Junior Vice Commander of the 18th District in the 4th Division. He’s been a member for four years, and is eligible for membership through both his grandfather Robert D. Morecraft Sr., a WWII vet, and his father Robert D. Morecraft Jr., a Vietnam veteran.

Make sure that you keep an eye out on the last page of The Millennium each month for the “Spotted by a Son” graphic hidden within the newsletter. But be quick in writing the editor—the first email wins!



Facebook: The Post 502 Family (Castana, IA)



Memorial Day



SAL Detachment of Vermont Commander Brian Massey Jr. placing flags



The Sons of Post 624 (Heyworth, IL) at their Memorial Day Program at their Post



Squadron 609 (Hanover, MD) helping hand out poppies over the weekend



Squadron 2 (Dover, DE) placing a wreath



Mason Bryant of Squadron 17 (Lovington, VA) waits reverently at Trinity Episcopal Church as Memorial Day services are conducted



The Post 724 (Brunsville, IA) colorguard with SAL bugler



Squadron 169 (Oneida, NY)'s new SAL Colorguard



Hope Mills, NC Squadron 32's Commander Patrick and Adjutant John Cook participated in Rolling Thunder's opening ceremony at Segra Stadium



The American Legion Post 133 (Philadelphia, PA) Family Colorguard marching in the Bridesburg parade



April Brown Eaton Photo: Newly installed Massachusetts Detachment Commander Jesse Limanek



Squadron Cmdr Bill Murson (MD-109) speaking on Memorial Day



Honor Guard at the Delaware Valley Veterans Home in Pennsylvania, comprised from two Legion post families and one VFW



**Anthony Wright (PA),
National Adjutant**

Your CSR is important

Each year, Sons of The American Legion squadrons around the world dedicate countless hours to service, fundraising, and positively impacting the lives of veterans, their families, and children. These efforts are a vital part of our mission, and deserve to be recognized and celebrated. To ensure that every hour of service and every achievement is properly acknowledged, it is essential that all squadrons, districts, and detachments accurately and thoroughly complete the Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) form. This report is more than just a summary—it is a vital record of the dedication, hard work, and commitment of our members. Beyond serving as a historical record, the CSR plays a key role in determining eligibility for awards presented at the National Convention. By carefully documenting all activities and accomplishments, squadrons can significantly increase their chances of receiving national recognition for their outstanding contributions. Let's make sure that every effort is counted. Submit a complete and detailed Consolidated Squadron Report and help

shine a light on the incredible impact our members make each year.

**Excerpts taken from Jeff Buschermann's
gofundme.org Campaign**

**Florida Post Family helps Post 158
rebuild after 2024 Hurricanes**

American Legion Post 158, a steadfast refuge for veterans and a vibrant gathering place for the Treasure Island, FL community, had suffered devastating damage from Hurricanes Helene and Milton in 2024. These storms had left this historic post in disrepair, erasing decades of cherished memories and disrupting the vital support provided to veterans and their families.



Facebook Photo: Post 158

Thanks to early efforts, they completed the removal of damaged materials, including the entire floor. Over the past few months, they embarked on the next stage: working with a contractor to develop detailed reconstruction plans, securing city approval, and navigating all permit requirements. This crucial step will lay the foundation for rebuilding Post 158 stronger than ever.

The Legion Family of Post 305 of Saint Pete Beach, FL ran a fundraiser and BBQ to help rebuild 158—bringing to life our commitment to mutual helpfulness.

**To donate via the gofundme campaign,
[click here.](#)**



Photos from the Detachment of Florida

CONSOLIDATED SQUADRON REPORTS

THE CONSOLIDATED SQUADRON REPORT (CSR) IS PERHAPS THE MOST CRITICAL DOCUMENT A SQUADRON CAN COMPLETE. CSR INFORMATION IS COMBINED WITH OTHER SQUADRONS IN CREATING A FINAL REPORT USED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION, FORWARDED TO THE U.S. CONGRESS, AND USED TO APPLY AND VERIFY AWARDS AT NATIONAL CONVENTION.

NOT ALL SQUADRONS PARTICIPATE IN EVERY PROGRAM; LEAVE THOSE FIELDS BLANK. THE KEY IS TO REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES YOUR SQUADRON PARTICIPATED IN FROM JUNE 1ST TO MAY 31ST.

ALL DETACHMENT/DISTRICT/SQUADRON DONATIONS AND ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE REPORTED INDIVIDUALLY TO YOUR DETACHMENT ADJUTANT. THE CSR WILL REQUIRE INPUTS, SUCH AS THE NUMBER OF VETERAN HOMES VISITED OR VOLUNTEER HOURS CONTRIBUTED TO A PARTICULAR PROGRAM. OTHER PROGRAMS, SUCH AS THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND (NEF), ENTER THE NUMBER OF DOLLARS DONATED OR SPENT IN WHOLE NUMBERS.

IT IS PREFERRED CSR'S ARE FILLED OUT AND SUBMITTED ONLINE VIA MYLEGION.ORG. SQUADRON ADJUTANTS AND COMMANDERS HAVE ACCESS TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE ENTIRE FORM. CSRS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT LEGION.ORG/PUBLICATIONS AND LEGION.ORG/SONS/PUBLICATIONS.

PLEASE PRINT OUT THE FORM AND COMPLETE EACH PAGE BY HAND. MAKE SURE IT IS LEGIBLE AND MAIL TO THE DETACHMENT AND RETAIN A COPY FOR THE SQUADRON'S RECORDS. CHECK WITH YOUR DETACHMENT FOR THEIR DEADLINE DATE; IT MAY BE DIFFERENT THAN THE NATIONAL DEADLINE.

DETACHMENTS AND DISTRICTS SHOULD FORWARD A COPY BY SCANNING AND EMAILING THEIR CSRS TO CPRANDCSRFORMS@LEGION.ORG OR BY USPS TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED.

**FORMS CAN BE FOUND AT LEGION.ORG/SONS
(PUBLICATIONS & FORMS)**





**Kevin Chaplin (VA), Chairman,
PMCC**

Snapshots of Service Awards

There are new deadlines for the national media contests, Snapshots of Service and Videos of Service. At the Spring NEC May 3rd to May 4th, two resolutions passed regarding the two contests, Snapshots of Service and Videos of Service. The new deadline for each is now June 30th of each year effective June 30th, 2025. The contests now run from July 1st to June 30th. This change was needed to allow National Staff time to get awards ordered and delivered in time for the National Convention. As you read this article, you will only have a few weeks left to get your submissions in.



Millennium Photo: Last year's Americanism Snapshots of Service Winner from Squadron 279 in Kansas

Snapshots of Service photos must represent one of the Four Pillars: Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Your photos need to be submitted in digital JPG or TIF format. Submissions also will become the property of the SAL; must not have a right of restriction; must contain Sons with their covers or identifiable clothing on during the activity or event and a brief history of the event. Entries must be submitted from a squadron, and submissions must be from the current time period. Please remember only 3 photos per submission, you can make as many submissions as you want. First and second place will be awarded in each category during the National Convention. Don't forget to include your signed model release forms.

Videos of Service is our newest contest to bring awareness to the public about The Sons of The American Legion using social media platforms. This is also open to all members of The Sons of The American Legion and though it's similar to the Snapshots of Service this contest uses published social media content and a link must be submitted along with the contest form. The videos must contain the

SAL member or members with their covers or branded identifiable clothing on during the activity or event and fall under one of three categories: Program support, Community engagement or Membership and Recruitment. Plaques will be awarded during the National Convention to the 1st and 2nd place winners in each of the three categories for a total of six (6) awards.

Submission forms can be found on the national website under Publications and Forms.

<https://www.legion.org/about/american-legion-family/sons-of-the-american-legion/publications-and-forms>



**Harl "Butch" Ray (IL), National
Vice Commander Central**

Butch's Bullet Points

"That road to V-E Day was hard and long and traveled by weary and valiant men. And history will always record where that road began. It began here, with the first footprints on the beaches of Normandy." — President George Bush, on the 60th Anniversary of D-Day

My fellow Sons!

Have you looked at your 2025 calendars yet?? 2024 is a distant memory and we are now 1/3 of our way through 2025! Time certainly does fly!

So here we are at the very start of the month of June 2025! This month can mean many things to many people. The official start of summer now that most school years have been completed. The flowers, fruits and vegetables in our yards and gardens are taking shape. Most of the Spring rains are over with and we can now head to pools and beaches and work on our summer tans (Farmer or otherwise!)

Eighty-one years ago, the month of June had a completely different meaning. On that day, the combined forces of the Allied command of World War II opened and walked through the door of what Hitler called "Fortress Europe!" It was a costly visit!

It is estimated that over 10,000 troops were either killed, wounded or turned up missing in a single day. Freedom is NEVER free! Please pause again, just as we all did a couple of short weeks ago on Memorial Day, to remember the true cost of our liberties

and of those service men and women that gave the last full measure of devotion and sacrificed their lives so that we may enjoy the lives we have.

"The trouble is, you think you have time!" - Buddha

In thirty short days it will be July! So why is that important? July 1st is the official start of the 2025-2026 membership year for the entire American Legion Family. The bad news is that time flies. The good news is that we are the pilots!

So start today and collect the membership dues for the new administrative year. Imagine what it would feel like if your Squadron and/or District was at 100% in membership by October 31st! Wouldn't that be GREAT! That would give each of us 8 months to sign up new members and reach another milestone for the Sons of The American Legion!

What an honor it would be to the individual you received your eligibility to join the SAL from by reaching 100% in membership early! The work and dedication we do to support our veterans, our children and our communities is a testimonial to their service! When we fulfill the mission of the Sons of The American Legion and the entire American Legion Family we re-enforce their service, their memory, and their sacrifice!

For the 2024-2025 membership year we have just over two (2) months to renew and/or sign up 14,939 members to reach our 400,000 member goal by August 20th and sail into Tampa Bay at our National Convention with a new ALL TIME HIGH!

"There is never enough time to do everything, but there is always enough time to do the most important thing!" - Author & Motivational speaker Brian Tracy

Let's honor those that stormed the beaches of Normandy. Let's honor the service of our ancestors. Let's honor our "Proud possession of a Priceless Heritage!" and reach this goal!





NEXT MEETING JULY 15TH

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

JUNE 2025

NEXT TARGET DATE - JULY 22ND - 105%

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIPS

THE NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR BEGINS JULY 1ST. BEGIN YOUR RENEWAL PROCESS RIGHT AWAY. DO NOT WAIT. REMEMBER, ANY MEMBER WHO DOES NOT RENEW FOR THE NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR BY DECEMBER 31ST BECOMES DELINQUENT.

ENSURE YOUR SQUADRON COMMANDER & ADJUTANT HAVE ACCESS TO MYLEGION.ORG AND ARE FAMILIAR WITH ITS OPERATIONS.

IMMEDIATELY AT THE START OF THE NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR SEND A COMMUNICATION TO ALL MEMBERS HIGHLIGHTING THE PAST YEARS ACHIEVEMENTS, GOALS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, INTRODUCE NEW OFFICERS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO RENEW THEIR DUES RIGHT AWAY.

HOLD AN INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS, PICNIC OR OTHER EVENT TO SHOW APPRECIATION OF YOUR MEMBERS.

IMMEDIATELY COLLECT DUES FROM YOUR INCOMING OFFICERS AND MEMBERS YOU SEE ON A DAILY BASIS. THIS WILL GIVE YOU A HEAD START!

HOLD AN "EARLY BIRD" RAFFLE OR SIMILAR. MEMBERS WHO PAY BY A CERTAIN DEADLINE ARE ENTERED INTO A DRAWING FOR A PRIZE OF YOUR CHOICE.

BUDDY CHECKS! ALL SQUADRONS SHOULD BE PERFORMING BUDDY CHECKS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO CHECK ON MEMBERS. ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN AROUND OR MAY BE STRUGGLING WITH HEALTH ETC. MEMBERS WHO FEEL VALUED ARE MORE LIKELY TO PAY THEIR DUES AND PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES.

PAY THE DUES OF ANY SQUADRON MEMBERS WHO MAY BE ON ACTIVE DUTY.

BE SURE YOUR MEMBERS FEEL VALUED. GET THEM INVOLVED! ASK THEM TO TAKE ON OR ASSIST WITH A PROJECT OR EVENT. FIND OUT THEIR SKILLS OR PASSION AND UTILIZE IT. BE OPEN TO IDEAS. THANKS AND RECOGNITION GO A LONG WAY TO THOSE MEMBERS MAKING AN EFFORT.

CONSIDER MAKING A MEMBERSHIP THEME. MAKE THE PROCESS FUN FOR ALL AND CREATE YOUR OWN GOALS AND CHALLENGES WITH REWARDS FOR REACHING GOAL.

CREATE A COMMUNICATION PLAN UTILIZING EMAIL, SOCIAL MEDIA, TEXT MESSAGING, NEWSLETTERS AND MORE. CONSISTENTLY ENGAGE ALL MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

DISSEMINATE THE QUICK RENEWAL LINK, LEGION.ORG/SAL-RENEW FOR MEMBERS WHO WISH TO RENEW UTILIZING A CREDIT CARD.

LET'S HIT 400K BEFORE CONVENTION!

Team 400k,

We are on the edge of history — and it's because of your dedication, passion, and commitment that we're so close to an incredible milestone.

This number is more than a goal — it's a statement. A declaration of how far we've come, how strong we are together, and what it means to be part of this remarkable organization.

We're calling on every member to help us cross the finish line. Sign up one more new recruit. Reach out to a former member. Share your SAL story with pride. Every effort counts. Every voice matters.

And remember — while August 20th is our rallying point, the official membership year continues through December 31st. We're pushing for this historic moment now, but the mission doesn't stop after Convention.

Let's do this — for each other, for our communities, and for the legacy we carry.

One team. One mission. One historic goal.
Let's finish strong and keep going — for God and Country.

RENEW NOW!

MEMBERS NOT RENEWED FOR 2025 ARE NOW EXPIRED.

2026 MEMBERSHIP BEGINS JULY 1ST



LEGION.ORG/SAL-RENEW



JUNE 6TH, 1944 IS THE DAY THE ALLIED FORCES PRIMARILY FROM THE UNITED STATES, CANADA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM LAUNCHED THE NORMANDY LANDINGS, ALSO, KNOWN AS D-DAY. THIS AMPHIBIOUS INVASION, PART OF OPERATION OVERLORD, WAS THE LARGEST NAVAL, AIR AND LAND OPERATION IN HISTORY, AND IT MARKED A PIVOTAL MOMENT IN WORLD WAR II.

AS WE REMEMBER THE OPERATION ON THE 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY, REFLECT ON THE YOUTH OF AMERICA AND THE BLANKET OF FREEDOM THAT WE LIVE IN TODAY. IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SACRIFICE OF THESE HONORED SOLDIERS.

~C. FRANK MERAZ JR.





The Newshound

A special section dedicated to the Young Sons of The American Legion

Luke Wheeler, Virginia

"We're all very proud of Luke, as I'm sure you can tell." Those were the sentiments of Richard M. "Dick" Cole, Historian, Public Relations Officer, and Editor of the Department of Virginia's "News and Views." He sent along quite a few photos of 8-year-old SAL Luke Wheeler.



Photo by Dick Cole: Squadron 284 Sergeant-at-Arms 8-year-old Luke Wheeler, grandson of outgoing Post 284 Commander Tonya Meunier, pins his grandmother with her Past Commander's lapel pin during the Post change of command ceremony.

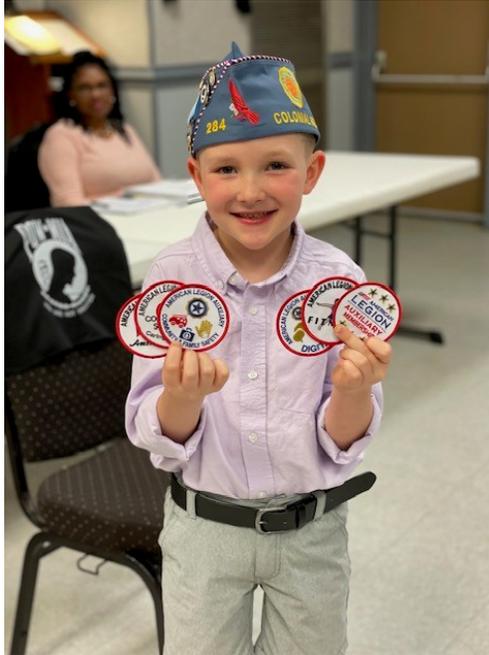


Photo by Rita Feasenmyer: Luke Wheeler proudly displays the patches he earned in the Auxiliary's Junior Patch Program. These patches are earned in categories of leadership, physical fitness, civics, community and family safety, community service, education, membership, technology, veterans affairs and rehabilitation, the Poppy and Americanism. The goal of the program is to instill the value system of serving others. Wheeler was awarded six — Americanism, community service, community and family safety, digital technology, fitness, and Auxiliary membership.



Photo by Dick Cole: Detachment of Virginia Sergeant-at-Arms Luke escorts the newly elected squadron officers to the podium to be sworn in. They are, left to right, Vice Commander William Beatty, Commander R. Kevin Jones, and Adjutant Carl Brandt.



Photo by Dick Cole: Colonial Heights Post 284 members attended the Army JROTC awards ceremony at Thomas Dale High School, Chester, VA. Representing the Post during the presentation of the American Legion Bronze Scholastic Excellence Award to Cadet Capt. Ivette were Post 284 Commander Tonya L. Meunier, Luke Wheeler; and SAL Squadron 284 Commander and Post 284 Americanism Chairman Jim Rovinski.



Photo by Dick Cole: Detachment of Virginia Sergeants-at-arms NEC Jeff Lee and 8-year-old Luke Wheeler salute after placing the POW/MIA banner on the reserved chair during the squadron's May 2025 meeting.

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION



April Brown Eaton Photo: William Giammarinaro, the youngest member of the Dudley-Gendron Squadron 414 (MA)



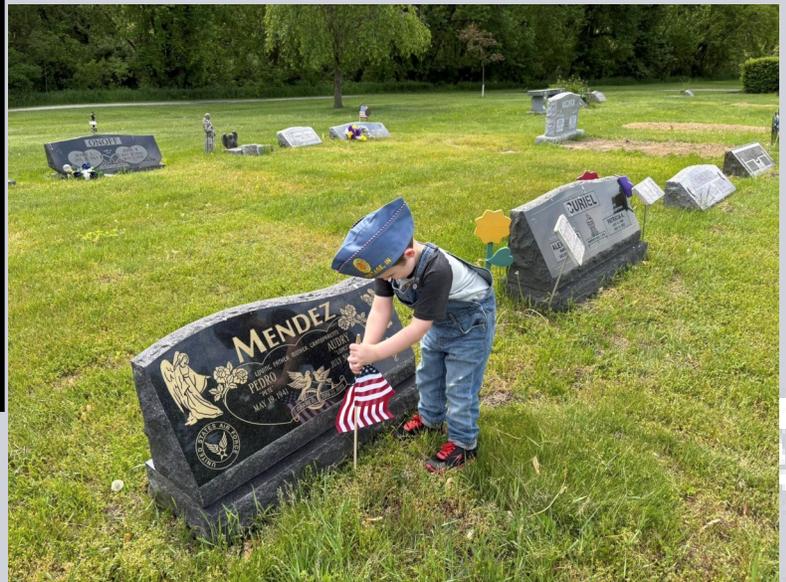
Two Young Sons from Wisconsin District 9's Little Chute American Legion Squadron 258 at Memorial Day ceremonies



Rockland County Vice Commander Dave Elmendorf, Squadron 1682 Commander Justin Elmendorf, and young Son William Elmendorf at the Memorial Day vigil in Pearl River hosted by John H Secor American Legion Post 329 Pearl River NY.



Joey from Squadron 40 (Mandan, ND) at St. John's cemetery



Squadron 260 (Portage, IN) Noah Edwards-Milde placing flags with his dad, Squadron Adjutant Jimmy Edwards



Squadron 178 (Grove, OK)'s youngest member Ryker out helping his veteran and Legionnaire Grandpa Larry place flags at Olympus Cemetery.



Excited to be wearing our new shirt in the Detachment of Maryland!



Bradley (left) and William (right) Elmendorf of William E. DeBeboise Squadron 1682 (New City, NY) placing flags



Squadron 6 (Gregory, SD) Young Son Frankie Peterson with his dad on Memorial Day



The Sons on Social Media: A snapshot of the SAL around the country



SAL 170 (Herreid, SD) member Craig Engel was able to present his nephew Hunter Stark with a Squadron 170 Americanism Scholarship. Hunter himself is also a member of Squadron 170.



Squadron 50 (Tahlequah, OK) and the Detachment of Oklahoma signing up some new members at a membership drive



Trailing Candidate Thom Skelley (TX) travels to Oklahoma Boys State



Squadron 1 (Saint Albans, VT) holding a BBQ



The Sons of Squadron 312 (Attleboro, MA) holding a cookout after the parade in town



Squadron 15 (Poland, OH) member Jeff Vrabel, Jr is elected Detachment Commander for Ohio



Squadron 67 (Newmarket, NH) officer installation



Morganton, NC Post 21 Family members at the Burke County Memorial Day Service, at a table promoting The American Legion



Squadron 19 (Bristol, VT) holding a BBQ for the community



PNC David Faust (WI) holding A.L.F. (American Legion Family) Dogs. These plushies are handed out by the Detachment of Wisconsin to children of deployed parents or hospitalized children at no cost.

@ Email your story to The Millennium rusty.myers@ymail.com



Miller Scrap & Disposal recently donated \$355 to the Squadron 9 (Winona, MN) as part of their Community Give-Back Program.



ANEC Mike Pook (WI), Staff Contributor "The Millennium"

The 13 Folds

Flag etiquette dictates that every time an American flag is to be stored or presented during a ceremony, its handlers should fold it in half twice lengthwise; then starting with the end opposite the blue field, make a taut triangular fold. Handlers continue to fold the flag in triangles until the flag has formed a triangular "pillow" with the blue field showing on the outside. It's a dignified way to treat the flag, and gives a powerful touch to patriotic ceremonies.

This 13-fold procedure was common long before the more modern assigned meanings. The source and date of origin of the meanings is unknown, but for those who participate or witness a formal flag folding ceremony, whether it be on Flag Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Veterans Day, or at a military funeral, the 13 meanings can create an uplifting experience.

This is what the 13 folds mean:

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold signifies our belief in eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and tribute of the veteran departing our ranks, and who gave a portion of his or her life for the defense of our country to attain peace.

The fourth fold exemplifies our weaker nature as citizens trusting in God; it is to Him we turn for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is an acknowledgement to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we 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.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our armed



Legion.org photo

forces, for it is through the armed forces that we protect our country and our flag against all enemies.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor our mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The ninth fold is an honor to womanhood, for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty, and devotion that the character of men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was first-born.

The 11th fold, in the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The 12th fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.

The last fold, when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."

Source: <https://nationalflagfoundation.org/the-meaning-behind-the-13-folds-of-the-united-states-flag/>

#RALLYAROUNDTHEFLAG

"It is not so much the flag of our fathers as it is the flag of our children, and of all children's children yet unborn. It is the flag of tomorrow. It is the flag of yourself and of all your neighbors."

WWI combat veteran Alvin Owsley, of Texas, fifth National Commander of The American Legion

AMERICAN LEGION



The American Legion provides US-made flags, and leads the nation in respect for the Colors. Link to the Flag Advocacy page on the national website for resources:

www.legion.org/advocacy/flag-advocacy





FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

PO BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-1055

*

WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS

*

P: 317-630-1205

Sons of The American Legion,

We have been doing great for 2024 - 2025 membership year! To be elected as your national commander has been a fantastic honor. It has been amazing to tell the story of my family's history with The American Legion and "*Dios Pais Familia*" which stands for God, Country, and Family. That is what the Sons of The American Legion should be all about. As we sign the membership paper or even sign up new members, it is a commitment to pay respect to our family member's service in our military.

I believe in the Four Pillars of our organization and what they stand for. The American Legion was built believing in Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children & Youth, and National Security. They are the core beliefs of what the American Legion Family stands for. I have continued what PNC JR Hall started: the commander's challenge to all Squadrons to support the Four Pillars and become a National Four Pillar Squadron.

All you need to do is raise one dollar per member in each area below:

- **Child Well-Being Foundation** [Children and Youth]
- **Operation Comfort Warriors** [Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation]
- **Department's Boys State program** [Americanism]
- **Hold a blood drive, or donate to your local Red Cross** [National Security]

You will then receive an award for being a National Four Pillar Squadron. That is pretty easy to do if we plan and work to get it done.

The Sons of The American Legion can reach new heights and crush our records for hours volunteered and donations. It will take all of us working and believing in our work to help our veterans, children, and community. Let's stand for what is right and show that our family's service is worth all of us being the best Son we can be! **BE THE ONE** in more ways than one.

Respectfully,

NATIONAL COMMANDER
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Joseph Navarrete

" Todo es posible con Dios y Familia "
Everything is possible with God and Family





NATIONAL COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE FOUR PILLAR SQUADRON AWARD

CHILDREN AND YOUTH (C&Y)

Donate \$1.00 for the Squadron's membership total as of December 31, 2024 for Child Well-Being Foundation (CWF).

Make check payable to: The American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation

Check# _____ Amount: \$ _____

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION (VA&R)

Donate \$1.00 for the Squadron's membership total as of December 31, 2024 for Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW).

Make check payable to: The American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors

Check# _____ Amount: \$ _____

AMERICANISM

Donate \$1.00 for the Squadron's membership total as of December 31, 2024. Check box below to certify.

Donation to Department (state) American Legion Boys State Program.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Host a blood drive or donate \$1.00 for the Squadron's membership total as of December 31, 2024. Check one box below to certify.

Option 1: Blood drive held on _____
Date Format: mm/dd/yyyy - select from above box

Option 2: Donation to American Red Cross.

This section to be completed by the sender:

Detachment: _____ Squadron No. _____ Date _____
Date Format: mm/dd/yyyy

Submitted By: _____ Title: _____
Type First and Last Name to serve as digital signature

Return award form and donation checks to:

Questions: email SALawards@legion.org

The American Legion
Attn: SAL Awards
700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46204





**Russell "Rusty" Myers III (NJ),
Adjutant, Squadron 105**

Cookies for Vets

For the fourth year in a row, the Sons of The American Legion (SAL) Detachment of New Jersey has run the very successful "Cookies for Vets" program, delivering Girl Scout cookies to "make our veterans lives a little sweeter."

The Detachment, or state-level SAL organization in New Jersey, this year donated \$2,264 of cookies to both the Lyons and East Orange VA Campus', through it's Children and Youth



Submitted Photo: Girl Scout Grace Myers and Young Son Jake Myers (NJ-105) with cookies at the Lyons VA Campus

Commission. 348 boxes – or 32 cases – of Samoas, Tag-a-longs, Thin Mints, and Trefoils made their way into the hands of our hometown heroes undergoing care at the two facilities, going a long way to fulfill the SAL's commitment to two of the American Legion's "Four Pillars".



Submitted Photo: Rusty Myers and Young Son Jake Myers at the East Orange VA dropping off cookies

Funding for this project comes from donations from across the state and begins in November. The cookies get purchased in February, and are delivered in April, which is Amer-

ican Legion Children and Youth Month. This state-level project is part of the Sons of the American Legion's commitment to two of its core pillars – Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, and Children and Youth. From fundraising and buying the cookies, to having the Scouts and Young Sons deliver them, to the vets getting a surprise tasty treat, this project embodies the spirit of what the Sons of The American Legion is here for.

"This project is something near and dear to my heart," said Children and Youth Chairman Rusty Myers. "It is just a small way we can say thank you to our vets – and let them know we're thinking about them."

A few days before Easter, the cookies were dropped off by a Girl Scout from Troop 20122, and a Young Son from Belleville Squadron 105 – plus adult members of the Scouts and the Sons.

"We believe that through an organization such as the Girl Scouts we can achieve greatness and teach leadership, courage, and kindness" wrote East Orange VA Executive Medical Center Director Patricia O'Kane in a letter to the SAL. "It is through efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide for our veterans."

Reproduced from the Northwest Signal

Ridgeville, OH SAL presents \$6,000 in scholarships

The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 454 (Ridgeville Corners, OH) recently awarded \$6,000 in scholarships to eight high school seniors. Pictured are SAL 454 Commander Bill Aschemeier; Derek Hines of Antwerp High School; Eli Jewell of Tinora; Brooke Wachtman of Napoleon; Alec Schaublin of Tinora; Brooklyn Bostelman of Napoleon; Rowan Bostelman of Napoleon; and SAL Vice Commander Scott Roehl. Not pictured are Emma Zirkle of Napoleon, and Lauren Powell of Olen-tangy Orange High School.

Dawn Sakai, Adjutant, Post 86 Cornelius, NC

SAL and Riders in North Carolina donate and improve their post



Submitted Photo

Sons of The American Legion Squadron 86 and the Legion Riders of Cornelius, NC worked towards their newest project for the veterans ... a new awning on the backside of the Legion Building. This beautiful awning will provide protection and shade as well as extend the use of the building grounds—their home post thanks them for their hard work and commitment to the veteran community.



Submitted Photo



Squadron 454 (Ridgeville Corners, OH)





Blair Miles (AL), Chairman, National Convention & Meetings

National Convention!

Well, the Spring NEC Meetings have come and gone, so you know what that means.....time for the: NATIONAL CONVENTION IN TAMPA BAY, FLORIDA!!!!

As I mentioned in my NEC Report, please be mindful that the actual SAL Convention—or meeting - portion of this weekend will take place at the JW Marriott, adjacent to the Convention Center. All other activities—vendors, Emblem Sales—will take place at the Convention Center. I'll keep everyone more up to date on this as we get closer to the Convention. The upcoming National Convention Agenda should be very clear to all as to where their respective meetings will take place ... So stay tuned.



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Some things to look forward to in Tampa:

- ◆ **Friday Night Social** – Brought to you by the hard working Detachment of Florida Convention Committee, there will be an *SAL Social Gathering* at the JW Marriott on Friday Night from **6:00pm – 8:00pm**. This will consist of a cash bar with finger food. There will be **NO COST** to anyone attending. Just come and enjoy the Detachment of Florida's welcome to you all!!!
- ◆ This year's convention will carry a **"Pirate Theme"**, so, if you're able, pirate attire is encouraged ... especially at the Friday night social!
- ◆ Other activities are being developed as we speak, and will be passed along when available.
- ◆ The Detachment of Florida has created a **Coin** and a **Lapel Pin** to mark this 53rd National Convention. An order form is available should any Detachments wish to purchase these items in bulk.

Some Transportation options while in Tampa:

- ◆ There is a **"Free"** TECO Line Streetcar that makes multiple stops throughout the city allowing for exposure to the Historic Landmark District, as well as many different restaurants
- ◆ There is a **Pirate Water Taxi** that's available for a small fee that makes multiple stops along the Riverwalk. There are all-day passes and specials for this. For tickets, the **"Home Dock"** is located right outside the Convention Center. You can go on-line and get prices. They run all day, with special prices after 5:30pm.
- ◆ And of course, if you wish to take a nice stroll, there is a 2.6 mile Riverwalk that connects to many venues like the Museum of Art, along with many parks, bars, and restaurants.



with many parks, bars, and restaurants.

Follow The Millennium for more information as we get closer to the convention.

Visit the convention hub on the national website at www.legion.org/get-involved/meetings/national-convention for more.



TAMPA RIVERWALK



2.6 miles of pedestrian thoroughfare connecting cultural venues like the Tampa Bay History Center, and the Tampa Museum of Art and the Tampa Bay History Center, along with parks, bars, and restaurants.

PIRATE WATER TAXI



Over 15 stops conveniently located along the Riverwalk, Channel District, and Davis Islands, water taxi crews offer historical narration and concessions.

YBOR CITY



National Historic Landmark District packed with old-world charm and world-famous cuisine, all just a free TECO Line Streetcar ride away from downtown Tampa.

ARMATURE WORKS



Armature Works at The Heights Public Market offers a culinary journey through various local vendors, showcasing the diverse flavors of Tampa Bay.



SCAN FOR GUIDE





National Convention Commemorative Lapel Pin and Challenge Coin Order Form



1.25" Lapel Pin



2" Challenge Coin

Name: _____ Squadron: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

DESCRIPTION

Pre-order your commemorative lapel pin and challenge coin for the 2025 National Convention in Tampa, FL today. The lapel pins are 1.25" in size with a polished gold finish and butterfly clutch, available for just \$5 each. The challenge coins are a striking 2" doubloon with an antique finish, limited to only 200 pieces—once they're gone, they're gone, available for just \$10 each. Both the pins and coins will be ready for pickup at the National Convention in Tampa. Don't miss this chance to own a unique piece of convention history. Make checks payable to the Detachment of Florida and send your payment along with the order form to: Ed Sheubrooks, Finance Committee Chairman, 800 S. Brocksmith Rd, Fort Pierce, FL 34945.

ORDER *Enter Quantity for each item.*

LAPEL PIN	
QUANTITY	

CHALLENGE COIN	
QUANTITY	

TOTAL	Subtotal	
<i>Lapel pins are \$5 each.</i>	Tax (6.5%)	
<i>Challenge Coins are \$10 each.</i>	Grand Total	

PAYMENT

Please return the form and payment to the Florida Detachment:

Ed Sheubrooks
Finance Committee Chairman
800 S. Brocksmith Rd.
Fort Pierce, FL 34945

For questions, please contact Ed Sheubrooks:

Fishermn9@aol.com

From an article wjol.com

Squadron 1080 and their Flags of Honor



Photo: Squadron 1080

Squadron 1080 in Mahopac, NY noted their appreciation of AM-Radio’s WJOL participation in their Flags of Honor project. There were 63 flags sponsored this year.

SAL Commander Jim Heckler said, “I encourage you to stop at American Legion Post 1080 on Ingalls and walk through the display. I hope that next year will bring us more flags and some first responders.”

From an article on facebook.com

Sons “rescue” flags in Utah so that they can be honorably retired



Facebook photo

Forty tired American flags were found improperly disposed of in a local dumpster. A patriotic member of the community called the commander of Squadron 11 (Vernal, UT); he went immediately to the dumpster, and asked the grandparents of two five year-old boys who were there if they would climb in the dumpster and help rescue them from an improper burial.

Each year, the Post facilitates a community flag retirement ceremony on Veterans Day. For the last 30 years, Ken and Marty Kay have been collecting tired flags with a drop-



Facebook photo

box in the front of the local Elks Lodge. The American Legion placed a dropbox in front of White House Academy as well, and the students there were shown how to fold the flags to prepare them for retirement.

After these rescued flags had been deposited in the dropbox, they were respectfully folded as they waited for Veterans Day to be retired. The annual community Veterans Day flag retirement ceremony is held each year at noon on Veterans Day at the Uintah Conference Center.



Facebook photo: Squadron 11 Commander Guy Collett

Each flag is unfolded and held up with the stars to the east, given a moment of silence and respectfully placed on the flames while right hands are held over our hearts with another moment of silence. For the last three years hearts have been touched and veterans have been shown respect and appreciation for their service through this ceremony.

This shows how important it is to talk to your family and friends about Flag etiquette and ways to properly dispose of flags.

Legion.org

Squadron 347 supporting their Florida community

Supporting Special Olympics has long been a part of what the Legion Family does at Post 347 in Lady Lake, FL.

But this spring, members of Squadron 347 took the opportunity to do more than just

hand over a check.

“I had never actually volunteered for an actual event; you know, we raise money all the time and we present the check, and that’s fine, but we never actually got involved in the event,” Squadron 347 Commander Danny Roe said.

When Denise Breneman, director of civic partnerships and events for the Special Olympics of Florida, mentioned the program would need help at the Special Olympics Equestrian and Corn Hole events in Ocala, Fla., in March, Roe and other SAL members saw an opportunity to give back in a different way.

“We thought, ‘Well, might try to get some people together to do that.’ We probably took seven or eight people up there. It was very worth the time, just to see these kids actually have something and actually earn trophies. ... It was a lot of fun,” Roe said.

The squadron also donated \$8,000 this spring to Florida Special Olympics, bringing the total over the last five years to over \$28,000 in donations to the program.

“We’ve been supporting Special Olympics for as long as I’ve been here,” Roe said. “I think a lot of the guys in the past have really been supportive of Special Olympics and their events. They used to do a bowling thing every year and a lot of Legion people would volunteer for that. ... They’ve always been one of the big ones we try to support every year. In this case, we had a dance and the profits from that, and we had a fireworks display that we do, and we have a local restaurant that will allow us to sell wristbands—they have a beach on a lake, then they have a fireworks display out there, and we sell wristbands and they give us half the money of that. And then we donate that back.”

Special Olympics isn’t the only benefactor of Squadron 347’s efforts, as they’ve raised money for the Fisher House in Gainesville, FL.

“Obviously it makes you feel good that you’re out there supporting the community. ... I didn’t have the honor of serving (in the military), I’m here because of my father, and so the Sons allows me to give back and contribute in a different way. My father contributed his time in service. We contribute time in supporting the community,” Roe said.



SONS OF THE
 AMERICAN
 LEGION **THE MILLENNIUM**

A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion

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Postage
Here

To:

This Month, On The Back Cover



Harl "Butch" Ray (IL), National Vice Commander Central and Contributor to "The Millennium"

American Oddities: Interesting Facts about our Presidents

- ◆ *Howard Taft was the first American President to play golf.*
- ◆ *Thomas Jefferson was the first American President to serve spaghetti in the White House.*
- ◆ *Chester Alan Arthur was considered to be one of our best-dressed Presidents.*
- ◆ *Andrew Johnson couldn't read or write until he was 18 years old.*
- ◆ *Warren Harding was the first President to visit Alaska.*
- ◆ *Theodore Roosevelt was the only President to climb The Matterhorn in Switzerland.*
- ◆ *John Quincy Adams was secretary to the American Ambassador to Russia when he was 14 years old.*
- ◆ *George Washington never shook hands during his eight years as President.*
- ◆ *Nine U.S. Presidents never attended college.*
- ◆ *William McKinley was the first American President to ride in an automobile.*
- ◆ *President John Tyler was the first President to be photographed.*
- ◆ *William Howard Taft was the first President to see a Rose Bowl football game.*

Be on the look out "Spotted by a Son"

Every month, The Millennium will hide a small picture or graphic inside the newsletter—first one to find it who email's rusty.myers@ymail.com will get their name published in the next newsletter and will receive a prize ... the National Commander's Pin or Challenge Coin



Find the folded American Flag in this newsletter

