National Commander James W. Oxford to Visit Delaware

James W. "Bill" Oxford was elected national commander of The American Legion on Aug. 29, 2019, in Indianapolis, during the organization's 101st national convention. He has been a member of the nation's largest veterans' organization since 1986. His schedule is allowing for a visit to Delaware from March 25th to the 27th. We are honored that he is taking the time from his busy schedule to see all the great work our veterans do for the state.

The schedule for posts visitations has not been finalized and will be distributed to post leadership as it becomes available. The National Commanders banquet is scheduled for Friday March 27th at David C. Harrison Post 14 in Smyrna, Delaware. Tickets for the banquet will be limited so contact your post leadership to place your order. The Veterans & Children Foundation is the Commanders fundraiser this year and he will be personally accepting donations at his scheduled post visitations.

Message from the NCDR Oxford:

Grants from the foundation not only provide vital support for military and veteran parents in unexpected financial crises, they also support American Legion service officers in their tireless efforts to obtain care and due benefits and opportunities for disabled veterans and families. These service officers provide free expert assistance to more than 700,000 veterans, widows and families as they navigate the complexities of VA benefits and services they have earned through their service.

As always membership is always a hot topic. To the posts that are making their goals keep up the good work. To the post that are close to their goal keep driving and pushing forward. I am positive you will get it done. For the post that have fallen behind on your goals please reach out to me or anyone on the DEC for help. That is what we are here for. To assist you in any way we can. When the posts succeed the Department Succeeds.

It is that time of the year to be working on your Consolidated Post Reports. Please make sure they are filled out correctly and submitted in a timely manner. I am sure that once again the Department will receive a 100% turn in rate on the Consolidated Report.

Finally, the Department is gearing up and working on the schedule for the National Commanders visit in March. The schedule will be distributed once it is finalized. I look forward to seeing many of you as we take the National Commander on a tour of the First State.

Yours in Legion Service,
Michael A. Havel
Commander Department of Delaware
MEMBERSHIP

There I heard the vision of the Legion from the Leading Candidate and now National Commander, James W. “Bill” Oxford. I got to meet a host of Legion Members from various States, Countries, and Territories. Two weeks later I again traveled to Indianapolis to attend my first National Convention. I attended a National Committee meeting, marched in the American Legion Parade carrying our Department of Delaware Legion Flag and sat on the convention floor. Wow! We have work to do in retaining our membership and meeting with new potential members and share with them why they should be long. In our Post there resource materials that are plentiful that helps get the word out of why a Veteran should belong to the Legion. The resource book that I speak of is called “Why You Should Belong”. Those books located in your Post are not for guest or visitors of other Post to read. The books are for you the current member in your Post. The number of books in your Post should be few because you carry a copy of that book in your car, in your packs located on your motorcycle, or even in those backpacks you carry everywhere. I challenge you to help your Post and Department with meeting their target dates and membership retention goals. I also challenge you with reducing the number of Why You Should Belong books out of your Post and into hands of new eligible members. See you in my travels Dwight Lacy, 2nd Vice Commander Department of Delaware, the American Legion Inc.

Barry Sauers
1st Vice Commander

My fellow veterans;

Hope all is well as we start off the New Year; hope that everyone had a great and joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The American Legion is having a membership drive, so if you know of anyone eligible to join, please direct them to your nearest American Legion. There has been a new law passed that you don’t have to have served in a war time era to be able to join. Just have a Honorable Discharge or under honorable conditions. Have your DD-214 and sign up for a great experience with fellow Veterans young and old alike.

There are several American Legions throughout Delaware convenient to most homes. Most American Legions have several programs going on to help Veterans in need to just plain ole’ cemetery. Several locations have a canteen with food and drinks. And a lot of happenings going on every night. And as always there are several positions from being a volunteer to running for office to further your ideas and help out your community. Lots of different opportunities for the whole family to be involved in. From Halloween, Easter, family oriented days. Even Santa visits most posts. You can get involved at any level that you feel comfortable in.

Some of the American Legions have had a few members pass away, I have had the Honor to officiate a lot of them. And they will always have a place in our hearts.

We have a new home post opening soon in Milford, Delaware in the Hardee’s shopping center on the north side with lots of facilities and lots of plans to help the community, so stop on by and check it out.

For God and Country;
Reverend Wayne Hicks
MOLLY’S PLACE

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Impact of Legion Programs

Dear Mr. Brenner,
Hello, I am Ethan Lang, Boys State Class of 2018, and I wanted to update you on my progress. I remember from the many workshops and speakers that we were asked to remain in contact, especially with the honored veterans within the legion. Due to Veterans Day being around the corner, I thought it appropriate to write you. I'm doing well. I am currently enrolled at Dartmouth College, planning on studying Government, with possible minors in philosophy, economics, and public policy. After Boys State, I went on to be the volunteer coordinator for Rep. Bryan Shipe for the 36th District, who went on to win election in November. I went on to lead my school's mock election for 2018. I won the state championship for Business Law & Ethics and represented the state in the national competition.

The skills taught to me through Boys State have already propelled me to great heights and wanted to thank you and the American Legion personally for the service you have provided me.

Thank you,
Ethan A. Lang

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consignment sales or outright purchases

DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE
BOYS STATE

Legion Members support your Department Program

We need your help to defray the cost.

The Average cost per student is $570.00.
The student’s application fee covers $100.00
This leaves $470.00 per student to come from somewhere.
Right now the Department and a minority of the Posts covers this cost.

If you want to individually sponsor a student - $470.00

To help defray the cost with smaller amounts please give the following.

Housing - $25.00 per night.
(each person has four nights)

Meals – three meals a day –
(each person has four days worth of meals)
(each meal is an all you can eat buffet)
breakfast per person - $15 per day
Lunch per person - $20 per day
Dinner per person - $30 per day

Transportation
(four days - round trip to Legislative Hall
one round trip to Dover Air Force Base)
Each round trip, per person - $12.00

Boys State Polo (Golf) shirt with Logo.

$20.00 per shirt

Make out check to
The American Legion, Dept. of DE Boys State

mail to:
Delaware Boys State
c/o Lyman BrennerBoys State chairman
PO Box 7005
Wilmington, DE 19803
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Americanism Commission

American Legion Americanism Commission meeting Oct 13-Oct 14, 2019

The Americanism Commission members met on the mornings of Oct 13 and Oct 14, 2019. The two day meeting was run by Richard Anderson of Connecticut, CoChairman of the Americanism Commission. After opening ceremonies and appropriate greetings from the Sons of the American Legion and Auxiliary President Nicole Clapp of Iowa, reports were given. The reports had been submitted electronically to the members of the commission prior to the meeting. These reports were the result of the combined Americanism meetings in September. Copies of the reports can be gotten from the Department Adjutant or myself if anyone is interested.

Proposed resolutions were approved and were submitted to the National Executive Committee. Two will effect the Department of Delaware programs. The first will change the application form of the Samsung Scholarship to match the new membership requirements of The American Legion. The other resolution changed the amount of the prize money for the Oratorical Contest on the national level. The finale item of interest was the announcement of the Samsung Scholarship winners. The Delaware Boys State student and the Delaware Girls State student each received $1250.
American Legion Boys State
Combined Americanism Conference

The Conference began with a formal opening of the Combined Session of Boys/Girls State and State Directors. Past National Commander Dale Barnett of Georgia was the facilitator of the conference. James Baca, Executive Director, American Legion Headquarters gave greetings to the Conference from the National Commander, Bill Oxford. Director Baca is a former Boys State Counselor and Boys Nation Counselor from New Mexico who served in the United States Coast Guard.

Also giving greetings were Wendy Riggle, the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation Chairman from Iowa and Linda Boone, Acting National Auxiliary Secretary and Past National President from Oregon. PNP Boone lived for a number of years In Delaware.

The evening’s major presentation was from the Samsung Company about their scholarship for Boys State and Girls State. John Hendrick is the Samsung Chief of Staff, Mobility Solutions and Chief Advocate of the Samsung Veterans Community division. He gave a history of the Samsung company and then talked about some of the issues that Samsung was having with the drop in applications for the scholarship. He did not go into the history of why the scholarship went from a needs scholarship to an academic scholarship. The change was done because of the cost of living differentials from one part of the country to another.

Scott Wynn, Director American Legion Boys Nation, from the American Legion National Headquarters talked about the present administration of the scholarship. He went over some of the problems of the administration of the program. Basically, what came out was that Department program administrators of the program do not understand computerese and/or did not read directions soon enough. Also, another issue were the parents who did not read directions soon enough and/or Boys/Girls State staff did not inform the young people and/or their parents early enough. These are not issues that the Delaware Boys/Girls State programs face - except for participants not reading directions soon enough.

One of the issues brought up was a question as to who can get scholarships - children of veterans versus those who were not. If there is a change it has to go through both the Americanism Commission and the National Executive Committee.

The evening ended with a combined presentation of Massachusetts, Kansas, and Missouri talking about combining the two programs - and how the different programs have approached this issue. What was surprising was that the Delaware Boys and Girls State program was more combined than two of the three programs. The combination is strictly administrative, i.e. getting information about the programs to the schools, working with Wesley College about having similar contracts, the County Day, finding and passing information back and forth about speakers and use of different buildings.

On Saturday after opening ceremonies held by PNC Barnett Richard Anderson of Connecticut gave greetings. He is the Chairman of the National Americanism Commission.

Following Chairman Anderson Scott Wynn gave a Boys Nation/State update. Even through the Delaware Boys State attendance was down last year overall Delaware is one of the few states that have an overall increase. National is also very aware that our program, if it gets much bigger, will loose its uniqueness that sets it off from the other programs.

Delaware was used often to show how the small programs can be extremely successful and that what works in large departments will not be appropriate for the small ones and vice/versa throughout the conference. The evolution of the Boys Nation participants was not provided as the report was not finished. Mr Wynn was hired a week before Boys Nation and is still learning the requirements of the position.

Kelly Meyer, the Regional Admissions Representative of the University of Evansville, gave a presentation on the other end of trying to get students to Boys State. She talked about what the schools have to go through during the year and what The Boys State representatives have to do to get information to the students and the families.

Her presentation was followed by Scott Wynn doing a presentation about community outreach. Both had very good information for those Legionnaires who are not part of the education field. The Delaware program does much of what they recommend and what is appropriate for our size state.

Next were breakout sessions. Many were aimed at the larger Boys State programs. The one that fit the Delaware program was “The Advantages of Online Registration”. Brandon Krause of the Department of Indiana gave an overview of how Hoosier State Boys State began using on-line registration and where they are today. Delaware’s program is a hybrid of what he does and will adopt most of what was recommended. Most of the changes will be IT changes. The one recommendation was to continue to receive the medical forms directly from the students or their families because of the Hipaa laws.

The other breakout that was appropriate was putting the programs together by size. There were five different groups. Delaware straddled the line between the smallest group and the next group up. There were six programs in the group - two others were in Delaware’s position of fluctuating between 90 and 110. The issues were the same for all sizes and each of the smaller programs had things that made them unique. The major gain from this program was to continue to talk to the schools and work on recruitment from the traditional public high schools. Saturday ended with a report from each of the groups to the delegates at large - and finding out that the major problems of each size were the same - trying to talk to the schools and declining numbers to recruit from in large parts of the country because of demographic shifts in population - some-thing that also effects legion membership.

Sunday morning had the Memorial Service where Boys State staff who had joined post ever-lasting were memorialized. Delaware’s Stephen Leishman, Boys State photographer for the last dozen years, and Charles Armbruster, Jr. Past Boys State Chairman and counselor for over 20 years (among everything else he did for the Legion) were recognized. Because of plane flights the final session was missed.
The Department 2nd Vice Commander Dwight Lacy, Past Department Commander Jim Brady, and Past New Castle District Commander Don Hutcheson attended the Delaware National Guard, 37th Annual Prayer Breakfast at the Cavalier Country Club, Newark, DE on November 21, 2019. They where joined at their table by Naval JROTC Cadets of the Delaware Military Academy Color Guard team and their instructor Commander Sean Easley. Provided by Dwight Lacy, Department, 2nd Vice Commander

Apple Scrapple

Front row left to right Roy Lamberton Post 6, Chuck Werner Post 7
Back row left to right Lathbury Post 39, Barry Sauers Dept. 1st Vice, Greg Porter Squadron 6, Steve Barrow Post 17
I would like to thank all who participated in the Apple Scrapple membership drive October 2019
Barry Sauers
Dept. 1st Vive Commander

Kent District News

It has been a very exciting time in the district. The Holidays are upon us, the district revitalization was a great success. The Turkey has given its best and we are thankful.

The Milford post is trying very hard to be open soon. Dover post is busy with bingo nights and some great meals, (shrimp & ribs) are my favorite. Smyrna is always busy, humming along with one thing or another, Harrington is trying some new ideas and has dedicated a Veteran memorial wall, (well done) December 7th was observed at the posts. In all this the district continues to grow thanks to a lot of hard work by a lot of hard working people. Be especially safe during the winter months, continue to do your “Buddy checks”. The American Legion continues to take care and advocate for those who serve and have served. I say “Merry Christmas” and “Happy New Year”

Stephen A. Burge
Kent District Commander

Adopt a Family Post 6

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 6, part of the Nanticoke Post 6 Legion Family adopted the family of SPC Myron Hayes for Christmas. SPC Hayes is deployed to the middle east, and his four daughters were facing a Christmas without their Daddy. The kids got toys and games, and picked up a whole family of Post 6 "grandparents" as well.
Applications and sign-ups for the American Legion Oratorical Contest are now underway. District contests will be held during the month of January and the Department Contest will be held in February, followed by the National contest in March, 2020. The specific dates are listed below.

- New Castle District Contest: January 14, 2020, VA Hospital, Wilmington
- Department of Delaware Contest: February 11, 2020, VA Hospital, Wilmington

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation’s laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over $188,000 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets a $20,000 scholarship. Second place takes home $17,000, and third gets $15,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest’s first round receives a $2,000 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional $2,000 scholarship. The American Legion’s National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

High school students under age 20 are eligible. Competition begins at the district level and advances to a state competition. Legion department representatives certify one winner per state to the national contest, where department winners compete against each other in two speaking rounds. The contest caps off with a final round that decides the three top finishers.

The subject of the prepared speech must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. Speeches are to be eight to 10 minutes long. Additionally each contestant will be asked to deliver a three to five minute speech on one of four assigned topics. The purpose of the assigned topic discourse is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution. The assigned topics for 2020 are:

- Amendment XII – Electoral College
- Amendment XXIV – Citizens right to vote shall not be denied by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.
- Amendment XXVII – No law, varying the compensation for the services of Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.
- Amendment XX – terms of President and Vice President. When Congress shall assemble. Articles of Presidential succession.

Students interested in applying and participating must be:

- Citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States.
- Bona fide student - herein described as any student under the age of 20 years on the date of the national contest who is presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school).
- Be in a school whose curriculum must be considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade 9 and terminating with grade 12.
- Enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest.
- Either legally domiciled within or attending an educational institution within the department where they enter competition. Contestants can enter competition through only one department.
- High school students that graduate early during the school year are eligible to compete if they are not enrolled in a college, university, trade school or other institution of higher learning at the time of the department finals contest.

All contestants at each contest level are required to speak in the English language on the same assigned topic.

The three finalists of the national contest are ineligible for further participation at any level.

Interested students should contact a post member to receive a recommendation and fill out the application on the Department website and return it to their host post or address on the application.

Richard W. Browne
Oratorical Chair
Department of Delaware
Donation of Thanksgiving Baskets for Local Children and Their Families

At this—the season of giving—the Auxiliary of Unit 17 came together once again for an internal food drive. It began when Judi Hammond and Debbie Simms (co-chairs of the Children and Youth Program) ordered and delivered cheerful cookie trays to Love Creek and Shields Elementary Schools to recognize teachers for National Education Week (Nov. 18-22). This opened up the conversation with social workers about families who needed a little extra help this year, due to no fault of their own (i.e., lost job, surgery). Twelve unnamed families were suggested to receive assistance in the form of Thanksgiving meals. All that was known was each family’s size.

Next, the Auxiliary prominently put out boxes to collect non-perishable items from members and visitors to the Post. With the generosity of collected food and the Legionnaire’s 12 donated turkeys, Auxiliary members gathered on November 25, 2019, to collectively sort and package these families’ Thanksgiving dinners. Boxes included all the traditional favorites—mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, vegetables, applesauce, rolls, pies—along with cooking pans and napkins. Once assembled, the Auxiliary Unit caravan of packed SUVs personally delivered these meals to Shields and Love Creek Elementary Schools. Social workers from these schools greeted and accepted delivery, and later distributed to the families.

The American Legion Post 17 Family welcomes the opportunity to help our community and do our part in keeping the Thanksgiving spirit alive and well.

Photos in order of story placement:
1) Love Creek staff accepting the donated cookie tray are Janet Davis (left) and Susan Reynolds (right). Auxiliary member Debbie Simms is in the center.
2) Auxiliary member Barb Catts points out to Shirley Davis (forefront) where the turkeys are being held. Other Auxiliary volunteers are (left to right) Sandy Keen, Debbie Simms, Pat Schneider, Shay Nipper and Julie Howington.
3) Pictured are some of the turkeys and roasting pans awaiting transport to local schools.
4) SUVs are being packed for delivery to local schools. Pictured are auxiliary members Sandy Keen and Kellie Bergen (Department Chaplain.)
5) Boxes and turkeys are ready to go to Shields elementary.
6) Auxiliary members gather outside American Legion Post 17 before delivering Thanksgiving baskets to local schools. From left to right, are Sonya Davis, Kellie Bergen (Department Chaplain), Cindy Butler, Debbie Simms (Co-Chair Children and Youth Program), Barb Catts, Shay Nipper (holding turkey in pan), Pat Schneider and Sandy Keen. Not pictured is Auxiliary President Murt Foos (photographer).
7) Pictured are some of the turkeys delivered to Shields Elementary. From left to right, Barb Catts, Social Worker Lovell Hemphill and Debbie Simms (Co-Chair of Children and Youth Program).
8) From left to right, Auxiliary volunteers stack turkeys for Love Creek Elementary. Pictured are Sandy Keen, Sonya Davis, and social worker Dr. Brittany Hazzard Ed.D.
9) Left to right, Auxiliary member Sonya Davis, Dr. Brittany Hazzard of Love Creek Elementary, Kellie Bergen (Department Chaplain) and volunteer Sandy Keen.

Submission by: Cindy Butler
Publicity Chair
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17
Lewes, Delaware
POW/MIA Chair of Honor
Legion Riders attended the dedication of a POW/MIA Chair of Honor at Washington Crossing National Cemetery in Newtown, Pennsylvania. Many people from around the region attended the ceremony and listened to Ralph Galati, Captain, USAF and former POW speak about the significance of the Chair of Honor. After the Chair was unveiled, it was moved and placed in its permanent position inside the visitors building at the cemetery, flanked by the American and POW/MIA flags.

This Chair of Honor was donated by Patrick J Hughes, a former United States Marine and Vietnam Veteran. Mr. Hughes is part of Rolling Thunder, Inc.

Thursday September 19, 2019 Chair of Honor Dover Place
Legion Riders from Post 14 in Smyrna attended a POW/Chair of Honor dedication at Dover Place, an assisted living facility in Dover, Delaware. Dover Place became the first facility of its kind in Delaware to place a Chair of Honor.

Friday September 20, 2019 Veterans Stand Down
Members of the Legion family volunteered for Veterans Stand Down. Veterans were able to take advantage of help withLegal services, employment opportunities, housing as well as medical, dental and behavioral health. Haircuts, a warm lunch and flu vaccines were available.

Friday, October 18, 2019-The Legion Riders from Post 14 attended a memorial dedication at the Route 9 Library and Innovation Center in New Castle, Delaware. The memorial was placed at the foot of the flagpoles outside of the library in memory of PFC Samuel Lawrence Crawford, US Army, Company L, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division enlisted in the Army at 17 years old when he was a junior in high school. He was listed as missing in action while fighting in Korea on November 27, 1950.

October 19, 2019-The Legion Riders rode to A to Z Cycles to participate in the Welcome Home Parker Ride”. Parker is a young man that was injured in a bad motorcycle accident a few weeks ago when a vehicle was on the wrong side of the road and hit him almost head on.

October 19, 2019-The Legion Riders from Post 14 in Smyrna joined forces with Del Vets Post 2 and participated in the 10th Annual Monster Mile walk benefitting the Breast Cancer Coalition at Dover Downs Speedway.

Photos in order of story:
(1) John Rowe- Safety ALR Post 14, Steve Kellam- Director ALR Post 14
(2) Two attendees, Steve Kellam- Director ALR Post 14
(3) Chair of honor Jay Gomme and Retired Brigadier General Terry Wiley unveiling chair, Bill Numphreys in background- ALR Post 14
(4) Jay Gomme and Retired Brigadier General Terry Wiley unveiling chair, Bill Numphreys in background- ALR Post 14
(5) Jay Gomme, Retired Brigadier General Terry Wiley and Steve Kellam- Director ALR Post 14
(6) Vendor Registration crew
(7) Essy Rowe- ALR #14 Safety, Steve Kellam- ALR#14 Director
(8) Breast cancer walk- Larry Marion- ALR #14 Road Captain, Steve Kellam- ALR #14 Director, Lester Link- ALR #14 Treasurer, Back row Janet Link- ALR#14 Public Relations
(9) The entire group that made the ride including Steve Kellam and Larry Marion

Submission by: Janet Link, PR American Legion Riders Post #14, Smyrna, DE
This year’s Delaware Veterans Stand Down was held at Shute Park, Dover, DE, September 20, 2019. Department Vice Commander’s Sauers and Lacy facilitated a table during the Stand Down. Volunteer assistance to the Department was provided by Mrs. Cindy Sauers, Nanticoke Post #6, Seaford, Burton Turnbull. Robert L. Taylor, Post #13, Delaware City and Jermaine Walker (Barber) also of Robert L. Taylor, Post #13, Delaware City. The Department greeted all Veterans who stopped by their table by asking if they were a member of a Veterans Organization. If they said no, they were provided with a “Why You Should Belong” booklet with the location of the closest Delaware Legion Post contact information. If they said yes to being a Legion member they were then provided with a Department 2019 Convention pin. All Districts had representation at this year’s Stand Down as either Provider, Volunteers, or a Veteran. The Department received a Certificate of Appreciation from the President of the Stand Down for the Delaware Legion support to Veterans during Stand Down 2019.

Article By
Department 2nd Vice Commander, Dwight Lacy
Expanded Military Installation Access Information

Veterans need VHIC for in-person Commissary, Military Exchange, MWR access Expansion to start Jan. 1, 2020

Veterans Health Identification Card

Posted on Tuesday, November 26, 2019
8:30 am Posted in #VetResources, Vets Experience by Adam
The Defense Department has announced expanded Commissary, Military Service Exchange and MWR access Jan. 1 and established a standard for physical access to military installations.

Veterans who are eligible and want to take advantage of in-person benefits must have a Veteran Health Identification Card, or VHIC. Primary Family Caregivers must have an eligibility letter from VA’s Office of Community Care.

Veterans use VHICs for identification and check-in at VA appointments, but will also use them for base access under the new program.

Veterans eligible solely under this act who are eligible to obtain a Veteran Health Identification Card must use this credential for in-person installation and privilege access. The card must display the Veteran’s eligibility status (i.e., PURPLE HEART, FORMER POW or SERVICE CONNECTED).

Veterans eligible solely under this act who are not enrolled in or are not eligible to enroll in VA health care, or who are enrolled in VA health care, but do not possess a Veteran Health Identification Card will not have access to DoD and Coast Guard installations for in-person commissary, exchange, and MWR retail privileges, but will have full access to online exchanges and American Forces Travel.

Medal of Honor recipients and Veterans with 100% service-connected disability ratings are eligible for DoD credentials under DoD policy.

How to get a VHIC

Veterans must be enrolled in the VA health care system to receive a VHIC. To enroll, you can complete an application for enrollment in VA health care by telephone without the need for a signed paper application. Just call 1-877-222-8387 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Eastern. You can also apply for VA health care benefits online at www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll, or in person at your local VA medical facility. Once your enrollment is verified, you can have your picture taken at your local VA medical center, and VA will mail you a VHIC.

ID needed to get VHIC

To ensure a Veteran’s identity, enrollees must provide one form of primary identification when requesting a VHIC. Acceptable forms of primary identification are:

- Primary Identification (Unexpired)
- State-Issued Driver’s License
- United States Passport or Passport Card

Other Government ID

This ID can be issued by federal, state or local government agencies provided it contains a photograph, name, date of birth and address. If the address is not on the proofing document, Veterans can provide separate documentation to confirm their address. Acceptable address documents include:

- Electric bill
- Cable bill
- Other mailing document
- Voters Registration card

How long does it take?

Once you have your picture taken, you should receive your VHIC within 10 days. If you have questions about the status of your VHIC, you may call your local VA medical facility where you receive your care or contact us at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

The VHIC provides:

- Increased security for your personal information – no personally identifiable information contained on the magnetic stripe or barcode.
- Unique Member Identifier — Department of Defense assigns an electronic data interchange personal identifier (EDIP) that allows VA to retrieve the Veteran’s health record.
- A salute to your military service – The emblem of your latest branch of service is displayed on your card. Several special awards will also be listed.

Accessibility – Braille “VA” helps visually impaired Veterans to recognize and use the card

Anti-Counterfeiting – Microtext helps prevent reproductions

Lost or stolen?

If your VHIC is lost or stolen, contact the VA medical facility where your picture was taken to request a new card be re-issued, or call 1-877-222-VETS (8387). Veterans will need to provide identification information, when reporting lost or stolen cards.

Caregivers

Eligible caregivers will receive an eligibility letter from VA’s Office of Community Care.

If you are a primary family caregiver under the PCAFC and lose your eligibility letter, please call 1-877-733-7927 to request a replacement. Please allow two weeks for processing.

For installation access, entry to some commissary stores and at point of sale at commissaries, exchanges, and MWR retail facilities, eligible caregivers will need to show an acceptable credential along with their eligibility letter. Acceptable credentials may include:

- DoD common access card (CAC) (when otherwise eligible)
- DoD uniformed services identification card (when otherwise eligible)
- REAL ID-compliant driver’s license issued by a State, territory, possession, or the District of Columbia
- REAL ID-compliant non-driver’s identification card issued by a State, territory, possession, or the District of Columbia
- Enhanced driver’s license issued by a State, territory, possession, or the District of Columbia
- U.S. passport or passport card
- Foreign passport bearing an expired immigrant or non-immigrant visa or entry stamp
- Federal personal identity verification card (when otherwise eligible)
- VHIC
- Transportation Worker Identification Card

First visit

Upon the first visit to an installation, these eligible Veterans and caregivers must stop at the visitor control center. Depending on the type of installation, Veterans may enroll for recurring access, which would allow them to proceed to the gate for entry upon subsequent visits without having to stop again at the visitor control center.

As with all other individuals seeking access to DoD installations, all eligible Veterans must pass a basic on-the-spot background check prior to enrolling, and an automated check each time they enter the installation. Veterans with felony convictions, felony arrest warrants, or other types of derogatory information related to criminal history or terrorism will not be permitted entry.

Based on the hundreds of comments below, here are answers to the most-asked:

Q: Can I bring a spouse/friend/guest?
A. Yes, but all guests must go through the required vetting at the visitor control center and must remain with the sponsor at all times.

Veterans and caregivers should know that while they can bring guests onto the installation and into the facilities, those guests will have to stop at visitor control and go through the required access steps, which includes providing an acceptable proof of identity (e.g., REAL ID-compliant driver’s license or U.S. passport) and undergoing a quick basic background check. If the guest shows up without the proper ID, they will not be able to accompany the veteran or caregiver onto the installation.

Q. Does this include Class Six, gyms, golf courses?
A. Yes to Class Six, no to gyms, yes to golf courses.
Callaway-Kemp-Raughley-Tee Post 7 Thanksgiving Dinner

Commander Dan Tesoro has chaired the event. More than 80 members of the community as well as veterans were served. The dinner which consisted of turkey, ham, vegetables, stuffing, rolls and assorted cakes and pies, many of which were homemade.

Submission by: Chuck Werner

Callaway-Kemp-Raughley-Tee Post 7 Christmas Celebration

Santa and Mrs. Clause took time from their busy day to stop by Callaway, Kemp, Raughley, Tee Post 7 to meet and greet children as well as veterans. Also is a photo of the tree of remembrance adjacent to our POW/MIA table.

Submitted by Chuck Werner
VA understands that burial and funeral expenses can be a hardship for families of recently deceased Servicemembers and Veterans. VA provides the following burial and memorial benefits:

- Inscribed headstone or marker at any cemetery, or a medallion to affix to one that is privately purchased. Spouses and dependents are eligible for a headstone or marker if they are buried in a national cemetery, state Veterans’ cemetery, or military base cemetery.

- Burial allowance to partially reimburse the burial and funeral costs of an eligible Veteran.

- Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC), which is an engraved certificate, signed by the current president, to honor the memory of an honorably discharged deceased Veteran, provided to the next of kin and loved ones of a deceased Veteran.

- American flag to drape the casket of a Veteran.

Veterans Month of Death Benefits

If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse. This payment is usually automatic, but if it is not received, it can be claimed via a phone call to 1-800-827-1000, or through your County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO).

Eligible Veterans, as well as their qualifying spouses, children, and parents, may receive burial in a national cemetery. Go to www.cem.va.gov for more information on eligibility and requirements.

Additional resources:
https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/docs/factsheets/Planning_Legacy_Booklet.pdf
https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/docs/factsheets/Pre-need_Eligibility_Fact_Sheet.pdf
The American Legion Post 17 sponsored its 12th Annual Veteran’s fall fishing trip on September 11, 2019. Altogether, 32 veterans from Milford’s Delaware Veterans Home, Home of the Brave, and volunteers trekked out to the pier at Cape Henlopen State Park. With the help of the American Legion Post 17 Family (our Legionnaires, Sons of the American Legion (SALs), and Auxiliary), all the fishing equipment, coolers, and wheelchairs got pushed up and down the long pier. The weather was warm and sunny with a slight breeze that kept things comfortable.

Coffee, doughnuts and ice water were provided on the pier by the Auxiliary, and a hearty lunch was served back at the Post to all attendees, thanks to the SALs and chef Patrick Gibson.

Pocket flags were presented to the veterans at the lunch. These miniature U.S. flags are packaged (along with encouraging personal notes) by local elementary schoolchildren with the help of JROTC Cadets from Cape Henlopen High School and American Legion Unit 17 Auxiliary members.

After returning from the fishing pier, the group was greeted by human and furry representatives from PAWS for People, a nonprofit organization committed to providing therapeutic visits to any person in the community who would benefit from interaction with a well-trained, loving pet.

With this being September 11, a short “We Will Remember” ceremony was held outside the Post Pavilion to commemorate victims of the attack on America, and to honor the ultimate sacrifice of first responders and all U.S. military personnel who gave their lives in the war on terrorism.

American Legion Post 17 has been sponsoring this trip for 12 years, and it has been a great way for veterans to interact with fellow veterans. Helping someone bait a fishing line, while standing outside on a pier and recalling their days of military service together is a sight to behold.

Twice a year, weather permitting, the American Legion Family of Post 17 hosts these fishing trips with the hope of making a profound difference in our veterans’ lives by providing a safe and positive outdoor experience.

Photos in story order:

(1) Post volunteers standing (left to right) are Navy veteran Al Boeckle, Legionnaire Jeff Cianflone and Auxiliary member Dot Nicholson. Fishing is Air Force veteran Tom Bowers from the Delaware Veterans Home.

(2) Pictured (left to right) are Carol Wright, Paul Wallner, and Jeff Cianflone. Carol and Jeff are Auxiliary and Legionnaire members, respectively, while Paul is an Army veteran from the Delaware Veterans Home.

Cont on page 17 >>>
Veterans Fishing Trip, September 2019 - Cont.

(3) Pictured standing (left to right) are Auxiliary members Pat Schneider, Carol Wright, and Linda Stone. The fisherman is Warrell “Willie” Wilson, Air Force veteran visiting from the Delaware Veterans Home.

(4) Home of the Brave resident Fred Lehto, U.S. Army Special Forces (Green Beret) veteran, was the first one to catch a fish.

(5) Fred’s catch was a puffer fish; SALs member Freddie Ruff attempts to “puff” it up.

(6) Auxiliary member Pat Schneider had the most luck, catching three (different!) fish.

Looking on, left to right, are Auxiliary members Dot Nicholson and Carol Wright. Seated are Ronnie Ward and Neal Burke, residents from the Delaware Veterans Home.

(7) The group of veterans and volunteers pose after fishing from Cape Henlopen’s fishing pier at American Legion Post 17’s Fall Fishing Trip 2019.

(8) PAWs for People representatives Irene Ullmann and dog Shine greet Air Force veteran Tom Bowers, with Auxiliary members Carol Wright holding the wheelchair while Auxiliary member Kellie Bergen (Department and Unit 17 Chaplain) watches from the background.

(9) PAWs for People representatives Howard Levetin and dog Daisy greet Army veteran Paul Wallner, while Auxiliary member Kellie Bergen (Department and Unit 17 Chaplain) watches from the background.

(10) Young veterans Luke Crompton and Orline Houston pet a soft therapy rabbit.

(11&11a) During a 9/11 remembrance ceremony at American Legion Post 17, Auxiliary President Murt Foos (left) and Post Commander Ed Bergen (right) can be seen in front of volunteers, members and visiting veterans.

(12) Closing the 9/11 remembrance ceremony by playing ‘Taps’ are (left) 1st Vice Commander Mike Mulligan and (right) retired gunnery sergeant Richard Mansfield, U.S. Marine Corps.

(13) Auxiliary Historian Nancy Bush served the visiting veterans our popular “Hillbillie Chili,” made by SALs Adjutant Tom Murray.

(14) Auxiliary member Sandy Keen presents a pocket flag to veteran Neal Burke. Pocket flags are miniature U.S. flags, folded and packaged by local children with the help of the JROTC from Cape Henlopen High School, that are presented to active duty and veteran service-men and -women to thank them for their service to our country.

(15) Auxiliary members who helped serve the fishermen’s lunch.

Submission by:
Cindy Butler
Publicity Chair
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17, Lewes, Delaware
October 20, 2019 Riders and Auxiliary from Post 14 in Smyrna participated in the Walk for Hearing which took place at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard as part of Team Addie. Addie, the granddaughter of one of our members, Dianne Cree, was born deaf so this walk was personal for all of us. It was a chilly, rainy, day but that did not dampen the enthusiasm as a large crowd turned out to walk.

November 1, 2019 The American Legion Riders from Post 14 in Smyrna partnered with the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 14 to teach the kindergarten classes at Clayton Elementary School about the American flag. The children were also given supplies to make Veterans Day cards. The cards were handed out at our Post’s Veterans Breakfast as well as the Veterans Breakfast at Delaware Veterans Post 2.

November 2, 2019 The Legion Riders participated in the 39th Annual Bobby Hall/Larry Fisher Memorial Toy Run sponsored by ABATE of Delaware, New Castle County. The police escorted ride began at Banning Park and ended at Exceptional Care for Children in Newark.

Photos in order of story:
(1) Larry Marion- ALR #14 Road Captain, Clare Marion- ALR #14 Membership, Marie Golden- ALA Unit #14 with Daughter Luna Golden- Jr Member ALA Unit #14, Janet Link- ALR #14 PR, Addie, Diane Cree, Steve Kellam- Director ALR #14
(2) Team Addie Photos;
(3) Marie Golden- ALA Unit #14, Janet Link-ALR Post #14 PR

Public Relations, Classroom Teacher, Lester Link- ALR Post #14 Treasurer, Lisa Rose- ALA Unit #14 President, Ginny Potts- ALA Unit #14 Vice President behind one of the Kindergarten Classes
(4) Clare Marion- ALR #14 Membership, Michele Coldiron, wife of ALR Post #14

Kenny Coldiron- Assistant Director/Chaplain, Steve Kellam- ALR Post #14 Director in front of Mrs. Coldiron’s Class.
(5) Diane Cree- ALR Post #14, Jimmy Cree- ALR Post #14, Lester Link- ALR Post #14 Treasurer, Santa and Mrs Claus, Janet Link- ALR Post #14 Public Relations & Steve Kellam- ALR Post #14 Director

Submission by:
Janet Link, PR
American Legion Riders Post #14, Smyrna, DE
On December 11, 2019, friends and members of American Legion Post 17 proudly accepted Southern Delaware Tourism’s award for Best New Event—bringing the Vietnam Veteran’s Moving Wall to Lewes in mid-May 2019. Although the hosting of the Moving Wall was meant, in part, to celebrate and recognize the 100th anniversary of the American Legion and Auxiliary as military service partners, having it also become a tourist attraction was an added bonus.

The event—a 250-foot scale replica of the Washington, DC, Vietnam Veterans Memorial—travels across the country and honors the more than 58,000 soldiers who died during that war. The five-day 24-hour-a-day event was made possible by over 300 volunteers and contributors, and brought in over 8,000 visitors from Delaware and neighboring states.

“The Vietnam Wall stands as a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice that service-men and -women made and helps to heal the wounds from that war,” said Ed Bergen, Commander of American Legion Post 17. “The Moving Wall was created to allow people from across America—who are unable to make the trip to Washington, D.C.—the opportunity to visit the monument in their hometown.”

The entire family of Post 17 worked tirelessly to make this event a success. The entire weekend was full, with several ceremonies, a flyover from Dover Air Force Base, the laying of a ceremonial wreath, interactive presentations to local schoolchildren, and volunteers reading aloud each and every name on that Wall. Candlelight vigils took place each evening with the playing of bagpipes and “Taps.”

Post 17 Auxiliary President Murt Foos, master of ceremonies, and Kellie Bergen, Veterans Affairs Chair for the Post, thanked sponsors and volunteers. The two played a key role in making the dream of bringing the Wall to Lewes a reality. “Every penny, every dollar, every smile, every idea, and all the hours of thinking, planning, and doing made Wall Weekend possible,”

Two South Vietnam refugees, Thinh Pham, owner of Minh’s Bistro in Rehoboth Beach, and Tuan Tran, a fighter pilot during the war, also spoke and thanked veterans and their families for their sacrifices.

“We are honored and humbled with all that was done and for the community and friends who responded and fulfilled every need. It was all worthwhile to see Vietnam Veterans who visited to pay tribute, to touch the names of their fallen comrades, and for veterans to bring grandchildren to the Wall to make sure they learned the story of war and sacrifice,” said Murt Foos, president of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17.

Captions toplef: American Legion Auxiliary members holding the award are, left to right, Veterans Affairs Chair for the Post Kellie Bergen, Auxiliary President Murt Foos, and Publicity Chair Cindy Butler. Bottom left: Award recipients included (left to right), Mike Porch, Delaware River and Bay Authority; Brad Foos, Schell Bros.; Cindy Butler, Publicity Chair for Auxiliary Unit 17; Ralph Patterson, Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge 2540; Murt Foos, Auxiliary President; Ted Becker, mayor of the City of Lewes; Betsy Reamer, Executive Director of Lewes Chamber of Commerce; Kelly Bergen, Veterans Affairs Chair for the Post; Phyllis Patterson, Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge 2540; Ed Bergen, Commander of American Legion Post 17; and Dan Matta, Schell Bros.

BelowEveryone who contributed to the event
Submission by: Cindy Butler
Publicity Chair
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17
Lewes, Delaware
In November of 2019, the ALA Department of Delaware was honored to receive a visit from the American Legion Auxiliary National President, Nicole Clapp. Included within this report are details and noteworthy pictures, including the Department of Delaware’s 100 Year Celebration Dinner in which the National President was the guest of honor.

On Wednesday, November 13th Tina Washington, Executive Secretary for the Department of Delaware and Beth McGinn, National Poppy Chairman drove to Washington DC to pick up the National President from her time in the Capital. Upon her arrival in Delaware, she was shown to her home away from home for the next few days in Rehoboth Beach. Rehoboth Beach is a city on the Atlantic Ocean along the Delaware Beaches in eastern Sussex County.

As of 2010 United States Census, the population was 1,327. Along with the neighboring coastal city of Lewes, Rehoboth Beach is one of the principal cities of Delaware's rapidly growing Cape Region. The town was founded in 1873 as the Rehoboth Beach Camp Meeting Association by the Rev. Robert W. Todd, of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church of Wilmington, Delaware, as a site for Methodist (Methodist Episcopal Church) camp meetings in the spirit of similar resorts further north on the New Jersey shore. The Camp Meeting Association disbanded in 1881, and in 1891, the location was incorporated by the General Assembly of Delaware (state legislature) as "Cape Henlopen City" but in 1893, it was renamed to Rehoboth Beach.

Thursday morning, November 14th we officially started our visit. President Clapp was picked up at her hotel and taken to a local Post – Oak-Orchard Riverdale, Post 28 to participate in their Christmas “Mail Call”. This unit, our largest within the State, was packing boxes to send to their active duty members. (See picture 1). While President Clapp was there, we had visitors from several other Units who presented her with donations and gifts for her project. After our morning task was completed we then drove to Dover to visit a Veteran Run Museum. The Air Mobility Command Museum. The Air Mobility Command Museum (AMCM) is dedicated to military airlift and air refueling aircraft and the men and women who flew and maintained them. It has the largest and most complete collection of fully restored U.S. military cargo and tanker aircraft in the Eastern United States and is located about 1/2 mile south of Dover Air Force Base. (See pictures 2 & 3). Later that same evening, President Clapp was invited to Rehoboth Unit 5 for a casual Meet and Greet.

Friday, November 15th the Department of Delaware along with President Clapp were given an opportunity to visit the First American Legion Ambulance Service – Ambulance 64. In 1924, the members of David C. Harrison, American Legion Post #14, initiated the first American Legion ambulance service in the world. Its eighteen founding members were veterans of World War I who volunteered their time to transport the sick and injured to hospitals in Wilmington, Dover, Milford, and beyond. Prior to this, anyone needing medical assistance were transported by train.

Continued on Next Page >>>>>>>
At the time of its founding, services were provided to a district that extended from Summit Bridge to Milford. Services were moved into Smyrna in 1961. In 2013, the ambulance service dedicated a new, modern building at the intersection of Routes 6 and 300, the crossroads of Smyrna and Clayton. The David C. Harrison, Post #14, American Legion Ambulance Service has been in continuous operation since its founding and now serves an area from the Delaware Bay to the Maryland border, and from Collin’s Beach to Garrison’s Lake. Staffed by volunteers and career staff, the service was responsible for answering more than 25,000 calls for assistance during its first seventy-five years of operation. (See pictures 4 & 5). By mid-afternoon we had traveled back down the State to visit one of the Local CBOC Clinics attached to the Wilmington VA Medical Center. (See picture 6). At the completion of the day we once again returned to Oak-Orchard Riverdale, Post 28 for dinner. It was Shrimp Night – a personal favorite of President Clapp.

Saturday, November 16th started another busy day for our visiting National President and we are off to feed the masses. Thanksgiving for Thousands sponsored by Mountaire Farms. Mountaire Farms is the seventh-largest producer of chicken in the United States, with headquarters in Millsboro, Delaware and for more than 20 years Mountaire Farms has been feeding families on Delmarva at Thanksgiving and throughout the year, and the annual Thanksgiving for Thousands Food Drive event has become a positive difference in many communities along the Eastern Shore. Even with the temperatures in the low 50’s National President Clapp was out there volunteering with members of the entire Department of Delaware Legion Family. (See pictures 7 & 8).

Saturday, November 16th evening, Cheswold Delaware – American Legion Auxiliary/Family, Department of Delaware 100 Year Celebration. Finally the moment has arrived when everyone can come together and celebrate the accomplishments of the American Legion Auxiliary. The Legion Family is all there – Legion, Auxiliary and Squadron. Department Officers have turned out in their finery ready for a good meal and some entertainment. As an aside, I think President Clapp was a little taken with our entertainment - Mr. Goodwood (See pictures 9-12).

What an amazing week we got to spend with our National President. All events were posted on the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Delaware Facebook page and the corresponding photos have been sent to President Clapp’s Assistant as requested.

Please let me know if you require any additional information as I would be happy to provide it.

Your fellow Sister in Service,
Lisa McCarley
ALA Department of Delaware, Historian photos in story order:
Picture 1 – Oak-Orchard Riverdale – Packages for their active duty members
Pictures 2 and 3 – Air Mobility Command Museum (picture 1 – Veteran Guide)
Pictures 4 and 5 – Ambulance 64 Volunteer EMT and Ambulance Crew. President Clapp in the EMT riot vest provided to all crew members.
Picture 6 – Georgetown VA Clinic
Pictures 7 and 8 – Mountaire Farms “Thanksgiving for Thousands”
Picture 9 --ALA Department of Delaware Officers
Picture 10 -- Entertainer – Mr. Goodwood
Picture 11 -- VFW Auxiliary President, Department of Delaware – Faye Caldwell
Picture 12 -- 2018-2019 Unit Member of the Year for the Department of Delaware – Judy Campbell also our Eastern Division Gold Star Family Representative
November 3, 2019 The American Legion Riders Participated in the 39th annual Delaware Valley Abate Toy Run in support of the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program.

November 7, several members of the American Legion Post 14 family attended the annual Clayton Elementary School Veterans Day Program starring the third grade students.

November 8, 2019 Two of the Legion Riders from Post 14 were honored to participate in the Delaware Technical Community College Veterans Breakfast.

November 8, The Legion Riders attended the Middletown High School Jr ROTC program in which they dedicated a POW/MIA Chair of Honor as well as a Memorial to US Navy Petty Officer Brandon K Austin who was a Middletown High School Graduate.

November 10, 2019 The American Legion Post 14 in Smyrna, Delaware hosted a breakfast for Veterans. The meal was great and music was provided again this year by The Imagination Players, a group of young people who are talented and passionate about what they do.

Photos in story order:
(1) Philly Run- Steve Kellam- Director, Lis Kellem, Jimmy Cree, Diane Cree, Larry Marion- Road Captain, Clare Marion- Membership, Lester Link- Treasurer and Janet Link- Public Relations
(2) Clayton- Clayton Third Grade
(3) DelTech- Fellow Legion Members, Lester Link and Steve Kellam
(4) Middletown-
(5) Veterans Breakfast- Mike Boub-Road Captain, John Huf-ford- Post Vice Commander, Jimmy Cree ALR, Essy Rowe-Safety, Larry Marion- Road Captain, Clare Marion- Membership, Janet Link- Public Relations, Diane Cree ALR, Barb Boub- Secretary, Rep William Carson & Steve Kellam- Director
(6) Veterans Breakfast 2- Legion Members and the Imagination Players

Janet Link, PR
American Legion Riders Post #14, Smyrna, DE
Warrior Weekend Dinner Post 17 Family

Friday nights at American Legion Post 17 in Lewes are always fun with dinner service and entertainment, but November 8, 2019, was extra special as the Post Family welcomed 25+ members of the Warrior Weekend Program. This small local program (based in Harbeson, Delaware) provides a weekend of rest, relaxation and fun for military heroes recovering from injuries sustained while serving on active duty. Injured troops and their families are treated to free transportation, dining and sightseeing along various resorts along the mid-Atlantic coast. The Warrior Weekend Program exists solely upon donations and local volunteers and is not affiliated with the national Wounded Warrior Program.

A call in the summer from Warrior Weekend’s president Jim Lafferty to Unit 17 Auxiliary President Murt Foos set the wheels in motion for this special night.

Taveras, “it made me feel how much our country values us as soldiers, and it felt amazing to feel that admiration from our country.” All this could not have been possible without the Warrior Weekend volunteers, the help of Unit 17’s Auxiliary who served the meal, and Chef Patrick Gibson who provided not one—but four—delicious dinner choices to the guests. The American Legion Family of Post 17 could not be prouder to welcome and serve our recovering soldiers, especially on this Veterans Day weekend.

For more information, please visit www.warrior-weekend.net and www.alpost17.com

Photos in story order:
(1) Auxiliary volunteers made the dinner service run smoothly. Pictured, left to right, are Pat Schneider, Debbie Simms, Shay Nipper, Nancy Bush, Dot Nicholson and MaryAnn McCrae. Not pictured are Auxiliary President Murt Foos, Chaplain Kellie Bergen, and Secretary Dorothy Murray.
(2) Local Warrior Weekend president Jim Lafferty (in gray) introduced Unit 17 Chaplain Kellie Bergen (in red) who blessed the meal and the outing with an Opening Prayer. (3) Auxiliary President Murt Foos (in red) welcomed Elena and Anthony Mathis, with seven-year-old twins Jayla and Jaydan. Not pictured is three-year-old Ayva. (4) Auxiliary President Murt Foos and Historian Nancy Bush help get Ayva and her stuffed animal comfortable in the Post’s community room. (5) Some of the Warrior Weekend volunteers enjoying dinner at Post 17. Pictured, left to right, are Scott Underkoffer, Bob Pruchenski, Kae Johnson, Buddy Clark, Garth Miller, Tom Dahl and Paul Zambito. (6) The Warrior Weekend project allows our wounded military heroes to enjoy time away from the stress of medical and day-to-day worries. Here, Axl Cas- taneda, wife Jennifer and two-month-old Joshua relax. (7) Chowing down on delicious desserts are visiting Army families (left to right) Thania Ortiz, Samuel Ortiz, Samantha Ortiz and Miguel Taveras.
(8) Auxiliary Historian Nancy Bush presents visiting wounded soldier Elena Niguefaye with gift bags of toys for her children. (9) Ayva explores her gift bag when she thought no one was looking! (10) The group joined hands and sang along to Lee Greenwood’s “God Bless the USA.” (11) Jayla and Ayva, traveling with their family as part of the Warrior Weekend, gets a dance lesson from (left to right) Auxiliary President Murt Foos, Bobbie Hitcheas and Laura Wyatt, while husband Jim Wyatt looks on. The Wyatts are members of American Legion Post 3 in Milford and came out to show their support of the veterans and DJ Bruce. (12) Olivier Ouedraogo carefully slow dances with his wife Mariama. This was the first time he attempted such a feat as his leg is recovering from a serious injury. Mariama was so excited to be dancing with him again because she hasn’t seen him do that in a long time nor has she been able to be on a trip like this. 

Axl Cas-
Stockings For Soldiers

Stockings For Soldiers - Delaware, Inc. was founded to help improve the morale and welfare of members of the armed forces of the United States of America deployed in harm’s way.

To accomplish their mission, they sewing holiday stockings and filling them with special items for the troops. Many of the stockings that are sent were created for a specific person with their name on the stocking. For many troops, our gift is all they receive for the holidays.

By sending a "touch of home" as well as personal messages of support to remind our troops that we appreciate all they do for us and to let them know that they have not been forgotten over the holidays.

This year marked the 16th consecutive year for SFS. They completed 11,500 stockings, and mailed 51,000 lbs. of goodies. Along with all of the hard work that goes into this very fast moving project – only 2 months to get it all done – we have many, many volunteers who help this all come together. From Girls and Boys Scout Troops, to College Sports Teams, to the Delaware National Guard, and many Veteran Service Groups along with “special guests” show up to help with the moral and to just have some fun.

Please consider volunteering your time and PDP – Jenn Havel (4)Department Commander – Mike Havel and Sith Lord - Darth Vader (5)Storm Trooper Submission by: Lisa McCarley, Unit 18

Pictures in story order:
(1)RC DuPont Post 18 with Founder Judy Travis and Governor John Carney (2)Peter Dirga, Lisa McCarley and Governor John Carney working in the packing room (3)Department Commander – Mike Havel
American Legion Chapter 14

November 13, 2019 Once again the Riders assisted the Auxiliary Unit #14 at Clayton Elementary School, this time to address Ms. Gilmore’s Fourth grade class concerning the flag. While Janet Link and Marie Golden ALA Unit #14 explained the meaning behind the stars, stripes and colors of the flag, Lester Link and Steve Kellam held the flag and showed the children how to properly fold it. The class was full of questions throughout the presentation that ended in the kids being given a word search puzzle about the flag.

November 22, 2019 the Legion Riders from Post 14 in Smyrna attended the annual Veterans Day program at Lighthouse Christian School.

On delivery day, we began by supplying meals to those at the senior center at 2 PM followed by one delivery in Clayton. The remainder of the meals were given out at the American Legion Post in Smyrna from 5 to 7 PM.

December 6, 2019 The American Legion Riders from Post 14 in Smyrna attended a wreath laying service at the memorial dedicated to Pvt. Samuel L Crawford who has been listed as Missing in Action since November 27, 1950. Pvt. Crawford dropped out of high school and enlisted in the U S Army and was almost immediately sent to Korea where he was lost in action.

December 7, 2019 Members of D C Harrison American Legion Post 14 of Smyrna held a memorial ceremony in honor of Pearl Harbor Day. Members laid a wreath at the monument commemorating those lost on December 7, 1941. Flowers were then placed into the lake by each member in honor of those lost.

December 8, 2019 The American Legion Riders Post #14 helped in The Fourth annual Toys for Tots toy run at A to Z cycles were met with temperatures in the low 20’s. It did not dampen the turnout or the enthusiasm as there were about 100 bikes, many of them with rider and passenger.

Photos in story order:
(1)Lighthouse- Lester Link- ALR #14 Treasurer, Rusty Fristckly- ALR Post #14, Larry Marion- ALR #14 Road Captain shaking hands with the children in attendance. (2)Lighthouse2- Lester Link- ALR #14 Treasurer, Anna Lopez- Past Commander Delvets Post 2, Larry Marion- ALR #14 Road Captain and Steve Kellam- ALR #14 Director (3)Clayton 4th Grade- Ms. Gilmore’s 4th Grade class along with Janet Link-ALA Unit #14, Lester Link- ALR Treasurer and Steve Kellam- ALR Director (4)Clayton 4th Grade 2- Steve Kellam- ALR #14 Director and Lester Link- ALR #14 Treasurer (5)Thanksgiving- Senior Center (6)Thanksgiving 2- Jim Sbarra- AL Post #14 Historian, David Lange- AL#14 Post Commander, Rusty Frisctky ALR #14, Janet Link ALR #14 Public Relations, Lester Link- ALR#14 Treasurer, Steve Kellam- ALR #14 Director and Larry Marion- ALR #14 Road Captain (7)Wreath for Crawford-Members of " A HerosWelcome", Legion Rider Post #14 members including Essy Rowe- ALR #14 Safety his wife Karen and granddaughter Lizzy, Lester Link- ALR #14 Treasurer and Steve Kellam- ALR #14 Director, Rosa Guy- Sister of Samuel Crawford, John Schroeder and Lawrence Pelham (8)Pearl Harbor- Joe Bonello- AL #14 Sgt of Arms, Larry Dunn- AL #14 Finance Officer, Owen Cole- AL #14 Adjutant, Jim Sbarra- AL #14 Historian, Steve Kellam- ALR #14 Director and Rusty Friscty (9)A to Z- John Cornwell- event organizer, Melissa Cornwell- event co-organizer, Lis Kellam, Steve Kellam- ALR #14 Director, Lester Link- ALR#14 Treasurer, Janet Link- ALR#14 Public relations, Rusty Friscty- ALR #14, Jimmy Keen- ALR#14 Road Captain and Jimmy Cree- ALR#14 (10)A to Z 2- Entire group of participants (11)A to Z 3- Lis Kellam- ALR #14 and Janet Link- ALR #14- Public Relations

The mission of the American Legion Riders in Smyrna is to support veterans and current serving military members in the community as well as law enforcement, fire department and EMS personnel. We also strive to help those in our community that are less fortunate than ourselves.

True to that mission, each year the riders reach out to the community to find those who might need just a little extra help around the holidays. With assistance from the Mamie Warren Senior Citizen Center, the Clayton Fire Department and the Smyrna School District Special Services we did identify several families that needed that little boost for Thanksgiving. Walmart Distribution Center in Smyrna once again supplied us with turkeys, and we got some help from Acme Market in Smyrna and Walmart in Dover as we put together full meals for those in need.

December 6, 2019 The American Legion Riders from Post 14 in Smyrna attended a wreath laying service at the memorial dedicated to Pvt. Samuel L Crawford who has been listed as Missing in Action since November 27, 1950. Pvt. Crawford dropped out of high school and enlisted in the U S Army and was almost immediately sent to Korea where he was lost in action.

ALR Director (4)Clayton 4th Grade 2- Steve Kellam- ALR #14 Director and Lester Link- ALR #14 Treasurer

Public Relations (5)Thanksgiving- Senior Center
(6)Thanksgiving 2- Jim Sbarra- AL Post #14 Historian, David Lange- AL#14 Post Commander, Rusty Fristckly ALR #14, Janet Link ALR #14 Public Relations, Lester Link- ALR#14 Treasurer, Steve Kellam- ALR #14 Director and Larry Marion- ALR #14 Road Captain (7)Wreath for Crawford-Members of " A HerosWelcome", Legion Rider Post #14 members including Essy Rowe- ALR #14 Safety his wife Karen and granddaughter Lizzy, Lester Link- ALR #14 Treasurer and Steve Kellam- ALR #14 Director, Rosa Guy- Sister of Samuel Crawford, John Schroeder and Lawrence Pelham (8)Pearl Harbor- Joe Bonello- AL #14 Sgt of Arms, Larry Dunn- AL #14 Finance Officer, Owen Cole- AL #14 Adjutant, Jim Sbarra- AL #14 Historian, Steve Kellam- ALR #14 Director and Rusty Friscty (9)A to Z- John Cornwell- event organizer, Melissa Cornwell- event co-organizer, Lis Kellam, Steve Kellam- ALR #14 Director, Lester Link- ALR#14 Treasurer, Janet Link- ALR#14 Public relations, Rusty Friscty- ALR #14, Jimmy Keen- ALR#14 Road Captain and Jimmy Cree- ALR#14 (10)A to Z 2- Entire group of participants (11)A to Z 3- Lis Kellam- ALR #14 and Janet Link- ALR #14- Public Relations
American Legion Auxiliary celebrating their 100 years of service

American Legion Auxiliary celebrates a century of selfless service and making a difference since the ALA’s inception on November 10th, 1919. In that time, Auxiliary members and nonmember volunteers have been tirelessly carrying out the ALA’s commitment as a patriotic service organization whose mission would be to advocate for, help, and honor United States military, veterans, and their families, and support The American Legion.

As part of this amazing year-long celebration, The Department of Delaware held several small events but our biggest celebration by far was the 100 year birthday dinner held at the Cheswald Firehouse. All members of the American Legion Family were invited as well as the National President, Nicole Clapp. There was a fabulous meal, dancing and comradery. There were even people dressed in period costumes. What a great celebration it was.

Pictured to the left: ALA Department of Delaware Officers and National President Nicole Clapp

American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Program

Students from local high schools throughout the New Castle County District were gathered on January 14th for the 2019 – 2020 American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Contest held at the Wilmington VA Hospital in Elsmere. Preliminary contest are held, by district, throughout the State of Delaware in hopes of advancing to the finals in February to represent Delaware in Indianapolis. The purpose of The American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Program is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Cash awards are also presented to the winners on both the local and the national levels. On the national level, Scholarship awards are presented to the three finalists of the national contest as follows: 1st Place: $20,000; 2nd place: $17,000; 3rd place: $15,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the first round of the national contest will receive a $2,000 scholarship. Each first round winner who advances to and participates in the second round, but does not advance to the final round, will receive an additional $2,000 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school. Scholarships awarded by the national organization of The American Legion may be used to attend any college or university in the United States.

For more information on the Oratorical Scholarship Program or to see how you can assist please contact the Department Chairman, Richard Browne. Bottom Left—NCC District Commander - Rick Browne, Speaker #2 and Speaker #1, Department Commander – Mike Havel Below NCC District Commander - Rick Browne, Winner Speaker #2 from Tower Hill, Department Commander – Mike Havel
Thanksgiving for Thousands Food Drive

On a chilly and blustery November 16, 2019, American Legion Post 17 Family and cadets of the Cape Henlopen High School JROTC partnered with the Rehoboth Beach Safeway to support Mountaire Farms “Thanksgiving for Thousands” Food Drive. This community project’s goal is to provide Thanksgiving meals to thousands of less-fortunate individuals throughout the state.

Volunteers from Post 17 and JROTC cadets greeted shoppers at the entrance to the grocery store, and provided them with a donation list of nonperishable items. Suggested purchases included canned vegetables, cranberry sauces, gravies, along with stuffing and brownie mixes. The cadets assisted in collection of these donated items upon the shoppers’ exit.

Mountaire Farms trucks came by and collected our boxes, as well as boxes from other participating grocers, in preparation for the massive food packing event at the Mountaire Farms warehouse. Hundreds of local volunteers gathered November 25 to pack 10,000 boxes with a complete Thanksgiving dinner for a family, including a plump Mountaire Farms chicken, and the canned goods previously donated.

The American Legion Post 17 Family is honored to be a part of the entire community coming together and making a positive difference this Thanksgiving.

Photos in story order:
(1) From left to right, Post Historian Jeff Cianflone, Paul Wohlfel, Emma Dominick, Diego Reyna, Leslie Reyna, Post Commander Ed Bergen, Rocio Puac-Escalank, Victoria Pusey, Trey Quinones, and Auxiliary member Cindy Butler.
(2) From left to right, Post Commander Ed Bergen, Auxiliary member Linda Roper and Finance Officer Dan Catts at Safeway.
(3) From left to right, Post member Bert Long, Commander Ed Bergen and Historian Jeff Cianflone, working at the Mountaire Farms warehouse.

Submission by:
Cindy Butler
Publicity
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17
Lewes, DE
December 9, 2019 American Legion Riders Post #14 attended the salute to Wreaths Across America at the Delaware Legislative Hall in Dover. Even though it was a rainy and dreary day dozens came out to participate, including the fourth grade class from Holy Cross Elementary School. Speakers included the honorable Governor John C Carney, Major General Michael Berry, Adjutant General of the Delaware National Guard, Colonel Michael Peeler, Commander of the 436th Operations Group at Dover Air Force Base, Senator Bruce Ennis, Representative Earl Jaques, and Laurence Kirby, Executive Director of the Delaware Commission on Veterans Affairs. After hearing from the speakers, wreaths were placed at 8 different monuments around Legislative Hall. These wreaths were placed by dignitaries accompanied by some of the school children that were present. Another wreath was also placed outside Legislative Hall to commemorate Gold Star families. December 12, the American Legion Riders attended the annual Wreaths Across America escort from Maine as it stopped at Glasgow High School in Newark for a ceremony honoring Gold Star Families. Eleven tractor trailers filled with wreaths and headed for Arlington National Cemetery stopped at the school as part of the Wreaths Across America commitment to Remember, Honor and Teach. The convoy was made up of the trucks, veterans, Gold Star families and police officers some from as far away as Maine. December 13, 2019 the Wreaths Across America convoy made a stop at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to have a short ceremony and to lay wreaths at the Memorial. The rainy and chilly day did not dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd that had gathered. It was made up of those from the convoy, veterans and other citizens from around the country. After a few short opening remarks and an opening prayer, the police officers present laid a wreath at the adjacent Vietnam Women’s Memorial. Then, accompanied by a police officer, each Gold Star family was afforded the opportunity to lay a wreath at The Wall. After that all Vietnam Veterans, then Veterans of any era, and finally the general public were given the same opportunity until a wreath was placed at every panel. December 14, 2019 13 members of the Legion Riders Post 14 set out for the train station to take us to Arlington National Cemetery prepared for bad weather. After an uneventful train ride and a trip through security, we proceeded to different areas of the cemetery to lay wreaths in honor of our veterans buried there and throughout the world. We were able to lay wreaths at the gravesites of family members buried there and other veterans throughout various parts of the cemetery. The really bad weather held off and we only had to contend with a few showers and overcast skies. Arlington National Cemetery consists of 624 acres contains over 270,000 graves. Thanks to the many donors, every gravestone in the cemetery will receive a wreath for Wreaths Across America Day. Estimates are that more than 38,000 volunteers helped place these wreaths and that worldwide over 2.3 million wreaths were laid. Many of us were approached by people throughout the cemetery commenting on our vests and asking about our organization. It was great because it gave us an opportunity to explain not only what we do as a group but what the American Legion does as well. They were all
very complimentary that we took the time to come there and pay our respects. It was also wonderful to see so many families with young children taking the time to teach the kids what it is all about. After covering many miles and with some of us realizing that we are definitely not at young and agile as we used to be it was time to return back to the hotel and then home, tired but with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Photos:
(1) Wreathes Leg Hall- Major General Michael Barry and two of the fourth grade students from Holy Cross
(2) Wreathes Leg Hall 2- Lester Link- ALR #14 Treasurer and Rusty Fritscy- ALR #14
(3) Wreathes Glasgow HS- Lori Hall- Wreaths Across America Convoy Guest
(4) Wreathes VVW- Larry Marion- ALR #14 Road Captain, Clare Marion- ALR #14 Membership, Barbara Boub- ALR #14 Secretary, Kenny Coldiron- ALR #14 Asst Director/ Chaplain,
Janet Link- ALR #14 Public Relations, Lester Link- ALR #14 Treasurer, Steve Kellam- ALR #14 Director, Kelly Humphreys- ALR #14, Rusty Fritscy ALR #14, Diane Cree- ALR #14, Bill Humphreys- ALR #14, Jimmy Creek- ALR #14
(5) Wreathes VVW 2- Jimmy Creek-ALR #14, Bill Humphreys-ALR #14, Kelly Humphreys-ALR #14, , Diane Cree- ALR #14, Steve Kellam- ALR #14 Director, Janet Link- ALR #14 Public Relations, Lester Link- ALR #14 Treasurer, Gene Hall- Wreaths Across America Convoy Guest, Kenny Coldiron- ALR #14 Asst Director/ Chaplain, Clare Marion- ALR #14 Membership, Larry Marion- ALR #14 Road Captain, Barbara Boub- ALR #14 Secretary, Mike Boub- ALR #14 Road Captain, Cindy Fritscy and Rusty Fritscy ALR #14
(6) Wreathes VVW3- Steve Kellam- ALR #14 Director
(7) Wreathes VVW4- Lester Link- ALR #14 Treasurer
(8) Wreathes Arlington- Larry Marion- ALR #14 Road Captain, Clare Marion- ALR #14 Membership, Steve Kellam- ALR #14 Director, Janet Link- ALR #14 Public Relations, Lester Link- ALR #14 Treasurer, Rusty Fritscy- ALR #14, Steve Kellam- ALR #14 Director and kneeling Larry Marion- ALR #14 Road Captain
(9) Wreaths Arlington 3- Just one of the Awe inspiring photos at Arlington National Cemetery
(10) Wreaths Arlington 4- Rusty Fritscy- ALR #14, Steve Kellam- ALR #14 Director and Lester Link- ALR #14 Treasurer in front of the gravestone Daniel William Seemans Sr.
Back home, we were represented at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery by our member John Rowe and his family. An estimated 2/3 of the cemetery was covered with wreaths this year, more than in the past.
(11) Wreaths Bear- Lizzy- Granddaughter of Essy Rowe- ALR #14 Safety
(12) Wreaths Bear- Essy Rowe- ALR #14 Safety

Submission by: Janet Link
PR
American Legion Riders Post #14, Smyrna, DE
Talk about a mutually beneficial relationship. The Cape Henlopen Army Reserve 946 Transportation Company was in Lewes on December 7-8, 2019. As has been done in years past, the community donated food for our soldiers and the Auxiliary was proud to serve them a fine lunch on Saturday with a special visit from Auxiliary Historian Nancy Bush as Olaf, delivering a holiday stocking to each soldier.

In return, twelve members of the 946 Unit helped with assembly of the Post’s Christmas Parade float for the Lewes parade and then escorted the float in the parade. Their uniformed presence brought great attention to the float and the troop banners on it. These were the same banners that hung last summer from utility poles along Savannah Road and Cape Henlopen Drive. Each of these banners showcased actual photos of our hometown heroes who served their country. It was a pleasure to see an entire community honoring both the current troops and the veterans of the past by clapping, shaking hands, and with shouts of ‘Thanks for Serving,’ which was a great morale booster to these young soldiers. The float won Third Place in the Community Float Category, which successfully ends the Post’s year of honoring the 100th Anniversaries of the American Legion and its Auxiliary as military service organizations.

On Sunday, these same soldiers helped out at Post 17 to disassemble the float and put everything away in the Pavilion for the winter. As we have learned: We care for them and they care for us.

Photos in order of story:

(1) The Cape Henlopen Army Reserve 946 Transportation Company pose during their American Legion Post 17 Family Christmas party.
(2) Auxiliary Unit President Murt Foos can be seen adding final touches to the American Legion Post 17 Christmas Parade Float.
(3) Another view of the American Legion Post 17 Christmas Parade Float. Prominently displayed with blue background is the military banner of Post Commander Ed Bergen.
(4) The view of the back of the float showcasing local veterans. Riding upon the American Legion Post 17 Christmas Float are Sons of the American Legion Judge Advocate John Miller (left) and Post Commander Ed Bergen (right). Photo by Kyle Kaminski.
(5) Submission by: Cindy Butler
Publicity
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17
Lewes, DE
December 16, 2019 the Smyrna High School Air Force Junior ROTC dedicated a POW/MIA Chair of Honor. Members of the Legion Riders of Post 14, Smyrna were proud to be in attendance. Retired Air Force Colonel Mark Hetterly, the director of the JROTC program was the master of ceremonies. Colors were presented by the Color Guard of the JROTC and Miss Emma Van Orden sang the National Anthem. The Reverend Dr. John Riley gave the invocation. Mr. John Dumas, USAF retired and Colonel Hetterly unveiled the Chair of Honor and then remarks were made by Rosely Robinson of A Hero’s Welcome Delaware. The keynote speaker was Lt. Colonel (retired) Phillip Kroal. After one more song by Miss Van Orden, Dawson Ludwig performed taps. The POW/MIA Chair of Honor will be moved to its permanent place in the foyer of the gymnasium at the school.

December 18, 2019 The Legion Riders were able to help three families with Christmas presents and dinner and an additional 3 families with Christmas dinner.

December 20, 2019- Steve Kel- lam- Director ALR 14 was invited to attend AL Post 2’s Santa escort. They escorted Santa from AL Post 2 to Kent County Community School.

Lester Link- Treasurer ALR Post 14, Rusty Frits-ey ALR Post 14, Steve Kellam- Director ALR 14, Rep Jeffrey Speigel- man

(3) Christmas- some presents
(4) Christmas 2- some more presents and Carin Lucas- ALR Post 14, Rick Lucas- ALR Post 14, Jimmy Cree- ALR Post 14,

Craig Deppish- ALR Post 14 and Steve Kellam- Director ALR Post 14

(5) Christmas 3- Dinners to be given
(6) Korea- Chris Kisner-AL post 14 is centered in front of the Christmas tree surrounded by fellow military members unable to travel home.

(7) Kent County Community School- Steve Kellam- Director ALR Post 14, Skip Sharpee- ALR Post 2, Ank Parisan-ALA President Post 2, Santa, Chuck Parisan- ALR Post 2, 2 members of Post 2

The children were able to come out and meet Santa and see the motorcycles. A fun time for all.

Photo:
(1) Smyrna High- Chair of Honor
(2) Smyrna High2- Rep William Carson, AL Post 14,

Submission by:
Janet Link
PR
American Legion Riders Post #14, Smyrna, DE
My Fellow Legionnaires,

Yours in Legion Service,
Jeffrey K. Crouser
Rebecca C. Crouser
Co-Chairs Media and Communication

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