The Department of Delaware commemorated its Centennial with an American Legion Centennial Celebration with National Commander Brett P. Reistad on Saturday, March 9, 2019, at Dover Downs Hotel & Casino with 237 in attendance. The Centennial Banquet commenced at 5:00 PM with a social hour and light hors d’oeuvres, followed by dinner and National Commander Brett P. Reistad as the keynote speaker. Participation by the Posts was excellent. Thank you goes to the Post Commanders that made it happen:

- Michael Windows, Walter L. Fox Post #2
- Nancy Soriano, Milford Post #3
- Richard Jefferson, Nanticoke Post #6
- Charles Werner, Callaway-Kemp-Raughley-Tee Post #7
- H. George Wolfe, Lt. J. Allison O’Daniel Post #10
- James Grant, Robert L. Taylor Post #13
- Vincent Di Donato, David C. Harrison Post #14
- Edwin Bergen, William T. Spooner Post #17
- Robert Smith, Richard C. DuPont Post #18
- Darryl Potteiger, Laurel Post #19
- Billy Hitchens, Dagsboro Post #24
- David Strawbridge, Canal Post #25

Continued on Page 2

Hello everyone, since the last printing of the Legionnaire we have been to the Washington conference where the National Commander gave his report to Congress and The American Legion’s Legislative agenda for the 116th Congress was presented. Earlier this month we held our Centennial celebration with the National Commander and The American Legion officially turned 100 years old. I hope everyone who attended had a great time and learned about the history of The American Legion in Delaware. The American Legion 100th Anniversary mantra is “Legacy and Vision” both a celebration of past accomplishments and a renewal of the organization’s resolve to serve our nation’s veterans, our communities, state, and the nation for a second century, let us move forth under that 100th anniversary mantra.

Membership continues to do well for the Department although the March goal for 95% was missed we continue to maintain Nationally currently holding 2nd place right behind France. Delaware was number one Nationally for three weeks in January. Currently there are 7 Posts that have already made 100% goal. The next goal date is April 8th for 100% and I know that with everyone’s hard work and dedication you will all make the goal this year. The May goal is for 100%+ so keep going we will continue to take 2019 membership until June.

It is April so every Post should have finalized their CPR’s and submitted them so we can continue our record of 100% submission. They can be done electronically on my legion or they can be filled out manually and sent to HQ.

Thank you all for your dedication and support over this past Legion year it has been a wonderful journey but my time as Department Commander is coming to an end, it has been a pleasure being your Commander. Thank you all for what you do for your Community, State and Nation and your continued service to our Nations active duty service members and veterans.

For God and Country
James Stewart, Commander
The American Legion
Department of Delaware Inc.
American Legion Centennial Celebration - Cont.

Michael Marcocci, Oak Orchard-Riverdale Post #28
Victor Callahan, Joseph B. Stahl Memorial Post #30
Rod Kushela, Selbyville Post #39

Special guests beyond Commander Reistad were:
Sons of The American Legion, Delaware Detachment Commander
Garth Miller
Sons of The American Legion, National Vice Commander Eastern Region,
Michael S. Cotten
President Jenny Havel, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Delaware
American Legion Auxiliary, Eastern Division National Vice President Rita Barylski, Department of Connecticut
Brendan Mackie, Public Affairs office,
VAMC Wilmington
Angela Showell, Chairperson, Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs
The Honorable Stephen Smyk (R) District 20, Delaware House of Representatives Member of The American Legion, William T. Spooner Post #17
The Honorable William (Bill) J. Carson (D) District 28, Delaware House of Representatives Member of The American Legion, David C. Harrison Post #14, Smyrna
BG Michael Berry, Adjutant General, Delaware National Guard
BG Karen Berry, Adjutant General-Army, Connecticut National Guard
The Honorable Bethany Hall-Long, Lieutenant Governor
From the Department of Maryland
were:
Nikka Randolph, Chairwoman of the Maryland National Commander’s Banquet Committee
Ruth Higgins, Department Sergeant-At-Arms
Ronald Holcomb, Department 3rd Vice-Commander
Philip Dorsey, Department 1st Vice Commander, and his wife, Dee
Patricia McCoy, Alternate National Executive Committee
Lewis Trott, Jr., National Executive Committeeman
David Johnson, Department Commander, and his wife, Connie

There are three dozen Centennial mugs for sale at $10 each. Department Centennial coins remain at $10 each. See Jeffrey Crouser or Rebecca Crouser.

The centennial celebration at Dover Downs with National Commander Brett Reistad was a huge success. The Centennial post that made presentations and displayed their posts history did an outstanding job.

My fellow Legionaries as of the writing of this article we as a department are at 94.484%. The next target date is April 8th 2019 of 100%. Of the 27 post including headquarters 8 out of 27 have made or exceeded the 100% goal, and there are several other posts that are close to making this goal. This membership year is quickly coming to an end and we will start to gear up for the 2019, 2020 membership year.

Membership is the life blood of this organization. Some of the reasons membership is pushed so hard is the fact that membership drives our finances, our voice in government and our programs like Boy’s State, Trooper Youth, Legion Baseball just to name a few. We must strive to renew our membership and to continue to grow at the same time. As I stated earlier membership also drives our finances so the more members we have the better our finances become. Thus avoiding any possibility of a dues increase at the state level.

If there is anything that I or any of the Department officers can do to assist with your posts membership do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours in Legion Service,
Michael A. Havel
1st Vice

Deadline for next Legionnaire: July 23, 2019

THE DELAWARE LEGIONNAIRE

Suisssex District Commander

Fellow legionnaires
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Sussex District Posts that supported the National Commander’s dinner held at Dover Downs. On April 16 at 8:30am Sussex District will be packing Easter boxes at Mountaire warehouse all legionaries are welcome to help. Let’s not forget to mark your calendars for the VA Carnival on May the 9 from 11 - 2pm. Let’s keep up the good work on Membership next target date is April 10 100% I know it is tough but we must put every effort we can to obtain this goal. I will be visiting the following posts with the Department Commander Post 5 April 1, Post 19 April 3, Post 24 June 11, and Post 28 June 13.

For God and Country
Barry Sauers
Sussex District Commander
Wide Selection of Brands You Trust

Yeti • The North Face • Arc’teryx • EXTRATUF
Sitka • Mountain Khakis • Simply Southern
Red Wing • Sperry • Huk • Costa Del Mar • YETI

The Area’s Largest Selection of Firearms and Accessories

Benelli • Browning • Baretta • Remington
Stoeger • Savage • Benelli • Nikon

410-348-5000
12503 Augustine Herman HWY,
Kennedyville, MD

www.MyMollys.com
www.MyMollysFirearms.com
Well, our year end is fast approaching. Posts and Units are writing year end reports, electing new officers, getting ready for Convention. As we each prepare to move into the year ahead, let us look back at this year and remember our accomplishments.

This year has been especially rewarding for me. I have spent my time since last July getting reacquainted with people from all over Delaware and I have found that we are an amazing bunch of men and women. From Wilmington to Rehoboth Beach our presence can be felt in all of the Communities we serve. Whether we are celebrating 100 years of Legion Service, serving breakfast to help raise money for Boys and Girls State, collecting supplies for the local elementary schools or heading out to visit the folks in our nursing homes, we have all been very busy this year.

Many things have changed since I was President in 2010-11, but many things remain the same and I am proud to be a part of this organization and I want to share that by including others. Remember to seek out new members everywhere you go. There are so many people that we encounter every day that are eligible to join the American Legion Family, and would gladly do so – IF WE JUST ASK. Keep applications with you for all three branches. We can all help each other, as we help ourselves.

As our Auxiliary Centennial approaches – please keep in mind that we need to look toward the future and make sure our next 100 years leads forward in our mission to serve all Veterans, Active Duty Military and their Families.

Jeanette Havel
Madam President
Youth are often awarded for their scholastic achievements, but The American Legion believes they should also be praised when they demonstrate strong qualities of character and good citizenship. That's why, since 1926, the Legion has recognized such students with its School Award Medal Program.

In 1921, the Department of Pennsylvania created the School Award Medal Program for the purpose of instilling character and helping perpetuate the ideals of Americanism among youth. The award is given to a boy and a girl in the graduating classes of elementary school, junior and senior high school, and college. Those who receive a medal must exemplify six qualities that define COURAGE, HONOR, LEADERSHIP, PATRIOTISM, SCHOLARSHIP and SERVICE.

The American Legion School Award Medal Program is a project of the National Americanism Commission, and is put in effect by Legion Departments, Districts and Posts.

Candidates for the award are voted upon by a school's faculty and members of the candidates graduating class through a secret ballot casting. The local Legion Post involved with the school makes the final selection upon receiving recommendation from students and faculty. Each awardee receives a certificate and a medal with the six qualities listed on the face of the medal, as the back bears the Marine Corps motto, "Semper Fidelis" ("always faithful").

The program's success for the past 90-plus years has been prominent. In its first year, 145 students received medals and now, more than 18,000 are awarded medals. And every year the department with the strongest activity in the School Award Medal Program receives the Ralph T. O'Neil Education Trophy, named for The American Legion's 1930 National Commander.

Now that the 2018 - 2019 school year is in session, Delaware Legion Posts are encouraged to visit local schools to promote the program and its awards. Download a brochure on The American Legion School Award Medal Program at https://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/schoolaward.pdf

Richard J. Santos
Department Adjutant

---

**Riders Director**

As the riding season is upon us, all Delaware Rider Chapters are busy organizing their rides and events. Each Chapter has their own agenda but we try to work together and support each other. We all have the same goal, to help Veterans and their families.

This year we will have our 10th Annual Legion Riders Convention held at Walter L. Fox Post 2 in Dover, Delaware starting on Friday April 26 through Sunday April 28. This is a weekend where we as Riders get together to interact with other Chapters and just have a good time. We will raffle off a Cooler of Cheer at the end of the Convention, we will have 50/50’s all weekend, and a silent auction. All monies we raise during this weekend will go to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship in the name of all Delaware Chapters. This is a Riders only event.

Next, we will have our 3rd Annual In-State Legacy Poker Run on Saturday May 11, 2019 with a rain date of Saturday May 18, 2019. This event has been put together by the Legion Riders and has been supported by the Sons of the American Legion Members as they will be there at all the stops so we as Riders can do the ride. This will be the third time they have helped us out starting with Mike Cotton the first year and this year Edward Gossett Jr. will take the lead and we can’t thank them enough. This event is open to everyone who enjoys riding. All monies raised for this event will also go to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, and will be turned in to the National Commander in Indianapolis Indiana at the National Convention in August.

To my fellow American Legion Riders, have fun, and ride safe.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles J. Parisan Sr.
Department of Delaware Rider Director
Hello my fellow Legionnaires. I hope you have been able to participate in some of the American Legion Centennial Celebration. The Delaware Department of the American Legion celebrated the Centennial with the National Commander, Brett Reistad on March 9, 2019 at the Dover Downs Hotel. It was a fabulous night of camaraderie and Delaware Legion history. You can see more of the celebration with in the Delaware Legionnaire Newspaper and on the Delaware Legion Social Media.

We are two thirds through the 2019 Membership Year. Your Post will begin conducting elections and installation of new Officers, planning and attending various summer events. Will you be there and be a part of your Post business? When was the last Post meeting you attended? When was the last time you voted during one of the motions of your Post business? Have you signed up for your LIT insurance? When you get a chance. Do me a favor and pull out your membership card. Check the number of years that you have been a member. It does not matter if you have one or 50 years, your District and Post needs your support to accomplish the American Legion Mission and the Post goals. Your help is needed with retaining and gaining new membership. If your dues are not current and you need help with your dues, let your Post know ASAP.

Finally, the National Commander, Brett Reistad had requested that during the week of 11-15 March 2019, Post should conduct a Buddy Check. This was not for membership but to check on wellbeing. If you haven’t seen a Legion Member for a period time how about conducting a buddy check. Let your Post know that you did speak with, visited, or received written communication from the Legion Member and give then the status. You will be glad that you did. I have a few more months as your District Commander. I will continue to visit your Post and hope to see you at their meetings and events. When you do see me, come let me shake your hand so that I can personally thank you for your support to the District and Post.

Thank you,
Dwight Lacy
New Castle District Commander

This year’s National Veterans Wheelchair Games will be held from July 11 to 16 in Louisville, KY. As always, the VA covers the cost of the Convention Center and the off-site locations such as a local bowling alley, swimming pools, and other venues for competition. But once again, it is incumbent on the athletes to cover their individual expenses such as lodging and airfare.

Considering that it’s a burden for our wounded warriors I again seeking assistance from the various VSOs to help cover their lodging, which usually costs upwards of $800 not to mention travel expenses. I am anticipating there will be 9 athletes this year.

If any Post, Unit or Squadron can help, he asked donations to be made by check and payable to the Wilmington VAMC and please use code GPF9054 in the memo section. I also ask that everyone mail the check to Canal Post #25. PO Box 70, Middletown, DE 19709. That allows me to track the support from the American Legion family and to put the check directly into the proper hands. I do thank everyone for your consideration.

On Saturday, March 30, 2019, a group of riders from Post 14 in Smyrna gathered to attend the annual Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony at the Kent County Veterans Memorial Park in Dover hosted by Chapter 850 of Vietnam Veterans of America. Together with two of our friends from the riders chapter of Post 2, we rode to Dover on a beautiful Spring day.

A fairly large crowd gathered and the Keynote speaker was newly appointed Adjutant General of the Delaware National Guard, Michael R. Berry.

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 850 is focused on providing service dogs for veterans in need of this type of help. Present today were three of the newest dogs obtained and donated by VVA Chapter 850.

Thanks to everyone who attended and participated.

David C Harrison Chapter 14

County Veterans Memorial Park in Dover hosted by Chapter 850 of Vietnam Veterans of America. Together with two of our friends from the riders chapter of Post 2, we rode to Dover on a beautiful Spring day.

A fairly large crowd gathered and the Keynote speaker was newly appointed Adjutant General of the Delaware National Guard, Michael R. Berry.

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 850 is focused on providing service dogs for veterans in need of this type of help. Present today were three

This year’s National Veterans Wheelchair Games will be held from July 11 to 16 in Louisville, KY. As always, the VA covers the cost of the Convention Center and the off-site locations such as a local bowling alley, swimming pools, and other venues for competition. But once again, it is incumbent on the athletes to cover their individual expenses such as lodging and airfare.

Considering that it’s a burden for our wounded warriors I again seeking assistance from the various VSOs to help cover their lodging, which usually costs upwards of $800 not to mention travel expenses. I am anticipating there will be 9 athletes this year.

If any Post, Unit or Squadron can help, he asked donations to be made by check and payable to the Wilmington VAMC and please use code GPF9054 in the memo section. I also ask that everyone mail the check to Canal Post #25. PO Box 70, Middletown, DE 19709. That allows me to track the support from the American Legion family and to put the check directly into the proper hands. I do thank everyone for your consideration.

On Saturday, March 30, 2019, a group of riders from Post 14 in Smyrna gathered to attend the annual Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony at the Kent County Veterans Memorial Park in Dover hosted by Chapter 850 of Vietnam Veterans of America. Together with two of our friends from the riders chapter of Post 2, we rode to Dover on a beautiful Spring day.

A fairly large crowd gathered and the Keynote speaker was newly appointed Adjutant General of the Delaware National Guard, Michael R. Berry.

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 850 is focused on providing service dogs for veterans in need of this type of help. Present today were three of the newest dogs obtained and donated by VVA Chapter 850.

Thanks to everyone who attended and participated.
Delaware’s 2018 Team of the Year

After winning the American Legion World Series Championship, Delaware Post 1’s baseball team was recognized by the Delaware Sportswriters and Broadcasters Association as their Delaware Team of the Year for 2018.

The Award was given to the team’s leadership at the Sportswriter’s annual Awards Luncheon last February. The full house first heard some of the history of Legion Baseball from Chairman Roy Lamberton, who then introduced team manager Brent Treml to receive the award.

Treml, who is now coaching in the college ranks, got to tell the story of Post 1’s return to the 2018 Mid Atlantic Regional, after a disappointing effort in 2017. He told the audience about how the team pulled together after that loss, and how they became a team, playing for their American Legion Post, and for the Delaware program.

The Team of the Year Award, started by the organization in 1999, was the first given to a Delaware American Legion Baseball team, and the second award given to any Delaware baseball team since the Naamans Little League won in 2003.

The 2019 season begins in June, with the state tournament scheduled for the end of July.

Submitted by Roy S. Lamberton

Mike Cotten National Vice Commander Sons of the American Legion Homecoming
CALL

One Hundredth and One Annual Department Convention

Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc.

By authority of the Department Executive Committee, the One Hundredth and One Annual Convention of the Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc. is hereby called to meet with convention sessions in the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, 1131 North DuPont Highway, Dover, Delaware, starting Friday, July 19, 2019 at 9:00 AM-EDT and continuing through Saturday, July 20, 2019.

Purpose

The annual department convention is the legislative body of Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc. The convention is called for the setting of programs of the Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc. for the ensuing year; for the amending the Department Constitution and By-Laws; for the electing of officers for the ensuing year and delegates and alternates to the One Hundred National Convention in which will be held August 27-29, 2019, in Indianapolis, Indiana; for the receiving of reports from officers and committee chairpersons; and for the transacting of other business as may be brought before it.

Representation

Representation in the convention shall be by post, and in accordance with the provisions of the Department Constitution, Article V – Department Convention, Sections 2 through 10:

“Section 2. In the Department Convention, each Chartered Post shall be entitled to two delegates and to one additional delegate for each fifty members, or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the Department Adjutant thirty (30) days prior to the date of said convention and to one alternate for each delegate.

Section 3. The Department Executive Committee shall annually determine delegate and alternate registration fees.

Section 4. Each Post shall be required to pay the registration fee for each and every delegate that the post is entitled to no later than the start of the Department Convention. A post failing to pay registration fees pursuant to the preceding sentence shall have its delegation disqualified for all purposes and no individual delegate will be permitted to vote at the Department Convention; provided, however, that non-payment of registration fees shall not disqualify a delegation from participating in any District Caucus or electing district officers. Payment of registration fees at any time during the Department Convention will qualify a Post delegation from that point until close of the Department Convention.

Section 5. The delegates and alternates of the Department Convention shall be chosen by the vote of each Post. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of each Post shall be equal to the total number of delegates to which each Post is entitled.

Section 6. The vote of any delegate who may be absent shall be cast by the senior alternate present. The seniority of alternates is predicated by their numerical listing on the registration form. Alternates shall have all the privileges of delegates, but may only vote as herein set forth; provided, the alternate’s registration fee is paid.

Section 7. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the delegates present from the member’s Post.

Section 8. At the conclusion of roll call voting, for each vote required to be conducted by the Department Convention, the chair shall ask if any Post not casting its vote during the roll call vote wishes to cast its vote. Upon recording the vote of any originally passing Post, the chair shall announce that voting is closed and direct that the tally be taken and the results announced. Posts may pass only one time during the Department Convention regardless of the number of matters voted on.

Section 9. The following Department and National Officers shall be delegates-at-large to Annual Department Convention:

Department Commander
Department First Vice Commander
Department Second Vice Commander
Department Adjutant
Department Finance Officer
Department Judge Advocate
Department Chaplain
Department Historian
Department Service Officer

Department Sergeant-At-Arms
One District Commander for each District
National Executive Committeeman
Alternate National Executive Committeeman

And with the right to vote there at, in the year in which they serve, to be exercised by them in their Posts, and to all District Caucuses at which any election provided for in this Constitution shall be held and at which their respective Posts may be entitled to vote; provided, however, that nothing contained herein shall give to any such persons the right to more than one vote. The failure of any Post to properly register its delegation shall not deprive such Department Officers and National Officers of the Department of his or her right to vote, provided he, himself, or she, herself, is properly registered as a delegate.

Section 10. All Past Department Commanders, while in good standing in their respective Posts, shall be delegates for life to all Department Conventions with vote, to be exercised by them with their respective Posts, and to all District Caucuses at which any election provided for in this Constitution shall be held and at which their respective Posts may be entitled to vote; provided, however, that nothing contained herein shall give to any such persons the right to more than one vote. The failure of any Post to properly register its delegation shall not deprive such Past Department Commander of his or her right to vote, provided he, himself, or she, herself, is properly registered as a delegate.”

Post delegate voting strength shall be determined according to the membership books and records of the Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc. at the close of the business day at 4:00 PM, Sunday, June 16, 2019. Each post shall maintain its delegates, in writing with full name and American Legion member identification number, together with the registration fee of $15.00 per delegate, to the department adjutant at department headquarters, 601 Bridgeville Highway, Seaford, Delaware (P.O. Box 930, Seaford, DE 19973-0930) by the close of the business day at 4:00 PM, Sunday, June 16, 2019.

Any accreditation of post delegates, post alternates, delegates-at-large, and post department commanders received by the department adjutant at department headquarters, 601 Bridgeville Highway, Seaford, Delaware (P.O. Box 930, Seaford, DE 19973-0930) after the close of the business day at 4:00 PM, Sunday, June 16, 2019 shall be at a registration fee of $20.00 per post delegate, post alternate, delegate-at-large, and past department commander.

District Caucuses

District Caucuses are called for the purposes described in the Constitution of the Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc., Article VI - Department Officers, Sections 5 and 6:

Section 5. Each District in Caucus during the Department Convention or not more than thirty days prior to the convening of the Department Convention shall elect one at-large representative to the Department Executive Committee for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof in the said District. The membership strength of said District for this purpose shall be com
"puted as paid up membership in the Department Headquarters at the close of business on the 30th day prior to the convening of the Department Convention or as of July 1st in each year, which ever date shall first occur. In the event, any District shall have less than its first and only unit of 1,000 members, it shall nevertheless be entitled to elect one at-large representative to the Department Executive Committee. No more than two (2) at-large representative positions to the Department Executive Committee shall be held at any one time by members of any one Post.

Each District in Caucus during the Department Convention or not more than thirty days prior to the convening of the Department Convention shall elect one Delegate and one Alternate to the National Convention for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof in said District.

Section 6. Each District Commander and District Vice-Commander shall be nominated and elected by the Posts in his or her District at a District caucus called for that purpose. Each District Commander shall enjoy the authority to establish a District Organization and By-Laws, not in conflict with the National and Department Constitution and By-Laws. In the event of the death, or inability of the District Commander to perform the duties of his office, the District Vice-Commander will assume the office of District Commander. In the event of a vacancy during the term of office of the District Vice-Commander, for any reason, such vacancy shall be filled by the Department Executive Committee upon nomination by the District Posts. Any such appointment shall be for the un-expired term of office only."

Convention Session Seating

Seating in convention sessions will be by districts.

Department, District and Post Officials

Department, district, and post officials, unless elected as a delegate or alternate, or are delegates-at-large to the department convention, or are past department commanders, have no privileges to the convention except as guests of their respective delegation.

Housing

Delegates, alternates, delegates-at-large, past department commanders and their guests shall obtain housing directly with and through the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, or a post may obtain housing directly with and through the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino for its delegates, alternates, delegates-at-large, past department commanders, and/or guests.

Convention Committees

Convention committees shall be:

- Americanism/C&Y (Baseball, Boy Scouts, Boys State, Children & Youth, Oratorical Contest, Junior Shooting Sports, Legacy Fund, and Trooper Youth Week),
- Internal Affairs (American Legion Riders, Constitution & By-Laws, Convention & Meetings, Convention Book and Distinguished Guests, Honor & Merit Awards, Media & Communications, Membership, Sons of The American Legion, and Website),
- Finance, Budget & Audit (Innovations, Sweepstake Programs, and Label Program),
- Legislative,
- National Security & Foreign Relations, and
- Veterans' Affairs & Rehabilitation (VAVS, Veterans Assistance Program, and Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs).

Convention committees are subject to call for organization purposes in advance of the opening session of the department convention and with subsequent meetings as called by the chairperson, providing that all final policy-forming reports shall be approved by such committee in meetings held after the department convention is formally convened.

Convention committees shall have a minimum of nine members per committee with a minimum of two from each district. Committees shall be appointed in odd numbers. The Department Commander shall be empowered and authorized to designate the members of all convention committees. Members need not be delegates, alternates, or delegates-at-large to the department convention. Such designations shall be made at any time up to 24 hours prior to the opening of the department convention. There may also be appointed by the Department Commander, one or more advisers to each committee, who shall be members of Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc.

Credentials

Each post should select a chairperson and secretary prior to the department convention. The delegation chairperson or secretary should report to the registration counter on the first floor of the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, immediately outside the hotel ballroom “B,” between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM, Thursday, July 18, 2019; between 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM, Friday, July 19, 2019; and between 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM, Saturday, July 20, 2019, for detailed instructions concerning all convention arrangements and to register their delegation and take delivery of the credentials for their post delegation (delegates and alternates).

Delegates-at-large and past department commanders should report to the registration counter on the first floor of the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, immediately outside the hotel ballroom “B,” between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM, Thursday, July 18, 2019; between 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM, Friday, July 19, 2019; and between 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM, Saturday, July 20, 2019, for detailed instructions concerning all convention arrangements and to register and take delivery of his or her credentials.

Resolutions

Any resolution to be submitted by a post for consideration by the department convention shall be in the hands of the department adjutant, typewritten in triplicate, using proper resolution format, twenty-one (21) days prior to the department convention. It is extremely important that all posts comply with this requirement, so the proposed resolutions may be classified and referred to the standing committee of the convention. Resolutions shall be received by June 27, 2019.

Constitutional and Bylaws Amendments

Proposed amendments to department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc. Constitution and By-Laws shall be received by the department adjutant, no later than May 22, 2019, in order that they may be reviewed by the appropriate department committee. All posts shall receive a copy of the proposed amendments at least thirty (30) days prior to the start date of the One Hundredth and One Annual Convention of Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc.

Department Executive Committee

A meeting of the new department executive committee is hereby called and will be held at the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, first floor Ballroom “B” on Saturday, July 20, 2019, immediately following the adjournment of the department convention. The meeting is called, as provided in the Department Constitution, Article VII - Department Executive Committee - Section 2 and Department By-Laws, Article I - Department Executive Committee - Section 5 and, for the transaction of business as may be brought before it.

National Convention

Pursuant to action taken by the Eighty-Fourth Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc. Convention, the department commander, immediate past department commander, and the department adjutant shall automatically be designated as delegates to the national convention.

Miscellaneous

Instructions covering program, order of business, and other miscellaneous matters will be issued later.

Attest:

Richard J. Santos
Department Adjutant

Signed:

James H. Stewart
Department Commander

Distribution: Members of the Department Executive Committee 1 each
Posts 2 each
Publication in the Delaware Legionnaire
A MODEST MAN WITH A HEROIC PAST

In 2006, Marine Lance Corporal Adam Stanley left his home in North Carolina on the way to serve as a Combat Engineer in Iraq. On the way he stopped in Camden to talk with his grandfather, South Pacific Marine veteran David Farley.

The young Marine wanted to know how to deal with killing an enemy in combat.

“Treat it as a matter of duty,” said his grandfather, a World War II Marine, who landed on Saipan and Tinian as a flamethrower expert and demolition man, performed “mop-up” duty on Okinawa and other islands and spent six months in Nagasaki in the occupation of Japan.

Farley died late last year at the age of 95. Funeral arrangements were private.

He left the Marines after the war and spent 72 years in the same neighborhood in Camden. Of those years, 69 were in the house in which he died. He was married to the former Pearl Lacey for 71 years.

“I owe President (Harry) Truman a lot,” Farley told friends. If he hadn’t dropped the atom bombs (on Hiroshima and Nagasaki) I would have been killed in the invasion of Japan, along with thousands of other Marines.”

Small in stature, he fit the description of what Marine Drill Instructors would describe as a pattern. “The little guys get the heavy weapons, because they make small targets.”

There would be no descriptions of battle scenes and Japanese hiding in caves from David Farley. He was proud of his Marine service, but it was a quiet pride. He refused to accept recognition or honors. He was offered a chance for a feature article in “Leatherneck,” the magazine of the Marine Corps. He turned it down, along with appearances in the American Legion’s Independence Day parades. He remained a member of Walter L. Fox Post 2 from the time of his service.

“Write about Adam,” he told his neighbor, retired journalist and former Marine Mike Rhea, also a member of Post 2.

Adam Stanley earned a Navy-Marine Corps medal with a Combat V as a combat engineer for his skills at detecting roadside bombs.

Following his Marine service, Farley managed the Acme Market – now a Methodist outreach center on Main Street off Camden-Wyoming Avenue – for 20 years. For 10 more he worked at the Acme Market in Dover before retirement in 1977.

He then managed a liquor store in Dover for 12 years. In his later years, he rode a bicycle for his health. Whether he was on that bike, this dignified man was dressed so that he could have managed any business any day. He was exhibiting Marine pride.

Submission by Michael Rhea

Boys State Breakfast

On February 3, 2019 Callaway-Kemp-Raughley-Tee Post 7 sponsored a fundraiser for The American Legion, Dept. of Delaware Boys State Program. Post 7 held a breakfast from 8AM to 11AM. The profits from that event will be donated to the Boys State Program to help offset the costs of the program. This annual event is highly appreciated by the Boys State staff.

The Boys State Staff appreciate the time and effort the Breakfast crew of Post 7 under the leadership of Post Commander Charles Werner put into the event to make it a success. PDC’s Larry Marcouillier, John Endres along with his wife Kim, and Robert Michael were in attendance. Also there were the three District Commanders, Dwight Lacy, Chuck Parsian, and Barry Sauers (who is also 2nd Vice Commander of the Department). The Girls State Chairman, Lisa McCarley was in attendance with Past Auxiliary President’s Arnita Coleman, Beverley Buchanan, and Delores Taylor well as last year’s Auxiliary Chaplin, Liz McClain.

The American Legion
Department of Delaware Centennial Coin

Coins are available for purchase at $10 each

To purchase please contact your post commander or complete form below. This is a fundraiser for the department to benefit our Legion Programs.

Name: ____________________________________________

Street address: ____________________________________________

City: ____________________________________________

State: ____________________________________________

Zip code: ____________________________________________

Coins are $10 each and shipping for up to 5 coins to one address is $5 / each additional set of 5 coins is an additional $5 per set.

Please return form and payment to:
Department of Delaware
The American Legion, Inc.
PO Box 930
Seaford, DE 19973-0930
The 2019 Department of Delaware Convention is scheduled with Friday and Saturday sessions, July 19-20, 2019. The convention will be held at Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, 1131 North DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901. The American Legion sessions will be held in Ballroom “B,” and, the sessions will start at 09:00 AM.

The American Legion Auxiliary sessions will be held in Ballroom “A.” The Detachment sessions will be in the Chesapeake Room. The American Legion sessions. The Memorial Service is Friday afternoon, July 19, commencing at 3:00 PM in Ballroom “B.”

The Department Adjutant has made arrangements with the James W. “Bill” Oxford from the Department of North Carolina and Leading Candidate for National Commander for 2019-2020 to be Department’s guest to the convention. Oxford will arrive Wednesday evening; speak during the Friday session; and leave later Friday morning.

### 2019 Department Convention Hospitality Room

The 2019 Department Convention Hospitality Room will be located in Ballroom “C,” Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, as it was in 2018. The room will be open on Thursday and Friday nights, July 18-19, 5:00 PM to 10:30 PM. As in the past, light hors d’oeuvres will be served and a DJ will provide music. Reminder: The light hors d’oeuvres are exactly that “light” and do not constitute a full dinner meal for some.

The room is fully funded by Post, Unit, Squadron, and Chapter contributions, payable to the Department of Delaware, in lieu of their normal expenses for a Post hospitality room. Posts will agree that a Department Hospitality Room expense to them is much less than a Post hosting its own room and the logistics and manpower required are eliminated. Posts, Units, and Squadrions are requested to send their contribution to Department Headquarters, payable to the Department of Delaware and earmarked on the memo line, “Convention Hospitality Room.”

The Convention & Meetings Committee shall continue to make Dover Downs Hotel & Casino the best venue for all of the members of the Legion family and to mitigate the Legion family’s hospitality room expenses.

### 2019 Department Convention Registration

Richard J. Santos
Department Adjutant

For the 101st Annual Department Convention, each chartered Post shall be entitled to two delegates and, one additional delegate for each fifty members, or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the Department Adjutant thirty (30) days prior to the date of the convention and to one alternate for each delegate. Certain Department and National officers and Past Department Commanders are delegates-at-large to the Department Convention with a voice and vote.

The following Department and National officers shall be delegates-at-large to Annual Department Convention:

- Department Commander
- Department First Vice Commander
- Department Second Vice Commander
- Department Adjutant
- Department Finance Officer
- Department Judge Advocate
- Department Chaplain
- Department Historian
- Department Service Officer
- Department Sergeant-At-Arms

One District Commander for each District

- National Executive Committeeman Alternate National Executive Committeeman

The failure of any Post to properly register its delegation shall not deprive such Department officers and National officers of the Department of his or her right to vote, provided he, himself, or she, herself, is properly registered as a delegate.

All Past Department Commanders are delegates-at-large, while in good standing in their respective Posts. The failure of any Post to properly register its delegation shall not deprive such Past Department Commander of his or her right to vote, provided he, himself, or she, herself, is properly registered as a delegate.

Each Post shall be required to pay the registration fee for each and every delegate that the Post is entitled to no later than the start of the Department Convention. A Post failing to pay registration fees pursuant to the preceding sentence shall have its delegation disqualified for all purposes and no individual delegate will be permitted to vote at the Department Convention; provided, however, that non-payment of registration fees shall not disqualify a delegation from participating in any District Caucus or electing District officers. Payment of registration fees at any time during the Department Convention will qualify a Post delegation from that point until close of the Department Convention.

Delegates, alternates, delegates-at-large, and Past Department Commanders shall be accredited, in writing, with first and last names, nick names acceptable, and American Legion member identification number, together with the registration fee of $15.00 per delegate, alternate, delegate-at-large, and Past Department Commander to the Department Adjutant at Department Headquarters, 601 Bridgeville Highway, Seaford, Delaware (P.O. Box 930, Seaford, DE 19973-0930) by the close of the business day, Sunday, June 16, 2019, at 4:00 PM.

Any accreditation of Post delegates, Post alternates, delegates-at-large, and Past Department Commanders received by the Department Adjutant at Department Headquarters, 601 Bridgeville Highway, Seaford, Delaware (P.O. Box 930, Seaford, DE 19973-0930) after the close of the business day, Sunday, June 16, 2019, at 4:00 PM shall be at a registration fee of $20.00 per Post delegate, Post alternate, delegate-at-large, and Past Department Commander (see attached fee schedule).

For Posts that do not have use of a computer and do their work in long hand, the forms need to be completed and returned to Department HQ by mail as provided above, properly signed, with a check for the total amount of delegate, delegate-at-large, Past Department Commanders, and alternate fees.

For those with a computer, the form is available in Microsoft Excel format. The computerized format is very easy to use. To eliminate doing the entire form, year to year, Posts can save the blank form on the computer in MS Excel format. He noted that there is a tab for the delegates/delegates-at-large form and a separate tab for the alternate form. Open the template. Save as and name as the 2019 submission. Insert the requested data. One needs to use upper and lower case; no straight capitalization. First name nick names may be used. Save the completed form. When received in HQ, the data is transferred to the master convention listing for delegates, delegates-at-large, and alternates; so please use the format as requested. E-mail the completed form to Department HQ as an attachment. Send your check by mail for delegate, delegate-at-large, and alternate fees to Department HQ.

Delegate, delegates-at-large, and alternates do not change that often; no straight capitalization. First name nick names may be used. Save the completed form. When received in HQ, the data is transferred to the master convention listing for delegates, delegates-at-large, and alternates; so please use the form as requested. E-mail the completed form to Department HQ as an attachment. Send your check by mail for delegate, delegate-at-large, and alternate fees to Department HQ.
National Commander Brett Reistad’s Visit to Delaware

Starting at top going left to right: 1) Photo by David O. Curtis, NCDR  Restiad touring the VA hospital, 2) Delaware Riders Director Charles Parisan presentation of gift to NCDR Reistad, 3)NCDR Reistad visiting Miles the Monster at Dover Downs, 4) Photo by David O. Curtis, NCDR Reistad touring the VA hospital, 5)NDCR Reistad touring Ambulance station 64 6) District Vice Commander Richard Browne presenting donation to NCDR Reistad on behalf of Post 18, 7) NCDR Reistad presenting Jennifer Rambo from Mission BBQ his Licence plate for their donation of lunch, 8) Photo by David O. Curtis, NCDR Reistad touring the VA hospital,9) NCDR Reistad and Delaware Department Officers visit to Legislative Hall in Dover, DE Photos not previously credited are the work of Richard Benedict Department Historian
Photos starting at top left going left to right then down: 1) NCDR Reistad at Nanticoke Post 6 in Seaford, DE 2) NCDR Reistad receiving tour of JPED at Dover AFB 3) Department Commander James Stewart presenting NCDR Reistad a gift from the Department of Delaware 4) Group photo of Richard C Dupont Post 18 representatives with NCDR Reistad at Joseph B Stalh Post 30 5) Post Commander Vic Callahan, Jim Shermann, Stanley Lawruk and NCDR Reistad signing contract for start of new Post Home Building. 7) NCDR Reistad with all Joseph B. Stalh Post members present at signing of Contract. 8) NCDR Reistad tour of Dover’s AMC museum. All Photos credited to Richard Benedict Department Historian
Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall coming to Lewes in May

The American Legion's Post Excellence Award criteria has changed. To now qualify for the Post Excellence Award, a post is required to achieve excellence in four areas: membership, submission of the Consolidated Post Report (CPR), sharing of post history and community activity. The purposes of this award are membership growth, exposure of American Legion values to the community, and increased visibility of the American Legion Family through service projects. A Post achieving this qualification will have had numerous post members involved in planning and achieving these goals. Many Posts are most likely already active in these areas and will qualify without extra effort. Others, however, will need to increase their efforts in one or more areas to qualify for the award.

**Post Excellence Award**

The standard to be achieved in each area is as follows:

- **Membership.** Post membership must be at least one member greater than the previous year. At least one post officer attends district meetings.

- **Consolidated Post Report.** CPRs must be submitted by July 1. The American Legion's federal charter requires the submission of an annual report to Congress on activities for the year. MyLegion.org has made it simple for a post to submit its CPR in a timely manner.

- **Sharing of post history:** The American Legion's Centennial web page www.legion.org/centennial allows posts to share their history with the intent of collecting pieces to tell the larger story of The American Legion's first century.

- **Community activity.** An event must be conducted that connects the local community with The American Legion Post. The objective is to open post doors and welcome the community in and educate them on what The American Legion is about and how the post is an asset to the community. Posts do not need to have a physical building to accomplish this. This activity can be held in a park, a community center, or anywhere the post can welcome and interact with the local community.

The District Commander responsible for the post will certify a post as having achieved the four specified criteria. The District Commander will submit a list of Posts that meet the criteria to Department Headquarters. That list should include the Post name, phone number, address and commander's name. If possible, accompany the last two criteria with copies of press releases submitted to the local media about the events to show that the events were not only accomplished but that an attempt was made to enhance the image of The American Legion through local media. The copy submitted should include a date and time stamp showing receipt by the media outlet.

The Department Adjutant will transmit information as Posts qualify to:

The American Legion National Headquarters
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055
DOVER — Local musicians are hoping to not only raise the roof at the Walter L. Fox American Legion Post No. 2 on Saturday night, but to also bring in some money for much-needed repairs for the building when they take to the stage for a benefit.

Michele Stabley, manager of American Legion Post 2, said the backside of the roof on the facility at 835 S. Bay Road is in dire need of repair as water began leaking into restrooms and other areas from ceilings just more than a month ago, sparking immediate concern and causing future events to potentially be canceled.

“When this thing happened, we talked about our funds being so short that I told (American Legion Post 2) Commander Mike Windows that I think we’re going to have to reach out to the community,” Ms. Stabley said. “We always believe that the American Legion is supposed to do for the community, the community is not supposed to do for the American Legion. However, this was an emergency situation.”

It didn’t take long for word to spread before folks from June Jam, A to Z Cycles and former Cowboy Up owner Felicia Baker all made the decision to help their friends in need by organizing the “Raise the Roof!” benefit on Saturday at American Legion Post 2.

The benefit, scheduled to take place on Saturday from 4 until 11:30 p.m. (under 21 permitted until 10 p.m.), will include area bands such as Hooverville, Joey Fulkerson, Petting Hendrix, The Jimmy Cochran Band, as well as DJ Casey Coleman, while Mrs. Baker will be providing line dancing lessons.

There will also be auctions, 50-50 raffles and a cake wheel at the all-ages, smoke-free event, as well as food available, including chicken tenders, pulled pork and sausage platters, and more, until 9 p.m.

Ms. Stabley said June Jam organizers donated a 60-inch flat screen TV to raffle off and there are more than 60 pick-a-prize items up for auction so far.

Tickets can be purchased at American Legion Post 2 for $5 through Wednesday and will also be available for $10 at the door.

Ms. Stabley said that Bright Side Exteriors recently repaired the first section of the deteriorating roof at a cost of $16,800. Ideally, she said, the American Legion Post 2 is looking to raise $40,000 to replace the entire roof, front and back.

“The whole roof needs to be replaced,” she said. “We were just concentrating on spots above our bathrooms, which were very important to take care of so that we could continue to host events. Our roof is about 10 to 15 years old. There should have been a good warranty on the roof but the company that installed it went out of business, which left us in this bind.”

Commander Windows said Post 2 received some assistance from the community last summer and he is extremely grateful people are rallying around the post again.

“It’s fantastic,” he said. “Our job, as Legionnaires, is where we take care of the community, so it’s very humbling that the community has stepped up for us to come and join and help us out, from A to Z Cycles, the June Jam people, everybody has just wrapped their arms around it and are trying to help us out. It’s really nice to have that.

“Our air conditioning system went down over the summer, so we relied on our pavilion and basically the community supported that big-time, helped us get a new air-conditioning system in here, and then we went from that problem to the roof problem. It’s like every time you turned around it was something else.”

Mr. Fulkerson said it was a no-brainer when he learned that the American Legion was in need of a hand or two.

“I have donated my time to local charities and individuals in need for as long as I can remember,” said the prominent Dover musician. “This community has supported my musical endeavors throughout my career so if I can contribute by playing and using my name recognition to draw people to the cause I feel it’s a small way to give back.

“I’m particularly proud to be a part of the local music community because time after time when a benefit or fundraiser is announced, the local bands are the first to get on board. I feel that is most cases (we) are out in front of the government or municipal agencies that are supposed to help in these tragedies or emergencies.

Staff at the American Legion have developed a reputation for helping our worthwhile causes in the Dover area, including the Central Delaware Habitat for Humanity, Toys for Tots, Code Purple Kent County, veterans, SPCA, and other organizations.

That’s probably the biggest reason why so many have offered to turn the tables and try to help the Legion in its time of need.

As of Monday afternoon, 363 people were listed as interested in attending the fundraiser on the American Legion Post 2’s Facebook page.

“Biggest thing is this regime has reached out so much to different events for different organizations and the public has stepped up over and over again,” Ms. Stabley said. “The fact that they’re stepping up to help us means to the world to us. Without them, we can’t function.”

On its social media page, the Jimmy Cochran Band posted, “Help us support the American Legion organization. Great food, good drinks, cool people and The Jimmy Cochran Band doing the right thing!!”

Mr. Fulkerson made sure to point out that it’s not just the performers who are donating their valuable time and talents for the benefit.

“Let me say that while we performers get a lot of attention, the people who carry the heavy load on these events are the volunteers who organize, stomp for donations and auction items and staff these events;” he said. “They are the true rock stars.”

UPDATE

Over 600 people were in attendance. Thank you to all those who attended and donated live and Chinese auction items. Co-Sponsors: June Jam and A to Z Cycles. We deeply appreciate the support we received from the community and our members.

Delaware Gov. John Carney, who has been a big proponent of Timmons and her leadership of the Guard since she took command in February 2017, bid Timmons an emotional goodbye in the change of command ceremony.

The ceremony was held in a hangar at the Delaware Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility in New Castle. More than 450 civilians and National Guard members joined state and national dignitaries in an emotional sendoff.

Carney said that during his two years as Delaware's commander in chief with Gen. Timmons as his right-hand woman, he's been impressed over and over again as the Guard has continued to relentlessly step up to the plate.

"I feel good every time I think of my decision to choose her as my adjutant general," Carney said. "She is simply the best. She has served with humility, dignity and respect and leaves quite a legacy."

Major General Carol Timmons retires as head of Delaware National Guard

Assuming command of the Delaware National Guard is Brig. Gen. Michael Berry, a lifelong Delaworean from Middletown.

As adjutant general, Berry will be Carney’s chief military advisor and responsible for ensuring the Guard is fully trained, equipped, and ready to respond to federal mobilization requirements and state emergency operations.

Berry’s position was confirmed by Delaware’s State Senate earlier this year.

Both Carney and Timmons had high praise for the incoming Delaware adjutant general on Saturday.

Calling him a soldier's soldier, Carney said you only have to spend a minute with Berry to know he is straightforward, hardworking and is completely dedicated to the Delaware National Guard.

"How much can one guy give to our little state?" Carney said in his remarks. "I guess we're going to find out now."

Department of Delaware Commander and State Officials attending the change of command(Photo Richard Benedict)

Timmons said she is proud of the legacy she leaves behind and the direction the Delaware National Guard is heading under Berry's command.

She said she and the other former adjutant generals would be keeping an eye on Berry to monitor his success.

"Mike is going to be terrific," Timmons said as she turned to look at the new adjutant general. "You are exactly what the Delaware National Guard needs. You got it bud, it's all yours."

After the ceremony, Berry said he has been preparing for this moment for more than 30 years and appreciated the mentoring by Timmons and former adjutant general, Lt. Gen. Frank Vavala.

"She's broken barriers in her career, brought with her a breadth of knowledge," Berry said. "It was invaluable and the Delaware National Guard will move forward because of her."

For Timmons, the next chapter of her life includes traveling on the ground to the national parks and places across the country she has only seen from above as a former commercial airline pilot.

She said she's going to take a day off on Sunday, and on Monday is going to the beach.

"I don't care that it's cold, I'm ready for some leisure time," Timmons said. "Then I'll start looking for my next big thing."

Maj. Gen. Carol Timmons is presented with a framed portrait of her during one of her earlier missions by representatives of the enlisted men and women of the Delaware National Guard during the change of command ceremony Saturday. (Photo: Jerry Smith/The News Journal)

Maj. Gen. Carol A. Timmons

- Timmons is a veteran of seven overseas combat deployments and has more than 400 combat flight hours, according to her state bio.
- As adjutant general, she oversaw 1,500 soldiers and 1,100 airmen for federal and state missions.
- Prior to serving as the adjutant general, Timmons worked for United Airlines, the state said.
- Timmons earned her commission in 1980 at Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, Georgia. She is a graduate of Delaware Technical Community College, Wilmington University and the U.S. Air Force War College.
- The Delaware National Guard’s first female two-star general, Timmons chaired the National Guard’s Joint Diversity Executive Council. She also served on both the Air Force Reserve Policy Committee and the Board of the National Guard Association of the United States.

- Timmons is a member of the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame and the Delaware Women’s Hall of Fame.
- Brig. Gen. Michael R. Berry

- Berry, a combat veteran with 30 years’ military service, recently served as the director of the Delaware National Guard’s Joint Staff, according to his state bio. Previously, he was the land component commander responsible for organizational planning, training, and support to combatant commanders.

- In 2010, he was the commander of the Delaware Army National Guard Embedded Training Team and led a deployment to Bamyan, Afghanistan. During that yearlong tour, he and his team were responsible for training Afghanistan National Police and Defense Forces.

- Berry recently retired after 28 years from the Delaware State Police as a deputy troop commander for Troop 4 in Georgetown. He has a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from the University of Delaware and a master’s degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Reach Jerry Smith at jsmith17@delawareonline.com. follow him on Twitter at @JerrySmithTNJ.

Department of Delaware Commander and State Officials attending the change of command(Photo Richard Benedict)
Legislative Agenda Digest

Unrecognized armed hostilities recognition

The American Legion has identified fundamental shortcomings in the U.S. government's wartime service designations and calls on congressional leaders to reassess and expand the timeline and characterization of "wartime service." The U.S. government recognizes only a few distinct official periods of war or armed conflict, and so-called "peaceetime eras," the U.S. military has been involved in frequent known armed hostilities resulting in nearly 1,600 U.S. personnel combat deaths and wounds. Yet, their sacrifices remain unrecognized as "wartime service" because these hostile events fall outside the U.S. government's few distinct official periods of war or armed conflict.

Many veterans of wartime and peacetime eras alike have asked The American Legion and Congress for greater inclusion within the organization's membership ranks, subsequent to a reassessed and expanded timeline that recognizes the services borne during armed hostile events not fitting within the government's current designated periods of war and armed conflict.

Likewise, and in accordance with the charter, history, tradition and purposes of The American Legion, it is fair, proper and reasonable that all military personnel who served on active military duty during an unrecognized armed hostilities be recognized in accordance with the U.S. government's reassessed and expanded designation of wartime service era.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

• Congress should pass S. 504, the Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act (LEGION Act), a bill aimed at authorizing The American Legion to determine the requirements for membership in The American Legion.
• Ensure VA's non-VA claims and reimbursement system is automated, using the latest technology.
• Declare that the United States has been continuously engaged in a state of war from Dec. 7, 1941, to such date in the future as the U.S. government may determine that there has been an end to armed hostilities.
• Enact legislation allowing veterans to use their Medicare or private coverage when receiving services in VA facilities and Medicare be authorized to reimburse VA for such medical care.

VA recruitment and retention

As of June 2018, VA reported 45,239 overall vacancies out of a total of 419,353 full-time authorized and budgeted positions. The American Legion understands recruiting highly skilled health-care professionals to fill vacancies at VA facilities is an ambitious undertaking, given resources and regulatory constraints. Recruitment and retention solutions can be achieved, many without additional legislative action, to provide full staffing of top health-care professionals.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

• Pass legislation addressing the recruitment and retention challenges VA has regarding pay disparities among physicians and medical specialists who are providing direct health care to veterans.

Road home from PTSD/TBI

Researchers have reported that between 20 percent and 30 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and/or depression. While the number of veterans diagnosed with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and PTSD is increasing significantly, the types of treatments offered remain limited and inadequate.

The American Legion's TBI/PTSD Committee has spent eight years studying scientific research and meeting with clinicians, policy analysts and mental health experts to understand the problem and explore potential solutions.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

• Increase budgets for DoD and VA to improve the research, screening, diagnosis and treatment of TBI and PTSD.
• Urge DoD and VA to closely monitor and study drugs prescribed in potentially toxic combinations, particularly involving addictive benzodiazepines and opioids, especially when prescribed by non-VA providers through the Choice Program.
• Improve training for DoD and VA personnel to identify and prevent suicide risks.

Improving care for women veterans

The number of women enrolled in the VA health-care system is expected to grow by 33 percent over the next three years. Finding ways to ensure that these veterans are welcome and receive the services they deserve is vital to The American Legion.

The American Legion continues to focus on:

• Visiting VA health-care systems to explore any issues that could be preventing VA hospitals from providing gender-specific care.
• Provide child-care services at all VA medical centers.
• Educating women veterans about the importance of identifying as a veteran.
• Ensuring full-time gynecologists are available at all VA medical centers.
• Educating women veterans about the importance of identifying as a veteran.
• Advocating for an increase in female providers to assist female veterans who have been victims of military sexual trauma.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

• Ensure VA has all necessary resources to remain committed to providing veterans access to help they need to recover from MST.
• Encourage better awareness training in the DoD for MST sensitivity and develop more comprehensive care options for survivors, including better availability of therapists and group therapy, along with other options to make MST care more accessible to veterans.

Support for veteran caregivers

Section 161 of the VA Mission Act is the Expansion of Family Caregiver Program of Department of Veterans Affairs. It expands eligibility for veterans with service-connected medical issues on or before May 7, 1975. Previously, access to this program was limited only to post-9/11 service.

The American Legion urges VA to provide the same level of benefits to all eligible enrolled veterans. VA caregiver benefits should not be limited to specific eras but expanded to assist all who should be eligible.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

• Remove all eligibility dates from current legislation and public laws, and revise them to include veterans who otherwise meet the eligibility requirement s.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

• Protect the best care anywhere?

In 2018, The American Legion System Worth Saving Task Force visited 18 medical facilities to identify best practices and challenges, and to offer recommendations to improve the delivery of health care at VA hospitals and community-based outpatient clinics. Those visits revealed that VA facilities continue experiencing growth in veteran populations, need improved physical and information technology infrastructure, and struggle with shortages of physicians and nurses. The American Legion supports legislation that capitalizes on VA's strengths and core competencies while ensuring that veterans continue to have access to the best care.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

• Attend American Legion town hall meetings that are held prior to a System Worth Saving site visit to hear directly from veterans about their VA health-care experiences.
• Do not sponsor or support legislation that authorizes VA to centralize operations successfully managed by local VA medical facilities.
• Enhance VA's ability to offer tele-health services and tele-medicine to rural communities.

Unrecognized armed hostilities recognition

The American Legion has identified fundamental shortcomings in the U.S. government's wartime service designations and calls on congressional leaders to reassess and expand the timeline and characterization of "wartime service." Currently, the U.S. government recognizes only a few distinct official periods of war or armed conflict since World War II, such as Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon/Grenada/Panama and Gulf War/War on Terrorism. However, between these official periods, and during so-called "peacet ime eras," the U.S. military has been involved in frequent known armed hostilities resulting in nearly 1,600 U.S. personnel combat deaths and wounds. Yet, their sacrifices remain unrecognized as "wartime service" because these hostile events fall outside the U.S. government's few distinct official periods of war or armed conflict.

Many veterans of wartime and peacetime eras alike have asked The American Legion and Congress for greater inclusion within the organization's membership ranks, subsequent to a reassessed and expanded timeline that recognizes the services borne during armed hostile events not fitting within the government's current designated periods of war and armed conflict.

Likewise, and in accordance with the charter, history, tradition and purposes of The American Legion, it is fair, proper and reasonable that all military personnel who served on active military duty during all unrecognized armed hostilities be recognized in accordance with the U.S. government's reassessed and expanded designation of wartime service era.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

• Congress should pass S. 504, the Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act (LEGION Act), a bill aimed at authorizing The American Legion to determine the requirements for membership in The American Legion.
• Ensure VA's non-VA claims and reimbursement system is automated, using the latest technology.
• Declare that the United States has been continuously engaged in a state of war from Dec. 7, 1941, to such date in the future as the U.S. government may determine that there has been an end to armed hostilities.
• Enact legislation allowing veterans to use their Medicare or private coverage when receiving services in VA facilities and Medicare be authorized to reimburse VA for such medical care.

VA recruitment and retention

As of June 2018, VA reported 45,239 overall vacancies out of a total of 419,353 full-time authorized and budgeted positions. The American Legion understands recruiting highly skilled health-care professionals to fill vacancies at VA facilities is an ambitious undertaking, given resources and regulatory constraints. Recruitment and retention solutions can be achieved, many without additional legislative action, to provide full staffing of top health-care professionals.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

• Pass legislation addressing the recruitment and retention challenges VA has regarding pay disparities among physicians and medical specialists who are providing direct health care to veterans.

Road home from PTSD/TBI

Researchers have reported that between 20 percent and 30 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and/or depression. While the number of veterans diagnosed with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and PTSD is increasing significantly, the types of treatments offered remain limited and inadequate.

The American Legion's TBI/PTSD Committee has spent eight years studying scientific research and meeting with clinicians, policy analysts and mental health experts to understand the problem and explore potential solutions.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

• Increase budgets for DoD and VA to improve the research, screening, diagnosis and treatment of TBI and PTSD.
• Urge DoD and VA to closely monitor and study drugs prescribed in potentially toxic combinations, particularly involving addictive benzodiazepines and opioids, especially when prescribed by non-VA providers through the Choice Program.
• Improve training for DoD and VA personnel to identify and prevent suicide risks.

Improving care for women veterans

The number of women enrolled in the VA health-care system is expected to grow by 33 percent over the next three years. Finding ways to ensure that these veterans are welcome and receive the services they deserve is vital to The American Legion.

The American Legion continues to focus on:

• Visiting VA health-care systems to explore any issues that could be preventing VA hospitals from providing gender-specific care.
• Provide child-care services at all VA medical centers.
• Educating women veterans about the importance of identifying as a veteran.
• Ensuring full-time gynecologists are available at all VA medical centers.
• Educating women veterans about the importance of identifying as a veteran.
• Advocating for an increase in female providers to assist female veterans who have been victims of military sexual trauma.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

• Ensure VA has all necessary resources to remain committed to providing veterans access to help they need to recover from MST.
• Encourage better awareness training in the DoD for MST sensitivity and develop more comprehensive care options for survivors, including better availability of therapists and group therapy, along with other options to make MST care more accessible to veterans.

Support for veteran caregivers

Section 161 of the VA Mission Act is the Expansion of Family Caregiver Program of Department of Veterans Affairs. It expands eligibility for veterans with service-connected medical issues on or before May 7, 1975. Previously, access to this program was limited only to post-9/11 service.

The American Legion urges VA to provide the same level of benefits to all eligible enrolled veterans. VA caregiver benefits should not be limited to specific eras but expanded to assist all who should be eligible.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

• Remove all eligibility dates from current legislation and public laws, and revise them to include veterans who otherwise meet the eligibility requirement s.
Electronic health records
In 2018, VA signed a $10 billion, 10-year contract with the Cerner Corp. to adopt the same electronic health record (EHR) system as DoD. VA later said it would need another $5.8 billion for project management costs. VA began deployment of its initial three sites in 2018, with the goal of fully implementing the system by 2028.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?
- Ensure VA’s EH R initiative remains fully funded.
- Require VA to regularly report EHR progress to Congress.

Blue Water Navy veterans deserve benefits
Veterans who served on open-sea ships off the shore of Vietnam during the Vietnam War are called “Blue Water Veterans.”
Currently, only those veterans who physically set foot on the land of Vietnam or served on its inland waterways between Jan. 9, 1962, to May 7, 1975, are presumed to have been exposed to the toxic defoliant Agent Orange, which is linked to numerous adverse health conditions and diseases. Blue Water veterans who did not set foot in Vietnam or serve on the inland waterways must prove they were exposed during military service in order to receive disability compensation for conditions related to Agent Orange exposure.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?
- Pass H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act.
- Amend Title 38, U.S. Code, to presume exposure to Agent Orange for any military personnel who served during the Vietnam War on any vessel that came within 12 nautical miles of the Vietnam coastline.

Prevent veteran homelessness
Through the U.S. Housing and Urban Development’s annual point-in-time count estimate of America’s homeless population, communities across the country reported that 37,878 veterans were experiencing homelessness in the United States in 2018. Since 2009, veteran homelessness has dropped considerably, obtaining a new low in 2018. The American Legion is focused on prevention, “to get them before they get on the street.”

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?
- Permanently authorize the Supportive Services for Veterans and Families program and maintain funding levels necessary to keep it operational.
- Fund legal services for homeless veterans.
- Continue to fund the homeless veterans Grant and Per Diem Program (transitional housing) at the level of need demonstrated in local communities.
- Provide a higher allocation of project-based HUD-VA Supportive Housing vouchers for homeless veterans.

Licensing and credentialing
The American Legion has established its Credentialing Advisory Task Force in order to promote the transferability of military skills and experience and expand upon progress by increasing awareness in the fields of licensing, certifications and credentialing.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?
- Reintroduce H.R. 3018, the Veterans' Entry to Apprenticeship Act, empowering businesses to design pre-apprenticeship programs for veterans through the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- Recognize civilian credentialing trends and advocate for the needs of service-members, veterans and spouses.
- Promote military training and experience as widely accepted forms of competency for civilian employment.
- Support the growth and expansion of the U.S. Military Apprenticeship Program.

Fund law enforcement agencies
Law enforcement agencies across the country are changing the tactics and strategies they use to respond to pressing and chronic threats posed by violent crime, criminal gang activity, illegal and prescription drug use, human trafficking and domestic terrorism, as well as cybercrime and transnational organized crime. Local agencies have the potential to assist with these challenges but often lack the funding and training required.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?
- Provide federal funding to law enforcement agencies to ensure they are equipped with necessary and modern equipment, training and technology.

Veterans preference hiring
Veterans preference hiring benefits veterans of every economic class, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and creed. It is triggered when a hiring manager is deciding between two equally qualified candidates, one a non-veteran and the other a service-member or veteran. Veterans preference requires a veteran to be fully qualified for the position sought.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?
- Reaffirm continued application of veterans’ preference for federal hiring and reduction in-force actions as originally intended by the Veterans Preference Hiring Act of 1944.
- Mandate that agencies using new hiring authorities, such as direct-hire authority, report annually to Congress on the employment level and representation of veterans in the agencies’ workforce, along with the number of veterans hired using these new authorities.
- Report all federal veteran recruiting and applicant-sourcing activities to ensure the veteran community is aware of job opportunities, regardless of hiring authority used, and any other activities that demonstrate federal commitments to affirmative outreach to veterans.
- Require that agencies that fall below the representative rate of veterans, as determined by the rate veterans are employed in the private sector, be required to discontinue any special hiring authorities until the under-representation of veterans is corrected.
- Update Public Law 89-554, Title 5, Sec. 3310, Veterans Preference occupations.

Federal contracting for veteran-owned businesses
As the youngest, federally recognized and preferred contracting group, veterans do not always receive the same contracting preferences as other groups. Currently, there is no preference for veterans when it comes to building our nation’s roads, highways and critical infrastructure.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?
- The American Legion urges Congress to appoint a VA advisory committee to ensure parity for veterans in all small-business government contracting programs and provide advice and recommendations on specific VA veteran-owned small-business issues.
- Congress should reintroduce H.R. 1694, the Fairness to Veterans Act, which simply states that if any business is going to get a preference, then veteran -owned small businesses should at least get that same preference.

Cybersecurity
Cybersecurity remains a top concern across the public and private sectors. Overall, threats are multiplying and organizations have little control over them. Healthcare networks are a major target for cyber criminals, and The American Legion is concerned about the privacy of veterans enrolled in VA health care.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?
- Congress should prioritize investments in cyber defense, resilience and the continued integration of cyber capabilities into the full spectrum of military operations and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Strengthen the U.S. military
The National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 authorizes $171 billion in defense spending, which reverses the effects of sequestration and exceeds the defense spending caps set by the Budget Control Act of 2011. However, according to an outline done by the Pentagon in early 2018, the planned trajectory of the defense budget will not be enough to rebuild the military and create separation between the United States and its strategic competitors.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?
- Pass a fiscal 2020 budget commensurate with the expressed needs of the DoD to fulfill the Secretary of Defense’s 2018 National Defense Strategy.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program
Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) was established to provide service-connected disabled veterans ways to obtain gainful and meaningful employment to achieve and sustain an independent living. VR&E should continue to make every effort to demonstrate efficacy in delivering these services while at the same time substantially improving quality of life for veterans.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?
- Congress should ensure adequate vocational rehabilitation counselors and employment coordinators are provided in order to reduce caseloads and offer more individualized counseling for veterans.
- Congress should work to improve interagency collaboration and communication among key stakeholders of the program.
- Eliminate the 12-year delimiting date for eligibility to Chapter 31 benefits and allow veterans with employment impediments to qualify for VR&E benefits for life.
- Provide training programs geared specifically for VR&E counselors through Management Concepts Incorporated.
Maintain integrity of the GI Bill

Congress passed the largest increase to the Post-9/11 GI Bill through the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017. VA, however, is currently facing a crisis of failure to process claims in a timely manner and curb tuition abuse. Technological malfunctions at VA resulted in delayed GI Bill housing payments to hundreds of thousands of veterans during the 2018 fall semester.

**WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?**
- Demand that VA execute decisive actions to ensure that veterans do not have to wait longer than 30 days for approved GI Bill benefits.
- Pass legislation to align the cost of GI Bill payments for public school flight programs with the existing rate on tuition and fees for private and nonprofit schools and return the cost savings to VA education programs.

New approaches to transition

With an estimated 200,000 servicemembers leaving the military each year, the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) is an important component in the change to civilian life. The American Legion continues to help transitioning servicemembers obtain gainful employment through resume and interview workshops, career fairs and entrepreneurship. However, as the booming economic landscape evolves, it is important that military and veteran interests are represented in civilian workforce initiatives.

**WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?**
- Hold the DoD accountable for implementation of the Better Access to Technical Training, Learning, and Entrepreneurship (BATTLE) for Servicemembers Act, which was in the fiscal 2019 National Defense Authorization Act.
  - Hold unit commanders or their designees accountable for ensuring all reservist servicemembers, in particular the reserve component, are afforded the opportunity to attend TAP.
  - Introduce legislation to authorize military spouses to accompany servicemembers participating in TAP.

Access to capital for small business

A key obstacle facing veteran-owned small businesses is lack of access to capital. Investments are needed to develop and bring to market innovative veteran-generated products and services.

Most veterans lack the requisite capital or collateral for traditional bank loans. Solutions to address this issue include adding an entrepreneurship component to the current GI Bill or creating more pathways for veterans to gain access to capital through public private partnerships.

**WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?**
- Congress should reintroduce H.R. 3248 from the 114th Congress, the Veterans Entrepreneurial Transition (VET) Act, allowing the Small Business Administration to carry out a three-year pilot program to assess the feasibility of offering grants to up to 250 eligible veterans and retiring or honorably discharged members of the U.S. armed forces to start, expand or acquire qualifying business enterprises.

Financial protections from scams

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) decided in 2017 to suspend supervising banks, credit card companies and other lenders that deal with members of the military and their families to make sure they’re not committing fraud or abuse. The American Legion is deeply concerned by this decision. The CFPB must demonstrate greater vigilance on behalf of servicemembers to support military readiness and secure successful transitions to civilian life.

**WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?**
- Stop any attempts by CFPB leadership to weaken the Military Lending Act, including the bureau’s supervisory enforcement authority and rules against predatory lending by all businesses, including car dealerships.
- Support the function and implementation of the CFPB's rule on "Payday, Vehicle Title, and Certain High-Cost Installment Loans."

Protect the U.S. flag from desecration

The American Legion strongly believes the U.S. flag is a symbol of our nation’s freedom and all that we hold in common, secured by the servicemen and women who have sacrificed so much.

That is why The American Legion continues to urge Congress to approve such an amendment to protect the flag from physical desecration. The proposed flag protection amendment is not an infringement upon the Bill of Rights. Instead, it is a wonderful exercise in the popular sovereignty the Bill of Rights was designed to protect.

**WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?**
- Implement measures within the Department of Defense to ensure Gold Star families receive the benefits and support they have earned.
- Ensure that Gold Star families are provided access to appropriate installments in order to visit the graves of loved ones.

Expedited citizenship through military service

Immigrants have always made up a portion of the U.S. armed forces, and joining the military has been one of the fastest ways to become a U.S. citizen. More than 8,000 troops with green cards became citizens that way in 2017 alone.

A recent report released by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) shows a 65 percent drop in the number of active-duty servicemembers who applied for, or became, naturalized citizens in the first quarter of 2018. The report notes that policy changes within DoD make it more difficult for servicemembers to get their naturalization paperwork in order, such as USCIS’s decision to no longer accept their fingerprints collected by DoD.

The American Legion strongly opposes illegal immigration but believes in fairness for veterans.

**WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?**
- Implement measures within the Department of Defense to ensure the process of naturalization through honorable military service is completed prior to discharge.
DOVER — The number 22 sticks in artist Scott LoBaido’s mind like a painful embedded thorn. It’s not just the number, but rather, what it represents.

It’s been that way ever since that day four years ago, when Mr. LoBaido found out that 22 veterans a day commit suicide in the United States. That number, he says, is not only disgusting, but it is unacceptable.

So, the patriotic Staten Island, New York-based artist decided to do something about it to bring awareness to the tragic situation. He created a powerful ‘22’ sculpture that he is currently touring among the original 13 U.S. colonies, hence, the name of his “22-13” tour.

Mr. LoBaido’s solemn tribute will be making an appearance at the Walter L. Fox American Legion Post 2 at 835 South Bay Road next Monday and Tuesday as part of his tour to bring veteran suicide to the public’s consciousness.

He will be speaking at 7:30 p.m. and the statue will slowly light up at 7:45 and will stay lit until 11:45 each night. A song by Coldplay titled “Fix You” will play in the background.

“It’s been about four years since I found out about the number 22 in my last tour,” said Mr. LoBaido, who was visiting veteran’s posts in all 50 states in 2015 and painting American flags on them when he discovered the grim reality of veteran suicides. “I went to every state and I found out about that number 22 and I wrote that number on palm of my hand with a Sharpie. It has been there ever since.

“That number is absolutely disgusting. I knew right then that I needed to go around and bring attention to this issue.”

Mr. LoBaido’s ‘22’ sculpture depicts a pair of twos facing each other covered in an American flag design, in which the white stripes feature a collage of all the wars the United States has participated in. The opposing numbers create an empty heart between them.

The sculpture’s base features 22 pairs of empty boots, each lit up with battery-op-erated candles, and it is surrounded by 22 life-size figures lit up with LED lighting that represent the 22 veteran souls lost each day.

It is a powerful — and chilling — sight.

“I think it’s an extremely important message that the artist is trying to spread,” said Chip Rosan, Adjutant for the American Legion Post 2. “That message is that we’re losing 22 veterans to suicide a day and these guys need all the help they can get.

“I see a lot of the pain first-hand. You can see guys sitting there having a beer at the Legion and all of a sudden they start to cry. Taking care of our veterans is important and I think that’s the biggest message we need to get a lot of people out there to see the sculpture next Monday and Tuesday nights and hear the message (that Mr. LoBaido will present).”

A ‘calling’ to create patriotic art

Mr. LoBaido said that he found his calling for patriotic art while working in New York City.

“I’ve been an artist my whole life,” he said. “Back in ’90s, I was invited to work at a gallery in big city New York and when I walked in there was an American flag on the floor and visitors were invited to wipe their feet on it. It was at a time when patriotism had taken a big dip in this country.

“I was completely dumbfounded by the great deal of hatred there was towards the American flag and all that is good in America. In the art world we have more rights than most people with the art that we create. It’s because of men and women who fought (in wars) that we have this flag — this right.”

Since then, Mr. LoBaido has completed three cross country state tours since 2006 painting flags across America to promote patriotism and celebrate veterans.

“A lot of people don’t realize it, but I never served in the military,” he said, “but it’s an honor to help celebrate those who did.”

The artist selected American Legion Post 2 as the Delaware canvas for his Fifty State Tour in 2015. That was when he painted an American flag on a front wall of the building just behind the airplane that sits on its’ front lawn off Bay Road in southeast Dover.

“I love the challenge to try to figure out how to do something different with each American flag that I paint,” said Mr. LoBaido. “I make sure there’s always something a little bit different with each one.”

It wasn’t quite as big a project as the one he undertook from June 14 until July 4, 2010, when he painted the world’s largest version of the Stars and Stripes in Houston, Texas, next to Hobby Airport. The flag is 150,000 square feet (3.5 acres), which took 900 gallons of paint to complete.

Tour all about changing outcomes

He said the “22-13” Tour that he is currently on is one that is particularly close to his heart, adding that it’s his most important creative mission.

“Each day 22 of our veterans die by their own hand,” Mr. LoBaido said. “Now it is time to help the injuries and pain in the minds of these heroes.

“Post-traumatic stress disorder is the number one issue. Many organizations are now taking notice, but not enough, fast enough. Some new data says the number of veteran suicides per day is 20, but that survey does not include all states. Be it 20 or 22, these numbers are horrendous.”

He added, “This patriotic art tour is to heighten awareness to this severe crisis and grab the attention of the nation and figure out how to bring this number down. They sacrificed for us. Let us return the favor.”

The “22-13” Tour began on March 9 in Savannah, Georgia, and will end on April 24 in New Hampshire. Dover will be the sixth stop as Mr. LoBaido nears the midway point of the tour.

When it comes to creating patriotic art,
VA embarked on the largest transformation to occur in VA history by establishing MyVA Access the initiative is designed to improve the Veteran experience and improve patient satisfaction. When Veterans require primary care right away during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., weekdays), they are able to get services the same day. Veterans may call the Nurse Call Line (302) 994-2511, press 3. (for more information see page 2) If a Veteran is in crisis or has another need for care right away in mental health, they will receive immediate attention from a health care professional. Additionally, any Veteran new to mental health with a non-urgent need will receive an initial screening evaluation by the next business day. “We’ve included open access appointments in our clinic schedules, opened a Nurse Call Center, staffed a local call scheduling call center, placed an emphasis on team care concepts and increased staffing in our primary and mental health clinics,” said Bob Callahan, Interim Director. “When a Veteran contacts us, we will address their need that day or schedule appropriate follow up care, depending on the urgency.”

### Legionnaire’s Insurance Trust

LegionCare: $5,000.00 Accidental Death Benefit at NO COST to You…NOW ONE AND DONE!

All dues-paying Department members have the opportunity to enroll in LegionCare; a complimentary NO COST accidental death benefit provided to members of our Department. The Department works hard to provide the most comprehensive benefits to you, and as a Legionnaire in good standing, you are eligible for LegionCare. The Department is committed to protecting Legionnaires and their families, so they’ve worked with the Legionnaire Insurance Trust to arrange this benefit for you.

Anyone enrolled in LegionCare will be covered for as long as they maintain their membership in the Legion Family – The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion. This new “one and done” approach will save you from needing to re-enroll every 5 years. The LegionCare program will continue to cover you for $1,000 of AD&D coverage. If the accidental loss occurs when on official Legion Family Business, LegionCare will cover you for $5,000 of Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) coverage.

Although coverage is available at NO COST to you and paid for by The American Legion, you must enroll to receive the benefit. Visit www.theLIT.com or call toll-free at 1-800-235-6943 today to activate up to $5,000 in protection at NO COST to you.

Don’t pass up your opportunity to activate LegionCare! You are guaranteed this NO COST benefit with no health questions, no hidden qualifications … and no reason to pass up your opportunity for this important benefit.

*For purposes of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust, a member of The American Legion, with current year’s dues paid, could be eligible for the $5,000.00 Accidental Death benefit if he/she is traveling to, attending, or returning from an official function at which the Legionnaire represents his/her Post, District, Department, or National Organization in an official capacity.

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion are now eligible to sign up.

Below is a chart with the percentage of Post members who have signed up for LegionCare. As noted, many Delaware Legionnaires have not taken the opportunity to enroll. Do it today!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>2/28</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unknown Posts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware Post #1</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter L. Fox Post #2</td>
<td>1,762</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>10.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milford Post #3</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HQ Post #4</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>9.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henlopen Post #5</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>16.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanticoke Post #6</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>38.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callaway-Kemp-Raughley-Tee Post #7</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>10.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sussex Post #8</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt. J. Allison O’Daniel Post #10</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>16.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandwyn Post #12</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>62.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert L. Taylor Post #13</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David C. Harrison Post #14</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>8.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Rayne Post #15</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>23.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William T. Spooner Post #17</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>22.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard C. DuPont Post #18</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>26.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurel Post #19</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>28.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milton Post #20</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurence Roberts Post #21</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dagsboro Post #24</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>17.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middletown Post #25</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>24.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles E. Durney Post #27</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Orchard/Riverdale Post #28</td>
<td>2,471</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>17.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First State Post #29</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>27.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph B. Stahl Memorial Post #30</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>23.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pratts-Deshields Post #37</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selbyville Post #39</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Total</td>
<td>9,365</td>
<td>2814</td>
<td>30.05%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Putting Veterans first by increasing Same Day Access to care

When Veterans require primary care right away during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., weekdays), they are able to get services the same day, Veterans may call the Nurse Call Line (302) 994-2511, press 3. (for more information see page 2) If a Veteran is in crisis or has another need for care right away in mental health, they will receive immediate attention from a health care professional. Additionally, any Veteran new to mental health with a non-urgent need will receive an initial screening evaluation by the next business day. “We’ve included open access appointments in our clinic schedules, opened a Nurse Call Center, staffed a local call scheduling call center, placed an emphasis on team care concepts and increased staffing in our primary and mental health clinics,” said Bob Callahan, Interim Director. “When a Veteran contacts us, we will address their need that day or schedule appropriate follow up care, depending on the urgency.”
The United Services Automobile Association (USAA) is a Texas-based Fortune 500 diversified financial services group of companies including a Texas Department of Insurance-regulated reciprocal inter-insurance exchange and subsidiaries offering banking, investing, and insurance to people and families who serve, or served, in the United States military. At the end of 2017, there were 12.4 million members.

USAA was founded in 1922 in San Antonio, Texas, by a group of 25 U.S. Army officers as a mechanism for mutual self-insurance when they were unable to secure auto insurance because of the perception that they, as military officers, were a high-risk group. USAA has since expanded to offer banking and insurance services to past and present members of the Armed Forces, officers and enlisted, and their immediate families.

USAA proudly serve military members and their families. Membership is open to:
- Individuals who are currently serving in the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, National Guard and Reserves.
- Those who have retired or separated from the U.S. military with a discharge type of Honorable.
- Widows, widowers and un-remarried former spouses of USAA members who had USAA auto or property insurance while married and individuals whose parents have or had USAA auto or property insurance.
- Cadets and midshipmen at U.S. service academies, in advanced ROTC or on ROTC scholarship, plus officer candidates within 24 months of commissioning.

With roots grounded in the military, USAA brings its methods to your finances, and its values to our service through an exclusive suite of financial products, tools and advice.

This past May, the National Executive Committee of The American Legion approved an extension of the USAA agreement through May 31, 2023. The amended contract was negotiated in way that still provides substantial benefits to the Department of Delaware. The American Legion National Headquarters has allocated funding (up to $1M) to reward departments such as Department of Delaware who continue to participate in the exclusive endorsement of the affinity marketing program between The American Legion and USAA through 2023.

The Department of Delaware exclusively endorses and advertises USAA as the exclusive provider of property and casualty insurance (home, automobile and property) and credit card services. USAA is the preferred provider of banking, investments and financial planning for our Department. Our Department will not endorse the competitive products of any other provider as long as USAA is the exclusive provider to The American Legion. This limitation does not apply to non-competitive products and services offered through Legionnaire Insurance Trust or its affiliates.

Exclusive Provider means USAA is the only company authorized to advertise property and casualty (home, automobile and property) and credit card services through our Department's marketing assets.

Preferred Provider means USAA is the recommended company to advertise banking, insurance, investments and financial planning services through our Department's marketing assets.

To enroll with USAA and to benefit the Department of Delaware, go to https://www.usaa.com or call 800-531-USAA (8722).
The American Legion Post 17 of Lewes sponsored its Biannual Veteran’s Fishing Trip on September 26, 2018. Altogether, 15 veterans (from the Delaware Veterans Home/Milford and Home of the Brave/Milford), and 12 Legionnaires (from Post 17) rolled and strolled out upon the 1300-foot long pier at Cape Henlopen State Park. With the help of the Unit 17 Auxiliary, the SONS of Post 17, and six young active-duty people from Dover Air Force Base, all the fishing equipment, coolers, and wheelchairs got unloaded and pushed down the long pier. This is the 11th year the Post extended invitations to local veterans to get out and enjoy a few hours over the water and hopefully catch a few fish in the meantime. The trip happens twice a year, in spring and late summer. It provides a relaxing, stress-free environment away from their worries, and an opportunity to interact with civilians and other veterans alike. Back at the Post, a hearty lunch of chili, meatloaf and gravy, roasted potatoes, green beans, as well as assorted beverages and desserts, was served to the hungry fishermen and women. Pocket flags—miniature U.S. flags properly folded with enclosed notes of encouragement—were presented to the veterans so they know they are always appreciated by our community and country. Veterans Fall Fishing Trip Sponsored by American Legion Post 17, of Lewes Pictures in order of story: 1) Sponsored by American Legion Post 17, of Lewes The American Legion Post 17 Fall Fishing Trip attendees. [Photo by Murt Foos]. 2) The Cape Henlopen Fishing Pier was crowded with veterans and Post 17 volunteers enjoying the balmy day and hoping for a bite. [Photo by Kellie Bergen] 3) Maria Linaje, an active-duty volunteer from Dover AFB, holds a Northern Puffer fish. [Photo by Kellie Bergen] 4) American Legion Commander Ed Bergen (center, white shirt, black hat) is flanked by active duty volunteers from Dover AFB, Cinthya Trujillo (left) and Dominika Jelinski (right). [Photo by Kellie Bergen] 5) Lines are cast into the water beneath the Cape Henlopen Fishing Pier. This biannual event allows our veterans the chance to forget their daily worries and enjoy this great outside past time. [Photo by Kellie Bergen] 6) Pastries, fruit and sides were offered for lunch, along with hot meatloaf and the Post’s famous chili. [Photo by John Guenther] 7) Auxiliary members ladle out hot chili to the hungry fishermen. Left to right are Sandy Keen, Lynn Clougher, Dorothy Murray and Shay Nipper. 8) The Auxiliary kitchen staff preparing lunch for the returning fishermen and women. Pictured (left to right) are Barb Catts, Gail Sellazo, Tom Murray (SONS), Pat Schneider and Shay Nipper. [Photo by John Guenther] 9) Properly folded pocket flags are presented to the veterans, reminding them that their service to our country is appreciated. Shields Elementary students in Lewes prepare these miniature flags, enclosed in a 3x3 resealable bag with a personal note expressing gratitude and offering encouragement. 10) Auxiliary member Jo Stafford (foreground, right) offers Paul Wallner, Army veteran (foreground, left) with a pocket-sized folded U.S. flag, while he dives into a bowl of chili. Through the Auxiliary Americanism program, students from Shields Elementary School in Lewes are taught how to fold the flag and then asked to write a special note to a soldier to be included in the flag package. 11) Proudly gathered are the Auxiliary members who served a hearty lunch to the fishermen. Pictured (left to right) are Dorothy Murray, Shay Nipper, Gail Sellazo, Sandy Keen, Kellie Bergen, Jo Stafford, Cathy Butler, Dunn Clougher, Pat Schneider, Diana Dolan, Barb Catts and Murt Foos (Auxiliary President) 12) Young volunteers from Dover Air Force Base relax for lunch after helping the veterans on the fishing pier. Pictured are, left to right, Bianca Niles, Cinthya Trujillo, David Dejarnette, Dominika Jelinski, Maria Linaje and Tina Di Maria. [Photo by Cathy Butler] 13) Pictured are the visiting veterans from the Home of the Brave, Milford. Some were distracted by the deer (far left) that routinely roam the back field of the Post, looking for the fresh water, apples and corn that the Post provides through voluntary donations.
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. That is why the Oratorical Contest is now called A Constitutional Speech Contest”.

All high school students, grades 9 through 12 and who are under the age of 20, are eligible to take part. The speeches must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. The prepared speech must be eight to ten minutes long while the extemporaneous speech is three to five minutes on an assigned topic. There are four assigned topics picked by the National organization. The students are aware of these topics ahead of time. These topics are the same from the District Contest through the National finals. In Delaware these topics are placed in individual envelopes, the envelopes are mixed, and, on the Department Level, one of them is chosen by the State Commander to be the lone assigned topic of that contest.

Delaware’s Department Contest was on February 12, 2019. Department Chairman Charles Armbruster organized the event. The Master of Ceremonies for the event was New Castle District Commander Dwight Lacy. Department Commander James Stewart was present and did his assigned duties including presenting the gifts to the judges and announcing the winners. The contest had five judges. The first judge was Judy Moore Travis, Chairman of the Stockings for Soldiers Program. She is also a member of Auxiliary Unit 18. The second judge was Representative Earl Jacques. He is the Chairman of the Delaware State House Education and Veteran Affairs committees. He is a member of Stahl Post 30. The third judge is Dr. Robert Boucher. He is an employee of the Wilmington Veterans Affairs Hospital. The fourth judge was Lawrence Kirby. He and his bow tie are the face of Delaware’s Veterans Commission. The fifth judge was Kathy Jennings. Mrs. Jennings is the newly elected Attorney General for the State of Delaware.

The three contestants were Dorothy McCormick, sponsored by Nanticoke Post 6, Justin Chan, sponsored by Canal Post 25, and Krish Mohaltra, sponsored by First State Post #29. Dorothy, from Millsboro, is home schooled and is considered to be a tenth grader by the home school association. Justin, from Middletown High School, is the 2018 Boys State Lt Governor and a senior. Krish, the New Castle County District Champion, is a tenth grader who attends Tower Hill.

The National Oratorical contest will be held on April 5 to April 7, 2019. The contest will be held in Indianapolis at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel. Any national contestant who does not place in the upper three on the national level can take part in the next years contest as long as they do not graduate from High School this year. Dorothy McCormick is Delaware’s Department winner and will travel to Indianapolis for the national contest.

Photos drome left to right: 1) From Left to right in picture: Department Commander James Stewart, Justin Chen, Dorothy McCormick and Krish Mohaltra 2) Department winner - Dorothy McCormick
HONOR & REMEMBRANCE
Military Funeral Honors For Veterans

All eligible veterans, including military retirees, are entitled to military funeral honors. At a minimum, the funeral honors ceremony will consist of the playing of taps and the folding and presentation of the American flag. At least two uniformed military personnel shall perform the ceremony. If a bugler is not available, an electronic recording will be played. One of the uniformed military personnel will be from the deceased veteran’s parent military service and will present the flag to the next of kin.

The next of kin or otherwise appropriate individual must request the funeral honors; they are not provided automatically. Per the Department of Defense (DoD) policy, the family must request that the funeral director contact the military. Funeral directors may call (877) 645-4667 to coordinate the ceremony.

The American Legion is encouraged to augment the honors detail as an authorized provider with a chaplain, pallbearers, firing party, bugler and/or color guard.

When The American Legion is assisting the DoD, the Legion should conform to DoD’s methods of conduct. In working together, The American Legion honors those who have gone before and all requirements for a reverent, respectful and dignified ceremony are met.

For more information on military funerals, please refer to the Legion’s Post Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies starting on page 59. Download the guide at www.legion.org/publications.

Richard J. Santos
Department Adjutant

High School Oratorical Contest
Charles Armbruster, Jr. Chairman

The 2019 Department High School Oratorical Contest was held on February 12, 2019, at the Wilmington VAMC. I thank the members of Richard C. DuPont Post #18, Canal Post #25, and First State Post #29 for helping with the contest.

There were three contestants. Results of the 2019 Department High School Oratorical Contest were:

1st Place - Dorothy Elizabeth McCormick, Homeschool (McCarrill Academy) $1,000 Scholarship
2nd Place - Justin Chan, Middle-town High School $500 Scholarship
3rd Place - Krish Malhtra, Tower Hill High School $200 Scholarship

The 2019 National Finals will be April 5-7 in Indianapolis at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN, 46241, (317) 248-2481. Quarterfinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, April 6, with the finals scheduled for Sunday, April 7. The contestants will be competing for $48,000 in scholarships. The competitors won their respective American Legion post, district and state-level Oratorical Contests to earn a spot at the national level.

The contest will get underway April 6 at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel with the young orators competing in the quarterfinals; the top nine contestants will advance to the semifinals. The contestants will present a rehearsed eight- to 10-minute oration on an aspect of the Constitution in front of judges, as well as a three- to five-minute speech on an assigned topic discourse — a phase of the Constitution selected from its Articles and Sections.

The top three semifinal contestants will advance to the championship finals. The championship finals will be held Sunday, April 7 at 10 a.m. EDT, and will be streamed on Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/americanlegionhq.

Meeting with Sen. Thomas L. Carper (D-Del) on the Day on the Hill

On Feb 2, 2019 members of the Department of Delaware met with Sen. Thomas L. Carper (D-Del) as part of The American Legion’s Washington Conference’s Day on the Hill. Those in attendance from the Department of Delaware were Lyman Brenner, National Legislative Council Vice Chairman, John Endres, Past Department Commander and Past National Executive Committeeman, Kim Endres, Chairperson of the Department Finance Committee, and Rebecca Crouser, Co-Chairperson of the Media and Communication Committee. At the beginning of the meeting they met with Michael Santora, Senator Carper’s Veteran’s Affairs Staffer. Senator Carper stopped in at the end of the meeting to greet us and talk about his concerns.

The main issues discussed with Mr. Santora were issues dealing with the Veterans Hospital in Ellesmere and the Kent County and Sussex County Community Based Outpatient Clinics. Many of the issues facing the local veterans dealing with the Veterans Hospital have been dealt with. Changes have been made, either by the hospital or by changes in the federal laws. Compliments from patients transferring to the Delaware VA were relayed. One major compliment was that the doctors down to the valet staff were more people oriented, friendly, and more helpful than many of the surrounding VA facilities. The major downside that was presented was that there are still people unhappy with the Veterans Hospital. However, it was noted that many of these people have trouble filling out paperwork and do not understand they have to follow federal rules and regulations. It was also noted that it takes to long for appeals processing. It is hoped by Mr. Santora that the new laws that have just gone into effect this week (the last week of February) will shorten the length of time of the appeal. He also recommended that all veterans enroll in the Veterans Hospital so that when they need to use the facilities they are already in the system.

When Senator Carper came in, he wanted to talk about the GI Bill. He talked about the change in education benefits from the original GI Bill to the newest. He emphasized the ability of individuals to transfer their education rights to other family members and how their family can use it after their passing – in both cases as long as the Veteran had not used it. He also emphasized that veterans should make sure that they do not use schools that are conning them out of their GI Benefits. At that point the Senator’s staff came in and reminded him that he was to be meeting with another group from Delaware and the Delaware Delegation was ushered out. The delegation knew there was a time limit on the meeting and that we had actually gone over the time allotted.
2019 National Convention

The 2019 National Convention will be held in Indianapolis, IN, August 21-30, 2019. The Department will be housed at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown, 350 West Maryland Street, Indianapolis, IN 46225. The rate schedule is:

- King or Double each @ $149.00 plus 17% tax
- ADA King each @ $149.00 – Pre-Designated
- Two Bedroom Corner King Suite each @ $447.00
- Additional Occupant in Room per Day - Flat rate
- Rollaway Rate per Day - No charge
- Parking Rate per Day - Self parking - $44.00/Valet parking - $49.00 Tax Rate

Room reservation forms were distributed by e-mail. One night’s deposit of $174.33 needs to be submitted with the reservation. Make check payable to the Department of Delaware. Only five (5) rooms remain out of the Department’s 25 room block.

The Indianapolis Marriott Downtown was renovated 2017-2018. It has a very large lobby, containing a Lost Vine Deli, Connor’s Restaurant, Rye Lobby Bar, and Starbucks. There are 610 rooms on 19 floors, 6 elevators, numerous meeting rooms & banquet facilities on the first and second floors, and valet and self-parking. The hotel is connected to the Indianapolis Convention Center by an above street gerbil tube. Literally, the convention center is 100 feet across the street.

The raffle tickets will be distributed to all Posts and Post Commanders for purchase.

They can also be purchased by completing the form below. The customer receipt stub portion will not be sent back to purchaser unless requested and a $1 fee per order per address provided. The sale of these tickets help support valuable programs in our Department.

The American Legion
Department of Delaware
PUFL Membership Prize
One Paid up for life membership in The American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary or a cash prize of $500
Location and Date of Drawing
Department Convention
July 21, 2019
Tickets: $5.00 Each

Please make checks payable to The Department of Delaware The American Legion, Inc. with PUFL Raffle in the memo line.

Return this form to The American Legion Department of Delaware PO Box 930 Seaford, DE 19973-0930

Number of tickets: ________ Return Stubs: ________

Even if you do not want the receipt stubs returned please fill out the following so the drawing part of the ticket can be filled out.

NAME:________________________________________________
ADDRESS:_____________________________________________
CITY:__________________________________________________
STATE:________________________________________________
ZIP CODE:______________________________________________
PHONE #:________________________________________________
Legislative Committee

This is a new legislative year and Congress. For the 116th Congress, the Legislative Liaisons for the Department are:

- Vice Chair Lyman Brenner
- Senator Coons - David Strawbridge
- Senator Carper - MaryAnna Moderhak
- Congresswoman Blunt-Rochester - Jeffrey Crouser

For the 116th Congress, American Legion priorities are laid out in digital booklet The American Legion's Legislative Agenda for 2019, an online digital booklet, is available to download online at www.legion.org/publications. Inside the March 2019 Dispatch are the highlights of the Legion's 26 legislative priorities that National Commander Brett Reistad presented on February 27 in Washington, D.C., before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs.

Richard J. Santos
Department Adjutant

Mission Continues Beyond Basic Training

Some Legionnaires were wounded while carrying out missions. Many lost friends, comrades and even family members who made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation we love, during a mission.

A century ago, The American Legion was founded by veterans who had a post-war mission. Their mission, one that continues today, was to care for veterans, provide patriotic programs for our nation's youth, advocate for a strong national defense and instill societal pride in what it means to be American.

It is fitting that the most significant veterans legislation passed by Congress in 2018 was called the VA Mission Act. By reforming the Department of Veterans Affairs health care infrastructure, streamlining community care, expanding caregiver benefits, increasing access to private-sector care and recruiting quality health-care professionals, Congress is living up to President Lincoln's mission to "care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan."

An important aspect of The American Legion's legislative agenda - or mission - is to expand upon Lincoln's promise and include equal benefits and respect for "her who shall have borne the battle, and for her widow and her orphan."

And just as the most successful missions in the military require strong leadership, VA cannot accomplish great tasks on its own. It requires leadership from Congress and the White House, along with respectful dialogue and assistance from The American Legion, our nation's largest veterans service organization.

It also requires "a devotion to mutual helpfulness." This is a mission that every American should undertake, and it is one that is enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion and recited by our members at every official Legion meeting.

This devotion must extend to support for our nation's first responders, Gold Star families and those working to prevent veteran suicide. Each of these communities has sacrificed enormously on our behalf. We owe them not only our gratitude but our tireless efforts to ensure that America never forgets its debt to those who have carried out their missions.

These are our legislative priorities. These are our callings. These are our missions.

Reprint March 2019 Dispatch

Annual Convention Polo Shirts

The Annual Convention Polo Shirts are a patterned black this year with the Department motto “Honorable Service, Moral Obligation” on the left sleeve. They will be $40 each with the Big and Tall sizes $45.

The order form with instructions will be available on the Department Website at the following web address:

http://www.delegation.org/Forms/
The 2019 Return Label Program, printed and distributed by the National Fundraising Division, is going to press. Proofs for the label, cover letter, and reminder were approved. The mailing of the labels is going to 8,400 Delaware Legionnaires. So be on the lookout for your mailing.

The Department of Delaware has partnered with Publishing Concepts, Inc. (PCI) of Dallas, Texas, on publishing a Delaware American Legion Member Directory in celebration of The American Legion Centennial. The directory will be a full color, hard bound cover. Arrangement of the book is in progress. Publishing and release dates remain open.

Thank you to all the Delaware Legionnaires who provided background information to PCI for publication in the directory.

Spring Return Label Program

The 2019 Return Label Program, printed and distributed by the National Fundraising Division, is going to press. Proofs for the label, cover letter, and reminder were approved. The mailing of the labels is going to 8,400 Delaware Legionnaires. So be on the look out for your mailing.
The following requests for assistance emanated from the VAMC Wilmington March 4th VAVS Committee meeting. The information was provided by James Coty, Chief, Voluntary Services

COFFEE ACCOUNT: The Voluntary Services Department provides a coffee service for Veterans. The Patient Lounge is the most visible of all of the locations the Coffee Account supports – but many people do not know that Voluntary Services provides coffee and supplies to each of their Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) waiting areas. Last quarter, over $4,000 in product to support the Medical Center Patient Lounge as well as the CBOCs was purchased. The account is in significant need of monetary support. To continue this service for veterans and family members, VAVS needs support. Without our support, they cannot continue to provide complementary beverages for veterans.

USED BOOKS: Two years ago, there was an enormous supply of used. VAVS began placing free books on carts around the medical center for folks to take while waiting for their ride, or appointment. The program has been a huge success – unfortunately, they don’t have any more books to place in the racks. Again, VAVS needs the community to help support them by donating their gently used books so they can continue to provide this popular service.

PIANO PLAYER: The baby grand piano has been moved from the auditorium to the 1st floor Starbucks area. The piano was tuned. VAVS has several talented folks who have stepped forward to play in the waiting areas on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM. They are still looking for accomplished piano players for Weds., Thurs., and Fri. mornings. This should be another opportunity for VA Volunteers to shine!

Please share these immediate needs with your membership. Your support is needed to continue the great services the VA is providing our veterans!

Richard J. Santos
Department Adjutant

Recruit and Receive Membership Excellence: Team 100’ pin

American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad will award his national commander "Membership Excellence: Team 100" incentive pin to any Legion Family member who obtains three new members or six 2019 renewals into The American Legion. Commander Stewart highlighted this award in his opening remarks.

A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2019 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2018 membership year. Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

Only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Reistad's pin incentive program will end June 30, 2019, or when supplies are exhausted.

Download the incentive pin form at ® www.legion.org/commander/pin

Also, the report form is available to all departments on MyLegion. This report displays the total number of members renewed (by post) who fit the criteria as defined by the Incentive Program. The report includes a drill-down (click on a post) which allows you to view the individual members who have renewed. This report can be found on MyLegion in the Report Server section: Reports/Labels > DEPTS > MEMBERSHIP > 2019 Incentive Program – Department.

Team 100 Legion Family Ribbon

American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad will award his Team 100 American Legion Family Ribbon to any American Legion Family that achieves 100 percent membership by May 30, 2019. For this award, the Legion Family is defined as a post and any combination of an Auxiliary unit, Sons squadron or Legion Riders chapter. Each branch must achieve 100 percent membership to qualify for the award.

Download the form at ® www.legion.org/commander/ribbon

For additional information, please contact the Department Adjutant, Richard J. Santos, at adjutant@delegation.com.
This information is on the Tribute to Fallen Soldiers Memorial Torch Motorcycle Ride. This is the annual (22 day - 4,000 mile) cross country motorcycle ride in which the Fallen Soldiers Memorial Flame is escorted from Eugene, Oregon to Arlington National Cemetery in Washington DC to honor and pay tribute to America's fallen service members.

As the ride procession makes its way across the country, scheduled stops at the homes of our fallen heroes are made. These scheduled stops are what is referred to as “Fallen Soldier Home Visits.” At each home visit, the surviving family members are presented with their Memorial Plaque of Distinguished Service to simply say 'thank you' for the service members sacrifice and to remind each family their fallen hero hasn't been forgotten.

When the ride eventually reaches Washington D.C, the Fallen Soldiers Memorial Flame is escorted inside the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery to formally extinguish the Memorial Flame in memory of all fallen service members.

Arrival is scheduled in Wilmington on July 30th, where it is planned to visit 1 or 2 families. The escort would need overnight accommodations that night. On July 31st, another 2 or 3 families in the Smyrna/Dover area will be visited. Again, housing will be needed that night. Possibly, a pot luck dinner may be provided upon their arrival and breakfast prior to departure.

Point of contact is:
R. Kim Christmas, Support Coordinator
Delaware Survivor Outreach Services (SOS)
Management Support Technology Inc., Contractor
Wilmington Readiness Center
First Regiment Rd, Wilmington Delaware
Office: 302.326.7019 Mobile: 302.505.0440 rashoen.k.christmas.ctr@mail.mil
Dwight Lacy
New Castle District Commander

The American Legion Walter L Fox Post 2
835 S Bay Rd, Dover, DE
Will have their Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20th from Noon-3 PM
American Legion and VFW combine forces in Milford

Mar 10th, 2019 · by Jennifer Antonik, Delaware State News

MILFORD — The American Legion in Milford is hoping to make a comeback with help from fellow veterans at Blue Hen VFW after years of struggling to stay afloat.

“We were dying. Our population is getting relatively older. They’re in their late 70s to 80s. It’s harder for them to get out and come to meetings. These are the gentlemen that have already put their time in. They have taken every office, done the spaghetti dinners, parades, and all the functions of a post like this is expected to do and they can no longer do that,” Legion Commander Nancy Soriano said. “But at the same time, the younger generation, the newer soldiers, aren’t joining. They might actually join and have membership, but we never see them. In order to function, you need the manpower.”

Although the national American Legion organization is celebrating its centennial year this year, the group has been suffering, said Ms. Soriano, who has been an active member of Milford’s Legion organization for five years. It was previously located at 503 N. Rehoboth Blvd., Milford.

“I joined the Milford group and we were struggling then. We’ve always had enough members to make a quorum and that’s about it. But the one’s that are here are very strong willed, very dedicated. I don’t know what I would do without them. I see them once a month and it brings joy when I see them,” she said.

With hearts and years of service behind the members of the Legion, members of the organization reached out of their comfort zone. That’s when fellow heroes came on the scene to offer a helping hand.

Blue Hen Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6483 Commander Steven Hall shook Ms. Soriano’s hand and granted the Legion the opportunity to meet in their facility while the organization gets back on its feet.

“We’ve been pulled up by the bootstraps and I’m holding those tight. I have hope,” Ms. Soriano said.

The partnership is a team made to be, Mr. Hall explained, as they often have similar goals.

“If you’ve been in the military one day during wartime, you can go into the Legion. If you’ve been overseas or in a combat area, you can be in the VFW,” he said. “We both have scholarship programs that are available to junior high and high schoolers, we do the poppies, we do a lot together. But, to get all of our veterans is why we have both organizations.”

Ms. Soriano agreed. She served in the Air Force for 18 years between 1979 and 1997 as an electrician, eventually moving on to a civil engineering unit. Mr. Hall served in the Air Force for nearly 20 years.

Despite their passion for their organizations, Ms. Soriano and Mr. Hall said both groups are struggling with memberships and community involvement. They hope working together will help strengthen them in the long-haul.

“We’re struggling with scholarship applications, even,” Mr. Hall said. “There’s $10-15 grand out there and nobody will touch it.”

Aside from scholarships, both organizations help the community when they hear of a need like a leaky roof or a home without running water. They also help the families of veterans when they can, offering assistance here on the home front or abroad by sending supplies and comfort to local soldiers who are deployed.

“We’re just talking about fixing some simple things to make life easier for the people in our community,” Ms. Soriano said. “Sometimes, all they [veterans] need is an ear and a shoulder — we can take care of that. At the same time, we need the community connections.”

Mr. Hall added, “This is why we are sharing this building. We still run our separate programs, but we have the same goals and values.”

The groups are now also working together to coordinate Poppy sales, organize an Easter egg hunt, place flags around town for Memorial Day and help with the annual Memorial Day ceremony in Milford.

“The Legion has been here for three months now. It’s a big relief for us because we’re feeling the support. Our membership is up, so we’re stabilizing as far as that goes. But, the active part of getting things done is still not taking place. We’re still struggling. We now have hope and part of that was coming here with the group that’s supporting us. We’re still trying to get our faces out there,” Ms. Soriano said. “I see a brighter future because we’re here with them and getting support. I look for that to grow and help us get momentum.”

Both groups are hoping to increase their veteran memberships. The VFW also has auxiliary memberships available for those with immediate family members in the service or are veterans. The Legion can accept auxiliary memberships from women. Men interested in the Legion auxiliary can join the Sons of the American Legion.

The Legion meets at Blue Hen VFW on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. located at 77 Veterans Way, Milford.

Reach staff writer Jennifer Antonik at jantonik@newszap.com

Milford Post 3 Upcoming Activities

Milford Post 3 is still here and growing. Our host Blue Hen VFW Post 6483 has offered our members the opportunity to work their Tiki Hut on Thursday Nights starting May 30 as a fundraising activity.

Our members will also be doing our annual poppy drive in the Milford area at West Side Dinner, the Milford Post Office, Redners and Ace Hardware. For the past several years this has been the posts only fundraising activity and even with new opportunities we plan to keep this tradition going. (Dates: May 18th to June 1st)

Our Commander Nancy Soriano, fellow Officers and members are participating in a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Milford Senior Center on May 27th at 10AM. The public is welcome to attend this event.

Milford Post 3 members can now stop by Blue Hen Post 6483 to receive a key card after showing their current American Legion membership card and being checked off on the membership rooster they have on file.

Our Officers and members recently participated in the 198th Family Readiness Group Event in Georgetown. We cooked hamburgers and hot dogs and distributed informational material on The American Legion and its programs.
My Fellow Legionnaires,

Wow, we have our first paid advertisement this edition. I would like to Thank Molly’s Place for investing their advertising dollars with us and hope they see a benefit from being our customer. I would like to assure everyone that our paper will never be over run with ads because we are only allowed to do 10% of the paper with them under Non-Profit Guidelines (both tax and postage). But the Budget Committee strongly suggested to me that if I wanted to keep having large issues that we find a way to help offset the costs. If you know anyone or a business that would like to have an advertisement in our quarterly newspaper please give them Mrs. Amy Newton’s email amy.dotsonnewton@doverpost.com or the legionnaire@delegion.org and we will get them in touch with her.

On another note I’m going to call out a number of Posts because I have seen activities you have held since the last paper but no articles were sent in. We are the Department Editors for the paper not Reporters or Writers. Joseph B. Stalh Post 30 , David C. Harrison Post 14 (your riders do an excellent job) Callaway-Kemp-Raughley-Tee Post 7, Dagsboro Post 24, Henlopen Post 5, Laurel Post 19 and Oak Orchard-Riverdale Post 28. I should get at least one article from every post regardless of your post having a post home or not.As an example Richard C. DuPont Post 18 has at a minimum of one article in each paper of something they have done or an upcoming event. With our newspaper being distributed to state colleges and the VA facilities it is important for our whole state to be represented. Please send articles to legionnaire@delegion.org

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

---

Sussex County Student Government Day

April 4, 2019 - Students from Sussex County met in Georgetown as part of the 2019 ALA Delaware Girls State and Legion Boys State Programs. This was the first of three Student Government Days put on by the program and hosted by our 3 County Government Seats. What an amazing job Sussex County Council did.