The Department of Delaware will commemorate its Centennial with an American Legion Centennial Celebration on Saturday, March 9, 2019, at Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, 1131 North DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901 in Ballroom “C”.

The Centennial Banquet commences at 5:00 PM with a social hour and light hors d’oeuvres, following by dinner and National Commander Brett P. Reistad as the keynote speaker. The dress for the banquet is coat and tie. Choice of entrées will be:

- Teres Major Beef - Grilled Medallions or Chicken & Crab Cake. Accompanying the entrées will be White Dauphinoise Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Salad Served by Brigade, and a Family-Style Variety Dessert Tower.

Tables are of ten (10) persons. Price per person is $40. For tickets and your entrée selection, please submit your payment in the name of, and to: Department of Delaware The American Legion P. O. Box 930 Seaford, DE 19973-0930 Deadline for tickets is February 26.

To highlight 100 years of The American Legion, there will be a gallery display in the colonnade adjacent to Ballroom C of Centennial Memorabilia such as photos, charts, Centennial items, Posts 1, 2, 7, 14, and 21 memorabilia (photos of Post namesakes and charters), etc. and anything else one may have. If you wish to exhibit, please contact Rebecca Crouser, DELegion100@gmail.com.

How It All Started

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans’ organization.

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 communities, states and the nation for a second century.

The Department of Delaware is hosting its Centennial Celebration on Saturday, March 9, 2019, at Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, 1131 North DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901. Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons of The American Legion, and guests are encouraged to participate in this special, once-in-a-lifetime event.

For 100 years, The American Legion has focused on service to veterans, service members and communities, and the aims that will motivate its programs and activities during the years ahead and to illustrate the contribution made to the future of our country.

The American Legion 100th Anniversary Celebration kicks off The American Legion’s Centennial Celebration, a three-day event that will take place on Saturday, March 9, 2019, at Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, 1131 North DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901. The event will feature a Centennial Gala, a Centennial Barbecue, and a Centennial Parade.

Delaware Centennial Celebration

The Department of Delaware will commemorate its Centennial with an American Legion Centennial Celebration on Saturday, March 9, 2019, at Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, 1131 North DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901 in Ballroom “C”.

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For God and Country
Focusing on service to veterans, service members and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country.

The formation of The American Legion was led by General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. During one of the earliest meetings of The American Legion in 1919, a movement was afoot to nominate Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., as the first national commander. A World War I hero and the son of a former president, “T.R. Jr.” was widely perceived to have political ambitions of his own and possibly follow in his father’s footsteps to the White House. A term as National Commander would be a nice steppingstone for the young Republican. But Roosevelt would have none of it. Over shouts of “We Want Teddy,” Roosevelt told the delegates, “I wish to withdraw my name for a number of reasons…We are gathered together for a very high purpose. I want every American through the length and breadth of this land to realize that there is not a man in this caucus who is seeking anything for himself, personally, but that he is simply working for the good of the entire situation.”

Roosevelt knew that the best way for The American Legion to advance its pillars of fighting for a strong national defense, caring for veterans, establishing wholesome youth programs and promoting Americanism was to avoid partisanship and political labels.

He declared, “First, the organization should be nonpartisan, concerning itself possibly with policies, but never with partisan politics. Second, its membership should be comprised of service-men and women, regardless of whether they served overseas or were unfortunate enough to have their duty keep them in this country. Third, it should be really civilian, and its councils, general and private, admiral and gob, should be treated on the same basis.” In 1949, 30 years after he resisted calls to lead the organization, Legionnaires named him a Past National Commander.

Organizing

A group of 20 officers who served in the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in France during World War I is credited with founding The American Legion. AEF Headquarters asked the officers to suggest ideas on how to improve troop morale. One officer, LTC Theodore Roosevelt Jr., proposed an organization of veterans. In February 1919, the group formed a temporary committee and selected several hundred officers who had the confidence and respect of the whole army.

The March 15-17, 1919 Paris Caucus set in motion The American Legion. About 1,000 officers and enlisted men attended the Paris Caucus.

Minutes from the first meeting of the caucus of The American Legion, dated March 15, 1919 was called to order at 2:55 PM by Major E. P. Wood, Temporary Secretary of the Temporary Committee, in the absence of LTC Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Temporary Chairman of the Temporary Committee. Major Wood, in opening the caucus, explained the steps taken by the Temporary Committee.

It was moved by Major Patterson, delegate from the Paris Command, and seconded by a delegate from the 28th Division, that LTC Bennett C. Clark act as temporary chairman of the caucus. This motion was voted upon by the caucus and LTC Clark was unanimously elected temporary chairman of the caucus. A delegate from the Paris Command nominated Major E. F. Wood as temporary secretary of the caucus. The nomination was seconded, and Major Wood was unanimously elected temporary secretary of the caucus.

Minutes from the second meeting of the caucus on March 17, 1919 show that committees on convention, organization, constitution, and name, were appointed.

Committee on Convention. The members of the Committee on Convention recommended that the National Convention be held at 11 AM, November 11, 1919, at such place as the Executive Committee of the organization, acting with the Executive Committee of the organization in the United States, may decide.

Committee on Permanent Organization Report. An Executive Committee shall be selected, two (2) from each unit (as recognized in this caucus) and eight (8) to be selected by the Executive Committee; the two members, one officer and one enlisted man, to be selected from each unit to be named by the respective delegations attending this caucus. Each unit shall present the names of committee members who shall as far as possible represent in point of residence each state, territory and possession of the United States, and the District of Columbia.

This Executive Committee acting in conjunction with the committee of the United States is specifically charged with the duty of fixing a date and place for holding a National Convention, issuing a call for the holding of county and state conventions and providing a unit of representation and method of selection of delegates to the National Convention by the State Conventions.

Committee on Constitution. Approved: We, the members of the Military and Naval Services of the United States of America in the Great War desiring to perpetuate the principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy for which we have fought, to inculcate the duty and obligation of the citizen to the State; to preserve the history and incidents of our participation in the war; and to cement the ties of comradeship formed in service, do propose to found and establish an Association for the furtherance of the foregoing purposes.

Committee on Name Report. The following names were submitted: Comrades of the Great War; Veterans of the Great War; Liberty League; Army of the Great War; Legion of the Great War; Great War Legion; The Legion; The American Legion; American Comrades of the Great War; Society of the Great War; The Great Legion; and American Comrades. After due deliberation the committee selected the names in the order in which they follow:

Legion of the Great War 5 first 2 second 1 third Veterans of the Great War 3 first 4 second 0 third The Legion 3 first 0 second 1 third Society of the Great War 0 first 1 second 3 third Legion 0 first 1 second 3 third. Please note that the “American Legion” received the least support.

Final: After lengthy discussion, it was finally moved, seconded, and passed to reconsider the motion to lay the report of the Committee on Name, on the table. Major Gordon, delegate of the 36th Division, moved that the name “American Legion” be adopted as the temporary name of the organization. Seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

With adoption of a temporary Constitution, the name “The American Legion,” and an executive committee to complete the work of organizing moved to the United States. It considered each soldier of the AEF a member of the Legion. The executive committee named a subcommittee to organize veterans at home in the United States.

In May 8-10, 1919, the Legion held a second organizing caucus in St. Louis. It completed the Constitution and made plans for a permanent organization, setting up a temporary headquarters in New York City, and beginning its relief, employment, and Americanism programs. At the St. Louis Caucus, Delaware was represented by four delegates:

(1) George N. Davis, Major, 904 Market St., Wilmington from the 364th Inf. & Staff, Lawyer.
(2) E. H. Kane, Musician, 2123 1st Street, Wilmington from the 364th Inf. & Staff, Lawyer.
(3) Irving Warner, 1st Lieut.-Eng., 1016 Rodney St., Wilmington from the 364th Inf. & Staff, Lawyer.
(4) George L. Evans, Patmkr. 1st Class, 1507 N. Rodney, Wilmington, USN, Patternmaker

Deadline for next Legionnaire: April 1, 2019
In the Minutes of the Caucus, the Delaware State Officers were listed as:

- Chairman, George N. Davis, 909 Market St., Wilmington and Secretary, L. K. Carpenter, Du Pont Bldg., Wilmington.
- Legionnaire Davis served on the Constitution and Resolutions Committees.
- Legionnaire Evans was on the Place & Time and Credentials Committees.
- Legionnaire Kane served the Permanent Headquarters, Name, and Emblem Committees.

There was vindictiveness over adoption of the name, “The American Legion.” One delegate thought that “American Legion” by itself is not at all sufficient. To the average civilian, the American Legion might be an organization of — well, street cleaners. It does not mean an organization of soldiers. It is not comprehensive enough. Of course, the name will be American Legion and everybody will call it American Legion, but the ordinary teach him what it means.” American Legion is not sufficient, it does not mean anything. Verbal protests followed. A Captain S. L. Lowry, Jr. (Florida): “I say call it the American Legion. We will soon show them what it means.”

There was just as much rancor over the selection of the site of the first national convention. Six cities were nominated: Minneapolis, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, Indianapolis, and San Francisco. One the first ballot, Delaware voted all six votes for Minneapolis. Results were:

- Minneapolis received 452 votes.
- Pittsburgh received 311 votes.
- Chicago received 189 votes.
- Kansas City received 85 votes.
- Indianapolis received 30 votes.
- San Francisco received 1 vote.

Since it took 535 votes to win and on a second ballot between Minneapolis and Pittsburgh, results were 573 Minneapolis and 456 Pittsburgh. Delaware voted six for Pittsburgh … so much for consistency.

The following cities were voted upon as a place for permanent headquarters: Kansas City, Chicago, Cincinnati, New York, New Orleans, St. Louis, Memphis, Washington, and Louisville.

The result of the vote was decidedly in favor of Chicago.

On June 9, 1919, the National Executive Committee adopted the Legion emblem.

A Constitution was adopted conformably to the Act of the Congress of the United States of America, officially chartering The American Legion on September 16, 1919.

**First National Convention**

The first national convention convened in Minneapolis on November 10-12, 1919, adopting a permanent constitution and electing officers to head the organization. Elected to National Commander was Franklin D’Olier, Department of Pennsylvania. Delaware was represented by six delegates.

- L. R. Webb was assigned to the Credentials, Auxiliary, Finance, and Eligibility Committees.
- N.A. Groves was on the Rules, Post Activities & Memorials, Employment, and Emblem Committees.
- T.W. Miller was assigned to the Resolutions, and Beneficial Legislation Committees.
- G.W. Miller served on the Legislation Committee. It is not clarified if G.W. and T.W. Miller were the same person.

Many issues were addressed:

- Delegates vote 361-323 to locate the Legion’s National Headquarters in Indianapolis, instead of Washington, DC, another favorite with Chicago.
- As soon as practical the American Legion Weekly Publishing Corporation will also have headquarters at Indianapolis, Indiana.
- The Convention chose Cleveland, Ohio, unanimously as the next Convention meeting place of The American Legion.
- A resolution was passed in support of Boy Scouts of America. Today, the Legion is the chartering agency for more than 1,700 Scouting units made up of approximately 64,000 youths.
- From the Committee Reports

and Resolutions, the convention addressed a myriad of issues, most especially to veterans’ affairs and rehabilitation, employment, war risk insurance, draft dodgers, anti-American Propaganda, and foster and perpetuate 100% Americanism.

Resolutions were passed by the Convention regarding the regretful occurrence at Centralia, Washington, where four Legionaries were murdered on Armistice Day, November 11, 1919, as a result of a gun battle erupts during an Armistice Day parade of American Legionnaires and resulting in the lynching of one member of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). The philosophy and tactics of the IWW were described as "revolutionary industrial unionism", with ties to both socialist and anarchist labor movements.

The first four Department of Delaware Commanders were George N. Davis, Meredith I. Samuel, John P. LeFevre, and Harry Pettyjohn. T.W. Miller served as our 15th Department Commander. Henry G. Parker, The State Armory, Twelfth and Orange Streets, Wilmington was the first Delaware Adju tant. All these Legionnaires did attend the First National Convention and were part of the laying of the foundation for The American Legion.

**Honorable Service – Moral Obligation**

In one of Theodore Roosevelt’s, Jr.’s speeches and in the formation of The American Legion, he promoted the ideal that the newly-founded organization should be of “Honorable Service and Moral Obligation.” Hence, the Department of Delaware’s tag line for the Centennial originated, “Honorable Service and Moral Obligation.”

**Where From Here**

Following in the footsteps of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., The Legion continues to support the four pillars of service and advocacy upon which it was founded: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth.

See more at:
https://centennial legion.org/history

Today, membership stands at 2 million in 12,811 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines. Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth.

The 100th American Legion National Convention in 2018 kicked off a 15-month commemoration to honor the organization’s first century of service and propel it into the second. Minneapolis, home of the 1st American Legion National Convention in 1919, served as host city of the 100th National Convention August 24-30, 2018. Centennial events and activities will be conducted at the national, department, and post levels through the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 23-29, 2019, and will culminate on Veterans Day 2019.

The American Legion Centennial Celebration is not only about honoring the past 100 years of our history, but also preparing to continue our legacy of service. A key component in the Legion’s 100th-anniversary commemoration is a vision for the next century. Foremost, the Legion will end its first century the way it began in 1919: by helping a new wave of veterans make the transition to civilian life.

Events and activities at posts all around the world will showcase The American Legion "Still Serving America." There are 5,240 active posts, who were chartered sometime before and after the first National Convention in November 11, 1919 and through November 11, 1920. There are five (5) Centennial Delaware American Legion Posts:

- Delaware Post #1, Wilmington
- Walter L. Fox Post #2, Dover
- Callaway-Kemp-Raughley-Tee Post #7, Harrington
- David C. Harrison Post #14, Smyrna
- Laurence Roberts #21, Wilmington

Submission by Richard J Santos
**NATIONAL COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

**Renew your membership commitment for the new year**

My fellow Legionnaires, we are facing challenges concerning membership as we are currently about 64,635 members behind where we were last year. The new year is here, so let's renew our commitment to increasing membership through recruitment and retention. As we remain committed to the service, we have provided for the past 100 years, it is time to change the downward turn in membership and it begins with our Team 100. And it begins by engaging members.

I'm asking you to focus on two areas: renewal and recruitment.

Contact members who have yet to renew for 2019 and let them know we care. We have to engage our members and ask them to renew their membership before it's too late. This engagement can be accomplished during the Legion's 100th birthday week, March 10-16.

As for recruiting, about 12 years ago we were consistently recruiting over 100,000 new members through traditional efforts. Now we are below 60,000. We cannot wait for new members to come to us. We have to ask them to join. To help in this effort, play the "Join The American Legion Today!" video where I ask potential new members to join and become a part of our ranks. You can play this from your mobile phone or during events held at your post or within your community. You can download the video at @ https://vimeo.com/299986964.

To locate veterans in your area to join your post, use the "Find Members in Area" feature on www.mylegion.org or contact your department headquarters. If for any reason names cannot be acquired through these two channels, please request a list by sending an email to the Internal Affairs Division at ia@legion.org.

Our veterans and our communities need us. America needs us. I am counting on you to help lead this effort in your department and post. Now there are new membership incentives that you will read on page 4 to help us go into our second century on a positive membership turn. Together we can accomplish anything because we are Team 100!

Hello everyone and welcome to 2019, the 100th anniversary of The American Legion is here! I hope everyone had a very merry Christmas and an enjoyable New Year celebration. I thank everyone for what they do to support our Veterans during the holiday season, for many the Post is all they have.

Fast approaching is the National Commanders visit in March as well as the Department Centennial Celebration which will be held at Dover downs hotel and casino, look for the details forthcoming.

I would like to thank everyone on their continued efforts with membership, with your help the Department has attained every goal date so far this Legion year. I have faith that every Post will be able to attain 100% this year and help in moving The American Legion into the next 100 years in a positive membership position. Last month Adjutant Santos sent out notifications for the 2018 CPR’s, for the past three years the Department has had 100% reporting and I know you all can do it again.

I have enjoyed visiting every Post in 2018 and look forward to visiting again for a second round in 2019, it is good to see what each Post does for its members and community keep up the good work!

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

My fellow Legionnaires we have made all of our target dates so far. GREAT JOB! As of the writing of this article we are at 85.020%. We have 27 post including headquarters and 18 out of 27 posts made or exceeded the 85% goal. To those posts that made goal congratulations keep up the good work. To the posts that did not make goal keep working at it I know you will get there. This is the time of year when it gets harder to make goals so use your on line credits and keep plugging away. The Department Target Dates are as follows.

1. Early Bird September 10th, 2018 goal 55% made goal
2. Goblin Treat October 9th, 2018 goal 60% made goal
3. Veterans Day November 13th, 2018 goal 70% made goal
4. Pearl Harbor Day December 10th, 2018 goal 80% made goal
5. Icy Winds January 15th, 2019 goal 85% made goal
6. Presidents Day February 11th, 2019 goal 90%
7. Legion Birthday March 11th, 2019 goal 95%
8. April Fool’s Day April 8th, 2019 goal 100%
9. Armed Forces Day June 18th, 2019 100% Plus

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.

I would be remiss if I didn’t thank Milford Post 3 for their turn around. Talk about a comeback. Way to go Post 3 outstanding job!

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
The rays of the sun
The rays of the sun form the background of our proud emblem and suggests the Legion's principles will dispel the darkness of violence and evil.

The wreath
The wreath forms the center, in loving memory of those brave comrades who gave their lives in the service of the United States that liberty might endure.

The star
The star, victory symbol of World War I, also symbolizes honor, glory and constancy. The letters "U.S." leave no doubt as to the brightest star in the Legion's star.

Outer rings
The larger of two outer rings stands for the rehabilitation of our sick and disabled comrades. The smaller inside ring denotes the welfare of America's children.

Inner rings
The smaller of two inner rings set upon the star represents service to our communities, states and the nation. The larger outer ring pledges loyalty to Americanism.

American Legion
The words American Legion tie the whole together for truth, remembrance, constancy, honor, service, veterans affairs and rehabilitation, children and youth, loyalty, and Americanism.

On Saturday, March 2, 2019, from 1 to 6 PM, Harrington American Legion CKRT Post 7 will be holding their 28th Annual PIG ROAST. There will also be Deep Fried Turkey with all the fixins', draft beer too. This event has become not only a great place for food and drink but also a chance for family and friends to meet and great. The Ladies Auxiliary will also be having their cake wheel. Tickets $18.00 in advance and $20.00 at the door. So if you need ticket information call the post at 302-398-3566. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

On Saturday, January 26, 2019 Harrington CKRT Post 7 will have their 6th annual "OYSTER FEAST". Limited tickets are $35.00 in advance and $40.00 at the door. Call the post at 302-398-3566 for ticket sales and more information. Also a raffle for Dexter Shucking Knife (Dexter Russ S134) See flyer.

Oysters on the half shell
Steamed Oysters on the patio
Oysters Chesapeake
Oyster Stew
Pulled Pork & Coleslaw
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17 visits students at Love Creek Elementary to promote Americanism and create pocket flags.

On November 27-28, 2018, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17 of Lewes, along with JROTC Cadets from Cape Henlopen High School, worked with students at Love Creek Elementary to package miniature flags with personal notes that are presented to service-men and -women deploying overseas. The flags are also given to veterans on Memorial Day and Veterans Day as we thank them for their service to our country.

During the two-day visit, approximately 330 students (made up of third-, fourth- and fifth-graders) learned about the different branches of the military; showing respect for serving and retired military personnel; the proper treatment, history and respect for the U.S. flag; and the meaning behind the 13 folds of the flag. “The younger they are when they learn about veterans, service and respect for the flag, the better understanding they’ll have,” said Murt Foos, Auxiliary President.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17 visits local school children each year to promote Americanism and to create the pocket flags with notes. These flags will be given to two units being deployed from Dover Air Force Base in January. “We fold small flags for soldiers’ pockets so they’ll always have a piece of home with them,” Foos said. “We give them to soldiers being deployed to wish them safe travels and a safe journey home.”

Top photo: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17 President Murt Foos presents a pocket flag to retired Gunnery Sgt. Richard Mansfield, USMC. With the assistance of Sgt. Mansfield and Instructor SFC Richard Hurt (left, in camouflage), Murt illustrates the difference between retired military (“veteran”) and currently serving military (“soldier”).

Bottom photo: After successfully folding their flags and inserting personal notes, students (left to right) Olivia O’Day, Sasha Isaza, and Aubrey Hill pose with American Legion Auxiliary member Sandy Keen. [Photo submitted by Sandy Keen]

3) After successfully folding their flags and inserting personal notes, students (left to right) Olivia O’Day, Sasha Isaza, and Aubrey Hill pose with American Legion Auxiliary member Sandy Keen. [Photo submitted by Sandy Keen]

4) Judi Hammond carries a full bag of completed Pocket Flags. Judi is Co-Chair of Unit 17’s Children and Youth Program. [Photo by Sandy Keen]
During the Fall 2018 National Executive Committee meetings, NEC Resolution 3, Titled: The American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation, was approved.

The American Legion and The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation on March 30, 1925, established The American Legion Endowment Fund. The fund is deposited in a trust with The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation. The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation exists to provide financial support to the Department Service Officer School programs of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission (VA&R) and the Temporary Financial Assistance programs areas that both directly assist veterans and their families by reducing the financial pressure on the general fund.

Increasing The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation's trust fund principal would in turn increase the amount of income earned to be shared between the VA&R Department Service Officer Schools and the Temporary Financial Assistance program areas which will make them citizens of true American-ism and of true American-ism.

The resolution provides that the Department Service Officer School programs of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission and the Temporary Financial Assistance program areas among young people which will make them citizens of the highest type. It gives recognition through the award of American Legion School Award Medals to the boy and to the girl who are deemed most worthy of the high qualities of character and good citizenship. That's why, since 1926, the American Legion School Award Medal Program.

The American Legion School Award Medal Plan is a project of the National Americanism Commission, and is put in effect by Legion Departments, Districts, and Posts. Youth are often awarded for their scholastic achievements, but The American Legion believes they should also be praised when they demonstrate strong qualities of COURAGE, HONOR, LEADERSHIP, PATRIOTISM, SCHOLARSHIP and SERVICE. The program develops those ideals of Americanism among young people that are deemed most worthy of the high qualities of citizenship and of true American-ism.

Candidates for the award may be voted upon by a school's faculty. An option is to have the local Legion post involved with the school makes the final selection upon receiving recommendation from the 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 United States Marine Corps motto, "Semper Fidelis" ("always faithful").

With the 2018-2019 school year underway, Delaware Legion Posts are encouraged to visit local schools to promote the program. An "American Legion School Award Medal Program" brochure is available at www.legion.org/publications.

If you have any questions, please contact Richard J. Santos, Department Adjutant, via e-mail at adjutant@delegion.com or by telephone at 302-628-5221.
The American Legion Post 17 recently hosted the popular fundraiser for Rylie’s Smile Foundation on Labor Day, September 3, 2018. This nonprofit helps children facing difficult medical situations improve their quality of life. In its third year, the run itself gets plenty of exposure but there is a backstory to why it is hosted each year by The American Legion Post 17 of Lewes. Rylie’s grandfather, Robert Maedler, was a driving force behind early improvements to Post 17. A U.S. Navy veteran, “Bunker Bob” served as an active member and the Post’s Financial Advisor for fifteen+ years, and along with his friend and fellow veteran Fred Carlsten, forged forward with new construction, improved accountability and the high standards the Post runs by today. Bob’s wife Susie was also an active auxiliary member and served as Auxiliary Secretary. As a Lewes resident, she continues her membership to this day. Plus, Bob’s parents, Robert H. and Jennie Maedler, were some of the very original Post members, back in 1945.

Pictures:
Top: The gang’s all here! Pictured, left to right, are Dan Catts, Melissa and Mike Mulligan, the top of Murt Foos’ head, Dan and Di Davis, Billy Foos, Honorary Chairman for this Event—State Senator Ernie Lopez, Tom and Dotty Murray, Cindy and Dallas Butler, Gail Sellazzo, Speaker of the State House of Representatives Pete Schwartzkopf, Linda Roper, Shay Nipper, Jim Durnan and Pat Schneider. Not pictured is Robin Sweigart (Post Chaplain).
Bottom pictures going counterclockwise:
2) Representing the American Legion Post 17 are runners pictured (left to right) Mike Mulligan, Dan Catts, Melissa Mulligan and her mother Sandy Gossman. Melissa and her mother won awards, third- and first-place respectively, for their age groups. Melissa laughingly said that there would have been more Post winners but “all the slackers stayed in bed.”
3) Bob and Susie Maedler inside the post canteen, circa 2006.
4) Rylie Maedler, founder of the Rylie’s Smile Foundation, is being interviewed by WRDE reporters Mallory Metnzer and Anthony Joseph, with the popular American Legion Post 17 pavilion in the background.

100th Anniversary Decanter Department Fundraiser

Tickets will be $1 each or 6 tickets for $5. Winning ticket will be drawn at the centennial celebration. Prize will be the beautiful decanter pictured to the left and $100 cash. Please check with a Department Officer, your Post commander or fill out form below and mail to: Department of Delaware C/O Decanter Raffle PO Box 930, Seaford DE 19973-0930. If you would like your stub from the ticket(s) please send a self addressed stamped envelope with the form.

Description of Decanter:
Stylish bubble-box base
Excellent storage and serving piece
Fine non-lead crystal handblown by skilled artisans
Packaged in attractive gift box
10” tall, holds 27 oz
2.25” deep-etched logo

Number of Tickets: ___________________________
Name: ______________________________________
Address: _____________________________________
_____________________________________________
Phone #: _____________________________________
The Americanism Commission Meetings in Indianapolis Oct. 15-16 m 2918

The Americanism Commission met in the Sheraton Hotel on October 15-16, 2018. The first thing on the agenda after the opening ceremonies was the American Legion World Series. Eddie Holbrook, Chairman, Cleveland County American Legion World Series Committee is the individual in charge of the onsite facilities and people of Shelby, North Carolina. He spent most of his time praising the young men and coaches of Delaware Post 1 on their enthusiasm and behavior in Shelby.

The Commission members also received updates on the Junior Shooting Program and the Boys Scouts of America. The Junior Shooting Program was about the national champions and a pep talk to encourage all departments to have this program. The Boys Scouts report was a repeat of what was presented to the commission in Minneapolis. The Boys Scouts of American said that cub dens and the scouting troops were not to be coed. They also reminded the commission members that several scouting programs are already coed and have been since these programs began.

The Boys State report included a report on the falls Boys State conference. The information that was new was the list of the Samsung scholarship recipients. The comments made during this presentation was that this seemed to be Delaware’s year. Garrett Geidel of Caesar Rodney High School was one of the $10,000.00 recipients. Over the two-day period the commission reviewed resolutions. They determined which ones would be sent to the National Executive Committee, which ones would be sent back for review, and which ones would be rejected. Most were held for further study. One was passed dealing with finances for the World Series that is basically an administrative issue on the National level. The other resolution that was passed was about honoring the National Motto of “In God We Trust”. The National Executive Committee passed both on Oct 17, 2018.

Boys State Conference - Sept 28, 29, and 30, 2018

The conference began with a joint meeting of the Boys State and Girls State Conference Attendees. After the opening ceremony by the Conference Chairman, Past National Commander Dale Barnett of Georgia, the new Executive Director James Baca of New Mexico told how his experiences starting as a Boys State delegate from New Mexico and ending with his being a Boys Nation senior Staff helped him.

The National Judge Advocate, Kevin Bartlett of Michigan, talked about Resolution 28 and 29. Resolution 28 deals with US citizenship and participation on the national level in all American Legion national programs. Resolution 29 deals with providing appropriate housing for those attending National American Legion Youth Programs. The resolutions are highly recommended by The American Legion to be used on the Department level. The Department of Delaware does so where we do not come into conflict with our Delaware state laws.

The last portion of Friday’s program was a review of some of the changes on the Samsung Scholarship. The changes were basically technical and included how the final selectee from each department would be sent to the National Organization. The announcement of the national winners will be done during the National Executive Committee meeting. The National Organization will notify the winners.

On Saturday there were presentations by different departments about aspects of their programs. Much of the information was from larger departments but can be adapted for use in the smaller ones. The Department of Delaware Boys State program already uses many of the ideas that were presented. Missouri did an information management – they have all records now digitally saved through Microsoft. Microsoft may be able to do this for the Department of Delaware through our 501©3. The issue may be that Missouri’s 501©3 is strictly for Boys State and Microsoft may require that. Microsoft matches any Microsoft employee’s time with a matching salary donation to the program plus letting the employee work the program and receive their salary.

California presentation deals with Critical Incident Management. Delaware has this program – but the program needs to be updated every year. California had an active duty shooter last year – after the students had left but before the staff had departed. They found that their written response, which was three years old, needed to be updated to fit the changes in time. Delaware’s written program is based on California’s from three years ago.

Louisiana had an interesting presentation. They have implemented a weeklong Disaster Management scenario. The scenario is very appropriate for Louisiana – it is a hurricane coming into the state. Each year they have the hurricane come into a different part of the state, tell the boys where, and see where the boys take it. Considering today’s world this is something our program will consider – but with an issue that is strictly Delaware.

Kentucky’s presentation was about awards and recognition. There main point was to encourage students to remember the program positively and for alumni to consider giving time and money to the program.

South Carolina did a presentation on Diverse and Inclusive Boys State Delegates. The main issue was how to encourage minority participation in the program. The main thing that came out of the presentation was to send minorities to the schools where there were large numbers of minorities. The students and their parents are more likely to consider the program if they think that there are minorities in program.

Wisconsin’s presentation is appropriate. It was with succession training – i.e. who fill the shoes if someone quits. Delaware needs to work on this by getting younger Legion members involved.

The afternoon session was small groups where we basically discussed all the previous presentations. The information that came out of that matched the information as written above.

Sunday was a summary of the previous two days and a memorial service for the Americanism volunteers from all departments who had joined post everlasting.
Walter L. Fox Post 2 Membership and Children and Youth Programs

Post #2’s 1st Vice-Commander Charles Parisan working on Early Bird renewals.

Scout Troop 78 sponsored by Walter L. Fox Post 2 is very involved with Post and other Veterans activities. Above and below right show Caleb Seeman life scout participating in a POW/MIA ceremony for the post. Fundraisers they hold in conjunction with Post 2 and other fundraising events helped the troop go to summer camp (pictures to the left). Department Scout Chairman Daniel W Seeman Jr was there as a chaperone.
The American Legion hosts its National Convention in a different city each year and welcomes to it a large number of attendees. Legionnaires attending the event can take advantage of planned tourism attractions, discounted hotel and travel rates, Legion-sponsored events, and other convention-related offers. The 101st National Convention which will be held August 23 – 29, 2019, in Indianapolis, Indiana in the Indiana Convention Center & Lucas Oil Stadium, 100 South Capitol Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46225. https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/indcc-indianapolis-marriott-downtown/

Indianapolis is the home of The American Legion’s National Headquarters, 700 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Tours of headquarters will be available.

The Department of Delaware will be housed in the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown, 350 West Maryland Street, Indianapolis, IN 46225. 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 rate schedule is:
- King or Double each @ $149.00 plus 17% tax
- 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

The Department has twenty-five (25) room block. The Department Adjutant will start taking room reservations on February 1, 2019. A one night’s deposit of $175.08 shall be required with submission of a reservation. Room reservation forms will be distributed by mail and email and placed on the Department website for download. Get your reservation and deposit in early as the room block will sell out.

The hotel 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Richard J. Santos, Department Adjutant, via e-mail at adjutant@delegion.com or by telephone at 302-628-5221.

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**2019 National Convention**

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**Post On-Line Membership Processing**

The quill, ink well, blotter, green visor cap, single incandescent light bulb, parchment, and ledger may finally become obsolete in the processing of American Legion membership in Posts.

On November 11, 2018, Post Online Membership Processing went live for all Posts in the Department of Delaware. This feature (Process Membership) in myLEGION.ORG allows American Legion Post to renew, add new members transfer-in existing members from other Posts; the transfer process is only for transfer-in members that dues are being paid for.

Electronic payment methods are utilized via myLEGION, and eliminates the need for Post to send the National and Department portions of the (3-part) membership cards and paper-checks to the Department Headquarters. Each dues payment charged for a member is the sum of the National Per Capita plus Department Per Capita in effect at the time of the transaction. National Headquarters will handle payment of the Department Per Capita back to the Department Headquarters.

Electronic check (Echeck) is the only payment method available when using this feature. The account must be a valid business checking or savings account held with a US bank. Posts may use their current checking or savings account, or as recommended, may use a separate membership checking account. Credit card payments are only accepted for foreign Posts outside of the US that do not have a checking or savings account with a US Bank.

The processing time for Echecks is 5-8 business days. During the 5-8 business day period, a “Pending” charge will be placed on the funds in the checking or savings account designated by The American Legion Post. In addition, the batch status in myLEGION will also show a “Pending” status for the 5-8 business day period. After a successful transfer of funds to the bank at National Headquarters, the transmittal status of the batch will change to “Closed”, and the member information will be applied to the National Database.

If a Post submits payment for a batch of transactions and the Echeck is declined, the transmittal status of the batch in myLegion will be set to “Declined”. Common reasons for declined Echecks are:
1. Insufficient funds
2. Bank Account has been closed
3. Invalid Bank Information

In the event a membership batch is declined, the Post will be notified via email, and the batch will NOT be applied to the National database. Declined batches can be re-submitted within 14-days. If not re-submitted within the 14-day period, the batch will be deleted.

The Post will be charged all penalty fees levied by the ACH (Automated Clearing House) processor for declined Echecks. The American Legion National Headquarters reserves the right to suspend the “Process Membership” feature for a Post at any time due to a high volume of declined transactions, or malicious use of the myLegion site.

Posts need to take care to ensure sufficient funds are kept in the account to cover the transmittals submitted. This is no different than online bill paying, or other transactions that have become common place in our daily lives. The online payment processor is a third-party bank processor, and this is security compliant entity. There have been more than 50 Departments that have gone before us, and the issues have been minimal for both national, and the participating Posts.

We have implemented procedures at Department HQs to ensure the completed Post transmittals show up on the weekly membership reports. This process will make a huge difference in the timeliness of our members being renewed, thus avoiding renewal notices being mailed for those that have a pending transmittal.

All Posts, regardless of size, should get on board and utilize this membership process. When it is said if you have worked in myLEGION as a Post officer, this process will not be something to be worried about, and your Post should take this step.

The current method of mailing to Department will still be available for Posts not utilizing the online transmittals, and this won’t change anytime soon. Sooner and not alter, this method of membership processing will be the only method to be used. The savings in work at all levels and the speed with which are members get renewed make this new tool a must-have for Posts.

To date, four Posts have gone online to process their membership: Walter L. Fox Post #2, Richard C. DuPont Post #18, Dagsboro Post #24, and First State Post #29. Getting ready to turn on the switch are Nanticoke Post #6 and Laurel Post #19.

Post online transmittals are available only to Posts of The American Legion. It is not scheduled to be implemented for the Sons of The American Legion for some time out in the future.

If you have any questions, please contact Richard J. Santos, Department Adjutant, via e-mail at adjutant@delegion.com or by telephone at 302-628-5221.
Richard C. DuPont Post 18 Officer Installation

Charles E. Durney Post 27

Annual Toy drive for children of less fortunate homes and service members in need during the holiday season.
National Membership Awards and Incentives

Membership All-Time High Award

The American Legion's Certificate of Meritorious Service All-Time High Award is given to all posts that have, by December 31, enrolled an advance membership for the membership year equaling or surpassing the post's previous all-time high membership. The report form is on page 14 of the 2019 American Legion National Membership Awards Points Manual available at www.legion.org/publications under Membership.

Membership: Target Date No.2

October 11 is target date No.2 for 55 percent membership. This target date is worth 5,500 points. The department commander and department membership chairman may earn checks up to $1,000 based on a points system for meeting national target dates and other target areas. Each department must accomplish its goal by the 100 percent membership target date (May 8, 2019), using traditional methods, to be eligible for awards. DMS totals are not included. An additional $1,000 is awarded to the department for meeting all target dates. Transmittals for all target dates must be received and processed at National Headquarters during normal business hours on or before the target date.

Criteria For Post Excellence Award Has Changed

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.

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/centennia/) 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 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

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.

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 into The American Legion. 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

If you have any questions, please contact Richard J. Santos, Department Adjutant, via e-mail at adjutant@delegation.com or by telephone at 302-628-5221.

100% American Legion Family Award

100% American Legion Family Award

Download the form at www.legion.org/commander/ribbon
LegionCare Enrollment

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.

To the right 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!

Richard J. Santos
LIT Trustee
Department of Delaware

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>31-Jul</th>
<th>31-Aug</th>
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<tr>
<td>Delaware Post #1</td>
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<td>Selbyville Post #39</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25.00%</td>
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Department Total: 9,365 members, 2,801 enrolled, 29.91%
Department of Delaware is partnering 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.

PCI will contact the membership via e-mail, post card, and telephone to gather member information for the directory. Members will have the ability to submit up to two photos and answer custom narrative questions about their life and service. Only members who agree to be included will be published. All submissions are included in the directory without regard to whether the member purchases the publication.

PCI cannot use or re-sell member database for any purpose other than this project.
American Legion Auxiliary members took part in a cleanup of Minos Conaway Road in Lewes on October 8, 2018. The Unit has participated for nearly 20 years in the Adopt-A-Highway Program, and discovered that a large percentage of the collected debris was made up of recyclable materials, but also included potentially toxic and dangerous trash, such as hypodermic needles and the used gasoline can pictured above. Unit 17 Auxiliary is proud to take on its part of the shared responsibility to preserve and protect the local landscape, knowing that these efforts have a direct effect on the safety and quality of life in the area.

Volunteers shown are (left to right) Betty Dunn, Shay Nipper, Dorothy Murray, Tobias Bryan, Kellie Bergen (Community Service Chair), and Murt Foos (Auxiliary President).

The Delaware American Legion 2017-2018 State Convention was held on July 5-7 in Dover. The Ladies Auxiliary of William T. Spooner Post 17 of Lewes was honored to receive four state-wide awards from the Department of Delaware for exceptional commitment and dedication to the community and veterans. Pictured above, the ladies proudly display their plaques. Left to right are Dorothy Murray, Chaplain of the Year; Judi Hammond and MaryAnn McCrae, Co-chairs of the Children and Youth Committee for Best Overall Program; Kellie Bergen, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chair for Best Overall Program; Gail Sellazzo, Membership Chair, awarded for Division 3 -100% Members; and Murt Foos, President of Unit 17, who made the presentations.

My Fellow Veterans;

As the Christmas season and New Year rapidly approaches, I would love to wish each and every one a Merry Christmas, and a Happy and prosperous New Year. I hope that everyone is in good health, and Your family and loved ones. Let us never forget our Troops in foreign soil doing their job in protecting our great country. Keep them and their families and loved ones in your prayers. This time of year, please reach out to the homeless and needy where ever they may be. Give from your Heart. They once had a family (A Mother and a Father) and children possibly. Now due to unfortunate circumstances they are alone. Please help where you can even as a volunteer in a shelter, one of the Many Veterans organizations, a church. even around your city or town. Look around and give. Count your blessings and give thanks to the Great Lord above, and share. We will be greeting our new National Commander at Dover Downs with a Banquet March 9, 2019. As he will be visiting several Posts and sights around Delaware. Give him a very warm welcome to the First State. Not too many health issues this year so far, or deaths. But please keep the sick in your prayers.

My health is about the same with the dissected aorta, a little larger 4.6. But there are way many more people out there with more serious problems than mine; please pray for them as well.

Have a wonderful New Year and support all of our great wounded Warriors coming home.

For God and Country,
Reverend Wayne Hicks
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).

Richard J. Santos
Department Adjutant
On Saturday, November 3, 2018 people from all across the State of Delaware and from many other areas of our great country came together in Dover to celebrate the service of our women in the military. At noon the Delaware Women’s Service Monument was dedicated at the northwest corner of Legislative Hall. The monument states that it is “Honoring women throughout our history who have served in defense of our state and our nation.”

The dedication was attended by many dignitaries including Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long and Senior Delaware Senator Tom Carper. Many other from politics and high ranking military officials were also present. A new Delaware license plate honoring women in the military was unveiled during the ceremony.

Members of the Legion Riders from Post 14 had the distinct honor of attending the ceremony. The Legion Riders attend 38th annual Delaware Valley ABATE Toy Run in Philadelphia on Sunday, November 4. The lineup on Columbus Blvd. at Penns Landing was stretched for blocks sometimes five and six bikes wide. I heard estimates of 1000 bikes but I don’t know for sure. If not it was pretty close if not more. Right about noon the parade of bikes started north on Columbus Blvd. and then west on Spring Garden Street. Center City Philly along the route was completely shut down by the Police Department for the parade. People lined the streets watching the parade of bikes. It was well received by both young and old. After arriving at the art museum the motorcycles then made their way to the Vine Street Expressway, over to I-95 south and then back to Columbus Avenue when we proceeded to Sugar Hill Casino to drop off the toys.

It is heartwarming to see motorcyclists on all different sizes and makes and styles of bikes coming together for this great event. Knowing how much of a difference it will make in a child’s life for Christmas makes the cold ride worthwhile.

On Friday, November 9 the third grade class at Clayton Elementary School invited members of the American Legion Post 14 to be their guests at the annual Veterans Day celebration at the school. The program was fantastic. The entire third grade sang songs including a medley of the Armed Forces songs. Several young people from the third grade read letters that they had written to and about veterans. It was certainly an hour we will never forget. Thanks to the staff and especially the students at the school for inviting us.

On November 11, 2018 the Legion Riders from Post 14 helped pay tribute to Delaware’s Gold Star Families. Following today’s Veterans Day Memorial Service held at the Delaware Veteran’s Memorial Park in New Castle, DE, a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument was dedicated.

Attending ceremony was Governor John Carney, Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long, Senator Tom Carper, Senator Chris Coons, Congresswoman Lisa Blunt-Rochester and several other elected members of the government. Colors were presented by the Delaware State Police, the invocation was given and several speeches and acknowledgements made. At the end of the ceremony, the Delaware State Police Pipes and Drums performed Amazing Grace followed by a 21 gun salute by the Delaware National Guard. Sgt. Jonathan Packard of DSP played taps.

There were many gold star family members in attendance and the monument is a grim reminder of the price paid by those families and their loved ones.

On November 15, 2018 thanks to the generosity of Lester Link, our treasurer, we were able to supply a few pizzas for those housed at The Home of The Brave in Milford, Delaware.

November 20, 2018 After receiving a phone call from Sherry Chandler at the Walmart Distribution Center, we picked up their wonderful donation of twenty turkeys. We immediately supplied some to the Home of the Brave and to the Delaware Veterans Home to help our fellow veterans have a little bit better Thanksgiving.

Janet Kisner-Link, PR American Legion Riders Post #14

Photos in order of appearance in story:
1) Monument
2) Larry Marion- Road Captain ALR 14, Steve Kellam- Director ALR 14, Senator Thomas Carper, Janet Link- PR ALR 14, Lester Link- Treasurer ALR 14 and John "Espy" Rowe- Safety Officer ALR 14
3) Janet Link- PR ALR 14, Lester Link-Treasurer ALR 14, Steve Kellam-Director ALR 14, Lis Kellam, Larry Marion- Road Captain ALR 14, Clare Marion-Membership ALR 14
4) Lis Kellam
5) Lisa Rose- President Ladies Aux 14, Brad Gosch-Ambulance 64, Ginny Cartwright-Potts , Jeanette Havel-Ambulance 64 and State of DE ALA President, Ken Spencer-SAL Commander 14, Scott Holmes, Vincent Didonato- Commander AL 14, Steve Kellam- Director ALR 14
6) children of Clayton Elementary
7) Additional volunteers and Imagination Players
8) Gold Star Memorial
9) Les along with some of those staying at the home.
10) Steve Kellam and Sherry Chandler

David C. Harrison Chapter 14 Community Reconnect Activities
On Sunday, December 2, A to Z Cycles held its annual Toys for Tots Breakfast and Ride. As the day dawned the weather did not look promising. It was a mixture of rain, drizzle, clouds, and fog. The only saving grace was that it was warmer than usual. But, like usual, the motorcycle crowd responded anyway and the bikes kept pouring in. In the end, a record crowd was present to enjoy the food and the ride.

With an escort from motorcycle police officers and Delaware State Fire Police, the procession of motorcycles wound through downtown Dover and eventually ended at American Legion Post 2 for an after party.

On Monday, December 10, Wreaths Across America week began in Delaware with a wreath laying ceremony at Legislative Hall in Dover. The ceremony was well attended by politicians, military personnel, veterans and the general public.

The Master of Ceremonies was Mr. David Skocik, President of the Delaware Veterans Coalition. After opening remarks by Governor John Carney, several local military personnel spoke. This was followed by remarks from Senator Bruce Ennis and Representative Bill Carson and Lawrence Kirby, Director of the Delaware Commission on Veterans Affairs. Senator Ennis and Representative Carson and children from Holy Cross Elementary School laid the ceremonial wreath. After that, wreaths were placed at 6 different memorials surrounding Legislative Hall. Additional wreaths were placed at other locations following the ceremony.

On Friday, December 14, 2018, as part of the National Wreaths Across America week, the convoy made a stop at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The skies were cloudy and weather reports threatened heavy rain but it held off until after the ceremony. School children from a local school, police officers from multiple jurisdictions as far away as Maine, veterans, those currently serving in the military and many private citizens joined in as those who lost their lives in defense of their country were memorialized. After a short ceremony, Gold Star families were invited to lay a wreath at “The Wall”. Each panel along the marble wall received a wreath. Each family was accompanied to the memorial by one of the school children and a police officer. Once all Gold Star families had been given a chance to lay a wreath, Vietnam Veterans were given an opportunity.

On Saturday December 15, 2018, The culmination of Wreaths Across America was the laying of wreaths at all 270,000 plus graves in the cemetery. This event, which is open to the public to attend and help lay the wreaths draws tens of thousands each year. Even though the rain was pouring down it did not seem to discourage people from coming out nor did it dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd. Long lines could be seen at every trailer as people waited for their chance to get a wreath to place at a headstone.

This year the riders decided to go to specific graves to lay wreaths. A wreath was placed at the grave of Mr. Daniel William Seeman, Sr. by our member Lester Link. Mr. Seeman was the father of Danny Seeman, a good friend and long time member of American Legion Post 2. We were also honored to witness as member Larry Marion laid a wreath at the grave of his uncle, Albert E Donnelly.

While some members were in Arlington, others attended the similar ceremony at the Delaware Veterans Cemetery in Bear.

On December 19, 2018, Santa and the Legion Riders visit the Kent County Community School

For the 11th year in a row, the Riders from American Legion Post 2 in Dover sponsored a ride with Santa to the Kent County Community School, a school for students with diverse needs. Post 2 built a sleigh several years ago to be pulled by a motorcycle and once again this year Santa arrived at the school in the sleigh, escorted by several motorcycles. The children, students and parents waited outside and greeted the riders with waves and cheers.

On Monday December 17, 2018 and Christmas Eve, we were able to assist several people who were in need this holiday season. We in some small way we have been able to bring a smile to their faces for the holiday.

Janet Kisner-Link, PR ALR post #14
Photos in order of appearance in story:
1)Participants
2)Memorial
3)Attendees
4)Senator Bruce Ennis and Rep Bill Carson
5)Steve Kellam
6)ceremony
7)ALR post 2 and 14 members
8)Santa's sleigh
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.”
On Thursday November 22, 2018 Harrington C.K.R.T. Post 7 held their annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. More than 53 community members joined with members of the Legion Family to enjoy a dinner that was again prepared by P/C Dan Tesoro and his wonderful assistants. Harrington C.K.R.T. Post 7 family continues to extend and invitation to the Community to be part of what the American Legion stands for.

On Thursday, November 29, 2018 Commander Chuck Werner and Post 7 member Bob Tlasek made a presentation to Corporal Carl Fox of the Harrington Police Department. Presented to Corporal Fox, for the Harrington Police Department, were approximately 30 disaster blankets to be put in their patrol vehicles. These blankets will be of use when there are vehicle accidents where passengers are exposed to the cold weather or where evacuation from a fire is necessary. These blankets will provided protection and comfort from the elements. A special thank you to Dwight D. Lacy, New Castle District Commander, for all his assis-

Below and to the right: On Friday, December 7, 2018 the Honor Guard of Harrington CKRT American Legion Post 7 marched in the Harrington Christmas Parade. The unit received 1st place in the Group Marching category.
Harrington CKRT Post 7 started our Sunday breakfast on November 11, 2018. These breakfasts will continue till Sunday, April 13, 2019 to complete our 22 week schedule. We invite organizations to sponsor each week's breakfast and encouraging their support. As a result of their sponsorship we make a donation to their organizations. The breakfast events allows us to put hundreds of dollars back into community organizations.

Commander Richard Jefferson of American Legion Nanticoke Post 6, Seaford was joined by Delaware Department Commander James Stewart in presenting a $1,000.00 check to the Fort Miles Historical Association to assist in their project to Honor Delaware’s WWII Military members Killed in Action at the Fort Miles Museum. Joining Commanders Jefferson and Stewart were Mr. Jim Pierce FMHA Secretary, Mr Larry Boyer FMHA Treasurer and Mike Dunkes of the organization.

A photo of the presentation is attached. (Photo Credit - Nanticoke Post 6 Photo)

The Samsung Company of Korea endowed a scholarship fund of $5 million to be administered by the American Legion in 1996. The scholarship fund is meant to show Korea’s appreciation for U.S. veterans who came to Korea’s aid during its struggle against communist forces in the Koran War.

Samsung scholarship may be used for undergraduate studies and applied toward tuition, books fees, and room and board. Winners are selected according to their academic record, involvement in school, and in community service. There are ten National Scholars (two from each region) who receive $10,000. There are ten national runners-up (two from each region) who receive $5,000. The remaining 80 students receive $1,250.

Delaware’s Boys State Samsung winner, Garret Geidel, is one of the ten national scholars and is the recipient of a ten thousand dollar scholarship. He is the second ten thousand dollar recipient from Delaware’s Boys State program.
On Nov 11, 2018 Joseph B. Stahl Memorial Post 30 honored Sgt. Stanley P. Lawruk, a WWII POW, by dedicating their Hall in his name.

Sgt. Lawruk, a Post 30 member for 67 years, was a Flight Engineer and top turret gunner in the 8th Air Force during WWII. He flew missions over Germany starting on D-Day. His plane was shot down over Germany on his 27th mission and saw captured and remained a POW for the remainder of the war. Post 30 will be constructing a new building and the Hall in that building will be named for Sgt. Lawruk. Sgt. Lawruk was presented with a Letter of Appreciation and a Plaque. A larger Plaque will be hung in the current Post 30 Hall and will be transferred to the Hall in the new building once it is completed.
Wreaths across America

Remember (Our Fallen US Veterans) – Honor (Those who Serve) – Teach (Your children the Value of Freedom)

Each December “Wreaths across America” carries out coordinated wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as more than 1,400 locations across the United States. Every veteran, from the Revolutionary War to the present day conflicts, who are laid to rest in Veteran Cemeteries around the United States are honored in a very unique and visual manner. Its mission, touch the lives of thousands of schools, scout, civic and religious groups across the country through fundraising for wreath sponsorships. These groups help ensure that every hero’s grave receives a wreath. Started in 1992, Worcester Wreath found themselves with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. With the aid of a Maine Senator arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older sections that had not been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year. This annual tribute went on quietly for several years, until 2005 when a photo hit the internet. Unable to donate the amount of wreaths requested from this publicity, Worcester began sending seven wreaths to every state, one for each branch of the military, and for POW/MIAs. In 2006, with the help of the Civil Air Patrol and other civic organizations, simultaneous wreath-laying ceremonies were held at 150 locations around the country. The Patriot Guard Riders volunteered as escort for the wreaths going to Arlington, this began the annual “Veterans Honor Parade”.

In 2008, over 300 locations held wreath-laying ceremonies in every state, Puerto Rico and 24 overseas cemeteries. Over 100,000 wreaths were placed on veteran’s graves. Also in that year, Congress unanimously voted December 13th as “Wreaths across American Day.” Wreath laying is held the second Saturday in December.

WAA is committed to teaching younger generations about the value of their freedoms, and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect those freedoms. The organization offers learning tools, interactive media projects, and opportunities for youth groups to participate in the events. They also work to create opportunities to connect the “Greatest Generation” with the “Generation of Hope”, passing on inspirational stories from World War II veterans to the leaders of the future. WAA would not be successful without the help of local volunteers; local participation this year comes in from several sources – Units 17 and 25 were among several of the local participants at both the Millsboro and Bear Veterans Cemeteries. Thank you for once again stepping in and showing your support to this great organization.

Support Those Who Serve

Support
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Muralist Scott LoBaido painted a huge American flag on the side of the Walter L. Fox Post 2 in August 2015. This was the 47th stop a part of a project to paint similar murals on veterans organization buildings in all 50 states. Richard Benedict, the Post Historian, was contacted in August 2016 by Karen Robbins and Scott Baskin requesting pictures of the building for inclusion in a book that was in the works. That work became the book Flags Across America published Shiffer Books and was released April 2018. The picture of Post 2 is included in the book as well as an acknowledgement of Post 2 and Mr. Benedict.

The American Legion Family of Post 17, Lewes Participates in Thanksgiving for Thousands Food Drive

On a chilly and blustery November 10, 2018, American Legion Post 17 Family and the Cape Henlopen High School JROTC partnered with the Rehoboth Beach Safeway to support Mountaire Farms “Thanksgiving for Thousands” Food Drive. This community project’s goal is to provide Thanksgiving meals to more than 50,000 less-fortunate individuals throughout the state.

Volunteers from Post 17 and JROTC cadets greeted shoppers at the entrance to the grocery store, and provided them with a donation list of items. Suggested purchases included canned vegetables, cranberry sauces, gravies, along with stuffing and brownie mixes. The cadets assisted in collection of these donated items upon the shoppers’ exit. At the end, Safeway shoppers had donated 37 large boxes of food in just a few hours. Mountaire Farms trucks came by and collected our boxes, and many other boxes from other participating grocers. From there, the food will be organized and Mountaire will include a chicken roaster for each household. The American Legion Post 17 Family is honored to be a part of the entire community coming together and making a positive difference this Thanksgiving. Post 17 volunteers included SONS Chaplain John Hammond, Legionnaire Jeff Cianflone, Auxiliary Member Sandy Keen, Auxiliary President Murt Foos, Post Service Officer Bert Long, and Post Finance Officer Dan Catts.

Pictures in order of appereance in story:
1) Volunteers inside included (left to right) Savannah Smith (JROTC), Unit President Murt Foos, Isaac Evans (JROTC), and Post Service Officer Bert Long. Murt is pointing at a collection jar for those choosing a monetary donation.
2) Safeway shopper Shamar (left) hands a bag of donated staples to JROTC cadet Savannah Smith.
3) Helping pack and distribute meals across the state, at Mountaire’s Selbyville plant November 19, are Post 17 volunteers Legionnaire Jeff Cianflone, SONS Chaplain John Hammond and Post Commander Ed Bergen.
4) Shoppers Marty and Peggy with JROTC cadet Camilla Lascano. In the background, left to right, are Saul Islas, Emma Dominick, Axel Trujillo and Camilla Lascano.
The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17 of Lewes Supports the 2018 Veterans Stand Down

Stand Down is an annual Expo (sponsored by the Veterans Awareness Center Foundation) offering resources and benefits for all veterans, whether still serving or retired, all in one place. “Stand Down” is a military command for troops to relax after they have been on duty. This year—the 10th anniversary of the first Stand Down—more than 1200 veterans arrived at Schutte Field in Dover looking for support, and more than 150 organizations were present with services such as housing, medical, behavioral, eligibility, haircuts, legal services, clothing, a hot lunch and much more. This was held on Sep 21, which was also recognized as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. A special POW/MIA chair was dedicated and will be housed at the First State Military Academy (Clayton, DE) with the goal to put one of these chairs in every school for remembrance, respect and recognition. Unit 17 and Squadron 17 (SONS) volunteers at the serving tables were assisted by the light-blue-shirted helpers from HUNT, the premier military housing organization from Dover AFB. Also assisting were auxiliary representatives from Unit 28 (Millsboro), and Unit 24 (Dagsboro).

Top Picture: An aerial view of StandDown 2018 before it officially opens. Clockwise, the stationary building housed a registration area with an auditorium filled with helpful representatives offering various resources; the tents offered a hot lunch and fulfilled clothing needs; and a collection of mobile assistance vans were available for flu shots and other needs. [Photo by DelDot for DCVA, image “DCVAAerial.jpg”]

Note: All photos taken and submitted by the American Legion Post 17 Auxiliary, unless otherwise noted.

Bottom Left: Close-up of special POW/MIA chair, which reads “You Are Not Forgotten. Since World War II, more than 82,000 soldiers are unaccounted for. This unoccupied seat is dedicated to the memory of those brave men and women and to the sacrifices each made serving this country. Veteran’s Awareness Foundation Stand Down. We are all thankful. God Bless You. God Bless America.” Bottom Right: The happy volunteers from all over the region are (from left to right) Gail Sellazzo (Unit 17), Di Davis (Unit 17), Nancy Bush (Unit 28), Dan Davis (Squadron 17), Ana Honaker (Stand Down Committee), Donna DiFrancis (Auxiliary President Unit 24), Murt Foos (Auxiliary President Unit 17), Pat Schneider (Unit 17), Dallas Butler (Unit 17), and June Jones (Unit 28).

One above bottom right: Prior to the event, Unit 17 members are seen filling tote bags with scarves and mittens, toiletries, and assorted personal items.

Top Right: At left, the hair cutting “salon” is manned (left to right) by Mary (last name unknown), Kellie Bergen of Auxiliary Unit 17, and Debbie Lardieri of Buck’s Barber Shop in Dover. Mary was a walk-in volunteer who had heard about this great event and arrived to help. Between the three, the stylists gave 60 haircuts that day. Photo from Delaware 2018 Veterans Stand Down Facebook page.
On November 11, 2018, the annual Veterans Day Ceremony and Celebration took place at American Legion Post 17 in Lewes. Approximately 75 officers, members and guests gathered in the George Harker Pavilion to honor those men and women who have served, and to celebrate the armed forces who continue to protect us today. The various speakers all touched upon the many facets of this day—respect and awe for our veterans, compassion and gratitude to those currently in active duty, and sincere appreciation for the sacrifices the families made while their loved ones were serving our country. The entire American Legion Family of Post 17 was honored to host this moving celebration of Duty, Honor and Country. Pictures starting at top left going counter-clockwise:

1) The Post is proud of our carved wooden silhouettes, this one showing a soldier kneeling before boots, gun and helmet, representing a fallen comrade. The carved silhouettes (shown here and in other photos) were designed and created by Legionnaire Rich Mansfield of Post 17.

2) The Color Guard made up of JROTC cadets from Cape Henlopen High School with their instructor Richard Hurt present colors. Post Commander Ed Bergen is on the far right.

3) Forefront center, Unit 17 President Murt Foos presents a certificate of appreciation to Cindy Butler for assistance during the year. In the background, left to right, are Commander Ed Bergen with Cathy Butler, Dallas Butler, and Squadron 17 1st Vice Commander Doug Spelman—also recipients of certificates.

4) From left to right, Unit 17 President Murt Foos, Post 17 Commander Ed Bergen and Post 17 2nd Vice Commander Rick Whaley prepare to recognize members of the Post 17 Family for exceptional volunteer efforts. [Photo by Kellie Bergen]

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
American Legion Family of Post 17, Lewes

Donates Thanksgiving Baskets for Local Children and Their Families

At this, the season of giving, the entire American Legion Family of Post 17 came together once again for an internal food drive. The Auxiliary and SONS provided all the food components necessary for traditional Thanksgiving meals—large turkeys, sides, rolls, desserts—along with cooking pans, napkins and a greeting from the Post.

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

Photos starting at top left going counter clockwise:
1) Auxiliary Unit 17 members displaying just some of the food boxes going to local families. Shown, left to right, are Cindy Butler, Sandy Keen, Kellie Bergen, Gail Sellazzo, Jean Maxwell, Barbara Catts, Shirley Davis, Murt Foos (Auxiliary President), Julie Howington and Dallas Butler. [Photo submitted by Kellie Bergen]
2) Richard Shields Elementary is grateful for Post 17’s donated Thanksgiving meals for local children and their families. From left to right are, Kellie Bergen, Gail Sellazzo, Sandy Keen, Lovell Hemphill (social worker for Shields), Judi Hammond (Co-Chair for Unit 17’s Children and Youth Committee), Murt Foos (Auxiliary President), Ed Reece (Chief Custodian at Shields), and Fernando Boladas.
3) Auxiliary Unit 17 members delivering Thanksgiving meals to Love Creek Elementary. Left to right, are Gail Sellazzo, Kellie Bergen, Judi Hammond (Co-Chair of Children and Youth Committee), Sandy Keen, Gary Auwerda (Love Creek Custodian), Murt Foos (Auxiliary President), Bryce Biles (student) and Dr. Brittany Hazzard (Love Creek social worker).
4) From left to right, Murt Foos (Auxiliary President) is seen holding a copy of the Thanksgiving message included in each donated meal. Volunteers displaying turkeys are Jean Maxwell, Sandy Keen, Kellie Bergen, Gail Sellazzo and Dallas Butler. Each family received a large turkey and roasting pan, among other traditional meal items.

Milford Post 3 Revitalization

Milford Post 3 was about to fold and turn in their charter if no one stepped up to help. The same few brave and true of heart individuals were the only ones desperately holding the Post together and could not see a way to move forward alone. They needed new blood, support and help moving forward to a bright new future instead of looking towards the past. They have help now, with some knowledgeable individuals who transferred into Post 3 to lend a hand. As of the release of this article Post 3 membership is at 122.807% of their membership goal for the year and has the highest percent of membership for the Department.

Ties were resumed and strengthened with Blue Hen VFW Post 6483. They graciously agreed to allow us to start having our general membership meeting at their location. Our meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be February 6 at 7:30 pm at VFW Blue Hen Post 6483, 77 Veterans Cir, Milford, DE 19963. Members of Post 3 have full privileges at their Canteen by showing their Post 3 membership card.
On December 8, 2018, American Legion Post 17 Family continued its support of local soldiers during the Christmas season by delivering gifts and lunch to the 946th Transportation Company of the Army Reserve Center in Lewes. Military families are often living on tight budgets which do not contain enough money for providing Christmas presents. However, these are the same families who are some of the most deserving during the holiday season. To help thank them for the sacrifices made year-round, members of Auxiliary Unit 17 reached out to serve military children’s Christmas. Prior to the party at the Reserve Center, Auxiliary President Murt Foos and Auxiliary Historian Cathy Butler worked hard to make their quarters more festive, with a large tree, poinsettias and huge gingerbread men from the Post’s award-winning Christmas Float.

Although the children were not present on this visit, the Reservists’ spirits were high and they joked around with our volunteers and their colleagues. It didn’t take long for a portable speaker to be found so holiday music could be piped in for all to enjoy. Over 30 soldiers participated in a fun raffle, distribution of the children’s gifts and the opportunity to go “shopping” among boxes of donated toys and winter accessories. The hot lunch—comprised of dishes prepared and/or donated by Post 17 Food Service Chef Patrick Gibson, Lighthouse Catering, and Chick-Fil-A—was a big hit with several men and women boxing meals for later.

The entire Family of American Legion Post 17 help support the 946th Transportation Company throughout the year. In July 2018, all three Chaplains of Post 17 were among other volunteers who participated in “Blessing of the Trucks,” before the Reservists drove their fleet south for their two-week training in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. And in August 2018, Auxiliary Unit 17 donated boxes of school supplies and backpacks for the military children before their return to school in the fall. Ultimately, it is an honor for American Legion Post 17 to aid local veterans and their families reach and maintain the highest quality of life possible.

Starting at top left going clockwise:
1) The 946th Transportation Company of the Army Reserves, Lewes, pose before their American Legion Post 17 Family Christmas party begins. [photo by Murt Foos]
2) Army Reservists, along with volunteers from American Legion Post 17, show off the Christmas luncheon about to be served.
3) The line begins for the hot lunch consisting of roasted chicken legs, pulled pork and chicken, rolls, macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, chicken nuggets, salad, and assorted beverages and cookies. Auxiliary Unit 17 volunteers serving are (foreground, left to right) Dallas Butler, Pat Schneider and Secretary Gail Sellazzo.
4) American Legion Post 17 Family members brighten the Army Reserve Center with a patriotic Christmas tree and gifts for the children of the Reservists. Seen here, left to right, are Judi Hammond (Co-Chair of the Auxiliary’s Children and Youth Program), Anna Logan, Carol Cianflone, Auxiliary President Murt Foos, Cindy Butler, Dallas Butler, SONS Adjutant Tom Murray and Auxiliary Chaplain Dorothy Murray. Other volunteers not pictured are SONS Chaplain John Hammond, SONS Historian Dan Davis, Auxiliary Vice President Di Davis, Auxiliary Secretary Gail Sellazzo, Pat Schneider, Karen and Vince.
American Legion Post 17 Family
Wins Award in the 87th Annual Lewes, Delaware, Christmas Parade

American Legion Post 17 Family represented the community in the 87th Annual Lewes, Delaware, Christmas Parade on December 1, 2018. Although it was a drizzly overcast day with highs only in the upper 40s, that did not dissuade Legion volunteers from painting, assembling and decorating the gingerbread-house float which represented the Unit’s gifts to the community, such as programs for Children and Youth, promoting Americanism and support for Veterans Affairs.

Lewes (pronounced “Loo-iss”) is a distinctively charming small town and proudly claims to be “The First Town in the First State.” Founded by Dutch settlers in 1631 and later incorporated in 1818, this quaint coastal seaport comes alive with old-fashioned holiday festivities, and the parade is just one example. Approximately 90 community and business floats rolled along Savannah Road and turned onto Second Street—the heart of the historic and business district—where they were slowed by the cheering, standing-room-only crowds overflowing the sidewalks. Not surprisingly, this amazing turnout and support is commonplace for Lewes’ actively engaged community.

Spectators heard greetings from “elves” on the float, such as “Merry Christmas from Post 17,” as well as “Support Our Troops” and “Honor Our Veterans.” Many respectful veterans were seen in the crowds with hands over their hearts as the American flag passed by on the front of the patriotic float. Afterwards, the float and its volunteers returned to the Post and celebrated with a pizza party.

The decorating committee was composed of Brad Foos, Auxiliary President Murt Foos, Auxiliary Historian Cathy Butler, SONS Chaplain John Hammond, Auxiliary Secretary Gail Sellazzo, Judi Hammond (Co-Chair of the Auxiliary’s Children and Youth Committee), Shay Nipper, Post Commander Ed Bergen, along with Kellie Bergen and Pat Schneider (both Co-Chairs of the Auxiliary’s Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Committee. With retired Gunnery Sgt. Richard Mansfield, USMC, at the helm, the float elves were Cindy Butler, Dallas Butler, Karen Palmer, Kathy Fox, Jeffrey Cianflone, Carol Cianflone and Murt Foos.

The decorating committee was composed of Brad Foos, Auxiliary President Murt Foos, Auxiliary Historian Cathy Butler, SONS Chaplain John Hammond, Auxiliary Secretary Gail Sellazzo, Judi Hammond (Co-Chair of the Auxiliary’s Children and Youth Committee), Shay Nipper, Post Commander Ed Bergen, along with Kellie Bergen and Pat Schneider (both Co-Chairs of the Auxiliary’s Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Committee.

With retired Gunnery Sgt. Richard Mansfield, USMC, at the helm, the float elves were Cindy Butler, Dallas Butler, Karen Palmer, Kathy Fox, Jeffrey Cianflone, Carol Cianflone and Murt Foos.

3) Before the parade begins, Auxiliary member Kathy Fox thanks Sgt. Richard Mansfield (ret-USMC) for his service to the Post and in the military.

4) American Legion Post 17 float is manned by retired Gunnery Sgt. Richard Mansfield, USMC, at the helm.

center photo: The crew boards the float and prepares to make its way to the parade lineup. Pictured in the background, left to right, are Sgt. Richard Mansfield (ret-USMC), Carol Cianflone, Jeffrey Cianflone, and Dallas Butler. In the

right photo: The patriotic gingerbread float makes its way along the parade route while spectators cheered.

Photos starting at to left then going clockwise:
1) The patriotic gingerbread float makes its way along the parade route while spectators cheered.
2) The float is ready to go. Pictured left to right, are Dallas Butler, Karen Palmer, Kathy Fox, Jeffrey Cianflone, and Murt Foos.
My Fellow Legionnaires,

There was an all-out deluge of articles submitted for this edition and they are greatly appreciated. Please keep sending them in. If you submitted an article and it was excluded from this edition drop us a message because it was not intentional and will be included in the next edition. Our newspaper is now being distributed to all the VIP centers at all three Del Tech campuses, the Kent and Sussex county VA CBOC’s and the Main VA Hospital in Wilmington. So, nonmembers are being exposed to our efforts in support of veterans and the community at large.

Note on submitting articles: I can work with any file format that is sent in as long as it is PC/Windows compatible. But Word (.doc) and image (.jpg) type are easier to work with than PDF’s. Also, ANY SIZE article is welcome as small as one picture with a brief description to a full two-page layout. We actually received a few articles this edition via text message, which is not ideal, but we understand not everyone has access to a computer.

Note from Layout and Design Rebecca Crouser: I work best with background noise and normally have a movie playing that I have seen repeatedly. Looking through the movies trying to find one I saw a cartoon movie called Sgt Stubby about the most decorated war dog of WWI. Sgt Stubby started out as a unit mascot but proved his true worth to become an official war dog. It was designed for kids but there was a ton of factual information presented in a very relatable way. I highly recommend it for young and old alike.

(picture to right showing the real handler and Sgt Stubby with their cartoon counterparts)

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

Testimonial for National Vice-Commander Larry J. Marcouillier

Photos starting at top left going clockwise: 1) National Vice Commander Larry receiving picture of Air Force Memorial 2) Framed picture of Air Force Memorial 3) NVC Marcouillier receiving coin display and coins 4) NVC Marcouillier thanking those that attended and supported him during his term as NVC 5) NVC Marcouillier’s family 6) PNC Jake Comer-MA