



ROUND-UP

A weekly digest of happenings
in the Sons of The American Legion

Next Goal

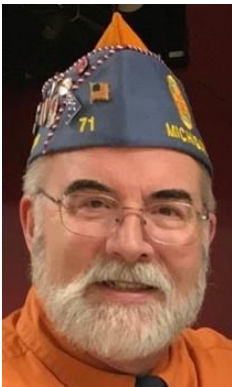
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July 26, 2023

Volume 4 | Number 36 | Issue 187 | May 29, 2023

Memorial Day message

John Pickard, 5th Zone Commander
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Michigan



My grandfather was a member of the famous 32nd Red Arrow Division of World War I, made up of Upper Michigan and Wisconsin National Guardsman. He was wounded in Belgium. My father was in the Army Air Corps in World War II, stationed in China-Burma and India all during the War. My brother is a Vietnam veteran. So, the pending celebration of Memorial Day often sends me to that quiet place where I ponder the ultimate sacrifice of many veterans and families.

What was it like for a young man, with young children, to answer the call to fight for freedom? How heavy was the burden of protecting our nation's way of life? Is it possible for me, and my children, to understand and remember a soldier's sacrifice?

How can I help them realize the life we enjoy today is because of the commitment many men and women made to freedom over 200 plus years?

As you raise your flag on Memorial Day, or take your child by the hand at a graveside ceremony to explain why we pause to honor those who have fallen, remember to take a look at all the flags on the veterans graves. Remember that they served their country honorably to ensure our freedom.

I wish you a very safe Memorial Day. Unfortunately, with the creation of the three-day weekend, the solemn significance of Memorial Day has faded away. Instead of being a day of mourning and remembrance for those who died defending our great country, it has become a day of barbecues, beaches, and sales in the stores. What a sad statement we make when we fail to give proper respect to those who died to give us the freedoms we enjoy today.



ROUND-UP

National Commander

Chris Carlton (IN)

National Vice-Commander Central Region

David Mennel (MI)

National Vice-Commander Eastern Region

Ernie LaBerge (MA)

National Vice-Commander Midwest Region

Michael Kirschner (CO)

National Vice-Commander Southern Region

Ron Roberts (MS)

National Vice-Commander Western Region

Jack Youngs (ID)

Immediate Past National Commander

Michael Fox (CA)

Leading Candidate

Don "J.R." Hall (MD)

Trailing Candidate

Joseph Navarrete (NM)

Round-Up is a publication designed to disseminate information related to Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Family. It is published weekly and distributed each Sunday.

SUBMITTING ARTICLES: All submissions are to be made electronically to jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com. If you need assistance, please send an email to same.

All information must be submitted by noon each Friday.

PNVC [Jeff Vrabel, Sr.](#), Editor

[Rusty Myers](#), Contributor

[Lou Michaels](#), Contributor



The current SAL membership report can be accessed on the national website at www.legion.org/membership/standings



**RENEW
ONLINE
TODAY**



**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL
DELEGATE
STRENGTH
TARGET DATE**

July 26, 2023



CHRIS CARLTON
NATIONAL COMMANDER
2022 – 2023



**Chris Carlton, National Commander
Sons of The American Legion**

**"Purpose is why we journey;
passion is the flame that lights the way."**

**PURPOSE
PASSION**



DAVID MENNEL
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
CENTRAL REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

Third Thursday of Each Month
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time
(720) 527-5854 | 202 4742#



ERNIE LABERGE
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
EASTERN REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

Fourth Tuesday of Each Month
7:00 p.m. Eastern Time
(605) 313-4388 | 346 8542#



MICHAEL KIRSCHNER
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
MIDWEST REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

First Tuesday of Each Month
7:00 p.m. Mountain Time
(605) 313-5379 | 830 520



RON ROBERTS
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
SOUTHERN REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

Second Tuesday of Each Month
7:00 p.m. Central
(945) 218-0044 | 472 0682



JACK YOUNGS
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
WESTERN REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

Fourth Wednesday of Each Month
7:00 p.m. Mountain Time
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 847 2013 6661 | 697 464

We all need to be working on our renewals, let's all get proactive (I understand I am talking to the choir) with preventing our members from walking out the back door while we are bringing folks in the front door.

I would ask you to remember if you were in that position before and no one asked you to stay, how it made you feel and remember we don't want these other folks to feel the same way we did.

Thank you for all you do for God and Country. May God bless you, your families, the SAL, and the United States of America.

BE THE ONE

If you're a veteran in crisis or concerned about one, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive 24/7 confidential support. Dial 988 then Press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat or text 838255.

'On Sunday, we will be all Ganassi'

[Steven B. Brooks](#) | May 25, 2023

Kimberly Boring has watched the Indianapolis 500 since she was a child. She remembers rooting for Roger Penske's drivers, iconic names like Rick Mears, Emerson Fittipaldi, and Danny Sullivan. Later, it was Helio Castroneves wearing the Team Penske brand.

But this weekend, there is no doubt where Kimberly and her husband, Reed, will focus their allegiance during the 500: on Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR) and, specifically, team owner Chip Ganassi and polesitter Alex Palou in the No. 10 American Legion Honda.

"It was pretty easy (to switch allegiance to Ganassi), seeing his efforts to help veterans," said Kimberly, who is a member of American Legion Unit 34 in Lancaster, Pa., where her husband is the post historian. "I will confess I'm still a Penske girl in NASCAR. But on Sunday, we will be all Ganassi."

Reed said he and Kimberly were moved by Palou winning the pole last weekend, the exposure given to the Legion's "[Be the One](#)" initiative featured on Palou's car – and team owner [Chip Ganassi thanking The American Legion and the nation's veterans](#) during comments he made afterward on the national television broadcast.

"We just lost it. It was absolutely amazing," Reed said. "And the first thing we said to each other was, 'Look at all the people who are going to be looking at that car and looking up online this Be the One. What's Be the One all about?' I can't think of any way better to get the word out. And I'll tell you what. Listening to Chip Ganassi talk about how important this is to veterans, he's got a life-long fan now."

Kimberly said Ganassi's remarks left an impression on her. "It was incredible," she said. "Reed and I looked at each other, and we both had tears in our eyes. It was so touching that a man in his position would take the time to say that. He just put his car on the pole of the Indianapolis 500, and he's thinking about our veterans. I thought that was incredible."

Wanting to let CGR know what the win and the comments meant to her and Reed, Kimberly sent the following email to CGR Public Relations Manager Will Erickson:

Dear Chip Ganassi Racing,

I am so excited to see Alex Palou and the American Legion #10 car on the pole for the Indy 500! There was very much cheering and shrieking from our living room in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Thank you so much for your partnership with the American Legion and its "Be the One" campaign. My husband and I are Legion members, and this campaign is especially important to us. Our family has lost two precious members to veteran suicide. I can't think of a better way to get the "Be the One" message out than to have it displayed prominently at the Greatest Spectacle in Racing! Mr. Ganassi's interview after qualifying brought tears to our eyes. We so appreciate his comments and dedication to our veterans, a group so often overlooked by society and who often are hesitant to reach out for help.

I have watched the Indy 500 since I was a little girl with my dad, but I must confess, we rooted for the Penske boys – Rick, Danny, Emerson, and Helio. From now on, however, our family will be wearing our "Be the One" shirts and disrupting the neighborhood by cheering for Alex and Ganassi Racing!

Hoping for milk-chugging,

*Kimberly Boring
Proud Veteran Wife and Mother
Chip Ganassi Convert*

"I was raised that when you're grateful for something you say, 'thank you,'" Kimberly said. "I didn't expect any kind of response at all. And then it went crazy."

When Alex found out about Kimberly's email, [he recorded a response](#) in which he told her he'd drive to get the No. 10 American Legion Honda into the Winner's Circle this weekend, "to try to help as many people as possible."

It made Kimberly's week.

"When Alex said, 'Hey Kim,' I couldn't believe it," she said. "Surely, he has 1 million things to do this week and he took the time to send ME a message? I don't think either Reed or I breathed as we watched Alex's message. When it finished, we were both in tears. This young man cares about the Be the One message and I just wanted to hug him. I was in disbelief, I was off-the-charts excited, and I was incredibly humbled. I still can't believe it."

"Now I've gone into Mom Mode, and I want him to be safe on Sunday. He is the same age as my kids and now I feel obligated to fret that he is going 234 miles per hour. But I do tell people that I am on a first-name basis with the Indy 500 pole sitter."

Reed and Kimberly were "Be the One" supporters well before last weekend. The pair learned about the program online. "I said, 'This is exactly how we want to get involved,'" Reed said. "This is something that we can cling to and hopefully make a difference and jump-start the conversation. That's the most important thing: People talking to each other. Talking to veterans. Seeing how they're doing. Checking on them. Doing whatever we possibly can to get people help that need help. That's the key to this campaign."

Reed already has received permission to form and head up a "Be the One" committee at the post, while Kimberly wants to be a part of it through the Auxiliary. They also plan on reaching out to other posts in the area that host motorcycle events to see about setting up a "Be the One" display at those events.

"It's such a simple message, but it's so extremely powerful. And it doesn't require someone to give money, or a whole lot of time or effort," Kimberly said. "It's a simple solution to a very troubling problem, and we need people to be aware it's a problem. The more people who know veterans are going through this, the more they will be willing to reach out and just check on folks."

Suicide has hit close to home for Kimberly and Reed, who has lost a cousin and an in-law to suicide. “We’ve seen how it affected the families,” Kimberly said. “And to be honest, we have (an Air Force veteran) son who struggles with some mental-health issues, and we have to check on him. So, it’s important to us that other families don’t have to go through what members of our family have.”

The pair will be rooting for Alex on Sunday, loud enough, they joked, that they may cause a disruption in their neighborhood. Reed said a win would be a major milestone for “Be the One.”

“If he can make it to the Winner’s Circle, we’re going to hang our hat on that,” he said. “It is such a great vehicle to promote this program. And I don’t remember any kind of program like this before being pushed as a sponsor. It’s been sodas and food and paints and things like that. It’s never been a campaign to help prevent veteran suicides. This is a first.”

Remembering the Greatest Generation

To honor a World War II Veteran,
please send information to jeffrabelsr@gmail.com



NATIONAL COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Advisory Committee

Joe Mayne (MN), Chairman

Americanism Commission

Chris Casey (NE), Chairman

Fourth Thursday of Bi-monthly

7:30 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 956 9846 2868 | 840 830

(877) 853-5257

July 27

Over the weekend, millions of flags will be placed at gravesites throughout our country to honor our veterans and their service to this great nation.

Sons of The American Legion has developed a program, **Flying Flags For Heroes**, for organizations to recognize their contributions when placing flags on veteran gravesites. The website shows statistics of flag placement by state and sponsor, such as The American Legion, VFW, Scouts, etc.

To enter your flag placement event, go to <https://www.flyingflagsforheroes.com/get-involved> and scroll to the bottom of the page to enter your event information under “HOW MANY FLAGS DID YOU PLACE?” Make sure you include your city and state when submitting your information. It should take no more than 2 minutes of your time to complete. It may take up to 48 hours for your event to be updated on the website.

Our goal is to recognize 1.5 million flags placed for our veterans by August 2023.



**FLYING FLAGS
FOR HEROES**
www.flyingflagsforheroes.com

As of May 25, 2023, **40,059**
flags have been placed
and reported to
honor our veterans
since September 1, 2022

Century Committee CENTCOM

Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH), Chairman

Second Thursday of Each Month

7:00 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 974 1352 0429 | 473 385
(877) 853-5257

Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Mark Nave (PA), Chairman

Third Wednesday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 989 9129 8443 | 967 563
(877) 853-5257

Children & Youth Committee

James A. Noble (NJ), Chairman

Second Wednesday of Each Month

7:30 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 934 1509 0014 | 403 800
(877) 853-5257



Legion awards Eagle Scout of the Year to Washington state youth

The American Legion | May 22, 2024

Jackson Adams of Walla Walla, Wash., has been named The American Legion's Eagle Scout of the Year for 2023. The selection was made by The American Legion's Youth Activities Sub-Committee during the Legion's Spring Meetings, May 10-11. As the National Eagle Scout of the Year, Adams is receiving a \$10,000 college scholarship.

The committee also selected three runners-up who will each receive a \$2,500 scholarship – Taylor E. Bell of Murfreesboro, Tenn; Charles Hiatt of Manhattan Beach, Calif.; and Samuel Mozzillo of Athens, N.Y.

Adams, a senior at Walla Walla High School and member of Scouts BSA Troop 305, was nominated for the National Eagle Scout of the Year award by American Legion Post.

For his Eagle Scout project, Adams "knew I wanted to give back to the environment where I spent much of my Scouting career and decided to incorporate my growing environmental science experience." He first looked into restoring a neglected trail in the North Folk Umatilla Wilderness, but a flood "stripped away" all access to the trail. He then connected with the Tri-State Steelheaders; an organization devoted to improving salmon habitat. Together, they worked on the construction and installation of three locks for the Walla Walla river that would serve as spawning pools for salmon being reintroduced by the organization. Once again, his plans were disrupted, this time by the 2020 pandemic.

After a few weeks of online schooling, he took it upon himself to learn about computer-aided design and 3D printing. "As masks became increasingly common, I started to design and 3D print a variety of COVID Personal Protective Equipment, which I distributed to my local hospital," he said. "My ear savers, a collection of mask straps that relieve pressure on the wearer's ears, became especially popular." When a local news article mentioned the ear savers, community members began asking how they could help.

Adams began a community-wide effort to provide 1,000 ear savers to frontline workers. In the end, he more than doubled his goal.

"I was tested mentally and emotionally, but I am proud to have persisted through each setback," Adams said. "As I look toward the future, I can't wait to apply the leadership, organization and communication skills that I honed during my project in my future endeavors in Scouting, service and beyond."

Adams will be studying mechanical engineering at Northwestern University this fall.

Adams will receive a trip to The American Legion's 104th National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., in August to be honored alongside the other American Legion youth program champions.

Finance Commission

William G. Hill (MD), Chairman

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 957 1342 7326 | 44846

(877) 853-5257

July 13

Internal Affairs Commission

William Clancy, III (NY), Chairman

First Thursday of Each Month

6:00 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 917 1243 8217 | 914 458

(877) 853-5257

Legislative Commission

Thomas G. Deal (MD), Chairman

Third Thursday of ODD Months

7:30 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 991 2070 0860 | 092 260

(877) 853-5257

Appropriations bill a ‘responsible first step’

The American Legion | May 25, 2023

Lawmakers released an appropriations bill for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) last week that exceeds VA’s fiscal year 2024 budget request. If passed, the appropriations will provide \$337.9 billion in funding to VA, the Department of Defense, and other related agencies.

American Legion National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola praised the progress.

“The proposed appropriations bill, as it stands, demonstrates a responsible first step in the process of funding the Department of Veterans Affairs fiscal year 2024 budget,” he said. “While this is a positive sign, The American Legion will continue to monitor ongoing negotiations over specific funding lines. We encourage both parties to engage in a collaborative and bipartisan process to ensure that the interests of our nation’s selfless veterans are met.”

Here are some highlights of the current proposal:

Department of Defense:

- \$17.6 billion in discretionary funding for DoD military construction projects, about \$1 billion above the budget request from the White House.

- The funding targets infrastructure in the Pacific theater, barracks and other projects intended to improve quality of life for military personnel.

Veterans Affairs:

- \$152.4 billion of discretionary funding allocated for VA programs, nearly \$18 billion above fiscal year 2023.
- \$138.1 billion for veterans’ medical care, matching the White House budget request.
- \$43.6 billion in mandatory advances for FY25, including an increase of \$34.6 billion for compensation and pensions and an additional \$3 billion for readjustment benefits.
- \$9.5 billion for homeless veterans treatment costs.

Other:

- \$471.7 million is set aside for the American Battle Monuments Commission, United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, and Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Home National Cemetery.
- An additional \$88.6 million is included to complete the southern expansion of the Arlington National Cemetery.
- An extra \$80 million is granted across the active and reserve components to address small-scale infrastructure deficiencies.

Member Training and Development Committee

Mike Monserud (IA), Chairman

First Monday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 918 2414 1981 | 777 490

(877) 853-5258

Membership Committee

Thom Skelley (TX), Chairman

Third Tuesday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

(605) 472-5756 | 771 7294

The current SAL membership report can be accessed on the national website at www.legion.org/membership/standings.

SAL Online Renewal - members can login and renew direct via www.myLegion.org or quick renew by clicking here [SAL Online Renewal](#).

SAL New Member Kit is now online and ready for purchase. [New Member Kit \(SAL\) - American Legion Flag & Emblem](#).

Additional membership information appears later in this edition.

Editor's note: Due to Memorial Day events, I am unable to include Friday's Membership Report in this edition. The report will return next week.

I apologize for any inconvenience.

National Convention Committee

Christopher Byrd (NC), Chairman

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 961 5391 3982 | 690 337
(877) 853-5257

National Executive Committee Liaison Committee

Jim Stewart (NV), Chairman

National Vice-Commander Selection Committee

James Hartman (MD), Co-Chairman

David Stephens (IN), Co-Chairman

Public and Media Communications Commission

Kevin Chaplin (VA), Chairman

Fourth Tuesday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 963 1528 2340 | 075 079
(877) 853-5257

If you would like to view the **Digital Dispatch** content visit www.legion.org/dispatch or you can subscribe to the monthly Digital Dispatch newsletter by visiting www.legion.org/newsletters, click on "Dispatch" where you will be directed to www.myLegion.org where members will sign in to subscribe. For questions about Dispatch stories, email Dispatch@legion.org.

On this Memorial Day, who will you be remembering?

The American Legion | May 23, 2023

Memorial Day is a special yet solemn day as it reminds veterans and civilians alike of the immense price we pay for freedom. As Americans, we owe a debt of gratitude for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Throughout the nation this weekend, American Legion Family members will be reflecting on the sacrifice of loved ones and honoring their memory with gratitude. The American Legion wants to honor those who you will be remembering this Memorial Day. Visit our [Legiontown web page](#) and select the Memorial Day category to share a story, photo or even upload a video

about whom you will be thinking about and honoring on this sacred day.



Edward Lewis, American Legion Department of Florida

TALMA names its 2023 contest winners

The American Legion | May 23, 2023

The American Legion Media Alliance (TALMA) is proud to announce the winners of its 2023 contest. There were a record 103 contest entries submitted for the seven categories. The winners were selected by a panel of judges and approved by the Media & Communications Commission.

A special awards luncheon will be held during the 104th National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., on Monday, Aug. 28, to recognize the contest winners. The luncheon will be free to all TALMA award recipients. For other members and guests, there will be a fee per ticket. Registration information and other details are forthcoming.

The following are the 2023 TALMA contest winners and their entries:

PUBLICATIONS

- **Department/District:** Timothy Engstrom, American Legion Department of Minnesota ([Example 1](#), [Example 2](#), [Example 3](#))
- **Posts up to 249:** Russell Myers III, Squadron 105, Belleville, N.J. ([Example 1](#), [Example 2](#), [Example 3](#))
- **Posts 250-749:** Patricia Douglas, Ryan Winslow Post 911, Hoover, Ala. ([Example 1](#), [Example 2](#), [Example 3](#))
- **Posts over 750:** Georgianna Shea, American Legion Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209, Colorado Springs, Colo. ([Example 1](#), [Example 2](#), [Example 3](#))

WEBSITE

- **Department/District:** Timothy Engstrom, American Legion Department of Minnesota ([website](#))
- **Posts up to 249:** Michael Hayes, Chris Kyle Post 388 in Midlothian, Texas ([website](#))
- **Posts 250-749:** Lee Heavlin, Post 6 in Chapel Hill, N.C. ([website](#))
- **Posts Over 750:** Steve Hayes, Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 in Colorado Springs, Colo. ([website](#))

SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Department/District:** Jennifer Havlick, American Legion Department of Minnesota ([Facebook](#))
- **Posts to 249:** Russell Myers III, Squadron 105, Belleville, N.J. ([Facebook](#))
- **Posts 250-749:** Melissa Steinle, Millard Auxiliary Unit 374, Omaha, Neb. ([Facebook](#))
- **Posts Over 750:** Laura Smerbeck, Post 245 in State College, Pa. ([Tiktok](#))

VISUAL MEDIA

- **Department/District:** Edward Lewis, American Legion Department of Florida ([Photo 1](#), [Photo 2](#), [Photo 3](#))
- **Posts up to 249:** No Award
- **Posts 250-749:** Patricia Douglas, Ryan Winslow Post 911 in Hoover, Ala. ([flyer](#))
- **Posts over 750:** Edward Lewis, Augustus Ruser Jr. Post 273 in Madeira Beach, Fla. ([Photo 1](#), [Photo 2](#), [Photo 3](#))

EDITORIAL/NEWS

- **Department/District:** Cynthia Boehnlein, American Legion Department of Ohio ([story submission](#))
- **Posts up to 250:** Russell Myers III, Squadron 105, Belleville, N.J. ([story submission](#))
- **Posts 250-749:** Burrell Parmer, Fred Brock Post 828 in San Antonio, Texas ([story submission](#))
- **Posts over 750:** None Submitted

EDITORIAL/INFO

Department/District: Timothy Engstrom, American Legion Department of Minnesota ([story submission](#))

- **Posts up to 249:** Gregory Wilson, American Legion McKaig-Test-Mullen Post 455 in New Egypt, N.J. ([story submission](#))
- **Posts 250-749:** Lee Heavlin, Post 6 in Chapel Hill, N.C. ([story submission](#))
- **Posts over 750:** None Submitted

PUBLIC RELATIONS

- **Department/District:** Cory Brockmann, American Legion Department of Oregon ([example](#) and [story](#))
- **Posts up to 249:** Russell Myers III, Squadron 105, Belleville, N.J. ([news station](#) and [story submission](#))
- **Posts 250-749:** Catherine Mondy Boyce, Post 560, Houston, Texas ([story submission](#))
- **Posts over 750:** Theodore Clark, American Legion Post 90 of Southwest Florida, Cape Coral, Fla. ([example submitted](#))

Subcommittee on Resolutions

Ned Fox (CA), Chairman

Subcommittee on National Appointments

Donald Allisot, Jr. (ME), Chairman

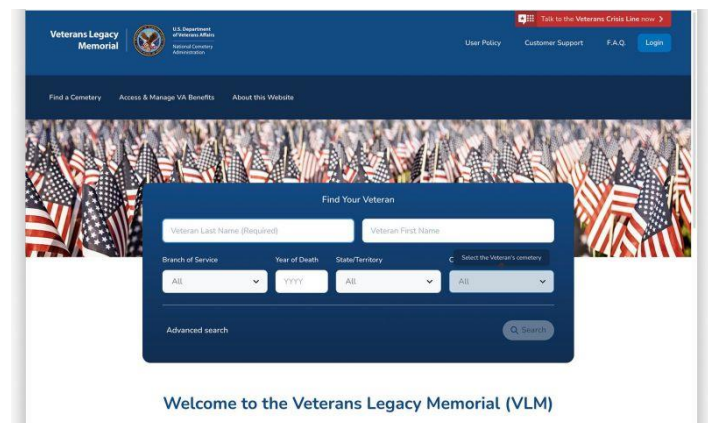
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Seth A. Rippe (NE), Chairman

Fourth Monday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 941 4100 3972 | 378 079
(646) 931-3860



Arlington, 26 other DoD cemeteries added to Veterans Legacy Memorial site

The American Legion | May 22, 2023

In honor of Memorial Day, the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has announced an expansion to the [Veterans Legacy Memorial](#) (VLM) that allows more family members of veterans to remember their loved one.

Arlington National Cemetery is one of 27 Department of Defense managed cemeteries now added to the VLM. This is an addition of 300,000 veteran pages on the platform.

“We are so excited about these DoD cemeteries coming into VLM, especially Arlington National Cemetery,” said James LaPaglia, digital services officer for the National Cemetery Administration. “I think it’s going to be huge when word starts to get out that Arlington is now part of VLM. I think we are going to see a surge in user participation. I’m really excited about it.”

The Veterans Legacy Memorial website is the nation’s first digital platform dedicated entirely to the memory of the 4.8 million veterans interred in VA national cemeteries, VA grant-funded tribal, state and territory veteran cemeteries, DoD-managed cemeteries and two U.S. Park Service National Cemeteries. Launched in 2019, the site gives every veteran his or her own dedicated web page (currently 4.5 million veteran pages), with information such as dates of birth and death, military branch, highest rank held, conflicts in which the veteran served, and significant military awards received. Visitors to VLM may submit photos and biographical summaries of a veteran’s life, along with historical documents such as award citations, letters, and newspaper clippings. There are 55,000 items currently posted on veteran pages.

Find your veterans on VLM and submit memories at va.gov/remember.

“VLM takes the memorialization experience beyond the confines of the cemetery gates and allows people to remember their veteran whether or not they can go to the cemetery or not,” LaPaglia said. “Go to VLM, try to find your veteran. That’s your opportunity to share a memory. That’s your opportunity to find a photo with your battle buddy or someone you served with.”

The following are the added DoD managed cemeteries:

Army

- Arlington National Cemetery
- U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery
- U.S. Military Academy West Point Cemetery
- Aberdeen Proving Ground Post Cemetery
- Fort Moore Main Post Cemetery (Benning)
- Fort Bragg Main Post Cemetery (Jun 2 Fort Liberty)
- Carlisle Barracks Main Post Cemetery
- Edgewood Arsenal Post Cemetery
- Fort Huachuca Post Cemetery

- Fort Knox Post Cemetery
- Camp Lewis Post Cemetery
- Fort Meade Post Cemetery
- Presidio of Monterey Main Post Cemetery
- Fort Riley Post Cemetery
- Schofield Barracks Main Post Cemetery
- Fort Leonard Wood Post Cemetery
- Watervliet Arsenal Post Cemetery
- Fort Sill Post Cemetery

Navy

- U.S. Naval Academy Cemetery and Columbarium
- Naval Station Great Lakes Cemetery
- Naval Station Cuzco Beach Cemetery
- Maine Memorial at Naval Air Station Key West
- CAPT Ted Conaway Memorial at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth

Air Force

- U.S. Air Force Academy Cemetery
- Fort George Wright Cemetery
- Francis E. Warren Air Force Base Cemetery
- Offutt Air Force Base Cemetery

Veterans Employment & Education Commission

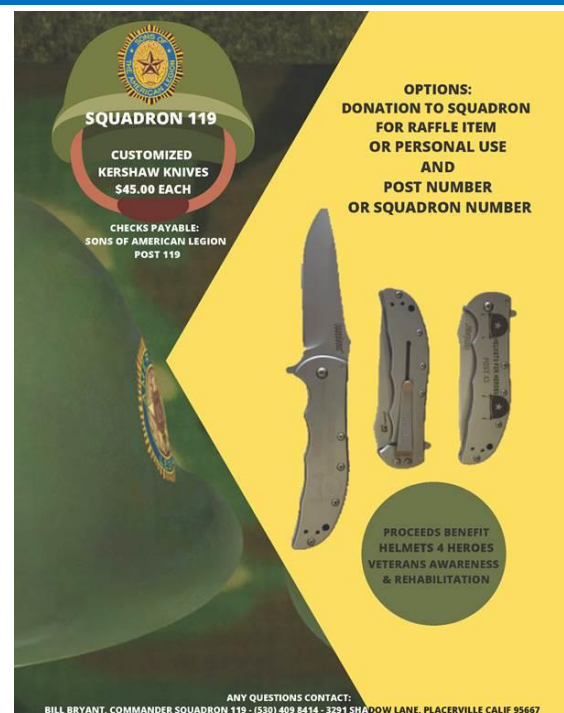
Jim Coates (NY), Chairman

Third Wednesday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 935 4405 3884 | 786 114

(877) 853-5257



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



**PROUD POSSESSORS
OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE**

Sons of The American Legion support Military Food Share

[Natalie Kennedy](#) | May 25, 2023



Sons of the American Legion Squadron 192 Coudersport presented God's Country Military Food Share with \$1,539. Attending the check presentation were (from left) Gail Allen; Vice Commander Jeff Tucker; Commander Jacob VanBergen; and Annette Faust.

photo by Natalie Kennedy

Coudersport, PA— Sons of The American Legion Squadron 192 presented a check for \$1,539 to the God's Country Military Food Share program.

On May 9, representatives from Sons of The American Legion gathered at God's Country Ministries to present the check to the Military Food Share program as vehicles drove through the parking lot to pick up the monthly package.

Gail Allen, who with Annette Faust organizes the event, said the program has grown from 18 people

served at the first Military Food Share in November 2022 to 215 enrollees. It is open to Potter County veterans and their households.

On Tuesday, 213 veterans and family members, bringing the total to 437 people, received packages. The majority, 293, are 60 years or older with 96 between the ages of 18-59 and 48 children.

Distribution is on the second Tuesday of every month between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at God's Country Ministries at 1237 East 2nd St., Coudersport. Remaining dates in 2023 are June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, and Dec. 12.

It's easy to sign up. First time participants are asked to complete paperwork in the church. After that, they just show up between the two-hour window to pick up the food package.

If they will not be able to pick up a package, veterans are asked to notify organizers a week ahead of distribution, so food is not ordered.

The program runs 100% on donations, said Allen. Checks must be made payable to Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and must include on the memory line the name "God's Country Military Food Share" and account number 480110.

Checks can be mailed to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank at 3908 Corey Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109-5929. For questions on donations, contact Pastor Dan Brehm at 814320-3901 or dnsbrehm@gmail.com.

To volunteer, contact Mark Redcay at 814-558-4538 or email m.redcay@yahoo.com.

To enroll in the Food Share, contact Allen at 814-203-4223 or redtoplodge@hughes.net or Faust at 610-295-9477 or nemmie3089@yahoo.com.

Charles County Officer Keegan Dunn Named Sons of the American Legion 2022 First Responder of the Year

[South Maryland News Net](#) | May 25, 2023

The Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) is pleased to announce that Officer Keegan Dunn was named First Responder of the Year for 2022 by the Sons of The American Legion Harry White Wilmer Squadron 82.

Officer Dunn began his career at the CCSO in April of 2022, and has since served in the Patrol Operations Division.

Officer Dunn was selected by the Sons of the American Legion for this prestigious award as a result of his actions in the following incident:

On August 17, 2022, officers responded to the area of Smallwood Drive and McDaniel Road for the report of a male subject who had just stolen a firearm from a family member and fled on foot.

The family indicated that the subject was suffering from a mental health episode and was concerned for his safety.

While responding, Officer Dunn located the subject on foot. As Dunn exited his vehicle in pursuit of the man, he saw the handgun in the subject's waistband and took immediate action to detain him. A struggle ensued, but ultimately Officer Dunn apprehended the man safely and officers were able to get him the help he needed.

For his heroic efforts in safely apprehending an armed subject suffering from a mental health episode, putting his own life at risk, and potentially saving others, the Charles County Sheriff's Office presented Officer Dunn with the Meritorious Service Award in November of 2022.

"Officer Dunn's quick actions and sound judgement that day prevented potential harm to the armed man, officers, and others," said Sheriff Berry. "Each and every day our officers respond to incidents in which they could be putting their lives on the line. I commend Officer Dunn and all of our officers for their selfless service to Charles County, and I thank the Sons of the American Legion for continuing to recognize their efforts."



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

**A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans,
Military, and their Families**



**Vickie Koutz, National President
The American Legion Auxiliary**

Sports

It's a pole for Palou and 'Be the One'

[Steven B. Brooks](#) | May 22, 2023

The field in the 107th running of the Indianapolis 500 is the fastest in the storied race's history. The driver leading that field is the fastest pole qualifier in the 500's history. And front and center on that driver's car is the initiative addressing the most important issue for The American Legion right now – an initiative that will be seen by hundreds of thousands at the race and millions watching on television.

Eight days after winning the GMR Grand Prix on Indianapolis Motor Speedway's road course, Chip Ganassi Racing's Alex Palou captured the pole position on Sunday, doing so with a record qualifying four-lap average of 234.217 miles per hour. The 26-year-old did so in a car prominently displaying the Legion's ["Be the One"](#) message aimed at reducing the number of veteran suicides.

"I am so proud of the No. 10 American Legion Honda. It's been so fast all month, honestly. We went big today. We knew we had to go aggressive, to trim the car a lot to get a good first lap and try to be consistent. It couldn't be better starting on the pole with the 'Be the One' car. It's not a race win, but it's a win for the pole of the Indianapolis 500. It's the only win we could get today," Palou said.

Palou said winning the pole is an opportunity to amplify the "Be the One" message even louder. "It's a privilege to have all that attention from the media ... and try and spread the 'Be the One' campaign from The American Legion as much as possible. I'm hoping we can not only enjoy our wins in the track but enjoy our wins out of the track helping veterans and saving lives," he said. "That would be a huge win for us."

Palou started the 2022 Indy 500 second and went into the Firestone Fast 6 on Sunday with the fourth-fastest speed from the day's previous session. But he went out on his first lap and delivered a speed of 235.131 mph – announced as the fastest qualifying lap since 1996.

Following his effort, Palou had to watch and wait as Felix Rosenqvist, Santino Ferrucci and Rinus VeeKay made their attempts. VeeKay got the closest, turning in an average of 234.211 – the second-closest margin

in terms of speed between the top two qualifiers in Indy 500 history.

Having to wait for the final three qualification attempts "was not ideal, honestly," Palou said. "It was easier to do the four (qualification) laps."

Palou earned his spot in the Firestone Fast 6 after finishing fourth in the top 12 session. He delivered an opening lap of 234.812 mph – the fastest of the session – and ended with a four-lap average of 233.779 – just .022 behind the third-place VeeKay.

Next Sunday, Palou will lead what is the fastest field in Indianapolis 500 history, with an average speed for the 33-car starting grid of 232.184 mph.

"We're going to have the best view possible (for the race)," Palou said. "We know everyone's trying to catch us, so we need to continue working on making it a little bit better."

Chip Ganassi Racing is the first team to win three consecutive poles at the Indy 500 since 1991. This is the eighth all-time pole position won by the team. "We worked hard and never gave up. We had plenty of opportunities to quit, but that's not what we do here," team owner Chip Ganassi said. "That is exactly what this team is all about."

[On the track after Palou secured the pole](#), Ganassi said the achievement "was a victory for every veteran across the United States today. I want to thank The American Legion and I want to thank every veteran that's ever served in a war in this country and protects our freedom, and I can't wait to celebrate on Memorial Day (weekend) with the veterans."

Ganassi teammate Marcus Ericsson, the defending Indy 500 champ, will start the race 10th after his performance in the top 12. Ericsson, who also is carrying American Legion branding on his No. 8 Huski Chocolate Honda, put together a four-lap average of 232.899 to cement an outside spot in the starting grid's fourth row.

"It's still a really solid place to start the race from and we can definitely win from there," Ericsson said. "Looking forward to working on the car to go race on Sunday. Big congrats to the whole team and the organization for being on pole. That was an incredible pole run, and I'm really happy for everyone. It shows the team effort from everyone and obviously very happy for Alex. It was well deserved."

CGR's Scott Dixon also qualified for the Firestone Fast 6 and will start the 500 sixth, while teammate Takuma Sato is starting eighth.



Co-Force photo

Palou on leading Indy 500 field in No. 10 American Legion Honda: 'It's going to be extra special'

[Steven B. Brooks](#) | 26, 2023

Two years ago, Helio Castroneves passed Alex Palou with two laps to go to win the Indianapolis 500 – making him one of just four four-time winners of the race. A year later, Palou qualified second for the same race and was leading before a penalty forced him to do a restart on lap 77, dropping him to 30th. He rebounded to finish ninth and wound up leading 47 laps, second only to Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR) teammate Scott Dixon.

Now, Palou is starting this Sunday's 500 from the top spot on the grid, having done so with a record qualifying four-lap average of 234.217 miles per hour in the No. 10 American Legion Honda. And he's learned lessons in the past two years that he thinks can help him bring home a victory this weekend.

"Knowing that we have a really fast car, honestly, we need to try and control the race as much as possible," said Palou, who leads the NTT INDYCAR SERIES points standings. "What I mean by that is to not be out of the race early by trying to play too aggressive. Hopefully, we can have a more controlled race, and at the end of the day the all-important lap that you want to lead is the last lap. Hopefully, we can make that happen. We know we have the car and team to do so."

Palou's car features The American Legion's message, a suicide-prevention initiative aimed at destigmatizing asking for mental health help. He's not the only driver carrying American Legion branding this weekend. CGR teammate and defending Indy 500 champ

Marcus Ericsson also will have the Legion's branding mark on his No. 8 Huski Chocolate Honda as he starts from the 10th spot.

Palou – who earlier this month won the GMR Grand Prix in the same car, the Legion's first INDYCAR victory – said leading the field in the No. 10 American Legion Honda will add something to the experience.

"It's going to be extra special," Palou said. "Leading the Indy 500 must be really special with a normal sponsor that sells products. But with a sponsor that has so much meaning for the veterans and is intended to save lives, it's extra special. And hopefully that pushes everybody to cheer for us, and that energy we get hopefully makes us go a little bit faster and better. And at the end of the day, the target is to get that No. 10 American Legion car into victory lane."

And what will it feel like winning the 500 in the car? "I think it's really tough to imagine that" Palou said. "We can think that it's 100 times better than what we felt at the (GMR) Grand Prix and winning the (500) pole. But it's hard to imagine the exposure we're going to get for the 'Be the One' initiative after that. That's the goal, and we're going to do everything we can to do it."

It's been quite a month for Palou, one he hopes carries over to Sunday. "It's been two perfect weeks so far," he said. "And we can continue going because we have the confidence and the willing to do it. Hopefully, if we can continue to do it, it's going to be our best stretch so far."

Ericsson comes into the race third in the INDYCAR point standings and won the season opener in St. Petersburg. He turned in the fastest lap during Fast Friday prior to qualifications and likes where his car is right now.

"I think we've had a good preparation, a good month so far," Ericsson said. "The car has been feeling good out there. I think we had a solid qualifying weekend. I'm looking forward to it. I think we're going to be in the mix. I'm real excited about Sunday."

Ericsson said while there may be some added pressure being the defending champ, but that doesn't bother him. "I see it as like a good added pressure, because it means that people are expecting you to be up there. People are expecting you to fight for the win. I see that as something to be happy about. That gives me confidence that there are expectations on the No. 8 car."

Ericsson raced in Formula One for five years before coming to INDYCAR. He said this weekend is unlike any other in auto racing.

“I think the Indy 500 is something unique in the racing world,” Ericsson said. “The history of the race. The speeds that we’re doing here. The whole build-up over a whole month, it’s just such a unique event. For me, there is not a single race like it in the motorsports world, and I feel like you have to come here and experience it to really understand what it means.”

When asked how it will feel to be introduced on race day as the reigning Indy 500 champ, Ericsson didn’t hold back. “It’s going to be incredible,” he said. “Race day here in Indy is always the best day ever. I can’t wait to go out there for driver introductions and get my name announced and sort of wave to the crowd and look out over the crowd. Because that feeling is always a highlight for me. I can’t wait for it.”

Sunday’s schedule:

- 10:30 a.m. – Cars to the Grid
- 11:47 a.m. – Driver Introductions
- 12:14 p.m. – Indy 500 Pre-Race Ceremonies
- 12:29 p.m. – “Drivers to Your Cars”
- 12:38 p.m. – Command to Start Engines
- 12:45 p.m. – 107th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge (200 laps/500 miles), NBC/Peacock

Indy 500 Notes (via INDYCAR)

- The Indianapolis 500 will be the 107th 500-mile INDYCAR SERIES race conducted on the Indianapolis Motor Speedway’s oval. Ray Harroun won the inaugural race in 1911. Marcus Ericsson won the race in 2022.
- Nine drivers entered have won the Indianapolis 500. Helio Castroneves has won the race four times (2001, 2002, 2009 and 2021) while Takuma Sato (2017 and 2020) has won twice. Scott Dixon (2008), Tony Kanaan (2013), Ryan Hunter-Reay (2014), Alexander Rossi (2016), Will Power (2018), Simon Pagenaud (2019) and Marcus Ericsson (2022) are the other former winners in the field.
- There have been five different winners in the first five NTT INDYCAR SERIES races this season. Marcus Ericsson (Streets of St. Petersburg), Josef Newgarden (Texas Motor Speedway), Kyle Kirkwood (Streets of Long Beach), Scott McLaughlin (Barber Motorsports Park) and Alex Palou (IMS road course) have won races in 2023. The record for most different winners in a season is 11 in 2000, 2001 and 2014.

- Four Indianapolis 500 rookie drivers qualified for the race: Agustin Canapino, RC Enerson, Benjamin Pedersen, and Sting Ray Robb.
- Alex Palou won the NTT P1 Award with the fastest four-lap average for a pole winner at 234.217 mph. Twenty-one drivers have won the race from the pole – most recently Simon Pagenaud in 2019.
- Team Penske has 18 wins at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the most of any team. Andretti and Chip Ganassi Racing have won five times while A.J. Foyt Enterprises and Rahal Letterman Racing have won twice. Meyer Shank Racing has one win.
- **Alex Palou** has a chance to join Will Power and Simon Pagenaud as a winner on both the Indianapolis Motor Speedway road course and the famed 2.5-mile oval in the same season. Power accomplished the feat in 2018, while Pagenaud did it in 2019 – both sweeping the Month of May.



Chip Ganassi Racing Drivers Alex Palou and Marcus Armstrong stop by to surprise members of the Legion Family at Post 500 in Speedway on Thursday, May 25.

Hilary Ott / The American Legion

Ganassi drivers, Extreme E program manager make surprise visit to Speedway Post 500

[Steven B. Brooks](#) | May 26, 2023

For 46 years, Brett McQuern has attended the Indianapolis 500, starting as a 6-year-old. He was born in Indiana and now lives in Marco Island, Fla., but he’s maintained a Sons of The American Legion member at Speedway Post 500, just across the street from Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

McQuern and his wife Jody, a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 135 in Naples, Fla., are in Indianapolis for Sunday’s “Greatest Spectacle in Racing,” and stopped by Post 500 to relax Thursday.

And they had a pretty nice surprise during their time there, which included a surprise visit from Indy 500

pole sitter Alex Palou, Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR) teammate Marcus Armstrong and U.S. Navy SEAL veteran [David Berkenfield](#), team manager for CGR's Extreme E program. In addition to signing autographs, shaking hands and getting their pictures taken, the trio talked about the upcoming race, answered some questions and discussed the importance of the Legion's ["Be the One"](#) program.

Brett said he and his wife heard a commotion from the back of Post 500 as the trio entered club room. "I looked up, and I heard someone say it was the drivers," he said. "I could see it was Alex Palou, and I looked at (Jody) and said, 'Holy cow, that's Alex Palou.' It's pretty amazing."

Brett said he got choked up watching Palou's Firestone Fast Six qualification effort last weekend. "It's hard to explain how I felt. I'm proud of the Legion for sponsoring that. And the cause – the issue we've got with suicides and veterans – and to understand that both of these drivers know of that and can speak to that, that's good."

Both Palou and Armstrong talked about the importance of "Be the One," with Palou also thanking those in attendance for their support.

"We have a good opportunity coming up on Sunday, starting on pole with The American Legion car," he said. "Obviously, this wouldn't be possible without you guys. The American Legion has been a good supporter for us, an amazing supporter. Hopefully, we can spread the 'Be the One' initiative even more and even further."

Armstrong is driving the No. 11 Honda for CGR on road and street courses and currently leads INDYCAR's rookie standings. He's driven The American Legion car this season already and told Post 500 attendees, "I'm so happy to be representing The American Legion 'Be the One' initiative. For one, the car looks unbelievable. You guys know that. But also, I'm not representing (a corporation) or something like that. I'm representing a truly great cause."

Wayne Yankovich, commander of American Legion Post 510 on the east side of Indianapolis, was at Post 500 for the visit. He was impressed that Palou and the CGR group stopped by the post during one of their busiest weeks of the year.

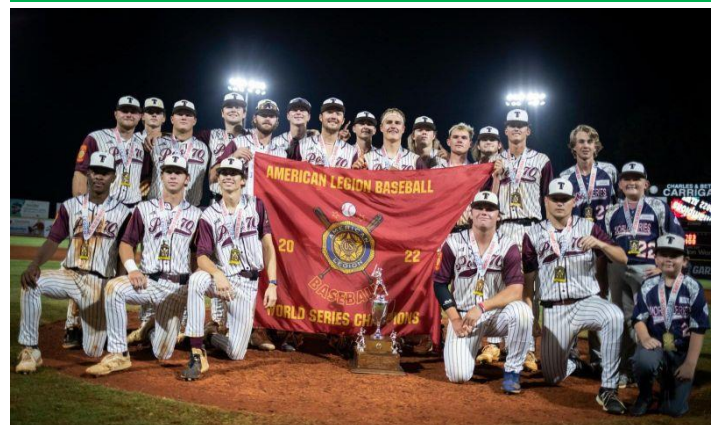
"I think it's pretty nice on their part to spend time here when they're in the middle of a lot of preparation for the race. To take their personal time to come over and say hi to us," Yankovich said. "I was extremely excited

when (Palou) won the (GMR) Grand Prix (May 13). And the campaign that's been going on for more than a year now, 'Be the One,' the way it's being promoted is very, very nice."

Speedway Post 500 Commander Johnette Lawson said seeing the success of The American Legion car this month has been fun to watch. "I can't explain in words how exciting this is for us," she said. "It gets The American Legion out there for the public. People are going to ask, 'What is The American Legion?' The American Legion is here to help our veterans that need help. And to help the community and children of the veterans."

Terri Hannon, the chaplain at American Legion Auxiliary Unit 500, was stationed near the front door of the post, where she was managing a display of American Legion-branded clothing and other items. Her husband John, who passed away five years ago, was a past post commander.

Hannon said that Palou securing the pole "was so awesome. It would be great if we could win. We're very proud. Our aim is to help veterans in any way we can. This helps that."



'A different dynamic' for 2022 ALWS champions

Richard Walker | May 24, 2023

After becoming just the second American Legion World Series champion from Alabama last August, Troy Post 70 head coach Ross Hixon knows his team will be viewed differently entering this season.

And he says his team is embracing that change.

"For us, there's a different dynamic with us coming off a championship season," Hixon said. "But that's really set the program in a more positive direction. I've talked to so many people who are interested in what

Squadron Everlasting

to have a member's information listed here, please send to jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com

Jonathan E. Morgan

Jonathan Edward Morgan, age 68, of Norwalk, passed away peacefully Saturday, May 20, 2023, at his residence surrounded by his family.

He was born April 19, 1955, in Sandusky to the late Ray D. and Nancy D. (Ellis) Morgan. He was a 1973 graduate of Western Reserve High School and received an associate degree in food service in 1985 from Bowling Green State University. He was a food service manager for various pizza and fast-food restaurants in the area, retiring in 1995. He was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Milan. He was active with the Sons of the American Legion, and served as a district commander in 1983, state commander in 1985 and held various officer positions with the American Legion in New London and Shiloh.

He was a 4th Degree Knights of Columbus member, active with the Lake Erie and Southern Model Railroad Club, and member of the Mad River NKP Bellevue Museum. He was instrumental in founding the sixth-grade youth football league in Norwalk. He was an avid fan of Detroit, Steelers, Michigan, and BGSU Falcons football teams. He was a sports fan, and enjoyed rail roading, fishing, hunting, horseback riding and especially enjoyed spending time with his family. To his friends he was known as a "fun loving, beer drinking, son of a gun."

He is survived by his loving wife, Beverly to whom he married April 26, 1986; sons, Christopher Morgan, and Anthony Morgan; mother, Nancy Morgan; brothers, David Morgan, and Kenneth (Tammy) Morgan; sisters, Cheryl (John) Crawford, Martha (John) Scott, and Lisa (Jeff) Smith; nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Ray Morgan.

A funeral Mass will be held Saturday, May 27, 2023, at 10:30 A.M. at St. Anthony Catholic Church. Interment will follow at St. Anthony Catholic Cemetery, Milan.

Arrangements entrusted to the Evans Funeral Home, 314 E. Main Street, Norwalk.

Malcolm Bedell



Malcolm Bedell, age 59 of Bottineau, ND, passed away from stage 4 lung cancer on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at a Bottineau hospital. His memorial service will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 10:00 am at the St. Mark's Catholic Church in Bottineau.

Malcolm Bedell, a son of Edward and Marcia Bedell, was born on August 21, 1963, in Beacon, NY. He joined the Air Force shortly after graduating from high school, serving for 11 years. Three months after his discharge, he joined the National Guard and served a total of 21 years. He proudly let people know of his devotion to his country. On August 13, 1993, he married Gloria Stack in Minot. Malcolm received his degree in forestry from NDSU-Bottineau. He worked various jobs throughout the Bottineau area before retiring from Walmart due to disability. He was also very interested in photography, especially astrophotography. His photographs hang in homes and businesses in Bottineau and Minot.

He was a member of The American Legion and the Sons of the American Revolution.

Malcolm is survived by his wife, Gloria; siblings, Trish (Richard) Buell, Thomas (Lori) Bedell, Sean Bedell and Greg (Alicia) Bedell; brother-in-law Gerry (Claudia) Stack; sisters-in-law, Yvonne Bichierri, and Peggy (Gary) Eisenzimmer; several aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews, especially, Cameon and Mason Eisenzimmer.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Sue Seenes.

The family would like to thank the Trinity Cancer Center physicians, nurses, and office assistants for your wonderful care. They also want to thank all the staff at SMP St. Andrews for their loving care of Malcolm in his final days and for being Gloria's support and extra family.

Arrangements were with Nero Funeral Home in Bottineau. Friends may sign the online register book at www.nerofuneralhome.net.

Published by The Minot Daily News, May 22, 2023.

Harold E. Smith Jr.



"Herbie" Harold E. Smith Jr., 49, of Aurora, IN, formerly of Dillsboro, IN, (Kathy Lockard of

Lawrenceburg) passed away Sunday, May 21, 2023 at The Waters of Dillsboro. Herbie was born on Monday, April 29, 1974 in Jacksonville, Florida; son of Harold E. Smith Sr. and Hilda "Louise" (Norman) Smith. Herbie worked in bottling at Seagram's and was a member of the Lawrenceburg Eagles and Sons of American Legion of Aurora. He enjoyed fishing, wood carving, and playing sports such as basketball, football, and track. Herbie also holds track records at South Dearborn and won homecoming king at South Dearborn.

Herbie will be missed by his brother Clifford (Cindy) Riley of Patriot; sisters Sylvia Clark of Arizona, Fran Giammona of Florida, and Tina Smith of Dillsboro; as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and many loving friends.

Herbie is preceded in death by his parents Harold E. Smith Sr. and Hilda "Louise" Smith; brothers-in-law Jack Clark and Nicky Giammona; brother Robert Riley; and sisters Brenda Riley, Rosemary Smith, and Hilda Louise Smith.

There are no services at this time. Memorials may be given in honor of Herbie to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Filter-DeVries-Moore Funeral Home has been entrusted with arrangements: Box 146, Dillsboro, IN 47018, (812) 432-5480. Please visit our website at www.filter-devriesmoore.com to share your condolences and memories of Herbie.

Charles Edward Leonard



Charles Edward "Snaps" Leonard, of Aberdeen, MD, passed away on May 18, 2023. He was 93.

Mr. Leonard was born in Havre de Grace, MD, to Keller Joseph Leonard and Florence Greenland Leonard. He was the devoted husband of 66 years to the late Roberta J. Leonard, loving father of Debra Carol Walker (Manning "Bugs" Klepsig), of Aberdeen, MD, Julia Ann Johnson (Robert), of Aberdeen, MD, Patricia Poist of Port Deposit, MD, and the late Shirley Russo. He was the grandfather of J.W. Walker, Jr., (Maria), Kevin Walker (Nancy Strong), Michael Baker (Hannah), April Thiess, Diane Strong (Rocky), Charlie Dubree, Christina Moore, and the late Tracie Gibson, great-grandfather of Emery Walker, Lev Walker, Emma Claycomb, Kylee Tudor, Bridgette

Thiess, Abby Thiess, Alice Baker, Zach Baker, Roberta Baker, and Verna Romero, and great-great-grandfather of Ellie Romero, Emma Burke, and Joey Burke, and brother of Barbara Shenk, Bernice Love, the late John Leonard, Virginia Dolan, Beverly Meade, and Shirley Leonard.

He is also survived by his cat "Fluffy", whom he adored.

Mr. Leonard retired from Bata Shoe Company. He was a member of Susquehanna Hose Company for 56 years, riding out of Division 4. He was also a member of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 47 and The Young at Heart Club.

Mr. Leonard enjoyed bowling, decoy carving, softball with the fire department, and working on his homemade fire truck which made several appearances in the July 4th Parade.

A viewing will be held on Friday, June 2, 2023, from 2-4 and 6-8 PM, at Zellman Funeral Home, P.A., 123 S. Washington St., Havre de Grace, MD. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2023, at 11 AM, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his memory to Susquehanna Hose Company, P.O. Box 58, Havre de Grace, MD 21078. Online condolences may be made to www.zellmanfuneralhome.com.

Published by Baltimore Sun on May 24, 2023.

William "Bill" Taylor



William G. "Bill" Taylor, 62, of Whitehouse, Ohio passed away May 18, 2023. He was born February 11, 1961 in Toledo, Ohio to Clayton "Sonny" and Loretta (Aldrich) Taylor.

Bill was a 1980 graduate of Anthony Wayne High School. He enjoyed singing karaoke whenever he got the chance, fishing and riding his custom-made trike- built by his many friends, for as long as he could. He was a devoted Cleveland Browns fan. He enjoyed his hobby of garden tractor pulling and walking his dog, Blondie, through town. Nothing made him happier than building and competing in regional tractor pulling events with his friend, Ron. He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion in Whitehouse.

Bill is survived by his mother, Loretta Taylor of Whitehouse, who was both his companion and caregiver; siblings, Clayton Taylor, Jr.

of Swanton, Teresa Fedor (Joel Obrecht) of Bowling Green, Laurie (Clark) Plymale of Whitehouse, Daniel (Carole) Taylor of Monclova, Angie Heier (Gary Thomas) of Catawba and Cindy Stratton (Jim Brogan) of Toledo; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday May 23, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Peinert-Dunn Funeral Home, 6603 Providence St., Whitehouse, Ohio 43571. His funeral service will be held on Wednesday May 24, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home. Pastor Mike O'Shea will officiate. Interment will follow at Whitehouse Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be given in his memory to [The Muscular Dystrophy Association](#).

To share an online condolence or fond memory with the family please visit www.dunnfuneralhome.com.

Published by The Blade on May 21, 2023.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](#).



In Flanders' Fields

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch, be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' fields.

Major John McCrae, 1915





FROM THE EDITOR

As we take time this weekend to honor our military heroes who made the supreme sacrifice in defense of our country, please remember their families, friends, and all who knew them.

Many of those buried beneath Old Glory are forever young, and never had the opportunity to have families of their own. They died in far off places for reasons they may not have understood. The least we can do is to pay tribute on this solemn day.

Remember them!!!

***Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible.
Renew Today!***

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com | [Team Vrabel](#)

click a button for more information



AMERICAN LEGION



Memorial Day and the cost of freedom

May 24, 2023

Dear American Legion Family and friends,

A commonly used phrase in The American Legion is “every day is Veterans Day.” We prove this through our programs and service to our communities. But for Gold Star families and the battle buddies of the fallen, every day is Memorial Day.

When American servicemembers are seriously wounded, often their last words are some variations of “tell my wife I love her,” “tell my kids I’m proud of them,” or “take care of my family.” The parents of fallen heroes live every mother’s and father’s nightmare, burying their child.

Marine Corps veteran Rosanna Powers understands the meaning of sacrifice. She lost her brother, Lance Cpl. Caleb Powers, as he served in Iraq on Aug. 17, 2004. The very next day, her fiancé, Marine Sgt. Richard Lord, also made the supreme sacrifice there.

“We can debate the war’s legacy and what it means for the future of American foreign policy. But remember who stands ready to protect our freedom to have those debates and remember those who died to keep that freedom safe,” Rosanna wrote in a Fox News commentary. “It’s up to us to honor them, in our own way, by trying to make the country they died for a better place.”



When politicians debate the cost of veterans benefits, we should remember the price already paid by fallen servicemembers and their families. This is the true cost of war.

There is also the cost paid by some who served outside the officially recognized war zones. More than 1,600 Americans have lost their lives fighting in covert operations and cold war battles that have occurred since the attack on Pearl Harbor.



Danger is inherent with all military service. This spring, nine young soldiers with the 101st Airborne Division lost their lives when two Black Hawk helicopters crashed near Fort Campbell, Ky. They trained in defense of our freedom.

While Memorial Day is a time of remembrance, we can also celebrate the lives of the more than one million men and women who loved this country enough to die for it. For that, we should always be grateful.

Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola, National Commander
The American Legion



Get your **FREE "Be The One" lapel pin!**



BE THE ONE

The American Legion has designated the first day of every month to be "Be The One" Day."

We're calling on all American Legion Family members to proudly wear a "Be The One" item on the first of every month to demonstrate their unwavering commitment to saving the lives of our deserving veterans and active duty servicemembers, and to signal to others that they are available to help.

Place an order between **May 18th to Memorial Day, May 29th, 2023** at [American Legion Emblem Sales](#), and you'll receive **one free Be The One lapel pin** so that you can help amplify this important mission

[ORDER NOW](#)



07/01/23



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Candidate for SAL
National Vice Commander
2023 – 2024
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American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

"Dedicated to the betterment of all children"

100% Per Capita Banner Program

Request Form

2022 – 2023

Each American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron, American Legion Riders chapter or Eight and Forty salon donating at least one dollar for each member during the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's award year (1 June - 31 May) may receive a beautiful banner/streamer.

To qualify for the 2022-2023 year a post, unit, squadron, riders, or salon must donate one dollar per member based upon its official membership total from their national organization as of June 1, 2022. The post, unit, squadron, riders, or salon has from June 1, 2022, to May 31, 2023, to submit this form, **along with the donation**, to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

Post, unit, squadron, riders, or salon name

Address

City

State

Zip

Post, unit, squadron, or salon membership total as of June 1, 2022:

Total enclosed: \$

Banner Request Form

Send completed form to:

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

PO Box 1055

Indianapolis, IN 46206

ALL REQUEST FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY May 31, 2023



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

VIDEOS OF SERVICE CONTEST

ENTRY FORM

Year

This form and a brief description with a link to video URL must be sent with your entry

Name of Submitter:

Membership ID: Squadron Number:

Detachment:

Category of submitted application:

Membership & Recruitment: ☐

Program Support: ☐

Community Engagement: ☐

What Social Media Platform Used?

URL address:

Brief description of the event and identification of participants:

Email: Send completed forms to Kevin Chaplin, Chairman, Public & Media Communications Commission at sons.public.media+video@gmail.com



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SNAPSHOTS OF SERVICE ENTRY SUBMITTAL FORM

Year

This form and a brief description must be sent with your entry

Squadron Name:

Squadron No:

Detachment:

Attached are

Number

photos under the following category.

Category of submitted application:

Americanism:

☐

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation:

☐

Children & Youth:

☐

National Security:

☐

Brief description of the event and identification of participants:

Email: Send completed forms to Kevin Chaplin, Chairman, Public & Media Communications Commission at sons.public.media+video@gmail.com



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☐

National Security:

☐

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Email: Send completed forms to Kevin Chaplin, Chairman, Public & Media Communications Commission at sons.public.media+video@gmail.com



THE AMERICAN LEGION

MINOR MEDIA MODEL

RELEASE FORM

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- b) I also permit the use of any printed or digital material in connection therewith.
- c) I hereby relinquish any right that I may have to examine or approve the completed product or products or the advertising copy or printed matter that may be used in conjunction therewith or the use to which it may be applied.
- d) I have read the foregoing and fully understand the contents hereof. I represent that I am the [parent/guardian] of the above named model. For value received, I hereby consent to the foregoing on his/her behalf.

Dated:

Date Format: mmmm/d/yyyy (select date by clicking inside above box)

Minor's Name:

Parent or Guardian:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Witness:



THE AMERICAN LEGION

ADULT MEDIA MODEL

RELEASE FORM

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b) I also permit the use of any printed or digital material in connection therewith.

c) I hereby relinquish any right that I may have to examine or approve the completed product or products or the advertising copy or printed matter that may be used in conjunction therewith or the use to which it may be applied.

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Dated:

Date Format: mmmm/d/yyyy

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Name:

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Zip:

Phone:

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