

# Leadership Update

March 2025

The latest news, views, and announcements

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Photo by Hiliary Ott  
The American Legion



## Commanders message

Joseph Navarrete

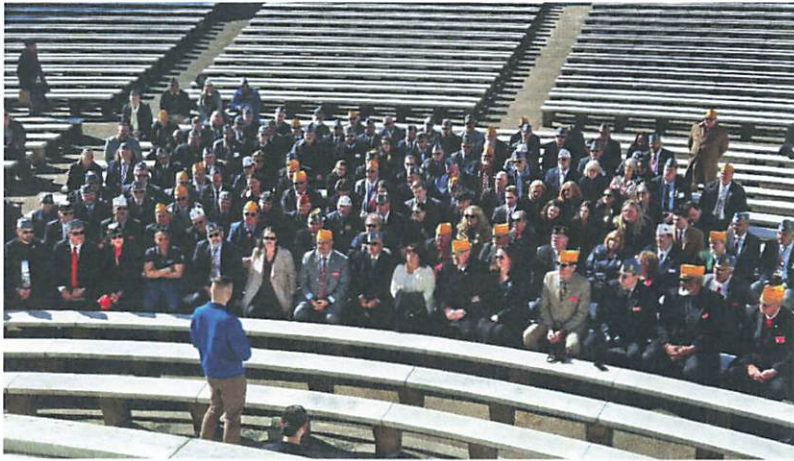
On February 22, 2025, members from various Detachments gathered to honor the fallen heroes of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War by placing wreaths at their respective memorials.

The afternoon commenced with a solemn wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where a wreath was presented on behalf of the National Organization.

This tradition of wreath laying has evolved into a unifying American Legion Family event. The sight of our Legion Family coming together alongside the numerous attendees is truly historic. It serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. This event underscores the core values of our organization and the enduring need to remember and respect our fallen heroes.

## Leadership Update

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### Adjutant message

Anthony Wright

Recruiting students for youth programs is a crucial endeavor that requires careful planning and strategic implementation. As the landscape of education and extracurricular activities continues to evolve, the importance of early recruitment has never been more apparent.

Partnering with schools and community organizations can lead to valuable student referrals. By building collaborative relationships, you can tap into existing networks and reach a wider pool of prospective students.

Utilizing social media and online platforms for recruitment opens opportunities to create engaging digital campaigns. Compelling content can capture student interest and drive them to learn more about your programs.

Our members are the unsung heroes of recruitment. We need to arm them with all the details and objectives of our programs so they can speak about it with the enthusiasm and confidence. The more they know, the more convincing they'll be.

By collaborating with the levels of the American Legion organization, we can reach a wider audience and attract more students to participate in our programs. By working together, we can share resources, ideas, and best practices to effectively recruit and engage young people in our mission. This teamwork will not only benefit the students who join our programs but also strengthen the overall impact and reach of The American Legion in our communities.

Let's come together and make a difference in the lives of our youth.

## Legislative Update

Bernie Kessler

On Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, members of 31 Detachments of the Sons of The American Legion assembled at the Washington Hilton prior to meetings of the National Legislative Conference and proceeded on a bus tour of War Memorials and to Arlington National Cemetery. Accompanied by members of our parent organization, members of The American Legion Auxiliary, and the Samsung Scholars, we were a group that turned heads as we made our way to WWII, The Vietnam Wall, and to the Tomb of the Unknown.

We were nearly 180 strong individuals who were well dressed, respectful of our surroundings, understanding of why we were there, and willing to share our message with anyone who asked. There are videos and photos posted on social media and I encourage you to watch and share with your friends, so that they might understand our message.

On behalf of your National Legislative Commission, I want to thank National Commander Navarrete, our National Vice Commanders, past members of the Legislative Commission, and all of you who made this day of remembrance an unforgettable experience.

# Veterans and Children Foundation

Jeff Trout



The VCF ad-hoc committee is aware that while raising awareness of The American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation to increase donations from The Sons of The American Legion is our task, the problem is assuring that all donations are accounted for.

Therefore, the committee is putting together a tracking spreadsheet so that we have an accurate dollar amount in donations as well as who made them. We are asking for your help in this endeavor. When your Detachment, District, Squadron, etc. makes a donation to VCF please send that information to our committee so that we can keep an accurate record.

Since we have already started, would you please send donation information from June 1, 2024 to present. After that we only ask that you either update the committee at the end of each month or as you make the donations. Remember, the cut off date is May 31, 2025. The committee is confident that we can reach the \$500,000 goal set by Commander Navarrete. We just have to be able to show it. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Donations can be made at:

<https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Give/Donate-Online/Donate-Now?CashProductId=134419>

## Upcoming events:

May 29, 2025, National Vice Commander Bob Manzo Homecoming, Perry Hall, MD

April 1, 2025, Deadline for hotel reservations for Spring NEC meeting

April 9, 2025, 90 % membership target date

April 11-12, 2025, National Commander Joseph Navarrete Homecoming, Albuquerque, NM

April 26, 2025, The American Legion Family Day

May 2-4, 2025, Spring NEC, Indianapolis