SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion

THE MILLENNIUM

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SAVE THE DATE

NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY IS SATURDAY, DEC. 19, 2026

WREATHS across AMERICA

Renew Your SAL Membership Now

legion.org/SAL-Renew



Special to *The Millennium*—*Thom Skelley (TX), National Commander*

National Commander Skelley Continues His Visits Across the Detachments

Official visitations Three and Four are in the books, and they were spectacular. As always, I want to thank the Detachments of Alaska and Minnesota for the opportunity to spend quality time with my brothers "up north." It is always nice to be able to promote the FOUR PILLARS and talk about my projects, but it is more gratifying to meet new people in The American Legion Family. Hearing their stories and listening to their successes makes a wonderful trip even more special.



Submitted Photo: NC Skelley with the Sons of the Detachment of Alaska

In Alaska, Past National President of the ALA Lisa Williamson has a passion for Wreaths Across America, while Past National Commander of the SAL Kevin Collier is still ROCK-in' (Remembering our commitment-keeping it every day). Legion members of one Post held a "Magic the Gathering" marathon session to bring awareness and support to PTSD and Veteran's Suicide. Another Post is looking toward the future by renovating part of their building into a sort of internet café with advanced technology and gaming in hopes of attracting younger service members and veterans. It is "out of the box" thinking like this that will keep moving our family forward.

The turnout in Minnesota was astounding. Hundreds of Legion family members turned out for their Fall Conference in St. Cloud and it was clear from the start that it was truly a family affair. Commander Pam broke with tradition and held a joint opening session, which provided the chance to address the entire delegation. Along with visiting multiple Posts, I made poppies and thank you cards with the Auxiliary, participated in a pancake breakfast led by the Sons, but the highlight of the trip was meeting Jessica Lynch, former United States Army, and hearing her unforgettable tale of being taken as a prisoner of war after her convoy was ambushed in Iraq on March 23, 2003. But wait…it gets better!! Unbeknownst to Jessica, one of her rescuers is a member of The American Legion in Minnesota, and they were reunited for the first time in 23 years. Needless to say, there wasn't a dry eye in the place. It's moments like these, the stories that will live forever, that are at the very heart of our mission. EVERY MEMBER MATTERS and PFC Jessica Lynch was not going to be left behind.



Submitted Photo: NC Skelley with Owen Blue of the Detachment of Minnesota

National Commander's Project: Remembering our POW/MIA's

Facebook.com: Iroquois West CUSD 10—
24 October 2026

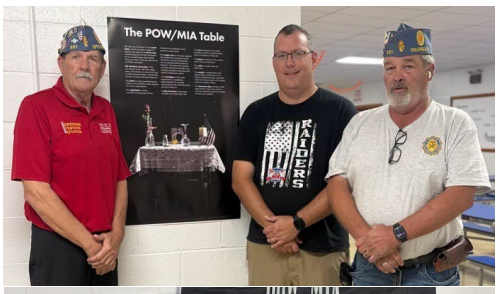
IL: Sons set up POW/MIA Tables and Posters Throughout Schools



Squadron 551 (Onarga, IL) are setting up POW/MIA remembrance tables in their school buildings as a meaningful way to educate students and staff about the brave Americans who served our country but never returned home.

These displays serve as a powerful reminder that behind every name is a story, a sacrifice, and a family that deserves to be remembered. The message of "You Are Not Forgotten" reminds us of our responsibility to honor those who remain missing and those who continue to wait for answers.

We are grateful for helping keep these stories alive and ensuring that future generations understand the sacrifices made in service to our nation.





Facebook: Pictured with IW Superintendent Trent Eshleman and Principals Heather Giles, Duane Ehmen, Andy Lindo, and Jim Harkins are Sons of the American Legion Andy Johnson, Tom Asay, and Lake Nichoalds.

OH: Sons place POW/MIA Poster at Loudonville Street Fair



Submitted Photo.

The Loudonville Street Fair was held in Loudonville, OH on 6-11 October.

On 7 October, the veterans were fed a free lunch of soup, sandwich, and dessert at Beano's Buckeye Ballroom from 11am to 3 pm. Pictured here from Loudon Squadron 257 is Richard "Legs" Zickefoose and Bill "Buster" Sutterlin with the POW-MIA Missing Man Table poster on display during the meal.

Jean "Max" Maxwell (TX), National Commander's Aide

TX: Sons place POW/MIA Poster at Local Restaurant



Submitted Photo: On Oct 12, 2026, National Commander's Aide Jean "Max" Maxwell placed this POW/MIA poster at BRene's Kitchen in Comfort, Texas. The young man pictured is the owners son Rhett, who is enlisting in the Marine Corps as a combat engineer in June 2027.







Nick Arceo (CO),
National Chaplain

Chaplain's Corner: Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on our blessings

Dear Comrades,

Has God been good to you?

As we celebrated Veterans Day this month, I hope it served as a reminder of your eligibility for the Sons of The American Legion. I encourage you to always keep the individual who earned your eligibility fresh in your mind. My eligibility comes through my father, a United States Army Veteran of World War II. Every time I volunteer, I think of him—God rest his soul.

With the holiday season approaching, please remember to "Be The One"—the person who checks on a veteran who might be alone. This can be a challenging time of year for some of our heroes. If you know a veteran who is hungry, isolated, or homeless, reaching out with a simple "buddy check" can make a meaningful difference. I pray that God opens doors for you this season to do what you do best: assist a veteran in need.

Thanksgiving is a time to gather with loved ones and reflect on our blessings. As Psalm 100:4-5 reminds us: "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

As we each enjoy being a part of a Thanksgiving celebration, remember that "every member matters." Don't forget to reach out to members in your Detachment and Squadrons.

Please join me in prayer:

Almighty God, creator of all that has been, that is, and is still to come, be with us as we move forward with your work on behalf of our Veterans. We ask for a special blessing on the newly elected National Leadership Team—Commander Jay Bowen, President Dr. Coral May Grout, and Commander Thom Skelley—as they travel across our country. Grant them traveling mercies, and may their audiences have open hearts and minds to receive the great principles of The American Legion. Bless our members as we celebrate the blessings that you have bestowed on us and give thanks this time of year. Keep our service members safe around the world as they protect our freedoms. All of this I ask "for God and Country," In your Holy Name Lord God we pray. Amen.

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Southeast:	George Gray (GA)
Central:	Phil Stander (IL)
Midwest:	Casey Hanson (SD)
Western:	Matt Griffis (AZ)

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Check your email inboxes for the SAL Newsletter / *Millennium* on the second Wednesday of the month (subject to change):



09 December 2026
13 January 2027
10 February 2027
10 March 2027



Spotted by a Son

In October's newsletter, we asked if you could find the image of the leaf. The Millennium went out on 14 October, and by 10:40am we had a winner…



Bryan Hine
Squadron 146,
Loretto, Tennessee

PNVC Hine is a 27-year member of the SAL, and has held every office on the Squadron level as well as District Commander, Division Commander and Detachment Commander for three years. He currently serves as Detachment Adjutant, as he has for the past five years), and is also the current NEC for a four year term. In the past, he has been Southeast Membership Chair (2024-25) and National Vice Commander (2025-2026).

His eligibility for membership in the SAL comes from his stepfather's service during the Vietnam War.

Mike Monserud Photo





Mike Monserud (IA), Leading Candidate for National Commander

"Deeds not Words"

Membership Through Mentorship has been and continues to be my theme. I don't just say what people want to say, I believe in the message and preach it to anyone who will listen. It is the only way we will move forward with new ideas and new members to carry on the Legacy of the Sons of The American Legion and also their Veteran that they gained their eligibility under.

In my home state of Iowa, we elected a new Detachment Commander at our summer Convention. His name is Glen Johnson, and he embodies the message of Membership Through Mentorship. He was sought out for Detachment Commander because he had the vision, leadership qualities and frankly a different outlook on things than a lot of people as he discussed how we can integrate social media into the heart of the organization.

Like most, Glen was not sure he had what it takes. This is where the Mentorship came in and we helped to get him all the information and knowledge that he needed to take the reins and lead the Detachment. He took off right away chartering a new Squadron; one of the new members whose name is Gryffin Dawson, an 8-year-old, joined the Squadron and Glen took him under his wing and now we have mentorship of a new member as he was brought to the National Convention and is now hooked. Gryffin took a picture with all except two Detachments at the National Convention. He has proceeded on doing a speech at his school telling them how important the Sons of The American Legion are and what the eligibility is and if they are eligible that they should join.

This is just one example of what can happen when you do what it takes to carry on the legacy of the Sons, and the honor your Veteran. Deeds not words get this done, and Glen and Gryffin are the examples on how it works. We can either sit at our Posts and wonder what to do, or you can get our and find someone who you believe has the intuition to be a leader. We owe it to all the ones who came before us and carry on.

I can sit here all day and name members who mentored me and still do and name the ones I have mentored, and that is why I believe in my theme so much. Their success is all I look for out of them as they take the reins and lead us into the future. As they stand on stage and lead us, I sit in the back of the room and smile, knowing that our future is standing up there and I had a little part in making sure our future is secure. That is what we all as Past Detachment Commanders, Chairman, National Vice Commanders, or Past National Commanders should be doing. Find that person who is new and sit with them, help them understand why are doing what we do, and tell them the Legacy of our great organization.

It is up to you, and up to me, so join me and help tomorrow leaders are given what they need to succeed.

MI: Grand Opening of Veterans Village

Submitted Photo



Southfield, MI: *Next to Frank Siller, Tunnel 2 Towers Chairman and CEO (far left) are Northville Squadron 147's Membership Chairman Carter Guider; Bart Heldke, Adjutant; and Bruce Palen, Squadron Commander. The squadron presented a donation towards the new 92 permanent housing units by T2T.*

Submitted by Sandy Lipman



Jeremy L. Mason (WI), Detachment Commander

Two Alumni, One Mission: Shaping Leaders of the SAL

There is a saying that has echoed through Badger Boys State for more than 85 years: "Investing in our youth for a stronger Wisconsin." For two consecutive Detachment Commanders of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin, those words are not a motto — they are the origin story of lives dedicated to service.

Allen Watry and Jeremy Mason, past and current Detachment Commanders of the SAL Detachment of Wisconsin, share something that goes deeper than their titles and their tenure. Both men are proud Badger Boys State alumni. Both were once seventeen-year-old young men sponsored by their local American Legion Posts to spend a week on a college campus — and both came home changed.

What Is Badger Boys State? Founded in 1939 and sponsored by The American Legion Department of Wisconsin, Badger Boys State is one of the nation's premier youth leadership and civic education programs. Held annually at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, it brings together more than 680 of



Facebook: American Legion Photo

Wisconsin's top high school students entering their senior year for a fully immersive week of citizenship, government, and leadership.

Participants don't just learn about government — they become it. Citizens campaign for office, cast votes, serve in legislative and executive roles, sit on courts, and debate public policy in a model that mirrors the real structure of Wisconsin's government. Since 1939, Badger Boys State alumni have gone on to become governors, judges, military officers, business executives, and community leaders — including two consecutive commanders of the SAL Detachment of Wisconsin.

Allen Watry — From Citizen to Commander. Allen Watry's roots in the American Legion Family run deep. A member of Squadron 38 in Appleton , Wisconsin, Allen rose through the ranks of the SAL — serving as Vice Commander before ultimately leading the Detachment of Wisconsin as its Commander. His passion for youth programs and civic engagement never faded after his own time at Badger Boys State — if anything, it grew.

In 2024, Allen had the honor of helping kick off Badger Boys State in person, standing on that same campus where his own civic journey began. For a man who had climbed every rung of SAL leadership, that moment carried a meaning that transcended rank. It was a circle completed — a Badger Boys State alumnus returning to remind the next generation that the week they were about to experience had the power to change everything.

As Detachment Commander, Allen also rode with the Legion Riders on the statewide "Be the One" ride, reflecting the same spirit of service and brotherhood that Badger Boys State first planted in him years before.

Allen continues to personally sponsor a citizen to join badger boys state every year!

Jeremy Mason — From Candidate to Commander. For Jeremy Mason, the path to leading more than 5,000 SAL members across 140 squadrons in 58 Wisconsin counties traces back to that same pivotal week. At seventeen years old, he was selected as a Badger Boys State candidate, sponsored by his local American Legion Post — and came home a different person.

"Badger Boys State didn't just teach me about government," Jeremy reflects. "It taught me that I had a responsibility to serve others in my community — and that one week gave me the confidence to do it."

An Eagle Scout who already understood the language of leadership, Jeremy built on that foundation through decades of service in the American Legion Family: Commander of Squadron 15 in Juneau, District 2 Commander, Detachment Vice Commander for Districts 2, 6, and 9 — and now Detachment Commander for 2026-2027. A graduate of UW-Milwaukee with a degree in Finance and Marketing and an MBA, Jeremy brings professional experience from GE and Wells Fargo to his volunteer leadership, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Dodge County Historical Society. He lives in Iron Ridge, Wisconsin, with his wife Kim and daughter Kira.

A Shared Mission: Find the Next One. What unites Allen and Jeremy — beyond their shared BBS alumni status and the command chair they have each occupied — is a conviction that the SAL's greatest responsibility may be one of its simplest: find the next young man, and sponsor him.

Jeremy has made it his signature goal for 2026-2027 to ensure that every SAL District in Wisconsin sponsors a high school student to Badger Boys State. The logic is straightforward and deeply personal for both men: if a sponsored week at BBS could set the course for two Detachment Commanders, imagine what it could do for the young men sitting in classrooms across Wisconsin right now — young men who just need someone to see their potential and open the door.

Allen's legacy — returning to campus in 2024 to help kick off the very program that shaped him — models exactly what Jeremy is asking every SAL District to do: show up, stay connected, and keep investing in Wisconsin's next generation of leaders.

You Can Be the One Who Sponsors the Next Leader. Every American Legion Post in Wisconsin has the opportunity to sponsor a young man to Badger Boys State. The SAL can — and should — be a champion of that process in every district across the state.

If your squadron or district is not yet involved in identifying and sponsoring a Badger Boys State candidate, the time to start is now. You may be opening the door for the next Detachment Commander — or the next Governor of Wisconsin.

Badger Boys State:
www.badgerboysstate.org

SAL Detachment of Wisconsin:
www.wisal.org

Contact Detachment Commander Jeremy Mason: commander@wisal.org

"Find the next one. Sponsor him. Then watch what happens."

Top Ten Detachments
2027 Membership Percentage

1.	Philippines	91.43%
2.	Hawaii	71.70%
3.	Louisiana	58.71%
4.	France	56.50%
5.	Georgia	52.23%
6.	Utah	50.22%
7.	Wisconsin	50.09%
8.	Puerto Rico	49.33%
9.	South Carolina	48.53%
10.	Idaho	46.59%

Statistics as of 08 November 2026

BE THE ONE



Casey Hansen (SD), National Vice Commander Midwest

More Then a Catch Phrase

We often hear the phrases "Be The One" and "Buddy Checks". These are more than just phrases, though. And when we hear these, we often think of contacting the members that we haven't seen or heard from in a while. This is true, we definitely need to be reaching out to those members and finding out why their absence has come, and then looking into what we can do to help them out. But many of us fail to realize, "Being The One" and "Buddy Checks" should also consist of those members who we see regularly. This organization is so powerful and means so much to quite a few members, that it is their escape from their personal drama or issues. These members find the good that we do within the organization as an outlet or relief to cope with the pains of somewhere else in their lives.



These members show up every meeting and act like everything is good, These members are volunteering at every event and working from start to finish. We easily overlook them because they are so engaged, not realizing they could be masking other issues with their dedication. I encourage each one of us to get to know our fellow squadron members. Be involved in their lives. If you get a chance to work alongside a member, one on one, just ask them how they are doing. You don't need to pry for information, but read their body language and answers. A short conversation can lead to an open tidal wave of information, and that member will be grateful that you took the time out to actually ask them how things are. While we all appreciate their dedication, we don't want any member to burn out from helping us, by avoiding any other issues they may be having. There may be things we can help that member out with, but they don't want to bother anyone and just get lost in their work. Now, don't get me wrong, we have many members who are dedicated to our organization and there is no other motive other than helping our veterans and children and youth. What I'm saying is, we often hear that this organization needs members. Let's not forget about those members that need this organization. This comes down to being a good human and a friend to all our members, and "Being The One" and "Buddy Checks" aren't just for the members we haven't heard from in a while. EVERY MEMBER MATTERS!



Bruno T. Williamson (IL), National VA & R Chairman

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Report

Hello, my brother Sons, your National VA&R Commission is at work promoting projects that support our veterans besides what is on the CSR form – Consolidated Squadron Report. And I will talk about the different projects throughout the year. But, let me first introduce your commission for this year and the regions they will be supporting. The Northeast Region is Peter DeAngelis (NY); Southeast Region is Eddy Seegar (TX); Central Region is Bill Sutterlin (OH); Midwest Region is Vice Chairman Todd Kabella (NE); & West Region is David Arend (MN). And our NEC Liaison's Steve Pintarich (CT); John Meecham (MT); Lee Preston (Fr); Charles Keith (WY), Consultants Jason Roberts (Ga). Chris Dannenmann (Wi), Ken Sutton (Ca) & our CONA Rep PNC Tommie Cisna & SALCA Rep PNC Chuck Gannon.

I want to Thank all of you for what you do for our Veterans, Active Duty, Guard & Reservists. We had a NEW high in reporting on last year's CSR form at just under 44%. For all VA&R projects SONS donated $3.0 million, & we had over 354,000 volunteer hours, which is equal to $12.87 million for a total of $15.87 million in donated money and hours. Amazing simply amazing work my brothers. And I simply cannot THANK YOU enough.

With Christmas fast approaching, the first project that I want to talk about is Wreaths Across America. The Wreaths Across America program is a heartfelt initiative dedicated to honoring, remembering & teaching about the sacrifices of our Nations Veterans. December 19th of this year, volunteers across the United States will come together to lay wreaths on the graves of fallen soldiers in national cemeteries in the U.S. and abroad. This act of remembrance not only pays tribute to those who have served but also educates the younger generations. This is a great project to include our young SONS & ALA Jrs. about the value of freedom and the cost at which it comes. The program began in 1992 when Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company, donated surplus wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery. Since then, it has grown into a nationwide movement, with ceremonies held at over 5,200 locations. For $17 you can sponsor a veteran's wreath, or you can sponsor a wreath for a loved one or friend & if you are participating in the event, you can lay the wreath yourself or a volunteer will do it the day of the event. I sponsored 2 wreaths, one for my father at the Florida National Cemetery & one for my father-in-law at the Illiana VA National Cemetery. The deadline to order Wreaths is December 1st. You can also purchase wreaths to lay at your local cemeteries. Their web site is: Wreathsacrossamerica.org. We Fly Flags for Hero's, lets Lay Wreaths for Hero's this Holiday season.



I am happy to share that SONS VAVS (veterans affairs volunteer service) Representation has grown to 57 VA facilities across the country, a testament to our commitment and collective effort. SONS Representation means our members are actively present and engaged at these VA locations, providing direct support, camaraderie, and advocacy for our veterans. This year, our goal is to expand our reach to 60 VA facilities, strengthening our ability to serve and make a lasting difference in the lives of those who have sacrificed for our nation. Every new location represents more veterans receiving the care, respect, and assistance they deserve. I encourage you to join this mission. My long-term goal for the SONS is to have 80 VAVS Representatives, which would make us a permanent member of the Executive board of the N.A.C. (national advisory committee), let's work together to achieve this milestone and amplify our impact for veterans in our VA system.

It is hard to believe, but the Holidays are fast approaching & let us not forgot our Veterans in our VA Hospitals, CLC's, Nursing Homes & civilian hospitals. But let us not forget those veterans who are in MMCHM & HUD/VASH & programs. Get involved with your ALA & help with the Christmas Gift Shop or Christmas wrap.

We still have a National VAR Facebook site; it is named SAL National VA & R. Let us see what you are doing for Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation!



Jason Miller (MD), Chair, Ntn'l Membership & Squadron Activities

Membership Is Everyone's Responsibility

As we approach the end of 2026, it's time to reflect on what makes the Sons of The American Legion so special: our commitment to veterans, dedication to our communities, and strength of our brotherhood. But that strength begins with each and every one of us!

IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP REMINDER: All 2026 membership cards expire December 31st! Don't wait until the last minute. Renewing for 2027 is quick and easy! Simply visit www.legion.org/sal-renew to renew your membership online, or renew through your squadron.

Membership is not simply about numbers or cards. Membership represents people who believe in our mission, honor our veterans, and carry forward their legacy.

Membership Is EVERYONE'S Responsibility! Membership growth and retention cannot fall solely on our commanders, adjutants, or membership chairmen. It takes all of us!

Think about the members you haven't seen lately. Have we reached out? Have we reminded them that THEY matter?

Pick up the phone. Send a text. Invite someone to a meeting, event, or volunteer opportunity. Sometimes one personal invitation is all it takes to reconnect a member with our mission.

Don't assume someone else has made that call. Be the one who reaches out!

Strong Squadrons Start With Engaged Members! Successful squadrons do more than maintain membership rosters. They create opportunities for fellowship, service, and involvement.

Are we holding meaningful meetings? Welcoming new ideas? Providing activities that bring members together? Every member should feel valued and have a reason to participate.

Consistent communication is essential. Our members shouldn't hear from us only when dues are due. Share accomplishments, upcoming events, and opportunities to serve. Whether through newsletters, emails, social media, or personal conversations, keep your members informed and connected.

Communication creates involvement. Involvement builds commitment. And commitment strengthens membership!

Our Accomplishments Tell an Incredible Story! According to our 2025–2026 Consolidated Squadron Reports, Sons of The American Legion members contributed over $16.1 million in donations and more than 8.1 million volunteer hours, representing a combined value exceeding $310 million!

Even more remarkable, these accomplishments were reported by fewer than half of our squadrons nationwide!

Behind these numbers are veterans receiving assistance, families finding support, children gaining opportunities, and communities growing stronger.

These aren't just statistics. This is our mission in action!

We have an incredible story to tell, and every member should know the difference their membership helps make possible.

Our Youth Are Our Future! If we want our organization to thrive for generations, we must engage our younger members TODAY!

Invite them to meetings, involve them in projects, encourage their ideas, and provide opportunities for leadership. Teach them our traditions while giving them a voice in shaping our future.

Don't just enroll our youth — ENGAGE THEM! The young member we mentor today could become tomorrow's squadron, detachment, or national leader.

Let's Finish 2026 Strong! Imagine the impact if every member reached out to just one fellow member and every squadron made a personal effort to reconnect with those who haven't renewed.

One phone call. One conversation. One invitation. One renewal.

Small actions, multiplied across our organization, can make an extraordinary difference.

Remember: Your 2026 membership expires December 31st! Renewing online is quick, easy, and convenient at www.legion.org/sal-renew. Encourage a fellow member to renew today!

And remember, our responsibility doesn't end with a renewal. It continues through meaningful engagement all year long.

OUR MEMBERS ARE OUR STRENGTH. OUR SQUADRONS ARE OUR FOUNDATION. OUR YOUTH ARE OUR FUTURE. AND OUR VETERANS ARE OUR WHY!

Let's finish 2026 strong, carry that momentum into 2027, and show America what the Sons of The American Legion can accomplish when we work together!



November gives us plenty of reasons to reflect on service and gratitude. Veterans Day reminds us to recognize those who have worn our nation's uniform, while Thanksgiving encourages us to appreciate the people and blessings that make our lives meaningful.

For Sons of The American Legion members, these observances are especially personal. Our eligibility comes through the military service of our ancestors. Their willingness to serve created a family legacy that we have the privilege of honoring today.

One way we honor that legacy is by keeping our own membership current. When you renew your dues, you help sustain the organization that gives us opportunities to serve veterans, support military families, and promote Americanism in our communities.

If you haven't renewed yet, why not take care of it before Thanksgiving? Better yet, reach out to a member who may have forgotten. A friendly reminder can make all the difference.

As the saying goes, "Gratitude is more than saying thank you; it's showing it through what we do."

Let's show our gratitude through service, fellowship, and commitment to our mission. Renew early, thank a veteran, and remember that the legacy we inherited is one worth passing on.



PNVC Harl "Butch" Ray (IL), Contributor to *The Millennium*

Butch's Bullet Points

Fellow Sons, November brings us one of the most meaningful observances on our calendar—Veterans Day. On November 11th, we honor the men and women who wore the uniform of our Armed Forces and answered the call to serve.

For those of us in the Sons of The American Legion, Veterans Day should be especially personal. After all, every one of us owes our eligibility for membership to the military service of someone else.

Their service gave us our eligibility. What we do with that eligibility is up to us.

And that brings me to something I'd like every member to think about this Veterans Day.

BULLET POINT #1: WHAT WAS YOUR PATHWAY TO SERVICE? We all have a story. What's yours?

Maybe you grew up around an American Legion Post, attending fish fries, pancake breakfasts, and holiday celebrations. Perhaps your father took you to your first Squadron meeting, or a friend invited you to join.

And let's be truthful—some of us may have joined because the Post had a pretty good Friday night fish fry! Nothing wrong with that, as long as we eventually discovered there's more to this organization than the menu!

But somewhere along the way, something changed.

We began to understand the mission. We saw veterans who needed help, young people who needed encouragement, and communities that received help from our efforts. What began as membership became a commitment.

So, ask yourself: What brought me here? And more importantly, what keeps me here?

Understanding that pathway can help you discover your WHY.

BULLET POINT #2: SERVICE IS LOVE IN ACTION. We often hear people say they love their country, respect our veterans, and believe in helping others. Those are wonderful sentiments, but words alone don't accomplish very much.

I've always believed that service is simply love in action.

It's easy to say, "Thank you for your service." And we absolutely should. But what happens after we say those words?

Do we visit a lonely veteran? Help a military family facing difficult times? Support programs for children and youth? Place flags on graves or teach the next generation the meaning of service and sacrifice?

That's love in action. It's taking the gratitude we feel in our hearts and putting it to work with our hands.

And it doesn't always require a big event or a large donation. Sometimes the most meaningful service is a phone call, a handshake, or simply taking the time to listen.

We don't honor our veterans only by remembering what they did. We honor them by showing what their service continues to inspire us to do.

That's how gratitude becomes an action.

BULLET POINT #3: WHAT'S YOUR WHY? SHARE YOUR STORY! Now, here's where I'd like you to do a little soul-searching.

Why are you a Son of The American Legion?

Not why you originally signed the application or because your dues are paid, and you have a Squadron cap hanging by the door.

I'm asking why you choose to remain involved.

What motivates you to give your time, share your talents, and occasionally spend another Saturday working at an event where you could be relaxing at home?

And don't tell me it's because you love attending meetings. I've attended enough meetings to know better!

Seriously, though, your WHY is the reason behind your commitment.

For some, it's honoring a father or grandfather who served. For others, it's helping veterans, working with young people, or preserving the patriotic traditions that helped shape our nation.

There is no single correct answer. But knowing your WHY gives purpose to your service, especially when the work seems endless; the volunteers are few, and the coffee has gone cold!

Here's an opportunity to share that purpose.

The American Legion has launched an initiative called "SAL: Share Your Why," encouraging members to tell their stories through a short video recording.

They want to know why you joined, what makes your Squadron special, and what makes you proud to be a Son.

You don't need to be a National Commander, Detachment officer, or professional speaker. You just need a story and every one of us has one!

Visit the official American Legion website to learn how to take part:

SAL: SHARE YOUR WHY https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/sons/2026/february/sal-share-your-why

Take a few minutes to think about your answers, then speak from the heart. Don't worry about sounding like a professional. Sincerity means far more than a rehearsed speech.

And if you're worried about appearing on camera, remember that most of us have already survived having our pictures taken at a Squadron banquet!

Don't underestimate the power of your WHY. Someone else may need to hear it.

BULLET POINT #4: WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE? We often speak about the legacy of the veterans who made our membership possible. But have you considered the legacy you're creating?

Someday, someone may look back at your years as a Son and remember the difference you made.

Will they remember someone who showed up when help was needed? Someone who welcomed new members, mentored future leaders, or made veterans feel appreciated?

Or will they simply remember that you always had an opinion about how things should be done?

Now, opinions are important. But as I've said before, there's a big difference between being a Commander and being a demander!

Legacy isn't measured by titles, awards, or

Continued on Page 10>>>

Butch's Bullet Points:

Continued from Page 9>>>

the number of meetings we've attended. It's measured by the lives we've touched and the good we've left behind.

Our veterans gave us a legacy of service. We have the opportunity and I believe the responsibility to build upon it.

Their service is part of our history. Our service can become part of someone else's future.

That's a legacy worth working toward.

THE BOTTOM LINE: HONOR THEM BY HOW WE LIVE AND SERVE. This Veterans Day, I challenge every SAL member to do three things.

First, remember your veteran. If they're still with us, thank them and listen to their stories. If they've passed on, share their memories with someone else.

Second, discover and share your WHY. Think about what brought you to the Sons, what keeps you involved, and the legacy you hope to leave. Then visit the SAL website and record your story.

Third, put your gratitude into action. Find one meaningful way to serve a veteran, strengthen your Squadron, or help your community.

Our theme this year is "Every Member Matters." Veterans Day reminds us why.

Every member stands for a connection to military service. Every member carries a story worth telling. And every member has an opportunity to turn gratitude into something meaningful.

We didn't earn our eligibility through our own military service. We inherited that privilege through the service of others.

But we honor that privilege through the lives we lead, the people we help, and the service we give.

So, Fellow Sons, this Veterans Day, let's do more than say thank you. Let's show our veterans that their service still matters and that their legacy lives through us.

After all, love isn't just something we say. It's something we do.

That's Love in Action.

That's our WHY.

And that's what it means to be a Son of The American Legion.

Every Member Matters! Show Up! Serve Boldly!

SD: Sons "Rake the Town"

Members of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 15 (Sioux Falls, SD) were proud to participate in Rake the Town, helping two local families with their fall leaf cleanup!

As Sons, we honor the service and sacrifices of our fathers and grandfathers by carrying forward their legacy of service and the spirit of Americanism. Whether through big efforts or small acts of kindness, we believe serving our country also means serving our neighbors and strengthening our local community. We're grateful for the opportunity to lend a hand today and put those values into action!



Facebook Photo

Facebook.com: Brian C. Peters (IL-1019)
—06 October 2026

IL: A Proud Moment for the Aroma Park Sons

We at the Aroma Park American Legion Post 1019 are proud to announce that the Sons of the American Legion Post 1019 was honored this afternoon by the American Legion Department of Illinois as the 2025–2026 District 18 Squadron of the Year!

This award recognizes the outstanding leadership, service, and professional integrity demonstrated by our Sons of the American Legion members in support of our community, our State, and our Nation.

We are incredibly proud of the work this Squadron continues to do, not only supporting Aroma Park American Legion Post 1019, but also giving back to our community, supporting veterans and their families, and carrying forward the values and traditions of the American Legion.



Accepting the award on behalf of Aroma Park Sons of the American Legion 1019 is SAL Commander Corey Pasel.

The award was proudly presented this afternoon by District 18 Sons of the American Legion Commander Tom Asay.

This recognition belongs to every member of SAL Post 1019 who has volunteered their time, donated their resources, rolled up their sleeves, and helped make a difference in this community.

Congratulations to Commander Corey Pasel and the entire SAL TEAM!

2025–2026 District 18 Squadron of the Year, Sons of the American Legion – Aroma Park Squadron 1019

Serving Our Veterans. Supporting Our Community. Honoring Our Nation.

WHY I STAY
BECAUSE THE MISSION MATTERS.



MORE THAN A CARD...
It's a connection to service, camaraderie, community, and a mission that continues today.

HONOR A LEGACY
Continue the service and sacrifice of a parent, grandparent, step-parent, great-grandparent, or adopted parent who served.

BELONG TO A BROTHERHOOD
Be part of a family that shares your values, patriotism, and commitment to veterans.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
Support veterans, military families, children and youth, scholarships, Americanism, and local community programs.

HAVE A VOICE
Help shape the future and keep the mission of the Sons of The American Legion strong for the next generation.

OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT
During the 2025–2026 reporting year, SAL members demonstrated the reach of our mission nationwide.

$16.1 MILLION	8.1 MILLION	$310 MILLION	2,526 SQUADRONS REPORTING
IN DONATIONS	VOLUNTEER HOURS	TOTAL VALUE	(Fewer than half nationwide)

LIFE GETS BUSY. YOU STILL BELONG.
You do not need to attend every meeting or volunteer every week to remain an important part of the SAL. There are many ways to contribute – and every one of them helps!

DEC 31

IMPORTANT REMINDER: ALL 2026 MEMBERSHIP CARDS EXPIRE DECEMBER 31ST!

RENEW TODAY!
It's Quick, Easy and Convenient!
legion.org/sal-renew





Sons of American Legion-Detachment of New York-Fall Detachment Executive Committee Meeting-Norwich, NY.



Members & Friends of the Pennsylvania District 12 Sons of the American Legion who participated in our semi-annual litter clean up along a section of Rt.11 in Edwardsville on 10/25/26. Thanks to the West Side Regional Police, & Larksville Fire & Ambulance Dept. for their Help in traffic control. Also Thanks to Casella (WWW.Casella.com) for waste disposal of the roadside garbage that was collected. Thank-You to Squadron #350 Nanticoke/SAL Commander John Coledo for the coffee & Donuts, District 12 American Legion Commander Charlie Stockage and D-12 A.L. Vice Commander Mark Price for the Clean up road/yard signs .



20026-2027 Squadron 44 Officers being installed (Northumberland, PA).



Squadron 57 (Fairbanks, AK) making a donation to their Auxiliary President's Project, the Honor Flight!



The Detachment of New York beginning to hand out checks from their Annual Walk-a-thon.



Post 65 Fugel Hummer Commander Walter Zjawin presented Squadron 65 (Metuchen, NJ) members with Certificates of Appreciation for their dedicated support of their Post.

Below: Some of the membership from the Post 1582 Family (Canasaraga, NY) took a trip to Bath to visit the VA and presented them with proceeds from their PTSD event totaling $9,800.







SAL Squadron 535 (Belleville, OH) Finance Officer Craig Smith and 1st Vice Commander Rocky Conrad present to Richland County Honor Bus Treasurer Larry Moore a $1,500 check with monies raised at the Spanky Memorial Golf Outing held earlier this year. (Legiontown, USA Photo).



Above and below: Legion Post Commander Jim Kotts and fellow members and volunteers of Post 690 saying bye to our veterans. Every year Squadron 690 (Paletine, IL) has veterans from Hines VA Hospital, Blind Rehabilitation Center come out for dinner and bingo fun. It's their way of saying thank you. Special thanks to the crochet club who donated socks, T-shirts, and many other items to the veterans.





Squadron 264 (Glenville, MN) donated $500 to the Glenville Fire Department during their breakfast fundraiser.



Squadron 49 (Warsaw, IN) presented Liberty Sewing Circle with a $250 check to go toward the purchase of supplies that the sewing group will use to honor local veterans. The sewing circle regularly creates Threads of Valor quilts that are presented to Kosciusko County veterans. Individuals present for the donation included Sons of the American Legion members Kirby LeMond and Noble Pulsipher, and Liberty Sewing Circle members Marsha Huffman, Diane Hochstetler, Cookie Hartman and Shirley Kuhn.



The Ambrose Revels Sons of The American Legion Squadron 328 (Archibald, PA) is at Bozak's Meats on the Burke Bypass selling raffle tickets.



SAL Squadron 162's Pig Roast (Lorton, VA), skillfully organized by SAL Commander Robert Hicks. Great food and college football made the day even better. Another outstanding Post event hosted by their Legion Family.



Thom Skelley (TX),
SAL National Commander

National Commander's Challenge: Four Pillar Squadron Award

Sons of The American Legion,

As we start the 2026-2027 membership year, it is imperative that we support the Four Pillars of The American Legion.

The American Legion was founded on the principles of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children & Youth, and National Security and it is our responsibility to support these programs. I am proud to continue the National Commander's Challenge; encouraging every Squadron to support the Four Pillars and earn recognition as a National Four Pillar Squadron.

Participation is simple. Each Squadron is encouraged to complete one or more tasks in each of the Four Pillars:

Children & Youth: Donate $1 per Squadron capita to Child Well-Being Foundation (CWF) and/or Children's Organ Transplant Association COTA

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation: Donate $1 per Squadron capita to Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW)

Americanism: Host a Flag Education Program

National Security: Host a Blood Drive and/or Donate to the Local American Red Cross and/or Donate to the National Emergency Fund

After completion submit the Four Pillar Squadron Award Form (on the following page) to National Headquarters. Once processed, the Squadron will receive a National Four Pillar Squadron Citation. With planning and teamwork, this is an achievable goal for every Squadron.

Sons are born, members are made…Making A Difference Everyday.

"EVERY MEMBER MATTERS"

400,000 Members …
… 400,000 Stories.

SHARE YOUR WHY

SAL members can briefly share why they joined, what makes their squadron unique, and what makes them proud to be a Son.

CLICK TO TELL YOUR STORY.

myLEGION.ORG TRAINING VIDEO SERIES

Learn the ins-and-outs of the myLegion platform, and how it can help you and your Sons manage membership in these videos produced by National Headquarters.

https://vimeo.com/showcase/8339635

Expand your knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization online!
Take The American Legion Extension Institute's Basic Training Course
https://register.legion.org/alei

National Sons of The American Legion

Americanism Commission

https://www.facebook.com/SonsAmericanism



BOYS TOWN NATIONAL HOTLINE®
Reach Out and Get Help
BOYS TOWN
800-448-3000
Text VOICE to 20121
24/7 | CONFIDENTIAL | CARING PROFESSIONALS

TOP NEWS

KANSAS CITY NATIONAL YOUTH ACADEMY PLANNING IS IN FULL SWING.
Suggestions welcome!

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER: RICHARD EVANS (PA) AND CONSULTANT: DAN WYATT (SD)

MAKE PLANS NOW TO GET A YOUTH VICTORY GARDEN STARTED THIS SPRING.
The committee is eager to provide any guidance you may need.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Commander's Challenge: Four Pillar Squadron Award

CHILDREN AND YOUTH (C&Y)

Donate $1.00 for the Squadron's current membership for Child Well-Being Foundation (CWF) or to Children's Organ Transplant Association COTA.

[include donation check with this form]

Make check payable to: The American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation
Check # _____ Amount: $_____

Children's Organ Transplant Association
Check # _____ Amount: $_____

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION (VA&R)

Donate $1.00 for the Squadron's current membership for Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW).

[include donation check with this form]

Make check payable to: The American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors
Check # _____ Amount: $ _____

AMERICANISM

☐ Host a Flag Education/Etiquette Program

NATIONAL SECURITY

Host a blood drive or donate $1.00 per capita to the American Red Cross or The National Emergency Fund. *Check one or more boxes below to certify*.

[Please do not send payment to National Headquarters]

Option 1: ☐ Blood drive held locally on _____
Date Format: mm/dd/yyyy - select from above box

Option 2: ☐ Donation made to the local American Red Cross.

Option 3: ☐ Donation made to Nation Emergency Fund.

The below section to be completed by the squadron authorized representative:

Detachment: _____ Squadron No. _____ Date: _____
Date Format: mm/dd/yyyy

Submitted by: _____ Title: _____
Type First and Last Name to serve as digital signature

Return award form and applicable donation checks to:

The American Legion
Attn: SAL Awards
700 N. Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Questions: email SALawards@legion.org



Jean "Max" Maxwell (TX),
National Commander's Aide

TX: Touring Camp Hope

PNC Kevin Winklemann and I recently toured a facility dedicated to helping Veterans suffering from PTSD. The facility called Camp Hope is the only one in the US. That actually houses and treats PTSD for Veterans. The program is 6 to 9 months depending on the success of each individual. There are 4 stages. Entry level is Black Phase, as progression is made Red Phase is next, Yellow Phase after that. Graduation is Green Phase. There are some Veterans that have stayed on with the Foundation and work on campus. Some companies have come in and hired some of them. We were told by Christy our tour guide that Veterans come from all over the Country. Rehabilitation is tough. There is alcoholism, drug abuse, homelessness and some uneasiness. Some leave never to return, others return to finally complete the program. One cannot leave and return multiple times. An evaluation and waiting period are sometimes used to make sure it's not a waste of time. Donations to this effort are made by organizations, businesses, and individuals.

There is a dining hall/church where meals and services are held. A gym that was donated by a local restaurant owner. Activities and visitation by families are key to the success of this program. Christy gave a very heartfelt story of her own. Her now husband came back from Afghanistan and he appeared to be functional. It didn't take long for him to fall into the drinking and drug use and finally homelessness. Her perseverance, resilience, and unconditional love and support got him to agree to go through the program. Her story brought Kevin and I to the realization that Camp Hope is not to be ignored by The Sons of The American Legion. Our Detachment goal is to form a budget line item to donate yearly and whatever else we can do.

There is a BBQ cookoff competition in November. This is where Christy volunteered to give back to the Camp. She eventually was approached to work for the Foundation. The Sons are sponsoring 2 teams as of now. There are PTSD Foundations in other states. I urge us all to find them and take a tour. A worthy cause for sure. Website is https://ptsdusa.org/camp-hope/.

CAMP HOPE
A PTSD FOUNDATION OF AMERICA OUTREACH



Kevin Winklemann Photo

QUICK LINKS »

Access Essential Resources Instantly

Compiled by Kevin Chaplin (VA), National Media and Communications Chairman

SAL National Web Site
https://www.legion.org/sons

SAL Facebook Page
https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionsons

SAL Share Your Why
https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/sons/2026/february/sal-share-your-why

Media Tool Kit
https://www.legion.org/information-center/in-the-media/publications/media-communications

Publications and Forms (SDR, Handbook, Awards and much more)
https://www.legion.org/about/american-legion-family/sons-of-the-american-legion/publications-and-forms

Be The One
https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one

Voter Voice Action Center
https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home

Membership Reports
https://www.legion.org/member-services/membership-standings

Training
https://www.legion.org/information-center/training

Future Meetings
https://www.legion.org/about/american-legion-family/sons-of-the-american-legion/sons-of-the-american-legion-meetings

SAL Recruitment Video
https://vimeo.com/914940546

Subscribe to Newsletters (requires signing into MyLegion.org)
https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/My-Account/Opt-In-Out

Newsletter Digital Archives
https://www.legion.org/library/258352/50-years-sons-american-legion-newsletters-now-available



Mike Pook (WI),
Contributor to *The Millennium*

The History Year Book

As someone who loves documenting moments in time, I can't remember going with out my cell phone or camera. I enjoy photographing people to capture the feeling, place and moment so I can relive it over and over. However, as much as I love photographing others, it's always nice to have a photo book that shows off your work all in place.

Often, pictures are staged, such as a group photo, a check presentation or flipping burgers. Instead staging a shot or trying to capture one specific shot, we need to step back and watch the subject through the lens. Don't be afraid more to take more than one shot as the act comes to life. Often action shots tell a better story. It is easy to take pictures of people doing things when they are doing activities.

Think through the activities and how they support the American Legion's mission. Look within the activity itself for members who are participating in the said activity and how the are interacting with others. In capturing those moments, move around and try taking pictures in different angles than at your eye level. This helps to make the pictures more interesting. When ever possible, get the name of the people in the pictures so you can label them later.

When creating your Squadron's History Year Book, the Historian should follow the suggested guidelines as put out by the National History Book competition rules. This will help you format your book After the introduction, listing of officers, committee chairs, awards received and written history, the book goes in chorological order from election to election, as your time frame. Although adjustment may need to be made when you publish your History Year Book, as the judging of History Year Books takes place at the National Convention each August.



Editor's Photo

It is the National Historian with help from the National Americanism Committee that over sees and assists in the Judging of History Year Books submitted. There is a worksheet that the Judges use to grade each yearbook. Points are given according how close each criteria matches the book. Then the points are added up and the books with the highest point total wins! Often these books are within a few points of each other, but one book has to be the first-place winner!

At the 2026, Sons of the American Legion, National Convention in Louisville, Ky, Squadron 375 from the Detachment of Wisconsin won top honors as the best History Year Book. Congratulations to all the submissions on a job well done.





Greg Shaffer (NJ),
National COTA Liasson

COTA Corner

The Children's Organ Transplant Association has been around for 40 years.

Why COTA,

- **A lifetime journey begins when a family partners with COTA. Funds raised by are available for transplant-related expenses. This also includes expenses incurred from other related diagnoses. For a lifetime.**
- **COTA does not charge for any services. 100% of funds raised in honor of patients are available for transplant-related expenses.**
- **COTA has four decades of experience and has the expertise to help volunteers be successful. COTA provides ongoing support to volunteers and patient families.**
- **COTA is a national, nonprofit organization and is responsible for fundraising campaign oversight, and serves as owner and administrator of all funds raised.**
- **Families are not taxed on these funds because COTA is the owner and administrator for all funds.**
- **COTA is the largest national fundraising organization solely dedicated to assisting and supporting transplant families.**

How to get started:

- **Call, 800-366-2682**
- **Web Site, cota.org/about/the-cota-model – click Get Started Today**
- **Talk with a member of the COTA team.**
- **Submit the patient information form.**
- **COTA will connect with your volunteer.**
- **Receive a personalized orientation.**

Each journey is unique. COTA considers the variables of life when supporting transplant families. From the initial conversation, to individual fundraising goals, to one-on-one patient/caregiver orientations, COTA understands that 'One Size' does not fit all.

I may be reached at shiftyshaff@gmail.com.

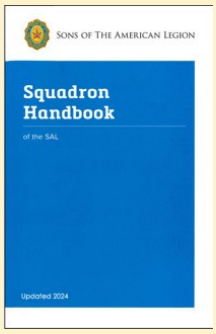






Mike Pook (WI), Staff
Contributor *The Millennium*

"Mentoring Moments"



The Squadron handbook, has lots of useful information within its pages. All Squadron officers and new members should be given a handbook to read up on. There is a general meeting script to follow for Squadron First Vice to follow when the squadron commander is absent with his meeting outline script.

Download it here.



2026-27 Membership Target Dates

December 9, 2026	55%
January 13, 2027	65%
February 10, 2027	85%
March 10, 2027	90%
April 14, 2027	95%
May 12, 2027	100%
July 29, 2027*	105%

*** DELEGATE STRENGTH TARGET DATE - 30 DAYS PRIOR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION**

Sons of The American Legion 2025-2026 Accomplishments

Consolidated Reports Summary
Published: September 16, 2026

National Overal Totals	
Dollars Donated	$16,138,489
Hours Volunteered	8,152,287
Value of One Vol. Hour*	$36.14
Volunteer Hours Value	$294,623,661
Total Volunteer Value	$310,762,151

*As reported by Independent Sector in April 2026 .

Pillar	Donations	Hours	Hours Value*
Americanism	$6,803,326	6,816,388	$246,344,279
Children & Youth	$2,837,207	224,902	$8,127,940
Vets Affairs & Rehab.	$3,082,814	354,491	$12,811,307
Vets Employ. & Edu.	$159,405	33,515	$1,211,214
Internal Affairs	$3,255,738	722,992	$26,128,922

Americanism

Boys State / Girls State	$368,467	in Donations to Boys State / Girls State
	with 57,546	Hours of Participation
Legion Education	$16,785	in Donations to 5-Star / 10-Ideals Ed. Programs
	with 5,510	Hours of Participation
Flags Presented	$258,474	in Donations to Flags Presented (All)
	with 1,247,167	Hours of Participation
	342,912	Flags Presented (All Sizes and Events)
Flag Education	$45,819	in Donations to Flag Education Programs
	with 28,326	Hours of Participation
Scholarships / Ed. Programs	$1,448,711	in Donations to Scholarships Awarded
	with 22,127	Hours of Participation
Oratorical Contest	$21,870	in Donations to Oratorical Contest
	with 6,466	Hours of Participation
Color Guards	$290,019	in Donations to Color Guards
	with 116,984	Hours of Participation
Other Orgs. / Comm. Svc.	$1,894,935	in Donations to Other Organizations
	with 4,186,192	Hours of Participation
Scouting	$188,848	in Donations to Scouting
	with 45,099	Hours of Participation
Jr. Shooting Sports	$58,415	in Donations to Junior Shooting Sports
	with 12,351	Hours of Participation
Am. Legion Baseball	$323,213	in Donations to American Legion Baseball
	with 48,072	Hours of Participation
Other Teams Sponsored	$419,405	in Donations to Other Teams Sponsored
	with 24,842	Hours of Participation
Blood Drives	$25,596	in Donations to Blood Drives
	with 13,373	Hours of Participation
N.E.F.	$85,258	in Donations to National Emergency Fund
	with 3,222	Hours of Participation
Legacy Fund	$66,965	in Donations to Legacy Scholarship Fund
	with 181,891	Hours of Participation
Other Amer. Projects	$1,290,546	in Donations to Other Americanism Projects
	with 817,222	Hours of Participation

Internal Affairs

Other Totals	$3,255,738	in Donations, Not Covered Above
	with 722,992	Hours of Participation

Children and Youth

C.W.F.	$324,557	in Donations to Child Well-Being Foundation
	with 18,831	Hours of Participation
Special Olympics	$760,736	in Donations to Special Olympics
	with 15,675	Hours of Participation
C.M.N.	$56,254	in Donations to Children's Miracle Network
	with 2,612	Hours of Participation
R.M.H.	$214,790	in Donations to Ronald McDonald House
	with 17,237	Hours of Participation
C.O.T.A.	$154,965	in Donations to Children's Organ Transplant Assn.
	with 17,884	Hours of Participation
V.C.F.	$93,604	in Donations to Veterans & Children Foundation
	with 14,741	Hours of Participation
Other C&Y Projects	$1,232,301	in Donations to Other Children & Youth Projects
	with 137,922	Hours of Participation

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

V.A.M.C.s & Facilities	$336,653	in Donations to V.A.M.C.'s & Facilities
	with 52,038	Hours of Participation
State Vets Facilities	$228,628	in Donations to State Veterans Facilities
	with 23,560	Hours of Participation
Nat'l Vets Assist Day	$17,722	in Donations to National Veternas Assistance Day
	with 4,340	Hours of Participation
O.C.W.	$74,197	in Donations to Operation Comfort Warriors
	with 4,170	Hours of Participation
Fisher House	$609,952	in Donations to Fisher House
	with 5,081	Hours of Participation
Other VA&R Projects	$1,042,496	in Donations to Other Vets Affairs & Rehab Projects
	with 152,926	Hours of Participation
Homeless Veterans	$388,199	in Donations to Homeless Veterans
	with 37,473	Hours of Participation
Troop & Family Support	$384,967	in Donations to Troop & Family Support
	with 74,904	Hours of Participation

Veterans Employment and Education

VE&E Projects	$159,405	in Donations to Vets Employ. & Ed. Projects
	with 33,515	Hours of Participation
Homeless Veterans	$0	in Donations to Homeless Veterans
	with 0	Hours of Participation

Org. Level	Total	Rpts.	Rate
Detachments	55	7	12.73%
Districts	614	3	0.49%
Squadrons	5,770	2,526	43.78%

Pillar	Amer.	C&Y	VA&R	VE&E	I/A
Reports	2,170	1,314	1,314	162	1,314
Rate	85.91%	52.02%	52.02%	6.41%	52.02%
Mbrs. Goal: 409,244	Pd. 404,260	98.78%	Renew. 87.89%		

The Vermont Journal—*31 October 2026*

VT: 22nd annual SAL Golf Tournament a success

Rain could not dampen the spirits of the 84 golfers who came out to support the 22nd annual Sons of the American Legion Squadron 36 Golf Tournament on Sunday, Sept. 13. The overall winners, shooting a 12-under-par score of 60, consisted of the team of Joel Lombard, Jake Lombard, Kurt Lombard, and Troy Adams. Second place went to the team of John Taylor Jr., Seth Mailhiot, and Tory Surething, shooting 61. Rounding out the top three, with a score of 64, was the team of Tom Hyjek, Mike Hyjek, Mike Martin, and Woody Rodriques.

This tournament was a fundraiser to support local veterans and children. With the support of all the players and local sponsors, the Sons of the American Legion can donate to these worthy causes. Other tournament winners were closest to the pin for the men, Rob Shortsleeve; closest to the pin for the women, Jody Matthews; and the closet to the line, Rich Grant, with his shot landing on the line.

The Sons would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make this tournament possible, especially Mark and Beth Lombard and Becky Parker, who served a fabulous lunch for all the players. They would also like to thank the staff at Killington Golf Course, who do a fabulous job.



Photo Submitted to the Vermont Journal: The winning team of, left to right, Troy Adams, Jake Lombard, Joel Lombard, and Kurt Lombard.

Facebook.com—*02 November 2026*

ME: Sons host Pig Roast and Corn Hole Tournament

On Saturday 24 October, SAL Squadron 158 (Lisbon, ME) hosted a pig roast and corn hole tournament. Brandt and Brandon - with help from Margaret, Scot, Erik and Eric - prepared and served delicious pork, brisket, Cole slaw, corn bread and cookies to our post family and guests. Then 14 well fed folks enjoyed some gorgeous fall weather as they tossed bean bags through the air. Dennis and Margaret took first place in our double elimination corn hole tournament. Congratulations!! And thanks again to all those who made this fun day



Facebook Photo: American Legion Post 158

MD: Squadron Donates to America's Warriors Care Package Projects



A huge thank you and shout out goes to the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 31 (Westminster, MD) for the amazingly generous donation to America's Warriors Care Package Projects. This is going to help us send a ton of care packages to our deployed military. The check was presented by SAL Squadron Commander Denny Bowers and Finance Officer Bob Hyser. Accepting the check are AWCPP team members who also belong to Carroll Post 31, The American Legion, Westminster MD, Veteran Tom Reese, SAL Squadron 31 member Chuck DeKett and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 31 Westminster MD members Dawn Rose Geigan, Deanna Utermahlen, Deborah Nocar-Franck, Helen DeKett - Ranke, Jeannie Geigan, Jeannie Hartzler, and Sally Rose.

We have lots of care packages to send to make the holidays brighter including to some contacts which came through the Post. We are honored to give back to those who serve and are thrilled to have SAL Squadron 31 join our efforts.

Facebook.com: The Otis Sampson American Legion Post 59 —*29 October 2026*

WI: A Look Back at Post 59 History: The Sons of the American Legion

When we talk about the history of American Legion Post 59 in Stoughton, Wisconsin, we often focus on the veterans who have served our Post throughout the years. But there is another important part of our history that deserves recognition: the Sons of the American Legion (SAL), Otis Sampson Squadron No. 59.

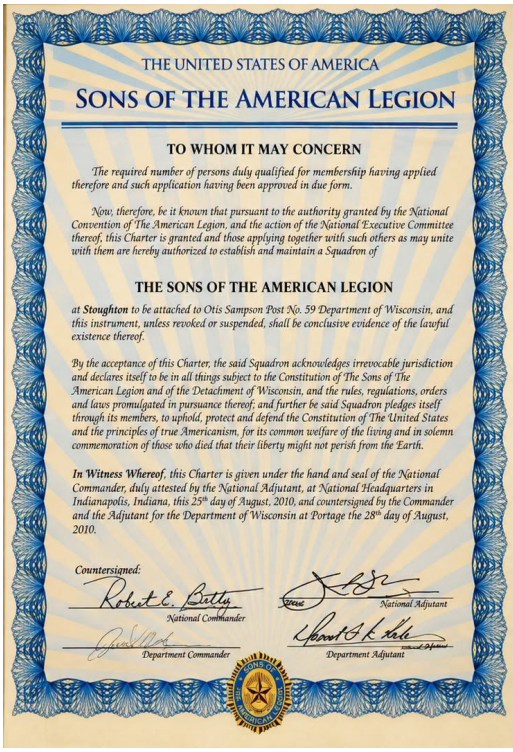
The Sons of the American Legion is an organization made up of eligible male descendants of veterans who served our country. Its members carry forward the traditions of service, patriotism, and community involvement established by The American Legion.

As these photographs show, Squadron 59 has its own proud history. Our original charter, dated August 25, 2010, and the accompanying charter membership roll preserve the names of the individuals who helped establish the Squadron here in Stoughton.

One interesting part of our Squadron's history is that, since its founding, we have had just four commanders:

- Ray Dziociol – Founding Commander
- Jeff Gassen
- Dean Stenjem
- Bob Hocking – Current Commander

Each of these individuals has played a role in carrying the Squadron forward and helping maintain its connection to American Legion Post 59.



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The required number of persons duly qualified for membership having applied therefore and such application having been approved in due form.

Now, therefore, be it known that pursuant to the authority granted by the National Convention of The American Legion, and the action of the National Executive Committee thereof, this Charter is granted and those applying together with such others as may unite with them are hereby authorized to establish and maintain a Squadron of

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

at **Stoughton** to be attached to Otis Sampson Post No. 59 Department of Wisconsin, and this instrument, unless revoked or suspended, shall be conclusive evidence of the lawful existence thereof.

By the acceptance of this Charter, the said Squadron acknowledges irrevocable jurisdiction and declares itself to be in all things subject to the Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion and of the Detachment of Wisconsin, and the rules, regulations, orders and laws promulgated in pursuance thereof; and further be said Squadron pledges itself through its members, to uphold, protect and defend the Constitution of The United States and the principles of true Americanism, for its common welfare of the living and in solemn commemoration of those who died that their liberty might not perish from the Earth.

In Witness Whereof, this Charter is given under the hand and seal of the National Commander, duly attested by the National Adjutant, at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, this 25th day of August, 2010, and countersigned by the Commander and the Adjutant for the Department of Wisconsin at Portage the 28th day of August, 2010.

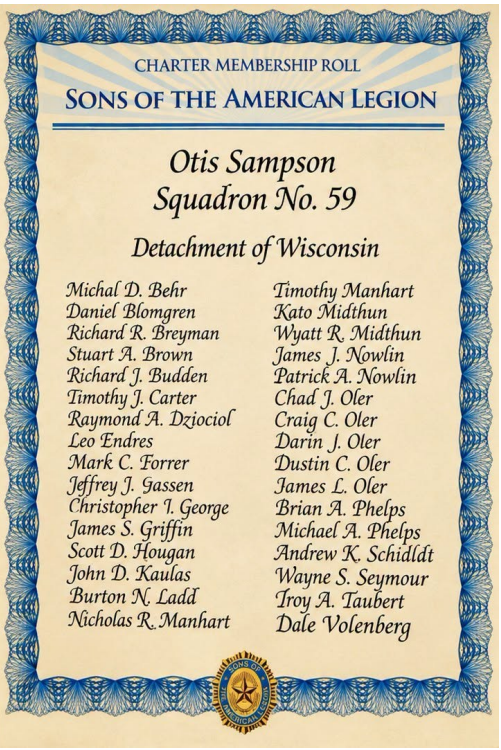
Countersigned:

Robert E. Batty
National Commander

National Adjutant

Department Commander

Department Adjutant



CHARTER MEMBERSHIP ROLL

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Otis Sampson
Squadron No. 59

Detachment of Wisconsin

Michal D. Behr
Daniel Blomgren
Richard R. Breyman
Stuart A. Brown
Richard J. Budden
Timothy J. Carter
Raymond A. Dziociol
Leo Endres
Mark C. Forrer
Jeffrey J. Gassen
Christopher T. George
James S. Griffin
Scott D. Hougan
John D. Kaulas
Burton N. Ladd
Nicholas R. Manhart
Timothy Manhart
Kato Midthun
Wyatt R. Midthun
James J. Nowlin
Patrick A. Nowlin
Chad J. Oler
Craig C. Oler
Darin J. Oler
Dustin C. Oler
James L. Oler
Brian A. Phelps
Michael A. Phelps
Andrew K. Schildlt
Wayne S. Seymour
Troy A. Taubert
Dale Volenberg

While SAL members may not have served in the military themselves, they honor the service and sacrifices of their parents, grandparents, and other eligible ancestors through their continued support of veterans, military families, and our community.

Whether helping with Post activities, volunteering their time, supporting fundraising efforts, or simply lending a hand when something needs to be done, the Sons of the American Legion remain an important part of the Post 59 family.

These two framed documents are more than certificates hanging on a wall. They are a reminder of the people who came together to establish something that continues today.

We thank our founding members, past commanders, current Commander Bob Hocking, and every SAL member who has contributed along the way.

Our veterans established the legacy. It is our responsibility to help carry it forward.

Whether your squadron is 15 years old or 94 years old, send your story to The Millennium so we can publish it in advance of the 100-Year Anniversary of the SAL in 2032!



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion

THE MILLENNIUM

Have some news to share?

Monthly deadline is the 25th

Email us at rusty.myers@ymail.com



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Postage Here

To:

This Month, On The Back Cover …..



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY AMERICAN LEGION SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Be on the look out for "Spotted by a Son"

Every month, The Millennium will hide a small picture or graphic inside the newsletter—first one to find it who email's rusty.myers@ymail.com will get their name published in the next newsletter and will receive a prize!

Look for the Pumpkin Cart this month!!

