



MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIIONNAIRE

THE DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Volume 17 Issue 3

September 2026

Commander's Corner



Department Commander
Robert Jerdan

Comrades, Legion Family,
and Friends,

It is hard to believe that two full months have already passed since taking office, but what an incredible and inspiring start to our year this has been. As I reflect on July and August, my heart is filled with gratitude for the warm welcomes, dedicated service, and unwavering camaraderie I have experienced in every corner of our Great Commonwealth.

If you have been following our Department Facebook page, you have seen firsthand that we haven't pulled back on the throttle for a single moment. From local post visitations and community events to celebrating major milestones across Massachusetts, see-

ing our members actively working the mission of The American Legion has been the absolute highlight of my tenure so far.

A few recent events stand out that truly capture the spirit of what we do:

USS Constitution Designated a Purple Heart Ship: On Friday, August 21st, I had the distinct honor of attending a historic ceremony aboard "Old Ironsides" designating the USS Constitution as an official Purple Heart Ship. Standing on those historic decks was a deeply moving experience and a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by our nation's wounded warriors—and why we fight so hard to support them every day.

Post 193 Family Installation in Winchendon: On Sunday, August 23rd, I traveled to Post 193 in Winchendon to join their Legion Family Installation. Seeing the Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and Riders stand together as a

Continued on Page 2

Inside this issue:

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT	3
DETACHMENT COMMANDER	4
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT	5
MEMBERSHIP	6-10
CHILDREN & YOUTH	11
AMERICANISM	12
SOFTBALL	13
JUNIOR LAW CADET	14
LEGION COLLEGE	15
ELECTION CYCLE	12-13
EDITORIAL	18-19
SAL FUNDRAISER	20
VA	21
AROUND THE DEPT.	22-23
LEGION MEMBERSHIP	24
SAL MEMBERSHIP	25
POST EVENTS	26-29

 **AMERICAN
LEGION
FAMILY**

unified front was inspiring. Congratulations to all the newly installed officers—your leadership keeps our grassroots foundation strong and active in local communities.

Looking Ahead to National Convention: As I write this piece, I am preparing to travel to the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. The National Convention is always a fantastic opportunity to reunite with old friends, build new relationships with Legionnaires from across the country, and bring fresh ideas and energy back home to Massachusetts.

These past two months have reaffirmed what I have always known: the strength of the Department of Massachusetts lies in our posts, our members, and our shared commitment to veterans, youth, and our communities. Whether we are honoring naval history, installing post leadership, or advocating for grassroots change, the work you do matters.

Thank you for your warm support, your continued hard work, and for wearing that Legion cap with pride. Let's keep this momentum going as we head into the fall!

For God and Country

ONE Team ONE Fight

Robert Jerdan
Department Commander



National Commander Jay Bowen. National President Coral May Grout, National Commander of the SAL Tom Skelley

Go To The American Legion Department of Massachusetts on Facebook for additional photos from Convention!!



*Honoring Our Nation's
Heroes and Teaching
the Next Generation*

The Wreaths Across America *Mobile Education Exhibit*

★ WILL BE COMING TO WINCHENDON! ★



★ THEY WILL BE AT ★

American Legion Dept of MA
Eugene M Connor Post 193

295 School St
Winchendon, MA



Friday,
September 25, 2026



2pm – 8pm

★ ★ ★ ALL ARE WELCOME ★ ★ ★

Celebrating our very own
Dr. Coral M Grout
in her National American Legion Auxiliary
President for 2026-2027

AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

SERVICE ★ COMMUNITY ★ FOR VETERANS ★ ALWAYS

Detachment Commander



Detachment
Commander
Jesse Limanek

Greetings Department of Massachusetts American Legion Family,

To all of my brother blue-cappers that make up the Detachment of Massachusetts, I bring to you exciting news. We have a new National Commander! Thom Skelley from the Detachment of Texas was unanimously elected to serve as the head of our organization for the 2026-2027 membership

year at our National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Commander Skelley is a 21-year member of the SAL, whose eligibility derives from his father, William M. Skelley Sr., a WWII veteran who served in the Pacific. He also is a personal friend and I am confident that we are in good hands in the coming year.

After his installation, Commander Skelley pointed out a simple truism – “every member matters.” Be it Son, Legionnaire, member of the Auxiliary, or Rider, every member matters because they matter to somebody. As such, “we need to engage them more, ask what their passion is, and bring that out of them, so that they are able to serve more.”

Commander Skelley also put forth a challenge to every Squadron across this nation. His Commander’s Project for the year focuses on POW/MIA Recovery and Recognition. To raise awareness, he asks for Sons to go to one of their local restaurants and put

in a POW/MIA table. For Squadrons unable to pay for one or if the restaurant lacks the space, soon there will be opportunity to download a shareable POW/MIA poster that can be printed at a local print shop. The poster features an image of a properly set table, the ceremony, and an explanation of its significance. There also will be a blank area at the bottom of the page that will allow local Post Families to share their contact information.

Finally, he encouraged every Son to get out in front of their communities. He acknowledged that we don’t do what we do for the applause; rather, “we do it for the cause.” However, he noted that “we’re our own worst enemy when it comes to tooting our own horn.” So, to counter this, we, as Sons of the American Legion, need to be active in our communities and engaged to educate the public as to what we and the Legion Family do on a daily basis. And, if we do so, we will continue to grow as an organization and better serve our veteran communities.

On a side note: membership cards for all squadrons have been distributed to representatives within each district. If your Squadron’s cards have yet to arrive, please contact me directly at commander@salmass.org

May God continue to bless our veterans, the American Legion Family, and the United States of America.

Jesse Limanek

Commander for the Detachment of Massachusetts

National Commander—Thomas “Tom” Skelley



Thomas “Thom” Skelley is a dedicated 21-year member of the Sons of The American Legion, earning his eligibility through the honorable wartime service of his father, William M. Skelley Sr., who served in the Pacific Theater during World War II from 1941 to 1945.

Throughout his years of service, Thom has held numerous leadership positions at the Squadron, District, Division, and Detachment levels.



The American Legion Department Of Massachusetts

24 Beacon Street · State House Room 546-2 · Boston, MA 02133 · (617) 727-2966
deptadjutant@masslegion.org

Good day legionnaires;

This September 11th marks the 25th anniversary of the horrific attacks on our Nation. The events of that day are personal to me; because I was stationed at the Pentagon for nearly ten years and had recently been discharged. September 11th for many in our Nation is personal as well. September 11th changed the lives so many Americans in the aftermath of the attack. Bravery found a whole new generation of Americans. We should reflect on those who died that day but also be grateful our Nation has citizens who will stand up during the Nation's most trying times to defend her.

The Department of Massachusetts delegates and alternates are returning home from our annual National Convention in Louisville, KY. The delegation is looking forward to sharing with all of you all the information and training received at the National Convention. The National Convention as well as National Meetings is an excellent opportunity for many Legionnaires from across the country to share ideas, information, and communicate with each other about the exciting happenings within their own Departments.

The Department of Massachusetts continues to be busy this fall. September and October will be filled with many Posts and Districts getting restarted from the summer. Department will have representatives attending CAC (Combined Americanism Conference) and our annual Fall Meetings. October is also Anti Bullying Month. Emblem Sales has an excellent comic book to help promote Anti Bullying. And before you know it it's Thanksgiving. Gobble Gobble

Keep up all the Good Work You Do!

Yours in Comradeship,

Lisa A. McPhee

Lisa A. McPhee
Department Adjutant
The Department of Massachusetts

Veterans Straightening America Since 1919 and into the Future

*The American Legion was built on and committed to four key pillars that still stand today:
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth*



JUST ASK: 200 New Members per District

Growing Membership Today to Protect the American Legion of Tomorrow

Membership is the lifeblood of The American Legion. It gives us the people, resources and collective voice to serve veterans, support their families, strengthen our communities and advocate for those who have worn the uniform.

But membership does not maintain itself.

Every year, we lose members. Some pass away. Some relocate. Some simply do not renew. Others become disconnected from their Post or from the organization. This is attrition, and over many years its cumulative effect can be significant.

The American Legion's own membership training material recognizes this reality. It notes that normal attrition is inevitable and specifically emphasizes that, for a Post to remain healthy, the members lost through attrition must be replaced through an effective recruiting program.

That is why I am asking every District in the Department of Massachusetts to accept a straightforward challenge:

200 NEW MEMBERS PER DISTRICT

Why 200?

Because this isn't an arbitrary number. It represents a deliberate effort to begin replacing the members we have lost through years of attrition while building a stronger foundation for the future.

Two hundred members across an entire District is achievable when we stop looking at membership as the responsibility of one Membership Chairman, one Commander or a handful of dedicated recruiters.

Continued on Page 7



Membership—DSVC Drew Pajak

Break the number down.

If 20 Posts participate, that's only 10 new members per Post.

If 40 Legionnaires in a District each recruit five veterans, that's 200 new members.

And if hundreds of Legionnaires across a District simply make a commitment to talk to the eligible veterans they already know, 200 becomes much less intimidating.

The real question is not, "Where are we going to find 200 veterans?"

The question is:

"How many eligible veterans do we already know who have never been asked?" **JUST ASK**

Most of us know someone who is eligible for The American Legion but isn't a member.

A coworker, A neighbor, A friend, A family member.

Someone at a veteran's event, a motorcycle ride, a ballgame, a community festival or the local coffee shop. Someone you served with twenty or thirty years ago. Someone who recently separated from the military. Someone who may have heard of The American Legion but has absolutely no idea what we actually do.

The opportunity is already around us.

We just have to ask.

Don't begin the conversation with a membership application. Begin it with a conversation.

"Did you serve?"

"Are you a member of The American Legion?"

"Has anyone ever asked you to join?"

Then tell them why you belong.

Tell them about veterans helping veterans. Tell them about Boys State, Girls State, American Legion Baseball, the Oratorical Contest, scholarships and youth programs. Tell them about veterans advocacy, assistance programs, community service and the work being performed by Posts across Massachusetts.

Continued on Page 8

Most importantly, show them that The American Legion is not simply a building or a bar.

It is a mission.

Nationally, The American Legion continues to emphasize both recruiting and retention. Its membership awards recognize individual recruiters, Posts, Districts and Departments for membership achievement, while its Post Membership Retention Award specifically recognizes Posts that retain at least 90% of their previous year's membership. That tells us something important: we need both.

We must retain the members we have while continuously bringing new veterans into the organization.

REPLACING ATTRITION IS ONLY THE BEGINNING

Getting 200 new members in each District isn't simply about reaching a membership percentage. It is about replacing decades of attrition, It is about putting younger veterans into our Posts. It is about bringing more women veterans into leadership. It is about finding the next Post Commander, District Commander, committee chairman, service officer, baseball coach and volunteer. It is about making sure that when today's leaders are no longer able to carry the load, someone is standing behind them ready to pick it up.

Every new member represents another potential volunteer, another advocate for veterans, another set of hands at a community event and another voice when The American Legion speaks on behalf of America's veterans.

National's own recruiting guidance makes the same point from another direction: veterans want opportunities to serve and make a difference, and Posts need to show prospective members how joining gives them that opportunity.

THE 200-MEMBER DISTRICT CHALLENGE

I am asking every District to make 200 NEW MEMBERS its goal.

Not transfers from one Post to another. Not moving names around on a membership report.

New members. New veterans. New energy.

District leadership should encourage every Post to participate. Posts should identify veterans in their communities, attend public events, conduct membership drives, use social media, reconnect with former members and — most importantly — encourage every current Legionnaire to personally recruit.

Continued on Page 9

Imagine what happens when every District accepts the challenge.

Instead of simply trying to slow membership decline, we begin reversing it. Instead of asking how many members we lost, we start asking:

How many veterans did we bring into the Legion Family this year?

IT STARTS WITH ONE

Nobody is asking one person to recruit 200 members.

I'm asking every Legionnaire to find one.

One veteran who isn't a member. One veteran who doesn't know what we do.

One veteran who served their country and still has something to contribute to their community.

Talk to them. Tell them why you joined. Tell them why you stayed. Tell them what The American Legion does.

And then ask the simplest question in membership:

"WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN?"

That is how we get to 200.

One conversation, One veteran, One new member at a time.

Our membership challenges were not created overnight, and they will not be solved overnight. But we can change the direction of our Department if every District, every Post and every Legionnaire accepts responsibility for the future of this organization.

200 new members per District. It is achievable, It is necessary, and it starts with two words:

JUST ASK.

Drew Pajak

Department Membership Chairman

Leaving on a Jet Plane.....

The Department of Massachusetts contingent is on their way home from the National Membership Workshop. A great time was had by all that participated in the various modules of membership training that was provided. I arrived a few days early to attend the Membership and Post Activities Committee, and what an honor to sit at the Massachusetts desk in the John P. “Jake” Comer NEC room at National Headquarters. As part of M&PA, I have been assigned to awards sub-committee, which has been very busy for the past year. We are currently doing a page 1 to the end review of the National Awards Program. Currently in process is a modification to the “Gold Brigade” award. We are looking for clarity of awards criteria (bringing up to date to 2026), any duplicity among the awards, and reviewing under used awards. We recently released a “Quick Guide to Membership Awards” brochure, this has been distributed to every Post across the country. Please take a look, we love to recognize those that are bringing it.

The M&PA Committee is committed to providing any assistance we can to Departments and it’s membership teams. We have some great material coming through the channels. One of our bigger projects is a revamp of the Post Responsibility Audit. Being the chairman of this project, I will be asking for Department assistance to support a “pilot” of the new concept. I’ll discuss more at DEC.

The National membership workshop was an incredible environment for instruction on a myriad of membership topics. The instruction, the opportunity to create new contacts and reinforce new, is always a highlight of these events. As was repeated numerous times we do not have an Idea Problem, many many of us have great ideas, we suffer from a “Idea Sharing Problem”. So converse with other, share ideas as to what you do to make your Post more successful. I am sure you will be hearing more from our Department Membership Chair SrVC Drew Pajak in regards to the great content of the National Membership Workshop.

National Convention is in the books! What a great time. Visiting with old friends, exchanging wisdoms from the challenges of the past year, and assisting each other with crafting accomplishments for the future. Making new contacts and friends, exchanging ideas, attending committee meetings, can’t wait till Kansas City.

We have a new program in the Department, American Legion Cruisers. Interested in starting a car club at your Post, info is available and will be distributed to the District Commanders at the DEC. Looking forward to a great year.

Scott M. Conner
Past Dept. Commander
Chair, M&PA

One of Four Pillars of The American Legion is Children and Youth. The American Legion's youth programs, include Baseball, Boys Nation, Junior Shooting Sports, and the Oratorical Contest, which are designed to build leadership, citizenship, and excellence.

Since its inception in 1925, American Legion Baseball's reputation as one of the most successful and tradition-rich amateur athletic leagues has endured. Today, the program registers teams in all 50 states plus Canada. Each year young people, ages 13 to 19, participate. Countless ALB alumni have also gone on to play in college and professional baseball, with 82 inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. This August, Lincoln Carpetland Post 500 of Lincoln, Nebraska was the 99th winner of the American Legion World Series.

Since 1935, American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation have offered top high school juniors a unique, hands-on experience in how government works. At Boys State, students run mock govern-

ments and engage in civic leadership. Two delegates from each Boys State program are selected for Boys Nation in Washington, D.C., where they serve as U.S. senators in a week of mock sessions, party conventions, and national landmark visits. Many alumni go on to careers in public service or politics.

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is a gun safety education and marksmanship program that encompasses the basic elements of safety, education, enjoyment and competition. The top eight precision and sporter competitors competed in The American Legion's Junior 3-Position Air Rifle National Championship finals July 25 at the John A. Halter Shooting Sports Center at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan. Maggie Palfrey of Pennsylvania and Alexandra Orr of Virginia named 2026 American Legion Junior 3-Position Air Rifle National champions.

The American Legion's National Oratorical Contest challenges high

school students to explore and understand the U.S. Constitution while developing confidence, leadership, and communication skills. Since 1938, the program has prepared young people for citizenship through critical thinking and public speaking. Contestants gain a deeper appreciation for the Constitution and the responsibilities of American citizenship, while building integrity, advocacy skills, and respect for civic engagement. For many participants, it's not just about winning; it's about discovering their voice, strengthening their character, and carrying forward the legacy of American democracy. Juliet Hetzel of Colorado Springs, Colo., won the 87th American Legion National Oratorical Contest, "A U.S. Constitutional Speech Contest." She takes home a \$25,000 scholarship that she will use to study law at Patrick Henry College.

Let's ensure that we help continue these legacy programs for the betterment of our youth.

with the start of the new year in our Department fresh back from National Convention hosting DEC and District Meetings as well as that at the Post level. Membership, assisting our Veterans and their children attending the many events sponsored and attended by many of our Veterans. We will start hosting our Americanism Zoom meetings in the month of September on Tuesday evenings at 7PM. I will have IT put the zoom link on the Department Calendar.

The Americanism Team will once again be looking for Both American and Foreign born awards to be presented at our next Department Convention. If you feel there is someone that would be a good candidate please feel free to reach out to someone on our team. Our current members are Saly Nay, Peter Stanley, Robert Lewis, Ken Starks, Chairman Chris Manning, Rich Mangels and Vice Chairman Bob Burke. We had two outstanding nominees for the 2025-2026 year, both Rose Ladue and Jillian Battles represent our Veteran Community with the rich Spirit that makes us a Great Nation that we are. We look forward to another year working as a Team celebrating the many accomplishments through our Youth Programs. Whether Legion baseball, Boys and Girls State, Oratorical along with Student Trooper to name a few. The Americanism Team looks forward to playing a big roll with all these programs offered by our State. Strength through Comradeship!



CHARLTON POST 391 ARE YOUR 2026 MASSACHUSETTS AMERICAN LEGION FASTPITCH SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS!

What an incredible way to close out the 2026 season!

Over two nights at Ruel Fields in Oxford, eight teams battled through seven playoff games filled with walk-off wins, upsets, dominant pitching, big innings, and unforgettable moments.

Championship Wednesday opened with two semifinal matchups. Charlton Post 391 defeated top-seeded Sturbridge Post 109, 3-1, while Webster-Dudley Post 184 advanced with a 17-5 win over Cherry Valley Post 443. That set the stage for the title game.

Charlton Post 391 capped off an incredible tournament run with a 9-0 victory over Webster-Dudley Post 184 to capture the 2026 Massachusetts American Legion Fastpitch Softball Championship. Caraline Lambert was outstanding again in the circle, and Charlton broke the game open with a six-run sixth inning.

Congratulations to Charlton Post 391 on an outstanding championship run and to Webster-Dudley Post 184 on an incredible season and runner-up finish.

Thank you to every player, coach, volunteer, umpire, family, sponsor, and member of the Legion Family who helped make this season a success. From Opening Day to our first All-Star Game, the Kelly A. McCue Memorial Scholarship presentation, and now crowning our 2026 champions, this league continues to grow because of all of you.

Congratulations again to Charlton Post 391!





The logo for the American Legion, featuring a stylized American flag with the words "AMERICAN" and "LEGION" stacked vertically.

AMERICAN LEGION

MASSACHUSETTS

Department Legion College

Saturday

October 24th

9:00 AM

Oxford Post 58
227 Main St, Oxford MA

Topics include:

- Leadership & Mentorship
- Running Effective Meetings
 - Communication & Conflict Resolution
 - Legion Programs
 - Practical AI

Lunch & Coffee will be provided

To register contact Department Office
DeptAdjutant@masslegion.org or (617) 727-2966



The American Legion Department Of Massachusetts

24 Beacon Street · State House Room 546-2 · Boston, MA 02133 · (617) 727-2966
deptadjutant@masslegion.org

As the 2026 election nears, it is imperative for American Legion members and posts to remember that The American Legion is a nonpolitical, nonpartisan organization that will not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of any candidate or party. This includes the wearing of American Legion and Sons of The American Legion apparel when engaged in partisan activities.

As Legionnaires will cast their ballots on Election Day, The American Legion advocates for all U.S. citizens to register and vote in all elections through its "Get Out the Vote" program. Download the "[Vote, America](#)" brochure to see how your post can encourage more Americans to vote.

Legion posts, Legionnaires and SAL members should follow these dos and don'ts during an election cycle:

1. **Can I wear my American Legion cap to a political event or when promoting my political views in media?** No. The American Legion cap is considered the official Legion uniform. If attending a political event, The American Legion cap, or any clothing with The American Legion emblem visible, must be removed so as not to imply any endorsement by The American Legion.
2. **Can we use our American Legion post for a political event?** When using post facilities to host any candidates, the post must remove American Legion emblems and American Legion flags to avoid any impression of endorsements. Candidates for all parties must be presented with equal opportunity to use the facilities on the same terms and conditions as other competing candidates.
3. **Can I get The American Legion at the local, state and national level to support a candidate running for Congress or any political office?** No. In Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution of The American Legion, "The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment." Additionally, the National Charter, approved by Congress, stipulates The American Legion as an organization is nonpolitical. Therefore, The American Legion as an organization is never to help or endorse a candidate. However, you, as a private citizen and not speaking for the organization, can do whatever is legal and ethical to advance his/her candidacy.
4. **Can our post host a registration or voting drive to support "Get Out the Vote"?** Yes. Just remember that volunteers working on an American Legion-sponsored registration and voting drive should not wear campaign buttons or make their personal views about candidates, parties and issues known in any way while they are engaged in nonpartisan activities for their post. Any campaign materials or literature should be removed from areas where nonpartisan activities are taking place.



AMERICAN LEGION



WHAT WE DO

- ★ Advocate for veterans
- ★ Support active duty military and families
- ★ Provide assistance to veterans in need
- ★ Promote Americanism in our communities
- ★ Honor our fallen heroes and their families

WHO CAN JOIN?

Honorable discharged veteran and anyone presently serving in the military.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



WHAT WE DO

- ★ Support veterans, military, and their families
- ★ Volunteer in our community
- ★ Promote patriotism and Americanism
- ★ Honor our fallen heroes and support their families
- ★ Fundraise to support local and national programs

WHO CAN JOIN?

Spouses, mothers, grandmothers, daughters, sisters, and granddaughters (including adopted) of veterans who are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



WHAT WE DO

- ★ Support veterans and their families
- ★ Participate in community service
- ★ Promote patriotism and honor our heritage
- ★ Support youth programs and scholarships

WHO CAN JOIN?

Sons, stepsons, grandsons, and adopted sons of members of The American Legion, or sons of veterans who are eligible for membership.

ONE NATION.
ONE MISSION.
ONE FAMILY.

JOIN TODAY!

Be Part of Something

BIGGER

THAN YOURSELF!



GET OUT THE VOTE

Elections are important to our republic. As citizens of this great nation, it is our duty and responsibility to exercise this right of franchise by casting our ballots on Election Day and to encourage others to do so as well. It was on this premise that The American Legion's "Get Out the Vote" program was initiated shortly after the organization's inception. Today it is as important as it was in elections past.

The Legion's "Get Out the Vote" program encourages all Americans to register and vote in all elections. In addition, Legionnaires, posts, districts and departments are encouraged to fully involve themselves in the electoral process by serving as poll volunteers, poll workers and by encouraging and assisting others to register and vote.

All Legionnaires are encouraged to renew their commitment for continued service to this country by being politically active as individuals. By working together as an organization we can make a difference by promoting an informed populace, participation in our government, and involvement in its electoral process. We cannot forget that in this country, our government is "of the people, by the people and for the people." It cannot survive as a democratic republic unless the people participate. That is our task.

The American Legion encourages all Americans to register and to vote in all elections. Legionnaires have traditionally responded to the call and are among the groups of individuals most likely to cast their ballots on Election Day.

Americans have the right to vote for whom they choose to represent them in our representative form of government. They also have the duty, and responsibility, to use their right to vote and to familiarize themselves with the candidates and the issues that are up for decision on Election Day.

Every election is important, as the individuals elected to office will establish laws under which we must live and they will make important decisions for spending the tax dollars we pay to our government.

Citizens must be reminded that good government is established when informed and concerned citizens participate in the electoral process. They must understand what is expected of them, and they must know clearly and simply how to go about doing it. The American Legion Get Out the Vote program strives to do that.

Each year we elect public officials whose decisions directly influence the lives and well-being of all citizens. The benefits derived from voting are produced by electing officials that are in tune with the wishes of the citizens and their concerns in providing a community, state and nation in which it is suitable to live, work and raise a family.

The electorate must be reminded that their vote guarantees all other rights, builds schools, paves highways, collects taxes, maintains the armed forces, directs the foreign policy, and influences how our friends overseas view our republic. History has proven that one vote can make a difference, so it is important that every single voice be heard. Each citizen must be made aware that their vote is important and that you are willing to help provide an easy access to the election process for them.

Continued on Page 14

Voting is a powerful way for a citizen to participate in their government. It gives them a voice in issues that affect their lives. It is the goal of The American Legion and its Get Out the Vote program to encourage more Americans to vote, and to suggest activities on how American Legion posts can increase voter turnout and serve as a resource to get the job done.

All this information and more are available at www.legion.org , search for: Get out the vote. NOTE: not AI generated.

Get out and vote but be an educated voter!

Remember: **BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!**



Blue Cap is your only permanent Cap!



“I’ve always believed ... that it’s not the color of the cap. In fact, every color of cap that we wear today – with the exception of one – is temporary. The only permanent cap that we have in The American Legion is the blue cap.



MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

Have some news!
Share it in the E-Legionnaire
Monthly Deadline is the 25th

HELP WANTED

The Department of Massachusetts is seeking a member to assume the responsibilities of the editor of the Monthly Newsletter the Massachusetts E-Legionnaire



**SONS OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION**
DETACHMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

MEAT RAFFLE

HOSTED BY
WHITMAN SQUADRON 22
33 Legion Parkway, Whitman, MA 02382

BENEFIT FOR
BILLY MURPHY
IN HIS FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST
12 PM - 4 PM

6 MEAT RAFFLES

50/50
PLUS
SIDE RAFFLES

GIFT BASKETS
TO RAFFLE OFF
ARE MOST
WELCOME!

★ ★ *Let's Rally for Billy!* ★ ★

WASHINGTON — Department of Veterans Affairs national cemeteries will host a day of service and remembrance to honor victims of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. [Public Law 107–89](#) established Sept. 11 as Patriot Day, and the law encourages Americans to honor victims of the 9/11 attacks.

This year's events take place on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 10:00 am (local time) at [more than 140 VA and state Veteran cemeteries](#) and will include opportunities for community volunteers to clean headstones and participate in other cemetery beautification activities.

Forty-seven Veterans and dependents who died because of the terrorist attacks on 9/11 are buried or memorialized in VA national cemeteries, mostly at the Calverton and Long Island National Cemeteries in New York. More than 16,000 Global War on Terror Veterans have been interred in VA national cemeteries nationwide.

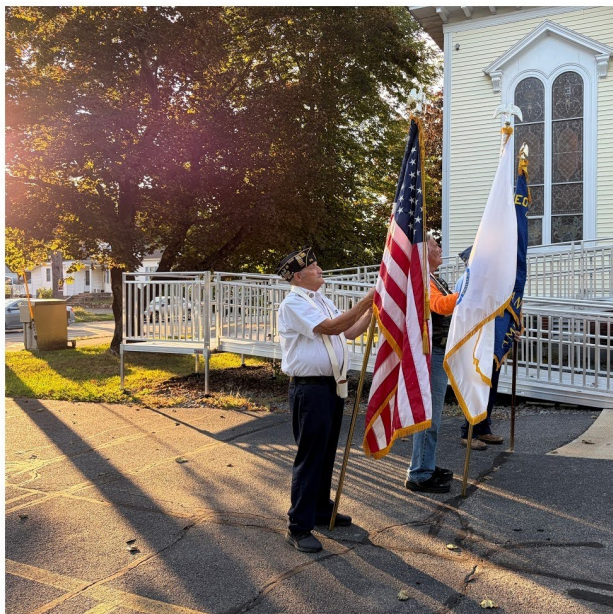
VA's National Cemetery Administration this year is collaborating with the nonprofit organization [Carry The Load](#) to host events across the nation that allow volunteers to observe Patriot Day.

"As our nation marks the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, VA national cemeteries offer a meaningful place to honor the courage and sacrifice of that day," said **VA Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Sam Brown**. "I invite all Americans to join us at one of our participating cemeteries as we honor and preserve the legacies of the victims, first responders, service members, and families forever changed by the 9/11 attacks."

"As we come together on the 25th anniversary of 9/11, Carry The Load's National Day of Service and Remembrance gives Americans a meaningful way to honor the nearly 3,000 lives lost," said **Stephen Holley, president and co-founder of Carry The Load** and a U.S. Navy SEAL Veteran. "Through service at national cemeteries across the country, we come together to honor the families, first responders, military members and communities forever changed by 9/11 and carry their stories and sacrifices forward."

Those wishing to participate in VA cemeteries' National Day of Service and Remembrance can [register here](#). Cleaning supplies and other materials will be provided and there is no cost to participate. Click here to learn more about VA's [burial benefits and memorial services](#)





In Recognition of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Massachusetts State Representative Colleen Garry, the Dracut Town Selectman's Board, and the Christ Church United of Dracut Massachusetts organized a reading of the Declaration of Independence to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of its adoption.

Standing very near the very same spot where it was first introduced to the Town of Dracut, our Dracut American Legion provided our color guard, participated in the reading, and posted a wreath at the Memorial of those that first fought at the battle of Lexington and Concord in the first days of the American Revolution War.

Extending special thanks to the following for their participation and attendance:

Post Commander Dick Ducharme
 Post Adjutant Barry Kuntz
 Post E-Board Member Steve O'Donnell
 Post Member Michael Buote



On July 25th, shortly after celebrating their first anniversary, the Sheffield American Legion Riders proudly sponsored their inaugural official ride, “Steel Horses for Veterans”. The day could not have been more perfect, with beautiful weather providing an ideal backdrop for what would become a memorable milestone for the chapter.

The morning began with the American Legion Post graciously providing breakfast and coffee, welcoming riders and helping set the stage for the day’s festivities. Meanwhile, Chapter members busily registered participating riders, organized the motorcycles, and coordinated the details for a smooth and organized departure.

With engines rumbling and spirits high, the ride officially got underway, winding its way through the picturesque countryside of Berkshire County, Massachusetts, and Columbia County, New York. Riders were treated to miles of scenic roads, rolling hills, and the quintessential beauty of the region before ultimately arriving at a delightful restaurant in Valatie, New York, where the ride came to a fitting conclusion. For the Sheffield American Legion Riders, this inaugural ride represented more than simply a day on the road. It marked another important step in the chapter’s young history and reflected the camaraderie, dedication, and commitment that continue to define its members. What began just over a year ago has already grown into a meaningful tradition—one that the chapter looks forward to building upon for many rides and many miles to come.

Neil Raymond
Director, Sheffield Legion Riders



Start Date	Time	Event	Location
9/7/26	6:15 PM	Membership Pre-DEC	Zoom
9/12/26	10:00 AM	Finance Committee	Stoughton Post 89
9/12/26	11:00 AM	Membership & DEC	Stoughton Post 89
9/13/26	1:00 PM	POW/MIA Ceremony	Battleship Massachusetts
9/21/26	7:00 PM	Adjutant's Meeting	Zoom
9/24-27		National Presidents Home-coming	Sturbridge, MA and other locations
10/17/26	4:00 PM	Dept Presidents Testimonial	Winchendon Post 193
10/19/26	7:00 PM	Adjutants Meeting	Zoom
10/27/26	6:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Zoom

2027 Membership Standing *as of August 20, 2026*

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	THE BERKSHIRE	1082	500	46.21%
3	PIONEER VALLEY	3004	1424	47.40%
4	CENTRAL	4054	1751	43.19%
5	NORTHEAST DISTRICT	3160	1401	44.24%
6	SOUTHEAST DISTRICT	2105	1055	50.12%
7	METROPOLITAN BOSTON	1096	507	46.26%
8	NORTHEAST SHORE	2252	1110	49.29%
9	SOUTHEAST SHORE	1852	918	49.57%
10	SOUTHSHORE CAPE COD & ISLANDS	3316	1626	49.03%
297	CAPITOL HILL	968	217	22.42%
462	HEADQUARTERS	968	62	65.29%
	National Quota	23,857	11,141	46.70%

Please note Membership Goals will be set at the Membership Workshop
Next Month!

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION THE MILLENNIUM
A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion
Sons of The American Legion | PO 1055 | Indianapolis, IN 46206 | www.legion.org/sons
Volume 3 | Issue 7 | Number 1 | July 2026
Subscribe at: www.legion.org/information-center/in-the-media/e-newsletters

Inside YOUR SAL Newsletter this Month

- Topic: Past National Commander Robert Faust (CA)
- Sons on Social: The SAL at Work in Pictures
- OH: Annual Spanky Memorial Golf Outing
- KS: Young SAL member gets presidential letter
- WI: SAL Member joins Post 375 Honor Guard
- Kevin Mook ends eight years as National SAL Liaison
- OK: Boys State
- TX: "What's in a Name?"
- Butch's Bullet Points

Top Ten Detachments 2026 Membership Percentage

1. Philippines	145.85%
2. Dist. Of Col.	135.96%
3. Utah	130.03%
4. Latin America	110.67%
5. South Carolina	106.32%
6. South Dakota	105.53%
7. Idaho	105.24%
8. France	104.19%
9. Wisconsin	104.00%
10. New Hampshire	103.99%

Special to The Millennium: National Chaplain David Jolly (NY)

National Chaplain: "Today, we pledge allegiance to the highest ideals of the United States of America"

July 4th 1776, 13 colonies put forth a Declaration of Independence. Words and signatures on that historic paper were words backed up by unprecedented courage, character, and a willingness to die for the freedom and liberty of all.

Then and ever since, military members and their families have offered to or made sacrifices up to and including dying for that cause. No other love outlines the willingness to die for a friend or stranger. The debt we owe is never able to be repaid, but always worth our trying.

We the people in order to pay a portion of our respect choose not to forget sacrifices made. We choose to honor. We choose to remain the "One Nation Under God" that so many died to consecrate or continue. We choose to honor all past, present, and future military and their families in a 250th Birthday that testifies their efforts were/are not in vain.

Many have wished our Nation ill-will. Always they underestimated the heart of Americans to be our best, to bless all those people we can. This while we ourselves are valuing and enjoying the liberty won. We fall short at times, but then get back to it with no less resolve.

Today, we pledge allegiance to the highest ideals of the United States of America...let our pledge be undergirded by unending resolve. With the help of the God of each person's understanding let it be so. On to the next 250 years.

God, we ask your blessing on all our military and their families, and may God bless each of you. God, bless the United States of America, that we might always be a blessing.

BETHEONE

A National Newsletter of the Sons of The American Legion

Go to Masslegion.org/newsletter for your copy

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

SAL MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH BRIEFCASE PROGRAM

EVERYTHING YOUR SQUADRON NEEDS TO PROCESS MEMBERSHIPS ANYWHERE.

A complete, affordable toolkit designed to help Sons of The American Legion Squadrons process memberships electronically using myLegion.org.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- CHROMEBOOK**: Portable computer for accessing myLegion and managing membership records.
- BLUETOOTH BARCODE SCANNER**: Quickly scan membership cards and barcodes to save time.
- WIRELESS MOUSE**: Ergonomic and wireless for easy, comfortable navigation.
- MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH BACKPACK**: Durable and spacious to keep your entire membership office organized and ready to go.
- ROBERT'S RULES IN BRIEF**: A concise, easy-to-use guide to meeting procedures and parliamentary law.
- INDEX TABS FOR ROBERT'S RULES**: Color-coded tabs to quickly find the information you need.

WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH THIS KIT

- RENEW MEMBERSHIPS on the spot
- PROCESS NEW MEMBERS instantly
- UPDATE MEMBER INFORMATION
- SCAN MEMBERSHIP CARDS
- CONDUCT MEMBERSHIP DRIVES ANYWHERE
- WORK ANYWHERE WITH WI-FI
- SUPPORT RECRUITING EVENTS
- ASSIST MEMBERS IMMEDIATELY

ESTIMATED STARTUP INVESTMENT*

APPROXIMATELY **\$400**

*Actual pricing may vary based on current Amazon pricing, taxes, shipping, product availability, and any optional equipment substitutions. Scan the QR code to view the current recommended equipment list.

SCAN TO SHOP

VIEW THE COMPLETE RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT LIST

READY TO GET STARTED?

Scan the QR code to view the complete recommended equipment list and build your squadron's Membership Outreach Briefcase today!

QUESTIONS?
BRIEFCASE PROGRAM SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS

GARY MANWELL
Gmanwell2021@gmail.com

MATT GRIFFIS
MattGriffis.asal@gmail.com

POWERED BY THE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP & SQUADRON ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

*** STRENGTHENING SQUADRONS. GROWING MEMBERSHIP. SERVING VETERANS. ***

2027 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of August 20, 2026

	District	Goal	Current
1	BERKSHIRE	235	8
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN / HAMPSHIRE	638	100
4	WORCESTER	1017	85
5	MIDDLESEX	1309	51
6	NORFOLK	970	46
7	SUFFOLK	198	21
8	ESSEX	518	40
9	BRISTOL	236	12
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	695	23
	National Goal	5816	386



Post Events



Post 98
Saturday morning
Coffee break

Veterans, Aux, and Potential Members
American Legion Hall
32 Beach st
8:00—10:30
Come on down



HINGHAM FRIDAY VETERANS' COFFEE
EVERY 3RD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
9:00AM – 10:30AM
GRAND ARMY HALL 358 MAIN ST. HINGHAM
GUEST SPEAKERS FOR EACH EVENT
COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED
MEETING DATES:
MAY 16TH, JUNE 20TH, JULY 18TH, AUG. 15TH,
SEPT 19TH, OCT. 17TH, NOV. 21ST, DEC. 19TH
TEMPORARY CONTACT: DAVE IRWIN
781-910-2377
FIRST COFFEE IS FRIDAY MAY 16TH



Coffee Hour

Last Friday of the Month
09:00 - 12:00

Free

American Legion North Adams



American Legion North Adams Post 125

FUNday !!!
4th Sunday of the Month

Lunch	Meat Tables Begins at 3PM	Queen Of Hearts
We will service a simple lunch starting at 12:00pm until sold out or 3pm.	1. Purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win. 2. Win various cuts of meat or other prizes. 3. Tickets are randomly drawn, and winners receive their prizes.	The QOH with begin 15 minutes after the last Table is raffled.





Post Events



**American Legion Auxiliary
Unit 58 Oxford**
227 MAIN STREET OXFORD, MA

Craft Fair

Start your holiday shopping with us!

**Sunday October 25th
10am - 3pm**

Interested vendors contact:
Melissa 508-330-0153
unit58auxiliary@gmail.com
OR
Kelly
unit58auxiliary.vp@gmail.com

Proceeds from booth rental
to benefit:

**SOLDIER'S
WISH**



WORLD'S BEST
Veterans Coffee Hour

Veterans' Coffee Hour: Third Wednesday of each month
Please come and enjoy coffee, fresh pastries, donuts and fellowship.

American Legion Post 0234
402 West Main St Northborough Ma. 01532

Open to all local area Veterans.

LEO C ROTH POST AUXILIARY UNIT 315 DRACUT FALL FUNDRAISER

LIMIT 100 TICKETS TICKETS \$5.00

DRAWING DECEMBER 7, 2026

PROCEEDS FROM THIS RAFFLE WILL HELP SUPPORT
THE YOUTH ACTIVITIES THE AUXILIARY SUPPORTS

GIRLS STATE
ORATORICAL CONTEST
BASEBALL
SOFTBALL
SCOUTING
STAR SPANGLED KIDS
ASSORTED SCHOLARSHIPS
VETERANS OUTREACH




Win a Book of
SCRATCH TICKETS!

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
UNIT #40

**Win a Book of
\$10.00
Scratch Tickets**

Tickets: 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$20.00
Winner to be drawn on: Sept 26, 2026

**DRAWING ON
SEPTEMBER 26TH**

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Scratch Ticket Raffle
DRAWING - September 26, 2026

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Please Print

No. 3188

SCRATCH & WIN!
10 CHANCES

No. 3188



The Wall That Heals



September 15-20, 2026 Yarmouth, MA



Ride Escort/Volunteers
Sponsorships and Donation Needed



Open 24/7 Rain or Shine

***Tuesday** Sept 15 Escort

***Saturday** Tours -Sunset Taps

***Wed** Sept 16 WALL Setup 8am -
Volunteer Training Highly
recommended 6 PM-1 Hour
Echo Taps

***Sunday** Sept 20, Wall closed
1:45pm Closing Ceremony 2 pm
dismantle "The Wall That Heals"

***Thursday** Sept 17 Opening
Ceremony Time TBD &
Sunset Echo Taps

***Friday** Sept 18 Echo Taps-
Light the Night Ceremony
Agent Orange Awareness



For More Information Contact:
Debi Robinson Chairman (253) 226-1588
Barbara-Anne Foley Co-Chair (508) 237-3349



Email: info@TheWallThatHealsYarmouth-2026.org

www.TheWallThatHealsYarmouth-2026.org



Massachusetts E-Legionnaire

The Massachusetts E-Legionnaire is the official publication of the Department of Massachusetts American Legion and is published at least 12 times per year

The American Legion
Department of Massachusetts, Inc.
Room 546-2, State House
Boston, MA 02122-1099
email: fmacdonald53@comcast.net

Editor

Francis J. MacDonald, Jr.

2025-2026 Officers

Commander

Robert Jerdan

Sr. Vice Commander

Drew Pajak

Vice Commanders

Chris Manning
S. Ryan Howe
Cindy Lacoste

Historian

Adam Doud

Executive Committee Women

Mary Standish

Sergeant-at-Arms

Robert Desrosiers

National Executive Committeeman

John Lenotte

Alternate National Executive Committeeman

Sandra Davis

Service Officer

Mike Whalen
Dana Sheehan

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Do you have an article or news announcement to share with the rest of the Department of Massachusetts? If so, please follow these basic guide-lines for submissions.

- Submit your text in Microsoft Word format (.doc) or as a text file (.txt or .rtf). Save your file as the same name as the article, so we can easily keep track of it. Be sure to make it clear who the author is, whether it's you or if you are just forwarding it to us.
- **WE LOVE ARTICLES WITH PHOTOS**, or any other kind of images! Include photos and/or artwork for articles *separately* (NOT embed-ded in the article) as high resolution (300 dpi, or better) JPGs. Please name these files accordingly so we can track them along with your article. Let us know in your e-mail of any corresponding captions, and/or name of the photographer if necessary.

- Spell check everything! Especially people's names, web addresses, etc. You can help us greatly here by simply running your spell check function in your word processing program.

- **E-mail everything directly to us at fmacdonald53@comcast.net *no later than the 25th of every month for it to appear in the very next issue.*** This way we have plenty of time to work with in case we need to clarify anything with you.



Want to Subscribe to Mass E-Legionnaire:

Send your email address to: deptadjutant@masslegion.org or to the Editor at fmacdonald53@comcast.net.

Still receiving correspondence through the U.S. Postal Service? Send the Department office your Name & Address and you will get a hard copy mailed to you.

The American Legion, Dept. of Mass, Inc.
24 Beacon Street
Room 546-2, State House
Boston, MA 02133



Follow the Department of Massachusetts on Facebook @

The American Legion Department of Massachusetts