



MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

Volume 16 Issue 2

July 2025

Commander's Corner



Scott M. Conner
Department Commander

So what did you do this summer? How about going out to a Legion Baseball game, or maybe take in a Women's Fast pitch softball game, schedules are on-line. Take your child, grandchild, niece or nephew, make an evening of it and support a Legion program. June was a very busy month and July is shaping up to be a great one also. With Independence Day and 250th Anniversary events abound, get the kids out to witness "Old Glory" in all her splendor. Support your community events. Youth Law Cadet will come into focus at the Massachusetts State Police Training Facility in New Braintree (google it).

One of the best youth programs in the Department and also the country, thank you PNEC Lou. To all the Posts and individuals that sponsored participants for Boys State, thank you. National Americanism Chairman, Mark Avis and his team continue to put together a premier program for our youth that will inspire them well beyond 2025. Want to restore your confidence in America's youth, attend a Boys State program (6/21/2026), or "Student Trooper" graduation, 7/19/2025, and witness YOUR investment first hand. The Legion Camporee this past June, another success story for the Department, that Pillar is as strong as ever. A sharp Scout salute to OC and his staff that provided some great leadership support at Camp Collier. With September just off the horizon, many Posts will be getting back to regular meetings and operations. Quite a few will have new leadership in place.

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It's a great time to refocus, increase community relevance, and re-commit to our "devotion to mutual helpfulness." Post Commanders, please reach out to Department Vice Commanders, and to your District staff for information and support. All Posts should have received the 2026 membership cards by now. Hopefully we'll be at 60% renewal by Labor Day. Coming Up: Legion Baseball State Championships 7/26/2025 at Adams Field, Quincy, MA. See you around the Department, have a safe summer.

My Commander's Charity will be Operation Comfort Warrior.

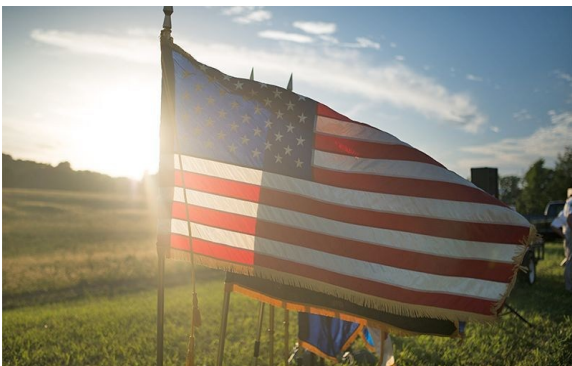
First DEC - September 13th, Baldwinville Post.

Scott M. Conner
Commander
Department of Massachusetts
774-239-6162



Legislation introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives that would protect U.S. Flag from physical desecration

On June 13, U.S. Rep. Steve Womak [introduced legislation](#) in the House of Representatives that protects the U.S. flag from physical desecration through a constitutional amendment. A companion joint resolution in the Senate is being led by U.S. Senator Steve Daines.



American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere Jr. expressed the organization's support for the legislation through the following statement:

"The American Legion has a deep and profound respect for the American flag. All our members swore on their lives to protect the flag and uphold what it stands for. The American people also treasure Old Glory, and how it signifies democra-

cy. They do not want to see the flag desecrated. The time has come for Congress to protect the flag through an amendment to the U.S. Constitution."



Honoring Heroes This America's Birthday: A Massachusetts Tribute

As fireworks light up the sky on America's Birthday, the nation reflects not just on its founding in 1776, but on the brave individuals who have protected its freedom ever since. This year, an especially meaningful tribute unfolds across New England as Honor Flight New England and the American Legion Auxiliary work hand in hand to ensure that the veterans who preserved American independence are celebrated with more than just words — they are honored with action.

Honor Flight New England: Racing Against Time

Established in 2009 under the Honor Flight Network, **Honor Flight New England** is dedicated to transporting America's most senior veterans—primarily WWII, along with Korean, terminally ill, and more recently Vietnam-era veterans—to Washington, D.C., to visit their memorials at no cost (honorflightnewengland.org). These journeys—"race against time" flights—connect veterans with long-overdue recognition, allowing them to reflect at memorials representing their service and sacrifice. Demand remains high, with flights currently at capacity and long waiting lists in place.

American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), Massachusetts: Patriotism in Action the **American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Massachusetts**, founded in 1919, is one of the nation's largest women-led patriotic organizations. With nearly 10,500 units nationwide, it hosts hundreds of volunteer programs dedicated to supporting veterans, youth, and communities (masslegion-aux.org). This summer, the Auxiliary in Massachusetts will continue its rich tradition of memorial observances, community engagement, and patriotic fundraising—centered around both veteran support and Americanism

If you know a veteran who has not yet taken part in an Honor Flight — especially one from WWII, Korea, or Vietnam — now is the time to act. The application is simple, and the experience is unforgettable. You can also support the mission by Donating to Honor Flight New England to sponsor a veteran's trip, joining your local American Legion Auxiliary unit to volunteer, Spreading the word so that no eligible veteran is left behind.

As the nation celebrates its independence, the partnership between Honor Flight New England and the American Legion Auxiliary reminds us that patriotism is more than parades and fireworks — it is about showing up for our heroes. This July 4th, let us honor the past, support the present, and protect the future — together.

Sofia Elizabeth Blake, Department President



Detachment
Commander
Jesse Limanek

Happy Birthday, America!

Independence Day is upon us. It is a time of celebration for all patriotic Americans to gather and give thanks for the freedoms bestowed upon us by the Founding Fathers.

As Sons of the American Legion, our mission is to “foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism.” We should never be ashamed to loudly and proudly proclaim our love for the United States and for all this nation represents. It is my sincerest hope that you are able to celebrate America’s 249th birthday surrounded by family and friends. As you do, be sure to take a moment to give thanks to the men and women who served, and are currently serving, in this nation’s armed forces. Without their service, the festivities on holidays like Independence Day would not be possible and those freedoms, which we all hold dear, would have been lost to us long ago.

July also marks the time during which the next membership year

will be kicking off. Even though 2025-2026 cards will arrive soon, there are still many Sons who have yet to renew their 2024-2025 memberships. Please do all that you can to process any memberships that you have received as soon as possible. Similarly, all squadrons should have submitted CSRs to both National and the Detachment before July 1st. This data is just as important as memberships, as it represents our service to the veterans within our community. If you have yet to do so, please get those reports in. Even if submitted late, it will help our organization push for the benefits our veterans deserve.

May God continue to bless the United States!

Jesse Limanek

Hat pins ranged in size, colors and shapes. As a general rule, you should limit hat pins on your cover; they can also only be on the right side and se-



curely fastened to your cover.

#RALLYAROUNDTHEFLAG

“There is no greater, more beautiful, and instantly recognizable symbol of our nation and its ideals, traditions and values than the flag of the United States.”

Ronald Reagan, 40th President of the United States



AMERICAN
LEGION



The American Legion Department Of Massachusetts

24 Beacon Street · State House Room 546-2 · Boston, MA 02133 · (617) 727-2966

Greetings Legionnaires,

I wanted to review the good and the bad from Department Convention in Marlborough. We had 197 delegates and 58 alternates very good. We had only 129 delegates vote, bad.

Let's review the process of delegates, alternates, and delegates by virtue of office (BVO). The number of delegates a Post is allotted is based on Post membership at the end of May. Example a Post with membership of 35 is allotted 1 delegate. The number of delegates increase incrementally based on membership numbers. (membership of 51-150 is 2 delegates, 151-250 is 3 so on and so forth) The Post is responsible for paying the delegate fee as prescribed in our Department Constitution and By Laws of \$5.00 by a certain cut off date. If the delegate fee is late there is a late fee of \$5.00 thus doubling a delegate fee of \$5.00 to \$10.00. **Every** Post is responsible for paying the delegate fee whether a delegate attends the Convention or not. The Department will take delegate fees from Post funds held at Department or if no funds are held at Department a bill will be sent to the Post. Alternates are not charged a delegate fee, only if their status changes from alternate to delegate. Here is where I lose most of the Posts on the concept of delegate by virtue of office meaning all Department Officers and all Past Department Commanders are delegates to the Convention. The individual Posts where the Department Officer or Past Department Commander is a member that Post must pay their delegate fee regardless of if the officer or past department commander attends the Convention. The name of delegates and Posts numbers of those delegates by virtue of office is sent to every Post with the delegate form. If a Post is uncertain or has a question, please contact us here in the office we are here to help.

Picking up 2026 membership cards at convention is a must for every Posts. All cards not picked up by a Posts is given to the District Commander or District Sr. Vice Commander. This is unfair to the District Officers. Going forward if a Post has a delegate going to the Department Convention before they can receive their delegate credentials the delegate must pick up the Post membership cards.

We are onto Tampa, FL. Those of you attending the National Convention in Tampa, FL reminder the Department will be paying delegate fees and National Commander Banquet Tickets (limited) for Legion members only all guests must pay for their registration and National Commander's Banquet tickets. For more information, please contact the Department or go to legion.org. Those of you flying into Tampa airport and take a photo with the giant flamingo will get a special gift. See you there.

Yours in Comradeship

Lisa A. McPhee

Lisa A. McPhee
Department Adjutant
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*

The "Country Reunion" Finale... Plus



Got so busy getting ready for our Department Convention that I missed putting in a message for the previous edition, so I will share now. My year as Department President is over but the great work that is accomplished by our members throughout the year by our members continues.

I was honored to attend the "Meet and Greet" in Indy and stand with our Candidate for National President Coral May Grout. Other members who were there were Ann Fournier, Mary Ann Ventulett and Jen Temple, who did a great job of making sure all was in order. Watching members of the Legion Family from throughout the country interact with Coral was awesome!

Activities these past two months continue with Bingos at Chelsea Soldiers Home being sponsored by Hamilton Post 194 Legion Family and Saugus Unit 210. MVS Rep Kathy Welch and I attended Memorial Services at the Home and handed out Poppies.

As I am sure many others did, I

spent a couple of days working the Poppy Drives in Methuen along with others in our Legion Family. What an honor to attend Memorial Services at the National Cemetery in Bourne the next day and then march in the Memorial Day Parade in Methuen the following day.

I ended the month of May having the honor and privilege of installing the incoming officers of our newest unit, Uxbridge Unit 33, assisted by Millie Larsen as my Sgt.-at-Arms.

And then it was off to Marlboro to attend the Department Convention, a time to celebrate all that was accomplished by our members during the past year. I am so proud of all we do. One of those highlights was finding out the Member of the Year was a member of Middleton Unit 227. I knew they had submitted her, but I did not know until then she had gotten it.

Having the honor to speak at the Legion Convention and to attend their Memorial Services was certainly another highlight.

We were so pleased to have a guest from the Salvation Army join us to speak and we also had a guest speaker from Feronia Forward, which was our C&Y Project this past year. We were also honored to have our leaders from the Detachment of MA SAL and those from the Dept. of MA American Legion attend our sessions and speak.

The Thursday Night Get-Together with Sarah the Fiddler was such fun as our Country Jamboree was the following night. SAL member Tom Roy from District 9 kept us hopping. My thanks to him for keeping us entertained.



As I closed the Convention, I was proud of all we had accomplished once again for our Veterans, their families and our communities.

The following day, I was happy to spend the day with our Veterans from Chelsea, Bedford and several other facilities at the Rockport Post 98 Summer Outing. This is always such a great event!

A couple of days after that, I was honored to join D8 Director Katina as her Sgt.-at-Arms to help install the new officers for Gloucester Unit 3.

On June 14th, Flag Day, Kathy Welch and I attended the Ceremony at the Field of Honor in No. Andover.

Continued on page 7

One of the flags flying there was in memory of PDC Bill Chisholm and one in memory of all our Veterans from the Chelsea Soldiers Home we said goodbye to this past year. We will be having a Ceremony at Chelsea on July 12th to present that flag. Andover Post 8 Commander Peter Witman [who is also the D8 Commander] and Post 8 member Tom Deaheim participated in the Ceremony.

Another honor I had the next day, was attending and speaking at the Girl State/Boy State Convocation at Stonehill College.

This past Tuesday night, we had a dinner at Methuen Post 122 for the Girl State and Boy State Citizens from Methuen High School.

Their families and all sponsors also attended. It was great to hear them speak and share their thoughts and enthusiasm for having this opportunity.

My thanks to all members of the Legion Family who helped to make this past a success. Special thanks to Frank MacDonald for his patience and kindness.

PDP Donna Blattenberger



This year, American Legion National Commander Jim LaCoursiere Jr. is bringing a relaxed, island-inspired vibe to the National Commander's Banquet at the 106th National Convention (6:30 p.m. Aug. 26, Tampa Convention Center Ballroom).

The sun-soaked setting and high-energy sounds of the Landsharks Band offer the perfect backdrop for a Jimmy Buffett-style celebration. Hawaiian shirts and laid-back fun will be the order of the evening. Attendees are strongly encouraged to ditch formalwear in favor of island attire, but for a purpose.

To participate in the relaxed dress code, attendees are asked to purchase an official Buffett-style shirt for \$46.99 via legion.org/convention or [Emblem Sales](#) (available in male and female styles), or to make a donation to the [Veterans & Children Foundation \(VCF\)](#). The casual code extends to the head and sub-head tables as well, signaling a shared commitment to the spirit and cause.

The deadline for ordering a shirt is July 22. They will be available for pickup in the Exhibit Hall, located in West Hall of the convention center; further information will be communicated to purchasers.

Summer Fun with a Purpose: Join the American Legion This Season!

As the days stretch long and the temperatures rise, summer in America beckons with promises of barbecues, beach trips, and time spent with loved ones. But beyond the fun and relaxation, this season also offers a unique opportunity to connect with a vibrant community dedicated to service, patriotism, and supporting our nation's veterans: the American Legion.

For many, the American Legion is synonymous with camaraderie and community spirit. Throughout the summer months, posts across the country come alive with a variety of events and activities perfect for the whole family. Imagine:

- **Patriotic Celebrations:** From Memorial Day tributes to Fourth of July festivities, Legion posts are often at the heart of community-wide celebrations, offering a chance to reflect on our nation's history and honor those who served.
- **Family-Friendly Events:** Many posts host summer picnics, cook-outs, and social gatherings, providing a welcoming environment for members and their families to connect, share stories, and build lasting friendships.

- **Community Engagement:** Whether it's organizing local parades, supporting youth programs like Boys & Girls State, Law Cadet student trooper, or raising funds for veterans in need, the American Legion is deeply embedded in its communities, offering a chance to make a tangible difference right where you live.

- **Support for Veterans:** At its core, the American Legion is about advocating for and supporting veterans and their families. Becoming a member means contributing to vital programs that provide assistance, healthcare, and opportunities for those who have sacrificed so much.

Who Can Join?

Membership in The American Legion is open to all who have served honorably on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during an eligible war era. This includes those who served at least one day of active duty since December 7, 1941, and were honorably discharged or are still serving. This summer, consider exploring your eligibility and becoming a part of this impactful organization.

More Than Just a Membership

Joining the American Legion is more than just signing up for an organization; it's an investment in

a legacy of service and a commitment to our nation's heroes. It's an opportunity to:

- **Connect with Shared Experiences:** Share stories and build bonds with fellow veterans who understand the unique experiences of military service.
- **Give Back to Your Community:** Participate in meaningful initiatives that strengthen your local area and support those in need.
- **Advocate for Veterans' Rights:** Be a part of a powerful voice that champions the rights and well-being of all veterans.
- **Enjoy Exclusive Benefits:** Access a range of benefits, from discounts on travel and services to networking opportunities.

This summer, as you plan your vacations and enjoy the sunshine, take a moment to consider the profound impact you can make by joining the American Legion. It's a chance to honor service, build community, and truly enjoy summer with a purpose.

<https://masslegion.org/>

Bob Jerdan
DSVC 25-26
Candidate for Department
Commander 26-27



First off, to my American Legion Family, thank you for your support at Convention as I start my journey as your new Department Historian for 2025-2026. For those that were not there, I look forward to seeing you around the state this year and hope that you'll join me next year at Convention. I truly appreciate your friendship, support and mentorship as it recharges my batteries to keep doing what we do for our Veterans, their families and our communities.

Second, **Happy Independence Day!** Most people just wish you a Happy 4th of July, but do they remember why we celebrated that day? It has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2, 1776, Continental Congress voted in favor of independence and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to present, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence. Philadelphia held the first annual commemoration of independence on July 4, 1777, while Congress was

still occupied with the ongoing war. The tradition of setting off fireworks on the 4th of July began in Philadelphia that first year when the Ship's cannon fired a 13-gun salute in honor of the 13 colonies. The *Philadelphia Evening Post* reported: "at night there was a grand exhibition of fireworks (which began and concluded with thirteen rockets) on the Commons, and the city was beautifully illuminated". That same night, the Sons of Liberty set off fireworks over Boston Common. So, keep the traditions going and celebrate our freedoms with your family and friends with barbeques, parades, concerts and do not forget to watch the fireworks!



As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States the Community Service committee is eager to see the different events that the Post take part in. As of right now the State as a list of different events that are taking place in the Month of July you can find those events here: <https://massachusetts250.org/events/>. As it stands there are roughly 50 different events just in July. It is the committee's hope that we receive multiple AI White community service submissions each month. All community Service applications can be found here: <https://masslegion.org/programs>. The Community Service committee encourages all posts to take part in the 250th anniversary and display patriotism now more than ever.

Cohasset Massachusetts Native and a member of the Cohasset Post 118 nominated to be next Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



The 37th Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Christopher J. Mahoney, a native of Massachusetts, cites the oath of reenlistment to Sgt. Alejandro Delarosa, a legal chief with Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa legal office and a native of Texas, in Belleau, France on May 25, 2025. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Juaquin Greaves)

President Donald Trump has nominated Marine Corps Gen. Christopher Mahoney to be the next vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the U.S. military's second-highest ranking officer.

The role is currently held by Navy Adm. Christopher Grady, who is nearing the end of his scheduled term in that position.

Trump submitted Mahoney's nomination for the role to the Senate on June 17, and it's been referred to the Armed Services Committee for consideration, according to a [notice](#) posted on Congress.gov.

The vice chairman of the JCS plays a key role in the Defense Department as chair of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council and a senior adviser on technology-related initiatives.

Mahoney is currently serving as assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, a role he's held since November 2023. For several months, he also performed the duties of commandant while Gen. Eric Smith was recovering from a cardiac arrest episode and open-heart surgery. The Marine Corps commandant is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

He previously served as deputy commander of U.S. Marine Forces Pacific; director of strategy and Plans at HQMC; deputy commander of U.S. Forces, Japan; commanding general of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing; and deputy commandant for programs and resources, HQMC, among other assignments.

Mahoney, a TOPGUN graduate, rose through the ranks of the Corps' aviation community and has over 5,000 hours of flight time in the A-6, F-5, F-18 and F-35. He's held command at the squadron, group and wing levels, and is also a qualified forward air controller and parachutist, according to his official bio.

He has noted the importance of the U.S. military improving its networking capabilities and focusing on software-driven technologies.

"There are more networks out there than probably a Cray computer can count. There needs to be unification of a network concept. And there needs to be a change in the way we think about hardware so that ... it's the software that drives the hardware, not the hardware that drives the software," [Mahoney said last year](#) at a Hudson Institute event.

(Article by Jon Harper Managing Editor of DefenseScoop)

Massachusetts Boys State 2025 was a resounding success! Held at Stonehill College in Easton, MA from June 14-20, nearly 250 high school students received an immersive civics education. In addition to leadership from the American Legion and Sons of the American Legion, nearly 50 volunteer staff members provided a life-changing experience for Massachusetts youth. More information about the program is available here: <https://www.maboysstate.org/>

Providing both an educational setting to teach government, and an hands-on experience for students running for mock versions of local and Massachusetts state offices, the program sets students up for the next phases of their life—whether entering the workforce, or heading off to college. Some of the highlights include students stepping up to conduct the Boys State band, moderate the candidates forum for student elections, and write and print a daily student newspaper, *The Citizen*. All of this is made possible by donations from a number of organizations, and the extraordinary fundraising and recruiting efforts from Legion posts around Massachusetts.

While 250 attending students is good, the program is looking to hit 300 students for the summer of 2026. This will require more effort from all volunteers and related organizations. Many of the volunteer staff is ready to collaborate to make this as easy as possible.

The most prominent offices elected at the program are the Massachusetts senators, who are sent to Boys Nation in Washington, D.C., and the governor. Zachary Tubbs (from Foxborough, sponsored by Post 93) and Roy Mwangi (from Leominster, sponsored by Post 151) will represent Massachusetts at Boys Nation as senators, and Logan O’Connell (from Chesire, sponsored by Post 155) was successful in his run for Governor.

Among the educational experiences, students also made lifelong friends, and many were encouraged to come back on staff, participate in other Legion youth programs, and be more informed about veterans’ efforts nationwide. This is an important program which has been very successful.



**“BE THE DIFFERENCE”**

Reach out to the Red Cross and Donate or set up a Donation Center at the Post.

Please send collection sheets for your event to me either by email or mailing;

Chris Manning
Blood Donor Chairman
79 S Main St Apt2
Haverhill, Ma 01835
Cjmanning140@gmail.com

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM REPORT**

Post: _____	
District: _____	Person Reporting: _____
Date: _____	Location: _____

Number of Appointments:	_____
Number of NO SHOW's:	_____
Number of Walk-Ins:	_____
Total Number Presenting:	_____
Number of Legionnaires:	_____
Number of SAL:	_____
Number of Auxiliary:	_____
Total Number of Legion Family:	_____

Please complete this form and return to me after each Blood Drive.

Email: cjmannning140@gmail.com

Text: 978-476-1847

American Legion Northeast Baseball Tournament Program Book Ad Order Form

Support the American Legion Northeast Regional Baseball Tournament in celebration of the American Legion's 100th Anniversary by reserving an advertisement in the program book. The tournament will take place from Wednesday, August 6th through Sunday, August 10th at Hanover Insurance Park at Fitton Field on the campus of Holy Cross College in Worcester, MA. This event is being hosted by **Shrewsbury American Legion**

Post 397.

100th Anniversary Premium Pricing

All premium pricing includes advertisements, banners at the game, recognition during the games, and tickets to the Worcester Bravehearts specified below.

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum - 150 Free Tickets | \$10,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold - 100 Free Tickets | \$7,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver - 75 Free Tickets | \$5,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze - 50 Free Tickets | \$2,500 |

Ad Sizing and Pricing

All ad pricing includes tickets to the Worcester Bravehearts specified below.

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Back Cover - Full Page Color
+50 Tickets | \$2,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Front Cover - Full Page Color
+40 Tickets | \$2,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page - Black and White
+20 Tickets | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Half Page - Black and White
+10 Tickets | \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter Page - Black and White
+4 Tickets | \$200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ad Booster | \$100 |

Ad Guidelines

- ☒ Payment is due with order.
- ☒ Only print-ready PDF or JPEG files will be accepted. Ad must fit into the designated ad size (above and on back) - ad will be re-sized if needed.

Payment Options

- ☐ CHECK
Please make checks payable to:
Shrewsbury American Legion Post 397

- ☐ CASH
Send payment, ad, and order form to:

Masis Staffing Solutions
c/o Gloria Little
1331 Grafton Street
Worcester, MA 01604
glittle@masisstaffing.com

DEADLINE: MONDAY JUNE 30, 2025

QUESTIONS?

Contact Name: Chris Desantis

Email: cdesantis@masisstaffing.com

We appreciate your support. A copy of the program book will be sent to all advertisers.

American Legion voices support for shielding veterans from fraud and human errors, holding VA staff accountable and more.



American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director Cole Lyle testifies during the House Veterans Affairs Committee Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing. Photo by Sarah

American Legion representatives testified twice June 11 on Capitol Hill on behalf of the nation's veterans, servicemembers and their families.

American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director Cole Lyle expressed the organization's support for a series of bills under consideration by the House Veterans Affairs Committee's (HVAC) Oversight & Investigations Subcommittee.

Among the bills under consideration that the Legion supports:

- H.R. 984, which would amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide timely equitable relief to an individual who suffers a loss based on an administrative error by the Secretary, and for other purposes. "With the

implementation of the PACT Act and record volume of claims submitted, the risk of human error has grown," Lyle said. "Veterans should not bear the financial or psychological burden of mistakes beyond their control."

- H.R. 1663, Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion (VSAFE) Act of 2025. Veterans are 40% more likely to fall victim to scams, Lyle noted.

- H.R. 3185, Personnel Integrity in Veterans Affairs Act of 2025. "This legislation rightly balances due process with the need to maintain trust in the VA workforce," he said. "We must hold ourselves to the same standards of honor and integrity we expect from those we serve."

- H.R. 3482, Veterans Community Care Scheduling Improvement Act.

- H.R. 3494, VA Hospital Inventory Management System Authorization Act.

In conclusion, Lyle told the subcommittee, "Our veterans do not ask for special treatment. They only ask for the care and benefits they earned delivered with competence, integrity and compassion. The bills under discussion today move us closer to that standard."

American Legion Senior Policy Employment and Education Associate Andrew Petrie testifies during the House Veterans Affairs Committee's Economic Opportunity Subcommittee hearing. Photo by Sarah Silbiger

Also on June 11, American Legion Senior Policy Associate Andrew Petrie testified before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity on pending legislation affecting education, financial stability and housing for servicemembers, veterans and their families. Among the bills under consideration that the Legion supports:

- H.R. 1965: Veteran Education Assistance Adjustment Act, which under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program would increase the yearly book and supplies stipend for veteran students from \$1,00 to \$1,400.

- DRAFT: Expanding Access for Online Veteran Students Act, which would increase the monthly housing stipend under the Post9/11 Educational Assistance Program for individuals who pursue programs of education solely through distance learning on more than a half-time basis.

- H.R. 2791: To amend title 38, United States Code, this legislation would increase the maximum amount of Department of Veterans Affairs Home Loan Guaranty entitlement from 25 percent to 150 percent to enable veterans to achieve homeownership and expand access to stable housing.

- DRAFT: To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for homelessness benefits to ensure that servicemembers who were discharged under other than honorable conditions, excluding those separated by reason of a dishonorable discharge or General Court Martial sentencing, are included and not excluded from lifesaving assistance.

Congratulations to all the new officers at Department, District and Post level for the year 2025-2026. Although many Posts do not meet in July or August, now is the time to solidify plans for the upcoming year. Waiting until September will cost you months of work. The American Legion Officers Guide, offers an Analysis of Post Operations. This can be a good self-audit. There is a lot of great information in the Guide, I recommend everyone review it whether you are a new Officer or have not reviewed it in some time. As noted in the past, the first step in recruiting is retention. Look at who has not paid their dues in the last few years and reach out to them. Another point often overlooked is communications. Are you letting your members know what is happening at the Post? Are you communicating with your local community, including leaders?

As we approach the 4th of July along with the fireworks and barbecues, let us not forget the true meaning of the holiday. INDEPENDENCE DAY. The formation of our great country. July 4, 1776. Next year will begin the celebrations, recognizing the beginning of the American Revolution some 250 years ago. All done as separate political parties and with varied backgrounds. Let us remember that we are all Americans! Our diversity is a strength. Despite that fact that some try to divide us.

It is not too early to think about how we can be involved in the celebrations. What is your community planning? Is your Post involved? This will be a good time to highlight community involvement and may lead to gaining some new members.

Remember: BE THE ONE. Saving lives. Changing lives. One at a time.

John Lenotte, Alternate National Executive Committeeman Department of MA;
Past Commander, Department of MA. Member American Legion National Media and Communications Commission. Member, American Institute of Parliamentarians. Local Board Member, Selective Service System. I may be reached at jpennotte@gmail.com





POW/MIA Ceremony



POW/MIA Ceremony

September 7, 2025 @ 1:00 pm
Aboard the USS Massachusetts
Battleship Cove, Fall River, MA



All are Welcome!
Collation served after ceremony at
American Legion Post 303
73 Ocean Grove Ave, Swansea, MA
Contact Ken Starks @781-708-7934 or
Tony Dias @ 508-369-4223



“Rise of Our Flag”



New ‘Rise of Our Flag’ graphic novel available

The American Legion has added to its portfolio of educational flag materials the “Rise of Our Flag” graphic novel. Perfect for junior high school readers and older, the 65-page “Rise of Our Flag” illustrates the journey of American’s symbol from its origins in the War of 1812 to the 21st century, where it has remained a beacon of hope following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Purchase your copies through American Legion Emblem Sales for \$4.99 a piece or a box of 50 for \$200. Orders can be placed online at <https://emblem.legion.org/Rise-of-.../productinfo/755.306/> or call Emblem Sales toll-free at (888) 453-4466.



Grassroots Information

Interested in what the Legion is advocating for in Congress on ***The Veteran’s Role in Supporting the Military?*** Check out our information papers in the Legislative Toolkit. This is a great starting point for a conversation with your elected officials!

As part of our ongoing Grassroots efforts, LegDiv staff is available to provide **Grassroots Training** tailored to the hosting Department’s needs. If you are interested in hosting a Grassroots training event, please contact grassroots@legion.org or ejohnson@legion.org.

You can find relevant legislation and the Legion’s stance on them in the [key legislation section of VoterVoice](#).

Register for Action Alerts today at <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Register>



“VLM for Living Veterans” allows Veterans to share their life stories today.

Made possible by the Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM), the new online feature is free and it enables Veterans to securely share their photos, autobiographies, military and life milestone achievements, and historical documents about their lives.

All you need to do is sign up for and be approved for a pre-need eligibility determination with VA. Pre-need eligibility is a way to find out if you’re eligible to be buried in a VA national cemetery ahead of time.

VA will keep your personal content secure until you pass and are approved for a burial or memorial benefit. Following approval, your content will become public and appear on your VLM personal page.

Started in 2019 by VA’s National Cemetery Administration, VLM is a digital platform where family and friends of Veterans who have passed can honor their loved ones. Currently, VLM honors nearly 10 million Veterans interred in 156 VA national cemeteries, VA grant-funded cemeteries, National Park Service cemeteries, Department of Defense-managed cemeteries and private cemeteries around the world. VLM expanded its reach in May 2025 to include approximately 200,000 more Veterans who are buried in American Battle Monument Commission cemeteries and memorials.

Army Chaplain and 1st Lt. Lawrence Provost recently created his legacy page. “I signed up because pre-need gives me peace of mind for my family when planning for my burial. The VLM for Living Veteran feature of sharing my story now is a great tool to tell my story the way I want to tell it.”

Since the VLM website launched, users have sent in more than 200,000 tributes and content. NCA moderators review all content submissions before posting to a Veteran’s page to ensure conformity with the VLM User Policy.

VA encourages you to share your story while you are alive and to ensure that your family members, friends and others can appreciate your experiences through your own voice.

For more information about the feature, visit the [“VLM for Living Veterans” landing page online](#) or go to www.vlm.cem.va.gov/livingveteranhome. For information about VA burial benefits, visit a VA national cemetery near you or call 800-827-1000. To apply for Pre-Need Eligibility, visit the [VA National Cemetery Administration website](#) or go to www.cem.va.gov and click Apply Online.



Testimonial Banquet in honor of Department President

SOFIA ELIZABETH BLAKE

Date: Sunday September 21, 2025

Time: Social time Noon Meal (All American BBQ) 1 PM

Place: American Legion Post 221 - Bedford

357 Great Road

Bedford, MA 01730

Donation \$40.00

Please make checks payable to:

ALA District 5 Middlesex County Council Inc.

Please mail checks to ticket Chair:

ROSEMARY TOWER

205 GREAT ROAD

STOW MA 01775

For additional tickets contact your District Director

RSVP BY: September 6, 2025



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025



For the first time in recent memory, we were treated to a joint performance of the Boys State and Girls State band and choir. Bravo!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025



The Honorable Daniel St. Hilaire, a N.H. Boys State alum, administers the oath of office to our constitutional officers. Thank you, Judge St. Hilaire!

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2025



Final mini courses. Thank you to our instructors for lending your expertise for the week to teach boys staters and girls staters!

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2025



The championship county of Boys State faces the counselors in quiz bowl!



Around the Department—Post 47 Be the One Presentation

**Be The One:
90 Minutes
To Save A
Life**



The American Legion has teamed up with Columbia University to develop & deliver #BeTheOne training. The training is designed for those who want to learn more about interacting with and responding to those who may be in crisis.

Holliston American Legion Post #47 will be hosting a remote presentation of **The Columbia Protocol** by Professor Adam Lesser of Columbia University.

When: Wednesday, June 18th

- Doors open at 6:30 PM
- Presentation begins at 7:00 PM

Where: Holliston Upper Town Hall

Refreshments will be served!



American Legion Post 47 in Holliston sponsored a seminar and American Legion members Kriss and Pete Westland did the organizing for the Columbia Protocols suicide awareness seminar on June 18th with Professor Adam Lesser of Columbia University. About 25 people including those attending remotely attended. Members of HDAAC and HFD fire and EMS attended along with members of the American Legion Post 47.





Troop 164 from Palmer won over all best troop at The American Legion Scouting Camporee over Father's Day weekend. The Troop was Sponsored by Merrill L. Simonds Post 130. Post 130 congratulates the troop for all their hard work.



Adyan Nay Squadron 130 Commander holds the Arthur Smith trophy that is kept for one year then is returned for next year's winner.



Local Legion post's traditional commemoration of Battle of Bunker Hill upsizes in a big way for 250th anniversary.

Charlestown, Mass., the “Bunker Hill post” of The American Legion carries that sense of place very close to its heart.

How close? When asked if J.W. Conway Post 26's initial charter date of June 17, 1919, was deliberate, former post commander Arthur Hurley replied, “Oh, yeah.”

The Boston neighborhood of Charlestown is intimately bound up with the Battle of Bunker Hill, which took place on June 17, 1775. Considered the first major battle of the American Revolution, colonial militiamen and a wide variety of their fellow local residents fought fiercely against British forces, and around 450 of them died. Although Charlestown was taken and largely destroyed, the level of resistance – more than 1,000 British soldiers died – showed that American colonists were not just going to roll over for the Crown. Hurley put it succinctly: “After the Battle of Bunker Hill, there was no going back.”

Hurley, an Army veteran and 55-year Legionnaire, made these comments on June 17 at St. Francis de Sales Church in Charlestown, where several days of other events had led up to the main celebration of the 250th anniversary of the battle; he is also chairman of the annual parade. Post 26 started the current age of commemoration 70 years ago, but

In this year was bigger in just about every way.

Descendants of those who fought at Bunker Hill, historical reenactors, a color guard from the nearby USS *Constitution*, representatives from the United Kingdom, the general public and more gathered first at the church for an ecumenical service sponsored by the post. Current Post 26 Commander Dan Noonan read from the Book of Wisdom, including the famous line “as gold in the furnace He tried them,” and the national anthem was played on the fife.

Hurley, a history buff, was born in Charlestown and said the parade always passed his house when he was young; his job was to bring out the chairs. To him, the Battle of Bunker Hill means “the beginning of the Revolution and the road ... to the greatest country.” After the service, all the participants marched up Bunker Hill Street, past historic homes and restaurants and dry cleaners. The drums and fifes brought people – and their camera phones – out of buildings and onto street corners. Along the way, they stopped at a Revolution-era cemetery to lay wreaths and fire ceremonial volleys.

Their final destination was the Bunker Hill Monument – maintained by the National Park Service – a giant obelisk dedicated in 1843 on the site of the battle, which took place on Charlestown's highest ground. Noonan reiterated after the remembrance ceremony that “we've been doing this for years, by ourselves for a lot of years.” But that was manifestly not the case this year. Even as cloudy skies deteriorated to a light rain, crowds of people stuck around for the speeches and historical demonstrations. Hurley was personally praised by Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, and Noonan by State Rep. Joseph Ryan (who called out the post's longtime participation) and Gov. Maura Healey, who invoked the ramping-up America 250 initiative – “but it started here a little early!”

Continued on Page 26

The commander, who was instrumental in getting him, introduced keynote speaker Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Ralph Rizzo, commanding general of Camp LeJeune and a Charlestown native. Best-selling author Nathaniel Philbrick told the story of future president John Quincy Adams: he witnessed the battle at age 7, was devastated at the death of a beloved family doctor and never attended commemorations – even the dedication of the obelisk.

The commemorations of the Battle of Bunker Hill are a fundamental way Post 26 stays connected to its neighborhood. Hurley's advice to posts not located in such historical-with-a-capital-H areas: "There's always the Fourth of July, Memorial Day ... *start* a parade! Get out there!" As for them, Noonan was typical New England-clipped: "We keep coming out."



Thank you to members of the Sandwich Middle High School Blue Knights lacrosse team for volunteering to place American flags on the graves of veterans. And thank you to Clark-Haddad Post 188 American Legion and Commander Ray Tourville for keeping this important town tradition alive.



Around the Department—Flag Day Post 435



Around the Department—Flag Day Post 188



Start Date	Time	Event	Location
7/26-7/30		Baseball State Tournament	Adams Field, Quincy MA
8/6-8/10		Baseball Northeast Regional	College of the Holy Cross, Worcester MA
8/23-8/28		National Convention	Tampa, FL

**AMERICAN
LEGION** 2025 Membership Standing *as of June 26, 2025*

Department Membership Standings 2025 Membership Year

District 7: Suffolk 95.62%

District 4 Worcester 95.40%

District 8 Essex 93.51%

District10:PLY/BARN/DUKES/NAN 93.51%



	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1195	1100	92.80%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN/ HAMPSHIRE	3422	3184	93.05%
4	WORCESTER	4432	4213	95.40%
5	MIDDLESEX	3623	3297	93.03%
6	NORFOLK	2319	2164	93.32%
7	SUFFOLK	1142	1092	95.62%
8	ESSEX	2442	2263	93.51%
9	BRISTOL	2475	2228	90.02%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3573	3341	93.51%
297	CAPITOL HILL	423	402	95.04%
462	HEADQUARTERS	1689	765	45.29%
	National Quota	26,576	24,136	90.82

CALL for the 104th Annual National Convention of the AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY to meet in Tampa, Florida - August 22 – 28, 2025

In conformity with Article VI, Section 1 of the National Constitution, which provides that the annual National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be held at the same time and place as The American Legion National Convention, the 104th Annual National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary is hereby called to meet in Tampa, Florida, from August 22-28, 2025. The convention business sessions will be in the Tampa Convention Center.

PURPOSE

The annual National Convention is the legislative body of the American Legion Auxiliary. The convention is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, amending the National Constitution & Bylaws, receiving reports of national officers and committees, and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it. Officers for the ensuing year will be elected August 27, 2025.

2025 Membership Standing *as of June 27, 2025*

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	190	201	105.79%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN HAMPSHIRE	670	622	92.84%
4	WORCESTER	1037	1047	100.96%
5	MIDDLESEX	940	934	99.36%
6	NORFOLK	337	353	104.75%
7	SUFFOLK	103	94	91.26%
8	ESSEX	612	621	101.47%
9	BRISTOL	268	263	98.13%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	765	740	96.73%
462	HEADQUARTERS	184	126	
	National Quota	5,106	5,001	97.94%

53rd National Convention Agenda Tampa Convention Center and JW Marriott Tampa, Florida | August 22 - 24, 2025

SAL National Convention Registration for Delegates, Alternate Delegates, and Guests

Location: Tampa Convention Center | National Staff Offices (Rooms 114-117, First Floor)

Wednesday, August 20 - Friday, August 22 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Saturday, August 23 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

SAL Information Services - Tampa Convention Center, Room 101 (First Floor)

**** All meetings and events listed below will be held at the JW Marriott.**

SAL Staff Office—Pinellas (Fourth Floor) | Wednesday, August 20 - Monday, August 25 | 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

SAL Detachment Commander's Training

SAL National Executive Committee and General Sessions | Tampa Bay Ballroom (Fourth Floor)

- Pre-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting | August 22 10:00 AM
- Sons of The American Legion National Convention General Sessions
 - ☐ August 22 1:00 PM (Opening)
 - ☐ August 23 9:00 AM
 - ☐ August 24 8:00 AM
- Post-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting | August 24 2:00 PM



2025 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of June 26, 2025

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	228	227	99.56%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN / HAMPSHIRE	748	656	87.70%
4	WORCESTER	983	965	98.17%
5	MIDDLESEX	1256	1338	106.53%
6	NORFOLK	835	774	92.69%
7	SUFFOLK	196	165	84.18%
8	ESSEX	442	444	100.45%
9	BRISTOL	280	277	98.93%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	790	751	95.06%
	National Goal	5758	5597	97.20%



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.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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



Post 397 Shrewsbury American Legion Baseball Northeast Regional Fundraiser



Drawing on
August 8th



To support our team with hosting the American Legion Baseball Northeast Regional Tournament, we are raffling a signed, numbered, framed limited-edition print of "The Homecoming, A Snapshot of History" by John D. Shaw. Not only is it signed by the artist, it is also signed by eight veterans of the Pacific Theater of WWII. This print depicts F4U Corsairs of VMF 214 flying over the Golden Gate Bridge in 1945 while Navy ships and troop transports pass underneath as troops returned home. A certificate of authenticity comes with it.

Tickets are one for \$5 or three for \$10.

For more information, contact Post 397
post397ma@gmail.com


MEDIC NOW FOUNDATION, INC. PRESENTS

2025 SALUTE TO SERVICE CELEBRATION

OCT 25, 2025



ALL-AMERICAN

Freedom Concert

Featuring the American Bombshells

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
U.S. MILITARY VETERANS
Honor. Celebrate. Give Back.
Because our heroes deserve nothing less.

PLATINUM PRESENTING SPONSOR


FREEDOM FIGHTER SPONSOR


At Plymouth Memorial Hall, 83 Court Street, Plymouth MA



Massachusetts E-Legionnaire

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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:

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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.
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