



MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

THE DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Volume 17 Issue 2

August 2026

Commander's Corner



Department Commander
Robert Jerdan

Comrades,

It has been an absolute shotgun start to the beginning of my term as your Department Commander. Once again, I am incredibly honored and deeply humbled to lead this great organization of outstanding veterans.

The Department Vice Commanders and I have already been hit the ground running, traveling across our awesome Commonwealth to support the future of our communities—our youth. We've had a fantastic time getting out and about, from cheering on our athletes at the Girls Fast Pitch Softball

All-Star Game to catching great local action at American Legion Baseball games.

Over the course of this year, I am looking forward to keeping up this momentum. My goal is to attend as many Post meetings, District meetings, and local Post activities as possible. If you want to see where I've been or where I'm heading next, be sure to keep an eye on the Department Facebook page for regular updates on my travels across Massachusetts.

As we kick off this administrative year, I want to bring your attention to a few vital priorities:

The Commander's Charity: This year, our focus is the Veterans and Children Foundation. Let's show the national organization and other Departments exactly what Massachusetts is capable of. I am asking every individual, Post, and District to contribute so we can

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 **AMERICAN
LEGION
FAMILY**

Due to National Convention the September edition will be published later , Around September 11th!

deliver a powerful, healthy donation that proves we mean business.

Grassroots Advocacy: Never forget the power of your voice. We must continue our grassroots efforts, actively engaging with our elected officials to let them know that we are still hard at work. We must remain a loud, clear voice supporting our veterans, our local communities, and our active-duty service members.

Buddy Checks: Our responsibility to one another never ends. Please continue to conduct regular Buddy Checks. Reach out to your members, your neighbors, and fellow veterans to ensure no one is left behind or feeling isolated.

Thank you all for your continued dedication, your hard work, and your passion for the American Legion. Let's make this year one for the history books.

In Service,

Commander

Department of Massachusetts

The American Legion

YOU CAN BE THE ONE TO:



ASK
Reach out and start a conversation.



LISTEN
Let them know you care and are here for them.



ENCOURAGE
Help them connect with the support they deserve.



SUPPORT
Stand by them. Together, we can make a difference.



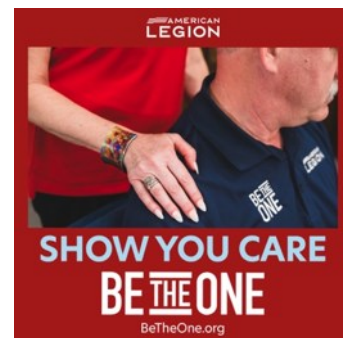
BELONG
Remind them they are not alone.

BE THE ONE. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



JOIN. RENEW. VOLUNTEER.
BE THE ONE TODAY.

LEGION.ORG/BETHEONE



Why the Auxiliary Matters Today! In an era where community spaces are shrinking, the American Legion Auxiliary remains a vital hub of localized volunteerism. It provides a multigenerational platform where grandmothers, spouses, and youth can serve side-by-side. For military families moving to a new area or veterans looking to transition back into civilian life, a local ALA unit offers an instant, built-in network of support and purpose. By investing billions of dollars of economic impact through pure volunteer hours, the ALA continues to ensure that America's promise to protect those who defend our freedom is kept daily at the neighborhood level.

Lisa Gauthier
Department President

Department President's Lisa Gathier project "Tour of Duty"



81,000 POW/MIAs Left Behind. Their Fight Isn't Over.



81,000 Forgotten Heroes Need Your Voice.

At Tours of Duty, we are driven by a solemn mission: to uphold our nation's steadfast commitment to bring every hero home, regardless of the passage of time. We strive to embody the core values of camaraderie, honor, and service by ensuring that **no one is left behind.**

Through our dedicated efforts, we empower veterans to embark on purposeful missions. We recognize and harness the unique skills, tenacity, and dedication of those who have bravely served our country.

Our primary focus is on locating and recovering POW/MIAs, a task that holds profound significance. In doing so, we pay homage to the sacrifices made by these brave individuals and provide solace to the families who have endured decades of uncertainty.

Be a voice for the voiceless.



Join the mission.
Donate Today.

Amand Rutledge, CEO
202-539-9615
expeditions@toursofduty.org
www.toursofduty.org



Detachment
Commander
Jesse Limanek

Greetings Department of Massachusetts American Legion Family,

The 2027 SAL Membership cards have finally arrived! As such, I have scheduled our annual transition meeting. We will be meeting on Sunday, August 9th at Cherry Valley American Legion Post 443 (located at 167 Main Street in Leicester MA) from 11am to 1pm. In addition to the items of normal busi-

ness, I will be making committee appointments. If you are interested in serving the Detachment on one of our committees, please let me know ASAP. Upon the conclusion of the meeting, we will be distributing all membership cards. Please make sure someone from your Post/Squadron can attend to sign for and grab your cards. We are already behind schedule, which means extra pressure will be on us all to fulfill our membership obligations. Therefore, it is imperative that you start the process of renewals as soon as possible.

Next, please continue to process any and all membership payments you receive. If you receive payment from a member whose membership expired on December 31, 2025 or before, process it! If you receive payment from a member who membership will expire on December 31st, 2026, process it! Do not sit on membership payments. I have heard many stories from members who paid their dues but received notice that their membership had expired because the dues were never transmitted. This results in confusion that could easily be avoided if all dues were processed immediately upon receipt. Every squadron has the ability to process their own dues through MyLegion. If you would like some assistance

to learn how to do so, please reach out. It is much easier and quicker than mailing envelopes to the Department office in Boston.

Finally, I am continuing my Commander's Project this membership year. Once again, I will continue to raise funds for the American Legion's Veterans and Children Foundation. Last year, I challenged each squadron to raise \$1 per member in support of VCF and mail the payment into the Detachment. Several squadrons did, and I am truly appreciative of their support. For those who know nothing about VCF, it can make an impact for any active-duty member of the United States Armed Forces or veteran possessing up-to-date membership in the Legion. Not only does it provide temporary financial assistance for military and veteran parents facing hardships that threaten the stability of their homes, but it also provides funding to train veteran service officers who work to ensure that all disabled veterans receive the benefits to which they are entitled. To be successful, I need the help of every Squadron - big and small. This challenge does not require any additional work, event, or activity. All that I ask is that you dedicate a portion of any fundraising effort (or donation that you may already make to VCF) to support my efforts as your Commander and mail it in to the Detachment. When the goal is reached, it is my intention to present a check to our National Commander on stage at National Convention on behalf of the entire Detachment. This will help bring attention to the good work we, as part of the American Legion Family of Massachusetts, do on a daily basis.

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



The American Legion Department Of Massachusetts

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August 1, 2026

Legionnaires

August is upon us and we as a Department are moving full steam ahead. June was busy month with Boy's State and Scouting Camporee. July was just as busy with the Boston 250th July 4th Parade, Lady's Fast Pitch Softball and American Legion Baseball in full swing. August will prove to be just as busy. Department Commander Jerdan, Department Sr. Vice Commander Pajak, Grace and I head to Indianapolis for the annual membership workshop. We are hoping to add to Dept Sr Vice Commander Pajak impressive membership tool kit. There is also The American Legion Baseball World Series in Shelby, N.C. (anyone going please take pictures), and finally in Louisville, KY is the American Legion National Convention. The Department of Massachusetts has exceeded our room block once again meaning the Department of Massachusetts will be well represented at the Convention.

The following is my opinion only, not National, Department, District. or Post.

On a very serious note, we are all aware of the fight going on regarding Taking Care of our Veterans Act (TCAVA) between many of the veterans' service organizations. The American Legion nationally has taken the position to support the Act. We have all read the comments from Legionnaires who have walked away from the The American Legion because of this support. **We all understand politics can be very messy and heated.** What makes us an organization of distinction is we don't just have one mission we have missions. If you disagree with supporting TCVA do not walk away from the American Legion. You are needed and wanted. The missions continue. Be the difference. Our Four Pillars let us engage in so much more than ourselves. The Four Pillars are about our work in the Community, State and Nation. No organization is perfect for it was created by humans. Our **Department Commander says ONE TEAM – ONE FIGHT** but I would like to add to it- **ONE TEAM - MANY FIGHTS**

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:



Every Event is a Membership Event

One of the greatest strengths of The American Legion has always been our visibility in our communities. Whether we are conducting a flag retirement ceremony, sponsoring a youth program, supporting a Veterans Home, riding in a motorcycle escort, marching in a parade, serving at a community dinner, honoring our fallen, or simply volunteering at a local event, we are showing America what veterans continue to do long after taking off the uniform.

But there is one question we should ask ourselves at every event:

“How many new members did we recruit today?”

Too often we attend events representing The American Legion without making membership a priority. We proudly wear our Legion caps and shirts, set up displays, hand out information, and serve our communities—but we miss one of our greatest opportunities: inviting eligible veterans to become part of our organization.

Every event should include a membership plan.

Every Legionnaire should carry membership applications, know how to explain today’s eligibility requirements, and be ready to answer one simple question:

“Have you ever considered joining The American Legion?”

It really can be that simple.

Since the passage of the LEGION Act, nearly every honorably discharged veteran who has served on federal active duty since December 7, 1941, is eligible to join. That means the pool of potential members has never been larger. Many veterans simply don’t realize they qualify or don’t understand everything The American Legion does for veterans, families, children, and communities.

As Legionnaires, we need to stop assuming someone else will ask. Membership is not just the responsibility of the Membership Chairman or Post Commander—it belongs to every one of us. National membership guidance consistently emphasizes that recruiting and retaining members is everyone’s responsibility, and the best recruiting happens through personal conversations.

Think about all the places we already go:

- Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies
- Community festivals and fairs

- ☐ National Night Out events
- ☐ Car shows and motorcycle rides
- ☐ Sporting events
- ☐ Farmers markets
- ☐ Scout functions
- ☐ School programs
- ☐ Veterans resource fairs
- ☐ Holiday parades
- ☐ First responder appreciation events
- ☐ Blood drives
- ☐ Charity fundraisers
- ☐ Local concerts and town celebrations

Each one is filled with veterans, military families, and people who know veterans. Every one of those conversations is an opportunity to strengthen our organization.

The key isn't selling a membership card—it's sharing our mission.

Talk about how The American Legion fights for veterans' benefits, mentors our youth through programs like Boys State and Oratorical, supports children and families through the Veterans & Children Foundation, assists veterans in times of need, promotes Americanism, and continues to serve our communities every day. People join organizations that make a difference, and no veter-

ans organization has made a greater impact on America than The American Legion.

Before every event, ask your team three simple questions:

- ☐ Who is bringing membership applications?
- ☐ Who is assigned to greet veterans?
- ☐ Who is going to ask someone to join today?

If every Legionnaire committed to asking just one eligible veteran at every event, imagine what that would mean across the Department of Massachusetts over the course of a year.

Membership growth doesn't happen by accident. It happens in one conversation at a time.

So, as you prepare for your next event, remember our challenge:

Wear the cap. Tell the story. Extend the invitation.

Because every event is a membership event—and every veteran deserves the opportunity to become part of the

nation's largest veterans service organization.

Just Ask.

Drew Pajak
Membership Chairman



★ 2026-2027 ★
MEMBERSHIP KICKOFF!

AMERICAN LEGION
THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
Veterans. Families. Communities.

SERVING VETERANS ★ SUPPORTING MILITARY FAMILIES ★ STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

A NEW YEAR. RENEWED PURPOSE.
As we begin the 2026–2027 membership year, let's come together as one Legion Family to continue our mission of **Service, Patriotism, Mentorship, and Americanism.**



SERVING VETERANS
We advocate for those who have served and provide the support they have earned.



MENTORING YOUTH
We invest in the next generation through programs that build leadership and character.



PROMOTING PATRIOTISM
We honor our history and instill pride in our nation's values and heritage.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES
We respond to local needs and build stronger, safer communities together.

★ *One Member. One Post. One Community at a time.* ★
TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DirFERENCE.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. INVITE A VETERAN. | *Be the One. Make an Impact.*

LET'S MAKE THE 2026–2027 MEMBERSHIP YEAR **OUR STRONGEST YEAR YET!**

BE THE ONE

A simple conversation can save a life.
REACH OUT. BE THE ONE.

CALL TEXT LISTEN CARE

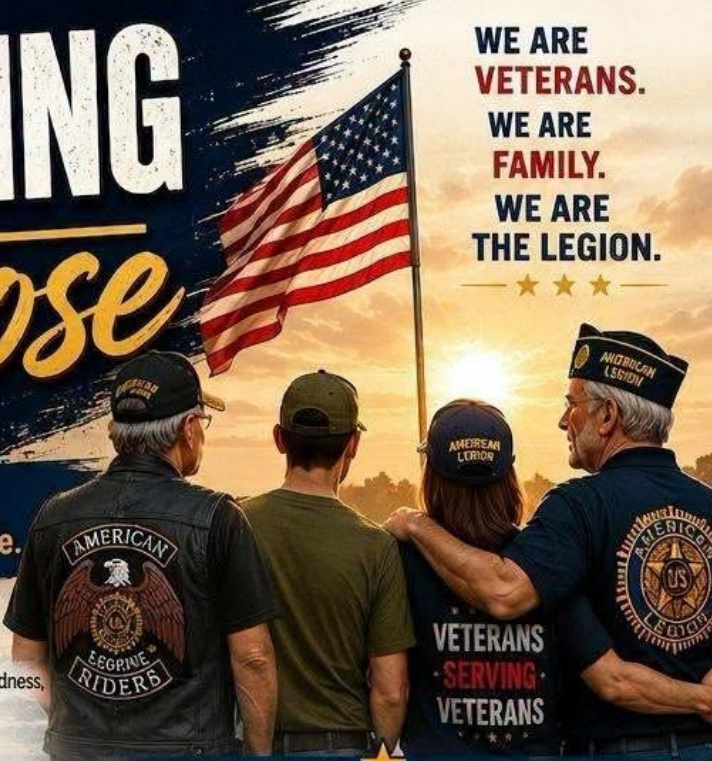
You don't need all the answers.
You just need to be there.

LEGIONING WITH *Purpose*

Every action. Every member.
Every day. **Making a difference.**

**WE ARE VETERANS.
WE ARE FAMILY.
WE ARE THE LEGION.**

★ ★ ★



SERVE WITH HEART
Every volunteer hour, every act of kindness, and every program we support changes a life.

BUILD STRONGER TOGETHER
United in purpose, we strengthen our Posts, our communities, and our nation.

HONOR OUR LEGACY
We carry forward the values of those who served before us by serving those who follow.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE
Step up. Speak out. Inspire others. Your leadership today shapes tomorrow's future.

MAKE AN IMPACT
From Buddy Checks to Scholarships, from Veteran Support to Youth Programs—we make a difference every day.

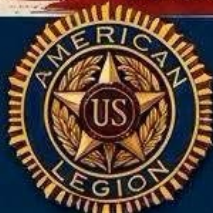
WHY IT MATTERS

- ✓ **We are THE VOICE** for veterans and their families.
- ✓ **We are THE SUPPORT** in times of need.
- ✓ **We are THE COMMUNITY** that no one should face alone.
- ✓ **We are THE FUTURE** of service and leadership.

TOGETHER, WE DON'T JUST BELONG—WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Get Involved. Stay Involved. Make It Count.

LEGIONING WITH PURPOSE IS HOW WE WIN THE DAY!

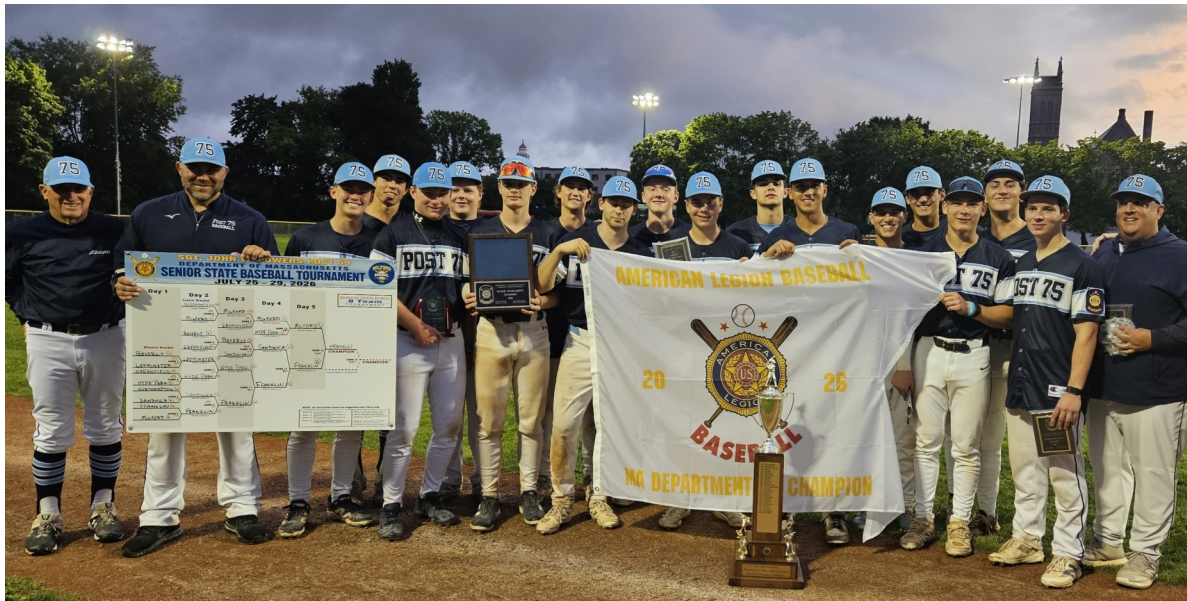


WHAT WILL YOUR PURPOSE BE TODAY?
JOIN US. SERVE OTHERS. STRENGTHEN OUR NATION.
For God and Country.

★ ★ ★

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
VETERANS STRENGTHENING
AMERICA**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
www.legion.org



Franklin Post 75 is the 2026 American Legion Department of Massachusetts Champions.

Congratulations to Franklin Post 75 and good luck in the Regional Tournament! Congratulations to all the teams who made it to the State Tournament. You all represented your Post with dignity and honor! Thank you to Milford American Legion Baseball club for running an outstanding tournament!



Past National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer received the Massachusetts Baseball Graduate of the Year award at the Massachusetts State Finals! Legion Officers, members and Town Dignitaries look on.



July 13, 2026 AL softball teams played the 1st Massachusetts American Legion Softball All-Star Game. Past NEC and Softball Chair Jodi Pajak, Past Dept. of MA Commander Scott Conner, Vice Commander Cindy Lacoste, and Adjutant Asst. Grace Conner were there to assist with the games and support teams. Photos are shared from their FB page.
<https://www.facebook.com/MassAmericanLegionSoftball>





Top fundraising departments in six categories will receive special plaques at national convention from National Commander Wiley.

Six departments claimed victory in The American Legion's fundraising competition, which was part of the **USA 250 Challenge**, which concluded on July 4.

Departments were broken up into six categories, based on membership size. The winning departments in each category

are Indiana, California, Tennessee, Massachusetts, New Mexico and Rhode Island.

The top seven individual fundraisers were led by 2025-2026 Indiana Department Commander **Ron Patterson, who raised \$22,137**. The next top fundraisers were Frank Burks, Chris Yates, Jim Mulvey, Gilbert San Roman, Jesse Limanek and Mitchell Keil.

Limanek and Keil helped propel the Department of Massachusetts from third to first in its category, thanks to \$2,800 in donations over three days in

mid-June during a **special 250-mile continuous walk** throughout the state.

Each of the six winning departments will receive special recognition from American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley. He will present plaques on stage at national convention to the winning departments.

All fundraising for the 250 Challenge benefitted the Veterans & Children Foundation, which supports disabled veterans and military families facing financial burdens.

. The Children & Youth umbrella covers two major foundations, the Child Wellbeing Foundation (CWF) and the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF). Many of you have donated to one or both foundations personally, through your Posts or Districts or perhaps directly to National. All these avenues work and bring together the contributions of our combined American Legion family. Today I want to give you a brief overview of CWF, so you realize the importance this plays for families with children. In 1954 the Child Welfare Foundation, Inc. was developed as a depository of funds from individuals who wished to contribute to the betterment of children in this country. CWF is now called the Child Wellbeing Foundation, a slight name change but the same message of care.

Since 1954, CWF has awarded over \$17 million in grants. How do they do this? CWF accepts funding proposals from nonprofit organizations for projects that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare of children. Grants are only given to nonprofit organizations that help U.S. children in a large geographic area; they are not awarded for day-to-day operating expenses or special operating expenses. 100 percent of every dollar donated goes to fund the grants – few other foundations can make that claim. When it was founded, it was the ONLY national organization of its kind devoted exclusively to programs involving young people. It is interesting to note that CWF is a separate corporation from The American Legion with its own charter and having its own

Board of Directors as the governing body. Applications are accepted starting May 1 and received by July 15 each year. Grants are awarded in October and funds given on January 1st. These grants range from \$6,000 to over \$60,000. Grants must have the greatest potential for helping children in a large geographic area. It is refreshing to note that CWF's primary concern is helping the children of our great nation. It does not fund programs that fail to meet the basic criteria of direct benefit to children. If you know of a non-profit that may benefit from assistance from CWF, reach out and we can help provide them with information on how to apply for a grant. Children are our future and we need to help them be healthy, happy & thrive.

Preparing Young Americans to Lead, Serve, and Succeed

The American Legion's youth programs help shape the next generation of American leaders by fostering citizenship, character, and a deep respect for our nation's founding principles. From the ballfield to the debate stage, and from mock government to hands-on career exploration, these initiatives strengthen communities and prepare young people for lives of service and leadership.

Across the country, Legionnaires provide opportunities that build confidence, discipline, and civic responsibility through American Legion Baseball, the Oratorical Contest, Boys State and Boys Nation, Junior Shooting Sports, and a wide range of scholarships. These programs reach youth of every background and reflect the Legion's enduring commitment to Americanism.

Together, they promote citizenship, leadership, service, and opportunity while ensuring future generations are ready to uphold the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy.



CELEBRATE & EDUCATE

American Legion Family Youth Programs advance civics and responsible citizenship for our nation's 250th anniversary and beyond.



ORATORICAL CONTEST

The American Legion Oratorical Contest challenges high school students to explore and understand the U.S. Constitution while developing confidence, leadership and communication skills. National contestants compete for more than \$200,000 in scholarships each year.



BOYS STATE/BOYS NATION

American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation are government-education programs that have shaped thousands of careers in public service and leadership since 1935. Boys State offers students entering their senior year a glimpse into how government functions in a democracy. Two delegates from each Boys State program are selected to attend Boys Nation, where they form and operate a mock federal government, visit congressional delegations, military leaders and The White House to enrich their understanding of U.S. leadership.



GIRLS STATE/GIRLS NATION

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State and Girls Nation closely mirror American Legion Boys State/Boys Nation, for students entering their senior years of high school seeking understanding about participation in government. Two delegates from each ALA Girls State program are chosen each year to participate in Girls Nation in Washington, D.C. Participants leave with "leadership lessons for life" and an understanding of the fundamentals of U.S. government, rights, privileges, and responsibilities of citizens.



AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

More than 10 million young athletes have since 1925 learned the principles of sportsmanship, teamwork, discipline, fitness and responsible citizenship through the American Legion Baseball program.

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is a gun-safety education and marksmanship program that encompasses the basic elements of safety, education, enjoyment, competition and citizenship.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY EDUCATIONAL CONTESTS

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST:

The Americanism Essay Contest of the American Legion Auxiliary teaches students the value of patriotism and what it means to be Americans. Students (grades 3 to 12) explore the fundamental rights and freedoms, following a theme.

Current Theme: "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for Our Freedom."

POPPY POSTER CONTEST:

American Legion Auxiliary units sponsor poppy poster contests in local schools across the country for schools and youth groups. Seven classes of contestants are available.



FUN WAYS TO LEARN ABOUT OUR FLAG

The American Legion publishes comic and activity books about the U.S. flag, veterans and the founding values of our nation. Many items can be ordered in bulk at discounted prices for classrooms or youth groups.

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE: Early readers will learn the meaning behind the Pledge and the freedoms it symbolizes.

LIGHT OF LIBERTY: Advanced elementary-age readers meet a Revolutionary War minuteman who tells how and why America achieved independence and the rights and responsibilities of all U.S. citizens.

OUR COUNTRY'S FLAG: Set on the 4th of July, preteens learn the story of our nation's colors and how to properly display the flag.

OUR COUNTRY'S VETERANS: As a veterans memorial is dedicated, young people learn from one who served the importance of protecting our freedoms.

RISE OF OUR FLAG: The epic story of our nation's flag is illustrated in a "graphic novel" format for teen and adult readers who discover the reason behind The American Legion's sacred ceremonies to retire U.S. flags when their useful days are over.

INDIVISIBLE: THE STORY OF OUR FLAG: A 116-page, photo-filled bookazine shows the complete story of our nation's flag. Also available are flag decals, pins, stick flags, copies of U.S. Flag Code and pocket-sized U.S. Constitutions and Declarations of Independence.

Order online at emblem.legion.org
Or call (888) 453-4466



For more information and how to participate visit legion.org/usa250 or scan the QR code





VFW Chaplain recites a prayer to honor PFC Bernard Sweet, while veterans who are a part of escorting his remains to his hometown of Vermont, bow their heads. Also photographed paying respect is Past National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr. and Dept. of MA Commander Robert Jerdan. (Photos by Dept. of MA Photographer Lisa Borges)



The American Legion, The American Legion Riders, the VFW, and many other veterans group from Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut joined together to escort the remains of PFC Bernard Sweet, a World War II veteran and a recipient of the Silver star from Bradley Airport in Windsor Locks CT, to his hometown of Bennington VT.

Private First Class Sweet, whose remains were identified through DNA samples provided by relatives, was stationed with the Army Air Forces in the Philippines when the war in the Pacific began in December 1941.

The Bennington High School graduate had enlisted in the Army Air Forces in 1939 and had been sent to the Philippines to receive training in aviation mechanics. Sweet died in October 1942 in the infamous Cabanatuan prisoner of war camp and was buried there in a mass grave with other prisoners.



HOW TO ACCESS THE GRASSROOTS ACTION CENTER

Send a message to your Congressional Representatives, expressing your support on multiple legislative initiatives.

- 1 Go to **legion.org**
- 2 Click on the **"ADVOCACY"** link at the top of the page
- 3 Select **"GRASSROOTS ACTION CENTER"** from the drop-down menu
- 4 Choose a bill to support (e.g., **MAJOR RICHARD STAR ACT**)
- 5 Send the pre-filled message to your Congressional leaders.

It's that easy. *Together*, we can send **25,000** messages in support of a bill!



VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

**SEND MESSAGES ALL YEAR LONG:
DAILY, WEEKLY, EVERY WEEK, ALL YEAR!**

Recently I came across some information in an email from Ballotpedia that I feel is worth sharing with all of you. November may seem far away, but it is only 3 months away.

Massachusetts voters will decide nine statewide ballot measures this year, above the even-year average of four and tying with [1972](#), [1976](#), and [1994](#) for the second-most measures in the state's history.

On July 17, Massachusetts Secretary of State [William Galvin](#)(D) announced that campaigns for eight initiative petitions collected enough valid signatures to qualify their measures for the Nov. 3 ballot. A previously certified veto referendum for the Nov. 3 ballot brings the total to nine.

Initiated measures in Massachusetts are [indirect](#). While a direct initiative is put on the ballot once supporters file the required number of valid signatures, an indirect initiative is first presented to the state legislature. Legislators have until the first Wednesday of May in the election year to adopt the initiative into law. Should legislators take no action or reject the initiative, proponents must collect a second round of signatures supporting the measure to place it on the ballot.

The [Massachusetts General Court](#) chose not to take action on any of the initiatives. Campaigns supporting the initiatives submitted a second round of signatures to the Secretary of State by July 8.

Of the eight initiatives:

Two initiatives — the [Permit Same-Day Voter Registration Initiative](#) and the [Top-Two Primary Elections Initiative](#) — are on election policy. The first initiative would permit [same-day voter registration](#), and the second would adopt [top-two primaries](#) for state offices and require gubernatorial and lieutenant gubernatorial candidates to run as a joint ticket in primaries.

The [Eliminate Recreational Marijuana Sales and Allow Limited Possession Initiative](#) would repeal the state's laws that legalized, regulated, and taxed retail sales of recreational marijuana. Massachusetts is one of 13 states and Washington, D.C. to have used the ballot initiative process to legalize the possession and personal use of marijuana for recreational purposes.

The [Change State Tax Revenue Limit Initiative](#) would change the method of calculating the state's tax revenue limit so that it is equal to the sum of the net amount of state revenue from the year prior and the average growth of wages and salaries in Massachusetts over the past three years.

The [Establish the Nature for All Fund Initiative](#) would create the *Nature for All Fund*, which would receive revenue from the sales tax on sporting goods, recreational vehicles, and golf courses. The fund would be used for natural resource conservation.

The [Limit on Required Lot Size for Single-Family Homes Initiative](#) would require cities and towns to allow single-family homes on residentially zoned lots that meet minimum standards of at least 5,000 square feet

in area, at least 50 feet of frontage on a street or public way, and access to public sewer and water services.

The Permit Collective Bargaining for Committee for Public Counsel Services Employees Initiative would permit employees of the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS) to engage in collective bargaining with their employer.

The Public Records Requirements for Legislature and Governor's Office Initiative would require that records the state legislature and the governor's office hold be public records.

Additionally, the veto referendum will allow voters to decide whether to retain or repeal House Bill 4885, which made several changes to the state's firearm regulations. Under HB 4885, the state would develop an electronic tracking system for firearms, prohibit assault-style firearms (as defined in law), require safety certificates to obtain firearm parts, mandate serial numbers for firearms, allow school administrators and licensed healthcare providers to request that a court issue an Extreme Risk Protection Order, and permit courts to order firearm surrenders when issuing a Harassment Prevention Order. Massachusetts is one of 22 states that have enacted laws authorizing courts to issue extreme risk protection orders.

Get out and vote but be an educated voter!

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

John Lenotte, National Executive Committeeman Department of MA; Member, American Institute of Parliamentarians. Local Board Member, Selective Service System. I may be reached at jplenotte@gmail.com

The logo for the American Legion, featuring a stylized American flag with the words "AMERICAN LEGION" in a bold, sans-serif font.

**MASSACHUSETTS
E-LEGIONNAIRE**
The Department of Massachusetts

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

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Massachusetts has decided to transition away from serving as the distributor for poppy sales. This change will be implemented gradually and thoughtfully.

The Department currently has approximately 15 kits on hand, sufficient to produce 15,000 poppies and meet anticipated needs, including Veterans Day. Units are encouraged to submit orders as soon as possible, with a maximum of 2,000 poppies per order. A limited number of kits will be available at an increased cost (\$161.00) and may be picked up at Department meetings; they will no longer be shipped. After the Department inventory has been depleted no more kits will be purchased. To support future needs, the Department will maintain a list of Districts and Units with available poppy inventory. Poppies may also be purchased directly through Emblem Sales.

This transition will allow the Department to focus more heavily on education and advocacy by promoting the significance of the poppy, increasing awareness of how poppy funds support veterans, and reinforcing its role as a symbol of remembrance and service.

Thank you for your support

Katina Polemenako
ALA Department of Massachusetts
Poppy Chairman 2026-2027

See Next page for Poppy Order Form



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC.
State House, Room 545-A3 - Boston, MA 02133

Orders for ALL Poppy Drives

Post/Unit Name: _____ Post/Unit # _____

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ City/Town: _____

Zip Code: _____ E-mail: _____

The following order is submitted to Department Headquarters to provide Poppies for our Poppy Drive being held on _____

ALLOW 8 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY
(MEMORIAL DAY ORDERS MUST BE IN BY APRIL 15TH)

We wish to order:

_____ Poppies at \$260.00 per 1000 \$ _____

_____ Poppies at \$140.00 per 500 \$ _____

_____ Poppies at \$ 40.00 per 100 \$ _____

_____ Poppy Kits @ \$161.00 each (includes labels) \$ _____

_____ Extra Labels for Poppy Kits @ \$10.00 per 1000 \$ _____

Postage & Handling: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Enclosed: Check \$ _____ Money Order \$ _____

This form must accompany order and be mailed to American Legion Auxiliary Headquarters,
Department of MA Rm 545-A3 Boston, MA 02133

POSTAGE CHART

1-500 Poppies	\$11.00
501-1000 Poppies	\$17.00
1001-2000 Poppies	\$25.00

For every additional portion of 1000 add \$17

For additional information or questions please contact Department Poppy Chair :
Katina Polemenako- polkattone@comcast.net , (351) 444-8650

VA HONORS REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS INTERRED IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES IN SUPPORT OF AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs this weekend will honor 49 Veterans of the Revolutionary War who are interred or memorialized in VA national cemeteries or VA-administered soldiers lots in private cemeteries, as part of the yearlong effort to commemorate [America's 250th anniversary](#).

While Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress July 4, 1776, most delegates signed it on Aug. 2, 1776. To mark that event, ceremonies will commence at 10 a.m. local time, Aug. 2, 2026, at 16 sites across the country:

"Service, sacrifice and patriotism are qualities displayed by our Veterans going back to the very founding of our nation," said **VA Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Sam Brown**. "Two hundred and fifty years later, we remain inspired by those who first took up arms in defense of liberty, and who, like the signers of the Declaration of Independence, risked their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to establish the United States of America."

View VA Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Sam Brown's invitation to [join the events](#) here.

The names of the soldiers and sailors to be honored can be found here: [Revolutionary War Interred Veterans](#).

NCA provides burial and memorial benefits to eligible Veterans, their spouses, and their dependents — at no cost to the family. This includes a gravesite in any of [VA's national cemeteries](#) with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a [government headstone, marker](#) updated this link or [medallion](#), updated this link a [burial flag](#) and a [Presidential Memorial Certificate](#). Some Veterans may also be eligible for [burial allowances](#).

Learn more about VA's [burial and memorial benefits](#).



Download the VA Health and Benefits App



With only one year of existence, American Legion Riders Chapter 340, based at the small Post 340 in the southwestern corner of Massachusetts, sought a meaningful way to support the American Legion's **Legion 250 Initiative**. After consulting with Veterans' Agent Thomas Beasley, the chapter identified an opportunity supplement the Veterans Pantry at the Great Barrington Veterans' Services Office.



Post 340 Riders with Veterans Agent Thomas Beasley in the Veterans Pantry

Chapter 340 members immediately began assembling essential food items and personal hygiene products while also accepting donations from the community. These contributions were intended to strengthen and expand the pantry's existing inventory, ensuring that veterans need would have greater access to nutritious food and everyday necessities. Members delivered the assembled materials to Veterans Agent on June 19.



Post 340 American Legion Riders Chapter with assembled goods to donate to the veterans pantry in Great Barrington.



July 22, 2026, Department Commander Robert Jerdan attended the 68th Harvey's Saltwater Veterans Expo at Hough's Neck, Quincy. This year 220 veterans participated in the opportunity to spend the day out at sea fishing.



July 8, 2026, Department Commander visited Fall River Post 464 for a general meeting at the Veteran of Association of Bristol County building. He expressed his gratitude for continued support and was willing to answer any members questions. In the photos, Fall River Post 464 Commander Lisa Borges, Past Commander Bob Guinen, Adjutant Robert Huphold, SGT at Arms Scott Isaacson and Youth Program Coordinator Jerrica Washington. (Photos by Aide Bob Lewis)







Auxiliary Unit 40 President
Maureen Macdonald



Department Commander Jerdan
swears in new Commander
Michael DeLongchamps



Detachment Vice Commander
Mark Murph swears in SAL
Commander Dana Maxim



DSVC Drew Pajak Installs the
Post Legion Riders Chapter



Department Commander
Robert Jerdan Address
Audience



Commander DeLongchamps
addresses the Color Guard

On Friday evening July 31st
the Edward A. Riberio Post 40
Installed the Post, Auxiliary,
Sons and Riders in a joint In-
stallation of Officers
Great Job!





Post Commander Michael DeLongchamps
Presents a Plaque of Appreciation to Past Post
Commander Phil Ryan for his many years of
service to the Post and the Community

Post Commander Michael DeLongchamps Presents
a Plaque of Appreciation to Past Post Commander
Rich Holbrook for his many years of service to the
Post, the Color Guard and the Community





Start Date	Time	Event	Location
8/4 –8/8		Jr. Law Cadet	
8/4-8/5		Fastpitch Softball Championship	Ruel Fields Oxford, MA
8/6-8/9		Region 1 Baseball Tournament	Holy Cross Worcester, MA
8/17/26	7:00 PM	Adjutants Meeting	Zoom
8/25/26	6:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Zoom
8/28-9/3		National Convention	Louisville
9/12/26	10:00 AM	Finance Committee	Stoughton Post 89
9/12/2026	11:00 AM	Membership Meeting	Stoughton Post 89
9/12/2026		Department Executive Board	Stoughton Post 89

2027 Membership Standing *as of July 31, 2026*

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1081	360	33.30%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN/HAMPSHIRE	3010	1059	35.18%
4	WORCESTER	4053	1218	30.05%
5	MIDDLESEX	3144	1023	32.54%
6	NORFOLK	2095	683	32.60%
7	SUFFOLK	1083	397	36.66%
8	ESSEX	2252	785	34.86%
9	BRISTOL	1852	613	33.10%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3316	1223	36.88%
297	CAPITOL HILL	1231	579	4.89%
462	HEADQUARTERS	513	178	21.35%
	National Quota	23,630	8,118	34.25%

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

- Taps: 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

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. ***

2026 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of July 31, 2026

	District	Goal	Current	%
1	BERKSHIRE	232	235	101.29%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN / HAMPSHIRE	674	623	92.43%
4	WORCESTER	996	1004	100.80%
5	MIDDLESEX	1362	1293	94.93%
6	NORFOLK	836	958	114.59%
7	SUFFOLK	173	189	109.24%
8	ESSEX	443	513	115.80%
9	BRISTOL	286	230	80.42%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	780	677	85.51%
	National Goal	5783	5722	98.94%



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.





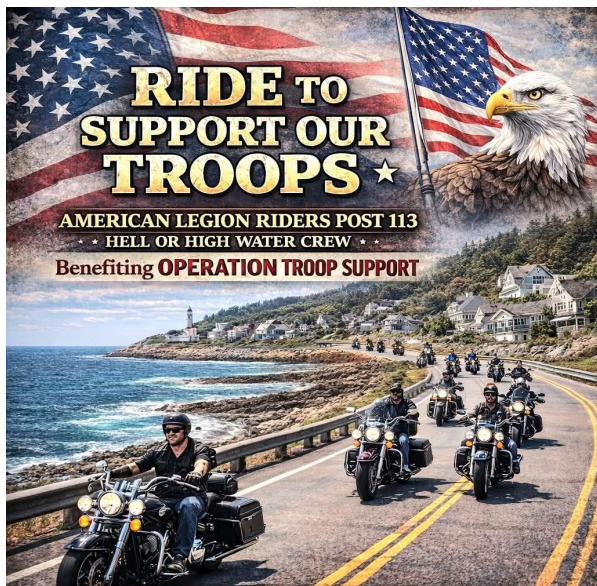
Post Events



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.



RIDE TO SUPPORT OUR TROOPS ★
AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 113
• HELL OR HIGH WATER CREW •
Benefiting **OPERATION TROOP SUPPORT**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026 ★

📍 American Legion Post 113
14 Church Street
Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA

🕒 Registration: 9:30 AM
🕒 Kickstands Up: 11:00 AM

★ **EVENT HIGHLIGHTS** ★

- Scenic group motorcycle ride
- Food & refreshments
- Raffles / 50-50 drawing
- Music & camaraderie
- Rain or Shine • All bikes welcome!

★★ **COST** ★★

- Rider: \$25
- Passenger: \$10
- Walk-ins: \$10

CONTACT: Sam Demao 1-978-808-9786
🇺🇸 Ride with Purpose. Ride with Pride. Ride for Our Troops. 🇺🇸

Plymouth Post 40 Auxiliary Annual Scratch Ticket Raffle



Book of \$10.00 (\$1,000.00) Massachusetts
Official Scratch Tickets

Tickets are 1- \$10.00 or 3-\$20.00

Winner will be drawn on September 26, 2026 – Post 40
American Legion Appreciation Day!

Contact the Unit President Maureen MacDonald @ MMACDONALD47@yahoo.com
for your tickets!



Post Events

Give 10 to EDUCATION

DROP OFF IN BAR NOW TIL AUG 15TH

**227 Main St
Oxford, MA**

EVERY ALA MEMBER CAN GET INVOLVED WITH GIVE 10 TO EDUCATION

The ALA's Give 10 to Education program collects needed items in multiples of 10 –

- ✓ 10 PENCILS
- ✓ 10 NOTEBOOKS
- ✓ 10 RULERS
- ✓ 10 GLUE STICKS

ANYTHING A SCHOOL MAY NEED!

Thank you
for supporting
our students
and our schools!

★ SUPPORT ★ DONATE ★ MAKE A DIFFERENCE ★

MARSHFIELD FAIR
Since 1863

★ 158TH ANNUAL ★

VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR
AT MARSHFIELD FAIR

**SUNDAY
AUGUST 30, 2026**

FREE ADMISSION
FOR VETERANS,
ACTIVE DUTY &
GUARD/RESERVE

VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR
CONNECT WITH LOCAL
RESOURCES & SUPPORT

**HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED.
BUILDING COMMUNITY. PROVIDING SUPPORT.**

MARSHFIELD FAIRGROUNDS
140 MAIN STREET
MARSHFIELD, MA 02050

FAIR HOURS
12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR
& EXHIBITS OPEN DURING THESE HOURS

★★★ **FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!** ★★★

RIDES • EXHIBITS • FOOD • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT • AND MORE

Thank you to our veterans and military families.

★★★ **WE APPRECIATE YOU.** ★★★

FOR MORE INFORMATION
617-888-6636

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



ALA DISTRICT 5 MIDDLESEX COUNTY FUNDRAISER

KEEP YOUR DRINKS HOT OR COLD
IN THIS LOVELY BRANDED STAINLESS STEEL MUG



JUST \$20.00 ORDER NOW(must pay in advance)

Payment Checks payable to Sukey Blake
mail to Sukey Blake 21 Freda Lane Lowell, MA 01854
venmo contact SoFia Blake 978-569-8171
any other questions contact Sukey at 978-746-1846



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

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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:

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.

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Boston, MA 02133



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