

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
*Department of Connecticut*



**104<sup>th</sup>**  
**DEPARTMENT**  
**CONVENTION**

**The Trumbull Marriott**  
**Hotel**

**Trumbull, Connecticut**

**JULY 14, 15, 16, 2023**



**Vincent "Jim" Troiola (NY)**  
**National Commander**

To my fellow Legionnaires in Connecticut,

Discussions about the national debt and the debt ceiling have commanded much attention from the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress and the White House. The American Legion likes to remind the public of another debt – the debt owed to America's veterans. Providing for our common defense is a constitutional mandate. Not only have veterans protected this nation since its founding, but it is their continued service that enables our government to operate and debate in a free society. Veterans did not cause the current budget dilemma and The American Legion will oppose any efforts to balance the budget by forgetting our obligations to America's heroes.

Thanks to the efforts of Legionnaires throughout your department, Congress passed the PACT Act last year. Lawmakers heard your message, and the president signed the most comprehensive health-care legislation dealing with military toxic exposures in history. American Legion service officers continue to assist veterans in obtaining the care and benefits they need. They do this free-of-charge and regardless of whether the veteran is a member of The American Legion.

Donations to The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation go toward training our excellent service officers and provide Temporary Financial Assistance to American Legion Families in need. During the prolonged government shutdown of 2019, The American Legion provided more than \$1 million in TFA grants to Coast Guard families who were experiencing pay interruptions. Your continued support of the Veterans & Children Foundation is most appreciated.

Priority one for The American Legion is to save veterans' lives. Our Be the One message to prevent veteran suicide is making a difference. VA is now required by law to conduct an annual buddy check week to encourage peer support and outreach to vulnerable veterans. If you or someone that you know is having suicidal thoughts, I implore you to call 988, the national crisis line.

I thank you for your service to America and The American Legion. Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable department convention.

For God and Country,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vincent J. Troiola".

Vincent "Jim" Troiola  
National Commander

**GREETINGS FROM  
THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**



**Richard Linnon (Post 117)  
Department Commander**

Greetings, American Legion Family:

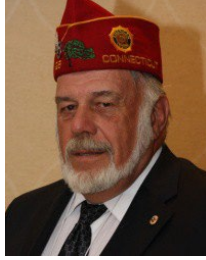
I wish everyone a great convention and may it be memorable for all.

The 2022-2023 year has been a challenging yet successful year for the American Legion Family as we are putting the pandemic behind us and moving on. We did what needed to be done and more, I thank you all for the Teamwork and Participation. Job well done!

Members of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion I thank you for all you have done and let's look forward to a positive future for the American Legion Family. (ALL HANDS-ON DECK), Together we can accomplish anything so please share our experience and knowledge with our future leaders and build a strong American Legion Family for many generations to come. Thank you.

Richard Linnon  
American Legion  
Department Commander  
2022-2023

**GREETINGS FROM  
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN**



**D. Joseph Jackson (Post 28)  
National Executive Committeeman**

Commander Rich, Officers, Delegates, Alternates and Guests, I am honored to bring you greetings from our National Commander Vincent "Jim" Troiola. My thanks for your efforts on behalf of The American Legion these past months. May you have a productive convention as you look to a change in leadership and look to new horizons.

This has been a banner year for activity in the Department. It seems that having a candidate for National Commander has energized many of us. Thank you all and let's keep it moving.

My Sincere thanks for the courtesies extended me during my travels throughout the state.

Yours in comradeship,

*D. Joseph Jackson*

National Executive Committeeman

## **GREETING FROM THE DETACHMENT COMMANDER**



It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Connecticut Commander. We have accomplished so much this year and I would like to thank every Squadron for their prompt response to all my requests that I have asked for. Thanks for your quick response on sending your transmittals to the Department, let's all continue doing your great programs in the Communities that you represent and let us continue to grow our American Legion Family.

Thank You all again.

*Richard J Kilby*

Richard J Kilby  
Detachment Commander  
Sons of the American Legion  
Department of Connecticut

## **GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION DIRECTOR**

Welcome to the 2023 Annual Connecticut American Legion Department Convention. Thank you very much for participating in the very important business of our great organization. We are excited to be able to continue the tradition of our Annual Convention in the new format adopted in 2021. Please enjoy the hospitality of the Trumbull Marriott. Your Convention Committee with your Department Adjutant and Department Treasurer have worked diligently planning and preparing this event.

Best Wishes,

*Everett G Shepard III*

American Legion  
Department Convention Director

Officer	Name
Department Commander	Richard Linnon
Dept. Sr. Vice Commander	Thomas Moore
Vice Commander (1 <sup>st</sup> )	Joseph Haney
Vice Commander (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	Tom Honyotski
Vice Commander (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	Nick Cabral
Vice Commander (4 <sup>th</sup> )	John Barry
Vice Commander (5 <sup>th</sup> )	Dennis Lisee
Vice Commander (6 <sup>th</sup> )	James Brandt
Vice Commander (7 <sup>th</sup> )	Frazier Brinley
Adjutant	Harry R Hansen
Treasurer	Chuck Berry
Asst. Treasurer	Rodger Anderson
Judge Advocate	Brett Connolly
Chaplain	Dana Murphy
Historian	Tim McLeod
Service Officer	K Robert Lewis
Asst. Service Officer	Mary N Harris
National Executive Committeeman	D. Joseph Jackson
Alt. Nat'l Exec. Committeeman	Robert Murray
Imd. Past Commander	Jeffrey DeClerck
Sgt. at Arms	William Gibbs
Asst Sgt at Arms	Mike Kellett

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN</b>		
Richard Fitzgerald	1st	Ken Lewis
Bruce Carlson	2nd	Vacant
Rich Olsen	3rd	Mike Kellett
Mike Mitchell	4th	Vacant
Vacant	5th	Sandra Spedaliere
Barbara Lamontagne	6th	Jackie Evonsion
Mary Hamlin	7th	Robert Washington

**104<sup>th</sup> DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF  
CONNECTICUT**

**Friday, July 14, 2023**

2:00 P.M.

**OPENING SESSION**

Salon ABCD

**ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Dana Murphy (Post 83)  
Department Chaplin

**PRESENTATION – POST AWARDS**

Mike Mitchell (Post 14)  
Awards Committee Chairman

5:30 P.M.

Department Commanders Dinner

7:00 P.M.

Hospitality Room – Tom Moore & John DeBisschop

# Saturday, July 9, 2022

9:00 A.M.     **OPENING SESSION**

Salon ABCD

Richard Linnon (Post 117) Department Commander

**INVOCATION:**

Dana Murphy (Post 83)  
Department Chaplin

**CALL TO CONVENTION:**

Harry Hansen Jr., PDC (Post 165)  
Department Adjutant

**ADDRESS OF WELCOME**

Richard Linnon (Post 117)  
Department Commander

Everett Shepard (Post 111)  
Convention Director

Paul Giannotta  
Trumbull Marriott Hotel

**APPOINTMENT OF CONVENTION  
COMMITTEES**

**PRESENTATION  
SPECIAL DEPARTMENT AWARDS**

Mike Mitchell (Post 14)  
Awards Committee Chairman



Fire Department of The Year Award

Police Department of The Year Award

Law Enforcement Officer of The Year Award

Fire Fighter of the Year Award

Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Provider of The Year Award

Legionnaire of the Year Award

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRESENTATION</b> <b>DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM AWARD</b></p>
--

Louie Robinson  
Americanism Commission Chairman

**REPORTS OF CONVENTION COMMITTEES:**

**Rules Committee:**

**Credentials Committee:**

**Constitution & By-laws Committee**

**Resolutions Committee:**

**REPORT OF DEPARTMENT TREASURER:**

Charles R. Berry (Post 96)  
Department Treasurer

**REPORT OF ADMINISTRATOR, Soldier', Sailors' and Marines**

**Fund:**

Charles R. Berry  
Administrator

**REPORT OF DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER**

K. Robert Lewis (Post 128)  
Department Service Officer

**RECESS: LUNCH**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Department Commander

Richard Linnon (Post 117)

**INTRODUCTION OF  
PAST  
DEPARTMENT  
COMMANDERS**

Mary-Ann Bergeron, President  
Past Department Commanders Club

**FINAL REPORTS OF CONVENTION COMMITTEES:**

**Rules Committee:**

**Credentials Committee:**

**Constitution & By-laws Committee**

**Resolutions Committee**

RATIFICATION OF DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS'

RATIFICATION OF DEPT. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

RATIFICATION OF NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**REPORT OF DEPARTMENT  
COMMANDER  
Richard Linnon**

**ELECTION OF 2023-2024  
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS**

INSTALLATION OF NEWLY ELECTED DEPARTMENT OFFICERS:

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH OF  
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**

**DOOR PRIZE DRAWING:**

**ATTENDANCE PRIZES:**

**BENEDICTION:**

**RETIRING OF COLORS:**

Department Color Guard

**ADJOURNMENT:** *Sine Dei*

**NOTE:**

**The Department Executive  
Committee will meet Sunday  
July 16, 2023, at 9:00 AM**

**PAST NATIONAL OFFICERS  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
NATIONAL COMMANDER**

Arthur J. Connell (1954)

**NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDERS**

Philo C. Calhoun (1919)  
Thomas J. Bannigan (1921)\*  
Eugene P. Armstrong (1925)  
Edward L. White (1929)  
Raymond F. Gates (1936)  
Arthur J. Connell (1943)  
Edward J. Kelly (1949)  
Edward H. Lynch, Jr. (1965)  
John N. Roberto (1974)  
Neale V. Cabral (1988)  
Erwin "Gus" Williams (1998)  
James A. LaCoursiere (2009)  
Paul I. Spedaliere (2019)

**NATIONAL CHAPLAIN**

Fr. Robert G. Keating (1962)

**NATIONAL HISTORIAN**

W. Frazier Brinley (2005)

\*Completed term of John G. Emery who became National  
Commander upon death of Frederick W. Galbraith, Jr.

**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT**

**PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS**

*1919-19	Alfred N. Phillips, Jr.....	Darien
*1919-20	Philo C. Calhoun.....	Bridgeport
*1920-21	John F. Pickett.....	Middletown
*1921-22	Clarence W. Seymour.....	Hartford
*1922-23	Edward L. Kelly.....	Bridgeport
*1923-24	Eugene P. Armstrong**.....	Waterbury
*1924-25	Edward L. White.....	New Haven
*1925-26	Harry C. Jackson.....	New Britain
*1926-27	Kenneth F. Cramer.....	Wethersfield
*1927-28	Earle F. Richards.....	West Haven
*1928-29	Paige A. Seaton.....	Torrington
*1929-30	Wilford S. Alexander.....	Meriden
*1930-31	Edward L. Newmarker.....	Rockville
*1931-32	James E. Breslin.....	Hartford
*1932-33	Joseph A. Treadwell.....	Danbury
*1933-34	Sydney A. Finer.....	Clinton
*1934-35	Arthur L. Baldwin.....	Milford
*1935-36	Morgan B. Haven.....	New London
*1936-37	William J. Miller.....	Wethersfield
*1937-38	James A. Weir.....	Stamford
*1938-39	William C. Kruser.....	Torrington
*1939-40	Bernard J. Ackerman.....	Rockville
*1940-41	John R. Feegel.....	Meriden
*1941-42	Arthur J. Connell.....	Middletown
*1942-43	Edward J. Kelly.....	Taftville
*1943-44	Louis J. Blaschik.....	West Hartford
*1944-45	Herbert L. Emanuelson.....	Orange
*1945-46	Joseph G. Leonard.....	Stamford
*1946-47	Louis J. Chevallier.....	Glastonbury
*1947-48	Arthur E. Daly.....	West Haven
*1948-49	Arthur J. Kelley.....	Thomaston
*1949-50	Howard I. Jacobs.....	Willimantic
*1950-51	John P. Griffin.....	East Hartford
*1951-52	John W. Clarke.....	Norwich
*1952-53	Sydney P. Simons.....	Bridgeport
*1953-54	James H. Steinson.....	Westbrook
*1954-55	George D. Baron.....	Westville
*1955-56	LeRoy B. Butler.....	Willimantic
*1956-57	John F. Spain.....	Southington
*1957-58	C. Russell Day.....	Norwalk
*1958-59	Charles J. Majewski.....	Thomaston
*1959-60	Edward H. Lynch, Jr.....	Waterbury
*1960-61	Arthur G. St. John.....	Jewett City
*1961-62	Earle S. Crooks.....	Cromwell
*1962-63	Louis E. Molinaro.....	No. Grosvenordale
*1963-64	Francis G. Garris.....	Wethersfield
*1964-65	Hugh C. Graham.....	West Haven
*1965-66	John N. Roberto.....	Norwalk
*1966-67	Henry S. Bialoglowy.....	Litchfield
*1967-68	Neale V. Cabral.....	Quaker Hill
*1968-69	Richard J. Heath.....	West Hartford
*1969-70	Morris L. Robin.....	Waterbury
*1970-71	John R. Silvey.....	West Hartford
*1971-72	Chet D. Hirsch.....	Stafford Springs
*1972-73	Milton E. Moritz.....	Deep River
*1973-74	William Mager.....	Norwalk
*1974-75	Joseph F. Mardu.....	Cheshire
*1975-76	Lionel F. Dugas.....	Bristol
*1976-77	Leo M. Hindsley.....	Baltic
*1977-78	Henry Mayer.....	Woodstock
*1978-79	Joseph W. Tarrant, Jr.....	Bethel
*1979-80	John S. Babes.....	Torrington
*1980-81	William J. Lucas.....	Hamden
*1981-82	Eugene W. Freeman.....	Manchester
1982-83	Richard W. Anderson.....	Cromwell
*1983-84	Frank D'Angelo.....	Shelton

## PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS

(Continued)

*1984-85	Elliott N. Morris .....	Branford
*1985-86	George R. White, Jr. ....	Norwich
*1986-87	William J. Rich .....	Southington
1987-88	Raymond R. Bigelow .....	Willimantic
1988-89	D. Joseph Jackson .....	Winsted
*1989-90	Charles E. Haas .....	Norwich
*1990-91	E. Guy Miller .....	Stratford
*1991-92	William J. Pomfret .....	Middletown
*1992-93	William H. Jordan .....	Willimantic
1993-94	Erwin L. Williams .....	Derby
*1994-95	Lewis E. Waller .....	Stratford
1995-96	K. Robert Lewis .....	Niantic
*1996-97	H. David Smith .....	Middletown
*1997-98	Richard Wm. Anderson .....	Bristol
*1998-99	Elliot Meccico .....	Norwalk
1999-2000	Everett G. Shepard, III .....	Woodstock
2002-01	W. Frazier Brinley .....	Clinton
*2001-02	Edward F. Barry .....	East Haddam
2002-03	Boyd Saxton .....	Sandy Hook
*2003-04	Lawrence F. Duffany .....	Thomaston
2004-05	Jean C. Lafontaine .....	N. Grosvenordale
*2005-06	Edward J. Carney, Jr. ....	Guilford
2006-07	James A. LaCoursiere .....	Old Lyme
*2007-08	Andrew Barylski, Jr. ....	Putnam
*2008-09	Harvey E. Daggett .....	Ashford
*2009-10	Charles R. Morrissey .....	North Haven
2010-11	Daniel C. Thurston .....	Harwinton
2011-12	Mary-Ann Roczynski .....	East Hartford
2012-13	Wayne A. Morgan .....	West Haven
2013-14	Robert S. Murray .....	Milford
2014-15	Harry R. Hansen Jr. ....	Wolcott
2015-16	Paul I. Spedaliere .....	Lebanon
2016-17	Louie C. Robinson .....	Hartford
2017-18	Edward A. DeGumbia .....	Plantsville
2018-19	Thomas C. Flowers .....	Milford
2019-21	Dennis P. Beauregard .....	Southington
2021-22	Jeffrey DeClerck .....	Moosup

\*Deceased

\*\*Resigned January 3 of term 1924-25

## HONORARY PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS

*Frank S. Butterworth .....	New Haven
*Anson T. McCook .....	Hartford
*Clarence C. Scarborough .....	West Hartford
*James B. Moody .....	West Hartford
*William J. Malone .....	Bristol
*Henry S. Dorsey .....	New London
*Edward A. Stillman .....	Hartford
*Rev. Henry R. Cassidy .....	Norwalk

\*Deceased



## **CONVENTION PROGRAM**

### **SONS of THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT CONVENTION**

**Saturday, July 15, 2023**

9:00 AM	Opening with T.A.L
10:00 AM	S.A.L. Elections
11:00 AM	Post-Convention D.E.C.
12:00	Lunch

### **AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS**

**Saturday, July 15, 2023**

1:00 PM	Legion Riders Meeting
---------	-----------------------



**RECIPIENTS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM AWARD**

\*1956 JUSTICE RAYMOND E. BALDWIN  
\*1957 SENATOR WILLIAM A. PURTELL  
\*1958 MAYOR RICHARD C. LEE  
\*1959 HON. MILDRED N. ALLEN  
\*1960 REV. ROBERT G. KEATING  
\*1961 DONALD H. POTTER  
\*1962 WILLIAM J. CLANCY  
\*1963 SENATOR THOMAS J. DODD  
\*1964 JOHN R. REITEMEYER  
\*1965 GOVERNOR JOHN N. DEMPSEY  
\*1966 JUSTICE JOHN H. KING  
1967 FRANCIS J. SWEENEY  
\*1968 FRANCIS E. MINER  
\*1969 HON. FRANCES BURKE REDICK  
\*1970 MATTHEW MORIARTY  
1971 ANDY ROBUSTELLI  
\*1972 CHARLES T. McQUEENEY  
1973 CONGRESSMAN ROBERT H. STEELE  
\*1974 MRS. LILLIAM B. YERRINGTON  
\*1975 GOVERNOR ELLA T. GRASSO  
\*1976 JUDGE ROBERT M. ROBBINS  
\*1977 WILLIAM M. SAVITT  
1978 NO AWARD  
\*1979 JAMES PEDACE  
\*1980 DR. WILLIAM L. TAYLOR  
1981 FRANK W. SCHADE  
1982 NO AWARD  
1983 JOHN T. DOWNEY, ESQ.  
\*1984 DANIEL J. O'CONNOR, ESQ.  
\*1985 GOVERNOR WILLIAM A. O'NEILL  
1986 NO AWARD  
1987 LAWRENCE D. McHugh  
1988 NO AWARD  
1989 CONGRESSMAN JOHN G. ROWLAND  
\*1990 BERNIE FIELDS  
1991 RICHARD L. TRAYNER, JR.  
1992 WILLIAM T. O'BRIEN  
1993 NO AWARD  
1994 DR. DAVID G. CARTER  
1995 NO AWARD  
1996 JAMES CALHOUN  
1997 JOHN A. QUINN  
1998 NO AWARD  
1999 NO AWARD  
2000 NO AWARD  
2001 NO AWARD  
2002 NO AWARD  
2003 CONGRESSMAN ROB SIMMONS  
2004 ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
2005 STATE SENATOR LEN FASANO  
2006 STATE REPRESENTATIVE TED GRAZIANI  
2007 CATHERINE RICCIO  
2008 CHRISTOPHER D. COUTU  
2009 ANDI GRANT  
2010 ALFRED MEADOWS  
2011 MICHAEL S. MASTRONI  
2012 KATHY GRANFIELD  
2013 REVERAND THOMAS BERBERICH  
2014 LT. GOVERNOR NANCY WYMAN  
2015 LEESA PHILIPPON  
2016 SENATOR CARLO LEONE  
2017 THEODORE C. SWEENEY  
2018 WILLIAM J. MADARAS & SHALINI S. MADARAS  
2019 DONALD PERRAULT  
2020 DANN POMPA  
2021 NO AWARD  
2022 LT. GOVERNOR SUSAN BYSIEWICZ



*Preamble of the Constitution of  
The American Legion*

For God and Country,  
We associate ourselves together  
For the following purposes:

*To uphold and defend  
The Constitution of the United States of America;  
To maintain law and order;  
To foster and perpetuate  
A one hundred percent Americanism;  
To preserve the memories and incidents  
Of our associations in All Wars;  
To inculcate a sense of individual obligation  
To the community, state and nation;  
To combat the autocracy  
Of both the classes and the masses;  
To make right the master of might;  
To promote peace and good-will on earth;  
To safeguard and transmit to Posterity  
The principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy;  
To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship  
By our devotion to mutual helpfulness.*