



Fellow Legionnaires,

I am writing my February message immediately after arriving home from our successful and well-attended Mid-Winter Conference. It is always great to come together with a group of Legion Family members who volunteer to spend their day (or for some, their weekend) to become more knowledgeable members through the training offered at the conference. The strength of our organization is derived from our membership and a more knowledgeable member base equates to a stronger American Legion Family. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the many members who worked tirelessly to organize and conduct this event, whether behind the scenes or in front of a breakout session as a facilitator. Your hard work and dedication are what made this whole weekend possible for everyone else. For that I simply say, "Thank You."

As we look ahead into February, our Americanism programs should start to be a focus of the posts. Throughout the month we will witness the District Oratorical contests where the various Post contest winners compete to see who moves on to the Department contest in March. Our 19U Baseball teams should already be registered and posts should be working to register their 17U, 15U, and 13U teams. Information is out for the 2025 session of American Legion Boys State (<https://www.ctboysstate.org>) and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State (<https://www.alalgs.org>). It is not too early to get into your local high schools to promote these great opportunities. Although details are not yet finalized for the 2025 session, you may also start talking about Connecticut American Legion State Police Youth Week to get students interested in a career in law enforcement excited about this program. While you are at the school, you can also be speaking with the principal and/or guidance counselors to prepare for the School Award program designed to recognize students who exemplify six qualities that define character: courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service.

February also sees The American Legion focus on our legislative agenda both here in Connecticut as well as at the federal level. Connecticut legionnaires took part in the recent Connecticut General Assembly's Veterans and Military Affairs Public Hearing to have their voices heard about proposed legislation that will affect our veterans and military personnel. February 22-26 will see legionnaires from Connecticut, and across our great nation, converge on Washington D.C. for our annual Washington Conference. Legionnaires in attendance will meet with our legislators from both the House of Representatives and the Senate to ensure that they know where the American Legion stands on key pieces of federal legislation. The American Legion's legislative priorities for 2025 may be found here: <https://www.legion.org/advocacy/legislative/legislative-agenda-point-papers>. All members of The American Legion Family should be participating in our Grassroots Action Center which allows you to easily contact your federal legislators:

<https://www.voterveice.net/AmericanLegion/home>.

Thank you for everything you do for The American Legion. Your support is what allows all the programs to occur. Now we need you to spread the word to your fellow veterans. Get them involved in The American Legion too. There is strength in numbers. Our current members, through their word of mouth, provide the absolute best advertising to get other veterans to join. Don't keep The American Legion a secret in your communities.

Yours in Service,
John F. DeBisschop III
Department Commander
Email: j.debisschop@snet.net
Cell: 203-725-5005



Sr. Vice Commander's Message

Congratulations and Thank You to Post 27 Litchfield, and Post 155 Woodbury for recently reaching 100% membership!! Many posts are within just a few cards of quota. Membership is the life blood of our organization. Keep pushing.

It was refreshing to see so many comrades attend our Mid-Winter Conference. As always it was a great opportunity to learn and exchange ideas. We had some outstanding speakers and presenters. I hope that everyone found the event both productive and enjoyable. Somehow, I find myself exhausted and reinvigorated ~~at the~~ at the same time.

The Department bounced back in January from a very rough December. We came back from missing our December membership goal of 75% by a substantial margin, to be less than one tenth of a percent below our January goal of 80%. We were only four yards short of making 80%. You all worked hard to catch up. If we maintain that pace, we will exceed the February 12th goal or 85%. Please reach out to your expired members via whatever means it takes. If a phone call or email does not work, stop by for a visit. Once they renew, DO NOT sit on any cards. We are still pacing ourselves at a level which puts us in striking distance of 100% by June. We can Make it Happen.

I am encouraging all our posts to consider holding an open house type event for the American Legion Birthday during the month March. It need not be a big deal. Just a small cake, a couple of members at the post and a public invitation in the local media inviting all to see who we are and what we do. Let your community and our fellow veterans know our story. Below is a link to national containing details about our history. <https://www.legion.org/about/organization/history> .

The American Legion is turning 106 on Saturday, March 15 – the day in 1919 when the first American Legion caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in Paris. Each year, Legion posts across the country hold events – public, private or both – to commemorate this anniversary. Posts are encouraged to upload recaps and photos of their birthday celebrations (and other community activities) to legiontown.org.

Please consider showing your newer members the New Member Orientation Video hosted by former American Legion Membership & Post Activities Committee Chairman Matt Jabaut. The video helps to provide a clear understanding of the nation's largest veterans organization and what the Legion does to strengthen America. The video is ideal for new member orientations at local posts or to show to potential members. You can also email it to new members. You can find the video at this link on the Legion's Vimeo channel <https://vimeo.com/americanlegion>.

Keep Making it Happen and do it loudly!!

Sincerely Yours in Service,

Mike Kellett

Adjutant Notes

Tel: 860-436-9986

E-mail: ctadj@ctlegion.org

Website: www.ctlegion.org

Fax: 860-436-9491

Volume 24-25

February 2025

Bulletin No. 5

**This Month in Connecticut History: February 7, 1899
The Electric Boat Co. was incorporated, which built
the first formally commissioned submarine, the *USS
Holland!***

Mid-Winter Conference

The Mid-Winter Conference was an outstanding success, with almost 240 attendees from The American Legion Family. From the Membership, Leadership & Learning Committee Chairman Mike Mitchell: "I want to send out a personal thank you to all you who attended the mid-winter conference this past Saturday, Feb 1 2025. Without you, this weekend would not have been the success that it was. The department Leadership and Learning committee worked very hard to give the members of the Department of CT the highest level of training that you all deserve to have and will be able to share with your post members in the months to come."

Washington Conference

February 22-26, 2025, The American Legion will meet with our Senators and Representatives to discuss The American Legion's legislative priorities for the upcoming Congress. We will also have a chance to watch (remotely) our National Commander testify before Congress. This is why every Post is required to complete and submit the Consolidated Post Reports. That information is submitted to Congress, to demonstrate what we do as a Veterans Service Organization. Stay tuned to legion.org to see where you can watch Commander Jim LaCoursiere testify to Congress. For our Legislative Priorities go to <https://www.legion.org/advocacy/legislative/legislative-agenda-point-papers>

Oratorical Contest

The district contests must be held no later than **February 15, 2025**, and the Department contest will be held on **Saturday March 1, 2025**, at the State Police Training Academy, 285 Preston Ave, Meriden, CT 06450. Be sure to submit your winners to Bruce Carlson (brccarl@netscape.net). Check out the flyer further on, in this month's bulletin.

Please copy and share all Bulletin information as widely as possible!

Boys State Program

Posts should have been in touch with schools by now or at least have started to reach out to them. The earlier you start to recruit, the better for attendance at the program this year, at UNH. We will be mailing informational packets to all high schools (public and private) as well as to the Posts in the next couple weeks. Be sure to share this information with your Oratorical Chairman and members. Our Boys State website has been updated with the forms needed to apply: www.ctboysstate.org If your Post has financial issues sponsoring a boy (\$450 this year and next), ask for sponsors from your community. If you do not have a boy to sponsor, consider sponsoring a boy who does not have a sponsor yet. If you want one photo that can recommend the program, use this:



National Convention

The registration/housing forms are now available online, as well as included in this Bulletin. Join us to help our National Commander Jim LaCoursiere finish his year as Connecticut's second National Commander!

Potpourri

Want to learn more about how we affect the lives of veterans, their families and the children of our Nation? And, to use that information to help recruit new, and retain current members? Then check out a new addition to our Bulletin: the **Membership Impact Report**.

The Department Office will be closed February 12th (Lincoln's Birthday) and February 17th (Washington's Birthday).

Please copy and share all Bulletin information as widely as possible!



ADJUTANT NOTES

BE THE ONE

Fellow Sons of The American Legion,

Sons of The American Legion as I write this bulletin prior to the mid-winter conference the entire Detachment Executive Board would like to thank you for transmitting membership quickly because as of today January 28th we have already reached our February goal of 75%.

Great Job and Thank You once again. We all must push hard and continue our Strong record.

Please pay close attention to our Bulletin as March and April we will be asking all of you to Step Up, Be the One as we continue to show our support and love to The American Legion.

With that being said if I don't see you at mid-winter and you are need of any assistance please reach out, we are all in this together.

Check out our webpage in February at www.salct.org to see if your squadron has made the 100% Membership Quota Club.

Rich Kilby

Detachment Adjutant

860-329-2066

kilbyrich66@gmail.com

REMEMBER TO TRANSMIT MEMBERSHIP AT ONCE, LET'S MAKE OUR CONNECTICUT NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION PROUD OF CONNECTICUT SONS



Department of Connecticut

THE AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

A SPEECH CONTEST ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

STATE FINALS

Cash Scholarships:

Winner: \$1,500

Runner up: \$1,000

Contestants 3-7: \$500

State Final's Eligibility: Must be certified as the winner of the Post and District Oratorical Contests. All High School or Home School Students (9-12 grades) are welcome to participate in this speech contest on the U. S. Constitution. FYI - Post certification: by Jan. 31, 2025, and District certification: by Feb. 15, 2025.

Saturday, MARCH 1, 2025; 9:00 AM

Doors open at 7:45 AM

**State Police Training Academy
285 Preston Ave, Meriden, CT 06450**

Judges must be at the school by 8:30 AM

Contestants and volunteers must be at the school by 8:30 AM

Lunch will be provided at the contest conclusion.

For additional information and requirements, go to <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/youth-programs/oratorical-contest> or contact Bruce Carlson at abrccarl@netscape.net or 203-723-6936

The American Legion, Department of Connecticut
269 Main St
Cromwell, CT 06416

106th NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING APPLICATION

Deadline for receipt of this form in Department Headquarters
Friday, June 27, 2025, 4:00 PM

I hereby make application for housing at the 2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION of The American Legion to be held in **Tampa, FL, August 22 – August 28, 2025.**

THE CONNECTICUT HEADQUARTERS will be the Tampa Marriott Water Street, 505 Water Street, Tampa, FL 33602

ACCOMMODATIONS: **King Rate at Marriott (1 to 2 people) \$149.00**
Plus, tax rate = 13.5% + \$1.95 **Queen Rate at Marriott (two beds) (1 to 4 people) \$149.00**
ADA Room at Marriott (1 to 4 people) \$149.00
One Bedroom Luxury Suite (1 to 4 people) \$480.00

Suites at Marriott are limited to first come first served (Check with Department Adjutant)

Parking: Valet - per Day - \$28.00

=====
Delegates and Alternates of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary ACCOMMODATED as follows:
FIRST – Delegates, SECOND - Alternates, THIRD – Call-ins, FOURTH - others as space is available. Guests will not be considered until all specified are placed. Note: AL Call-ins & Delegates must stay in the assigned hotel.
=====

HOUSING DEPOSITS: A one-day deposit is required for each room **plus any additional daily fees**

REGISTRATION FEE: All persons attending Convention - Delegates, Alternates and Guests (age 18 or over) **MUST** pay **\$35.00** registration fee before room assignments are made. All housing is **assigned based on three (3) Night's minimum occupancy.** On CHECKOUT - be sure your deposit is credited to your account.
=====

ROOM TO BE OCCUPIED BY: (list full name, address of each occupant).
Indicate if **Delegate, Alternate or Guest.**

Name

Address - Phone Number - Email

Arrival date: _____

Departure date: _____

Total days: _____

Information about activities may be found through the National web site [National Convention](#)

CONN. OFFICIAL HEADQUARTERS:

**Tampa Marriott Water Street
505 Water Street
Tampa, FL 33602
(813) 221-4900**

CONVENTION REGISTRATION:

**A NATIONAL CONVENTION
REGISTRATION FEE OF \$35.00
MUST BE PAID BY EVERY LEGIONNAIRE
AND GUESTS ATTENDING THE
CONVENTION**

AL DEPARTMENT CAUCUS

SUNDAY, August 24, 2024

1:00-3:00 PM – Location TBD

***Registration: THU 8/21 & FRI 8/22 1-5 p.m.
Location TBD***

**IMPORTANT - NO PHONE RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED
BY DEPARTMENT OR CONVENTION HOTEL**

ENCLOSE CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO: THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPT. OF CONN

Circle preferences: King or Double or Suite All rooms are Non-Smoking

HOUSING DEPOSIT: (\$171.07 min. for Regular Rooms) \$ _____

HOUSING DEPOSIT: (\$546.75 min. for 1 BDR Suite) \$ _____

REGISTRATION FEE: \$ 35.00 per person X _____ \$ _____

(Questions Please call Adjutant)

TOTAL: \$ _____

Contact
NAME: _____ TEL: _____ POST #: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ DIST #: _____

EMAIL: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

**BE SURE THAT ALL ITEMS ARE ANSWERED IN FULL. REMEMBER THAT THIS
APPLICATION MUST REACH DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS ON OR BEFORE JUNE 27, 2025, by 4:00 pm.**

Complete in duplicate

**2025
National Convention**

DELEGATES and ALTERNATES

As Commander of District No. _____, Department of Connecticut, The American Legion, I HEREBY CERTIFY that the following list of Delegates and Alternates to the **106th Annual Convention of The American Legion to be held in Tampa, FL, August 22 – August 28, 2025** were elected for ratification in the order listed hereon at a meeting of the District held on _____.

DELEGATE	POST	ADDRESS (with zip)

ALTERNATE	POST	ADDRESS (with zip)

District Adjutant

District Commander

RETURN TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IMMEDIATELY UPON ELECTION

(Both copies MUST be received NO LATER THAN JULY 3, 2025)



NATIONAL COMMANDER JAMES A. LACOURSIERE, JR.
2025 MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE DOG TAG COIN
CERTIFICATION FORM



Please make sure that the address, phone number and email address provided is for the recruiter and not the post.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Membership ID Number: _____

Street Address or PO Box: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

MAIL TO RECRUITER MAIL TO POST

TO QUALIFY YOU NEED TO RECRUIT (3) NEW MEMBERS INTO THE AMERICAN LEGION.

(A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE VETERAN JOINING FOR THE 2025 MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DURING THE 2024 MEMBERSHIP YEAR). **TRANSFERS DO NOT COUNT AS NEW MEMBERS.**)

NEW AUXILIARY MEMBERS AND SAL MEMBERS DO NOT COUNT TOWARDS THIS INCENTIVE. PLEASE FORWARD THE NAMES OF NEW SAL MEMBERS OR AUXILIARY MEMBERS TO YOUR SQUADRON OR UNIT FOR USE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS. CONTACT YOUR STATE HEADQUARTERS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN PROCESSED BEFORE SUBMISSION. COINS WILL NOT BE MAILED UNTIL THEY ARE VERIFIED ON THE NATIONAL DATABASE.

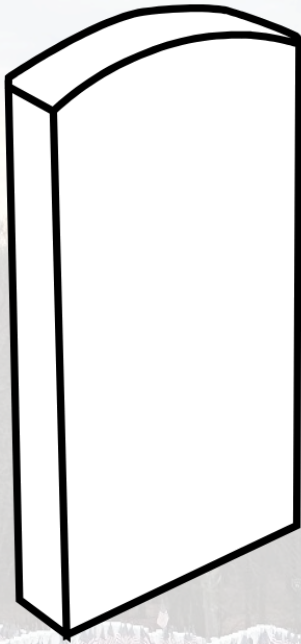
THE DEADLINE FOR THIS INCENTIVE IS JUNE 30, 2025, OR UNTIL SUPPLIES ARE EXHAUSTED.

(3) NEW MEMBERS:
(Include full name, ID number, department, post)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Return completed forms to:
The American Legion
Internal Affairs & Membership Division
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Fax: 317-630-1413
Email: kadams@legion.org



SAVE OUR CEMETERY

CTVets.US

The Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown is running out of space and time to ensure a dignified final resting place for our state's military heroes in Connecticut.

You Can Help:

- 1. Motivate people to visit CTVets.us and join the Save Our Cemetery (SOC) Email List.**
- 2. Encourage veteran groups to endorse the SOC resolution and share this news online.**
- 3. Contact your state legislators to, "save the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery."**

The Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Ron Welch said the cemetery will be, "out of space and out of capacity...by 2027."

Save Our Cemetery (SOC) Resolution: Expand the Middletown State Veterans Cemetery

Whereas, the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown provides a dignified final resting place in Connecticut for our state's eligible veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces; and

Whereas, the cemetery "will be out of space and out of capacity...by 2027," to perform all three required burial types; and

Whereas, when the state veterans cemetery reaches capacity it will close, forcing eligible veterans to be interred out-of-state at Calverton National Cemetery on Long Island, NY; Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne, MA; or Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam, MA; and

Whereas, establishing a new veterans cemetery in Connecticut would require an estimated \$15 million and considerable time for development, potentially leaving the state without an available veterans cemetery as Middletown reaches capacity; and

Whereas, expanding the current Middletown State Veterans Cemetery (MSVC) through an annex, will continue to ensure eligible veterans and their families reasonable access to the centrally located, extensively developed, cost-effective, and exceptionally maintained State Veterans Cemetery, while sustaining Connecticut's proud Civil War legacy of memorializing those who served and sacrificed for our great nation;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Governor and Legislature of the State of Connecticut hereby authorizes the Department of Administrative Services and the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs to:

1. **Acquire Additional Land:** Identify and acquire additional land near the existing cemetery as an annex no later than Memorial Day 2026, ensuring readiness for interments before capacity is reached.
2. **Develop Expansion Plan:** Prepare a detailed plan for expansion, including the design, construction, and maintenance of additional burial sites, roads, landscaping, and infrastructure by Veterans Day 2026.
3. **Secure Adequate Funding:** Pursue funding from state and federal sources, leveraging grants and other available resources to finance the expansion project by Memorial Day 2027.
4. **Engage Stakeholders:** Collaborate with veteran organizations, local officials, and other stakeholders to align the project with the needs and preferences of the veteran, local, and state community.
5. **Implement Expansion Project:** Ensure the timely execution of the expansion project, adhering to all relevant laws, regulations, and environmental standards by Memorial Day 2028.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Governor and Legislature of the State of Connecticut urge the Department of Administrative Services and the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs to prioritize this project and work diligently to ensure that all eligible veterans and their dependents continue to have access to a dignified and honorable burial site within our own great State of Connecticut.

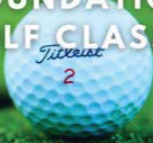
CONNECTICUT

Foundation

AMERICAN LEGION



CT AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION GOLF CLASSIC



MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2025

Lake of Isles South Course

1 Clubhouse Drive, North Stonington, CT 06359

Schedule of Events

10AM: Registration

12PM: Shotgun Start

5PM: Dinner & Awards



Cost to Participate

\$660.00 per team

\$165.00 per player

Sponsorships available

Deadline to Register: April 7, 2025

****Fee includes Box Lunch****



Connecticut American Legion Foundation Golf Classic

When: Monday, April 21, 2025 **Time:** Registration @ 10:00AM – Shotgun Start @ 12:00PM

Where: **Lake of Isles South (Private) Course: Foxwoods**

Entry Fee: \$165.00 per player. \$660.00 per team of four players

Includes greens fees, cart, range balls, box lunch, prime rib and carved turkey dinner and prizes (1st place team, 2nd place team, closest to the pin (2 holes) and men & women's longest drive)

Payment due by April 7, 2025

Players (please print)

1. _____

Name (team captain or individual), phone #, email address

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

SORRY – NO COOLERS

Enclose completed registration & check made payable to: **CT American Legion Foundation**
Mailing address: **American Legion, Department of Connecticut, 269 Main Street, Cromwell, CT 06416**
Attn: Golf Tournament Committee

Points of Contact: Jeff DeClerck: 860-608-8111, email jadcmd@sbcglobal.net
Tom Moore: 860-436-9986, email ctadj@ctlegion.org

NOTE: This tournament is partnered with the Annual Plainfield Business Association Golf Classic. Both tournaments will merge for meal and raffle at the Clubhouse.

**Please look for the American Legion registration area at check-in.
Proceeds from this Tournament help fund American Legion Programs**



*CT American Legion Foundation
Annual Golf Classic
Sponsorship Opportunities*

**Gold Sponsor - \$2,500.00 (2 foursomes, 2 tee signs, printed recognition at Registration)*

Name or Organization

**Silver Sponsor - \$1,500.00 (1 foursome, 1 tee sign, printed recognition at Registration)*

Name of Organization

**Bronze Sponsor - \$500.00 (Cart Sponsor – sign in each Cart)*

Name or Organization

**Air Cannon Sponsor – \$375.00 (Name printed on Hole sign)*

Name of Organization

**Hole in One Sponsor - \$375.00 (Name on all Par 3 Holes)*

Name of Organization

Enclose completed registration & check made payable to: **CT American Legion Foundation, Inc.**
Mailing address: **American Legion, Department of Connecticut, 269 Main Street, Cromwell, CT 06416**
Attn: Golf Tournament Committee
Points of Contact: Jeff DeClerck: 860-608-8111, email jadcmd@sbcglobal.net
Tom Moore: 860-436-9986, email ctadj@ctlegion.org

Proceeds from this Tournament help fund the American Legion Programs



***CT American Legion Foundation
Annual Golf Classic
Tee Sign Registration***

When: Monday, April 21, 2025

Where: Lake of Isles South (Private) Course: Foxwoods

Tee Sponsor/Dedication: \$100.00

TEE SPONSOR

Name and business address (please print)

Phone Number: _____ Website: _____

TEE DEDICATION: (HONOR A VETERAN OR FAMILY MEMBER)

Name:

Branch and Dates of Service (for Veteran dedication):

Enclose completed registration & check made payable to: **CT American Legion Foundation, Inc.**
Mailing address: **American Legion, Department of Connecticut, 269 Main Street, Cromwell, CT 06416**
Attn: Golf Tournament Committee
Points of Contact: Jeff DeClerck: 860-608-8111, email jadcmd@sbcglobal.net
Tom Moore: 860-436-9986, email ctadj@ctlegion.org

Proceeds from this Tournament help fund the American Legion Programs



Susan Bysiewicz
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Friday, December 6, 2024

Dear Town CEO,

In partnership with Connecticut Veterans Affairs Commissioner Ron Welch and Major General Francis Evon of the Connecticut National Guard, it is my honor to host a ceremony to recognize all living World War II veterans, having served at any time from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946. The ceremony will take place on Monday, May 19th, 2025, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Governor William A. O'Neill State Armory, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105.

The ceremony has been scheduled in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, which ended in September 1945. It is important to thank these members of the Greatest Generation as it is because of their service and sacrifice that we live in a free and democratic state and nation today.

We are working with every town across the state to put together a meaningful ceremony in recognition of these veterans' sacrifice for our country. We are asking for your assistance to identify any living World War II veterans in your town and escort them to the ceremony. Once you have identified the living World War II veterans from your town, we ask that you send us a list of their names, branch of service, and age by **Monday, May 5th**. Please let us know if there are no living World War II veterans in your town.

We encourage you to coordinate with your town's American Legion post, Veterans of Foreign Wars post, and Municipal Veteran Representative in advance of this ceremony.

Please feel free to reach out to my office at LtGovernor.Bysiewicz@ct.gov or at (860) 299-5965 if you have any follow-up questions.

Thank you,

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR • STATE CAPITOL
210 CAPITOL AVENUE, ROOM 304 • HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
TEL (860) 524-7384 • FAX (860) 524-7304 • www.ltgovernor.ct.gov
LtGovernor.Bysiewicz@ct.gov



Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor



Commissioner Ron P. Welch
Connecticut Veterans Affairs



Major General Francis J. Evon, Jr.
Connecticut National Guard



VOICES

"The money allocated toward new construction and updated housing is sorely needed at some bases. We applaud the negotiators for including these measures."

- American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere Jr., in response to the inclusion of \$15 billion for military quality-of-life improvements in the National Defense Authorization Act passed in December by the House and Senate Armed Services Committees



11,250

American Legion Family members who took the Be the One/Columbia University Training Protocol in 2024 to learn how best to respond to veterans who may be at risk of taking their own lives.



9,342

Number of messages sent to lawmakers via the American Legion's Grassroots Advocacy Center web portal in support of the Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, which was approved by Congress Dec. 16. The number of messages sent to lawmakers in the previous month, altogether, came to 18,017.



4 million

Estimated number of viewers who saw American Legion advertisements in targeted local markets with strong military presences during the Dec. 14 125th Army Navy football game.



0

Times a U.S. veterans service organization had a sponsorship role in the Army Navy Game in its 125-year history until Dec. 14 when The American Legion's associate sponsorship began.



544

Informal Hearing Presentations prepared by American Legion VA appeals representatives, free of charge, on behalf of disabled veterans disputing their initial claims decisions, in December.



\$1,105,563

Amount in retroactive VA disability benefits awarded in December to veterans who used American Legion appeals representation, free of charge.



27

New American Legion service officers who received accreditation in December to assist and represent veterans, free of charge, with their VA disability claims.



\$5,785

Amount in American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants disbursed in December, stabilizing homes for 14 children.



\$1,847,813,025

Amount in VA disability benefits secured for veterans in December, using free American Legion initial claims and appeals representation.



129

Board of Veterans Appeals dispositions rendered in December for veterans using free American Legion representation, of which only 17.8% of cases were denied. Of those, 37 appeals were granted outright and another 66 were remanded for further documentation.



111

American Legion Junior Shooting Sports clubs that completed their registrations in December for 2025 competition.



98

Number of ROTC/Junior ROTC recognition certificates distributed to American Legion posts by the National Security Division in 2024.

IN MEMORIUM

"His commitment to human rights and community service was respected worldwide. He lived longer than any president in American history and made the most of his post-presidential years by strongly advocating for world peace and improving the lives of the disadvantaged. His energy, integrity and humility were admired by people across the political spectrum."

- American Legion National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr., following the Dec. 29 death at age 100 of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, a Navy veteran and member of The American Legion



3,365

Miles spanned, coast to coast, by the national Medal of Honor Highway, U.S. Highway 20, which was officially designated by President Biden on Dec. 17 after years of effort by Oregon Legionnaire Dick Tobiason and his fellow veterans.



\$108,555.32

Amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund grants disbursed in December to six posts and 25 individuals who faced severe losses due to natural disasters.



7%

Increase in flag purchases through American Legion Emblem Sales in 2024, over the previous high record year of flag sales in 2023. Ten of 11 months in 2024 were single-month highs for Emblem Sales.



2,934

Downloads for the podcast episode featuring Tim Jensen, Chief Brand Officer of Grunt Style and chairman of its foundation. That's the most downloaded of any episode during 2024 and the fourth most of all time.



\$30,942

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in December, to 13 recipients.

TESTIMONY

"(VA's Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant program) grants have allowed organizations to coordinate initiatives related to post-traumatic growth, peer-support services and cultural/faith-based programs. This upstream approach aligns with The American Legion's Be the One campaign and Buddy Check program, and we strongly support any effort by this committee to address the veteran suicide epidemic. But we also recognize Congress' duty to ensure taxpayer dollars are going to effective programs and organizations.

The American Legion supports H.R. 9924, which would establish standards for clear and measurable objectives to help evaluate the effectiveness of programs like Fox, and the creation of a standardized methodology for future initiatives."



- American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division Director Cole Lyle, testifying before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health Dec. 17



279,000

Approximate rounds of ceremonial ammunition distributed to 315 American Legion posts and 39 departments in 2024, as part of the Military Surplus Loan Program, administered by The American Legion National Security Division. The program also distributed 945 rifles, 1,650 clips and 15 static displays.



\$4,490

Amount of an American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grant issued in December to help purchase two sails for a sailboat that will be used for veterans' mental health therapy. One sail will have the Be the One logo and the other will have The American Legion logo.



100

Filled Christmas stockings distributed to active-duty personnel living in barracks at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base by Tucson, Ariz., American Legion Post 36 in December. The post followed that by donating 125 pairs of socks to veterans in the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System and another 250 for VA Volunteer Services.



21

Eagle Scout recognition certificates distributed in December by The American Legion's Americanism Division, to go along with one Gold Star certificate to a Girl Scout.



3

New Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in December: San Fernando, Calif.; Deer Lodge, Mont.; and Collegedale, Tenn.

Question-Persuade-Refer (QPR) Training for Suicide Prevention

QPR Gatekeeper Training

About the Training

- Open to ages 12+
Parent permission required for those under 18
- 90 minutes (1 hour and 30 minutes)
- In-person and online options available

What You Will Learn

- How to question, persuade and refer someone who may be suicidal.
- How to get help for yourself or learn more about preventing suicide.
- The common causes of suicidal behaviors.
- The warning signs of suicide.
- How to get help for someone in crisis.

*To Sign Up for an Upcoming Training
Scan the QR Code*



Or go to: <https://redcap.link/teachQPR>

If you have questions or are interested, please contact

TeachQPR@connecticutchildrens.org





**NEW VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BUILDING
Memorial Gallery Service Wall of Honor Form
Remembrance display for all to see**

The entrance will feature a Wall of Honor to recognize anyone who is serving, has served, living or deceased.

We are making available 6.5"x 2.5" memorial plaques to be placed on the wall naming your loved one. The plaques are a one time charge and remain on the wall as long as the building stands.

You may order multiple plaques.

If ordering more than one plaque, please provide each inscription customization below.

The plaques will be a three line memorial where you place the service members name on line one and the additional information desired on lines two and three. Examples: Branch and Years of service.

You can place as many plaques on the Wall of Honor as individuals you wish to recognize.

There will be separate sections of the wall to honor military veterans, police officers, fire, and EMS responders.



Please Provide Your Contact Information:

First & Last Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

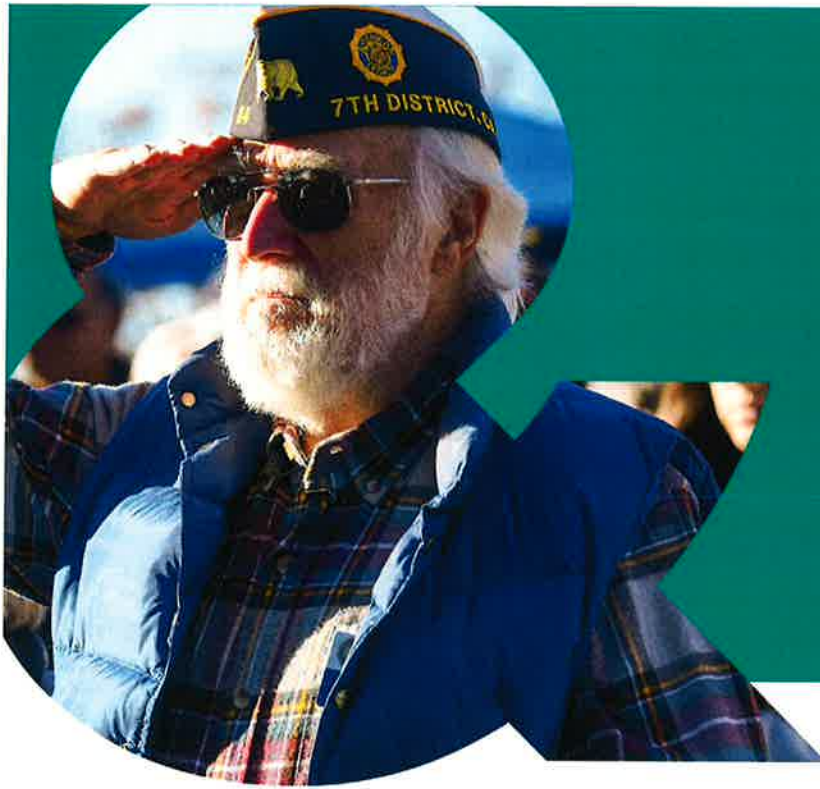
Provide up to three lines of text for the Memorial Plaque(s): Add additional plaques on reverse

Please make your check payable to: "Veterans Building Fund" \$125.00 per plaque.

Mail this form and check to: Veterans Building Fund, PO Box 110205, 50 Quality St, Trumbull, CT 06611

For additional information visit: trumbullveteranscenter.com or vfw10059.org

For questions please contact: Dan Sacco at (203) 858-6371 - vfwpost10059@gmail.com



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Christopher Mccoy

Licensed Representative

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Or call (917) 385-2763 (TTY: 711)



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OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

'Ohana Health Plan, a plan offered by WellCare Health Insurance of Arizona, Inc. Wellcare is the Medicare brand for Centene Corporation, an HMO, PPO, PFFS, PDP plan with a Medicare contract and is an approved Part D Sponsor. Our D-SNP plans have a contract with the state Medicaid program. Enrollment in our plans depends on contract renewal. Washington residents: Health Net Life Insurance Company is contracted with Medicare for PPO plans. "Wellcare by Health Net" is issued by Health Net Life Insurance Company. Washington residents: "Wellcare" is issued by Wellcare of Washington, Inc. Washington residents: "Wellcare" is issued by Wellcare Health Insurance Company of Washington, Inc. Arizona D-SNP plans: Contract services are funded in part under contract with the State of Arizona. New Mexico (NM) Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (DSNP) Members: As a Wellcare by Allwell D-SNP member, you have coverage from both Medicare and Medicaid. Medicaid services are funded in part by the state of New Mexico. NM Medicaid benefits may be limited to payment of Medicare premiums for some members. Louisiana D-SNP prospective enrollees: For detailed information about Louisiana Medicaid benefits, please visit the Medicaid website at <https://ldh.la.gov/medicaid> or <https://www.louisianahealthconnect.com>. To request a written copy of our Medicaid Provider Directory, please contact us. Notice: TennCare is not responsible for payment for these benefits, except for appropriate cost sharing amounts. TennCare is not responsible for guaranteeing the availability or quality of these benefits. Any benefits above and beyond traditional Medicare benefits are applicable to Wellcare Medicare Advantage only and do not indicate increased Medicaid benefits. For Indiana D-SNP prospective enrollees: For detailed information about Indiana Medicaid benefits, please visit the Medicaid website at <https://www.in.gov/medicaid/> Wellcare (HMO and HMO SNP) includes products that are underwritten by WellCare of Texas, Inc., WellCare National Health Insurance Company, and SelectCare of Texas, Inc. Wellcare by Allwell (HMO and HMO SNP) includes products that are underwritten by Superior HealthPlan, Inc. and Superior HealthPlan Community Solutions, Inc.

We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently we represent organizations which offer products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Program to get information on all of your options.



Patriotic Hearts Valentine Dinner Dance

Sponsored by

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 194

Saturday, February 8, 2025



6:00 PM – 10:00

The Crystal Room

98 School Street, Naugatuck, CT

\$60.00 per person

Please RSVP and purchase tickets NLT February 3, 2025

Family Style Dinner Includes: *Appetizer, Salad, Pasta, Chicken, Fish, Roast Beef, Roasted Potatoes, Vegetable, Dessert, Coffee, Beer, Wine, and Soft Drinks*



Live music by

“The Steve Atwood Band”

***Proceeds will benefit Homeless Veterans and
Veteran Services Support***

***Tickets: Carol, 203-687-7138
or Louise, 203-228-6987***

Tables of 10 can be reserved for group seating



Join Us to Remember Them

80th Anniversary Ceremony

Iwo Jima Flag Raising

DATE: Sat. Feb. 22, 2025 (snow date Feb 23)

TIME: 10:30am (At 10:30am, the 1st flag was raised on Iwo Jima)

Open to the Public

PLACE: Central CT State Univ, Davidson Hall, Torp Theater

PARKING: CCSU Welte Garage on Ella Grasso Blvd

**SPEAKERS: CT VA Commissioner Ron Welch
Marine Corps General**

**Special Guests: Iwo Jima Survivors & WWII Veterans
Connecticut's First State Troubadour, Tom Callinan, USMC Veteran**



**For information, contact Elaine at 203-859-4578 or
IwoJimaMem.CT@gmail.com**

HENRY BREAUULT DAY

on
March 8, 2025

Join the Movement!
Celebrate Putnam's own
Henry Breault,
a Connecticut Native
and the
Navy's FIRST enlisted submariner
to receive the
Congressional Medal of Honor,
by naming a Virginia-class submarine after him!





CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT FAIR

TO RECRUIT

**SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS,
AND THEIR FAMILIES**

CONNECTING JOB SEEKERS WITH:

- EMPLOYERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
- APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
- SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

**TO PARTICIPATE AS AN EMPLOYER OR EXHIBITOR
RESERVE A TABLE AT CTCONSTRUCTION.ORG/FAIR-TABLE**

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. SPACE IS LIMITED.



Date: Friday, March 21st, 2025
Location: Sheraton Hartford South
100 Capital Blvd.
Rocky Hill CT, 06067
NEW Time: Noon - 6 PM
LUNCH AND DINNER PROVIDED.

CONTACT US: EGUILD@CTCONSTRUCTION.ORG 860.529.6855



BINGO NIGHT



To Benefit:

**The May-Davis-Stotzer American
Legion Post 117**

PRIZES | FOOD | FUN

Raymour & Flanigan
FURNITURE | MATTRESSES ®

FRIDAY, MARCH 21 ST | AT 5:30PM

3375 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06111

Call 860-665-9732 to RSVP



**THE GREATER WINDSOR VETERANS COUNCIL
AND THE TOWN OF WINDSOR PRESENT:**

VETERANS AND MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

Saturday, April 12, 2025 10am - 2pm

L.P. Wilson Community Center, 599 Matianuck Ave. Windsor, CT 06095



★ **BOUNCE HOUSE**

★ **YARD GAMES**

★ **TOUCH-A-TRUCK**

★ **FACE PAINTING**

★ **VETERAN RESOURCES**

★ **GUEST SPEAKERS**

★ **LIVE MUSIC**

★ **PIZZA & REFRESHMENTS**

Guest Speakers include:

COLONEL

NEAL R. BYRNE III

Colonel Neal R. Byrne III is the commander of the 103d Airlift Wing at Bradley Air National Guard Base, Connecticut. As the Wing Commander, he is charged with providing the Joint Force with rapid global mobility and command and control via expert Tactical Airlift and Air Battle Management. He oversees the operational and training activities of 4 Groups, more than 1,100 Airmen, and 8 C-130H aircraft.

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

RICHARD P. MARKS

CMSgt Richard P. Marks is the Command Chief Master Sergeant of the 103d Airlift Wing at Bradley Air National Guard Base, Connecticut. He advises the commander on health, morale, welfare, readiness, and professional development for over 1,200 personnel, implements command policies, and fosters mission dedication. Additionally, he collaborates with other leaders to ensure personnel readiness, training, and well-being.



**9th Annual
Department of Connecticut
American Legion Family "FUN" Bowling Tournament**



Sunday April 27, 2025, 1pm - Practice begins 1:15pm

**Bowl-O-Rama
2143 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT**

Tournament is open to all American Legion Family members and guests.

We ask that each Team provide a prize for the Raffle Table.

Fundraiser for the Connecticut's Children's Medical Center

If you can't bowl and would like to donate. Please send your donation on the slip below and in the Memo on your check put "Connecticut Children's".

Only 20 Lanes are currently reserved.

Any questions please contact Paul Spedaliere at 860-537-1372

\$25.00 per person: Includes shoe rental, 3 Games of Bowling and Pizza.

Please return this portion with the Names in the order you will be bowling and **send in by April 21, 2025.**

Mail Checks Payable to: **"American Legion Dept. of CT"**

The American Legion, Dept. of Connecticut
864 Wethersfield Avenue
Hartford, CT 06114

Team Name

Check#

Name	Post/Unit	District	Team Captain Contact Information
1.)			
2.)			
3.)			
4.)			