

Official Publication of The American Legion, Department of Ohio

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July | August | September 2018

2018 Centennial Department Convention

The 2018 Centennial Convention for the American Legion Department of Ohio was held at the Hyatt Regency Columbus in Columbus, OH. From June 28th to the 1st of July 2018, Legionnaires from around the state gathered to celebrate the Legion's 100th year anniversary, and to handle the official business of the American Legion Department of Ohio. This year's convention featured a Centennial Street Sign dedication, the election of the state organization's first female 2nd Vice Commander, Jean Wilson (4), the induction of Department Commander Robert E. Schmitt, a variety of resolutions and many Department/Post awards

Charities Inc., hosted a successful Bingo School Training session, and Legionnaires enjoyed time with their comrades by attending The Columbus Clippers baseball game at Huntington Park, and the Patriotic Pops with the Columbus Symphony.

The American Legion Department of Ohio would like to thank Legionnaires who attended, in addition to the guest speakers whom so graciously dedicated their time. A special thank you to Past Department Commander Stanley Pleasant, for his service and for his tenure during the 2017-2018 membership year. We hope that everyone enjoyed and we look forward to seeing you all next year, at the 101st Department Convention. The 2019 Department of Ohio Convention will be held in Toledo, OH. Thank you all for your time and your service.







VETERANS' TREATMENT COURTS Commander Schmitt's Initiative for 2018 - 2019

Commander Schmitt has taken on a new type of program for his term as Commander. Bob had heard about a program called Veterans' Treatment Court that helps our many veterans with their legal issues that they encounter upon their return to civilian life. Most of these issues are caused from multiple deployments as well as the conditions that our troops experience while being deployed. The following questions and answers will help you understand what the Veterans' Treatment Court is all about. When Bob learned about how successful these type of courts are and how few there are, he just knew that The American Legion needed to get involved to give more of our brothers and sisters the help that they need to return to a more stable and productive life.

There are three parts to a success Veterans' Treatment Court; 1) Increase the number of Veterans' Treatment Courts in Ohio. We have eighty-eight counties in Ohio,

only seventeen have Veterans' Treatment Courts, four of the seventeen counties have two courts for a total of twenty-one courts. Part 2) Every court needs Mentors to work with the veteran as they transition back to a more stable life. You can learn more about being a mentor from the State Attorney General's website. Part 3) Fundraising - The monies raised will be used to help provide incentives as the veteran progresses through the three-year program they will also help the mentors with expenses that they may incur while assisting the veteran.

So, how can you help? Make contact with your local Common Pleas or Municipal Court Judges and express the need to help our veterans that end up in the system. Tell them that you are willing to be a mentor for a veteran or two. If you are unable to help in these manners then help with a contribution to The American Legion Department of Ohio and include the wording Veterans' Court or Commander's Project.

Q: What is a veterans' court?

A: The first veterans' treatment court was established in 2008 in Buffalo, New York, in order to respond to the unique needs of veterans whose combat-triggered problems, such as mental illness or substance abuse, have led to criminal behavior. The veterans' court is a hybrid between a drug court and a mental health court. It uses a treatment problem-solving model rather than a traditional court model to assist veterans whose problems can be clearly traced to military service. Ohio, whose population of veterans is sixth among the 50 states, now uses veterans' courts to help deserving war veterans who have become criminal defendants.

Q: How does a veterans' court work?

A: Veterans in the criminal jus-

(Continued on page 3)

Ohio Legion News

The American Legion, Department of Ohio 60 Big Run Road Delaware, Ohio 43015 740 362 7478 legion@ohiolegion.com www.ohiolegion.com

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2018 Fall Edition (October - November - December) Due to Department Headquarters: October 23 Press Date: November 19th · Mail Date: Last Week in November

2019 Winter Edition (TBD)

2019 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE



You are cordially invited to attend the 2019 **Mid-Winter Conference**

The 2019 Mid-Winter Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel North, 6500 Doubletree Avenue, Columbus, OH on the weekend of January 25-27th. The Legion, SAL and the Auxiliary are all housed and have meetings in the same hotel. The Conference is focused on training and education of the American Legion and its programs. Anyone is welcome to attend the Conference or any of the meetings and classes offered. Closer to the event a schedule will be available online.

For hotel reservations call: (614) 885-1885. Deadline is January 10th

For more information on the event contact: legion@ohiolegion.org or call (740) 362-7478.







Voices of Harmony Bowling Green, Ohio



Reservations

Dist.____ Post ____

Number of Additional Guest _____ (send additional Guest Names and Titles on Separate sheet)

Please **RSVP** by Phone or Mail to Barbara Schmitt **BY SEPT 19, 2018**

Home Address 4009 Secluded Ravine Court Maumee, OH 43537

Name

Spouse/Significant Other ____

Buffet Style Dinner

Roast Beef and Chicken

Salads Relish Tray, Rolls and Butter

Vegetables and Potatoes

Cost for the evening is \$35.00 per person For an evening of fun. Entertainment and good food

make your Reservations early

CASH BAR

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Perrysburg Ohio 43551

419-874-3111 Room Rate \$109.00 plus 9.75 % Tax

Please make your Room reservations by September 6th

to lock in this rate

Home Phone 419-867-9275

Title

Title

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

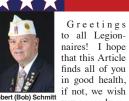
Gary Ackerman	Toledo
Frank Adley	Ashtabula
Ned Berlet	Wapakoneta
Guy Bertram	Canton
Philip Bertrand	
William Britton	
John Colopy	Hebron
James Dull	Wadsworth
Jerry Elmer	Shadyside
Carl Evans	Westerville
Robert Fodor	Twinsburg
Bill Gibbons	Rossburg
Albert Golden	Lima
Russ Green	Medina
Gwynn Griffis	Warsaw
William Groger	Walton (KY)
H H Harcha Jr	Portsmouth
Robert Hatem	Columbus
Richard Hazelip	Toronton
James Hinners	North Ridgeville
Stephen Kaczor Jr	Brook Park
Robert Ladd	Pembersville
Gerald Leforge	Wilmington
Vaughn Lykins	Cincinnati
Robert Mellars	Newark

4	Zanis Morgan	Gahanna
	Gerald Moser	
	E E Moyers	Ravenna
	Richard Pachell Sr	
-	James Reaman	Lima
	Carl Reddish	Parma
	Lewis Reinhart	Fostoria
	Ronald Ridenour	
6	Terry Roan	Massillon
Ŀ	George Rodgers	
	Rhonda Ross	Hamilton
Ċ.	Theodore Russell	Olmsted Falls
	George Schauer	Dayton
	Carmen Scott	Bellefontaine
	Butch Shelley	Norwalk
	Michael Slominski	Litchfield
	Robert Smith	
	Phillip Stickel	Springboro
	Denny Taylor	Toledo
2	Earl Thomas	
	Dallas Vonglahn	Oak Harbor
	Roy Wells	Ashland
	Robert Whitesides	
5	Ernest Yerkey	Canton
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OHIO LEGION NEWS

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



Dept. Commander vou a speedy recovery and bet-

ter health. We will offer prayers for all who are in need of them.

I thank all who attended the State Convention in Columbus for their vote of confidence you gave me by electing me your State Commander for 2018 – 2019, our Centennial Year. I am honored and proud to serve as your Commander. I will do whatever it takes to represent this Department in the best manner possible as it deserves.

We had many issues this past year with a turnover of staff, Post-credits, phones and lack of website updates. We, officers, kept saying, bare with us; the new staff members don't have 20 plus years experience as the former staff members had and it will take a while for them to get up-tospeed. Well, we still have most of those new staff members, and they have worked hard to learn about The American Legion and what it takes to do their job. In many respects, they have done an outstanding job, but they barely have one year under their belts, and their predecessors had many more. Continue to be patient; there are positive things taking place in the Department. The hiring notice for a new Adjutant is open until August 31st. The review of the Resumes and interviews will take place in September, and we hope to have a permanent Adjutant in place before October 1st. In the meantime, Suzette Heller our interim Adiutant is handling the position very well and is considering applying for the position on a permanent basis. By the time you receive this issue, we should have a new finance person in place. We have selected that person, but we are waiting for confirmation by the DEC which should take place on August 4th.

I am looking forward to working with 1st Vice Roger Friend and 2nd Vice Jean Wilson this year, and I know we as a team can accomplish great strides for the Department this year. Roger has a Membership Awards Manual that has up to \$40,000.00 in Awards monies to give away to the Posts that are willing to work for it. This \$40,000.00 is twice

the amount that has ever been available before. If we were to give all of this money away this vear, it would mean that the membership is turned in earlier and we should have an increase in membership versus a decline. Jean and I were District Commanders together, and I know that Jean knows and understands The American Legion very well and is an extremely hard worker. But, you know, all of our hard work efforts don't mean a thing if we can not motivate each of you to help us make the Department of Ohio number one in The American Legion. So, please consider paying your dues early, hopefully by Veterans day, if not then please by January 1st. Go and support your Post activities. If there is something that you would like for them to do that would get you more active then go and express your ideas to them, it is your Post too, you're a member there too. For you, members that are a member of our Post #888, every one of you is welcome to go to any Post for their activities. You might find a local Post were you feel comfortable. Just because you are in Post #888 doesn't mean that you cannot go to any event or activity

retention. All the newly elected

district 1st Vice Commanders

will be attending a membership

workshop at National Head-

quarters August 10th to return

with innovative ideas to increase

Our 100th National Convention

will be held in Minneapolis Au-

gust 25th through the 30th there

is still time to boost the numbers

and get Ohio noticed. Lets all

make this a bumper year.

membership.

at any Post. Please check out the local Post near you.

Part of our membership benefits is the various Discounts that we get at various places for various necessities. There is one benefit that goes with our membership that can be very beneficial to all of us or I should say to our beneficiaries, and that is the Legionnaires Insurance Trust Legion Care insurance. Each of us is entitled to it through our membership, and it costs us nothing, that means FREE. However, we must sign up for it to have it if needed. The benefit is \$1000.00 for non-Legion business accidents resulting in death or \$5000.00 when traveling to and from Legion meetings or activities. We have some of the Insurance brochures

with applications in the Department Supply Room, or you can sign up online at https://www. thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare. LIT or Legionnaire Insurance Trust has other insurance products that are available at a cost such as Cancer Insurance, Long Term Care insurance, Emergency Assistance Insurance if needed. I am not suggesting that anyone purchase any additional products but you our members need to know what is available. Purchasing additional products from LIT is beneficial to the Department of Ohio so that you should know that if you purchase additional products you are helping the Department of Ohio financially.

For God and Country

Veterans Court

Continued from page 1

tice system are first identified through evidence-based screening and assessments. They may then be referred to the veterans' treatment court by probation officers, public defenders, defense lawyers or judges. Such a veteran defendant also may be referred by a veterans' Justice Outreach Specialist (VJO), whose job is to link veteran defendants with Veterans Affairs services. VJOs have now assisted more than 4,000 veterans in a veterans' treatment court, and another 42,000 in jails.

Veteran defendants who qualify for veterans' court can participate in a court-supervised treatment plan with a court-appointed team of specialists. This team may include court staff, pro bono attorneys, probation officers, health care providers and treatment staff. The team's goal is to help each veteran navigate the system and get necessary help. Veterans' court teams also collaborate with the Veterans Service Commission and the Veterans Affairs office in each county so that veteran defendants can take advantage of the many resources these federal organizations provide. Volunteer veterans also provide assistance, often serving as mentors to veteran defendants throughout the course of treatment. Veteran defendants who have successfully completed their treatment plans and have met certain criteria may avoid jail or prison terms or even have their charges dismissed.

Q: Do veteran defendants get their crimes excused?

A: No. The goal of the veterans' court is not to excuse a veteran defendant's crime, but to address underlying reasons for the crime in ways that are most likely to prevent repeat criminal behavior. Often, veterans' treatment courts have a more stringent probationary period than traditional courts. These probationary periods often include random drug and alcohol testing, and veterans who fail to abide by the terms of the probation are diverted to a regular court docket.

Q: Where are Ohio's veterans' treatment courts?

A: There are more than 460 veterans' treatment courts nationwide. Ohio currently has at least 20 veterans' treatment courts and more are being added. Check with your county to see if your judge has started one. Even if your county does not yet have a veterans' court, judges in every Ohio court have access to a veterans' justice outreach specialist and can connect a defendant veteran to federal services.

Q: Do veterans' treatment courts work?

A: A recent study indicates that they work effectively: recidivism rates are far below the national average of more than 50 percent. In a Cincinnati study, only 10 percent of those referred to veterans' courts were rearrested; 21 percent gained full-time employment, 31 percent moved to stable housing, and 16 percent enrolled in school or training programs. Youngstown reported 0 percent recidivism, and in Stark County only 5 percent were re-arrested on felony charges.

Thank you for supporting this program that transforms lives and mends families. If you would like to support this program through donations you can make a check out to The American Legion Dept. of Ohio with the word "Veterans Treatment Court" in the memo. The proceeds will be used throughout the year in the form of a documented grant to a Legionnaire Mentor at a Veterans Treatment Court in support of camaraderie and positively enhancing the process. The funds will be used to benefit the court process and all the veterans in the court and will not be in any way a private inurement to any individual veteran.

Roger Friend th Vice Commander

those who attended our 100th Department convention and helped make it a huge success. As we embark on our 100th year membership

G reetingsshould be our top priority to put.egionnairesOhio back on the map. Onlineromyourrewly electedrenewals are off to a good startwith around 1000 as of July 19th.st Vice Com-nander. First Iwould like tohank all ofhose who at-

I plan to continue the Monthly GO TO call in meetings to help us stay on track with our membership growth as well as

2nd VICE COMMANDER

1st VICE COMMANDER

Greetings to all my fellow Legionnaires and Legion Family members. I am so very proud and humbled to have been

Jean Wilson 2nd Vice Commander au to

elected to serve our great organization as your Department 2nd Vice Commander and I hope to do a great job bringing more activities and more information your way. One way of doing that is I have started a Facebook page called Department of Ohio American Legion Activities page. I ask that if you are on Facebook to go to the page and "Like It". The page will be for information purposes only for our Department, Districts, Posts, Auxiliary Units, Sons of the Legion Squads and American Legion Riders groups activities. I will be posting Department

gs to activities as they are confirmed not only recruit eligible members

activities as they are confirmed and I invite all Districts, Posts, Ladies Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion Squadrons and ALR Groups to do the same. Just so everyone understands this to help promote activities. This is not for recipes, jokes, political views etc. If those are posted they will be deleted. I don't know how many times I have heard people say, "I didn't know that was happening".

When you see events on the page please like it and share the information and that way even if that isn't something you are interested in maybe one of your friends will be.

I think our activities are a tool to encourage our Veterans and their families to join not only the American Legion but also encourage their family members to become involved in either the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion and or American Legion Riders. I think that it is easier to not only recruit engine memory into our Legion but also keep them interested and keep their membership renewed when other family's members are involved in one of our support groups. I feel to make a Post successful it takes a family- Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and ALR working together as a unit to makes things happen. One of our greatest treasures is our Legion Family. Yes sometimes we might not all agree but when we need one another it appears to me that we all get the job done!

I feel one of the best ways to learn what our members want to see happen in our organization is through communications. Please feel free to communicate with me. My email is 2ndvice@ohiolegion.com. I will always listen to what you have to say. Sometimes change can happen and sometimes things can't. But we always listen and exchange ideas.

OHIO LEGION NEWS

 $\star \star \star$ GHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Suzette Heller

to thank Legionnaires and

worked hard to make improvements in their Posts and Districts to increase membership and awareness of membership. Your efforts do not go unnoticed and I congratulate you as you receive your awards at National Convention this year. Because we are a membership-based organization, I am preaching to the choir when I say that we are NOTH-ING without membership. Lack of membership means we are at a loss for members. A loss of members means a lot of different things to different people. The obvious part is revenue. Obviously with a loss of members we feel the pinch when it comes to revenue, everyone does, all the way from the Post to Department HQ onto National HQ and revenue loss is the most obvious because it impacts us almost immediately. The thing about revenue stream is there are six ways to Sunday to obtain revenue and there are lots of existing nonprofits that are not membership based who concentrate on supporting their objectives through fundraising efforts, grant writing and several other means, of which we can go on and on. The most concerning part to me is not just revenue but what the revenue represents and supports. It is not just membership but what the membership represents and supports.

ADJUTANT UPDATE Coming from a VA&R back-As we move ground, I must admit, I have not into the beginning quarter of necessarily considered memour 2018-2019 bership in the manner that I do membership today. There has never been a year, I want shortage of veterans to advocate for and to help when it comes to their VA benefits. There have Districts who been times when veterans are lined up outside the door just waiting to be helped. My voice

mail would be emptied one day and filled when I return the next day, or that afternoon. When I am asked by a veteran, or family member, what they can do to help The American Legion I simply say, "If you are not a member of The American Legion, please join". Most do, if eligible, and some have made a contribution to VA&R out of sheer gratitude of what has been done on their behalf. However, there are still others that don't and continue to belong to other organizations, which is fine as we don't corner the market on camaraderie. I once heard a wise man say "There is something for everyone in our organization" which is true, but not everyone wants something from our organization, and that is fine too, but why not?

If we were to follow the trail of where every membership dollar goes from Post to Department to National, could we honestly say we are proud of how these dollars are managed? When someone from the outside is looking in and considering being a member of our organization, what do they see? If I am to be 100% honest with myself and another I admit we have work to do. With that being said, what really matters most is the

idea that a veteran somewhere in Ohio still has no idea what we really do. They don't know their son or daughter has an opportunity to receive at least 3 different scholarships or that there is opportunity to engage in a weeklong civics and government community with nearly 1,000 of their peers. They are most certainly not aware that the education benefits they are receiving has been bought and paid for by Legionnaires and veterans who precede them, which essentially created the middle class and the military retirement benefits that are deposited into their bank accounts every month are kept intact by a few Legionnaires in Washington, D.C. and that the Government didn't just decide they wanted to give these benefits away, SOMEONE had to recommend it, create the legislation, work to get it passed, and work to maintain it! They don't know that if there is a natural disaster or local disaster due to flooding or tornadoes, they could receive monies from the National Emergency Fund, but they MUST be a member. The list goes on and on. If I keep this information to myself, I am selfish. I MUST give it away in order to pass on the Legacy. Whether a Legionnaire wants to belong to a Post or just be an at large member, being a member is the most important. I hope to have inspired someone and want to THANK YOU for being a member of the greatest veterans organization in the world and God Bless you as we

years of my life growing up on a family Farm in west central Ohio. At fourteen, I left home to study for the Catholic Priesthood, and was ordained in 1963. I have served God's people as a high schoolteacher/administrator

to the American Legion.

priest/pastor, and Army chaplain ... for a total of fifty-five years and counting. Working with the youth, whether in military or civilian life, has always provided a special inspiration.

A warm hello to you all. I take

this opportunity to introduce my-

self. I am your new Department

of Ohio Chaplain,(COL) Louis L.

Schmit (RET).Thank you, Com-

mander Robert Schmitt, for your

selection - I ask God to continue

to guide both of us in our service

About myself: I spent the early

Tours in the Army took me to various countries around the world including Germany both before and after the "Wall." My most unique assignment was During the 1990's, when the State

My name is

Harold Landis.

I am a Com-

mander of the

Toledo Police

Post 512, also

mander of Lucas

County Council,

Com-

Past

trict and now hold the Depart-

ment of Ohio Historian position.

I feel very honored to be asked

to capture memories for the 2018

and 2019 Department of Ohio

100-year celebrations coming up.

mander, the USAREUR Command General, sent me into the former Soviet occupied countries of Eastern Europe to re-dedicate their desecrated military cemeteries. Their young soldiers along with the old veterans were eager to restore the grave monuments as the Communists smashed their Crosses and replaced with the 'hammer & sickle.' The stories fallen soldiers and the punishment they had personally endured from the communists still ring in my ears today. Their gratitude to the United States was evident.

Department, through my Com-

My years as a military Chaplain were set apart with many other blessings and Experiences as I will share with you in future articles.

May the strength of God sustain us: may the power of God preserve us; may the hand of God protect us; may the way of God direct us; may the love of God go with us. AMEN

Chaplain L. Schmit

HISTORIAN

I have to say I want to do the best job for the Department and for the Great 1st District. With the assistance of Virgil Arlington for the Department and Charley Jones at the Great 1st District we should be able to cover most functions.

Being the Historian for the Department is new to me and I have a lot to learn but with the help of fellow Legionnaires we will do the best job possible. Once again thank you for the opportunity to fill this position May God Bless The American Legion and everyone.

CW/F UPDATE



Michael Kennedy ecutive comor of Progra lembership mittee and the

Department of Ohio for having the confidence to hire me as the Director of Programs and Membership. So, for those of you that don't know me allow me to introduce myself. I am a 20-year Member of the American Legion, earning my eligibility by serving the United States Army from 1979-1999. I retired with the rank of E-8 First Sergeant. I have served at the local and district levels. I have been married to my wife Jeni for 18 years and we have 6 children and 7 grandchildren. We now reside in Delaware, and I only have a short commute to work.

the

My very first experience as a Director was at Buckeye Boys

AMERICANISM

State, held at Miami University from June 10th-June 17th. This was one of the most well-run programs I have ever had the pleasure of attending. The cooperation between the Legionnaires and the counselors is without a doubt the best I have ever seen. To simply say that Buckeye Boys State runs like a well-oiled machine is in an understatement. There were 1150 delegates in attendance. It was truly a week that shaped a lifetime. The week started off with the delegates arriving at noon Sunday, all of them were processed in within 2hrs. That evening was the first assembly and the boys were already coming together as a team. Wednesday the election was held, the Governor and all the state officials were elected. That evenings assembly was a formal inauguration ceremony. After that the delegates ran the daily operation of the state government.

Standing committees met on July 14th and it was well at-

tended. A great amount of discussions happened, and business completed. Thank you to all the committee chairman for their hard work and running a productive meeting.

recruit new members and work

towards serving our current

members now, better than ever.

American Legion State senior baseball Tournament was held July 25th through July 28th, at Beaver field in Lancaster Ohio. Eight of the best teams from around the State of Ohio came together for the four-day double elimination tournament, with Circleville sponsored by Post 134 becoming the state champion and moving on to the regional tournament in Napoleon Ohio.

In closing, we are keeping very busy and are looking forward to the many upcoming events such as the A&G tests in November and the trip to Washington D.C. along with many others. The staff and myself are looking forward to serving the Legion Family of the Great State of Ohio.

Hello fellow Legionnaires! I hope all is well. First, I would like to thank our 2018-19 Department Commander for appointing me as the Chairman of the Child Welfare Committee. It is an honor to hold this position in our great organization.

The Child Welfare committee is currently working on ways to enhance the program, and to provide the resources needed to assist the children of Veterans throughout Ohio. This year, we will be selling an Ohio Child Welfare pin, to assist in funding the program. All proceeds will

directly fund the program and its projects. Speaking of projects, the 2018-19 Child Welfare Committee hopes to include a new project for children in Ohio. The name of the program is 'Donovan's Kids.' It is a summer camp which specializes in assisting children with special needs and illnesses. The Ohio based program was originated by a WWII Veteran, whom plans to expand the camp into new areas of the state

We will have more updates on this after our DEC decides on this new project. Thank you all for your time and your service.

UPCOMING AMERICANISM DATES

Americanism and Government test to be given: November 5-9, 2018. Americanism and Government trip: March 4-8, 2019 Department Oratorical Contest: March 10. 2019. **Dayton & Western Reserve National Cemetery** Grave Decorating: May 25, 2019. 2019 Buckeye Boys State: June 9-16, 2019

By Albert "Andy" Atkins

Harold Landis Dept. Historian Historian for the Great First Dis-

OHIO LEGION NEWS

PAGE 5

VETERAN'S AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

What a Veteran can do to help the Department Service Officers process your claims and appeals

William Genochio GySgt, USMC (Ret) DSO/ Office Supervisor Cleveland VA Regional Office Ph: 216-522-3504 Email: William.genochio@va.gov

Legionnaire, in this quarters Legion News, we would like to inform our veterans, on ways you can help ensure that your claim or appeal is processed timely and efficiently. As you already know the Department of Veterans Affairs is a difficult system to navigate and can become confusing and frustrating. These tips and insights will help you to ensure that your claim or appeal moves through the VA with ease.

Make sure you update your address and telephone number. One of the most common issues we see, is that the veteran does not receive correspondence from the VA regarding hearings, Compensation and Pension (C&P) Exams, Proposals to Reduce or receive calls from the American Legion Department Service Officers regarding upcoming appeals. This is often due to the VA and the American Legion not having the most current information. The following will need to be notified if there is a new address and or phone number.

- American Legion, Cleveland Veteran Affairs Regional Officer at 216-522-3504 or your County Veterans Service Commission by filing a 20-572 (Request for Change of Address / Cancellation of Direct Deposit).
 The Veterans Affairs Benefit
- Administration VBA hotline at 1-800-827-1000.
 The Veterans Affairs Health

Administration VHA (you can do this at an appointment at your local VA Medical Center).

**you must update both the VBA and the VHA

Watch your mailbox and call your American Legion Representative, if you have a claim or appeal pending or submitted to the VA. Be sure to watch your mail for correspondence from the VA. Typically when a new claim is filed on a 21-526EZ, you should receive something within 60 to 90 days from the VA. This is often a generic letter stating that the VA has received your claim and at this time nothing is needed, but further correspondence will follow. It will also state that the American Legion has been notified and sent a copy of the letter. This is true but misleading. The VA does upload the letter into the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS). So yes, we do have access to the letter but only when notified by the veteran. So, it is important that if you receive correspondence from the VA and are unsure call your American Legion Service Representative.

Submitting evidence for your claim or appeal. Please refrain from sending medical records on USB devices such as thumb drives. The VA will not attempt to pull the records from the USB. If there is a cost to obtaining the records and you are unwilling or unable to pay the fee, you can request that the VA obtain the records for you by filing out the 21-4142 and 21-4142a. Be advised that the VA will only send the request twice to obtain records if no response after the second attempt the VA has fulfilled their duty to assist the veteran and will decide the case on available evidence of record.

The main take away, if you have questions regarding your claim or appeal. Call your American Legion Representative. You do not have do this on your own. Trained Service Officers are available to assist veterans with all aspects of their claim or appeal. If you hear something from a fellow veteran take it at face value but confirm with your Legion Representative prior to requesting increase of filing for Individual Unemployability (IU) or other benefits.

It is our upmost pleasure to assist our Ohio Veterans and their families. It is the selfless sacrifices of our members who answered the call to duty to defend this Great Nation.

What is the Process after the Ramp-Opt-In Results Come Back?

Eric Hall Administrative Assistant Ohio American Legion Regional Office

The RAMP program is a new program for veterans to have their claim reviewed and receive a decision to either grant or continue to deny. The problems we are seeing is with the claims that are denied. We would like to equip you, the veteran, with some insight on how the process works when a decision is made.

When using the review process under RAMP you will have up to one year to respond from the date the VA sent you the notification letter. This will protect the effective date for your benefits. When choosing one of the options. One thing to be aware of is that if you decide to ask for further review the claim will not be looked at after February 14, 2019. The VA will send out the information on which lanes you can choose. This is like the option for the OPT-IN process. There will be additional information provided when the new system is operational.

Here are the three lanes you can choose for further review:

• File a Supplemental Claim

- Request a Higher-Level Review
- Feducat a Higher-Level Review
 File an Appeal to the Board of Veterans Appeals (This process will not begin to process an appeal until a Date that will be provided from the letter received on your options)

Supplemental Claim

- This option is used when the veteran will have additional evidence that is New and Relevant to support granting the benefit(s), the veteran can identify existing relevant records that the veteran would like the VA to obtain. (New evidence is considered as information that was not previously reviewed by the VA. Relevant evidence is considered information that will either prove or disapprove the issue)
- For the Supplemental Claim to be complete the Veteran is required to have the evidence

submitted with your application at the same time to be a complete claim.

Higher-Level Review

• This is used when there is no additional evidence. The VA will only use the evidence that is on record.

- There will be a new review of the issues for the evidence that was previously considered by the VA. The VA will not consider any new evidence after the VA has made their decision
- There might be findings that the VA did not fulfill his duty to assist the veteran from the original claim. The claim will be returned for further development and readjudication.
- The Veteran may choose the informal conference that will be available with the American Legion to assist in the call. This will be used to find the errors of the claim. This option can delay the processing of the Veterans Higher-Level review.

 The Veteran cannot request the higher-level review if the veteran used the higher-level review or an appeal to the board.

File an Appeal to the Board

- This option will be considered by a Veteran Law Judge.
 No earlier than October 18,
- No earlier than October 18, 2018 will the board process your appeal
- There are three options when appealing to the Board, these options are considered from the order it was received to the board.
 - Direct Review, this is for no new evidence or no hearing requested
 - Evidence Submission, this is when the Veteran does not want a hearing, but the veteran has additional evidence to submit. Must be within 90 days from when the
 - Board receives the request. - Hearing, this is to testify before the Veterans Law Judge, and be able to submit additional evidence.

Remember this will be the longest process and will take some time. After the hearing is held there will be time to submit additional evidence and must be submitted within 90 days from the Veterans hearing. After 90 days the Board will not consider the added evidence

When the Veteran receives the notification letter there will be a full explanation on what decisions the veteran can do. There will be a 21-4138 in the package filled out and witch lane the veteran is selecting.

If the Veteran is needing assistance they can use the American Legion or their local county service office. For more information on RAMP REVIEW RIGHTS visit https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/appeals.asp

References

Affairs, D. o. (n.d.). RAMP Review Rights. Retrieved from Benifits and Appeals: http://bebefits.va.gov/benefits/ appeals.asp

FRAUD ALERT ISSUED BY FTC

We would like to bring a very important matter to the attention of our Legionnaires. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has released information which is very concerning to all veterans, and they would like true veteran's organizations to update our Nation's heroes. It has been brought to our attention that many veterans have fell victim to a charity scam, operating under the name "Help the Vets." This Florida based charity scam is now at the center of a multi-state action which has been initiated by the FTC, and veteran's representatives in all 50 states.

Even Ohio veterans fell victim, donating over 11 million dollars to the organization, unaware that the money was rarely used in support of veterans. "Help the Vets" is no longer permitted to accept or solicit donations and all funds are now being distributed to Veterans Organizations with a true purpose. The FTC has created an initiative called "Operation Donate with Honor" which aims to eliminate donations to fraudulent charities claiming to support veterans and service members. There are many organizations like the American Legion, AMVETS etc. who truly dedicate their time, donations and efforts into helping our veterans and their families.

Please report any fraudulent fundraising activity to the Ohio Attorney General's office. You can also research charities using the Ohio Attorney General website and other resources like guidestar. org; which provides descriptions of programs and of how donations are being used. Please research and use due diligence when donating, and do not rely solely on the name of an organization. We would like to thank all of you for your service, time, and attention to this concerning matter.

Find more information regarding "Operation Donate with Honor" at the FTC website: https://www.ftc.gov/newsevents/press-releases/2018/07/ ftc-states-combat-fraudulentcharities-falsely-claim-help.

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CHILDREN & YOUTH 2018 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

HIGH SCHOOL AWARD:

- **Dominic Velasquez** of Canfield, Ohio is the great-grandson of a Legionnaire and Buckeye Boys State alumni. Dominic will be attending the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill in the fall.
- Rosemary Zaleski of Strongsville, Ohio is the daughter of a Legionnaire and a former participant of the Americanism & Government test. Rosemary will be attending The Ohio State University in the fall.
- Kenton Colvin of Hilliard, Ohio is the grandson of a Legionnaire and former Boy Scout and Eagle Scout. Kenton will be attending The University of Notre Dame in the fall. Kenton desires to serve the nation by enrolling in the University of Notre Dame's ROTC Program.

AMERICAN LEGION/ MILITARY MEMBER AWARD:

• Ashley Gorbulja of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio is an American Legion Member of The University of Akron American Legion Post 808. While serving in the United States Army Reserves, Ashely is pursuing a Master's in Public Health.

2018 College, University Award		
# of Applicants	6	
# of Qualified Applicants	6	
# of Disqualified Applicants	0	
Median High School GPA	3.815	
Median College GPA	3.9519	

2/6 Applicants particapated in Legion Programs

31.5

Median ACT Score

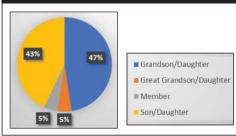
5/6 Applicants are employeed 5/6 applicants have previously earned a Legion scholarship

APPLICANTS BY COUNTY

County	# of Applicants	County	# of Applicants
Seneca	4	Fulton	1
Franklin	2	Greene	1
Belmont	1	Lucas	1
Butler	1	Madison	1
Crawford	1	Mahoning	1
Cuyahoga	1	Montgomer	y 1
Defiance	1	Summit	1
Delaware	1	Wayne	1
Fauquier (VA)	1	Total	21

High School Award	1
# of Applicants	12
# of Qualified Applicants	10
# of Disqualified Applicants	2
Median High School GPA	3.970
Median ACT Score	29
5/12 applicants earned post-sec credits	ondary course
8/12 applicants participated in Ar Programs	merican Legion

APPLICANTS RELATIONSHIP TO THE AMERICAN LEGION



COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY AWARD:

- Maria Faber of Fostoria, Ohio is the daughter of a Legionnaire. Maria is a Buckeye Girl State Alumni and is enrolled at the University of Findlay.
- · Jeremy Schmitz of Beavercreek, Ohio is the son of a Legionnaire. Jeremy is enrolled at Regent University.
- Morgan Harsh of Hamilton, Ohio is the daughter of a Legionnaire. Morgan is enrolled at Bowling Green University.

American Legion Post 586 Presents 2018 Scholarship Recipients

Tuesday June 26, 2018 the Tipp City American Legion Post 586 Family issued seventeen \$500.00 scholarships to twelve recipients. The Tipp City American Legion Family consists of four groups: American Legion Post 586 (Legion), American Legion Auxiliary Unit 586 (Auxiliary), Legion Riders Miami Valley Post 586 (Legion Riders) and Sons of the American Legion Squadron 586 (SAL).

Zachary Burleson received two scholarships one from the Legion and another from the Auxiliary. Zachary will be a junior at Wright State University majoring in Biology. He has been interested in the life sciences throughout high school and he wants to explore career paths that will allow him to make an impact for others.

Kayla Mullen received three scholarships one from the Legion, one from the Auxiliary and one from the Legion Riders. Kayla will be a senior at Wright State University majoring in Athletic Training. She has chosen this route so she can promote health and wellness on a personal level and make a difference in people's lives.

Alexis Otstot received a scholarship from the Legion. Alexis will be a junior at Bowling Green State University majoring in Inclusive Early Childhood Education. She hopes to become an elementary educator because teaching is her passion. Her goal in life is to have an impact on young children and their education.

Kaleigh Otstot received a scholarship from the Legion. Kaleigh will be a freshman at Edison State Community College majoring in Accounting. Her goal is to be an accountant. She loves math and working with numbers. She hopes to get a good education and work in the accounting field.

Colton Purves received a scholarship from the Legion. Colton will be a freshman at Wright State University majoring in Earth Environmental Science. He wants to get a good education and put this knowledge to work helping people.

Isaiah Purves receive a scholarship from the Legion. Isaiah will be a senior at Ball State University majoring in Environmental Management. He is pursuing a career in the agricultural field. His goal is to help farmers maximize yields while protecting the land.

Mackenzie Weaver received scholarships from the Legion and the Legion Riders. Mackenzie will be a freshman at Wilmington College majoring in Early Childhood Education or Math. She wants to become an elementary teacher specializing in science and math. Her goal is to help children learn and grow.

Kayla Kreusch received a scholarship from the Auxiliary. Kayla will be a freshman at Sinclair Community College majoring in Addiction Services. She wants to continue her medical education after Sinclair with an emphasis in cardiology.

Megan Weir received a scholarship from the SAL. Megan is a graduate student at Wright State University seeking a master's degree in Literacy Education. She is furthering her education in literacy to help her students become strong readers.

Payton Wilks received a scholarship from the SAL. Payton will be



Scholarship recipients front row – Kaleigh Otstot, Alexis Otstot, Brittany Andrews, Megan Weir and Mackenzie Weaver. Back Row SAL Chairman Dan Belding, Auxiliary Chairperson Viola Williams, recipients Alex Rittenhouse, Isaiah Purves, Colton Purves, Legion Chairman Harlan Purves and Legion Riders Chairman Francis March.

a junior at Ohio University majoring in Acting, Anthropology and French. He plans to teach English in France for one year then return to the US to obtain advanced degrees in anthropology.

Alex Rittenhouse received a scholarship from the Legion Riders. Alex will be a freshman at West Virginia Wesleyan College majoring in Athletic Training. He wants to help others through athletic training and continue on to get a graduate degree in Physical therapy.

Brittany Andrews received scholarships from the Legion Riders and the SAL. Brittany is a graduate student at the University of Toledo majoring in Administration. She is working with the Cincinnati Bengals and is looking to continue her career in sports administration.

OHIO LEGION NEWS

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The mission of The American Legion Buckeye Boys State is to provide an educational and leader-

There are many different areas that these delegates become involved. There is state government,

eye Boys State Highway Patrol Cadets who spend the week making sure nobody is breaking the

between the two parties. Elections are then conducted to determine the 2018 Buckeye Boys State

740-362-7478. We would love to have you be a part of the week that shapes these lifetimes.

My experience at Buckeye Boys State was spectacular all the way from the delegates to the counselors and Legionnaires. Especially the Legionnaires. Everyone was respectful, kind and approachable towards one another. It was delightful to be around so many great human beings with a smile on their face each day. Buckeye Boys State was the most engaging, intellectual, and passionate opportunity I have ever been given to learn about Ohio's government. As Governor of Buckeye Boys State, I interacted with the Legionnaires often. During our time together, I met some very wise and honorable individuals. These staff members were key mentors as I took on the role of Governor at BBS. From their teachings and actions I learned how important it is to not only be an intellectual leader but a moral one also; being a leader is a challenging task. Every decision vou make will always be criticized no matter what your intentions are. However, as an appointed leader, you must follow the line of good no matter the difficulty and scrutiny you may receive. The wisdom I have learned from Buckeye Boys State will never be forgotten and it has inspired me to live an honorable life. I would like to thank all those who are actively serving, and our veterans for preserving the greatest country in the world! And a big thank you to all the staff members of the American Legion for giving us the opportunity to experience a week to shape a lifetime!

Sincerely. **Blaise Tayese**





July | August | September 2018



AMERICANISM The Ohio American Legion Baseball Senior State Tournament

Christie White, Programs and Membership Manager Department of Ohio

American Legion Baseball is the finest summer baseball program for high school students in Ohio and the nation today. American Legion Baseball serves as the largest source of talent to major league teams of any youth baseball program. In

2017, over 55% of all players on 30 major league team rosters played American Legion Baseball. 2018 marks the 93rd year for American Legion Baseball, an enviable anniversary in any field. For these past 92 years American Legion Baseball has strived to maintain the reputation as the highest regarded youth baseball program in the

nation.

their regions are listed to the Napoleon Post 300. Their first right.

ment started on Saturday July ment champion from Wisconsin.

28th at 7:00pm. Circleville, This year's senior tournament which was undefeated played kicked off on July 25th at Bea- against Beverly/Lowell who had vers Field in Lancaster Ohio. 1 loss. Circleville defeated Bev-This tournament was an 8 team, erly/Lowell 4-2. They will move double elimination tournament. on to the Great Lakes Regional The 8 teams who won each of Tournament which is hosted by game is at 4:30pm Wednesday The final game of the tourna- August 8th versus the tourna-

This year the teams

- represented were:
- Region 1- Pemberville Post 183 Region 2- Van Wert Post 178
- Region 3- Sandusky Post 83
- Region 4- Utica Post 92
- Region 5- Circleville Post 134
- Region 6- Lancaster Post 11
- Region 7- Steubenville Post 33
- Region 8- Beverly/Lowell Post
 - 389/750



2018 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

2018–2019 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS



Department Commander BOB SCHMITT



Past Department Commander STANLEY PLEASANT





National Executive Committeeman ROBERT KLOSTERMEIER

PHOTO UNAVAILABLE

Department Chaplain



Alt. National Exec. Committeeman STEVE MASOWICK





2nd Vice Commander JEAN WILSON







Department Assistant Historian VIRGIL ARLING



Department Sergeant-At-Arms RUSSELL BOHLAND



Department Assistant Chaplain JIM VAUGHAN, JR.



Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms HOLLY LEWIS





Department Historian HAROLD LANDIS

Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms STAN OREN



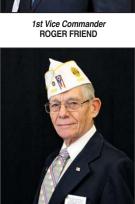
Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms JOHN HOOD



Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms KENT LONG



Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms WILLIAM KELLER





Department Parliamentarian GARY MINADEO



2018 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

2018 – 2019 DISTRICT OFFICERS

"GREAT" Ist DISTRICT



District Commander DAVE PAQUETTE



1st Vice District Commander JASON RUE

"THUNDERING" 3rd DISTRICT



2nd Vice District Commander FRANK (JOE) NAVARRE JR

2nd "TO NONE" DISTRICT



District Commander DAN METZGER





"FABULOUS" 4th DISTRICT

WALTER MEHARG



District Commander DAVID JONES



1st Vice District Commander JOE LAW

2nd Vice District Commander BETSY LAW



District Commander GREG ELSBERND

1st Vice District Commander JIM JENNINGS



"SIZZLING" 6th DISTRICT



District Commander LENNY WHITE



1st Vice District Commander DAVID LOFY



2nd Vice District Commander AL BEYER



ROY TERRY



1st Vice District Commander STEPHEN THORP

"GREAT" 8th DISTRICT



2nd Vice District Commander PRESTON HALE

"MAGNIFICENT" 7th DISTRICT



District Commander ROGER WARD



1st Vice District Commander KENNETH CRAWFORD

2nd Vice District Commander ROBERT WAGNER



FRED JAMES



1st Vice District Commander RICHARD DONOVAN



2nd Vice District Commander TINA WALKER

District Commander



COLUMBUS, OHIO · JUNE 28 - JULY 1, 2018

"DYNAMIC" 9th DISTRICT



JOSE RIVERA



1st Vice District Commander FRANK ADLEY



2nd Vice District Commander WILLIAM RUNYAN

> PHOTO UNAVAILABLE



District Commander BRADLEY TEIS



1st Vice District Commander GARY ICKES

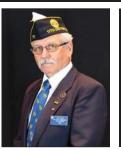
"LEADING" 12th DISTRICT



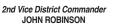
"ELITE" IIth DISTRICT



District Commander ANDREW MATHENY



1st Vice District Commander RUSSELL "JOE" PETERS



Vacant



District Commander GEORGE MUSSI



1st Vice District Commander RICK GARREN



PHOTO UNAVAILABLE

"TENACIOUS" 13th DISTRICT



JOHN MURPHY



1st Vice District Commander JOSEPH RULAND



District Commander ROBERT BURGESS



1st Vice District Commander CHRISTOPHER HAWKINS JR. 2nd Vice District Commander ROBERT CARSON

PHOTO UNAVAILABLE

2017 – 2018 Department Convention Awards



Educator of the Year KRISTA CARPENTER



Law Enforcement Officer of the Year MARK WASYLSTLYN



Firefighter of the Year DON WALKER



Social Worker of the Year CHRISTINE SINNETTE

"GREAT" IOth DISTRICT

2018 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

2017 – 2018 Department Convention Awards



Commander's Award POST 44



Vice Commander's Award POST 352



Grand Award POST 598



Eli Jensen Award "GREAT" 10TH DISTRICT



Hugh K. Martin Award POST 681



Big One Pin Award (Small) "TENACIOUS" 13TH DISTRICT



Big One Pin Award (Medium) "ELITE" 11TH DISTRICT



Big One Pin Award (Large) "GREAT" 10TH DISTRICT



Gold Brigade JEAN WILSON



Recruiter of the Year JEAN WILSON



DMS Award HOLLY LEWIS AND BRAD TEIS



Mickeal J. Golato Memorial (Americanism) POST 598



Edward McBane (Youth Activities) POST 318



Father John E. Duffy Award POST 526



Alice Friedman Memorial POST 178



Law and Order Award POST 95

COLUMBUS, OHIO • JUNE 28 - JULY 1, 2018



All Time High POST 283



All Time High POST 553



Department VA Award TRACI WASHINGTON



Legionnaire of the Year PRESTON HALE



Gifts for Yanks - Largest District 13TH DISTRICT

Largest Contribution - Category (1,000+)

Post 199, Harrison • 4th District • \$1,100.00

Largest Contribution - Category (299-999)

Post 91, Berea •13th District • \$24,331.40

Largest Contribution - Category (25-99)

Post 757. Chillicothe • 7th District • \$10.908.04

Largest Contribution (Post)

Post 91, Berea

Largest Contribution (District)

13th District



Gifts for Yanks - Largest Post POST 757

GIFTS FOR YANKS POST AWARDS

Largest Percentage of Goal - Category (1,000+) Post 199, Harrison • 4th District

Largest Percentage of Goal - Category (299-999) Post 91, Berea • 13th District

Largest Percentage of Goal • Category (25-299) Post 757, Chillicothe • 7th District

Largest Post Percent of Goal Post 757, Chillicothe

Largest District Percent of Goal 13th District



Ralph Doll Award (Energy-Conservation) POST 184

GIFTS FOR YANKS DONATIONS EXCEEDING 5K OR MORE:

(2) Post 217
(7) Post 757
(9) Post 236
(11) Post 159
(13) Post 91



Meritorious Service POST 681



Meritorious Service POST 353

RESOLUTIONS AT 2018 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

<u>Resolution 18-11DC</u> Title: JROTC Cadet of the Year

Program (APPROVED IN COMMITTEE/

CONVENTION) RESOLVED, By The American

RESOLVED, By The American Legion Department of Ohio in Department Convention assembled in Columbus, Ohio, June 28th through July 1st, 2018, That The American Legion Department of Ohio establish a JROTC Cadet of the Year Program.

Resolution 18-13DC

Title: Legion Family Membership Eligibility for Male Spouses of Women Legionnaires

(REJECTED IN COMMITTEE/ CONVENTION)

RESOLVED, By The American Legion Department of Ohio in Department Convention assembled in Columbus, Ohio, June 28th through July 1st, 2018, strongly urge The American Legion headquarters to review discriminatory membership inequities on behalf of women veterans with male spouses through discussion of membership eligibility to The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion that encourages and promotes future change to the Constitution and Bylaws of said organizations.

Resolution 18-14DC

Title: Post Centennial Recognition (AMENDED IN COMMITTEE, REJECTED ON CONVENTION FLOOR FOR FURTHER STUDY)

RESOLVED, That The American Legion Department of Ohio in Department Convention assembled in Columbus, Ohio, June 28th through July 1st, 2018, That The American Legion Department of Ohio recognize the eleven active Posts that registered for charter to The American Legion in 1919 in the State of Ohio at the 2019 Department Convention with one commemorative plaque that will be displayed at Department Headquarters and a certificate to each of the twelve Posts.

Resolution 18-16DC

Title: Rename the 12th District to Capital District (APPROVED IN COMMITTEE/

CONVENTION) RESOLVED, By The American

Legion Department of Ohio in Department Convention assembled in Columbus, Ohio, June 28th through July 1st, 2018, That The American Legion Department of Ohio rename the 12th District to be known as the "Capital District".

Resolution 18-19DC

Title: Thanking the City of Columbus

(APPROVED IN COMMITTEE/ CONVENTION)

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Ohio, in convention assembled in Columbus, Ohio, June 28 to July 1, 2018, That the City of Columbus be commended for its endeavors in providing a site for the 2018 Convention.

<u>Resolution 18-15DC</u> Title: American Legion Centen-

nial Youth Book (APPROVED IN COMMITTEE/ CONVENTION)

RESOLVED, By The American Legion Department of Ohio in Department Convention assembled in Columbus, Ohio, June 28th through July 1st, 2018, That The American Legion encourage the creation of a children's book through the Department of Ohio with Legionnaire, Illustrator, and Author, Rick Isbell, that will brand and market the Four Pillars of The American Legion and specific programs of The American Legion Department of Ohio; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion Department of Ohio, through a specific committee, or Department Executive Committee, work closely with Legionnaire Rick Isbell, through the creation process to liaison with the National organization for logo use and provide approval of content on the final version of the book; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion Department of Ohio, through approval of the Department Finance Committee, provide the initial \$2,000.00 to assist in the creation of the children's book which will be returned to Department upon sales of the book.

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CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES AT POST 297



Certificates of Years of Continuous Membership were presented by Tim Baumle, Commander and John Overmeyer, 1st Vice Commander of Payne American Legion, Post 297. Those Veterans receiving membership certificates were (Left to Right) Robert Baumle, Robert Franklin, and Dan Dawson for 70 years, Louis Savio for 60 years, Robert Parady and Tim Baumle for 50 years.

50 YEAR MEMBERSHIPS



Each member has 50 Years of Continous Membership in The American Legion. (Left to Right) Roger Weaver, William Grau, Louie Streicher, Mike Mohring, Ellsworth Mitchell, James Blue.

50 YEAR MEMBERSHIP



Commander Skip Boehnlein presented a certificate to 50 Year Member Denny Klingman at Post 459, District #9 in Burton, Ohio.

50 YEAR MEMBERSHIP



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Commander Michelle Hedgecoke presented Harry Meeker with a 50 year member certificate. He is a member of McCook Post 529, Dillonvale, OH. Harry is a Naval Vietnam Veteran, served on three different vessels.

CERTIFICATE PRESENTED



Roger Peinert. Sergeant-At-Arms, Lybarger-Grimm American Legion Post 441, Tontogany presenting WWII Veteran Ralph Baker Jr. with a certificate of appreciation signed by the members of Post 441 and an American flag to be displayed in his room.

RINGING THE BELL



The Salvation Army has their kettles out every year at Christmas. Tenth District, Massillon, Ohio American Post 221 members are ringing the bell in front of the local Wal-Mart. (Left to Right) David Frost, Larry Stottsburg, 2nd Vice; Bill Doyle, President SAL; and Howard Moratto, Commander. Several kettels were filled by members of Post 221.

Adena American Legion Post #525 members Frank Zamski (left) and John Zamski (right) met Rocky Blier of the Pittsburg Steelers during "Wreaths Across America" at the National Cemetery of The Allegrany's on December 16th. All three served in Vietnam.

POST 459 NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS





Post 459 new executive Members; New Commander Roy Podojil, New 1st Vice Commander Skip Bohlen, New 2nd Vice Commander Lee Koroshes. Sworn in by 9th District Adjutant Charles Stennis. Photos by Bill Miller, Historian.

NEWLY ELECTED POST 614 OFFICERS



Installation of Post 614 Officers took place on June 6, 2018, at the regular meeting held in the Northwest Township public hall. The elected/re-elected officers are: (Back Row) Chaplain, Rich Queen; 1st Vice Commander, Phillip Schooley; Commander Tom Rowe; 2nd Vice Commander, Rick Isbell. (Front row) Gwynn Schultz Sgt. at Arms; Mike Cook, Finance; John Hykes, Judge Advocate; Jerry Vance, Adjutant.

OHIO LEGION NEWS

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OHIO VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Post 15 Legionnaire Howard (Howdy) B. Friend, 91, of Poland in Mahoning County was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2017 on 9 November at a ceremony in Dublin. Howdy served in the U.S. Army during World War II as Combat Infantryman, and was seriously wounded in January 1945 during the Battle of the Bulge. He was discharged from the Army in 1946 after eighteen months in a military hospital. After his discharge, he graduated from Mount Union College and began a 31 years career in the field of education, serving as a high school teacher and principal. He served as the Grand Marshal of the Poland Memorial Day Parade in 2001. Howdy is a volunteering for the Youngstown YMCA and its Camp Fitch. He has served on many local YMCA boards and committees. Howdy has been presenting his military story "War is



the Rage of Hell – My Life as a Combat Infantryman in WWII's Battle of the Bulge." He has spoken to churches, Rotary clubs, libraries, historical societies and high schools. He has been a proud member of Post 15 for twenty-six years. Also inducted was Senior Chief Petty Officer Edward C. Byers Jr.), U.S. Navy an active duty Navy Seal and Medal of Honor recipient with nine combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, and is pictured with Howdy at the induction ceremony.

1ST PLACE FUNDRAISER WINNER

Pictured from left: Terry Healan. Point Blank Range Manager, Bill Smith and Lake County Council 2nd Vice Commander Ron Samnik. Bill Smith, a retired Army veteran and 29 year member of the American and presently with Post #214 in Willoughby, OH was the 1st Place Winner of the American Legion Lake County Council's fundraising raffle on May 17. The prize was a Springfield Model 1911 A-1, 45 caliber Handgun Package provided by Point Blank Range and Gun Shop of Mentor whose owner. David Holtz. is an Army veteran and a strong supporter of the American Legion.



2ND PLACE FUNDRAISER WINNER

Pictured from left: Zoli Dudevszky Stacy Dudevszky, Mariah Pausch and Lake County Council 2nd Vice Commander Ron Samnik. Mariah Pausch won the second place prize of a \$150 Walmart gift card as part of the American Legion Lake County Council's fundraiser on May 17. Pausch's grandfather was a Korean War veteran a long time member of American Legion Post #112 in Madison, OH. She is passionate about supporting local veteran organizations on her own and through her work as Marketing Director at Western Reserve Harley-Davidson in Mentor, OH. Mariah first met Lake County's 2nd Vice Commander Ron Samnik while organizing a charity motorcycle



VETERAN OF THE YEAR OF 2017 AWARD

Swoger III, Commander of American Legion Post 301, Austintown. Commander Swoger served during the Vietnam War with the 1st Battalion. 91st Artillerv Pershing Missiles Security Platoon and obtained the rank of Sergeant. (Continued) After his discharge, he continued serving the veteran community at General Motors in Lordstown, chairing the UAW Veterans' Committee for 19 years. He designed and oversaw the installation of the veteran's wall inside the GM plant, was appointed UAW Region 2-B Veterans Representative, and has served at the National level for the past 26 years. Sam is a two term Past Commander of the United Veterans Council. Past 2nd Vice Commander of American Legion District 9, past Adjutant of the American Legion Department of Ohio, and a member of Catholic War Veterans Post 1292. Youngstown Veterans Court Mentor, Youngstown Air Reserve Base Community Council, AMVETS Post 44, and DAV Chapter 2. As Commander of Post 301, Sam organizes the Austintown Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony, oversees programs for 2nd and 5th grades promoting patriotism, flag history, and respect for Veterans, and serves as co-chairman for the annual 9-11 Memorial Service.

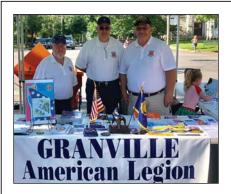


OHIO FLAGS OF HONOR MEMORIAL 2017

Ridgeville Corners Legion Post 454 hosted the Ohio Flags of Honor Memorial on July 29-30, 2017. A ceremony opened the event on July 29, 2017 at 10:00 am and was open to public viewing until Sunday, July 30, 2017 at 2:00 pm. Ohio Flags of Honor Memorial is Ohio's traveling memorial to the men and women, from Ohio, who have given their lives in Afghanistan, Iraq and globally in the War on Terrorism. There were 295 Flags of Honor as well as an additional 400 tribute flags on display. There was also a verv moving program featuring Tribute to Troops cofounder and inspirational speaker Rockie Lynne. Ålso attending were representatives from Survivor Outreach Services and Honor and Remember organizations.





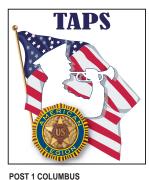


POST 398 RECRUITING

Post 398, Granville, Recruiting new members and sharing info at the Granville Farmers Market with John Adams, Bud Chase and Dave Shoemaker.



April 6, 2018, Veteran of the Year 2017 went to Samuel



DANA MEDEINOS THOMAS DATRES NORMAN PILKINTON RIPLEY SCURLOCK POST 3 FINDLAY JOHN SMITH HERBERT CARR ARDEN ENDREK LARRY BOSSERMAN FRANKLIN BREMER KENNETH KARHOFF CARL MUSGRAVE CARL MUSGRAVE DONALD SINK POST 7 WICKLIFFE JAMES KOSMERL JOHN KOONEY RICHARD CAMBIER FRANK URANKAR POST 11 LANCASTER HAROLD DAVIS WILLIAM POE WALTER TEMPLE HARRY RICKETTS LEO SHAW HARRY ELLIS DONALD KRISTOFF VERNON COURTNEY POST 12 ELYRIA WILBUR KITSON WILBUR KITSON JOSEPH BLANER WALTER SIWIERKA STEVE SLANOC LAWRENCE BUHSER ROBERT CLARK DAVID VALENTINE POST 14 BAINBRIDGE LESTER HATFIELD POST 15 POLAND RICHARD KOKER POST 16 MANSFIELD ALLEN NEAL GEORGE CASHELL DAVID CARVER MARTIN HALL POST 17 GIBSONBURG BILLY MCGOUGH POST 18 TOLEDO EDWARD WRONKOWICZ RICHARD GURZYNSKI POST 19 AKRON JAMES WHITE POST 21 ATHENS CHARLES POWELL RICHARD MCKINSTRY STACY PHILLIPS POST 23 PORTSMOUTH HARRISON BROCKET CATHERINE NOEL KENNETH GREEN POST 24 MC CONNELSVILLE DONALD ROBERTS POST 25 WASHINGTON C.H. NED SHAW POST 27 GALLIPOLIS CHARLES NEAL MICHAEL SMITH POST 28 PERRYSBURG JOHN BONDELIER JOHN BONDELIER MARVIN WIDDEL POST 29 ZANESVILLE CHARLES WOOLF LARRY WEIDIG JAMES MESAROS POST 30 LORAIN WILLIAM DAVIES POST 33 STEUBENVILLE RICHARD VIZYAK THOMAS KNUTSEN JESSE MERINO POST 34 CADIZ KEITH HENDERSON GEOFFERY MOSSER POST 38 MARTINS FERRY LEONARD BODEMANN

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STEPHEN TRIBETT WILLIAM SCOTT JAMES SEARLS JAMES DELOTELL WALLACE RIEGEL PAUL DEPTOWICZ JAMES KIRBY ROY PFUNDSTEIN PAUL BOGGS EDWARD COOK DONALD SMITH GEORGE LEAF NICK PAHYS RUSSELL SAVAGE GEORGE KORN BRUCE DENNING RICHARD THOMAS WAITER DRABOLD WILLIAM HEMSLEY JOSEPH PESUT CHARLES THOMAS RICHARD WEHNER THEODORE DOMINGUEZ THOMAS ROACH THOMAS BUTLER ALFRED CHEESEBROUGH PAUL FASTIE JOEY GOODBAR DONALD SCHWAB SEBASTIAN SCROFANO JOHN SLEDD BENNY TAYLOR JOHN VOSTATEK RICHARD FRANTZ TIMOTHY DUFFY RAYMOND ECOBICHON GEORGE GRADY CLIFF MCCOY

••••••A LOOK BACK AT MEMORIAL DAY 2018 •••••













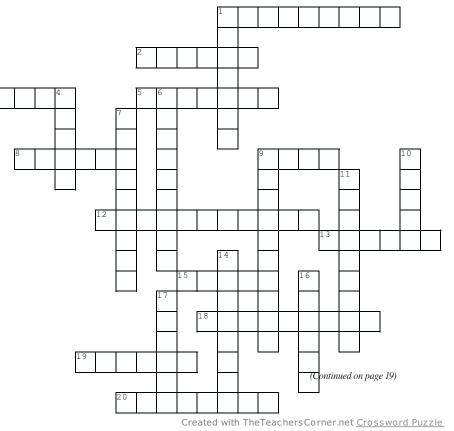






if it's

Summer OLN Crossword



Across

1. If a Bill passes through both Houses of Congress it goes to the next.

2. What Ohio city was the 1995 Bosnian peace accord signed in?

3. How many justices are in the Supreme Court?

5. Which branch of the military has a bulldog mascot

named "Chesty?" 8. The Coast Guard refers to a vessel as a ____

over 65-feet long.

9. Which branch of the military was the last to adopt an official song?

12. When General MacArthur famously declared 'I shall return.' He was talking about the

13. What city is the capital of New York?

15. How many branches are in the US government?

18. This unit of the Army is commanded by a lieutenant colonel.

19. This light utility vehicle replaced the Army Jeep.

20. What are the two houses of the Legislature called?

Down

1. Which city is the capital of Arizona?

4. Marine Corps Col. John Glenn was the first American to orbit the

6. Antarctica & are the only continents that

have never been the site of a major military conflict. 7. The Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb in where in

WWII? 9. Changes to the constitution are called

10. How many years did the Revolutionary War last?

11. Marines who attend MCRD San Diego are often _Marines"

called "

14. The introduction to the Constitution is called the

16. What does J stand for in the 'military' (phonetic alphabet)?

17. What was the first war in which one jet plane shot down another?

RESOLUTIONS (continued from page 13)

Resolution 18-17DC

Title: Military Death Benefits During A Government Shutdown (APPROVED IN COMMITTEE/REFERRED TO

NATIONAL)

RESOLVED, By The American Legion Department of Ohio in Department Convention assembled in Columbus, Ohio, June 28th through July 1st, 2018, That The American Legion urge Congress to create legislation that during a government shutdown American military who are serving overseas and lose their life in a combat zone shall be awarded the death and gratuity benefit and provided travel for their remains back to Dover, Delaware, and/or designated location by next of kin, as if the government was operating normally.

Resolution 18-18DC

Title: To Name a US Naval Ship the USS American Legion

(APPROVED IN COMMITTEE/REFERRED TO NATIONAL)

RESOLVED, By The American Legion Department of Ohio in Department Convention assembled in Columbus, Ohio, June 28th through July 1st, 2018, That The American Legion urge the Department of the Navy to name the newest Expeditionary Sea Base ship the U.S.S. American Legion to recognize and honor the legacy of the America Legion 's service to the United States of America, and to perpetuate its commitment to the future strength of our National Defense and insurance of National Security for generations of Americans to come.







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