Meet Roger Friend: 2019-2020 Dept. Commander

Roger Friend was inducted as Department Commander at the 101st Department Convention held in Toledo, Ohio. Commanders Friend is a proud member of Post 804 in Newark.

He gained his eligibility into the American Legion by enlisting in the United States Navy in 1968. He served a total of 22 years and 8 months in combined active and reserve time on the following:


Commander Friend retired from Acuity Brands Lighting after 44 years in March of 2016. He has held many offices on the American Legion including Post 804 2nd Vice Commander, 1st Vice Commander, and Adjutant. 6th District 2nd Vice Commander, 1st Vice Commander, Commander, and Judge Advocate. 6th District National Security Committee Chairman, Department of Ohio National Security Committee

Chairman, Department of Ohio Assistant Sergeant at Arms, Department 2nd Vice Commander, and Department 1st Vice Commander. As well as a National appointment to the National Security Council and a National appointment to the National Legislative Council.

Commander Friend is married to his lovely wife Cindy for 50 years and they have two children, Kahani and Felicia.

Every year, the Department Commander selects a different program to support. This year Commander Friend's project is the National Emergency Fund. The National Emergency Fund, created in response to Hurricane Hugo in 1989, has provided more than $8 million in direct financial assistance to American Legion Family members and posts. By providing this emergency funding, NEF has prevented damaged homes from closing and enabling American Legion Family members to recover from tragedy. NEF helps those affected by well-known disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy and lesser-publicized tragedies such as flooding in South Dakota or Illinois, or wildfires in the southwest.

The fund provides up to $3,000 for qualified Legion Family members and up to $10,000 for posts. The eligibility requirements are:

1. Applicants must have been discharged from their primary residence due to damage sustained during a declared natural disaster.
2. Applicants must provide copies of receipts of items required to meet immediate needs (such as temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, etc.) during the period immediately following the disaster.
3. Membership must be active at time of disaster and the time of application.

Legion Act Signed Into Law

The passage of the Legion Act, Public Law 116-35, results in the amendment of our Federal Charter, Title 36 Chapter 21701-20108. The American Legion, dated September 16th, 1919, At National Convention the National Constitution & By-Laws will also be amended. The Department completed an amendment at Department Convention in Toledo, OH, in June 2019. All Posts should review their Constitution & By-Laws for amendment as well.

The result of PL 116-35 expanded war-time era from December 7th, 1941 to Present. We can begin accepting members IMMEDIATELY into our organization for 2020 membership. To educate yourself and other Post members about the Legion Act, please visit www.legion.org and type into the search bar "Legion Act". Below is 11 things you should know about the Legion Act:

- The Legion Act - Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act - also redefines the American Legion's membership eligibility dates. The eligibility now spans from December 7, 1941, until a time when the U.S.

"All the Way!”, “Death from Above”

Covering Summit and Portage counties, 14th District Commander, Christopher L. Hawkins, Jr. Ravenna Post 331, spent 22 years in the U.S. Army and served as a Paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division. He shares his experiences amongst the approximately 1200 Active Duty, Retired, and Veteran participants who had the opportunity to parachute into Normandy, France to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of D-Day on June 5-9, 2019.

LN: Commander, Congratulations! Besides being excited to get up and running to command the 14th District, are you still in the clouds with a personal milestone you achieved most recently, and can you share with us your experience?

CH: “When I say it exceeded my expectations, that doesn’t even come close to describing the experience. What really brought it all home to me was when I visited that cemetery and saw what seemed like a sea of tombstones. The Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, located at Colleville-sur-Mer. It overlooks what has become known as Omaha Beach and is the final resting place for 9,388 American military personnel. I basically stood in the right rear corner of the cemetery and penciled, by video, all the way from left to right. The tombstones go all the way out of view, all the way from here and all the way to there — it really has a profound impact on you, you know? Walking up to the cemetery, going above the heights of Omaha Beach you think back to 1944 when that whole area was full of handcrafted crafts and battleships, tanks and jeeps, and soldiers. The beaches were covered, and there were bodies everywhere. But you look at it now and it’s so peaceful, it’s so beautiful. Normandy is a beautiful place, an absolutely beautiful place. You contrast that with the history, and it has a profound effect on you. It really makes you think.”

LN: So how did you come about being part of the commemoration?

CH: “It really began as just the kernel of an idea. I learned about the upcoming event through reading of the numerous Airborne and Veteran’s pages I’m on. Then purchased a steerable round punch and-”

(Continued on page 6)
Summer OLN Crossword

Across:
4. The Jeep has been referred to as the __________
5. What is the oldest branch in the military?
6. Currently, __________ make up 14.5% of the US Military
10. The US Army uses nearly a __________ gallons of fuel a year
12. The United States Marine Corps was founded by __________ of the Continental Marines.
13. How many Generals have been promoted to 5 stars?
16. Final resting place for more than 400,000 US active duty veterans.
18. The 3rd US Infantry Regiment, also known as 'The Old Brigade', is the oldest active-duty infantry unit in the army
19. Code Talkers in the South Pacific in WWII used what Native American Dialect?
20. Speaker of the House Nancy __________
21. phonetic alphabet for the letter s

Down:
1. From sea to shining __________
2. What building serves as the headquarters of the US Department of Defense?
3. What President ended WW2?
4. The __________ War was by far the bloodiest war in the history of the US Military with more than 618,000 soldiers losing their lives.
5. Where did the shot heard around the world take place?
6. What state is the Air Force Academy located?
7. What document are rules that apply only in times of armed conflict and seek to protect people who are not or are no longer i
8. Armistice day takes place in what month?
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Legionnaires gatherings are a great way to meet your Commanders. As we embark on the next 10 years let us reflect our history and the 4 pillars: 1. True Blood; 2. National Security; 3. Americanism; and 4. Children & Youth. I will put emphasis on the first two and continue to ensure our Ohio American Legion Convention in Toledo, Ohio, is a great convention. It is a great convention at which attendees are provided with a world-class experience. Our Department is working hard to achieve this goal. We are looking forward to seeing you all there!

1st VICE COMMANDER

I am so excited and honored to be elected as your Department 1st Vice Commander at the recent State Convention of the Department of Ohio American Legion Convention in Toledo, Ohio. It was a good convention; much work of our Department was accomplished. If you weren’t in attendance, we missed you and we won’t be at 102nd American Legion Convention. If you were in attendance you should be proud of what we accomplished. The increase that was proposed failed, if you weren’t and had not heard, you have now. That being said we need your help, first if you haven’t already don’t get ready to post your 2020 dues, be an early Bird. Secondly, I urge to recruit at least one new member to the American Legion. If we all recruit one new member or reenlist one expired member, we would double our membership would be over 160,000 strong! We would need a dues increase. I believe we all know someone who is not a member of our organization! They just haven’t been asked yet! Our organization is like no other, but we need more members to be more members to continue to provide great work and help the Boys State, National, American Legion Baseball, American Legion and American Legion Government programs. This is an opportunity to make a difference in our community. If you would like to get involved, please contact me at 937-371-7008 or email me at JeanWilson@ohiolegion.com. Thank you for your support and please support our Department.

2nd VICE COMMANDER

Greetings to all Legionnaires and Legion Family members. I would like to thank all of you who attended the Department Convention in Toledo this year. This show your commitment and your desire to see this great organization grow. We need to continue to improve and make sure that you are part of this journey. I hope that you can attend our upcoming events to support our Department.

JUDGE ADVOCATE

A couple of thoughts have been on a hot summer day. Another American Legion convention season is upon us and we have new officers at every level. How did the election in your post and district go? Was the process understood by all members? Your Officers’ Guide provides some good information on pages 118-120. It might be a good idea to review this to see your procedure is current and was properly followed. If your procedure calls for destruction of paper ballots, it would be wise for the motion to do so specify that the ballots are to be destroyed not less than thirty days after the election. Also, Ballots are needed if your post provides for a post judge advocate. I strongly suggest that you do your best to have one in that position. The Judge Advocate does not need to be a lawyer, he or she should be the post parliamentarian, and be familiar with the post, district, department and national constitutions and by-laws. See page 38 of your Officers’ Guide. If your post has a Judge Advocate for this office, the duties should be assigned to another officer, possibly a vice commander. The Judge Advocate should normally be a member of the post executive committee with voice but not vote, because the Judge Advocate would have to preside as an impartial judge as a post disciplinary trial.

2020 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

You are cordially invited to attend the 2020 Mid-Winter Conference! The 2020 Mid-Winter Conference will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel North, 6500 Doubtless Avenue, Columbus Ohio on the weekend of January 24th-26th, 2020. The American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Auxiliary are all housed and have meetings in the same hotel. The conference is focused on training and education and The American Legion and its programs through Buckeye American Legion College (BADC). Everyone is welcome to attend the conference or any of the sessions and programs offered. Closer to the event, a schedule will be available.

For more information on the event contact: Christie White at programs@ohiolegion.com or call (740) 362-7476.
As I write this, The American Legion Act was just passed in Congress and will await the signature of President Donald J. Trump. This is truly a historic moment for our organization! As the former Vice Chairman Legislative Director, I have read a lot of resolutions over the last 8 years with intent to expand membership eligibility. I have seen some written simply and others that reflected months, maybe years, of research and evidence in support of expansion. I am certain that we will see a resolution at National Convention in August that amends our membership eligibility and allows us to formally accept new members. Please be mindful of those we have had to turn away over the years. They may not be so apt to join while others may be more eager to finally become a member.

I thank everyone who came and supported our annual Department Convention. The final voting strength on Saturday was 357. This may be the lowest in our history to the Department of Convention. Even if every Post sent one member our delegate strength would be 522. I know a few reasons why attendance is low, however, I prefer to listen to your reasons. I challenge you to share those reasons with us. You can email your recommendations and suggestions about ways to improve Department Convention at Legion@OhioLegion.com. Right away, we will discuss what we can implement and improve this coming year. The Department staff spends a lot of time planning and coordinating this event and we realize that this tends to place us at a disadvantage from the perspective of someone attending the event, which is why we would really like to hear from you.

We will be in Toledo again for the 2020 Convention. Some of you may be disappointed by that and I apologize. Let me explain why. First, we didn’t have any bids from hotels for 2020 that were able to accommodate us. As a result of, we have revamped the “Request for Proposal” and are sending to every Convention Bureau and Hotel conglomerate in Ohio for 2021, 2022, and 2023. We are seeking Convention Committees within Districts to assist with this endeavor at the local level. Second, both the Department Auxiliary and Department have new senior and junior leadership which the Convention Corporations felt that having the event in the same location would be a great opportunity to master some of the more narrower aspects of a convention and would be a time saver as well. To wrap up about Department Convention we are planning an overhaul for 2020 that will focus on ease of registration and information. We will also have the Convention Center where the General Assembly will be held. Commander Roger Friend has encouraged us to return to a Friday evening opening session. The Friday evening session is where key note speakers, awards, and ceremonies will occur. We are seeking entertainment to immediately follow the Friday evening session. On Saturday, the normal business of convention will continue with committee reports and resolutions. Saturday afternoon will be Bingo Training, Buckeye American Legion College, and off-site entertainment (baseball, hospitality, etc.). Sunday will continue to be reserved for elections.

In closing, as we progress through budgets and finances, The Ohio Legion Newspaper (OLN) has become very expensive and the costs associated with it have continued to increase each year. Our dues allocation of $1.20 per member for this newspaper no longer covers the cost to print and mail. We are asking each member to consider the option of receiving an electronic version of the OLN. If you would like to do so, please email us at Legion@OhioLegion.com with your membership IDW, name, and address so we can add you to the electronic roster. This will help us tremendously as we plan for the future of communicat- ing with our members. THANK YOU for your time, resources, and membership, for God and Country.

2019 Convention Highlights

The 2019 Department Convention for The American Legion Department of Ohio was held at the Park Inn in Toledo, Ohio from June 27th to June 30th, 2019. Legionnaires from around the state gathered to handle official business of The American Legion Department of Ohio. This year’s convention featured American Legion night at the Toledo Mudhens baseball game. We also welcomed special guest speakers, Ohio Supreme Court Justice Sharon Kennedy and the President and CEO of The National Veterans Memorial and Museum General Michael Ferriter.

Rogor Friend was inducted as Department Commander and well as Department 1st Vice Commander Jean Wilson, Department 2nd Vice Commander Brad Teis and Department Treasurer Charles Stennis. A variety of resolutions as well as Department and Post awards were presented.

Charities Inc hosted a successful Bingo School Training and Buckeye American Legion College had their final training for their first semester of graduates.

The American Legion Department of Ohio would like to thank Legionnaires who attended. A special thank you to Past Department Commander Robert Schmitt for his service during the 2018-2019 membership year. We look forward to seeing you all next year at the 102nd Department Convention. The 2020 Department of Ohio Convention will be held once again in Toledo, Ohio.

Thank you all for your service!
STATE OPERATING BUDGET
It’s Impact on the Veteran Community

Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 166 – the state operating budget for FY2020-21 into law on July 18th, 2019. The House and Senate chambers in the Ohio General Assembly took an additional seventeen days to reach a budget deal. The House and Senate were both supportive of Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS) budget requests and initiatives pertaining to the veteran community.

The budget prioritizes our Ohio Veterans Homes. Funding for the Veterans Homes was increased from about $29.3 million to more than $41.4 million in FY 2022 and $45.4 million in FY 2023. The Ohio Veterans Homes have faced rising operating costs, inadequate compensation, and new federal regulations. The Ohio Veteran Home Sandusky is also in need of multiple repairs and facility upgrades. The Ohio Veterans Homes provide care for more than 800 veterans who range in age from 46 to 101.

The budget also secured a $2,105,256 which is divided among 13 veteran-service organizations. The American Legion Department of Ohio will receive $385,237 each fiscal year. The American Legion Department of Ohio utilizes the funds for the hiring of an administrative staff.

ODVS, MHAS and ODVS will contract with a supplier (through a competitive bidding process) to create, implement, operate, and evaluate, choose location the program will operate from. The supplier of the pilot program will provide a quarterly report to the president of the senate, the standing committee of the senate that normally considers legislation regarding veterans’ affairs.

MHAS was also allocated $500,000 per fiscal year to support suicide prevention efforts for veterans as a subgroup. The objective of the study is to identify the causes of suicides and recommendations for reducing the rates of suicide in the state of Ohio.

The budget renamed the Ohio War Orphans Scholarship to the Ohio War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans’ Children Scholarship so that the same fulfills the eligibility requirements to apply for the scholarship.

A new allocation of $100,000 will go directly to save a Warrior Foundation to be spent in Ohio to assist veterans who reside in Ohio and who have a disability that requires assistance to live in a residential facility.

The budget includes a transfer of $50,000 each fiscal year from the VA/ODVS to the Legal Aide Fund to be dispersed by the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation for the sole purpose of providing legal services for veterans.

Other items of pertaining to the veteran community:
• The Ohio Veterans Bonus Fund received an increase of 4.2%.
• The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame received an increase of $10,000.
• Ashland University Military Veterans Resource Center Project received $97,850 in FY2020.
• The Challenger of Higher Education shall work with the Department of Veterans Services to develop specific veteran’s preference guidelines for higher education institutions. These guidelines shall ensure that the institutions hiring practices are in accordance with the intent of Ohio’s veteran’s preference laws.

Reservations
RSVP: By Friday September 20, 2019
For questions: Call 740-877-8019
Mail to: Cynthia Friend, 6146 Marion Rd. Newark, Ohio 43055
Name ____________________________
Date ___________ Post ____________
Title __________________________________________
Additional Guest _______________________
(Send additional Guest Names and Titles on a separate sheet)
Legion Act Signed into Law

(Continued from page 1)

Legion’s founding fathers believed, “a veteran is a veteran,” an axiom that has held true throughout the organization’s more than century of service. Some veterans were ineligible to join because of the war eras that were defined by Congress. The recent bill passage and president’s signature changed that.

Question: So how does this differentiate The American Legion from AMVETS?

Answer: The American Legion’s eligibility criteria states that veterans must have served during “wartimes.” When Congress decides the U.S. is no longer in a state of war, the Legion’s membership eligibility period will close, while AMVETS will still be open to those who served.

Question: How does this affect the Sons of The American Legion (SAL)?

Answer: The Sons’ eligibility criteria will change along with that of The American Legion. Any son or grandson of a living American Legion member will be eligible to join the SAL program. (Sons and grandsons of deceased members are also eligible.) For example, a son of a veteran who served between 1950 and 1958 previously would not have been eligible. With the extension of the war period, that veteran would immediately be eligible for The American Legion and the son would be able to join the SAL.

Question: How does this affect the eligibility for The American Legion Auxiliary?

Answer: This follows the same concept as the SAL, as noted previously. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is currently open to grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and direct and adoptive female descendants of eligible veterans.

Question: How does this affect membership for departments, districts and posts?

Answer: This change opens up American Legion membership to thousands more veterans who likely live in your community. They may become members immediately.

Question: The current membership applications don’t address the eligibility change. How do we process those members?

Answer: New membership materials will be developed and provided as quickly as possible. Until then, it is recommended that prospective members from a previously undocumented war era write “Other Conflicts” in the eligibility date section and send it in to their department with the appropriate dues.

Question: What steps should departments, districts and posts focus on?

Answer: A good first step would be to review all recruiting materials to look for eligibility dates. Information on electronic media (websites, social media channels, etc.) should be changed immediately. It is up to departments to decide on the best way to handle printed materials, while updated ones are being produced.

Question: How does this change the Paid Up For Life program?

Answer: There are no changes to the PUFL program, though the newly eligible members would be able to become PUFLs. To learn more about the program, visit https://www.legion.org/PUFL.

Question: Who can I contact for more information about this change as it applies to membership and recruiting?

Answer: Contact the national Membership Division. Visit this webpage to find the representative in your state. https://www.legion.org/membership/contactus/

American Legion Riders Hold Successful State ROMP

There were over 120 legion riders and passengers from all around the state. The event sponsored a motorcycle stunt show on Saturday, a ride to Saint Mary’s post 23 and Van Wert post 178. There were also free boat rides around Grand Lake.

The summer State Legion ride meeting was held at 10am on Saturday and was very well attended. At the meeting Streetsboro post 685 was awarded a plaque for the largest group in attendance and Portsmouth post 23 was awarded a plaque for the farthest distance traveled. John Barker and his crew from post 210 did an outstanding job hosting the event with help from post 233 and 176.

Next year’s ROM will be Streetsboro post 685 watch for details on the Ohio Legion website and on Facebook.

Mike Kennedy
ALR Coordinator

“All the way!”

(Continued on page 1)

I started my training, in February and March, in Donnellon and Palitka, Florida. I trained using the Army’s current screebome round canopy, the MCC-6. I got current and certified then joined a group called the Round Canopy Parachute Team (RCPT). I then went about acquiring all of the appropriate WWII uniform items and getting all of my paperwork in order.

L/N: Now tell us about relating your paratrooper occupation?

CH: “There were 4 jumps scheduled. The first jump, on June 5, was the 101st Airborne’s objective on D-Day, WWII. D-Day Veteran Paratrooper Tom Rice, 101st Airborne, of Coronado, Calif., who served as the team’s chute master, described the jump. It was a beautiful landing. After the jump Tom had a security detail of active duty soldiers from the 101st Airborne. They made a circle around him and protected him the whole time. Tom was treated like a Rockstar; the French Love him!”

L/N: Can I tell with the excitement in your voice it was great for you as well as Tom?

CH: “Absolutely! 19 different nations were broadcasting this live. I’ve never walked off the drop zone to people clapping and cheering and taking pictures of me before. And all the little French kids coming up, it was absolutely amazing. The 2nd jump, on the 7th, was to be at Pegusat Bridge in the British Sector, but it was canceled due to high winds. Our 3rd jump was at a place called Eaucasseeville. Eaucasseeville is the site of WWII Airborne Barracks which was a gigantic reinforced concrete structure. This was also base camp for all of our jump operations. Our last jump was on June 9 at the La Fiere Bridge and was called Sainte-Mere-Eglise. The La Fiere was a key bridge across the Merderet River and a primary objective of the 82nd Airborne on D-Day. The adjectival causeway, was an essential route to and from the invasion beaches and therefore extremely valuable to both the Americans and the Germans. The Germans repeatedly counterattacked but the small handful of 82nd Paratroopers never gave an inch. The battle at La Fiere Bridge is one of the bloodiest battles during D-Day.

L/N: So, what are your plans now that you have leaped to this grand achievement?

CH: “As to my ‘Airborne’ status, I plan to go back to Florida, later this year, to earn my FAA Senior Parachute Rigger Certification, and to participate in other RCPT activities and events. I would also like to go back to Europe, at some point, to visit the Army Air Force Base my dad was stationed at during WWII. I just recently took my middle daughter, to celebrate her 18th birthday and my 58th, on a 14,000 ft jump. Maybe one day I’ll get her to try a military style static line jump too. And I’m not stopping there. My plans as commander are, first and foremost, to work on membership. I really feel that the future of our organization rests with our ability to reach out to the Post 9-11 Veterans. My second focus is on the current epidemic of Veteran Suicides. We must reach out to our fellow Veterans and let them know we are all here for each other. Meeting so many other veterans over there, they have so much experience, has given me many ideas, and contacts, to help with that.”

“When we were at the La Fiere DZ, on that hot day in Normandy, Paratroopers from all the different countries came with their flags – American Flag, French Flag, Israeli Flag, French Flag, Switzerland, the Canadian Flag. Different flags, different languages, but all Paratroopers – that’s why we say Airborne is a Brotherhood.”

“This is still kind of amazed that I actually did it. We had nice comfortable jumps. But the guys on D-Day went in at night, they were under fire, the planes were dipping and dodging, planes crashing and Paratroopers getting hit or drowning in flooded DZAs. And those that made it through all of that, were in the middle of enemy infested territory, alone, behind enemy lines. I didn’t have to deal with any of that. All I had to do was honor them and commemorate what they did, it’s just simply amazing.”

An awesome sight of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day of Normandy, brings many to see paratroopers land at the Carentan drop zone, which is just outside (NW) of Carentan.

This fellow Airborne Finnish paratrooper could not speak English, and was too embarrassed to not get his name but the brotherhood we have, and that day in Normandy will never be the “All the way”, “Death from above”. My daughter and I celebrated our birthdays doing a tandem free fall 14,000 ft jump on July 18, 2019 at Pinnacle XP, the drop zone at Raeford, North Carolina.
TOLEDO, OHIO • JUNE 29 - 30, 2019

“DYNAMIC” 9th DISTRICT
District Commander
FRANK ADLEY
District 1st Vice Commander
WILLIAM RUNYAN
District 2nd Vice Commander
JEFFREY TOLL

“GREAT” 10th DISTRICT
District Commander
GARY ICKES
District 1st Vice Commander
LARRY GLASGOW JR
District 2nd Vice Commander
ROBERT RHODE

“ELITE” 11th DISTRICT
District Commander
RUSSL “JOE” PETERS
District 1st Vice Commander
JOHN ROBINSON
District 2nd Vice Commander
CHARLES “CHUCK” CLARK

“CAPITAL” 12th DISTRICT
District Commander
RICK GARREN
District 1st Vice Commander
TOM POULTON
District 2nd Vice Commander
MALCOLM GLASGOW

“TENACIOUS” 13th DISTRICT
District Commander
JOSEPH RULAND
District 1st Vice Commander
RICHARD WRIGHT
District 2nd Vice Commander
JAMES LOCKYER

“PHENOMENAL” 14th DISTRICT
District Commander
CHRISTOPHER HAWKINS JR
District 1st Vice Commander
ROBERT CARSON
District 2nd Vice Commander
DARYLL MAUDER

2018 – 2019 Department Convention Awards

Educator of the Year
NATHAN WHALEY

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year
ROBERT GOETTKI

Firefighter of the Year
PAUL MIDDEN

Social Worker of the Year
SANDRA GORDON

ANY TIME POST AWARD
District 1, Post 468, $100; District 3, Post 707, $100; District 4, Post 194, $100; District 4, Post 318, $100; District 4, Post 631, $100; District 10, Post 44, $500; District 10, Post 557, $500; District 13, Post 610, $500; 3 new members, renew 3 expired members, and/or transfer 3 888 members
2019 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

2018 – 2019 Department Convention Awards

Commander’s Award
POST 44
Vice Commander’s Award
POST 331
Grand Award
POST 199
Eil Jensen Award
“FABULOUS” 4TH DISTRICT

Hugh K. Martin Award
POST 353
Big One Pin Award (Small)
“TENACIOUS” 13TH DISTRICT
Big One Pin Award (Medium)
“FABULOUS” 4TH DISTRICT
Big One Pin Award (Large)
“GREAT” 10TH DISTRICT

Gold Brigade
BETSY LAW
Gold Brigade
JEAN WILSON
Recruiter of the Year
JEAN WILSON
Michael J. Galito Memorial
(Americanism)
POST 144

Edward McGee (Youth Activities)
POST 82
Father John E. Duffy Award
POST 796
Civilian Lifesaver Award
JONNIE MELVIN
Law and Order Award
POST 144
Fifteen (15) Resolutions that were submitted to Department Headquarters for consideration and two (2) Resolutions were introduced by Convention Committees at the 2019 Department Convention. Resolutions may be approved, rejected, or referred. Resolutions were assigned to Department Convention Committees, if approved, then were presented to the General Assembly for consideration. Here is a summary of all resolutions considered at the 2019 Department Convention.

Constitution & By-Law Resolutions

Resolution NO. 19-13 To Increase Department of Ohio Membership Dues was rejected by the General Assembly.

Resolution NO. 19-16 To Amend the Constitution of The American Legion Department of Ohio, Article III, Section 1 was approved by the General Assembly. Resolution NO. 19-16 amends Section 1a which reads, “Eligibility requirements for membership in The American Legion shall be revised in accordance with The American Legion National Headquarters membership and eligibility requirements as stated in Article XV, Section 2.”

Resolution NO. 19-17 To Modify Article II, Duties of Officers, Section 2 was approved by the General Assembly. Resolution NO. 19-17 identifies the Department First Vice Commander to be the chair- man of the Department Membership Committee and The Department Second Vice Commander as the Chairman of the Department Post Activities Committee during their respective term.

Resolution NO. 19-18 Omnibus Amendment to Department of Ohio Constitution and By-Laws to Amend “Department Finance Officer” to “Department Fiscal Officer” was approved by the General Assembly.

Resolution NO. 19-19 To Remove Fiscal Officer from Authorize Check signers was referred to Department Executive Committee with recommendation.

Resolution NO. 19-20 By-Law Amendment to Article II Section 5 was approved by the General Assembly. Article II Section 5. The Department Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Department organization. All checks disbursing the funds of the Department organization shall bear the signature of the Department Treasurer and that of the Department Adjutant. The Department Treasurer, the Department Adjutant, and the Department Finance Officer shall furnish surety bond in an amount fixed by the Department Executive Committee. The Department Treasurer shall make reports upon the condition of the Department Treasury to the Executive Committee, or when called for by either the Department Commander or the Department Executive Committee.

Resolution NO. 19-21 To Avoid The American Legion Riders as a Department Level Program was approved by the General Assembly. Resolution NO. 19-21 To Amend SAL Membership To Allow Male Spouses was rejected by Convention Resolution Committee.

Resolution NO. 19-22 By-Law Amendment to Article II Section 6 was approved by the General Assembly. Article II Section 6. The Department Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Department organization. All checks disbursing the funds of the Department organization shall bear the signature of the Department Treasurer and that of the Department Adjutant. The Department Treasurer, the Department Adjutant, and the Department Finance Officer shall furnish surety bond in an amount fixed by the Department Executive Committee. The Department Treasurer shall make reports upon the condition of the Department Treasury to the Executive Committee, or when called for by either the Department Commander or the Department Executive Committee. The Department Treasurer shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office. The Department Finance Committee will invest excess or reserve funds of the Department and sell securities owned and held by the department, only upon authority of the Department Finance Committee then in office.

Resolution NO. 19-23 To Remove Fiscal Officer from Authorize Check signers was referred to Department Executive Committee with recommendation.

Resolution NO. 19-24 To Protect POW/MIA Flag from Being Replaced By Other Supplemental Flags was approved by the General Assembly.

Resolution NO. 19-25 To Amend the Preamble of The American Legion Constitution to read “To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars and all other Wars and Conflicts” was approved by the General Assembly.

Resolution NO. 19-26 To Create A Marketing, Communications, and Media Committee was introduced in the Convention Resolution Committee and referred to Department Finance Committee.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee

Resolution NO. 19-28 The American Legion Opposes Any Change to the Ohio Revised Code That Grants Appointment Authority to Veterans Service Commission by County Commissioners was approved by the General Assembly. Resolution NO. 19-28 was approved by the General Assembly.

National Security Committee

Resolution NO. 19-29 To Amend Eagle Scout of the Year Qualifications to remove the qualification that the applicant must be a member of a unit attached to a property chartered American Legion Post and to remove the qualification that the applicant must be a descendant of a Legionnaire, Auxiliary, or S.A.L. was rejected by the General Assembly.

Resolution NO. 19-28 To Amend the Department of The American Legion Band Competition To include scoring categories for patriotic and religious effect was approved by the General Assembly.

Friendly Reminder

The resolution process is a way for every Legionnaire to suggest policy changes in their local post, districts, department in which we operate as an organization and is also a process that may dictate our legislative agenda on a federal, state, or local level. If any Legionnaire has a question on how to write a resolution, please contact Jermaine Ferguson at ferguson@obolegion.com or give us a call at 740-362-7478.
Aim high
Men.
Let us so live, that
every
good deed may be an
inspiration to all,
of our great
Nation.

A PROGRAM OF SERVICE

The Service Department of The American Legion of Ohio has established a definite program that will be far reaching in rehabilitation of disabled comrades and proper care for their dependents.

The accomplishment of this program requires an active, tireless Service Officer in every community. This responsibility for this lies with the local Post and Department Headquarters must be informed of the name and address of the Service Officer in every instance.

In another article the plan for a survey of every veteran in each county is described as it has been successfully accomplished in several instances. This plan should be adopted by local posts at once as the survey is the only means whereby we may determine the true size of the work that lies ahead.

Our program has always been “Service to our less fortunate comrades, first”—Let’s Make Good.

Loyal,
JOHN A. ELDEN,
Department Commander.
Legionnaire Insurance Trust

Having coverage for things that happen when unexpected not only contributes to a solution to the situation, it can also help with peace of mind. We at the Department of Ohio encourage that if you are a Legionnaire, you should be registered for your free policy that comes with your membership each year. This free policy is $1,000.00 in case of accidental death, $5,000.00 on behalf of LIT. We will have an informational booth available at the Department Convention to answer all questions regarding LIT and its products.

The “Emergency Assistance Plus” program is a plan that protects you and your family while you travel, while you are traveling, and abroad. It offers access to 24-hour emergency medical services that your primary insurance will typically not cover! The cost is $114/year and includes medical evacuation, transportation home, return of deceased remains, vehicle return, prescription replacement if lost or stolen, one round-trip airline ticket to bring a loved one by your side, up to date travel restrictions, alerts, weather, security intelligence, lost luggage, and so much more! Visit https://www.thehit.com/emergency-assistance-plus

LEGIONCARE OVERVIEW

Legionnaire no cost to you accidental death insurance protection guaranteed to legionnaires. As a member of the Legion Family, you’re eligible for up to $5,000.00 in NO COST TO You coverage. But your Confirmation is REQUIRED for activation.

$5,000.00 Accidental death protection member-only benefit: Your beneficiary will receive a check for $5,000.00 if you suffer a fatal covered accident while you are traveling to or from participating in any covered event conducted for Legion business, or $1,000.00 for all other fatal covered accidents. You pay nothing for this coverage.

Your Department of The American Legion endorses this coverage to provide you with up to $1,000.00 in cash benefits paid directly to your beneficiary, if you suffer a fatal covered accident at home, on the job, in your car, on vacation, while traveling, wherever you are.

The product for Members living in WA differs from the above.
https://www.thehit.com/no-cost-legionnaire

ID Resolve: https://www.thehit.com/idresolve

In today’s world, identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. If you or your spouse fall victim to identity theft what would you do? Where would you turn? With Legionnaire ID Resolve you’ll have 24-hour identity theft resolution that helps protect your money, your time and your financial reputation.

If you haven’t fallen victim to identity theft yet, don’t think you’re safe. Data breaches happen every day, where thieves can steal your name, address, date of birth, credit card information, medical records, and most critically your Social Security number. That’s why your Department of The American Legion has endorsed ID Resolve. A new program to help Legionnaires fight back — instead of being a victim and not knowing where to turn.

ID Resolve helps you eliminate the uncertainty — by putting ID experts on your side to clean up the mess and help restore your good name. You can be confident you’re getting the protection you deserve when it comes to your money, your accounts, your credit cards, your financial record and your hard-earned good name. Plus, our no-obligation money-back guarantee allows you a full 30-day examination period in case you change your mind about this identity resolution.

Remember, it doesn’t matter how careful you are … you can’t always control where your information goes. Enroll today and gain access to a team who will help restore your identity.

Flag Ceremony at Mudhens Game

Prior to the Toledo Mudhens game, a Flag holding ceremony was conducted on the field during the 2019 Department Convention in Toledo, Ohio.

I SERVED FOR LOY

At USAA, the same values that guide our military inspire us to go above and beyond for our members. When you join USAA, you’ll be part of an organization where we have everything you need to make your membership a lifelong bond.

JOIN USAA TODAY AND GET A QUOTE.
CALL 1-877-933-8896
ON LINE USAA.COM/LEGION

USAA is a mutual insurance and financial services organization. USAA’s purpose is to serve its members who serve or have served in the U.S. military and their families. The organization and financial services are available to non-military persons and their families. USAA’s Heritage Foundation, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to helping members meet challenges and opportunities through educational programming, grants, and volunteer support. The Foundation’s annual grants program provides support to military communities and military service organizations. The Foundation accepts grant applications for programs that support USAA’s mission and core values. For more information, visit usaa.com/heritage.
Ohio Department of Veterans Services Office Report on Changes and Topics Learned in Washington D.C.

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

The StREP Report
Here is the most up to date information regarding Appeals conducted by the Department Service Officers located at the Cleveland Veterans Affairs Regional Office. I present this report with a great deal of pride in order to inform you of the hard work and advocacy ability of our Department Service Officer team. The following data shows the success rate of Decision Review Officer (DSO) Hearings and Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) as well as the monetary amount won for our veterans. The following data is from January 1, 2016 to the present where all cases have been decided and a few have been Remanded for further review.

DRO Hearings: 125 Conducted 84 Won = 68% success rate.

DRO Compensations Received for veterans $1,158,119.21

DRO Compensations Retro

Receivers for veterans $76,124.42

BVA Hearings: 165 Conducted 135 BVA Won = 82% success rate.

BVA Compensations Received for veterans $5,122,207.89

BVA Compensations Retro

Receivers for veterans $74,401.52

Combined Compensations won for Ohio veterans $7,401,482.52. A combined success rate of 70% of the hearings ends in a favorable result for the veteran. This may not be a full grant but illustrates that the Service Officers are hard at work to provide the best representation to the veterans that place their trust in the American Legion Department of Ohio.

New Addition to the Cleveland VA Regional Office Team

The American Legion Department of Ohio is excited to announce that we have added a new Administrative Assistant for the Cleveland VA Regional Office. It is with great pleasure to introduce Candace Haskin to the VARO team. Candace joined The American Legion Department of Ohio on June 3, 2019, Sandy’s father served in the U.S. Navy for 17 years as a Signalman with service during Desert Storm. With the hiring of Candace, we are proud to introduce her to our Service Officers and have begun the transition into her new role at the VARO.

1-888-299: Blue Water Navy Veterans Act of 2019

Approved

As most of you have probably already heard the news President Donald Trump signed the Blue Water Navy act into law on June 25, 2019. In recent news Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie issued a stay of the Blue Water Navy Act until December 1, 2020. The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act allows Blue Water Navy veteran serves who served within the waters of any navigable water, which is the definition used in the Southwestern demarcation line of Vietnam and Cambodia, a chart is provided in the following line.

Chapter 113 USCS §116 will be amended to include presumptions of service connection for veterans who served on or after the creation of Vietnam with Cambodia. The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act was signed into law on June 25, 2019. The Act does not require that the veteran served on a ship that has been on the Southwestern demarcation line of Vietnam and Cambodia.

VA From 438 Statement in Support of Claim: if you have any supporting documents that will support the time frame between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, your claim will be considered. (Deck Logs and Service Treatment Records)

The ship dock logs need to show that the ship was within 12 nautical miles of the Republic of Vietnam and your Service Treatment Records need to verify that the veteran had orders to that ship in that time frame listed above.

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VA From 438 Statement in Support of Claim: if you have any supporting documents that will support the time frame between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, your claim will be considered. (Deck Logs and Service Treatment Records)
HIGH SCHOOL AWARD:
- Victoria Jacobs of Tipp City, Ohio is the daughter of a Legionnaire and is a former participant in the Americanism and Government Test and a former Girl Scout. Victoria will be attending The Ohio State University in the fall.
- Alexandra Felle of Xenia, Ohio is the daughter of a Legionnaire and is a former Girl Scout. Alexandra will be attending Colorado School of Mines in the fall.
- Grace Jackson of Dayton, Ohio is the daughter of a Legionnaire and is a former Girl Scout. Grace will be attending The University of Dayton in the fall.
- Nicole Beck of St. Clairsville, Ohio is the granddaughter of a Legionnaire and is a former Girl Scout. Nicole will be attending Ohio University Eastern in the fall.
- Kyle Stoner of St. Clairsville, Ohio is the grandson of a Legionnaire and is a Buckeye Boys State alumnus and a former American Legion Baseball participant. Kyle will be attending University of Akron in the fall.
- Jaret Vincent of Cambridge, Ohio is a Sons of American Legion member. Jaret will be attending Kent State University in the fall.
- James Schmitz of Beavercreek, Ohio is the son of a Legionnaire. James will be attending Wright State University in the fall.
- Nathan Bennett of Marietta, Ohio is the grandson of a Legionnaire and is a former Boy Scout. Nathan will be attending Washington State Community College in the fall.
- Julia Nutter of Bidwell, Ohio is the granddaughter of a Legionnaire and is a Buckeye Boys State Alumna and a former Americanism and Government Test participant. Julia will be attending University of Rio Grande this fall.
- Cole Durst of Middleport, Ohio is the grandson of a Legionnaire. He is a Buckeye Boys State alumna, a former Americanism and Government Test participant and a former oratorical Participant.

DURWARD I BERNHARD AWARD:
- Bailey Bauman of Barnesville, Ohio is the grandson of a Legionnaire and is a Buckeye Boys State Alumnus and a former Americanism and Government Test participant. Bailey will be attending University of Cincinnati this fall.

DONALD L. LANTHORN AWARD:
- Hannah Horsington of Hebron, Ohio is the daughter of a Legionnaire and is a Buckeye Girl State Alumna. Former Americanism and Government Test participant and a former oratorical winner. Hannah will be attending Miami University in the fall.

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY AWARD:
- Maria Faber of Fostoria, Ohio is the daughter of a Legionnaire. Maria is a Buckeye Girl State Alumna and is enrolled at the University of Findlay.
- Cody Debo of Massillon, Ohio is the son of a Legionnaire and is a Buckeye Boys State Alumna and a former Boy Scout. Cody is currently enrolled at University of Mount Union.
- Makayla Aichelholz of New Washington, Ohio is the granddaughter of a Legionnaire and former participant in the Americanism and Government Test. Makayla is currently enrolled at Bowling Green State University.
- Alayna Morelock of Gibsonburg, Ohio is the granddaughter of a Legionnaire and is a Buckeye Girls State Alumna and former Americanism and Government Test participant. Alayna is currently enrolled at Youngstown State University.
- Jeremy Schmitz of Beavercreek, Ohio is the son of a Legionnaire. Jeremy is currently enrolled at Regent University.

AMERICAN LEGION MILITARY MEMBER AWARD:
- Brian Schultz of Cleveland, Ohio is an American Legion Member of Post 888 and is a Persian Gulf Navy veteran. Brian will be attending Cleveland State University to pursue his degree.
- Eric Sowers of Columbus, Ohio is an American Legion Member of Post 614 is a U.S. Army veteran. while Eric is working for Delaware County veteran’s court is persuing his Master’s in Social Work.
- Harriet Bonas of Marion, Ohio is an American Legion Member of Post 888 and is a Persian Gulf U.S. Army veteran. Harriet will be attending the Nursing Post Graduate Program at The Ohio State University this fall.
- Melissa Fowlie of Troy, Ohio is an American Legion Member of Post 386 and is an Air Force Veteran. Melissa is currently enrolled in Wright State University.

PARTIAL AWARDS:
- Cynthia Morris Of Centerburg, Ohio is the daughter of a Legionnaire. Cynthia will be attending University of Cincinnati this fall.
- Hannah Blair of Plain City, Ohio is the granddaughter of a Legionnaire. Hannah will be attending the University of Dayton this fall.
- Nicholas Telisman of Wickliffe, Ohio is the grandson of a Legionnaire. Nicholas will be studying Sports medicine this fall at Baldwin Wallace.
- Ian Underberger of Englewood, Ohio is the grandson of a Legionnaire and is a former Boy Scout. Ian will be attending The Ohio State University this fall.
- Isabelle Peel of Princeton, New Jersey is the granddaughter of a Legionnaire. Isabelle will be attending Denison University this fall.
- Zachary Dyer of Miamisburg, Ohio is the grandson of a Legionnaire. Zachary will be attending Miami University this fall.
- Dominic Velasquez of Canfield, Ohio is the great-grandson of a Legionnaire and is a Buckeye Boys State alumnus. Dominic will be studying Chemistry at The Ohio State University this fall.
- Alexandra Nigles of Elyria, Ohio is a daughter of a Legionnaire. Alexandra will be attending the College of Pharmacy this fall at the University of Kentucky.

### SCHOLARSHIP BREAKDOWN FOR 2018

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Scholastic Category</th>
<th>High School</th>
<th>College</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Applicants</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Awards</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average GPA</td>
<td>4.092</td>
<td>3.861</td>
<td>3.887</td>
<td>4.079</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average ACT</td>
<td>31.25</td>
<td>28.755</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>29.14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participated in Legion Programs</td>
<td>12/24</td>
<td>7/16</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>5/7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>21/24</td>
<td>14/17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicants in Accelerated Programs</td>
<td>11/24</td>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5/7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Child Welfare Foundation

- Albert “Andy” Atkins

First of all, the Children and Youth Committee wants to thank all those who supported our C&Y Pin Project. We sold enough to pay for the pins and had $1,175 profit as of the last meeting. The C&Y Committee voted to donate this money to the Donovan’s Kids Camp. We are asking all Legion posts to send a donation to Dept of Ohio earmarked for Donovan’s Kids. Don’t forget the other projects we support; COTA, TFA, Military Kids, Ronald McDonald House and the Child Welfare Foundation. Remember to save your beer and pop tabs. This helps the Ronald McDonald House and can be turned in at any McDonalds. The committee will again have a table set up at the Dept Mid-Winter Conference to give out information about the many programs the American Legion sponsors on behalf of Ohio’s children. We were well received last year and gave out a lot of pamphlets and piggy banks. Hope you pay us a visit!
The 2019 Buckeye Boys State program was held on the campus of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio on June 9-15, 2019. Nearly 1,000 young men from over 500 different high schools made up this year’s delegates that attended Buckeye Boys State. Buckeye Boys State is the single largest program in the nation and was the 3rd charter boy’s state program when it was established in 1936.

The mission of The American Legion Buckeye Boys State is to provide an educational and leadership program that exposes young men to the rights and privileges, the duties and responsibilities, and the love for God and Country necessary to be self-governing citizens. Through a practical, objective, non-partisan approach, participants in the American Legion Buckeye Boys State Program are exposed to fundamental democratic principles in local, county, and state elections and government functions which prepare them for leadership roles as patriotic American Citizens.

There are many different areas that these delegates become involved. There is state government, elections, finance, legislation, county government, city government, courts, banking and real estate, school boards, utilities and the media. Each delegate is required to apply for whichever section interests him and report to that job for the entire week.

The American Legion also has partnered with The Ohio State Highway Patrol since 1936. The troopers assigned to the boys’ state detail are the best of the best, and one of them is often the Trooper of the Year. They help create Buckeye Boys State Highway Patrol Cadets who spend the week making sure nobody is breaking the law as standard Troopers would. These Cadets also have a chance to attend Junior Cadet Week at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Training Academy after the end of the Boys State program.

One of the highlights of the week is the Federalists and Nationalists caucuses. Each party will then hold elections to determine the leading candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, among other elected positions. Once the parties have decided on their leading candidates, a debate is held between the two parties. Elections are then conducted to determine the 2019 Buckeye Boys State Governor and Lieutenant Governor. This year’s Governor was John Matters sponsored by Post 235 in Girard. The Lieutenant Governor was Andrew Baumgartner sponsored by Post 225 in Girard.

American Legion Buckeye Boys State would not be possible without the help from all the staff, counselors, and volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering or becoming a part of the Buckeye Boys State staff, please contact us at programs@ohiologan.com or 740-367-7478. We would love to have you be a part of the week that shapes these futures.

Sincerely,

Jacob Matters
2019 BBS Governor

Christie White
Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator, Dept of Ohio

Introducing Director of American Legion Buckeye Boys State, Jim Koppin

Jim has learned his way through and about Buckeye Boys State by his 27 years on the staff. Working first in elections, then public relations, and finally in the Buckeye Boys State Headquarters office. Also, Jim has held positions as President of the Board of Trustees and in two chair positions prior to that time. Jim also has had American Legion experience being active in his home post, Post 446 in Anna, and as a Past 2nd District Commander. He has also held positions in the Post, County, and Department levels. The American Legion Buckeye Boys State Staff is confident Jim will give 100% of his best effort to the board, the staff and the delegates and to do everything in his power to keep our program as the #1 Boys State Program in the Nation.

Jim has the full support of his wife and family. We know he will continue making American Legion Buckeye Boys State a “Week to shape a Lifetime”. As you can see, it is still shaping his.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- **AMERICANISM UPCOMING EVENTS**
  - November 4-8, 2019: Americanism and Government test to be given in schools
  - March 2-6, 2020: Americanism and Government Trip
  - May 23, 2020: Dayton & Western Reserve National Cemetery Grave Decorating
  - June 14–21, 2020: 2020 Buckeye Boys State
BLUFFTON POST 2020
Bluffton American Legion 2020 New Officers, from left to right: Tom Benroth Judge Adjutant, Larry Core Post Commander, Bob Amstutz 1st Vice, Fred Rodabaugh 2nd Vice, Mike Zimmerman Adjutant/Finance Officer, Basil Meyer Chaplain, Ed Amstutz Sgt. of Arms.

POST 236 INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS
Rocco Bowell, Commander, Tri County Council and member of American Legion Post 106, Niles, issued the oath of office to the new officers of Newton Falls American Legion Post 236 at the post meeting held Monday, May 13, 2019. Pictured (L-R): front row; Steve Garcar, Chaplain, Darryl Brown, Sgt. at Arms, Back row (L-R): Russ Mason, Adjutant, Carl Delgado, Service Officer, Joe Nicoline, 1st Vice Commander, Bud Becker, Historian, Richard Nelson, Commander, Commander Rocco Bowell, Donna Ball, Finance Officer, Gary Reul, 2nd Vice Commander, Jim Yoat, 2 yr. Trustee, Joe Ball, 3 yr. Trustee.
POST 318 MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

On May 27, 2019, members of American Legion – Anderson Post 318, conducted their annual Memorial Day Observance. Post 318 Honor Guard rendered Military Rites to deceased Veterans of Post 318, at 9 cemeteries, including 29 grave sites. This included rifle salutes, placing American Flags and Carnations on each grave site, and the playing of Taps. Post 318 then proceeded to the Anderson Township Memorial Day Observance “Bell Ceremony”, at the Anderson Center, where they provided a rifle salute and flag detail for this ceremony.

POST 771 MEMORIAL DAY

Heath American Legion Post 771 had a busy Memorial Day weekend. They started the weekend on Friday, May 24, 2019 by placing U.S. flags on the graves of all deceased veterans at Saint Joseph Cemetery in Saint Louisville and at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Heath. On Sunday, May 26, 2019, they were at Heath United Methodist Church posting and retrieving the colors and conducting military salute to all deceased veterans. On Memorial Day, May 27, 2019 they performed a military service at St. Joseph Cemetery and again at Mt. Calvary Cemetery. On May 31, 2019 they will pick-up the flags from the veteran's graves. Left to right Jack Gurlo, David Shoemaker, Gary Welmar, Dave Engle, and Dave Conner, fire their weapons in a military salute to deceased veterans at Heath United Methodist Church.

POST 542 NEW OFFICERS

Past Commander Dave Frederick will now become adjutant. Dan Skoulos service officer will become the new commander and Ed Hubner becomes our past commander. They are pictured together at Maple Leaf cemetery where the Legion offers a memorial day dedication each year. The post provided a rifle volley for three events on memorial day weekend. The other two were at the local yacht club commemoration and at Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial alongside members of the park staff.

CELEBRATION

Larry Shanks, SAL Adjutant and wife Betty Shanks, Legion Riders Treasurer volunteering at the Zanesville American Post 29 July 4th celebration.

POST 29 ELECTION

Zanesville American Legion Post 29 hosted The District Eleven Spring Convention on March 16. Post 29 Commander Larry Wheeler (left) with Andy Matheny, District 11 Commander, opened the convention. District 11 Post Officers and Executive Committee members met to discuss the District Post's community projects and membership activities.

POST 29 ELECTS NEW OFFICER TEAM

The Zanesville Post installed new Officers and Executive Committee members during a ceremony on June 3oth. The Post is active in mentoring youth, sponsoring programs in the community, and supporting veteran's activities.

VETERAN OF THE YEAR

Macedonia resident Daniel E. Davis was honored with Post 801's 2019 Veteran of the Year Award. Davis has taken a leadership role in developing and building the Macedonia Veterans Park. He is a U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division Vietnam veteran and recipient of the Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB), Bronze Star and two Air Medals. Davis retired from Case Western Reserve University after thirty years constructing Medical School facilities. A resident of Macedonia since 2011, he and his wife Jean are parents of David, North Carolina; Jennifer Noeburg, Stow and Donald, Macedonia. They are great grandparents of three.
Mission Complete for Gifts for Yanks

Mission Accomplished! In the early 2000s The American Legion Department of Ohio Gifts for Yanks program pledged to contribute $100,000.00 for The Greater Cleveland Fisher House. On May 23, 2019, Department Commander Robert E. Schmitt, Department Gifts for Yanks Chairman Darel Bishop, and company presented its contribution to the Greater Cleveland Fisher House – fulfilling its pledge. We thank everyone who made a financial contribution to the Gifts for Yanks Program.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Gifts for Yanks Program during the 2018-2019 membership year. Together, we raised just over $190,000. With your contributions we can allocate:

- $65,000 to provide every veteran in a VA medical centers or an Ohio Veteran Home with a holiday gift.
- $59,500 to support the efforts of VA Voluntary Services at our VA medical centers, VA CBDCs, and our Ohio Veteran Homes.
- $24,750 for approved special projects that enhance the quality of life for our veterans.
- $20,000 allocated for VA gift shops, canteen books, Christmas cards, and specialized units.

The Gifts for Yanks Program has set a fundraising goal of $250,000 for the 2019-2020 membership year. We thank you for your continued support. Donations to the Gifts for Yanks Program may be mailed to The American Legion Department of Ohio, 60 Big Run Road, Delaware, Ohio 43015.

Americanism Crossword Key

Charities, Inc. Distributes Grants

American Legion Department of Ohio Charities, Inc. met at the Department Convention in Toledo, Ohio, in June. Requests are reviewed at the Mid-Winter Conference in January and Department Convention in June or July.

To submit a request to Charities, Inc., put it in writing on the Post or company letterhead, signed by an officer. The request should be for something directly related to veterans’ causes and needs, not repairs and improvements to local Posts. Submit by mail or email to Department HQ:

- The American Legion, Department of Ohio Charities, Inc.
- PO Box 8087
- Delaware OH 43015

This year’s recipients of more than $162,000 granted at the Department Convention include:

- AL (National) Child Welfare
- AL (National) Legacy Scholarship
- AL (National) National Emergency Fund
- AL (Department) Americanism
- AL (Department) Baseball
- AL (Department) Ornithological
- Benjamin Firestone Post 250
- Cleveland VARO
- CSW Farms
- Dayton Civic Scholar 2019 Cohort
- Dept of Ohio-Emergency Fund for Ohio Vets
- Home History Fund
- Huber Heights Post 200
- James Dickey Post 23
- Kettering Post 598
- LaSalle High School
- Milford Class of 1979 Memorial
- Painesville Post 336
- Parma Post 572
- Richland County Joint Veterans Council
- Salvation Army
- St John the Baptist Church & School
- Stockhans Horses for Healing
- USO-Wright Paton
- Veterans Hall of Honor

Art Lustig, Past Department Judge Advocate, presented a check from Charities, Inc. at the Cleveland VA for their taxi service. Pictured left to right, Dave Donaldson, Past 13th District Commander; Art Lustig; Gerardo Navarro Volunteer Services office manager, June Knowlton & Cesar Emans both Volunteer Service Specialists.

Tim Funk and Lisa Nash-Berton of Stockhand Horses For Healing receiving a check from Department Adjutant Suzette Heller granted at the Charities Inc meeting in Toledo at the end of June.

Dayton Civic Scholars for Five Oaks Neighborhood park improvement. PDC Stanley Pleasant presented the check to Juliannae Evans, a student at the University of Dayton representing Dayton Civic Scholars.

Milford Class of 1979 memorial. Check presented by Jerry Wilson, Trustee Charities, Inc. and Department 1st Vice Commander Jean Wilson.

LaSalle High School, Jerry Wilson, Jean Wilson, Matt Dierkers (LaSalle), Bill Rocklin, Cincinnati! Post 37 for Veterans Memorial.

St John the Baptist Church & School, Father Kemp receiving a check from Department 1st Vice Commander Jean Wilson and Jerry Wilson, Charities Inc Trustees, toward their elevator and chair lift project.

Kettering Post 598, Check presented to Kettering Post 598 for the honor guard by Charities Inc Trustee Jerry Wilson.
Law & Order Program

Department POW/MIA Update

The General Assembly of the Department Convention approved Resolution 19-51 which allowed the Department National Security Committee to adopt the Department POW/MIA Program and to disband the Department POW/MIA Committee. This transition will lead to a stronger POW/MIA Program. The Department National Security Committee is in the process of designing new POW/MIA programs and formulating its program guidelines. More updates to come in the fall edition of the OLN.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day will be observed on Friday, September 20, 2019. Each Post is strongly encouraged to fly a POW/MIA flag and to engage the local community by holding POW/MIA ceremony at your local post, in your local schools, or at other venues within your community.

A Local Community Rally to Bring Hometown Hero Back Home

The Union County Veterans Remembrance Committee in conjunction with the City of Marysville (Ohio) has launched fundraising efforts to fund the return of two local World War II hometown heroes for a proper burial and remembrance.

Captain John “Blakie” Porter and Sergeant Harold Kneibler were shot down while B-24 Liberator “The Hump” over Burma on December 10th, 1943. Known as “Blackie’s Gang,” Captain Porter’s crew is credited with saving the lives of over 100 airmen from 50 crashes in the Eastern Himalayas during the war. MIA Recoveries, a non-profit contractor, headed by Clayton Kibler, located the crash site and is making plans to execute a mission in October 2019 to recover the remains of the crew members.

The Union County Veterans Remembrance Committee invites the veteran community to be a significant part of this important historic project by donating to the Veterans Remembrance Fund. If you would like to learn more, you may please visit www.BlackiesGangRecovery.com. Checks can be mailed to the Union County Foundation at 226 N Main Street, Marysville, Ohio 43040. In the memo line, thank you for your support.

Every Spring, the Department Law and Order Committee accepts nominations from all 14 Districts for Law Officer of the Year Award, Firefighter of the Year Award, and Civilian Lifesaver of the Year Award. The committee selects a worthy recipient to be honored at our Annual Department Convention, during the General Assembly session on Saturday morning.

This year’s Law & Order and Year Awards are as follows:

**Law Officer of the Year Award:**

**Deputy Robert Goette:**

Robert Goette, a Deputy Sheriff of Hamilton County, Ohio and has served in the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office for twenty-nine (29) years. Deputy Goette currently serves as the Forest Hills School District Resource Officer which encompasses 10 schools, including two (2) high schools. As the Resource Officer, Deputy Goette is tasked with the coordination of active shooter training sessions for all ten schools within the district. As the District Resource Officer, Deputy Goette is tasked with the coordination of active shooter training sessions for all ten schools within the district and for Andersen Township businesses. In 2018, Deputy Goette was recognized by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for his successful completion of active shooter training exercises. Deputy Goette was nominated by the Anderson Post 318 and the Fourth District.

**Civilian Lifesaver of the Year Award:**

**Johnnie Melvin:**

Johnnie Melvin, an employee of the Ohio Department of Transportation was inspecting a closed road due to high water when his own truck was hit by another driver who drove around a barrier warning the driver of the road closer due to high water. The driver struck the Mr. Melvin ODOT vehicle and lost control of his own vehicle which rolled into high water. Mr. Melvin pushed out of his vehicle and rescued the trapped driver. The driver and Mr. Melvin suffered injuries but without the heroic actions of Mr. Melvin, the driver’s car would have been overcome by the high waters—eliminating his chances of survival. Mr. Johnnie Melvin was nominated by Kettering Post 598 and the Third District.

**Call to Action:**

Each Post, County, and District may participate in the Law and Order Program by recognizing distinguished individuals. Each Post may provide their awardees with a certificate which can be ordered from emblem sales or you may contact Jermaine Ferguson. The Administrative Coordinator of Department HQ at Ferguson@ohiolegioncom. Criteria for the Law and Order Awards may be found at ohiolegion.com.
**STATE POOL (BILLIARDS) TOURNAMENT**

Zanesville American Legion Post 29 hosted the American Legion State Pool tournament on April 12–14. Teams from around Ohio participated in a Singles and Doubles competition.

**SINGLES WINNERS**

Jimmy Southers of Post 11 was the 1st place winner.

Mark Conway of Post 38 was the 2nd place winner.

Mike Lee of Zanesville Post 29 was the 3rd place winner.

**Doubles Winners**

Post 29 Commander Larry Wheeler with Doubles 1st place winners Jimmy Southers and Mark Conway of Post 11 along with Mike Kennedy of the American Legion Department of Ohio.

Post 29 Commander Larry Wheeler with Doubles 1st place winners Jimmy Southers and Mark Conway of Post 11 along with Mike Kennedy of the American Legion Department of Ohio.

**2019-20 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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