

## MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

Volume 15 Issue 10 March 2025

#### Commander's Corner





Commander Nelson Isaack

# Promoting the American Legion: Why Its Birthday Is the Perfect Opportunity

Every year on March 15-17, the American Legion celebrates its birthday, marking its founding in 1919. This anniversary isn't just a time for reflection; it's a prime opportunity to promote the

organization and its mission. By using this occasion to highlight the Legion's impact, communities can engage more veterans, strengthen membership, and spread awareness of the valuable services the organization provides.

# A Celebration of Service and Legacy

The American Legion has played a crucial role in advocating for veterans' rights, strengthening communities, and promoting patriotism for over a century. Its birthday is a time to recognize this long-standing commitment and educate the public about its ongoing efforts,

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TO ASK VETERANS
IN YOUR LIFE
HOW THEY ARE DOING
TO LISTEN WHEN
A VETERAN
NEEDS TO TALK

TO REACH OUT
WHEN A VETERAN
IS STRUGGLING



from supporting veterans' healthcare to sponsoring youth programs like Boys State and American Legion Baseball.

#### **A Natural Marketing Opportunity**

Anniversaries naturally draw attention, making the Legion's birthday an ideal moment for outreach. By promoting the milestone through social media, local events, and press coverage, posts and stories can reach a wider audience. Communities love celebrating history and tradition, and leveraging this moment can increase public interest and engagement.

#### **Recruitment and Membership Growth**

One of the biggest challenges for any organization is attracting new members. The Legion's birthday provides a reason to hold open houses, membership drives, and informational sessions. Veterans looking for camaraderie and purpose may be more inclined to join when they see the organization's impact being celebrated.

#### **Recognition for Local Posts and Volunteers**

The American Legion is built on local posts and their dedicated members. The birthday celebration is the perfect time to spotlight individual contributions,

recognize outstanding members, and showcase the difference local posts make in their communities. This not only boosts morale but also encourages more involvement.

# Community Engagement and Public Awareness

Hosting birthday events—whether it's a ceremony, a service project, or a fundraiser—brings the Legion's mission to the forefront. It's a chance to educate younger generations about military service and patriotism while strengthening relationships with local businesses, schools, and civic organizations.

#### **Final Thoughts**

The American Legion's birthday is more than just a historical marker; it's a **powerful promotional tool**. By using this occasion to engage the community, attract new members, and highlight the organization's achievements, posts can ensure the Legion's mission continues for generations to come. This March, let's celebrate and promote the American Legion in a way that honors its legacy and secures its future.

Would you like help with ideas for specific promotional events?





# William J. Chisholm Past Department Commander

William J. "Bill" Chisholm, who died on Tuesday, February 4th at the Kaplan Family Hospice House following a brief illness. He was 79 years old. Interment will immediately follow with military honors in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Bill was born on July 16, 1945, in Boston to his late parents, Augustus and Winifred (Little) Chisholm. He was one of two children, raised in Dorchester and educated in Boston. He was an alumnus of Don Bosco Technical High School, Class of 1963. He then enlisted in the United States Navy during the Vietnam Era. He proudly and bravely served his country and was honorably discharged. He then married Sandra Messina on February 8, 1969. They began their family together and had a son and a daughter, residing in East Boston. Bill held various jobs over the years. He retired from his position as a Mutuels Clerk at the Wonderland Racetrack in Revere which he held for over 10 years. Unfortunately, Bill lost his wife Sandra in 1996. He moved to Revere briefly and then returned to East

Boston and continued to be the best father he could be. He also became very involved with the American Legion, first at East Boston Post 30 and he later became the commander of Revere Post 61. He took a much larger role within the organization and served as both the past Massachusetts State Commander and a past National Executive Committee Member. He was also the past National Commander of the Italian American War Veterans. Bill happily volunteered his time with these non-profit organizations to fulfill his desire to help others, especially veterans. In his spare time, he would listen to music and read self-help books. He was also a man with a deep-rooted faith.

He is the devoted husband of the late Sandra M. (Messina) Chisholm of 27 years. He is the loving father of Michael Chisholm and wife Vickie Stringfellow of East Boston and Kerri-Ann Sowdon and husband Christopher of Plymouth. The cherished grandfather of Timothy and Alex. The treasured brother of Mary Clarke of Braintree and her late husband Patrick, he is the dear friend of Kathy Welch of East Boston. Caring uncle of Patrick, Mary Theresa, and Noreen Clarke. He is also lovingly survived by many cousins and friends.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans, 17 Court St. Boston, MA 02141.

# American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere Jr's Testimony before a joint session of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs



American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere delivers testimony before a joint meeting of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. Photo by Hilary Ott

American Legion National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr., called on Congress to "change the narrative" and improve the transition process for veterans as he delivered The American Legion legislative agenda to a joint hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs Wednesday.

"Young people who have been told that military service will leave them broken or unsupported in the end will think twice about their propensity to serve at all. And that is a matter of national security," LaCoursiere said. "We need to change the narrative. We can change the narrative."

Ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Mark Takano, D-Calif., was one of several members to express concern about recent government layoffs.

"I have grave concerns about how President Trump's executive orders are being carried out across the federal government, most especially the Department of Veterans Affairs, and how they are going to impact veterans," Takano said.

During his opening remarks, LaCoursiere pointed to waste in electronic health records management as an example of government inefficiency.

"Billions of our taxpayer dollars have been spent on this," LaCoursiere said. "The result has been delays, unsuccessful pilot programs, flawed infrastructure and continued inability of the Department of Defense and VA to make transition as seamless as possible for those leaving service and entering their lives as veterans."

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Mike Bost, R-III., called for great accountability at VA. "We made great progress with the passage of the Dole Act, and I am incredibly grateful to The American Legion for their support in getting this bill across the finish line," he said. "I am committed to improving VA's ability to hold their employees accountable, so veterans have access to world class care. I am grateful to The American Legion for their support of the Restore Accountability Act of 2025, which would do just that."

The American Legion has received assurances from VA Secretary Doug Collins that veteran services and

### FGION National Commander (Continued)

"President Trump and Elon Musk firing all these Veterans Affairs employees is not helping the case," Duckworth said before asking the Legion panel about the impact of the downsizing.

"I think every few days, we're learning about something new and trying to determine how it will potentially impact veterans, so we can assist this committee and the VA in mitigating those impacts" American Legion VA&R Director Cole Lyle said. "We were encouraged by the number of exemptions that the VA announced for the VHA, the VBA, and the Board of Veterans' Appeals. We've also been told by career officials at the VA, not political, that they were happy with what they called 'a liberal exemption policy' and we will continue to work with you and Legionnaires on the ground to identify those potential impacts and bring them to you and the VA as soon as possible."

Employment opportunities for veterans have been a major priority for The American Legion since the organization's founding. LaCoursiere pointed out in his opening statement that each year the Legion is "involved with more than 1,100 career events to help veterans and families in transition."

The American Legion has called for a balanced approach to community care, so veterans can access quality health care from remote areas where VA is not necessarily the best option.

Rep. Abraham Hamadeh, R-Ariz., asked about long wait times and denial of services that have been linked to the program.

"We certainly do care about ensuring our veterans get the care they need, where they need it and when they need it," VA&R Chairman Jay Bowen answered. "That's priority one for The American Legion. If that's through community care, that's good as long as VA has the oversight and makes sure standards are kept."





#### Department President's Message

How much better could it get than to start the month of February by attending the Eastern Division Mission Training in Boston with many other members from this department! It has been many years since many of us have been able to do this due to a conflict with the dates. Being seated with members from other departments was a great idea as it gave us a chance to not only make new friends but get new ideas. It was an opportunity for our entire Legion Family to meet at the same time. Our National Vice President Pam Ray did an excellent job of "Leading the Way" for this event

We were pleased to have several of our Junior members join us and hold a very impressive Candle Ceremony. Another highlight of the day was having our National Leaders join us by Video to bring their greetings.

The next day members from every corner of this department attended, some even participating in honoring the Four Chaplains that sacrificed their lives to save the lives of others when the USS Dorchester was torpedoed on February 3, 1943.

It was sad, but an honor to join many others of the Legion Family to say goodbye to Past Department Commander William "Bill" Chisholm to say our final goodbyes. Bill will certainly be missed as he was everything a true Legionnaire could be, as well as a good friend.

I enjoyed attending several bingo days at the Veterans Home in Chelsea this month along with MVS Rep. Kathy Welch and others. We had our very first night bingo which was sponsored by the Manchester Post 113 Legion Riders. Everyone sure enjoyed the Pizza they supplied! This week, they were pleased to have the gals from Saugus Unit 210 sponsor and bring the strawberry shortcake. I am sure that many other events have been held during the past month at our other VA Facilities and Veterans Homes.

It has been a pleasure to see our Legion Family interacting with our Congressional Delegates this week in the Nation's Capital. I am sure they will have much to share with us on their return.

As always, we thank you for asking us to share a monthly message with our Legion Family and for keeping us updated on upcoming events.

And, yes, we will always endeavor to "Be the One."

God Bless our Veterans, their families and God Bless America.

Donna Blattenberger
Department President 2024-2025





#### The American Legion Department of Massachusetts

24 Beacon Street—State House Room 546-2 Boston, MA 02113 (617) 727-2966

#### Hello Legionnaires

WE ARE MOVING! Well sort of moving. The Department office will be on the road. The Department office in an effort to help and provide better service will set up once or twice a month in different Posts. The Department office will be there to help all Posts with paperwork, transmittals, and mylegion.org. Those Post willing to host the Department office please contact the Department. The Post must have internet.

On another subject, packets will be going out this week. The packets will contain Post Data Forms, Department Convention information, and other information. If you have questions please call the Department.

National Commander's Visit is April 4-6. Please contact your District Chairman for tickets to the National Commander's luncheon. If you are unable to contact them please call the Department. Hope to see you there.

Finally, we presented a check to the Palisades Post 283 in the amount of \$10,000 at the Washington Conference. The Department will present another check at the National Convention in Tampa Thank you to all those Posts and individuals

For God and Country

Lisa A. Mc Phee

Lisa A. McPhee Department Adjutant 617-727-2966 deptadjutant@masslegion.org

#### Veterans Straightening America since 1919 and into the Future

The American Legion was built on and committed to four key pillars that still stand today: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth

## Membership—DSVC Scott Conner

As of 2/12/2025 the department reached 82.48% of the desired goal of 85% membership levels for February 12th. Great job giving that push to get there. Department retention rate is hovering right around the 80th percentile also. We have a couple of Posts with 100% Membership goal, but only 80% or so retention, let's close that back door. Kudos to D4 for leading the pack with Posts (7) that have attained 100% Membership Goal.

Let's talk about the texting experiment. As I said last month, the Membership Office texted out a dues renewal reminder to 3600 members in the Grace period. Though there were many more in this group, only 3600 had a cell number listed in MyLegion that we could use. Though many lessons were learned, the biggest area of concern is that many (many) members had paid their dues, the check was cashed, but the dues had not been turned into Department/National. For three days my phone rang non-stop. It was fun, got to talk to a lot of great legionnaires, learned an awful lot, and was even cuffed at a few times. The experiment was a success and resources well spent. We will try this again. And please, check your rosters and mark Post Everlasting transfers appropriately.

Department still has 4291 Legionnaires that have not renewed from 2024. Of these, 38 are Honorary Life members that have not had there dues paid, as promised. Also, there are 87 WWII vets that have not had 2025 dues paid (9 being Honorary Life), think about it for a minute. Need assistance with a revitalization or telethon, let me know.

3 of 9 Districts made it to the 85% goal (4/5/7). Next goal, 90% by 12 March. Let's look under every stone and carpet for renewals and new members.

A little MyLegion.org homework for the Posts. Please print a copy of your post roster, give it a sweeping review and and fill in the voids, Addresses/E-mail Addresses/Phone Numbers (preferable cell, not land line). Good, accurate information will assist you in the future.

*Can't say this enough:* Got your permissions to work membership on MyLegion.org? If not, let us know, we can help. Before you call, make sure the Post Commander and Adjutant form is current. 29% have not submitted this form.

What is Membership doing to help: At the last DEC, District membership teams were given a Telethon Kit. To assist the Posts on how to advertise and put together a membership event. We are currently developing a new member/transfer welcome/info packet for the Posts. It is extremely important to welcome new members and any 462/dms transfers you pursue

POST DATA REPORTS - please review for accuracy and get them to Department by April 2025

Scott M. Conner, Sr. Vice Commander, Membership Chair scottscpo@Gmail.com 774-239-6162

### 2025 Membership Retention Contest

**Scope:** To promote and sustain increased growth through the retention of current members of The American Legion. Encouragement is to be achieved through financial awards. Retention is a forefront goal of our National Commander.

**Discussion:** To effectually sustain growth, current members need to renew their memberships. Providing incentives and goals as targets with a financial reward has proven to be an effective means. DMS/Holding Post 462 and the Capitol Hill Post 297 are not eligible for this program.

Eligibility: The District must have a Membership Team appointed.

Post must physically meet a minimum of 4 times per year.

Post must attain a 95% renewal/retention rate.

Post must submit "Post Data Report" by April 15th of the Contest Year.

Post must submit "Consolidated Post Report" by May 31st of Contest Year.

Post must submit "Post Roster" by May 31st of Contest Year.

Post must submit "Certification of Service Record" by May 31st of Contest Year.

Post Membership designee must be registered in MyLegion.org.

**Bonus point considerations:** 1/2 point for each percentage point over 95%

Commander and Adjutants Report - 2 pts 100% Retention by 31 December - 5 pts

Awards: Post Membership Categories: 20 to 50 Members

51 to 125 Members 126 to 200 Members 201 Plus Members

Award: \$500.00 each category

This Retention Award program is coordinated by the Department of Massachusetts Membership Chairman. Please Contact Dept Sr. Vice Cmdr Scott Conner, **scottscpo@gmail.com** or at 774-239-6162 with questions.



# D

# **MASSACHUSETTS**

Department Legion College

Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM

**Vernon Hill Post 435** 

#### Topics include:

- Leadership
  - Conducting a Meeting Properly
    - Resolution Writing
      - ➤ Train-The-Trainer
        - Programs

Lunch & Coffee will be provided

To register contact Sandra Davis skeeisme@hotmail.com or (978) 879-8682





#### **BOYS STATE COMMITTEE**

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS RM 546-2 STATE HOUSE BOSTON MA 02133 617-727-2966

To: All Post Commanders and/or Boys State Chairmen From: Mark Avis, Chairman Massachusetts Boys State

#### Massachusetts Boys State 2025 - Sponsor Form

The 2025 Boys State Program will be held at Stonehill College, North Easton, from Saturday, June 14, 2025 to Friday, June 20, 2025. This year, the cost of sponsoring each boy is \$400.00 for the regular tuition, or \$375.00 for the early bird discount before APRIL 1, 2025.

Regardless of how you choose to pay, you must complete the sponsor form online at **sponsor.maboysstate.org.** There are two payment options, **Debit/Credit Card** or **Check by Mail**, follow the instructions when promoted on the online form. If you are paying via Check by Mail, please also complete the form on page two of this letter and include it with your check.

All payments for the 2025 Boys State Session must be received by May 23, 2025. The first 400 students will be accepted. We encourage you to actively seek outside co-sponsors (e.g. local elected officials, businesses, or banks) to help pay for these boys to attend.

Boys chosen to attend Boys State must be interviewed by the Post. Each Post should explain the Boys State program in detail to the boys and their parents so that they will know what is expected of them through their participation. The Boys State website (**maboysstate.org**) contains a wealth of information, including videos, photographs, program schedule, and program descriptions. Students and parents should be directed to this resource for information and announcements.



#### Scan QR Code to Complete Sponsor Form

Form Link: sponsor.maboysstate.org

Payment Options: Check by Mail or Debit/Credit Card

Cost: \$400 (\$375 before April 1st)

Please email info@maboysstate.org for issues filling out the form.

PLEASE COMPLETE FORM ON PAGE 2, IF YOU SELECTED CHECK BY MAIL



#### **MASSACHUSETTS BOYS STATE 2025**

**Sponsor Supplement Form (Check by Mail)** 

#### **DIRECTIONS (Must complete all 4 steps)**

- 1. Complete the Sponsor Form via sponsor.maboysstate.org
- 2. Fill out all the fields below.
- 3. Make your check payable to "**The American Legion**" and designate "**Boys State**" in the memo of the check.
- 4. Mail this form and check to Massachusetts Boys State Chairman, Mark Avis, 14 Shaw Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

NUMBER OF BOYS SPONSORED	CHECK AMOUNT
Sponsoring Post # or Organization	
Post Point of Contact	
Post POC Phone #	
Post POC Email	

## LEGION Scholarship

The American Legion, Department of Massachusetts, may grant up to ten \$1,000.00 and ten \$500.00 scholarships to be used towards the expenses of education of the child/grandchild, whose parent, grand-parent or legal guardian is a current member in good standing (or a deceased member in good standing at time of passing) in an American Legion Post within the Department of Massachusetts.

Applications shall be received no later than <u>April 1, 2025.</u> Mail to Scholarship Chairman, Sandra Davis C/O Lou Brault 104 Johnson Rd Apt 207, Chicopee, MA 01022

The scholarship shall be for the next school year only and limited to incoming college freshmen. The scholarship committee will make its selections before June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Scholarship payments shall be made directly to the recipient. Payments shall be made at the end of the first semester. Payment will be withheld if the student fails to remain in good standing. In event of **termination** during school year, payments must be returned to The American Legion, Department of Massachusetts.

(Ten) \$1,000.00 scholarships to be awarded, known as:

- 1. Frank R. Kelley Scholarship
- 2. Robert (Sam) Murphy Scholarship
- 3. H.P. Redden Scholarship
- 4. Mayer/Murphy/Nee Scholarship
- 5. Joseph H. Ellinwood (Nursing only)
- 6. Grace Fuller Olson Scholarship
- 7. Past Dept. Commanders Scholarship
- 8. Daniel J. Doherty Scholarship PNC
- 9. John P. "Jake" Comer Scholarship PNC
- 10. Paul A Morin Scholarship PNC

(Ten) \$500 Scholarships will be awarded with (One) \$500.00 scholarship to be given to a student entering military service directly following high school graduation. (Submit documentation of active-duty entry date with application).

(One) \$500 scholarship, known as the Leo Malloy Scholarship shall be awarded to a first-year apprentice plumber. Proof of apprenticeship must be included

#### Applications are available on our website www.masslegion.org

#### **Auxiliary Mini Golf**

# American Legion Auxiliary Department of Massachusetts Children and Youth Program Annual Mini Golf Tournament



March 30, 2025 Team Registration \$20.00 per player

Minimum players per team is 4 with a maximum of 5

Team Members:
Name, address, and phone of contact member and team members:
1)
2)
3)
4)

Name of Team:

Please make all checks payable to ALA Department of Massachusetts and include Mini Golf Tournament in the memo.

Please send checks to Lisa Gauthier, 139A Elm Street, Winchendon, MA 01475. Deadline for all registrations is March 20, 2025.

For further information, please contact Lisa Gauthier at <a href="lisagauthier1959@yahoo.com">lisagauthier1959@yahoo.com</a> or at (978)-350-7755

#### **Partnership for Kids Bowling Tournament**











## The American Legion Family

14th ANNUAL "PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS" BOWLING TOURNAMENT

> SATURDAY, APRIL 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

WEBSTER TIMBER LANES 460 Bedford St., Abington, MA 02351

Proceeds to benefit Boston Children's Hospital, Bay State Children's Hospital and UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center

Limited to 22 teams – First come, first served for team sign-ups Five Person Teams \$25 per person / \$125 per team / \$10 for non-bowlers

50/50 Raffles | Food provided during tournament

Send payment & registration forms to: Clifford A. Smith 53 Messenger St. Apt C, Plainville, MA 02762

Make checks payable to: Detachment of Mass SAL

Confirmation of entry forms will be sent upon receipt of completed registration Must be paid in full to secure registration



# THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY "PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS" BOWLING TOURNAMENT

# WEBSTER TIMBER LANES 460 BEDFORD ST., ABINGTON, MA 02351

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025 12:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

# REGISTRATION FORM TOURNAMENT OPEN TO ALL POSTS – UNITS – SQUADRONS – LEGION RIDERS

#### \$25.00 PER PERSON / \$125.00 PER TEAM

POST NO	
UNIT NO	
SQUADRON NO	
RIDER CHAPTER NO	<del></del>
BOWLER NO.1	
BOWLER NO.2	
BOWLER NO.3	
BOWLER NO.4	

#### **Partnership for Kids Bowling Tournament**

# The American Legion Family "Pin Points for Partnership"

Sponsor's Name:				
Sponsor's Address:				
City:	State:	Zip:	Phone:	

#### AWARD PRESENTED FOR MOST PIN POINTS PLEDGED

#### Partnership Pin Points Pledge Sheet

Make Checks Payable To: Detachment of Mass SAL
Please Return Pledge Sheet and Donations To: Clifford Smith, 53 Messenger St. Apt C, Plainville, MA 02762

Pledge's Name	Address	City, State, Zip	Phone	Amount Pledged Per Point









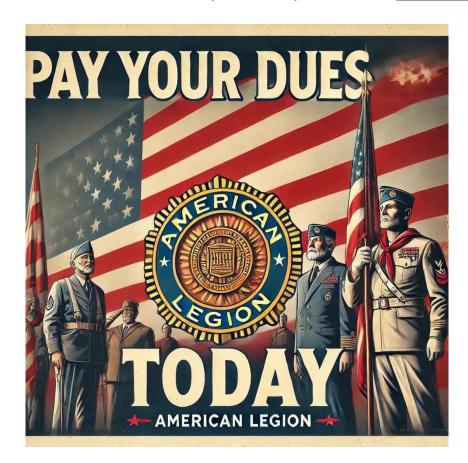
As you are reading this, Legion members from every Department, including Massachusetts, will have been to Washington DC for. the annual conference. This included briefings from both VA staff and the Legion Washington office.

Legislative priorities for this session of Congress include the following: VA benefits protection, enhancement – total disability based on individual unemployability; Electronics health record modernization; Quality of compensation and pension examinations; toxic exposure; Support for survivors; Alternative therapies; Military quality of life; Border security; Full accountability of POW/MIAs; Modernize the Transition Assistance Program; Protect the US Flag and Modernize the US Flag Code.

To find out more details, visit the website, <a href="www.legion.org/advocacy/legislative">www.legion.org/advocacy/legislative</a>. More importantly is to sign up for the Grassroots Action Center. This will get you on the email list and ability to easily contact your Congressional representatives. As I continue to state, it is up to us, you and I, to let our elected officials know our feelings on different issues. Please join me in doing this. Only takes a minute for two of your time.

Remember: B E THE ONE. Saving Lives. Changing Lives. One at a time.

John P. Lenotte, Alternate National Executive Committeeman Department of MA; Past MA Department Commander; Past District 8/Essex Commander; Past Commander Post 4 Haverhill MA. Member, American Legion National Media and Communications Commission. Member, American Institute of Parliamentarians. Local Board Member, Selective Service System. I may be reached at <a href="mailto:iplenotte@gmail.com">iplenotte@gmail.com</a>



## EGION Samsung American Legion Scholarship



Samsung Scholar Evan Fitzpatrick, assists National Commander Joseph Navarrete and PNVC Frank MacDonald Squadron 40 place a wreath at the WWII Memorial

The American Legion 2024 recipients of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship are recognized at the Washington Conference

Their time in the nation's capital consisted of touring the National Mall, a wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, and a special recognition dinner with National American Legion Commander James LaCoursiere Jr., National Sons of The American Legion Commander Joseph Navarrete, and Auxiliary President Trish Ward, and other Legion dignitaries.

The scholars were eligible for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship for their participation in either American Legion Boys State or Auxiliary Girls State in 2024, being the direct descendant (or legally adopted child) of a U.S. military veteran, and for their academic achievement and community service.

Evan Fitzpatrick has been familiar with Boys State and the Samsung American Legion Scholarship – his older brother Owen is a 2022 Massachusetts Boys State alum and scholarship winner. Therefore, he always knew he wanted to attend Boys State. To ensure that opportunity, Fitzpatrick emailed his Post 414 in Sutton, Mass., asking to be sponsored to Massachusetts Boys State.

"I was fortunate they said yes. Attending Boys State and becoming a Samsung scholar has changed my life. I am honored to be the second Samsung scholar in my family," said Fitzpatrick, who comes from a long family history of American Legion members. His great-grandfather served as a post commander in Dorchester, Mass., following his service in World War II.

"The humility and mutual helpfulness and upholding the sanctity of freedom embodied by The American Legion is ingrained in me, and the wooden desk that my great-grandfather stole from Boston College when he left to fight in World War II is my beacon and where I study at night."

Community service is part of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship eligibility and for Fitzpatrick, giving back has played an important role in his life ever since his local community supported his family during his mother's battle with stage 4 cancer two years ago. As a global ambassador to Ukraine with Soles4Souls, he has personally collected, cleaned and shipped over 3,000 pairs of gently used shoes to Ukrainian refugees in Poland since the outbreak of the war with Russia.

#### Hello to All:

When I was in High School and College (many years ago, and the internet didn't exist) I had to do book reports. I hated to read a whole book so I would get a copy Cliff Notes that gave a synopsis of the book. I don't know if they still have Cliff Notes, but I am using the name for various updates I will be sending out periodically concerning the Detachment and the National Organization.

#### PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS

I have already sent information about this program. The tournament is April 26, 2025 at Webster Timber Lanes in Abington. So far six (6) teams have sent in team registrations. Attached is a registrant form. Also attached is the "Pins Points for Partnership" pledge sheet. We hope many of you can find people to sponsor you for so much a point, or you can find people to donate to the program. Donations that are solicited by all of you a is the main factor in the success of the tournament.

#### **DETACHMENT WEB SITE**

The Detachment Web Site address is: <a href="www.salmass.org">www.salmass.org</a>. This site will provide you with a very comprehensive overview of our organization and all the programs with which we are involved. I encourage all of you to inform your members of this web site.

#### **DETACHMENT CONVENTION**

The Detachment Convention will be held June 6-7, 2025 in Marlboro, MA. In working with the Department Convention Committee, the Detachment has pledged twenty (20) rooms to be set aside for SAL members. It is important that we do our best to fulfill that commitment. Registration form must be sent to the Department Office in Boston to secure one of the SAL rooms. The cut-off date for room reservations is May 20.2025.

#### THE MILLENNIUM

The Millennium is a National Newsletter of the Sons of The American Legion. If you would like to subscribe to this publication you must do so in myLegion.org. If you would like to publish information about the events you held and let people know all the great accomplishments, you have achieved. Check out Legiontown.org and see what people all across the country are doing.

Keep carrying on for God and Country.

Clifford Smith
Past National Commander
cliffpnc@gmail.com

# VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

#### Secretary Collins' message to Veterans and VA employees

It is my life's honor to serve America's Veterans as secretary of Veterans Affairs, and I thank President Donald J. Trump as well as the U.S. Senate for their confidence in me.

America is the greatest nation on Earth precisely because of the Veterans willing to step forward and defend our freedom. I've witnessed this firsthand throughout my two decades in the military, as I've served with some of the finest men and women our nation has to offer.

In addition to being a Navy Veteran, I am an Air Force Reserve colonel and chaplain. During my time in the military, I've learned that leadership is about listening, serving, motivating and setting a good example for those around you. That is the approach I will bring to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

When President Trump offered me this job, he gave me simple instructions: take great care of America's Veterans. Here is how we're going to accomplish the task the president has set out for us:

- We're going to deliver timely access to care and benefits for every eligible Veteran, family member, caregiver and survivor.
- We're going to put Veterans at the center of everything VA does, focusing relentlessly on customer service and convenience.
- We're going to challenge the status quo in order to find new and better ways of helping VA beneficiaries.
- We're going to celebrate the vast majority of VA employees who do a great job every day and hold employees accountable when they fall short of the mission.
- We're going to provide Veterans with the health care choices they have earned while maintaining and improving VA's direct health care capabilities.
- And we're going to do a better job reaching Veterans at risk of homelessness or suicide especially those who have had no contact with VA.

My commitment to my fellow servicemembers and Veterans will serve as my compass for the way ahead, and I am honored to be working with the men and women of VA to accomplish our noble and vital mission.

Together, we will strengthen VA so it works better for America's heroes. Let's get to work.





The American Legion
Department of Massachusetts, Inc.
RM 546 – 2 State House
Boston, MA 02133-1044
(617) 727-2966

Email: deptadjutant@masslegion.org

#### NATIONAL COMMANDER James A. LaCoursiere, Jr.

#### January 10, 2025

Dear Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders,

Our National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr. Testimonial - <u>Saturday, April 5, 2025</u> Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel 181 Boston Post Road West Marlborough, MA 01752.

Time: 3:00 PM Buffet luncheon

Ticket donations are <u>\$45.00</u> per person and may be purchased from your District Ticket Chairperson. Please make checks payable to <u>"American Legion Dept. of MA"</u> and mark <u>"Tickets Only"</u>
Tables will be set for 10.

- Cutoff date for Banquet Tickets is March 22, 2025
- Head Table Business Dress (coat & tie for men and appropriate apparel dress for women)
- Audience Business Casual (trousers and collared shirt for men and appropriate apparel dress for women)

All room reservations must be made directly through the Hotel - Call Hotel or use the link

- Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel at (508) 460-0700
- . The American Legion code is American Legion
- Link: https://www.bestwestern.com/en\_US/book/hotel-rooms.22024.html?groupId=6X4IM0W1
- The room rate per night is \$134.00 plus 11.7% tax = \$149.67
- The cutoff date for room reservation is March 4, 2025
- District Ticket Chairman listed on page 2 of 2

On behalf of the Committee, we thank you for your co-operation.

#### Yours in comradeship:

Co-Chairman: John P "Jake" Comer PNC

Paul A Morin PNC

Vice Chairman: Jodie Pajak NEC

John Lenotte ANEC

Ticket Chairman: Lisa McPhee Dept. Adjt.

Ad Book Chairman: Louie Brault PNEC Members: Mark Avis PNVC

Milton Lashus PNEC 10 District Chairman

Page 1 of 2



# District Ticket Chairperson National Commander's Banquet

#### All tickets sales need to be in the Department Office

<u>Deadline for tickets March 22, 2025</u>
NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT DOOR

#### District 1

Dennis St Pierre 18 Orchard St Adams MA 01220 beermansst@hotmail.com 413-652-5822

#### District 3

Gary Fontaine 404 Southwick Rd Trlr 43 Westfield MA 01085-4856 chieffont7@aol.com 413-519-2755

#### District 4

Scott Conner 7 Meadowbrook Rd Spencer MA 01562 scottscpo@gmail.com 774-239-6162

#### District 5

Robert Desrosiers 441 Lakeview Ave Lowell MA 01850 fishtruckl 5@aol.com 978-459-4260

#### District 6

James Fratolillo 374 Manet Ave Quincy MA 02169 jdfratt@comcast.net 617-792-7175

#### District 7

Milton Lashus 15 Parker St Charlestown MA 02129 miltonlashus@gmail.com 774-766-8960

#### District 8

Sandra Davis PO Box 95 Gloucester MA skeeisme@hotmail.com 978-879-8682

#### District 9

Stephen Souza 25 Billys Ln Somerset MA 02726 t5ssteve@yahoo.com 508-642-6660

#### District 10

Rachel Perron 1 Ocean Dr Mattapoisett MA 02739-2329 rachellperron@yahoo.com 207-632-2831



### National Commander's Banquet

National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr Booster Sheet Deadline is March 15, 2025

	Distri	ct:	
Post#:	Unit#:	Squadron#:	ALR#:
\$1.00 per Person		\$2.00 per Mr. & Mrs.	
*****	PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY NO	T RESPONSIBLE FOR MISS-SP	ELLING***********
Check#:	The second second	Amount\$:	t end it could be
1		11	
2,	<u>.</u>	12	£
3		13	
4		14	
5		15	
6		16	
7		17	
8		18	
9		19	
10		20	

Post can also type names and send on a separate paper

Mail to: The American Legion Department of MA 24 Beacon St State House RM 546-2 Boston, MA 02133



MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> 2025

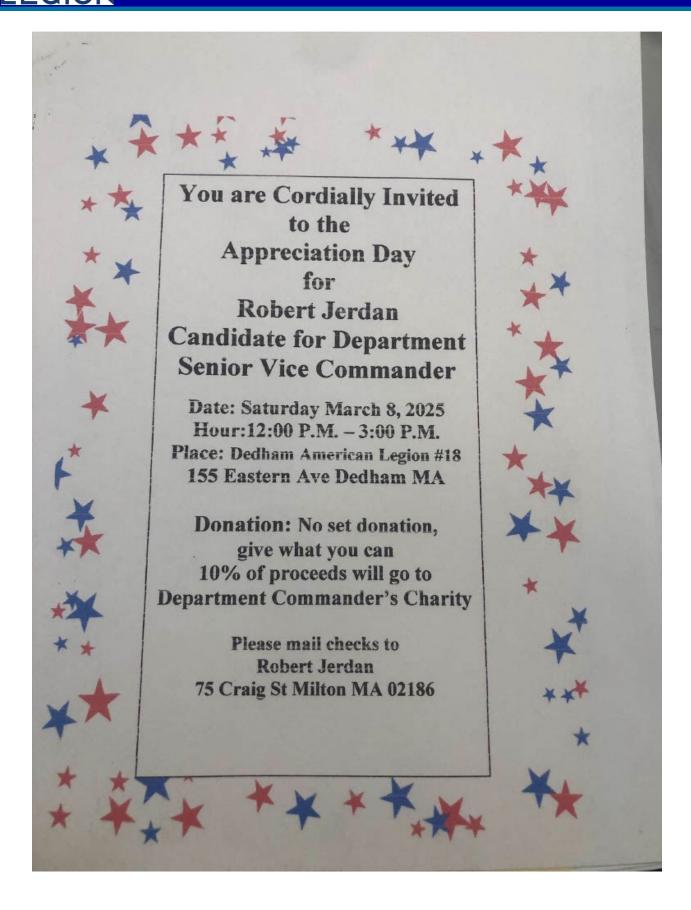
Social 1:00 - 2:00 pm Chow 2:00 pm

> Paxton Post 306 885 Pleasant St Paxton, MA



For tickets or more into call or text Grace at: 774-239-2028

**Dress Code - Wicked Casual** 



## **LEGION** Around the Department— Granby Post 266



#### The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Granby American Legion Post 266 Scramble Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Our golf tournament fundraiser proceeds go towards our high school scholarship fund, our building/kitchen remodeling fund, and to our continued support of veteran and community programs that the American Legion Post 266 so proudly supports!

#### Friday, May 23, 2025

#### Chicopee Country Club, Chicopee, MA.

7:30 AM REGISTRATION OPENS - 9:00 AM SHOTGUN START

	Registration I	ee: \$125	per person -	4 person team, scram	ble format		
Team Registration:	Player 1					_	
	Player 2						
	Player 3						
	Player 4					_	
Registration fee includ	es green fees, car	t, lunch a	nd a buffet din	ner! There will be o	ash prizes	for the 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup>	and 3 <sup>rd</sup> place
teams, closest to the	pin on all Par 3's	and for lo	ongest drive fo	r male and female.	The Golf Ai	ir Cannon by (	Golf Tourna-
ment So	olutions will be on	course,	and we'll also h	nave a great raffle t	able and a	50/50 raffle!	
Tournament Sponsorships	: Available						
Silver - Dinner Spo	will come with spion! All sponsorsh	\$800 \$600 \$500 ecial rec	Closes Golf E Tee Bo ognition and si Iso be displaye		\$200 \$150 extensive so ner that w		-
If	•			ow the wording for		or sign.	
Wording f	or sponsor sign: _						
Please contilegionpost266@comcast for team and sponsors ar 01033. or (2.) Pay via P	<u>.net.</u> If paying by c e: (1.) Mail or dro	heck, pled	ise make payab		erican Legio	n Post 266. Po	ayment options
Granby Post 266 The	American Legion Inc.	Granby	Post 266 The American	Legion Inc.			
The state of the s			eGanbyt eglonPost266				

#### Deadline to Sign-Up is Monday, May 19.

The Granby American Legion Post 266 is a member of the South Hadley & Granby Chamber of Commerce and is also a tax exempt organization under section 501 (c) (19)

# Around the Department— Granby Post 266

#### Building a new kitchen for the American Legion Post 266 in Granby, MA.

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On March 11, 1948, a charter was bestowed by the National Organization of the American Legion, officially recognizing the Granby American Legion Post 266. Over the years, our Post has served our military, our veterans, their families, and the community, as a meeting location and rental venue. Our Marion Roberts Hall was named after Marion Roberts in 2019. Marion was a member of Post 266 Auxiliary for about 60 years starting the charter in 1961. Marion used the kitchen to cook for all Legion functions. Our kitchen has always been a very important part of our community. However, over the years, the kitchen has suffered some ravages of time, which has made it non-functional and out of compliance with today's regulations.

We've partnered with the Granby Lions Club, who have taken on our kitchen project as one of their service projects for 2024/2025, and we are very grateful for their support. We've reached out to a local kitchen specialist that has designed a new location and layout that will meet the needs of the Post for many years to come.

Now that we have the design completed and all the equipment has been quoted, we are asking for help from the local community to make this project a reality. We are now in the process of contacting local contractors and businesses that would be willing to contribute to this very important project for us and the community. We hope to have this project primarily funded through donations and fundraising.

The Granby American Legion along with the help of the Granby Lions Club hopes to complete this project by late Spring/early Summer. We are excited about this project, and we hope you are as well. With your donation, you'll be helping us raise the necessary funds to make this a reality. Any money raised that is not needed for the kitchen will be used on building and hall upgrades, as well as the parking lot. Please contact us with any questions you may have. Thank you for your interest in our GoFundMe and we look forward to receiving your donation!

The Granby American Legion Post 266 is a member of the South Hadley & Granby Chamber of Commerce and is also a tax exempt organization under section 501 (c) (19)

https://gofund.me/461db181



# Around the Department— Vernon Hill Post 435





Carter Taillefer of Troop 106 Grafton Massachusetts worked with Vernon Hill American Legion Post 435 to develop and build a Ceremonial Flag Retirement Fire Pit to honorably retire the American Flag. Carter's vision of this project was of a fond memory when he was Cub scout. He had participated with his cousin and fellow scouters on a similar Flag Retirement event. This stayed with him through his Scouting years.

Being passionate about this country and our Veterans, Carter worked with the American Legion Post 435 to complete his Eagle Scout Project during the Summer and Fall of 2024. His design included a hexagon brick layout which included concrete pads at each point of the hexagon. Within these concrete pads, a bronze military seal will be installed to represent each of the six branches. At the center of the hexagon lays the firepit with stainless steel insert. During the build he added a ramp for access for all to share the firepit area.

With close to 300 hundred hours of labor and planning, Carter was able to see his vision come to life and just after Veterans Day the Ceremonial Flag Retirement Pit was completed. Carter was awarded the Rank of Eagle Scout in December 2024.

We could not be prouder of Carter and his incredible accomplishment in building this Ceremonial Flag Retirement Pit. His dedication, vision, and respect for our Nation's flag and the men and women who have served are truly inspiring. This project will stand as a lasting tribute, ensuring that our American flags are retired with the honor and dignity they deserve. Carter exemplifies the best of Scouting and patriotism, and we are grateful for his commitment to our Veterans and our community.

Commander Bill Moore Vernon Hill American Legion Post 435

# Around the Department— Holliston Post 47



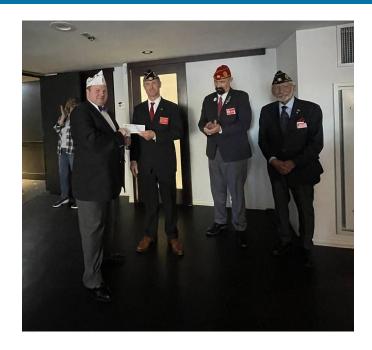
Legion Post 47 Past Commander Steve Bradford presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Travis Ahern the Holliston Town Administrator for his support of Veterans. Travis is leaving to take a new position with the Cannabis control commission.

# Around the Department



The Department Delegation at the Washington Conference with Leading Candidate for National Commander Dan Wiley of Kansas.

# Around the Department



Department Commander Nelson Blake presents a check from the Department of Massachusetts to the Pacific Palisades Post 283 to assist with the disaster recovery.

# Around the Department—ANAVICUS



Along with induction of new members and other business of the breakfast, ANAVICUS likes to keep things light too. There is a joke competition at some point of the breakfast. This year Past Department Commander Kenneth Starks entered the competition and received 3rd place. Congratulations PDC Starks for bringing a spark of fun to all our Legion Comrades!





Start Date	Time	Event	Location
3/12/2025		Legion's Birthday	
4/5/2025	10:00 AM	Department Executive Committee	Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel Marlborough, MA
4/5/2025	3:00 PM	National Commander's Banquet	Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel Marlborough, MA
4/6/2025	10:00 AM	Convention Committee Meeting	Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel Marlborough, MA
5/8/2025		Spring Meetings	Sheraton City Center Indianapolis, IN

# 2025 Membership Standing as of February 27, 2025 90% Goal 3/12/2025

#### **Department Membership Standings 2025 Membership Year**

**District 4 Worcester 87.93%** 

District 7: Suffolk 87.92%

District 3: Hampden/Franklin 87.61%

Hampshire



	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1195	1025	85.77%
	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN/			
3	HAMPSHIRE	3422	2998	87.61%
4	WORCESTER	4432	3897	87.93%
5	MIDDLESEX	3623	3142	86.72%
6	NORFOLK	2319	2005	86.46%
7	SUFFOLK	1142	1004	87.92%
8	ESSEX	2442	2113	86.53%
9	BRISTOL	2496	2045	82.59%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3573	3058	85.59%
297	CAPITOL HILL	423	403	90.77%
462	HEADQUARTERS	1689	704	41.68%
	National Quota	26,756	22,393	84.26%



### Trailblazer, Innovator and "Amazing Grace"



Known as "Amazing Grace," Hopper joined the Naval Reserves in 1943 during World War II and became a key programmer for the Mark I computer, one of the world's first large-scale computers. Her contributions didn't stop there—she was instrumental in developing the COBOL programming language, a foundation for modern computing. She even coined the term "computer bug" after removing a moth from a relay in the Mark I system.

Hopper's remarkable 43-year naval career saw her rise through the ranks, culminating in her promotion to Rear Admiral at the age of 76 by special presidential appoint-

ment. By the time of her passing in 1992, she had received more than 30 honorary doctorates, a naval destroyer was named in her honor, and she was widely celebrated as a mentor, innovator, and leader.

When you make a tribute donation in honor of a woman who inspires you, your generosity will help fund programs that make a meaningful difference in the lives of our nation's heroes. Give online <a href="here">here</a> or text WOMAN to 1-844-940-3450 to donate today.

To learn more about how the ALA Foundation is putting your donation to work, visit <a href="https://www.ALAFoundation.org">www.ALAFoundation.org</a> and click "about us."



#### 2025 Membership Standing as of February 28, 2025

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	190	185	97.4%
	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN			
3	HAMPSHIRE	670	534	79.7%
4	WORCESTER	1037	889	85.7%
5	MIDDLESEX	940	805	85.6%
6	NORFOLK	337	286	84.9%
7	SUFFOLK	103	63	61.2%
8	ESSEX	612	564	92.2%
9	BRISTOL	268	224	83.6%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	765	661	86.4%
462	HEADQUARTERS	184	93	50.5%
	National Quota	5,106	4,304	84.3%



#### SAL National News—The Millennium

Sons of The American Legion — and other interested subscribers — can now get the national SAL enewsletter delivered to their inbox on a monthly basis.

The e-newsletter had been on a bimonthly schedule since May 2020, when it was introduced to replace the print version of the national SAL newsletter. The e-newsletter includes links to news stories, videos and other information about the SAL.

However, in the interest of having a printable version for those interested, the SAL Advisory Committee last fall approved The Millennium, a printable PDF newsletter produced monthly. The Millennium includes meeting dates for the SAL commissions and committees, reports from national vice commanders and commission/committee chairs, historical tidbits and more.

The Millennium will be included in a link in each month's e-newsletter, providing even more content and information for SAL members and other subscribers.

To subscribe, go to <u>Legion.org/newsletters</u> and find the Sons of The American Legion "subscribe" button. You will need to sign into MyLegion in order to subscribe.

Past editions of both the e-newsletter and the Millennium are available at <u>Legion.org/Sons/Newsletters</u>. That page also includes a link to subscribe.



#### 2025 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of February 27, 2024

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	228	208	91.23%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN / HAMPSHIRE	748	569	76.07%
4	WORCESTER	983	820	83.42%
5	MIDDLESEX	1256	1063	84.63%
6	NORFOLK	835	631	75.57%
7	SUFFOLK	196	125	63.78%
8	ESSEX	442	335	75.79%
9	BRISTOL	280	202	72.14%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	790	585	74.05%
	National Goal	5758	4538	78.81%









American Legion

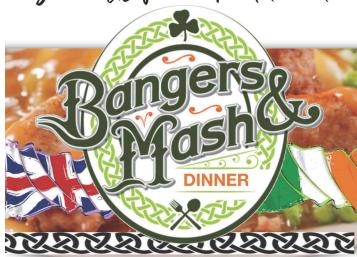
#### Paxton Post 306

885 Pleasant St Paxton, MA

Saturday

March 22 4:30 pm - 7 pm

Join Us for a Traditional



#### Dinner Ticket \$20

For tickets or info: (508) 753-9252

Help us bring the Pony Express



#### **ALR Pony Express Massachusetts June 7, 2025**

All proceeds and sponsorships will go to Veterans and Children 's Foundation



The ride will start from 3 points within the state, then we will converge at a central point, and then all proceed together to the American Legion Convention in Marlborough, MA.

All Chapters are encouraged to participate.

RIDERS

If your chapter would like to be involved, please contact: Bernie 508-873-2426 or Dave 508-801-6379

SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY MAY 10™

MASQUERADE BALL AMERICAN LEGION POST 40



7:00PM COCKTAIL HOUR WITH APPETIZERS

8:00 PM OUR BAND WHISKEY PRINCESS WILL HAVE YOU ON THE DANCE FLOOR TILL 12:00AM

\$20.00 PER PERSON

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE AND THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS POST.





Hosted by
The Vernon Hill Post 435 American Legion
267 Providence Street • Worcester, MA 01607

Sunday, April 6, 2025 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Early Bird Tickets 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm 6 Ticket in Total - Can be Used on 1st 3 Tables

Food for purchase

50/50 Raffle





THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

# DISTRICT 10 ANNUAL GET TOGETHER

50/50 Raffle

65in Flat Screen
TV Raffle



**Basket Raffle** 

150 Raffle Club

SUNDAY | MAY 18TH, 2025 | 12 PM \$20.00

Split Chicken, Baked Potato, Corn on the Cob, Salad and Cake

Bourne Post 230 77 Valley Bars Road Monument Beach, MA 02553

CONTACT JVC RACHEL PERRON
PHONE: (207) 632-2831
EMAIL: RACHELLPERRON@YAHOO.COM

### "Veterans Strengthening America"



#### Massachusetts E-Legionnaire

The Massachusetts E-Legionnaire is the official publication of the Department of Massachusetts American Legion and is published at least 12 times per year

The American Legion Department of Massachusetts, Inc. Room 546-2, State House Boston, MA 02122-1099 email: fmacdonald53@comcast.net

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Francis J. MacDonald, Jr.

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Sr. Vice Commander Scott Connor

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Mitchel Kiel

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#### Sergeant-at-Arms

Robert Desrosiers

#### Photographer

Lisa Borges

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**Alternate National Executive** Committeeman

John Lenotte

#### Service Officer

Mike Whalen Dana Sheehan

#### ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Do you have an article or news announcement to share with the rest of the Department of Massachusetts? If so, please follow these basic guide-lines for submissions.

- Submit your text in Microsoft Word format (.doc) or as a text file (.txt or .rtf). Save your file as the same name as the article, so we can easily keep track of it. Be sure to make it clear who the author is, whether it's you or if you are just forwarding it to us. • WE LOVE ARTICLES WITH PHOTOS, or any other kind of images! Include photos and/or artwork for articles separately (NOT embed-ded in the article) as high resolution (300 dpi, or better) JPGs. Please name these files accordingly so we can track them along with your article. Let us know in your e-mail of any corresponding captions, and/or name of the photographer if necessary.
- Spell check everything! Especially people's names, web addresses, etc. You can help us greatly here by simply running your spell check function in your word processing program.
- E-mail everything directly to us at fmacdonald53@comcast.net no later than the 25th of every month for it to appear in the very next issue. This way we have plenty of time to work with in case we need to clarify anything with you.



#### Want to Subscribe to Mass E-Legionnaire:

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Still receiving correspondence through the U.S. Postal Service? Send the Department office your Name & Address and you will get a hard copy mailed to you.

> The American Legion, Dept. of Mass, Inc. Room 546-2, State House Boston, MA 02133



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