

# THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER

Vol. 6 Issue 24  
DEC. 03, 2025

The American Legion, Department of Maine  
5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727  
[www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) | [legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org) | 207-873-3229  
[www.facebook.com/TALDepartmentofMaine](https://www.facebook.com/TALDepartmentofMaine)



Welcome to the 153rd Edition of The Leadership Ledger. It includes post, department and national reports, leadership training events, upcoming conferences/conventions as well as rules and regulations pertaining to local, state and national laws. The Ledger is available by visiting the Department's website at [mainelegion.org](http://mainelegion.org) under "News & Events" or on the home page. If you have any information to be published in The Leadership Ledger, please forward to Dept. HQ via email at: [legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org)

## District Meetings

*Be Connected • Be Heard • Be Informed*

DECEMBER 2025

**District 2 – Cumberland: Dec. 7**, Westbrook Post 197,  
2:00 p.m., Lunch at 1:00 p.m. Bring Toys for Tots

**District 5 – Oxford: Dec. 17**, Locke Mills Post 68,  
6:00 p.m., District Christmas Party

**District 8 – Sagadahoc: Dec. 8**, Harpswell Post 171,  
5:30 p.m.

**District 16 – Aroostook: Dec. 6**, Presque Isle Post 88,  
12:00 p.m., meal, membership, post reports

## Sweepstakes Raffle Reminder!

Raffle tickets for the Winter Sweepstakes drawing will be mailed shortly.

Please contact Department HQ at 207-873-3229 for assistance. The drawing will be held on January 10. Thank you!



## QUICKLY & EASILY RENEW ONLINE TODAY!

Simply Scan the QR Code with  
the camera on your phone or visit:

[www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew)



## ANNUAL DEPARTMENT OF MAINE MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

January 10, 2026

Jeff's Catering & Event Center, 15 Littlefield Way,  
Brewer, Maine 04412

[View Event Agenda](#)

The annual Mid-Winter Conference of the American Legion, Department of Maine, will be held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, 15 Littlefield Way, Brewer, ME 04412 on Jan. 10, 2026. The Conference will be hosted by Commander Leroy McKenzie and 2nd Vice Commander Ryan Coffin.

**Special Rate for Legion Family for Hotel Reservations:** Holiday Inn: 404 Odlin Rd, Bangor, ME 04401. Phone: 207-947-0101

**Room Rate:** \$129 + sales tax, Microwave, Refrigerator, Coffee/Tea Maker, Elevators, Restaurant, Lounge, Indoor pool.

for reservations. Hotel Reservations are to be made by each individual, as the Department HQ will not be coordinating reservations for this conference. **Deadline:** Jan. 4, 2026.

**Registration Fee:** \$10.00 per person.

Includes unlimited coffee & tea (Regular and Decaf), water all day, and juice, breakfast pastries, and fresh fruits in the morning. This is for The American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Guests that are attending.

**Mid-Winter Conference Lunch Buffet:** \$10 per person (to be paid to Jeff's Catering by noon.)

**Please mail registration fee to:** The American Legion Department of Maine  
5 Verti Drive  
Winslow, ME 04901  
(Notate "MWC" in memo field)

To pay by debit/credit card, [click here](#) or visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org), and select WINTER CONFERENCE

[Click Here to Reserve Your Room](#) or scan the QR code above with your phone.

Please state "American Legion" when calling

drop down menu or scan the QR code, right, with your phone.



For questions, please call Department of Maine HQ at 207-873-3229 or email [legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org)



## COMMANDER'S PROJECT 2025-26

*Department Commander  
Leroy McKenzie asks that each  
Post and Legionnaire support his goal!*

### EMBER'S PAWS OF HOPE

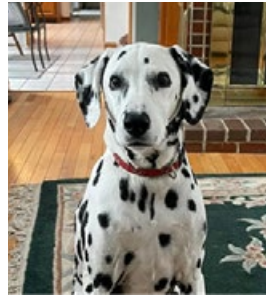


#### EMBER'S PAWS OF HOPE:

A nonprofit organization dedicated to providing emotional and mental support to veterans and first responders through the use of future certified therapy dog(s). Members of our team have a diverse background which include being trained in critical incident stress management and peer support, and we visit fire

stations, police stations, hospitals, and veterans facilities to offer comfort and companionship to those who serve our communities.

**THE ANGEL:** Ember was 9 weeks old when she moved in with Tim Nickels, the goal was to have Ember become a therapy dog. It was discovered that Ember was too attached to Tim but no one knew that would save him later on. Anytime Tim was having a hard day or a bad shift Ember would sit with Tim. Tim was diagnosed with PTSD in 2020, Ember wouldn't leave his side. Ember knew something was up. Tim became suicidal and made attempts to end his life. Ember stopped him at least three times. When the days were dark, Ember wouldn't let him leave without her.



**THE PROJECT:** National American Legion asks Departments to partner with local organizations to support BE THE ONE. Commander McKenzie has chosen to partner with Ember's Paws of Hope (EPOH), an organization committed to provide, comfort, support, and emotional healing to veterans and first responders through the unconditional love and companionship of therapy dog. EPOH is dedicated to enhancing the wellbeing of those who serve our communities and country, offering a source of solace in times of stress, trauma and hardship.

**THE PLAN:** We are asking all American Legion Posts and/or members to financially contribute to Ember's Paws of Hope. This new 501-c-3 needs funding to provide more trained therapy dogs and make more appearances to provide physical, emotional and social well-being to others in need.

**Donations can be made to The American Legion Dept. of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727. Please place in the memo line of the check: Ember's Paws of Hope or Commander's Project 2025-2026**

If you would like to donate with a Debit or Credit Card, please call 207-873-3229 or visit: [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and click on the DONATE button.

## Show Your Support to Maine Veterans by Donating Today & Make Your Name Part of American Legion History

*Deadline for Submission May 15, 2026*

<b>DONATE \$25</b>	<b>DONATE \$50</b>	<b>DONATE \$100</b>
Receive Challenge Coin & Name in Yearbook	Receive Challenge Coin, Lobster Lapel Pin & Name in Yearbook	Receive Challenge Coin, Lobster Lapel Pin, Name in Yearbook, & 2026 Convention Yearbook



Maine American Legion BE THE ONE Challenge Coin, left, and  
Maine American Legion Lobster Lapel Pin, right.



Become a sponsor today by donating to the Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Program and make your name part of The American Legion history! Your name will be listed in our 2026 Maine American Legion Yearbook made available in print and online in digital format by visiting [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org).

To donate with Debit/Credit Card, click the button below, or simply scan the QR code with your phone. You may also visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and click on the Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Donations Welcomed button. If donating by check, please make payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine earmarked "Yearbook Program" and mail to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

For more information, please call 207-873-3229 Ext. 2 or email [rachael@mainelegion.org](mailto:rachael@mainelegion.org).



**Q. Who was the only American woman to be taken as a POW during the Vietnam War?**



# ★ DONATIONS ★

## The American Legion Department of Maine

VA&R

Helen J Hanlon.....\$200

*Thank You!*

### *Congratulations* to the Following Posts for Reaching 100% Membership!

District 1: Kennebunkport Post 159

District 9: Augusta Post 205

District 12: Blue Hill Post 85

District 13: Newport Post 105

District 13: East Corinth Post 115

*\*As of 12/3/25*

## Army-Navy Game: Dec. 13

The American Legion is proud to be an Associate Sponsor of Army-Navy Game presented by USAA – the greatest rivalry in sports.



## Auto-Renew Notice:

If you auto-renewed your 2026 membership after January 1, 2025, please note that your 2026 membership will auto-renew in December 2025 or January 2026.

For more information, please call Department HQ at 207-873-3229 Ext. 2. Thank you.

## Remember to Submit Award Nominations!

Award applications are available at [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) under [FORMS/APPLICATIONS](#) for Public Service, Membership, Post Excellence, Americanism, Children & Youth, History, Humanitarian, Individual Recognition, and more. **Members are encouraged to view available awards and submit nominations when applicable.**

[Download Award Forms/Applications](#)

[View Award Deadlines](#)

## Maine American Legion Scholarships

Scholarship applications are available for the Department of Maine **Children and Youth Scholarships**, the **Daniel E. Lambert Memorial Scholarship**, and the **James V. Day Scholarship**.



Any post, individual or school who would like to receive a copy may obtain one by visiting [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) under [FORMS/APPLICATIONS](#) or by contacting us via email at [legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org) or by phone at 207-873-3229.

## High School Oratorical Scholarship Program



Thomas College  
180 West River Rd.  
Waterville, ME 04901

**February 14, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.**

**\*\*All contestants should plan to arrive between 8 and 8:30 a.m.\*\***

Snow Date: February 21, 2026

All pertinent information regarding the HS Oratorical Scholarship Program has been submitted [via email](#) and **USPS Mail** to all schools and post adjutants & commanders. **Applications must be received at the Post level by Dec. 6. At the District level, applications for the WINNER ONLY representing your District should be submitted to Department HQ by Jan. 24 for the State Competition to be held Feb. 14.**

[Click Here to View/Download Oratorical Application, Brochures, Flyers, etc.](#)

**SAVE THE DATE**  
National Wreaths  
Across America Day  
**December 13**



## 2026 Membership Renewal Schedule

Cutoff Dates	Renewal Mail Dates
May 14, 2025	July 1-8, 2025
September 10, 2025	October 4-10, 2025
October 15, 2025	November 8-14, 2025
December 10, 2025	January 3-9, 2026
February 11, 2026	March 1-8, 2026
April 8, 2026	May 2-8, 2026

Transmittals not received by the cutoff date may not prevent a subsequent renewal notice from being delivered at or around the renewal date. Please note, renewals transmitted and received by the cutoff (which is also a National Target Date) will be updated prior to printing renewal notices, assuming they can be successfully scanned. Membership that must be hand-keyed (new members and renewals that can't be scanned) will take longer to process. Please transmit as early and as often as possible in advance of the Target Dates to help avoid delays in processing.

## 2025-2026 National Membership Target Dates

Early Bird/NEF Kickoff	September 10, 2025	50%
Fall Meetings	October 15, 2025	55%
Veterans Day	November 13, 2025	65%
Pearl Harbor Day	December 10, 2025	75%
Mid-Winter	January 14, 2026	80%
President's Day	February 11, 2026	85%
Legion Birthday	March 11, 2026	90%
Children & Youth	April 8, 2026	95%
Armed Forces Day	May 13, 2026	100%
Delegate Strength	30 Days Prior to National Convention	

Target dates fall on the second Wednesday of the month unless there is a holiday on that day or at the beginning of that week. The October Target Date is moved a week to allow departments to participate in Fall Meetings without affecting membership processing for that week. Since Veterans Day falls on a Monday, the November target date will be on a Thursday.



SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION

**Squadron Forms/  
Applications**

[Print a SAL Membership Application](#)

[Squadron Officers Form](#)

[Consolidated Squadron Report - fillable](#)

[Annual Squadron Data Report - fillable](#)

[Click Here for the Latest Membership Report](#)

## District Awards

**American Legion Jacket:** Awarded to District Commanders who reach **100% by December 31, 2025**.

**American Legion Ball Cap:** Awarded to District Commanders who reach **100% by March 11, 2026**.

**Highest District Overall Membership Percentage (1st Place - \$500 | 2nd Place - \$250):**

Awarded to District Commanders who reach the highest overall membership percentage 30 days prior to National Convention (**July 29, 2026**).

**Highest District Overall Membership Renewal Percentage (1st Place - \$500 | 2nd Place - \$250):**

Awarded to District Commanders who reach the highest overall membership renewal rate 30 days prior to National Convention (**July 29, 2026**).

*All District Incentive Awards must be verified by the District Adjutant.*

**For more Information [Click Here](#) and find:  
2025-26 Membership Goals & Awards Manual**

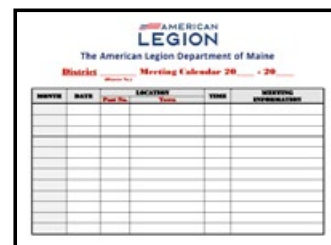
## Membership **IMPACT** Reports

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The following monthly reports located on: [www.legion.org/about/reports/membership-impact](http://www.legion.org/about/reports/membership-impact) provide a summary of membership, participation and volunteerism making an impact in the lives of veterans, families and communities. American Legion Posts can share the many ways Legionnaires are making a difference in their communities by [submitting consolidated post reports online](#). To visit the impact American Legion posts made throughout the year, visit: [www.legion.org/about/reports](http://www.legion.org/about/reports) or [www.legion.org/about/reports/membership-impact](http://www.legion.org/about/reports/membership-impact)

== ★ == **Attention: District** == ★ ==  
**Commanders & Adjutants**

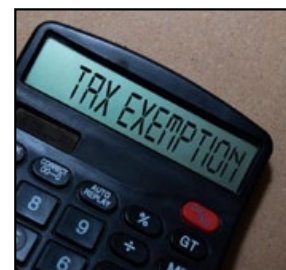
**District Meeting  
Calendar Forms  
Available Online!**

[Click Here](#) or visit:  
[www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org)  
under Forms/Application



## Is Your Post Utilizing Its' Sales Tax Exemption?

All Legion Posts in the state of Maine qualify for Sales Tax Exemption. If your Post currently does not have a Certificate for Sales Tax Exemption, please call Dept. Headquarters for assistance at 207-873-3229 so we can send you a packet containing detailed instructions on how to obtain this status.



## Received Your 2025 Labels and Would Like to Make a Donation?

Label donations can be made online by [Clicking Here](#), scanning the QR code with your phone, or by visiting [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and clicking on the "Donate" button. *Please be sure to notate "Labels" in the notes so we can identify your donation.*



To pay by check, mail to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727

**Label Donations over \$50 receive special donor gift(s) as our thanks to you:**

**Donate \$50-99** and receive a 2025 Distinguished Donor Lapel Pin

**Donate \$100-149** and receive a 2025 Distinguished Donor Lapel Pin, AND the Challenge Coin

**Donate \$150 or more** and receive a 2025 Distinguished Donor Lapel Pin, a Challenge Coin, AND a Lobster Lapel Pin!

.....

**Distinguished Donor Pins for 2022, 23, & 24 are Also Available Upon Request at \$50 Each or 3 for \$100.**

*Limited Supply Available!*

## PAST COMMANDERS CLUB



**PAST  
COMMANDERS  
CLUB**

Please note that the annual dues for Past Commanders Club are \$5.00 per member. [Click Here](#) or visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) under Forms/Application to download an application. *If you haven't paid your Past Commanders Club dues yet, please do so today!*

[See Page 8 for PCC Form](#)

**\*\*Attention District Commanders and Post Adjutants\*\***

**[MyLegion.org](http://MyLegion.org) training lessons are available at State Headquarters.**

If you are interested in learning how to use the site, please call The American Legion, Department of Maine Headquarters at 207-873-3229 Ext. 2 or email [rachael@mainelegion.org](mailto:rachael@mainelegion.org) to set up an appointment. Training lessons last between 1-2 hours.



**Celebrate the nation's semi-quincentennial by taking part in The American Legion's USA 250 Challenge**

[Click Here to Register](#)

**ABOUT THE CHALLENGE:** The American Legion Family is honoring the nation's 250th birthday with a commitment to embracing physical activity, supporting mental health and serving its communities. The USA 250 Challenge encourages American Legion Family members, other veterans and all Americans to participate, and even raise additional money to support our disabled veterans and families in need through The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.

The year-long initiative offers three categories — fitness, mental wellness and community service — in order to engage more American Legion Family members and others to participate.

Participants may engage in one, two or all three activities as an individual or as part of a team like an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron and/or an American Legion Riders chapter.

For a \$30 registration fee, participants will receive their choice of a USA 250 Challenge tech shirt. The proceeds will go to the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF).

[Click Here or See Pgs. 9-11 to View the Flyer](#) for Ideas on How to Participate



**NEW USA 250 Challenge tech shirts for registered participants. Participants who register for The American Legion's USA 250 Challenge will receive a new tech shirt!**

## Honor Flight Maine

All Maine Veterans interested in going on a trip should go to [HonorFlightMaine.org](http://HonorFlightMaine.org) to apply. The site also contains applications for those wishing to be Guardian for a Veteran and for Volunteers. Honor Flight Maine is an all volunteer organization.



**Purchase an American flag by The American Legion**

[SHOP NOW](#)





## The American Legion Style Guide Standards & Best Practices

### Appropriate Use of American Legion Frequently Used Terms

*In most circumstances, The American Legion follows AP style, as outlined in the latest editions of The Associated Press Stylebook and Webster's New World College Dictionary.*

**Air Force** U.S. Air Force or Air Force. Do not abbreviate USAF. In 1941, Congress established the U.S. Army Air Forces. Prior to that, the air arm was called the U.S. Army Air Corps. The U.S. Air Force was created in 1947.

**Army** U.S. Army or Army. Do not abbreviate USA.

**battalion** Capitalize when referring to a numbered group: the 10th Battalion.

**Coast Guard** U.S. Coast Guard or Coast Guard. Do not abbreviate USCG.

**district** Spell out numbers fewer than 10: the Department of Indiana's Third District, the 10th District.

**half-mast, half-staff** On ships and at naval stations ashore, flags are flown at half-mast. Elsewhere ashore, they are flown half-staff.

**Marines** U.S. Marines, the Marines, the Marine Corps. Do not abbreviate USMC. Do not refer to Marines as soldiers. Use troops if a generic term is needed.

**National Guard** Capitalize when referring to U.S. or state-level forces: the National Guard, the Guard, the Indiana National Guard. When referring to an individual, use National Guardsman or guardsman.

**Navy** U.S. Navy or the Navy. Do not abbreviate USN.

**special forces** Capitalize when referring to U.S. Army Special Forces, also known as Green Berets. Others, such as Navy SEALs and Army Rangers, should be called special operations forces.

**United States** Abbreviate on second reference: the U.S., U.S. forces. US permitted in headlines.

**USS** United States Ship. Do not spell out or use periods, and drop on second reference: USS Nimitz, the Nimitz.

**VA** The Department of Veterans Affairs. VA on second reference (no periods). Do not use the VA.

**Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation** VA&R acceptable on second reference.

## Training Tuesdays

The last Tuesday of each month American Legion National Headquarters staff will present 60 to 90-minute sessions on topics aimed at post commanders and adjutants. Each session will be recorded and made available for later viewing.

[Click Here to Register and  
Watch Previously Recorded Sessions](#)

## The Maine Legionnaire

[Click Here to read the latest issue](#)



### Submission Deadlines

**February 2026 Issue**  
Deadline: January 23, 2026

**May 2026 Issue**  
Deadline: April 17, 2026

## The Season to Give Blood

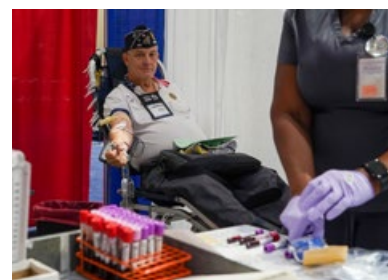
American Legion's holiday blood drive kicks off Nov. 28. The American Legion's annual Holiday Blood Donor Drive begins Nov. 28 and runs through Dec. 31. During this time, American Legion Family members are encouraged to give blood and host blood drives as part of the American Legion Blood Donor Program.

If your post wants to host a blood drive this holiday season, visit the [Red Cross blood drive registration page](#).

To donate blood, visit:

- American Red Cross, [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)
- American Association of Blood Banks, [aabb.org](http://aabb.org)

[Click Here to Learn More](#)



# BE THE ONE

**Dec. 20 Training has been CANCELED**

## MILITARY TRIVIA

**A.** Dr. Eleanor Ardel Vietti was a missionary doctor working in a leper colony. She was the first American woman to become a POW in Vietnam when she was captured by guerrillas near Ban Me Thuot in 1962 and her whereabouts or remains have never been found.

## Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) No Cost LegionCare

Your valued status as a member of the Legion Family makes you eligible for LegionCare.



Current members only are entitled to the \$5,000 No-Cost-To-You Accident Insurance Protection. If your membership was expired at any point, you will have to sign up again to receive coverage.

[Click Here To Learn More and Sign Up](#)

**Save money and time when you ship through American Legion partner Ship Thrifty.**



As the holidays approach, many of us are preparing to send gifts to loved ones and to our servicemembers stationed far from home. Care packages remain one of the most meaningful ways to lift morale and show appreciation for those who serve. When you create shipping labels through Ship Thrifty, a portion of each shipment is donated back to The American Legion. Just type **Legion** in the affiliate code at signup or use this link: [shipthrifty.com/rf/legion](http://shipthrifty.com/rf/legion).

[Click Here To Learn More About Ship Thrifty](#)



USAA is proud to be the Preferred provider of Insurance and Financial Services to The American Legion. Please visit [usaa.com/legion](http://usaa.com/legion) or call 877-699-2654.

AMERICAN  
**LEGION**



THE OFFICIAL MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PROVIDER  
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

An advertisement for Wellcare Medicare Advantage. It features a photo of a smiling woman in a red American Legion uniform. Text says "Veterans deserve Medicare Advantage &amp; more". Below that, it states "As The Official Medicare Advantage Provider of The American Legion, Wellcare delivers additional coverage that works right alongside your VA benefits. The coverage you need &amp; more". At the bottom, it says "Don't wait to enroll. The Medicare Annual Enrollment Period is October 15 to December 7. Click or scan to call now." and provides the phone number "877-880-8194 (TTY: 711) 8 a.m.-8 p.m., 7 days a week". The American Legion and Wellcare logos are also present.

*The Annual Enrollment Period runs from October 15th through December 7th and we're here to help you understand your options as well as select the plan that best suits your needs.*

Wellcare is honored and excited to be the exclusive Medicare Advantage partner to The American Legion. [Wellcare Medicare Advantage plans](#) work alongside your VA coverage to give you more of the things you both want and deserve. More access. More benefits. More support. With clear answers to every question you may ask, and a willingness to help in any way we can. It's more of everything you need with no extra costs.

If you have Medicare and Medicaid, limited income, recently lost employer coverage, are turning 65 or you've just moved, you may be eligible for one of many qualifying events that allow you to enroll now.

For straight answers and help evaluating your coverage options, call 877-880-8196 (TTY: 711) 8 a.m.-8 p.m., 7 days a week, scan the QR code or [click here](#).



## Coverage You Can Trust, Service You Deserve.

The #1 Rated Home Warranty in America!

Exclusive Discount for Legionnaire Members: Get \$225 OFF + 3 FREE Bonus Months!

[Sign Up Today!](#)

An advertisement for Liberty HomeGuard. It features a photo of a two-story house. Text says "As an American Legion Member, here's what you'll receive: \$225 OFF Per Year!". Below that, a list of benefits includes: "Up to 7 FREE bonus months", "FREE limited roof leak protection", "Fast, dependable repairs on covered systems and appliances", "24/7 claims support with real-time tracking in our mobile app", and "Service rooted in integrity, built for peace of mind". At the bottom, it says "30-Day Money-Back Guarantee". The Liberty HomeGuard logo is on the left.



## DEPARTMENT OF MAINE THE AMERICAN LEGION

### PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

It is with great pride and pleasure that we the membership of Post # \_\_\_\_\_ submit the names of all our living Past Commanders for membership to the Past Commanders Club. Along with the names, we have enclosed the annual dues of **\$5.00** per member with the understanding that this will continue to provide two (2) \$500.00 scholarships. The recipient must be the son/daughter, grandson/granddaughter of a member of The American Legion.

Membership in the Past Commanders Club goes from January 1 to December 31 of each year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Post Adjutant

#### PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

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#### SUBMIT TO:

The American Legion, Dept. of Maine  
5 Verti Drive  
Winslow, Maine 04901-0727

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
PAST COMMANDERS CLUB**

*Past Commanders Club form is also available in fillable format by visiting [www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.php](http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.php)*





## American Legion Family USA 250 Challenge

The American Legion Family is honoring the nation's 250th birthday with a commitment to embracing physical activity, supporting mental health and serving its communities. The USA 250 Challenge encourages American Legion Family members, other veterans and all Americans to participate, and even raise additional money to support our disabled veterans and families in need through The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.

American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere launched the USA 250 Challenge on July 3, 2025. The year-long initiative offers three categories — fitness, mental wellness and community service — in order to engage more American Legion Family members and others to participate.

Participants may engage in one, two or all three activities as an individual or as part of a team like an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron and/or an American Legion Riders chapter.

For a \$30 registration fee, participants will receive their choice of a USA 250 Challenge tech shirt. The proceeds will go to the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF).

Click here to [REGISTER](#)

Since its inception in 1925 as the American Legion Endowment Fund, the foundation has assisted millions of veterans, their families and children in need. In 2019, the American Legion Endowment Fund began doing business as the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation to more clearly state who benefits from tax-deductible donations to the separate non-profit 501c3 element of the nation's largest veterans organization.

# The USA 250 Challenge – What Can I do? \*

## AMERICANISM

### Promoting patriotism, civic education, and national pride

- Host a 250-minute patriotic concert
- Plant 250 flags around town
- Distribute 250 American flags to local homes
- Paint a community mural with 250 symbols
- Host 250 minutes of civic education
- Light 250 candles in a remembrance ceremony
- Display 250 historical photos
- Launch a 250-follower challenge on social media
- Have a 250-question trivia night
- Display 250 stars with names of fallen heroes
- Share 250 reasons to love America online
- Conduct a 250-minute POW/MIA vigil
- Post 250 American facts leading to July 4
- Host 250 flag-folding demonstrations
- Invite 250 youth for a flag retirement ceremony
- Decorate 250 gravestones for Memorial Day
- Visit 250 senior veterans
- Display 250 coins from history
- Play 250 seconds of taps each evening
- Host a 250-step honor march
- Display 250 state flags from history
- Present 250 flag etiquette cards
- Lead 250 youth in a unity pledge
- Conduct a 250-vote mock election
- Share 250 quotes from the Founders
- Post 250 patriotic memes
- Offer 250 military discounts

## VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

### Supporting veterans, caregivers, and their well-being

- Organize a 250-veteran parade
- Hold a 250-donor blood drive
- Collect 250 care packages for deployed troops
- Sponsor 250 free meals for veterans
- Collect 250 hygiene kits for homeless vets
- Offer 250-minute veteran oral history marathon
- Deliver 250 thank-you cards to veterans
- Create 250 buddy check calls
- Share 250 stories from NM veterans
- Deliver 250 thank-you gifts to first responders
- Gather 250 military patches for a display
- Showcase 250 photos of Legionnaires in action
- Host a 250-military unit reunion
- Offer 250 free rides to VA appointments
- Promote 250 veteran businesses
- Recognize 250 women veterans
- Display 250 dog tags to honor service
- Record 250-second veteran stories
- Fund 250 hours of therapy support
- Celebrate 250 birthdays of youth & vets

- Record 250 intergenerational interviews
- Gift 250 lap quilts
- Highlight 250 women in uniform

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

### Engaging youth and supporting families

- Host a 250-kid youth sports day
- Assemble 250 blessing bags for shelters
- Donate 250 books to a school or library
- Have 250 rocks painted by schoolkids
- Create a 250-penny drive for youth programs
- Host a patriotic coloring contest with 250 entries
- Run a 250-student essay contest
- Host a 250-youth scavenger hunt
- Print 250 coloring sheets
- Offer 250 youth flag pins
- Invite 250 youth to a flag retirement
- Run a 250-word essay contest
- Create 250 sidewalk chalk tributes
- Lead 250-second youth civics lessons
- Build 250 Lego flags
- Plant 250 sunflowers at schools
- Present 250 student flags
- Lead 250-step PE challenges
- Create 250 paper chains of patriotism
- Encourage 250 students to write to vets
- Host a 250-student Constitution Day
- Offer 250 student leadership awards
- Host a 250-point spelling bee
- Display 250 posters from students
- Build a 250-block community puzzle
- Launch a 250-mile classroom walkathon
- Share 250 student veteran tributes
- Craft 250 star pins
- Run a 250-youth citizenship workshop
- Invite 250 parents to Post open house
- Create 250 student art cards
- Sponsor 250 youth meals
- Host a 250-family carnival
- Sponsor 250 scouts
- Offer 250 music lessons or instruments
- Deliver 250 educational posters
- Organize a 250-item backpack drive
- Offer \$250 in school supplies per school
- Post 250 "Know Your Rights" cards
- Fund 250-mile trip for students
- Coordinate 250 volunteer youth hours
- Share 250 reasons to serve
- Host a 250-person youth talent show
- Donate 250 flags to classrooms
- Display 250 crayons for freedom wall
- Offer 250 student merit badges
- Build 250 classroom kits
- Invite 250 homeschoolers to Legion event

## **NATIONAL SECURITY**

### **Readiness, response, and safety**

- Host 250 minutes of service challenge
- Organize 250 hours of community service
- Deliver 250 thank-you gifts to first responders
- Conduct 250 hours of VSO outreach
- Host 250-minute open house tours
- Display 250 military rank insignias
- Promote 250 veteran businesses
- Send 250 cards to deployed NM troops
- Offer 250 free rides to VA appointments

### **Post and District-level celebrations, fundraisers, and membership drives**

- Host a 250-person BBQ
- Perform 250 random acts of kindness
- Serve 250 hot dogs at a picnic
- Display 250 Legion memories on a wall
- Create a 250-member goal
- Print 250 custom 250th t-shirts
- Give away 250 souvenir cups
- Host a 250-slice pie bake-off
- Sell 250 raffle tickets
- Host 250 minutes of karaoke
- Create a 250-themed bingo night
- Decorate with 250 red, white & blue balloons
- Make a 250-bead necklace craft night
- Host a 250-follower photo contest
- Create a 250-brick fundraiser for a memorial
- Install a 250-light display
- Display 250 flags along your building
- Organize a 250-minute dance
- Make a 250-word patriotic poem board
- Host a 250-minute movie marathon
- Give away 250 bracelets
- Have a 250-point trivia game
- Prepare 250 cupcakes
- Post 250 names of members on a wall
- Launch a 250-follower campaign
- Decorate with 250 streamers
- Host a 250-guest open house
- Display 250 Legion patches
- Create a 250-names legacy wall
- Host 250-minute dominoes tournament
- Serve 250 servings of chili or stew
- Sell 250 commemorative coins
- Paint a mural with 250 brush strokes per student
- Host a 250-dollar silent auction
- Award 250 service pins
- Collect 250 old Post newsletters
- Share 250 veteran quotes
- Decorate your post with 250 stars
- Set a goal for 250 volunteer hours

## **Preserving heritage and promoting The American Legion legacy**

- Fundraise \$250
- Plan a 250-mile motorcycle tour
- Conduct 250-mile Freedom Ride
- Host a District 250 Night of Honor
- Send 250 letters to schools
- Print 250 commemorative calendars
- Compile 250 Legion essays in a booklet
- Print 250 memory books
- Host a 250-minute podcast
- Record 250 family military legacies
- Launch a 250-second history shorts
- Share 250-second videos from Posts
- Host a 250-light tribute event
- Create a Department of Maine 250 Honor Roll
- Sell 250 branded lapel pins
- Offer 250 legacy bricks
- Display 250 family service photos
- Make a 250-honor coin display
- Launch a "250 Strong" Legion campaign
- Partner for 250 business flags
- Hang 250 ribbons of remembrance
- Collect 250 letters from alumni
- Add 250 names to a memorial plaque
- Print 250 posters for statewide use
- Launch a 250 seconds of unity challenge
- Send 250 email tributes
- Issue 250th anniversary medals
- Design 250-badge scout patch
- Compile 250 Post newsletters
- Host a 250-mile American history tour
- Make a 250-Year Timeline Wall
- Conduct 250-minute strategic planning
- Distribute 250 "How to Join" kits
- Give out 250 "I Served" stickers
- Celebrate 250 Legion birthdays
- Hold a 250-minute livestream
- Send 250 thank-you texts to volunteers
- Create 250-minute legacy video
- Sponsor 250 wreaths for holidays
- Design 250 patches for riders
- Mail 250 invitations to alumni

\*Ideas compiled by Department of New Mexico and  
National American Legion





**Wreaths Across America in Maine Honors Veterans and Their Families  
at Maine Statehouse Ceremony**

American Legion of Maine Post 20 Brunswick in cooperation with Wreaths Across America (Maine) will be hosting officials, dignitaries, and special guests, at the annual Wreaths Across America Statehouse ceremonies Monday December 8th at 12:00 noon, inside at the State of Maine statehouse complex Hall of Flags.

A 36" live, balsam wreath with flags representing each branch of the military, and a POW/MIA flag will be put on display at the Statehouse. This wreath represents each branch of the armed forces and honors the sacrifices of our nation's military while celebrating their love of country, community, and family

Ceremonies like this will take place the same day in each state across the country, marking the beginning of local efforts to place remembrance wreaths at the headstones of fallen veterans. National Wreaths Across America Day takes place this year on Saturday, December 13, 2025.

**WHEN:** Monday, Dec. 8, 2025 Ceremony begins at 12:00 noon

**WHERE:** Maine State House Hall of Flags.

**WHO:** Keynote Speaker...Commander Amy Hope Meuchel Commander VFW of Maine.

For more information about covering this event, please contact:

Post 20 Brunswick American Legion of Maine (207) 721-1172  
or

Richard at (207) 240-5552 [moto2646@gmail.com](mailto:moto2646@gmail.com)

###



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HANUKKAH!



### Suggested Items

- Shampoo
- Combs
- Body Wash
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Shaving Cream
- Razors
- Puzzle Books
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Lotion
- Note Pads
- Pens/Pencils
- Socks
- Playing Cards



## 5th Annual Christmas Stockings & Hanukkah Dreidels for Veterans

American Legion Post #126 Vassalboro needs your help to fill 250 Christmas Stockings and Hanukkah Dreidels for Veterans at Togus.

You can thank a veteran by donating personal care products to go in the Christmas Stockings.

Items can be dropped off at 860 Main St. Vassalboro and Connected Credit Union at 12 Monument St. Winslow by Friday, December 5, 2025.

### For more info contact:

Tom Richards, Commander or Jim Kilbride, Adjutant  
PO Box 112 North Vassalboro, ME 04962  
207-616-3148

Meets 4th Monday of the Month:  
5:00 pm at St. Bridget Center