

THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER



Welcome to the 81st 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 www.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 Department HQ via email at: legionme@mainelegion.org.

Let's Get Word Out to Our Veterans!



In honor of the New Year, ask a Veteran to JOIN Maine American Legion!



Have them Scan the QR Code with the camera on their phone or visit: www.mainelegion.org

QUICKLY & EASILY RENEW ONLINE TODAY!

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

www.legion.org/renew



Click [HERE](#) for More Information or go to: www.legion.org/benefits

WINTER CONFERENCE

January 14, 2023

Jeff's Catering & Event Center
15 Littlefield Way, Brewer 04412
[Hotel Reservation and Registration](#)

[2023 MWC Agenda](#)

[Guest Speaker - Dr. Ruth Moore](#)

[Directions to Jeff's Catering & Event Center](#)

See pages 8-10 Or go to:

<https://mainelegion.org/pages/news-events/winter-conference.php>



The American Legion, Department of Maine

[High School Oratorical Scholarship Program](#)

Thomas College

180 West River Rd., Waterville, ME

February 11, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Snow Date: February 18, 2023

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please call Department Headquarters at 207-873-3229 for details.

[Department of Maine HS Oratorical Scholarship Application](#)

[Department of Maine Oratorical Brochure](#)

[2023 Oratorical Rules Brochure](#)

[Oratorical Promotional Brochure - National](#)

Martin Luther King Day

In observance of Martin Luther King Day, American Legion State Headquarters will be closed on Monday, January 16th. Please plan accordingly.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Jan. 4, 2023

Dear American Legion Family Members and Friends,



The American Legion's impact and influence on communities, states and nation is difficult to completely assess. Across the nation, American Legion members are making a difference in their communities, often one veteran or family member at a time.

One area of particular importance is the support of children through our youth programs and scholarships. The groundwork for these programs is under way now. Registration for American Legion Baseball will begin soon. Posts, districts and departments will soon be preparing for their oratorical contests, Boys State sessions, air rifle competitions, Junior Law Cadet programs and many others.

The new year also is the harbinger of the start of scholarship season.

[The American Legion's Legacy Scholarship](#) provides college funding to children of post-9/11 veterans who died on active duty, or those who have a combined VA disability rating of 50% or greater. The application period opened Jan. 1 and will close on April 1.

Since the needs-based scholarship was created in 2004, it has helped children of our nation's heroes afford college. It would not be possible without the dedication of our American Legion Riders or the kindness of our donors.

Simply put: The American Legion Legacy Scholarship changes lives.

For example, [Nate Smith is pursuing an engineering degree](#) at Virginia Tech. The 2021 recipient is the son of Shaun Smith, who served in the Navy for 24 years. He suffered back injuries and has post-traumatic stress disorder from his service.

"Veterans have already done so much for our country," Nate said. "The fact they're even providing for me further into college is amazing to me because I feel they've done enough for me, but they've continued to want to serve people. And that's amazing."

Reese Reiling, who is pursuing a master's at UMass-Boston, qualified for the scholarship due to her dad's 80% VA disability rating. She is grateful for the donors.

"I would have to give the biggest thank you from the bottom of my heart," [she said late last year](#). "Without the scholarship, I'm not sure how I would be able to achieve a work-life balance. Having a full-time job on top of this would make it really hard to

not only finish on time but also finish the research I'm wanting to do. It's a big weight off my back."

Let's continue on this important legacy in support of our veterans and their children. Consider [a donation here](#) and be sure to encourage young people in your community to apply ([details here](#)) so they have an opportunity to receive this benefit.

National Commander
Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola

Kirk Thurston Department of Maine Commander's Project





Operation Reboot Outdoors

Support the American Legion Commander's Project!

Please send and make all donations payable to:
American Legion Dept of Maine
5 Verti Drive - Winslow, Maine 04901.

Remember to earmark for Commanders Project O.R.O.

Operation ReBoot Outdoors invites you to join in their Mission to provide outdoor recreational therapy to Veterans, service members, and law enforcement personnel who struggle with trauma from war or traumatic events serving our nation and our communities. Operation ReBoot Outdoors shows these heroes they can find purpose after service through the outdoors as well as empowerment in camaraderie. We hope you will be the one to join our Mission to stop the high percentage of suicides that plague our families, community, and country.

We hope that you will "*Be the One*" to reach out to a veteran and to support Operation Reboot Outdoors!

MILITARY TRIVIA

Q: What were the two "First" things in Naval Aviation that Eugene B. Ely performed in 1910 & 1911?

~ Submitted by Dwayne Hatfield, Mars Hill Post 118



AMERICAN LEGION WELCOMES ‘VICTORIES FOR VETERANS’ IN BUDGET AGREEMENT



The American Legion

Dec. 23, 2022

The head of the nation’s largest veterans organization commended Congress for what The American Legion considers “victories for veterans” in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal 2023, which passed the House of Representatives Dec. 23.

Earlier this month, American Legion National Commander Vincent “Jim” Troiola, along with other VSO leaders, sent a letter to congressional leadership urging them to pass a full year funding package and avoid additional stop gap measures that could impact VA’s ability to provide services to veterans.

“We are pleased to see that Congress has not only reached an agreement on the funding measure but also included important provisions that support America’s veterans,” Troiola said. “The American Legion has made the prevention of veteran suicide our top priority and this budget designates an annual ‘Buddy Check’ week, in which peer wellness checks will be emphasized throughout the Department of Veterans Affairs. [The American Legion has long believed in buddy checks](#) and the effectiveness of outreach to veterans who may be experiencing a crisis. We recognize that Buddy Check Week alone will not solve veteran suicide but we do believe that it will raise awareness and save lives.”

Troiola pointed to additional provisions in the budget that were part of The American Legion’s legislative agenda. Among them is the expansion of VA health care to all remaining World War II veterans. They will now have access to hospital care, medical services and nursing home care.

“Delegates to our national convention called for this inclusion [in a resolution](#) which they passed unanimously in 2017,” Troiola said. “These men and women responded to an existential threat and were deemed the ‘Greatest Generation,’ largely because of their service. The American Legion will always remember their sacrifice and we are pleased that World War II veterans now have access to benefits that they have absolutely earned.”

Also included in the budget is an extension of the Special Immigrant Visa program for our Afghan allies, many of whom are still endangered by the Taliban. Troiola said that The American Legion has been publicly advocating for visas to be awarded to Afghan and Iraqi combat translators since 2018.

“By allocating an additional 4,000 visas, our country

sends a message to the world that America does not forget its allies,” Troiola explained. “We simply cannot turn our backs on those who stood shoulder-to-shoulder with us in combat. Some translators have saved American lives. They have already been through a strict vetting process but they are targeted by terrorists simply because they cooperated with our mission.”

“With the passage of the historic PACT Act this summer, Congress is closing 2022 with some meaningful victories for veterans,” Troiola said.

VA TO BEGIN PROCESSING ALL PACT ACT CLAIMS JAN. 1

The American Legion

Dec. 29, 2022

On Dec. 29, the [Department of Veterans Affairs announced](#) that starting Jan. 1, 2023, it will begin processing PACT Act benefit claims for all veterans and their survivors.

Since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law on Aug. 10, more than 213,000 have applied for PACT Act-related benefits. And more than 959,000 veterans have received VA’s new toxic exposure screenings, with nearly 39% reporting a concern of exposure.

“We at VA are ready to process these claims and deliver PACT Act-related care and benefits to toxic exposed veterans and their survivors,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough in the release. “To all veterans and survivors: don’t wait, apply now – we will get you the care and benefits you deserve.”

Jan. 1 is the earliest date that VA will have both the authorities and capabilities necessary to fully process all PACT Act claims.

While VA did not have the capabilities to begin fully processing PACT Act claims for all veterans until Jan. 1, 2023, VA has been processing PACT Act benefits claims for eligible terminally ill veterans since Dec. 12. VA will continue to prioritize processing claims for terminally ill veterans, veterans with toxic exposure-related cancers, veterans experiencing homelessness, veterans older than 85 years old, veterans experiencing financial hardship, and Medal of Honor and Purple Heart recipients. In most cases, if a veteran files a claim within the first year after the president signed the PACT Act, the effective date for benefits will be Aug. 10, 2022.

For more information about the PACT Act and how to file a claim, visit [va.gov/PACT](#). If veterans, their families, caregivers or survivors have questions about PACT Act and wish to speak with someone to help, they may call 1-800-MyVA411 at any time.

TECHNOLOGY 101

is a resource for those who wish to learn basic skills with the powerful technology of today's world. Increased proficiency with computers and cell-phones is good both personally and professionally.



IMPORT PHOTOS AND VIDEOS FROM PHONE TO PC

Transfer photos from an iPhone or Android phone to your PC!

First, connect your phone to a PC with a USB cable that can transfer files.

1. Turn your phone on and unlock it. Your PC can't find the device if the device is locked.
2. On your PC, select the Start button and then select Photos to open the Photos app.
3. Select Import > From a connected device, then follow the instructions.

You can pick the items you want to import and select where to save them. Allow a few moments for detection and transfer.

Make sure the photos you want to import are actually on the device rather than in the cloud. Then, follow the steps for your type of device.

Android devices

You might already have the camera app on your phone in sync with cloud storage such as OneDrive or Google photos. If so, your photos and videos are automatically uploaded to the cloud. When you want to access these photos or videos from your PC, you can use a web browser to download the photos and videos stored from the cloud storage.

For recent photos, use the Your Phone app from Microsoft Store. With this app, you also do not need a USB cable to view and copy the most recent photos from your camera and screenshot folder. This feature only includes recent photos and doesn't import videos. Your Phone app requires an Android phone with Android OS 7.0 or newer.

If you use a USB cable to download directly from your device, you might need to change the USB setting to transfer media or photos. For Google's current info, see Transfer files between your computer & Android device.

iPhones

You might see a prompt on the iOS device asking you to Trust This Computer. Select Trust or Allow to continue. For Apple's current info, see "Import to PC" in Transfer photos and videos from your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch on Apple's website.

If iCloud is enabled on your iOS device, you won't

be able to download your photos or videos. Your images exist on iCloud but not on your device. If you want to open or import these photos or videos to your PC, do so using the iCloud desktop app. For more info, see Get help with iCloud photos on Apple's website.

If you're working with earlier versions of Windows, see [Windows 8.1](#) or [Windows 7](#).

~ [Microsoft](#)



No Veteran should go through a crisis alone. Save the new Veterans Crisis Line number—Dial 988 then Press 1—in your phone in case you or a Veteran loved one needs support.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

Be Connected • Be Heard • Be Informed

District 3 – Androscoggin: Jan. 8th
Mechanics Falls Post 150, 2PM

District 9 – Kennebec: Jan. 11
Augusta Post 2, 7PM

[Click Here](#) to view all District Meetings!

Print 2023 Membership Cards in MyLegion

American Legion post and squadron group leadership can print a current membership card for Legion and Sons of The American Legion members.

To start:

1. Go to your My Account page in www.mylegion.org.
2. Enter My Groups to access Group Profile.
3. Click on "View Members."
4. Search the member and click on their name from the list to view Member Profile.
5. Click "Membership Cards" and click on the link to view and print card image.

"Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons."

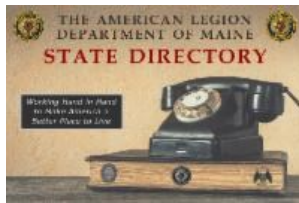
~ [Douglas MacArthur](#)

"For in the end, our society will be defined not only by what we create, but by what we refuse to destroy."

~ [John Sawhill](#)



[Click here to see the Latest Post Events!](#)



[Click Here for the State Directory!](#)

Stay Connected with Your Fellow Legionnaires!

Attention: District Commanders & Adjutants

District Meeting Calendar Form now available online!

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



Attention: Post Adjutants

The Membership Target Date to reach 80% is fast approaching and we still have a ways to go! Please **PROCESS** your membership at the Post level or **SUBMIT** to Department Headquarters before the January 19th 2023 target date arrives!!!

[CLICK HERE](#)

for the Latest Membership Report!



The November Edition of The Maine Legionnaire is Now Available!

[Click Here for the Digital Version](#)
[Click Here for a PDF Version](#)
Or visit www.mainelegion.org

Attention: Post Commanders & Adjutants

If you are currently processing your dues on MyLegion.org, you will no longer have to submit the 2-part card to HQ. All other Posts mailing dues to HQ will still have to submit the 2-part card along with \$31.00 per member.

Warrant Templates - All Positions

Available on-line at: MaineLegion.org

or go to: <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.ph>

MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORTS

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The following monthly reports located on: <https://www.legion.org/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:

<https://www.legion.org/bythenumbers> or <https://www.legion.org/membership/impact>

PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

Please note that the annual dues for Past Commanders Club are \$5.00 per member. See Page 7 for an application.

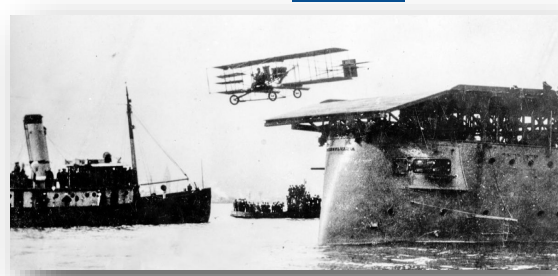
IMPORTANT DATES IN MILITARY HISTORY

January

- [1/16 Desert Storm \(Persian Gulf\) Began \(1991\)](#)
- [1/27 Vietnam War Cease Fire \(1973\)](#)
- [1/31 Panama Campaign Ended \(1990\)](#)

MILITARY TRIVIA

A. Eugene B. Ely was the first pilot to launch in an aircraft from a seaborne ship, (the light cruiser USS Birmingham) on Nov. 14/1911 and the first to land on a ship (the armored cruiser, USS Pennsylvania) Jan. 18, 1912 & the first time a [tailhook](#) was used in a Naval aircraft landing.



VA REACHES 1 MILLION IN MILITARY EXPOSURE SCREENINGS

Department of Veterans Affairs
Jan 04, 2023

The Department of Veterans Affairs marks a historic milestone by screening 1 million veterans for military exposures as part of the PACT Act signed into law Aug. 10.

The screenings are a key component of the law - which empowers VA to deliver care and benefits to millions of toxic exposed veterans and their survivors.

“Since we launched the toxic exposure screening program, VA connected with 1 million Veterans around the country,” said VA Under Secretary for Health Shereef Elnahal, MD. “Our health-care teams reached an incredible breakthrough in a short length of time. These screenings are paramount to improving the health outcomes for veterans and providing them with the health care and benefits they’ve earned as quickly as possible. This is among the first steps we have taken to deliver even more benefits and health care to veterans who have been exposed to toxins during their service.”

VA surpassed initial screening expectations through extensive outreach campaigns to include hosting more than 90 Week of Action events across all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. While The PACT Act Week of Action ended Dec. 17, 2022, veterans can obtain screenings at any time of the year with their VA health care provider.

Veterans enrolled in VA health care will be offered an initial toxic exposure screening then follow-up screenings at least once every five years.

The screening takes an average of five to 10 minutes and begins by asking veterans if they believe they experienced any toxic exposures while serving in the armed forces. Veterans who answer “yes” are then asked about specific exposures, including open burn pits, Agent Orange, radiation, contaminated water and other exposures. If a veteran has been exposed to toxins during their time of service, VA wants to know. It not only impacts their individual future care, but it can also improve overall toxic exposure-related care and outcomes.

If you are a veteran who has not been screened for toxic exposure or has never received care at VA, we encourage you to contact VA about enrolling in the VA health care system and about obtaining a toxic exposure screening. VA encourages all eligible veterans and survivors to apply for their earned PACT Act-related health care and benefits now. Don’t wait until something is wrong before coming to VA — our providers are trained to recognize issues and concerns unique to Veterans.

Veterans and survivors may apply or learn more about the PACT Act by visiting VA.gov/PACT or calling 1-800-MYVA411.

Show Your Support to Maine Veterans in the New Year & Make Your Name Part of American Legion History!



Donate \$100 or more & Receive a **FREE** 2023 Yearbook & Centennial Coin!

CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY!

Deadline for Submission, May 6, 2023

Click the 2022 Yearbook above to check it out!

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 2023 Maine American Legion Yearbook made available in print and online at www.mainelegion.org. Donate \$100 or more and receive a FREE yearbook as well as one of our most popular centennial coins. Click the above link to donate today, or send a check payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine earmarked “Yearbook Program.” 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.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT



DONATIONS

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

2022 Commanders Project – Thurston “Operation Reboot Outdoors”

York Post 56..... \$1158.00
In Memory of Charles Arboch; CSM US Army

Homeless Vets

Philip Russomano, Post 40..... \$25.00
Incorrectly listed as Comd Proj. in 12/21/22 issue



**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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- 23. _____
- 24. _____

Use back side if additional space is required.

SUBMIT TO:

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

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

This form may be filled out on-line at: www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.php

***** Please note that the annual dues for Past Commanders Club have increased to \$5.00/member*****



AMERICAN LEGION

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

*January 14, 2023
Jeff's Catering & Event Center
15 Littlefield Way, Brewer 04412*

The annual Mid-Winter Conference of the American Legion, Department of Maine, will be held at **Jeff's Catering & Event Center, 15 Little Field Way, Brewer, ME 04412 on January 14 th, 2023.** The Conference will be hosted by Commander Kirk Thurston and 2nd Vice Commander Trish Thurston.

Special Rate for Legion Family for Hotel Reservations:

Holiday Inn: 404 Odlin Rd, Bangor, ME 04401. Phone 207-947-0101 Room Rate: \$99 + sales tax, Microwave, Refrigerator, Coffee/Tea Maker, Elevators, Restaurant, and Lounge.

Please state "American Legion" when calling for reservations.

Hotel Reservations are to be made by each individual, as the Department HQ will not be coordinating reservations for this conference.

Deadline: January 1, 2023.

Mid-Winter Conference 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)***

Any Questions Call Department HQ at: 873-3229



AMERICAN LEGION

Annual Mid-Winter Conference Agenda

January 14th, 2023

Jeff's Catering & Event Center

15 Littlefield Way, Brewer, ME 04412

Saturday: 8:30 am

Opening Ceremony: Department Commander Kirk D. Thurston

Welcome to Mid-Winter Conference: Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan

NEC Update: NEC Lloyd Woods

Introduction of Americanism Officer (for purpose of introduction of Americanism programs) - Department 2nd Vice Tricia Thurston

Oratorical: Maureen Malley

American Legion Baseball: Jeff Sukeforth

Dirigo State: DJA Jason Hall

Junior Shooting Program: Dave Watson & Joe Donahue

Law and Order: Ethan McKenny

SAL Detachment of Maine Commander: Mike Hustus

Task Force for The Future: Past Department Commander Scott Paradis

Membership & Buddy Checks: 1st Vice Commander Al McKay

Be The One presentation (bio): Dr. Ruth Moore

Important Paperwork: 2nd Vice Commander Tricia Thurston

Legislative Committee: Matt Jabaut



Annual Mid-Winter Conference Agenda (cont.)

LUNCH

Department Presentations: Department Commander Kirk D. Thurston

Introduction of Guest Speaker Christy Gardner: Department Vice Commander Tricia Thurston

Constitution and Bylaws: Department Judge Advocate Jason T. Hall

VEFAP: Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux and Maureen Malley

American Legion Riders: Director Mike Lallemand

Women Veteran's Committee: 2nd Vice Commander Tricia Thurston

ALA Department of Maine: President Debra Rumery

VA Updates: Department Service Officer Carl Curtis

Finance Committee: Department Finance Officer Eugene Connelly

National Vice Commander Paul M Kennedy: NEC Lloyd Woods

Candidates for Office: Department Commander Kirk D. Thurston

Winter Sweepstakes Drawings

Closing Comments and Closing Ceremony: Department Commander Kirk D. Thurston

Announcements: Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux

******Department Executive Committee meeting immediately following the Conference.******

******Department Officers, District Commanders or their replacements are required to attend.******

In the absence of the District Commander, from any District, the Vice Commander shall represent at any Executive Committee meeting with voice and vote. (Res. 1 - 1994)