

THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER



The American Legion,
Department of Maine

High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

Thomas College

180 West River Rd., Waterville, ME

February 11, 2023 at 9:00am

****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](#)

The American Legion Family Department Testimonial



Saturday, May 20, 2023

**Napoleon-Ouellette Post 24
184 Congress St., Rumford, ME 04276**

[Click here](#) for more information

Welcome to the 83rd 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.

2023-2024 OFFICER CANDIDATES

The following individuals have announced their candidacy and intent to seek election to the Department office indicated at the upcoming annual convention in June at Jeff's Catering and Event Center in Brewer:

Department Commander

Alfred McKay, Damariscotta Post 42

Department Adjutant

Jason Hall, Gray Post 86

1st Vice Commander

Patricia "Trisha" Thurston, Rumford Post 24

2nd Vice Commander

Leroy McKenzie, Eagle Lake Post 176

Americanism Officer

Joseph Michaud, Madawaska Post 147

Sergeant-at-Arms

Danielle Berube-Begert, Lewiston Post 22

Historian

Louis Marin, Rumford Post 24

David Slagger, Greenville Post 94

NEC

Lloyd Woods, Madawaska Post 147

NECA

Matthew Jabaut, Topsham Post 202

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: A TIME TO HONOR AND SHARE

By Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola
National Commander



FEB 1, 2023

Dear American Legion Family members and friends, America's story is written in the sweat and blood of military heroism, valor and service – the willingness and ability to train, fight and die if necessary for the principles of justice, freedom and democracy. Since the American Revolution, that story has been authored by men and women of multiple backgrounds. For too long, however, the role of Black Americans in our nation's military journey has been under-told, mis-told, forgotten or, worse, deliberately hidden.

The American Legion has persistently called for reconsideration of military medals and citations that were previously denied or diminished in stature, potentially due to racial discrimination of the past.

Since Congress began mandating such reviews in the 1990s through the Defense Authorization Act, 30 Medals of Honor have been awarded to previously overlooked Black veterans of World War II.

In October 2020, [The American Legion National Executive Committee passed a resolution](#) in support of legislation "to lift statutes of limitations and other obstacles that may impede proper investigation and appropriate actions for minority veterans of all wars and conflicts whose military records and official descriptions of combat actions fully support consideration for award of the Medal of Honor and any other military medal."

And now – February 2023, Black History Month – I truly believe we can take the spirit of that resolution a few steps further. Multiple web platforms now exist to study and collect the stories of all veterans and one in particular, at [the George S. Robb Centre for the Study of the Great War](#), is focused on correcting the record for minority veterans of World War I. The American Legion and the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission support the center's research and database, titled "Stories of Courage, Tenacity, and Valor Told."

Black History Month is also an ideal time to submit stories and photos to the [Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress](#). We also strongly encourage female veterans and their families to contribute their stories to the [Military Women's Memorial registry](#). The [Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund also offers opportunities to share stories and images of those whose names are enshrined in the Wall](#). Dozens of other searchable sites are available to complete the picture of our nation's military heritage and to learn from it.

The American Legion also continues to collect stories and photos from veterans and their families through the [Legiontown platform, which has categories ranging from MY WORLD WAR II STORY to Memories of Basic Training](#), and Black History Month is a great time to add to the growing list of submissions. These contributions not only strengthen our commitment to "preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars," they also fill in gaps that Black History Month and other such recognitions aim to improve today and, most importantly, for generations to come.

Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola, National Commander

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 was the origin and particular significance of the "54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment"?



~ Submitted by Dwayne Hatfield, Mars Hill Post 118

PACT ACT FRAUD PREVENTION

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
JAN 31, 2023



On August 10, 2022, President Biden signed [the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins Act of 2022 \(PACT Act\)](#) — possibly the largest expansion of Veterans benefits in history — into law.

The PACT Act expands Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances, and it helps VA provide generations of Veterans and their survivors with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

However, predatory companies are targeting Veterans' retroactive benefit payments and VA needs your continued support to help us educate Veterans and their survivors about the types of fraud tactics being used against them – especially now that the PACT Act has been passed.

Some predatory companies, not accredited by VA, are targeting Veterans by offering to assist them with their VA benefit claim. These companies charge absurd fees or require those applying to pay a portion of their VA benefits for this 'help'. VA will never charge Veterans or their family members to apply for the benefits they may be entitled to receive.

Please share the following information with Veterans and their survivors to help them guard against fraud and scams:

- Apply directly to VA. You may submit your application securely **online** via VA.gov or in person at any regional office. You may file your claim directly with VA, and VA will help gather the necessary evidence to support it. There are no costs or hidden fees to apply.
- Be suspicious of media advertisements from companies which provide information about the PACT Act and suggest you can only obtain benefits with their help. These companies may not be accredited with VA and may be attempting to charge you illegal fees.
- Use the VA Office of General Counsel (OGC) [**Accreditation Search**](#) to confirm and validate the credentials of anyone offering claims assistance.
- Be cautious of aggressive law firms or companies expressing a sense of urgency and insisting you must act now.
- Do not sign a contract agreeing to pay an unauthorized company a fee to help you with your VA claim. There are [**accredited Veterans Service Organizations, agents and attorneys**](#) who may assist you.

- Be cautious of companies claiming to be contacting you on behalf of VA. Contact VA directly at 1-800-827-1000 if you are unsure about the authenticity of a message you've received.
- Review all documents thoroughly. Never sign a blank form for someone else to complete later. Always review the fully completed form.

Helpful Resources and Tools

Veterans and their survivors who think they might be eligible should apply for PACT Act benefits right now. Go to [**www.va.gov/PACT**](http://www.va.gov/PACT) or call 1-800-MYVA411 for more information.

To report suspected fraud or predatory companies, please contact VA OIG ([**OIG Hotline \(va.gov\)**](#)).

Veterans and their survivors who suspect a company is using predatory practices, should file a complaint with the [**Federal Trade Commission**](#) and the [**Better Business Bureau**](#). For more information on how to avoid scams, go to [**https://www.fcc.gov/veterans-targeted-benefits-scams**](https://www.fcc.gov/veterans-targeted-benefits-scams).

Although there's still a lot of work to be done, we appreciate your partnering with us to help protect Veterans and their survivors against fraudsters and PACT Act scams!

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**](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**](https://www.legion.org/bythenumbers) or
[**https://www.legion.org/membership/impact**](https://www.legion.org/membership/impact)



Let's Get The 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**](http://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

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.

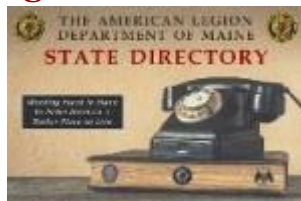
To start:

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.

Stay Connected with Your Fellow Legionnaires!



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



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



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



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.

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 85% 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 February 15th 2023 target date arrives!!!

[CLICK HERE](#)
for the Latest Membership Report!



AMERICAN LEGION ASSISTANT DEPT. SERVICE OFFICER

Part-time position, 28 hours (4-day work week)
Term of Office. [CLICK HERE](#) for a full job
description and qualifications or go to:
http://www.mainelegion.org/media/misc/Job_Description
Resumes can be sent to Department Headquarters,
5 Verti Drive, Winslow, 04901



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](http://www.mainelegion.org)

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

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.



CLOUD STORAGE

Cloud storage is a model of **computer data storage** in which the **digital data** is stored in logical **pools**, said to be on “**the cloud**”. The **physical storage** spans multiple **servers** (sometimes in multiple locations), and the physical environment is typically owned and managed by a **hosting** company. These cloud storage providers are responsible for keeping the data **available** and **accessible**, and the physical environment secured, protected, and running. People and organizations buy or lease storage capacity from the providers to store user, organization, or application data.

Cloud storage services may be accessed through a **colocated cloud computing** service, a **web service application programming interface** (API) or by applications that use the API, such as **cloud desktop** storage, a **cloud storage gateway** or Web-based **content management systems**.

History: Cloud computing is believed to have been invented by **J. C. R. Licklider** in the 1960s with his work on **ARPANET** to connect people and data from anywhere at any time.

In 1983, **CompuServe** offered its consumer users a small amount of disk space that could be used to store any files they chose to upload.

In 1994, **AT&T** launched PersonaLink Services, an online platform for personal and business communication and entrepreneurship. The storage was one of the first to be all web-based, and referenced in their commercials as, “you can think of our electronic meeting place as the cloud.” **Amazon Web Services** introduced their cloud storage service **Amazon S3** in 2006, and has gained widespread recognition and adoption as the storage supplier to popular services such as **SmugMug**, **Dropbox**, and **Pinterest**. In 2005, **Box** announced an online file sharing and personal cloud content management service for businesses.

CLICK HERE to read the full article or go to:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud_Storage



FLAG REWARDS

Tips & Suggestions

Thank Your Sponsors!



A free Citation of Appreciation is available for your use on our web site. Give this certificate to anyone who purchases a flag to benefit your Post.

[Microsoft Word Document \[DOC\]](#)

[Fillable PDF](#)

Success Stories

Congratulations! The following Posts have earned big credit in 2023 to spend at Emblem Sales in 2024:

Over \$700 earned

1. Libertyville, IA Post 494

Over \$600 earned

2. Newton, IA Post 111

Over \$200 earned

3. Cicero, NY Post 787

Over \$150 earned

4. Sioux City, IA Post 697
5. Athens, WI Post 4

Over \$100 earned

6. Harrisville, RI Post 88
7. Portsmouth, IA Post 314
8. Sedgwick, KS Post 268

Remember: Your Post earns 10¢ for each \$1 spent on American flags by your Post or sponsors!



MILITARY TRIVIA

A. This unit was made up entirely of African-Americans and was active between 1861-1865. The courage of the men of the 54th & their fighting prowess became so well known, that it paved the way for more than 180,000 fellow African Americans to enlist in the Union Army, as well encouraging future enlistment of Black Americans.

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

2023

MID-WINTER

SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Winners of the Winter Sweepstakes Raffle Drawn at The Mid-Winter Conference in Brewer, ME on January 14th, 2023:

- Ike Hubbard, Machais Post 9..... \$1,500
- Terri Mingo, Gray Unit 86..... 500
- Danny Blanchette, Lisbon Post 158..... 300
- Robert Cameron, Trenton Post 207..... 200

Congratulations!

PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

Please note that the annual dues for Past Commanders Club are \$5.00 per member. See Page 13 for an application.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

Be Connected • Be Heard • Be Informed

District 2 – Cumberland: Feb. 12
S. Portland Post 35, 1PM

District 3 – Androscoggin: Feb. 12
Lisbon Post 158, 2PM

District 9 – Kennebec: Feb. 8
Oakland Post 51, 7PM

District 10 – Somerset: Feb. 13
Madison Post 39, 6:30PM

District 14 – Piscataquis: Feb. 18
Dover-Foxcroft Post 29, 12 Noon Lunch w/Bus. Mtg. at 1PM

District 15 – Washington: Feb. 12
Machias Post 9, 2PM

District 17 – No. Arrostook: Feb. 5
Van Buren Post 49, 12pm Meal Meeting at 1PM. 4 Chaplains

Click Here to view all District Meetings!

IMPORTANT DATES IN MILITARY HISTORY

February

- [2/1 National Freedom Day](#)
- [2/2 Army Nurse Corp Established \(1901\)](#)
- [2/3 USO Incorporated](#)
- [2/13 Marine Corps Women’s Reserve Established \(1943\)](#)
- [2/23 Iwo Jima Flag Raising \(1945\)](#)
- [2/27 Persian Gulf Cease-Fire Day](#)



“We must never forget why we have, and why we need our military. Our armed forces exist solely to ensure our nation is safe, so that each and every one of us can sleep soundly at night, knowing we have ‘guardians at the gate.’”

~ [Allen West](#)

We are all **'PACT'** up and headed to Bangor!

For a family friendly event for Veterans to learn about the PACT Act and other benefits and resources available through the state and community.



Saturday February 25th

10AM – 2PM

- Agent Orange, Radiation, Toxic Exposures
 - Expanded locations to presume conditions
- New presumptive conditions
 - Respiratory conditions, MGUS, Cancers, Hypertension

Veterans and Family Indoor Expo

Anah Shriners, 1404 Broadway, Bangor, ME

Sponsored by Masons, Bethlehem Lodge #35

Stop in to see the: **VBA, VHA, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, CDC - Suicide Prevention, Department of Labor - Career Center, Disabled American Veterans, Hope for Healing, House in the Woods, Maine Bureau of Veteran's Services, Maine Veterans Project, Maine Veterans' Services, Marine Corps League, Martin's Point, Travis Mills Foundation, Vet Center, Vet2Vet Maine, Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness, and many other Veteran-centric organizations**

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

3RD ANNUAL RUNNING OF THE SLEDS!

LEGION LUGE

HOSTED BY THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION,
DETACHMENT OF MAINE

Prizes for Best Costumes

Prizes for Best Run



Saturday, Feb 11, 2023
9am- 1pm Camden Snowbowl
20 Barnestown Road, Camden

All proceeds benefit Operation Reboot Outdoors. ORO concentrates on getting Veterans healing through outdoor recreational activities. There number one priority is creating an atmosphere of camaraderie and brotherhood and giving our ReBoot Veterans a sense of purpose again.

Join Us For
3RD ANNUAL RUNNING OF THE SLEDS!

LEGION LUGE



Friday, February 10th

\$10.00 per person

5pm - Spaghetti Dinner at American Legion Post #1

7pm 335 Limerock Street, Rockland ME

hosted by the Sons of the Legion, Squadron 1

Saturday, February 11th

\$25.00 per person

8am Registration at Camden Snow Bowl

9am- Races will begin at Camden Snow Bowl

1pm 20 Barnestown Road, Camden ME

If the weather prevents us from sledding. Notice will get out via Facebook and to registered Guests. However special arrangements have been made at Post #1 for alternative plan of EXCITING Legion Olympics of fun games and prizes

ACCOMODATIONS: Special hotel rate has been set up with the beautiful Rockland Harbor Hotel of a rate of \$99.00 per night and includes breakfast. Just let them know you are with the American Legion Luge

520 Main Street, Rockland ME 207.594.2131

All checks should be made out to:
American Legion Detachment of Maine
5 Verti Drive, Winslow ME 04901-0727

Attn: George Rice.

Please make a note in the memo line: Luge



18
FEB
9AM-2PM

VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR



Learn about programs & benefits for Veterans & their dependents. Federal, State, and Local agencies, resources and Veteran opportunities onsite for our Veterans to connect with.



Vet Center
 VA Maine Healthcare
 V.E.T.S Trailer
 Career Center
 VFW
 Veterans Resource Center
 Mid-Coast Veterans
 Council
 Sen. King's Office



Corey E. Garver
American Legion Post 202
79 Foreside Rd
Topsham, ME 04086
nanslaf@gmail.com
www.post202me.com

American Legion
 MVN, Inc.
 Quilts of Valor
 Preble Street
 VBA
 Northern Light Home
 Care & Hospice
 Martin's Point
 Vet's, Inc





Winter **Softball** Classic

*"We play in the cold to help stop
Veterans from living in the cold"*

SATURDAY FEB. 18TH 9AM

LEGION POST 202
79 Foreside Rd. Topsham, ME



Registration: min. \$200 donation per team
***Proceeds will be donated
to Homeless Veterans***

Winner receives Trophy.

First game starts at 9am at the Topsham American Legion.

Free Hot Cocoa and Hot Apple Cider provided.

For more information
go to www.post202me.com/winter-classic
Contact Post 202 at 729-9870 for details

Tax free donations can be made to American Legion Post 202 EIN 01-6036492

Wednesday - March 8th

WINDHAM VETERANS CENTER



**AMERICAN
LEGION**

FAIR

BE THE ONE

**-FIELD-ALLEN POST 148-
-Portland VETCENTER-**

JOIN US FROM 9 AM - 1 PM

**DOZENS OF VETERAN'S RELATED INFORMATION
TABLES:**

**Town of Windham Social Services Field-Allen Post 148/Unit 148
Veterans of Foreign War Post 10643 Operation Ray of Light
Martin's Point Vet 2 Vet VAST VA Mobile Vet Center
VA Suicide Prevention Coordinator Post 9/11 VETS
VA Interpersonal Violence Coordinator VA Whole Health Team
VA Caregiver Support Team VA Homeless Veteran Program
Honor Flight Maine Quilts of Valor VBA (Vet Benefits Administration)
VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic Paws for Pets**

VETCENTER | Connection.
Camaraderie
Community.

 **Veterans
Crisis Line**
DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**

**Windham Vet Center-35 Veterans Memorial Drive, North Windham, Maine
(Behind Reny's North Windham) Info: 207 892-1306**



**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.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

1. _____
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Post Adjutant

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21. _____
22. _____
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)*****