

# THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER



Welcome to the 95<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org)

## 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>

## POST/DISTRICT FORMS

[CLICK HERE](#)

To see which forms your post still needs to submit.

**Capitol Area Babe Ruth League Complex**  
(old CARA complex)  
Piggery Rd., Augusta

### 2023 Senior and Junior State Championship Program

### Northeast Regional Senior Tournament

Shrewsbury, Massachusetts  
August 2 - August 6, 2023

### World Series Tournament

Shelby, North Carolina  
August 10 - August 15, 2023

## AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

## FALL CONFERENCE

Westbrook Community Center  
426 Bridge St., Westbrook, ME 04092  
September 23, 2023  
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**Fall Conference Agenda Coming Soon**

### Fall Conference Meal & Hotel Reservations

Hotel: Fireside Inn & Suites, 81 Riverside St.,  
Portland (207-774-5601)

The hotel is just off Westbrook Exit 48.  
(The American Legion rate is \$175.00 per night).

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PACT ACT DEADLINES

By Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola,  
National Commander

JULY 26, 2023



Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

It is abundantly clear that The American Legion-endorsed PACT Act will help connect veterans exposed to toxins with the benefits earned through their service. What may not be clear, however, are the upcoming deadlines and what they mean to veterans and their family members.

First off, the Sgt. 1st Class Heath Robinson PACT Act ushers in a range of VA health care options and benefits for millions of veterans who were exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxins. It covers those who were exposed in Iraq and Afghanistan, veterans who encountered Agent Orange in Vietnam and others.

Please note: There is no deadline to apply for PACT Act benefits.

However, there are upcoming timelines that will require urgent action by some individuals.

If you file your PACT Act claim — or submit your intent to file — by Aug. 9, 2023, you may receive benefits backdated to Aug. 10, 2022. That’s the date when President Biden signed the legislation into law.

There also is a Sept. 30 deadline for some post-9/11 veterans to enroll for VA health care under a special one-year window opened by the PACT Act. The bill automatically assumes those who served in certain locations were exposed. Once they are enrolled, veterans’ individual cases will dictate what benefits they will receive.

The important part is to enroll in VA by the end of September. You can start here.

Who is eligible to enroll in this scenario? You are if you meet any of the following criteria:

- You served in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War and were discharged or released between Sept. 11, 2001, and Oct. 1, 2013.
- You served “in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities” after Nov. 11, 1998.
- Post-9/11 combat veterans who exited service on or after Oct. 1, 2013, have up to 10 years after their separation dates.

## Here are some additional resources:

- Need help? An accredited American Legion service officer provides free assistance to any veteran or family member. Find one near you by searching here.
- File a claim online through VA’s website.
- ♦ Submit an Intent to File online form for a VA claim. (Remember, the deadline is Aug. 9.)

- Visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://VA.gov/PACT) to learn about and apply for PACT Act-related care and benefits. You can also call 1-800-MYVA411 to apply over the phone.

Even if the PACT Act does not apply to you, it affects millions of our brothers and sisters. Please share this with other veterans so they are aware and can receive the benefits they earned through their service and sacrifice.

Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola, National Commander

## VA MAY WIDEN PACT ACT COVERAGE

The American Legion

JULY 25, 2023



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will be conducting a scientific review to determine whether there is a relationship between three conditions and toxic exposures for servicemembers who deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and several other nations.

The three conditions are acute leukemias, chronic leukemias, and multiple myeloma outside of the head and neck. In addition to Iraq and Afghanistan, other nations that would be included would be Somalia, Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, and the entire [Southwest Asia theater of operations](#).

This review will help VA determine whether these ailments become presumptive conditions for veterans. When a condition is considered presumptive, eligible veterans do not need to prove that their service caused their disease to receive benefits for it. Instead, VA automatically assumes service-connection for the disease and provides benefits.

As part of the PACT Act, the Biden administration is aiming to expand benefits and services for toxic-exposed veterans and their families. These three conditions will go through VA’s process for establishing presumptive conditions, which was codified by President Biden’s signing of the PACT Act last August.

“We won’t rest until we understand whether there’s a connection between these deadly conditions and the service of our nation’s heroes,” VA Secretary Denis McDonough said. “But make no mistake: Veterans shouldn’t wait for this review process to conclude to apply for the support they deserve. If you’re a veteran living with acute leukemia, chronic leukemia or multiple myeloma, don’t wait — apply for your VA care and benefits today.”

These conditions were chosen for review based on existing scientific data and consultations with veterans, veteran service organizations, Congress, and other key stakeholders. While these are the first conditions to be announced for scientific review since the PACT Act passed into law, VA will review additional conditions moving forward.

For more information about the PACT Act and a full list of presumptive conditions covered under the law, visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://VA.gov/PACT).

# VA EXPANDS BREAST CANCER SCREENINGS AND MAMMOGRAMS



The American Legion

JULY 27, 2023

Veterans under 40 who may have been exposed to burn pits and other toxins during their service are now eligible for breast cancer risk assessments and mammograms, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced July 27.

Starting immediately, veterans are eligible for these screenings regardless of age, symptoms, family history, and whether they are enrolled in VA health care. Generally, VA follows American Cancer Society guidelines for breast cancer screenings, meaning that – aside from those covered by this new policy – most veterans become eligible for screenings and mammograms at age 40. This potentially life-saving expansion advances President Biden’s Unity Agenda and drives progress toward the goals of the Biden [Cancer Moonshot](#).

VA is expanding eligibility for breast cancer risk assessments and clinically appropriate mammograms as a part of implementing the [Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act](#). Dr. Hendricks Thomas was a Marine Corps veteran who deployed to Iraq in 2005, where she was exposed to burn pits. In 2018, she was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer. She died April 5, 2022, at the age of 42.

“We at VA are expanding breast cancer screenings for toxic-exposed veterans because early detection saves lives,” VA Secretary Denis McDonough said. “This is an important step toward making sure that breast cancer is diagnosed early, treated early, and — hopefully — sent into remission early.”

These services are available to veterans who served in:

- Iraq between Aug. 2, 1990, and Feb. 28, 1991, and since March 19, 2003.
- The Southwest Asia theater of operations, including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar (but not including Iraq), since Aug. 2, 1990
- Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, and Yemen since Sept. 11, 2001.
- Other locations and time periods as determined by the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

An end date will be decided when VA determines burn pits are no longer used in those locations.

The risk assessment is a series of questions about a patient’s toxic exposure(s), family medical history, and other risk factors to determine whether they should have a mammogram. Getting screened for breast cancer is an important part of maintaining overall health, and mammograms are the best way to find and treat breast cancer early, when there is a 99% survival rate. That’s why early detection is a central pillar of the [Biden Cancer Moonshot](#), which is mobilizing efforts toward achieving two clear goals: to prevent more than 4 million cancer deaths by 2047, and to transform the experience of people who are touched by cancer.

Breast cancer is also a presumptive condition under the [PACT Act](#). Veterans who are interested in the breast cancer risk assessment screenings can contact their VA primary care provider or reach out to their [local VA medical center](#).

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## VA HOSPITALS OUTPERFORM OTHERS IN PATIENT CARE, ANALYSIS FINDS

VA hospitals outperform non-VA hospitals by a wide margin, according to the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#) (CMS) annual Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings released July 26.

There were 67% of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals included in the CMS report that received either 4 or 5 stars, compared to only 41% of non-VA hospitals. This was the first time VA hospitals were included in the CMS Star Ratings.

The CMS report focuses on five categories: mortality, safety of care, readmission, patient experience, and timely and effective care. The more stars out of 5, the better a hospital performed on the available quality measures.

These findings are the latest in a series of recent evaluations showing the effectiveness of VA health care compared to non-VA health care. VA hospitals outperformed non-VA hospitals on all 10 core patient satisfaction metrics in the [recent Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems Star Ratings](#), and a recent [systematic review of more than 40 peer-reviewed studies](#) found that VA health care is consistently as good as — or better than — non-VA health care.

“Whenever a veteran entrusts us with their care, they deserve to know that they’re getting the very best,” VA Secretary Denis McDonough said. “That’s what we strive for in every hospital across the nation, and we will never settle for anything less.”

According to CMS, the rating is intended for acute care hospitals. CMS excludes all measures specific to specialty hospitals (such as cancer hospitals or inpatient psychiatric facilities), or ambulatory surgical centers prior to applying any measure selection criteria. Based on these criteria, 114 VA facilities received a CMS star rating and 23 were not rated.

The data was collected between July 2018 and March 2022. To view the star ratings for your local VA or non-VA hospital, visit [here](#). More information on the study methodology can be found [here](#).

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## MILITARY TRIVIA

**Q.** During WW1, why were up to 18,000 soldiers per day unable to report for duty and ultimately almost 380,000 were found unfit for duty ?

~ Submitted by Dwayne Hatfield,  
Mars Hill Post 118

## 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.



### ***EVEN MORE* SUMMER VACATION COMPUTER JOKES SURE TO MAKE YOU GROAN (because we all need a laugh)**

- ◆ Why did the computer crash? It was a hard drive.
- ◆ Who is a computer's favorite singer? A Dell.
- ◆ What is a computer's favorite animal? A RAM.
- ◆ Why are spiders so good at the internet? They know all the good web sites.
- ◆ Why do programmers never run the AC? They prefer to open windows.
- ◆ Why are people afraid of computers? They byte.
- ◆ Where do naughty disk drives get sent? Boot camp.
- ◆ How many computer programmers does it take to change a lightbulb? None, that's a hardware issue.
- ◆ How did the computer get out of the house? He used windows.
- ◆ What did the processor say when it was being overclocked? Stop it! It hertz so much.
- ◆ What does Steve Jobs like to order from McDonald's? A big Mac.
- ◆ Why did the computer cross the road? To get a byte to eat
- ◆ Who chases computer criminals? A hacker-tracker
- ◆ What do you get if you cross a computer with an elephant? Lots of Memory.
- ◆ What do you get when you cross a dog and a computer? A machine that has a bark worse than its byte.
- ◆ Why did the cat sit on the computer? To keep an eye on the mouse.
- ◆ Where do computers keep their money? In a data bank.
- ◆ What do you call it when a computer does something daily? A da-ta day routine.
- ◆ How do you make a Holy Computer? You upgrade the hell out of it.
- ◆ What does a shark and a computer have in common? They both have megabites.
- ◆ Cartoon graphic of a man working on an apple computer laptop on a blue background.
- ◆ I love the smell of my F5 key. It's very refreshing
- ◆ Don't use "beef stew" as a computer password. It's not stroganoff.
- ◆ My dog ate my computer science homework. It took him a couple of bytes.



### **Attention: Commanders, Post Adjutants & Americanism Officers**

The 2024 Oratorical Assigned Topics have been posted on Mylegion.org. Scroll to the bottom of the home page under Oratorical look for the Assigned Topics. This will be great information to give out to the schools and any possible candidate. Be proactive with this information.

Maureen Malley  
Oratorical Chair, 207-557-3109

### **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)

### **Print 2024 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](http://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.



### **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.***

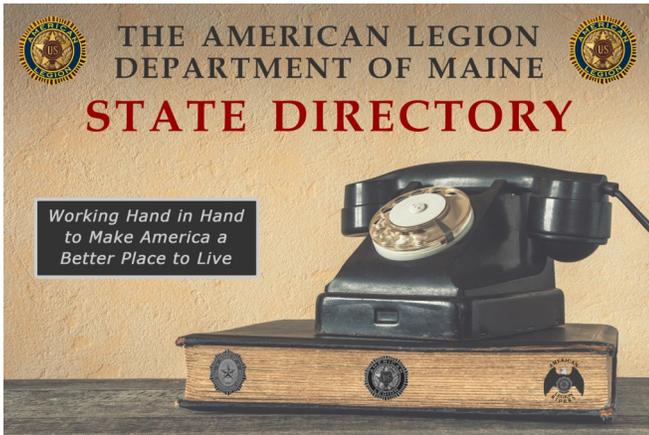
### **PAST COMMANDERS CLUB**

Please note that the annual dues for Past Commanders Club are \$5.00 per member. See Page 10 for an application.

Stay Connected with  
Your Fellow Legionnaires!



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



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

Call Dept. HQ at 873-3229 or e-mail: [legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org) to get the Password!!

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE STATE DIRECTORY!

The State Directory has been posted on the Department Website however it is now password-protected. Please call Dept. HQ at: 873-3229 or e-mail [legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org) to get the password, or if you have any questions or concerns.



**Warrant Templates**  
**All Post/District Officer Positions**  
Available **on-line** at: [MaineLegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org)  
or go to: <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.ph>. *It's fast and easy!!!*

## 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](#)



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.



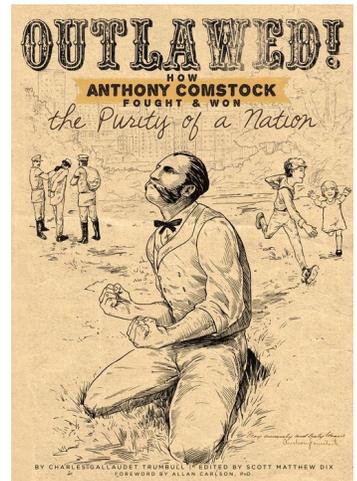
There's a NEW weblink for Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery Association: <https://mevetscemetery.org/>

### MILITARY TRIVIA

**A.** In 1873, Congress passed the Comstock Act, which prohibited the mailing of any "immoral" items including condoms and never vacated it until 1971, which would have prevented so many STD's.

Though the U.S. was the only Allied force that didn't distribute condoms to its soldiers during World War I, American recruits learned of condoms from their compatriots, and brought that knowledge (and their consumer dollars) home with them following the war.

Simultaneously, American condom Manufacturers established a major industry foothold by supplying European militaries with the condoms they badly needed.



**2023 Digital Convention  
Yearbook Now Available Online!**

Lots of New Information Including  
Hyperlinked Business  
Ads to Websites,  
Photos, Legion  
Programs & More!

**Check it Out  
Today!**



**BE THE ONE**

**DISTRICT MEETINGS**

*Be Connected • Be Heard • Be Informed*

**District 5 – Oxford:** August 15  
Buckfield Post 58

Vets Home BBQ at 5:00PM (subject to cancelation)  
West Paris Post 151 7:00PM  
(if Vets Home BBQ is canceled)



**Attention: District  
Commanders & Adjutants**

District Meeting Calendar  
Form now available online!

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



**IMPORTANT DATES IN  
MILITARY HISTORY**

**August**

- ★ 4 August: [Coast Guard Birthday](#)
- ★ 7 August: [Purple Heart Day](#)
- ★ 8 August: [Victory over Japan \(VJ\) Day](#)
- ★ 29 August: [Marine Forces Reserve Birthday](#)

**DONATIONS  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF MAINE**

**2022-23 Commanders Project – Thurston  
“Operation Reboot Outdoors”**

Machias Post 9..... \$50.00

**General Fund**

Robert Riley, Post 179 ..... \$25.00

*Thank you!!!*



# Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT)

PACT Act Awareness event coming to the  
Rumford Community Based Outpatient  
Clinic (CBOC)



## Meet with:

Veterans Benefits  
Administration

Veterans Health  
Administration

Veterans Service  
Organizations

Maine Bureau of  
Veterans' Services

Vet Center

## ONSITE:

Receive Toxic  
Exposure Screening

File a Claim

Enroll in healthcare

Learn about State  
Veteran Benefits

VA welcomes Veterans  
to the Rumford CBOC  
for a FREE PACT Act  
Awareness event you  
don't want to miss!



# THURSDAY

# AUGUST 3

# 2023

 10 Railroad Street  
Rumford, Maine

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



**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**

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
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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](http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.php)

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

# You could lower your internet bill by \$30 a month!

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) offers eligible Maine families up to \$30 a month off their internet bill.

## Who qualifies for the Affordable Connectivity Program?

Eligibility is based on income. For example, a family of four making less than \$55,500 is eligible.

Mainers who participate in any of the following programs automatically qualify:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Most federal and state housing assistance programs
  - Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
- Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program
- Received a Federal Pell Grant in the current award year

Fill out the application at [getacp.org/Maine](https://www.getacp.org/Maine) to find out if you qualify.

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**238,710 Maine households could lower their internet bills by \$30 a month!**

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Learn more or apply today at [www.getacp.org/Maine](https://www.getacp.org/Maine).



Use the QR Code to get  
\$30 off your internet:



# American Legion Family Fall Conference

**Saturday, September 23th**

All meetings will be at Westbrook Community Center (WCC)

**Luncheon at WCC- \$10.00 per person**

Corn Chowder  
Assorted Sandwiches and Wraps to include: Turkey Club, Chicken Caesar, Chicken Salad, Egg Salad, Tuna Salad  
*\*sandwiches can be made gluten-free*

Homemade Potato Chips  
Assorted Cookies to include: Snickerdoodle, Chocolate chip and Oatmeal Cream Pie  
*\*gluten-free chocolate tart*

**Reception and Dinner at Post 197- \$25.00 per person**

Cocktail Reception prior to dinner:  
White Cheese Fountain \*GF with assorted Veggies, Bread and Pretzels  
Antipasto Skewers  
Shrimp Cocktail \*GF

Plated Dinner (Choice\*):  
Tossed Salad, Rolls & Butter  
\*Cheese Stuffed Glazed Meatloaf \*GF  
\*Bacon Wrapped Stuffed Port Tenderloin  
Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Vegetable  
\*Creamy Broccoli Alfredo Pasta \*GF with Garlic Bread

Dessert will include a Chocolate Fountain \*GF with Assorted Fruit and Treats: Pumpkin Whoopie Pies and Apple Pie Cheesecake

**Sunday, September 24th**

All DEC meetings will be at Westbrook Community Center (WCC)

More exciting information, agenda, and times will be provided soon via facebook and chatter - stay tuned!

*Lodging*

**Fireside Inn and Suites**

81 Riverside Street  
Portland, Maine  
207.774.5601

American Legion Family Rate - \$175.00 per night, plus 9% lodging tax



To book online!



Mail In and Submit Payment  
by **September 15th**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Post/ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch  Yes  No # of People \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner  Yes  No # of People \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need a Gluten-Free option?  Yes # of people \_\_\_\_\_

**Dinner: Circle Choice**

Meatloaf      Pork Tenderloin  
Broccoli Alfredo Pasta

*Lunch - \$10.00 per person  
Dinner- \$25.00 per person*

\_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed

*Make checks payable to ALA Unit 197*

**Mail to: ALA Unit 197 Attn: Cathy Clements - 300 Conant Street, Westbrook ME 04092**  
**Questions? Email Cathy Clements at [catclem02@icloud.com](mailto:catclem02@icloud.com)**