Volume 4 Issue 17 August 24, 2023

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### THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER



Welcome to the 97<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 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

### MEMBERSHIP MPACT REPORTS

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The following monthly reports located on: <a href="https://www.legion.org/membership/impact">https://www.legion.org/membership/impact</a> 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 <a href="mailto:submitting">submitting</a> 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**



To see which forms your post still needs to submit.



State Headquarters will be closed on September 4th for Labor Day. Please plan accordingly!

### FALL CONFERENCE

Westbrook Community Center 426 Bridge St., Westbrook, ME 04092 September 23, 2023

Attn: Legion Members

The Department Executive Committee meeting will be held at the Westbrook Community Center on Saturday, Sept. 23 at approx. 3:00 pm

Auxiliary DEC will be held on Sunday as noted on the form (See page 9)

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).



The American Legion, Department of Maine High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

> Thomas College 180 West River Rd. Waterville, Maine 04901

February 10, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.
\*\*All contestants should plan to arrive between 8 and 8:30 a.m.\*\*

Snow Date: February 17, 2024

**CLICK HERE** for assigned topics

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed to help with the program (judges, tabulators room monitors, etc.).

Those who are interested, please call
Department Headquarters at 207-873-3229

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS AREN'T MUCH WITHOUT FUNDING

Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola, National Commander AUG 23, 2023



Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Ranking Member Mark Takano, D-Calif., issued a warning last February to veterans gathered at the American Legion Washington Conference: "I am worried about the fate of these accomplishments."

He was referring to more than 80 bills passed in the 117th Congress to help veterans and their families. Among them was the Sgt. 1st Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 – better known as the PACT Act. The historic Legion-supported legislation, signed into law just over a year ago, opened the door to VA health care and disability benefits for some 3.5 million veterans exposed to toxic burn pits, atomic radiation, Agent Orange and other contaminants during their time in service. So far, more than 750,000 veterans have filed VA claims under the PACT Act, and the number is climbing every day.

At the time Takano spoke to Legionnaires, a new congressional session was under way, and an old familiar tune was detected in Washington. Cut the VA budget to cover fiscal deficiencies elsewhere in the federal government. A Congressional Budget Office proposal explored reducing VA funding by over 20% – just in time for the first wave of PACT Act veterans.

The American Legion's response to that proposal: Look elsewhere.

Congress did, but it was by a narrow 219-211 vote that the House of Representatives approved the 2024 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act on July 27 that would fully fund VA health care, benefits, programs and services for the next fiscal year. The Senate will soon review and debate provisions of the spending bill so that VA can start the new year with a real budget in hand.

If, however, the measure gets hung up and the two houses of Congress cannot agree, the bigger threat is another government shutdown – as we saw in January 2019 when the entire U.S. Coast Guard went more than 30 days without pay. The American Legion helped junior enlisted USCG personnel with children at home, by issuing over \$1.1 million in Temporary Financial Assistance grants to cover necessary costs as they waited for pay while at the same time fulfilling their duties.

This is why The American Legion has fought since then for passage of legislation that would protect Coast Guard members from pay delays in the event of a government shutdown. The other branches of service are so protected because they are under the Department of Defense, while the Coast Guard is under the Department of Homeland Security.

An on-time, adequate budget for VA solves the problem, for now.

Throughout The American Legion's history, our members have fought off a federal habit of retreating from veterans during times of peace. Veterans, we have often said, in times of conflict and peace, are a long-term cost of war. A new generation of those men and women is now entering the VA system, and rightfully so, facing new and different circumstances.

The American Legion's mission, as it has been for over a century, is to make sure their needs, and those of all generations, are met with the funding necessary to fulfill them. Otherwise, hard-won legislative accomplishments won't mean much at all.

National Commander, Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola

### COMMANDER'S PROJECT 2023

Department Commander Al McKay asks that each Post and Legionnaire support his goal.



Department Commander Al McKay asks that each Post and Legionnaire support his goal.

The American Legion, Department of Maine has a long history with the Maine Veterans' Cemeteries across the State. In 1960, The American Legion learned of a plan for joint State-Federal cemeteries, by State Convention in 1962 (in Old Orchard Beach), a resolution was passed attested by Department Adjutant Nathaniel Cobb. The resolution was to establish a Legion committee at the Maine Veterans Cemetery in Augusta since the burial space at Togus was closed. The Committee was tasked with finding land, deciding on building designs, placing flag poles, deciding on marker types, and working on getting legislation passed to support this massive project.

Fast forward to 2023 - A chapel that had stood at the well -established cemetery fell into disrepair and was torn down years ago. The committal building that replaced it is heavily utilized and in need of some massive structural renovations. The committal building is an essential tool needed to conduct an interment Service for our fallen comrades

Commander McKay states "This is a very much-needed building to provide a dignified space for our veterans, their spouses, and their families. The building renovations will allow protection from the elements year-round and ensure The American Legion, continuing with their Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery history, remains a frontrunner in honoring all veterans who enter Post Everlasting".

If you would like to support Commander McKay's project in renovating this necessary building, mail checks to:

### The American Legion Department of Maine Attn: Committal Building 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727

If you would like to donate with a Debit or Credit Card, please call 207-873-3229 or visit: **www.mainelegion.org** and click on the Donate button.

Make sure to type "Commander's Project" in the Note section.

Thank you!



# 2023 AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The American Legion AUG 16, 2023

The 2023 American Legion Baseball awards were announced Tuesday night after the championship game of the 96th American Legion World Series.

The American Legion Baseball Big Stick Award is awarded annually to the player who compiles the highest number of total bases in regional and ALWS competition.

The 2023 American Legion Baseball Big Stick Award was shared by A.J. Evasco of Lincoln (Neb.) Post 3 and Zack Hunt of Florence (S.C.) Post 1, with 23 total bases each.

Since 1945, the American Legion Baseball program has presented an American Legion Baseball Slugger trophy to the player compiling the highest batting average during national competition; a minimum of 12 plate appearances is required in regional and ALWS competition.

The 2023 American Legion Baseball Slugger Award was shared by Zack Hunt and Brady Cook, both of Florence (S.C.) Post 1, each with a .500 batting average.

American Legion Baseball lost a dynamic leader during the 1970 season. In his memory, the National Americanism Commission established the Dr. Irvin L. (Click) Cowger RBI Memorial Award. The recipient of this annual award is the American Legion Baseball player who is credited with the most runs batted in by the official scorers at the respective regionals and ALWS.

The 2023 American Legion Baseball RBI Award goes to Damon Suriani of Brooklawn (N.J.) Post 72, with 12 RBIs.

American Legion Baseball's first graduate to be elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., was Bob Feller. This award is presented annually to the pitcher who has the most strikeouts in regional and ALWS competition.

The 2023 American Legion Baseball Pitching Award goes to Colten McAnelly of Cheyenne (Wyo.) Post 6, with 29 strikeouts.

The James F. Daniels Jr. Sportsmanship Award is presented in memory of a long-time dedicated supporter of the American Legion Baseball program from South Carolina. This award is presented to an ALWS player who best represents teamwork, loyalty, cooperation, self-reliance, fair play and courage. The 2023 James F. Daniels Jr. Sportsmanship Award goes to A.J. Evasco of Lincoln (Neb.) Post 3.

The George W. Rulon American Legion Baseball Player of the Year award is presented annually in

memory of a long-time dedicated director of the American Legion Baseball program for 25 years. The award is based on integrity, mental attitude, cooperation, citizenship, sportsmanship, scholastic aptitude and general good conduct. The recipient will attend the National Baseball Hall of Fame Classic game next year in Cooperstown, N.Y.

The 2023 George W. Rulon American Legion Baseball Player of the Year is Jacob Cyr of League City (Tex.) Post 554.

Based on players' performance and character on and off the field, the following players have been selected to the American Legion World Series All-Tournament Team:

#### **First Base**

A.J. Evasco, Lincoln (Neb.) Post 3

### **Second Base**

Joey Bogart, Brooklawn (N.J.) Post 72

#### Third Base

Jackson Huggins, League City (Tex.) Post 554

### Shortstop

Colten McAnelly, Cheyenne (Wyo.) Post 6

#### Catcher

Damon Suriani, Brooklawn (N.J.) Post 72

### **Utility**

Garrett Springer, Lincoln (Neb.) Post 3

### **Designated Hitter**

Zach Hunt, Florence (S.C.) Post 1

### Outfielder

Kyeler Thompson, League City (Tex.) Post 554

### Outfielder

Brody Cook, Florence (S.C.) Post 1



### Pitcher

#### ritcher

Jacob Cyr, League City (Tex.) Post 554

### **Pitcher**

Tucker Jackson, Troy (Ala.) Post 70

#### **Pitcher**

Aydin Palmer, Florence (S.C.) Post 1.

### MILITARY TRIVIA

Q. Since the cartoon was created in 1950 by Mort Walker, "Beetle Bailey" has always been a private, but "Sgt. Snorkel" has also remained at his rank. What is "Beetle's" full name and what is "Sarge's" full name & rank?

~ 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.



### Your iPhone battery life is probably getting worse. Here's what to do.

- If your iPhone battery life seems like it's getting worse, that's because it probably is.
- The capacity of a battery deteriorates over time as it's charged daily or exposed to high temperatures.
- There's an easy way to check to see how much capacity your iPhone battery has lost.

If your iPhone battery life seems like it's getting worse, that's because it is.

There's a simple explanation. If you've owned your iPhone — or any phone — for more than a year or so and plugged it in daily, it typically begins to lose its ability to receive a full charge.

The capacity of a battery deteriorates over time, which can be due to the heat from your charger, frequent fast charging or other activities that cause your phone's temperature to increase, such as gaming, as <u>The Wall Street Journal</u> recently reported.

If your iPhone can't store more than 80% of a charge, it may be time to get your battery replaced. It's something you can do at an Apple Store, and it can help you get more life from your iPhone if it's otherwise in working order.

A battery replacement is free if you have AppleCare+, which costs between \$3.99 and \$13.49 per month depending on the iPhone model you have. If you don't have the program, then a new battery costs anywhere from about \$69 to \$99, depending on your iPhone model.

There's an easy way to check to see how much capacity your battery has lost. Here's what to do:

- Open Settings
- Choose Battery
- Select Battery Health & Charging

You'll see "Maximum Capacity." This is the measure of battery relative to when you first bought the phone. My iPhone 14 Pro Max from last September, for example, has a capacity of 87%. That means I can't get Apple's free battery replacement through the AppleCare+ plan that I pay for. But it explains why my battery life seems like it's gotten worse.

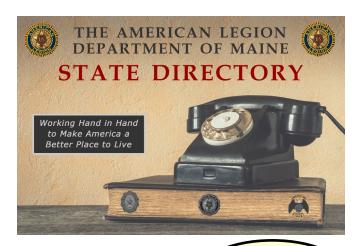
Take your phone to Apple for a replacement if your phone displays anything less than 80% capacity. It's a quick and relatively affordable way to improve your iPhone battery life, particularly if you don't otherwise need a new phone.

~ Todd Hanson, CNBC

### **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 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 <a href="mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org">legionme@mainelegion.org</a> to get



the password, or if you have any questions or concerns.

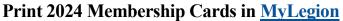
# Warrant Templates All Post/District Officer Positions Available on-line at: MaineLegion.org

or go to: http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.ph. *It's fast and easy!!!* 

### QUICKLY & EASILY RENEW ONLINE TODAY! ■☆

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

www.legion.org/renew



A merican 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.



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 7 for an application.

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

### SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



Print a SAL Membership Application
Squadron Officers Form

**Consolidated Squadron Report - fillable** 

**Annual Squadron Data Report - fillable** 

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

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







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.

### **MILITARY TRIVIA**

A. Sergeant First Class "Orville P. Snorkel" joined the cartoon in 1951 and his character was actually based on a real US Army serviceman, Sgt. Octavian Savu, while Pvt. Carl James "Beetle" Bailey starred in the cartoon from the beginning, and "now you know the rest of the story".







## IMPORTANT DATES IN MILITARY HISTORY

### **September**

- > <u>9/1 New Dawn Began (2010)</u>
- > 9/2 Japan Formally Surrendered (1945)
- > 9/3 American Revolution Ended (1783)
- > 9/10 Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron Founded (1942)
- > 9/10 US Naval Sea Cadet Corps Incorporated (1962)
- > 9/11 Patriot's Day/National Day of Service and Remembrance
- > 9/14 Ladies Auxiliary VFW Organized (1914)
- > 9/15 POW/MIA Recognition Day
- > 9/17 Citizenship Day
- > 9/17 U.S. Constitution Approved (1787)
- > 9/18 US Air Force Established (1947)
- > 9/24 Gold Star Mother's Day
- > 9/29 VFW Day/VFW Established (1899)

# DISTRICT MEETINGS Be Connected · Be Heard · Be Informed

**District 5 – Oxford:** Sept. 19 Oxford Post 112, 7PM, Refreshments after

**District 12 – Hancock:** Sept. 12 Stonington Post 102, Dinner at 6PM, meeting at 7PM

> **District 13 – Penobscot:** Sept. 10 Carmel Post 107, 1PM

**District 14 – Piscataquis:** Sept. 16 Guilford Post 119, 12 Noon Lunch w/Business Meeting at 1PM

**District 16 – S. Aroostock:** Sept. 9 Mars Hill Post 118 – 12PM, Meal provided - \$10.00



## Attention: District Commanders & Adjutants

District Meeting Calendar Form now available online!

<u>Click Here</u> or visit: www.mainelegion.org under Forms/Application



### FLAG = REWARDS

**Tips & Suggestions** 

**Get Organized & Talk It Over** 

# Flag Rewards Committee TO DO LIST

- Put together a Flag Rewards Committee at your Post.
- Designate a Flag Officer to lead the committee. Include the **Auxiliary** & **Sons** on the committee.
- Decide on a plan to gain **sponsors**.
- Discuss how your Flag Rewards credit will be used.

**Open Communication is Key!** 

**Success Stories** 

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

### Over \$150 earned

- **★** Madawaska, ME Post 147
- **★** Brunswick, ME Post 20
- **★ Vinalhaven, ME Post 18**

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

# BETHEONE

Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

~ Mark Twain

For every minute you are angry you lose sixty seconds of happiness.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson



### 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
LEASE PRINT OR TYPE	250
	13
	14
	15
	16
	17
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	20
	21
	22
	23
	24

### 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: <a href="https://www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.php">www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.php</a>

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



### **Togus in Your Neighborhood**

If you or your organization is hosting an event and you want Togus to participate, please contact Christina Smith at vavbatog.engage@va.gov.

Look for a Togus Representative at one of the following locations:

- ◆ August 26, 2023: Bowman Fly-in and Resource Fair, 40 River Rd, Livermore Falls, ME Time: All Day Event Open to the Public
- ◆ August 27, 2023: 4 Directions Intertribal Pow Wow 2023, Mountain View Campground, 200 Mountain View Dr, Dixfield, ME Time: All Day Event Open to the Public
- ◆ August 31, 2023: 716 Candles, Boothbay Commons Rt 27, Boothbay, ME Time: 1:00pm to 5pm



### Kick-Off Event & Career Fair

August 17, 2023 | 10:30am-3pm | Augusta Civic Center Open to ALL Job Seekers

### Maine's Hire-A-Vet Campaign 2023 will also be at the following locations:

- September 21, 2023: Eastern Maine Community College, Bangor, ME Time: 10:30am to 3pm
- October 19, 2023: The Point, 345 Clarks Pond Parkway, South Portland, ME Time: 10:30 to 3pm
- November 9, 2023: Auburn Mall, 550 Center St., Auburn, ME Time: 10:30am to 3p

### **Helpful Websites**

- Access the latest information on the PACT Act: www.va.gov/PACT
- View the impact of this legislation: VA PACT Act Performance Dashboard
- Access the Togus Regional Office website: www.benefits.va.gov/togus
- Refer Veterans to www.va.gov or the VA: Health and Benefits App for self-service options

#### Claims Clinics

To schedule an appointment at one of the Claims Clinics near you, please call 207-621-6938.

- ◆ August 3, 2023: Rumford VA Clinic, Rumford, ME Time: 10am to 2pm
- ◆ August 8, 2023: Portland VA Clinic, Portland, ME Time: 10am to 2pm
- ◆ August 11, 2023: Caribou Vet Center, Caribou, ME Time: 8:00am to 11:30am
- ◆ August 15, 2023: Bangor VA Clinic, Bangor, ME Time: 10am to 2:30pm
- ◆ August 22, 2023: Portland VA Clinic, Portland, ME Time: 10am to 2pm
- ◆ August 24, 2023: Sanford Vet Center, Springvale, ME Time: 10am to 1pm
- ◆ August 25, 2023: Mid-Coast Veterans Council (MCVC), Brunswick, ME Time: 9:30 to 2:30pm





### 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 PorkTenderloin
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



3	<b>&lt;</b>	Mail In and Submit Payment by <b>September 15th</b>		·>8	
	Name:			Circle Choice	
	Daret/Illaste		Meatloaf	Pork Tenderloin	
Post/ Unit			Brocco	Broccoli Alfredo Pasta	
	Lunch O Yes O No			Lunch - \$10.00 per person Dinner- \$25.00 per person	
	Dinner O Yes O No Do you need a Gluten-Free option?			_ Amount Enclosed	

# 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 to find out if you qualify.

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

Learn more or apply today at www.getacp.org/Maine.





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

