

THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER



Welcome to the 79th 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.

Show Your Support to Maine Veterans This Christmas & 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

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](#)

Or go to :

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

See pages 7-9

Attention: Post Adjutants

The Membership Target Date to reach 75% 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 December 14th target date arrives!!!

[CLICK HERE](#)

for the **Latest Membership Report!**

Christmas & New Year's Eve!

American Legion State Headquarters
will be closed
Friday, Dec. 23 & Monday Dec. 26 for Christmas
and Monday, Jan. 2 for New Year's Day!

Please plan accordingly!

We Can All “BE THE ONE”

Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola
National Commander
NOV. 30, 2022



Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

As the nation’s largest veterans service organization, The American Legion has the ability to create positive change in the lives of veterans, servicemembers, their families, and our nation’s children and youth.

We’ve seen it in legislation that protects and provides for veterans. We’ve seen it in relief efforts following a destructive natural disaster. We’ve seen it in the leadership development of young people in our youth programs.

And there are many more examples. Now, just think of the impact American Legion members could have if every single one of us would “Be the One.”

The American Legion’s [Be the One campaign](#) has the potential to not only change lives, but save lives. The initiative aims to provide education and resources so that anyone –veteran, servicemember or civilian – can take the appropriate action to intervene when a veteran’s life may be at risk to suicide.

I am so pleased that we are already seeing posts achieve successes. Among those:

- In Portland, Ore., American Legion Family members distributed [nearly 800 Be the One bracelets and information cards](#) to fans attending the Trail Blazers game on Nov. 15, Military Appreciation Night. Post 104 led the effort, which included two wristbands. The idea for the wristbands is to “wear one, share one,” which spreads our message even further.
- Also in November, American Legion Post 373 in Baldwinville, Mass., coordinated a daylong [symposium on veterans suicide awareness](#). Various speakers, area nonprofits and others delivered success stories, resources and information to veterans and their family members.

These are just two of the ways that posts can spread the Be the One message and help eliminate the stigma of asking for help, and, therefore, reduce the number of veterans who die by suicide.

Want to get started but don’t know where to begin? We have created resources that include videos, brochures and more [that are available here](#).

The success of Be the One will depend on our organization’s combined efforts. Everyone of us can “**Be the One**.” Join me in support of this critical mission. Thank you for your commitment to saving the lives of our military brothers and sisters.

*Read More About the **Be The One** program on P 8-9.*

Kirk Thurston
Department of Maine
Commander’s Project

Operation Reboot Outdoors

AMERICAN
LEGION



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!

National Commander’s V.E.T.S Pin Incentive Program

American Legion National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola will award his national commander “Be The One” membership excellence pin to any Legionnaire who obtains three new members into The American Legion.



A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2023 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2022 membership year. Transfers do not count as new members.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your squadron or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

Only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names in the national database and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it.

[Download the "Be the One" membership incentive form.](#)

VA PRIORITIZING PACT ACT BENEFITS FOR CANCER PATIENTS

The American Legion
DEC 01, 2022



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will prioritize processing benefits claims for cancers under the PACT Act, the department announced. Expediting these benefits will ensure veterans fighting cancers related to toxic exposures are getting timely access to the care and benefits they need.

Veterans have filed nearly 125,000 PACT Act-related claims since the legislation was signed into law last summer. Approximately 14,000 of those claims are for cancers covered by the PACT Act.

“We are working hard to get benefits to all veterans who qualify under the PACT Act as soon as possible, and veterans living with cancer are at particular risk,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. Expediting claims for these vets will ensure that they get the care and benefits they need and so rightly deserve.”

The PACT Act added more than 20 new conditions, including a dozen cancers, which are now presumed to be caused by exposure to burn pits and other toxins. This change impacts Gulf War era and post-9/11 veterans.

These cancers were added to the presumptive conditions list:

- Brain cancer
- Glioblastoma
- Gastrointestinal cancer
- Lymphoma
- Head cancer, any type
- Neck cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Melanoma
- Lymphatic cancer
- Pancreatic cancer
- Respiratory cancer
- Reproductive cancer

These presumptions reduce the evidence necessary for VA to find that a condition was caused by burn pits or other toxic exposures. They also simplify the claims process by eliminating the need to establish a link between the veteran’s service and the claimed condition.

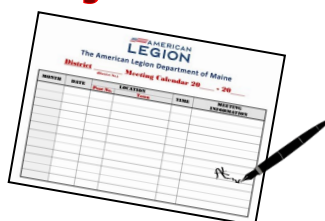
For more information on filing a VA disability claim, click [here](#).

For more information on the PACT Act, click [here](#) or see page 11.

Attention: District Commanders & Adjutants

District Meeting Calendar Form now available online!

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



VA OFFERS TOXIC EXPOSURE SCREENINGS TO ENROLLED VETERANS

The American Legion
DEC 05, 2022



Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers and clinics across the country are now offering enrolled veterans toxic exposure screenings.

The five- to 10-minute screening starts by asking veterans if they believe they’ve experienced toxic exposures during their service. Veterans who answer “yes” are then asked about specific exposures. These include open burn pits, Agent Orange, radiation, contaminated water and other exposures. Veterans will receive follow-up screenings at least every 5 years.

These screenings are a critical part of the implementation of the PACT Act. Since launching a pilot program on Sept. 6, VA has screened more than 19,000 veterans and found a 37% concern of exposure among veterans.

“These screenings are an important step toward making sure that all toxic exposed veterans get the care and benefits they deserve,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “At the end of the day, these screenings will improve health outcomes for veterans — and there’s nothing more important than that.”

Access the following links for more information:

[VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT)

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures>

<https://www.warrelatedillness.va.gov/WARRELATEDILLNESS/education/toxicexposurescreeninformation.asp>



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

Q: Why was Annapolis, MD chosen as the site of the US Naval Academy?

~ Submitted by Dwayne Hatfield, Mars Hill Post 118





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!

Volunteers are needed to help with the program (judges, tabulators room monitors, etc.). Those who are interested are to please call Department Headquarters at 207-873-3229.

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

[Department of Maine Oratorical Brochure](#)

[2023 Oratorical Rules Brochure](#)

[Oratorical Promotional Brochure - National](#)

DISTRICT MEETINGS

Be Connected • Be Heard • Be Informed

District 2 – Cumberland: Dec 11

Westbrook Post 197, Holiday Program w/ALA

District 5 – Oxford: Dec. 20

Locke Mills Post 68, 7PM

Appoint Nominating Committee,

District Christmas Party

District 9 – Kennebec: Dec. 14

Augusta Post 205, 7PM

District 12 – Hancock: Dec. 15

Northeast Harbor Post 103

Dinner at 6:30PM, Meeting at 7:30PM

Christmas Party

District 16 – So. Aroostook: Dec. 11

Mars Hill, Time: TBD

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

Tenderness and kindness are not signs of weakness and despair, but manifestations of strength and resolution.

~ Kahlil Gibran

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.



FUN CELL PHONE FACTS

1. Nikola Tesla predicted the modern cell phone in 1926: "We shall be able to communicate with one another instantly, irrespective of distance. Not only this, but... we shall see and hear one another as perfectly as though we were face to face... a man will be able to carry one in his pocket"

2. The name for the show "Black Mirror" was created after the shows creator (Charlie Brooker) noticed how being able to see your own reflection in turned off technology (iPads, television, cell phones, etc) is essentially a "black mirror".

3. A Florida man used a cell phone jammer every-day while travelling to work because he didn't want drivers around him to be distracted on their phones. As a result, he was fined \$48,000 by the FCC.

4. A service dog bit 911 into a cellphone after her owner collapsed from a seizure. She became the first canine recipient of the VITA Wireless Samaritan Award, given to someone who used a cell phone to save a life

5. The word "Droid" was created by George Lucas and he makes money on every "Droid" cell phone sold

6. Screen legend beauty Hedy Lamarr was also an inventor who designed a jam-proof radio guidance system for torpedoes which is one of the basic sources behind spread spectrum communication like blue-tooth technology, GPS, wi-fi, and cell phones.

7. It costs around \$.50 a year to charge your cell phone.

8. 16% of cell phones are contaminated with E. coli bacteria from fecal matter.

9. A Delaware daycare center once ran a toddler fight club. They were caught when cell phone video emerged of the employees encouraging two 3-year-olds to fight in an organized battle.

10. Illusionist David Copperfield was robbed at gun-point and used sleight-of-hand to hide his wallet, passport, and cell phone.

11. A 13-year-old girl dove through the window of a moving car and fought the passenger and driver so she can get her stolen cell phone back.

For more interesting facts [CLICK HERE](#) or go to <https://interestingfactsworld.com/cell-phone-facts.html>

ANNUAL REPORTS

☞ FROM THE FOLLOWING POSTS ☞

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

Annual Post Data Reports: 27, 31, 51, 61, 66, 105, 111, 121, 126, 130, 157, 161, 164, 173, 187, 195, 201, 204, 208

Notif. of Post/Squadron Cmdrs. & Adj. Reports: 15, 27, 29, 31, 51, 63, 66, 82, 87, 110, 111, 121, 126, 130, 157, 161, 164, 173, 180, 183, 187, 195, 201, 202, 204, 208

District & Post Officers Reports: 12, 27, 29, 55, 66, 87, 121, 126, 130, 161, 164, 173, 183, 187, 188, 195, 201, 202, 204, 208 • Districts: 4, 10, 11

Print 2023 Membership Cards in MyLegion

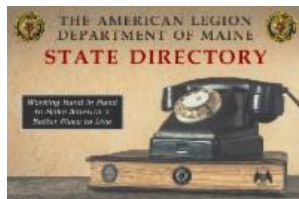
American Legion post and squadron group leadership can print a current membership card for Legion and Sons of The American Legion members.

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.



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



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

*Stay Connected with
Your Fellow Legionnaires!*

MILITARY TRIVIA

A: When the founders of the United States Naval Academy were looking for a suitable location, it was reported that then Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft decided to move the naval school to “the healthy and secluded” location of Annapolis, in “order to rescue midshipmen from “the temptations and distractions that necessarily connect with a large and populous city.” The Academy used to be the Naval Asylum and before that was a US Army post, Fort Severn.



IMPORTANT DATES IN MILITARY HISTORY

- [12/1 Civil Air Patrol Established \(1941\)](#)
- [12/5 Somalia Campaign Began \(1992\)](#)
- [12/7 Peal Harbor Attacked \(1941\)](#)
- [12/8 War Declared on Japan \(1941\)](#)
- [12/11 Germany and Italy Declared War on US \(1941\)](#)
- [12/15 Official End of War in Iraq \(2011\)](#)
- [12/15 Bill of Rights Day](#)
- [12/16 Battle of the Bulge](#)
- [12/20 Panama Campaign began \(1989\)](#)
- [12/31 Official End of WWII \(1946\)](#)
- [Kosovo Campaign Ended \(2013\)](#)

amazon smile

SHOP “AMAZONSMILE”
& GIVE WHILE YOU SHOP!

Support the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation when you shop on AmazonSmile. It’s the same as shopping on Amazon with the extra bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the price of eligible purchases.

[SHOP NOW](#)

How to shop AmazonSmile:

1. Go to <http://smile.amazon.com> and sign in with your Amazon.com credentials. If you already have an Amazon account, there is no need to create another one.
2. In the search box, type American Legion Department of Maine Foundation and start shopping. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation.
3. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com. You must log in through the AmazonSmile portal each time you shop in order for our Foundation to receive the donation, so remember to add a bookmark to make it easier to return and start shopping on AmazonSmile.

The funds go directly to the “American Legion Department of Maine Foundation to help Maine Veterans in need and support Legion programs in Maine!”

Please help us get the word out to your friends and family!

Shop “[AmazonSmile](#)” and make a difference Today!



*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

Warrant Templates - All Positions
Available on-line at: MaineLegion.org

or go to: [http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/
formsapplications.ph](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>

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.*

PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

Please note that the annual dues for Past Commanders Club are \$5.00 per member. See Page 12 for an application.

*When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully,
everyone is blessed.*

~ Maya Angelou

**Let’s Get Word Out
to Our Veterans!**



In honor of the
Christmas Season,
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



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

QUICKLY & EASILY RENEW ONLINE TODAY!

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

www.legion.org/renew



DONATIONS

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

2022 Commanders Project – Thurston “Operation Reboot Outdoors”

Barbara Arsenault - Rumford Unit 24..... \$270.00

Homeless Vets Fund

John Wright, Post 35..... \$100.00

General Fund

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

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)

Background

- The American Legion is the nation's largest veterans service organization with more than 1.8 million members in more than 12,000 posts across the country and has its National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- The American Legion's mission is to enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by their devotion to mutual helpfulness.
- Throughout its more than 100-year history, members of The American Legion have tackled the most important issues and challenges facing our nation's veterans with each generation focused on solving the challenges faced before the ones that preceded them.
- The American Legion is racing to the future. New Era. New Look. Same Mission.
 - **New Era.**
 - As the military changes, so does The American Legion. Today's service members and veterans come from diverse communities, have had different experiences, and enjoy wide-ranging interests.
 - **New Look.**
 - New logo is embodiment of where The Legion has been, where it is now and most importantly, where it is racing to in the future.
 - **Same Mission.**
 - Continue to address the toughest challenges facing our nation's veterans and their families.
- Today, the #1 issue facing those who served is veteran suicide.
 - According to the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. 17 veterans still die by suicide each day, or more than 6,000 each year.
 - Rate of suicide for veterans is more than 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults.
- The American Legion is activating a national platform to end veteran suicide.
- The Be the One campaign will:
 - Destigmatize asking for mental health support, creating opportunity for those with mental health issues to speak freely and get the support they need.
 - Provide peer-to-peer support and resources in local communities.
 - Deploy FDA-approved therapeutics for veterans to identify issues and find resources for support.

What To Know

1. The stigma associated with mental health issues is a barrier to veterans seeking assistance. They fear loss of their job, think they can handle their situation themselves, or don't think others can understand their situation.
2. Family members may be the first to recognize the signs that their veteran needs help, but they may lack the knowledge of how to approach the situation.
3. There are several innovative programs either funded by the government or private nongovernmental organizations that help veterans in crisis, but they often lack funding or broad-based visibility.
4. Veteran service organizations, like The American Legion, provide a well-established peer support network that is ready, willing, and able to help in local communities.
5. The Legion is also willing to explore partnerships with other like-minded organizations where the opportunity exists to amplify and/or complements one another's strengths.

Messages

Public

The American Legion needs your help in ending veteran suicide.

Be the One to:

- Ask veterans in your life how they are doing.
- Listen when a veteran needs to talk.
- Reach out when a veteran is struggling.

Pledge to Be the One at [betheone.org](https://www.betheone.org) by signing up for email updates.

Veteran

Be the One to:

- Talk with others about how you are feeling.
- Ask for help when you know you need it.
- Know there are millions of people ready to help you.
- Remember your family and friend's care.

If you are a veteran in crisis:

- Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1
- <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>
- Know there are millions of people ready to help you.

AMERICAN
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BE THE ONE



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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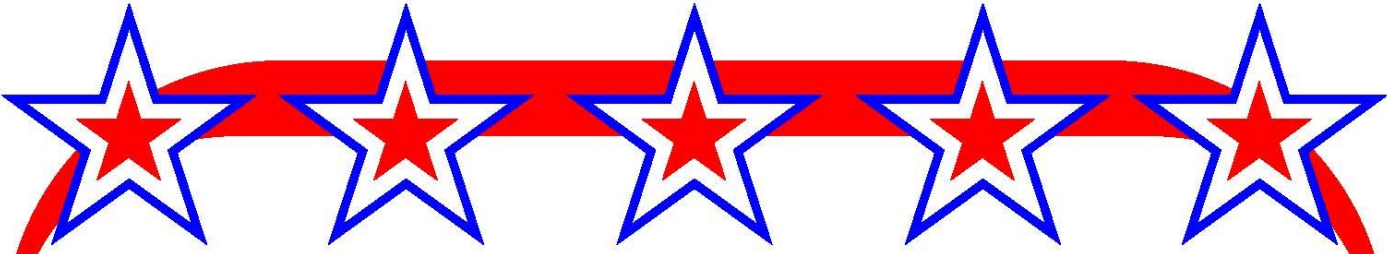
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Use back side if additional space is required.

SUBMIT TO:

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

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
PAST COMMANDERS CLUB



This Act is a new law signed on August 10, 2022, expanding benefits for Veterans and eligible family members. The Togus Regional Office encourages Veterans and survivors to file a claim now. Select this link to find out more information on the [PACT Act](#) or visit www.va.gov/PACT.

PACT Act Highlights:

- Adds 20+ new presumptive conditions for Gulf War and Post 9/11 Veterans
- Adds 2 new presumptive conditions for Veterans serving in Vietnam and those exposed to herbicides elsewhere
- Expands locations that presume exposure to radiation, herbicides and toxins

Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act

Contact the Togus Regional Office: 207-621-6938

Q: Does it cost anything to file a claim?

A: No. Filing claims is 100% free. Togus encourages Veterans to work with a qualified Veterans Service Organization (VSO) at no cost to review their VA disability compensation benefits and submit new claims for conditions that are not already service connected. On the Togus campus there are five VSOs: American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Maine Veterans' Services, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign War. For tips on how to avoid scams, please visit [PACT Act Scams](#).

Q: Will filing a new claim for benefits affect my current benefits?

A: No. Veterans currently receiving compensation for a service-connected conditions will not have their previously awarded claims re-adjudicated simply by filing a new claim for benefits under the PACT act.

Q: What if I have previously been denied?

A: Veterans and survivors previously denied are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.

