

Commander's Project 2021-2022

American Legion Department of Maine Foundation

The American Legion, Department of Maine Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization exclusively for charitable purposes. All donations to the foundation are tax deductible under the United States Tax Code and Internal Revenue Service.

The Mission of the Foundation is to provide financial assistance, promote Americanism, Youth Programs, National Security, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation that will enhance the lives of our veterans, their families, children, and communities in the State of Maine today and for future generations.

My goal this year is to raise \$15,000 for the Endowment Fund to help fund American Legion Americanism Programs. Examples include Baseball, Dirigo (Boys) State, and the Oratorical Scholarship program.

America's future lies in our children.

American Legion Baseball, founded in 1925, has taught hundreds of thousands of young Americans the importance of sportsmanship, good health and active citizenship. The program is also a promoter of equality, making teammates out of young athletes regardless of their income levels or social standings.

At Dirigo (Boys) State, participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training centers on the structure of city, county and state governments. Students are elected to various offices. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, and recreational programs. The two representatives elected to represent Maine at Boys Nation in Washington, receive an education on the structure and function of federal government.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

All these programs help to train and shape our youth into outstanding citizens. Many will become our future leaders and many may become leaders in the American Legion.

I am asking all of you: Legionnaires, Legion Posts, and Districts to please contribute to this endowment fund. It will help so many for many years to come.

Any amount will help, but some have asked for specific amounts.

This is my hope for suggested donations:

Posts with Canteens: \$250; Posts without Canteens: \$100; Districts: \$200;

Individuals: Whatever you believe you can contribute.

To donate online, visit <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/foundation/donate.php>; click on the "DONATE TODAY" button and choose **Fund 001 AL DOM Foundation – Endowment Fund** and click on Donate with a Debit or Credit Card.

Checks should be made payable to American Legion Department of Maine Foundation and mailed to: American Legion Department of Maine Foundation, 5 Verti Drive Winslow, Maine 04901-0727. Please make sure to provide your name and address so that we may send you a tax receipt.

Thank you all. For God and Country. Commander Deb Couture