



# MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

Volume 15 Issue 7

December 2024



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## Commander's Corner



Commander Nelson Isaack Blake

Why Servant Leaders Are What the American Legion Needs In an age where traditional leadership styles are being reconsidered, the American Legion stands at a pivotal moment. As one of the most influential veterans'

organizations in the United States, the American Legion has always served as a powerful advocate for veterans, their families, and their communities. Yet, to continue fulfilling its mission in today's complex and ever-changing environment, the American Legion needs a leadership style that prioritizes empathy, service, and support over personal accolades and traditional hierarchies. The solution? Servant leadership.

Servant leaders focus first on the growth and well-being of others. Unlike leaders who view leadership as a way to gain power, influence, or status, servant leaders view it as a calling to support and serve those

*Continued on Page 2*

around them. Here are five key reasons why servant leadership is what the American Legion needs now more than ever:

### **1. Building Stronger Relationships with Veterans and Communities**

Servant leadership emphasizes empathy, active listening, and emotional intelligence. For many veterans who may face unique challenges such as PTSD, physical disabilities, or adjusting to civilian life, having leaders who genuinely listen and understand can make a profound difference. Servant leaders prioritize the needs and voices of veterans, ensuring that all members feel valued and heard. This inclusive approach strengthens bonds within the American Legion and builds trust with the larger communities they serve.

### **2. Encouraging Personal and Professional Growth**

A key tenet of servant leadership is empowering others to reach their full potential. Within the American Legion, this means helping veterans and their families identify and achieve their personal goals, whether it's finding a job, starting a business, or developing new skills. Servant leaders provide mentorship, guidance, and resources, inspiring members to step into leadership roles themselves. As a result, the organization develops a deeper bench of future leaders, ensuring its longevity and adaptability.

### **3. Creating a More Adaptive and Resilient Organization**

In recent years, the American Legion has had to adapt to a rapidly changing social, economic, and political landscape. From addressing the mental health crisis among veterans to advocating for modern VA reforms, the Legion faces increasingly complex challenges. Servant leadership enables organizations to be more adaptable by fostering a culture of collaboration and shared purpose. Servant leaders encourage innovation by valuing the ideas and insights of all members, helping the organization respond swiftly and effectively to new challenges.

### **4. Fostering a Culture of Volunteerism and Service**

The American Legion's mission is built on service — to veterans, their families, and their communities. Servant leadership aligns perfectly with this mission because it places service at the core of leadership. Servant leaders inspire others to give back and contribute, not just out of obligation, but out of genuine dedication to a cause greater than themselves. This culture of service and volunteerism can lead to increased engagement, as members feel part of something meaningful and essential.

### **5. Reinforcing Ethical Leadership and Integrity**

The American Legion has always held itself to high ethical standards, but with increased scrutiny on institutions, maintaining integrity is crucial. Servant leaders embody humility, honesty, and transparency. They lead by example, instilling a culture of trust and accountability throughout the organization. By placing the needs of others before their own, servant leaders can reinforce the American Legion's reputation as a principled advocate for veterans, embodying values that resonate both within and outside the organization.

### **The Path Forward**

Adopting a servant leadership model won't happen overnight, and it will require intentional effort and support. The American Legion can start by identifying and promoting individuals who already exemplify

*Continued on Page 3*

servant leadership qualities, offering training programs, and fostering an organizational culture that values empathy, service, and humility. By emphasizing these principles, the American Legion can ensure it remains a strong, relevant, and resilient advocate for veterans for years to come.

In today's world, where veterans need support more than ever, a leadership model that values people over power isn't just an option; it's a necessity. Servant leaders are what the American Legion needs to create a brighter future for all veterans and the communities they serve.

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES DEC 31!**

**RENEW YOUR DUES TODAY!**

**DON'T LET THE GRINCH STEAL YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**

**POST COMMANDERS:  
ORDER BIG, SAVE BIG!**

**YOUR POST IS ALREADY PURCHASING COFFEE**

Why not switch to premium coffee at a competitive price and support your fellow veterans? Every subscription helps fund The American Legion's Be The One initiative to help end veteran suicide.

**HEAVILY DISCOUNTED 5LB BULK BAGS**

**SCAN ME**

**JOIN OTHER POST COMMANDERS WHO'VE MADE THE SWITCH.**

Use code **LEGION** for 15% off and free shipping!

Hello, American Legion Family.

While we support and honor our veterans every day, there's something special about the holidays we set aside to recognize those who have fought to ensure our freedom.

It was my honor to represent the Sons of The American Legion and the Legion Family during the wreath-laying ceremonies on Veterans Day at Arlington National Cemetery, alongside American Legion Auxiliary National President Trish Ward and American Legion National Vice Commander Gary Leach.

Walking among the rows of white headstones at Arlington, and standing before the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, are always moments that move me to reflect on the sacrifices so many have made to keep us the land of the free and the home of the brave.

As always, thank you to all our veterans for their service.

I also want to thank the entire Legion Family on behalf of those impacted by hurricanes and other natural disasters over the last few months. These have been challenging times for us all, but it has been heartening to see Legionnaires, Sons and Auxiliary members nationwide taking time out of their lives and money from their pockets to support those who have lost their homes due to storm damage.

I'll be visiting Florida later this month and will see some of this damage firsthand. But I know I'll also see the Legion Family continuing to lift each other up.

I would be remiss if I didn't remind you that you can continue to support those impacted recently, and help The American Legion be prepared for future natural disasters, by donating to the National Emergency Fund (NEF). Go to [Legion.org](https://legion.org) for more information.

Keep up the good work.

*"Todo es posible con Dios y Familia"  
Everything is possible with God and family*

Joseph Navarreté

SAL National Commander

Wow! Seems like November just started and here we are nearing the end of the month. Of course, it has been filled with many awesome events for our entire Legion Family.

We began the month with a very successful Fall Conference. Thanks go out to Auburn Post 279 for the use of their facilities and to our Dept. Conference Chairman Millie Larson for making this event work out so successful, including hotel accommodations, meeting rooms and catering. Our thanks also go out to everyone who made this event work so smoothly. Special thanks to Mary Ellen Levesque and Ann Fournier for making sure our Video System was in good working order. This gave Ann a chance to show us a quick preview of the Dept. History Video. All of our Dept. Chairmen work very hard to share their programs and we are very thankful for their diligence.

We were pleased to have the following members of our American Legion Family join us to bring their greetings and information on their programs; even though they had another event later that day. They were NEC Jodie Pajak, DVC Robert Jerdan, DVC Drew Pajak and DVC Ryan Howe.

Children & Youth Chairman Lisa Gauthier chose "**Feronia Forward**" as her project for the year. She was able to have Executive Director Paolo Cugno and teacher Susan Garcia join her to present this awesome program. We were shown a video that really touched our hearts showing how this program helps children who have learning and physical difficulties.

Junior Chairman Monique Connor introduced Junior member Jillian Battles who is now a senior in high school. This young lady shared her success in her special project "**Bags for the Brave.**" We thank the other Junior members for taking care of their raffle table. Great job! We also thank all the members that donated to and worked the other four raffle tables.

Our next guest speaker was Field Analyst Vic Musante from **Tours of Duty** who was introduced by VA&R Chairman Sofia Blake. He shared another moving video about the workings of their organization on finding the remains of our POW/MIAs and bringing them home. Sofia also talked about our Dept. VA&R Project for the year which is the **Veterans' Creative Arts Program.**

I was very honored to be invited to the Topping Off Ceremony at the Veterans Home in Holyoke accompanied by MVS Rep. Ann Johnson and MVS Deputy Erna Jimmo. Representing the Legion was Dept. Adjutant Lisa McPhee and Grace Connor. The next invitation was to attend the Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Bourne National Cemetery joining DVC Robert Jerdan and his wife Solange, SAL DC Jim Blake, DVC Ryan Howe, Dept. 1st VP Sofia Blake and Dept. Chaplain Carolyn Baranowski. I was very proud to assist Carolyn in presenting the Auxiliary wreath.

As the Methuen Legion Family has been providing Memorial Services there, I was contacted by the Activities Director from a local Assisted Living Home to see if we could take one of their residents to the Veteran's Day Parade. Frank is a WWII Navy Veteran and was so thrilled to be able to go with us and ride on the big flat-bodied truck donated by a local businessman. He had the time of his life being taken care of by everyone.

I was proud and honored to be an invited guest at Dept. Commander Nelson Blake's Banquet. It was a great time which he deserves 100%. I am sure he will continue to be a leader in the American Legion long into the future. It was nice to see Past NP Kathy Daudistal and Past EDNVP Marie Pytko there.

We are all working on the Holiday Gift Shops that will begin in our VA facilities and Soldiers Homes right after Thanksgiving. And many of our members are working with Troop Support groups to send packages to our servicemen and women around the world and helping with Wreaths Across America. I hope you all have a **Happy Thanksgiving**. And remember to **"Be the One."**

Donna Blattenberger, Department President

"Empowering Adolescents through Nature" **Feronia Forward** is a 501(c)3 nonprofit educational organization. Our mission is to teach children and young adults the importance of nature and the value of conservation through experiential education: we believe that contact with the natural world can benefit learning, health and wellbeing.

We grant scholarships to public schools where the majority of students receives food assistance, an indication of financial needs. Ramblewild, a sustainably managed natural forest in Berkshire County provides its infrastructure and staff: Ramblewild is a unique venue that serves as a living laboratory for learning: it incorporates a tree-to-tree aerial park, miles of nature trails, a campground, a sugarbush and a wind farm.

### A Thanksgiving story

Last October, the 5th grade students of a Berkshire County public school visited Ramblewild on a Feronia Forward scholarship.

Elliot is the child on the far right in the class group photo. He is in a wheelchair and has no use of his legs due to spina bifida.



Yet he desperately wanted the opportunity to climb Base-camp, and the teachers found a way: accompanied by his school Physical Therapist and one of the Ramblewild guides (thank you James!), Elliot went through the entire course on his hands and knees, with minimum help from the RW guide assigned to him, with a lot of cheering from his fellow students and teachers! It was an amazing display of will-power, determination, and courage and strength.



At the end of the trail, Elliot ziplined to the ground. On this day, Elliot was just like the other kids in his class. His loud screams of joy were matched by the cheering of the other kids. There was not a dry eye to be found.

Imagine what it must have been like not only for him but for the other kids and everyone else in attendance: an empowering, life-transforming experience.

We are thankful to our donors for providing the funding that makes our scholarships possible, over 6,900 to date! As we celebrate Thanksgiving, I ask you to consider making a gift to Feronia Forward so we can continue providing life-transforming experiences to needy youths.

Thank you for helping our small organization make a difference.

May you share a great Thanksgiving with your loved ones.

Paolo

2nd VP Lisa Gauthier  
Dept. C&Y Chairman



## The American Legion Department of Massachusetts

24 Beacon Street—State House Room 546-2 Boston, MA 02113 (617) 727-2966

Re: Post 185 Legion Member wins the Captain Thomas Hudner Jr. Valor Award for 2024



Marvin Howard from Post 185 Agawam won the prestigious Captain Thomas Hudner Jr. Valor Award for 2024 from Governor Maura Healy on Veterans Day. Marvin Howard is a U.S. Air Force veteran who has since 2003 been a fixture at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam. Legionnaire Howard has had many roles at the Cemetery from Chapel Volunteer and member of the Volunteer Firing Detail. Legionnaire Howard has participated in over 12,000 ceremonies at the Agawam Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Legionnaire Howard has won Volunteer of the Year twice in 2005 and 2013. When Legionnaire Howard is not attending to his duties at the Cemetery he is an avid runner, not bad for a person in their 90's. Legionnaire Howard has completed over 39 marathons and today still runs 4-6 miles daily. Legionnaire Howard also volunteers at the Storowton Village Museum, Springfield Ironman Triathlon and the Boston Marathon. Job well done Legionnaire Marvin Howard

The Captain Thomas Hudner Jr. Valor Award is presented to an individual or group within the veteran community who exemplifies extraordinary courage and selflessness. This award is named in honor to a true hero of the Chosin Reservoir battle. This award pays tribute to Captain Hudner's qualities of commitment to the service and well-being of fellow service members.

Sincerely yours,

*Lisa A. McPhee*

Lisa A. McPhee

Department of Massachusetts

Adjutant

"We It All Begins"

***Veterans Straightening America since 1919 and into the Future***

*The American Legion was built on and committed to four key pillars that still stand today:  
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth*



## *Membership year 2025 ~ December*

We did it!! Ok, maybe a bit tardy, but we got to the 65%. and are in a good position for 75% by the 11th of December (yes, this year). As of 11/21/2024 the department is at 65.92% with a retention rate of 64.56%.

And speaking of retention rate! **REMEMBER**, the retention contest has a crucial deadline looming. A Post must achieve a 95% retention rate to remain eligible to remain in the running for a \$500.00 retention prize. Get 100% by New Years Eve - earn an additional 5 pts.

All Districts made it to the 65% goal, with a few just shy of the 75%, 11 December, goal. Let's look under every stone and carpet for renewals and new members. Why harp on membership continuously? We are a member based organization, and members drive the programs and the votes. And the votes drive Congress to back veteran programs

Still having a hard time with MyLegion.org? Please let us know, we can help, I mean it! Short story: Sat with a Post Commander to help with MyLegion.org. Went through the REGISTRATION portal, they send back a OTP (one time password). Go to his e-mail, only to find out his e-mail had been disabled and corrupt for 12.5 months. No wonder he couldn't get an OTP and could not register with MyLegion.

**Can't say this enough:** Got your permissions to work membership on MyLegion.org? If not, let us know, we can help. Before you call, make sure the Post Commander and Adjutant form is current. 38% have not submitted this form.

**462 Post:** This is our "cloud" of members, most know what it is and how it works. I will be sending this list out, want to get on an exclusive e-mail list, send me a note. Prepared as an Excel spreadsheet, it will be distributed to your District Membership Team (DMT).

**Membership Sources:** Consider giving the gift of membership. No Veterans stocking can be any happier than with a 2025 paid Legion membership. Got a family member that's a veteran but does not have a Legion membership, well .....

Got any Post members that "bail" the cold winter right after the holidays, get 'em renewed before they go.

**CPR:** New CPR being crafted, with a focus on size and being user friendly.

Things to REMEMBER!

Take the time and do 2 Buddy Checks in December (texting is a great way to check in)

Have a safe Holiday Season, see you next year!!

Scott M. Conner,  
Sr. Vice Commander, Membership Chair

[scottscpo@gmail.com](mailto:scottscpo@gmail.com)

774-239-6162

# ***The American Legion Department of Massachusetts***

## ***2025 Membership Retention Contest***

**Scope:** To promote and sustain increased growth through the retention of current members of The American Legion. Encouragement is to be achieved through financial awards. Retention is a forefront goal of our National Commander.

**Discussion:** To effectually sustain growth, current members need to renew their memberships. Providing incentives and goals as targets with a financial reward has proven to be an effective means. DMS/Holding Post 462 and the Capitol Hill Post 297 are not eligible for this program.

**Eligibility:** The District must have a Membership Team appointed.  
Post must physically meet a minimum of 4 times per year.  
Post must attain a 95% renewal/retention rate.  
Post must submit “Post Data Report” by April 15th of the contest Year.  
Post must submit “Consolidated Post Report” by May 31st of Contest Year.  
Post must submit “Post Roster” by May 31st of Contest Year.  
Post must submit “Certification of Service Record” by May 31st of Contest Year.  
Post Membership designee must be registered in MyLegion.org.

**Bonus point considerations:** 1/2 point for each percentage point over 95%  
Commander and Adjutants Report - 2 pts  
100% Retention by 31 December - 5 pts

**Awards:** Post Membership Categories: 20 to 50 Members  
51 to 125 Members  
126 to 200 Members  
201 Plus Members

Award: \$500.00 each category

This Retention Award program is coordinated by the Department of Massachusetts Membership Chairman. Please Contact Dept Sr. Vice Cmdr Scott Conner, [scottscpo@gmail.com](mailto:scottscpo@gmail.com) or at 774-239-6162 with questions.

Greetings, American Legion family. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season.

For this edition of our monthly publication, I have only one marketing item that I would like to focus on and that is our first ever online 50-50 raffle fundraiser.

Please, remember that this is our only department fundraiser this winter and your participation helps fund our department programs.

Participation is simple and the information is on the department website as well as the attached flyer.

Only about 6 weeks remain before the drawing at the January Department Executive Committee Meeting. Once again, please consider participating and thank you.

Mike Davis PNEC  
MARKETING CHAIRMAN



## Department of Massachusetts



Save your stamps! Save your envelopes! Save the Environment

Just enter online for our new 50/50 replacing our Winter Sweepstakes

Go to <https://www.rafflebox.us/raffle/al-mass> select find a raffle

Supports the Department of Massachusetts Programs



Student Trooper



Ladies Fast Pitch



Oratorical



Scouting



Boys State



American Legion Baseball



T-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies featuring both teams from 'America's Game' can be purchased through Emblem Sales.

American Legion-branded clothing is now available through American Legion Emblem Sales ahead of the Army-Navy Game presented by USAA. Click [here](#) to check out the merchandise.

As an associate sponsor, The American Legion is the official veterans service organization and the first to be a sponsor of "America's Game" in its 125 years.

Among the items available to show off the Legion's support of the game are long- and short-sleeved T-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies. Among the designs available are items with either "Go Army, Beat Navy" and "Go Navy, Beat Army."

The Army-Navy game will air on CBS at 3 p.m. ET Dec. 14. American Legion posts are encouraged to stage watch parties in their communities. Resources are available [here](#) to assist with those efforts.



# Department Veterans & Children's Foundation Shirts



**Color is Black / Pewter as chosen by the Commander. Cost is \$40.00 per shirt (for Left Chest Customization add \$5.00) Contact Drew Pajak (dwpajak@gmail.com) Children and Youth Chairman for more information. Please Submit orders to the Department Office.**



## Department Of Massachusetts CWF Polo Shirt Fundraiser

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Left Chest Personalization \$5.00	Size		Quantity	Price	Total Cost
		Mens/Women's	XS - XXXXXL			
John Doe	Post 123 Commander	M	XL	1	\$40.00	\$45.00

Total \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## **American Legion Americanism: The Power of Community Service**

The American Legion's mission to foster Americanism is built on four pillars: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth. In this article, we'll explore the third pillar – Americanism – and its critical component: Community Service.

### **What is Americanism?**

Americanism encompasses the values, principles, and ideals that make America strong. It's about promoting patriotism, citizenship, and community engagement. The American Legion's Americanism pillar works to: 1. Educate citizens about American history and government, 2. Promote patriotism and respect for national symbols, 3. Foster community involvement and volunteerism

### **Community Service: The Heart of Americanism**

Community Service is a vital part of Americanism. By serving others, Legionnaires demonstrate their commitment to America's founding principles. Community Service initiatives include:

1. Volunteer work with local veterans, seniors, and youth
2. Disaster relief and emergency response
3. Community events and festivals
4. Environmental conservation efforts

### **Impact of Community Service—Through Community Service, the American Legion:**

1. Strengthens community bonds
2. Supports vulnerable populations
3. Promotes civic responsibility
4. Inspires patriotism and national pride

### **Get Involved—Join the American Legion's Community Service efforts:**

1. Contact your local post to participate in volunteer opportunities
2. Organize community events and fundraisers
3. Mentor youth through programs like Boys State and Girls State

By embracing Community Service, we build stronger, more resilient communities. Together, we can make a difference and uphold the values that make America great.

For Our Devotion to Mutual Helpfulness

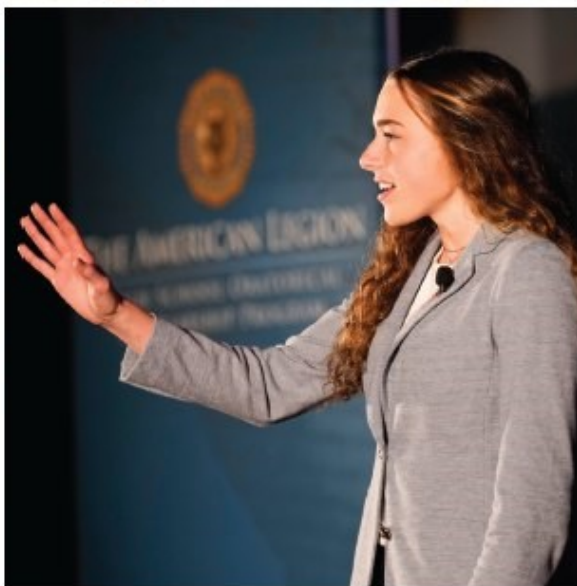
Bob Jerdan DVC 24-25

Americanism Chairman 24-25, National Military Benefits and QOL Committee 24-25

Candidate for Department SR Vice Commander 25-26

AMERICAN  
**LEGION**  
Massachusetts

Oratorical  
Contest



**"A CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST"**

*Over \$203,000 in National American Legion Scholarships*



SCAN TO  
LEARN  
MORE





*Request for Information Massachusetts High School Oratorical Contest*

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

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Sponsor (not necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit to [deptadjutant@masslegion.org](mailto:deptadjutant@masslegion.org)

Or by mail to:

The American Legion Department of Massachusetts

24 Beacon Street State House RM 546-2

Boston, MA 02133

If you have questions please call 617-727-2966 Ask for Department Adjutant Lisa McPhee.

How did you hear about our Program? \_\_\_\_\_

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**BOYS STATE COMMITTEE**  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS  
RM 546-2 STATE HOUSE BOSTON MA 02133  
617-727-2966

To: All Post Commanders and/or Boys State Chairmen:  
From: Mark Avis, Chairman Massachusetts Boys State

The 2025 Boys State Program will be held at Stonehill College, North Easton, from **Saturday, June 14, 2025 to Friday, June 20, 2025**. This year, the cost of sponsoring each boy will be **\$400.00** for the regular tuition, or **\$375.00** for those who pay for students by the **“EARLY BIRD”** registration date of **APRIL 15, 2025**, after the cost is **\$400.00**. **Please make your check payable to “The American Legion” and designate “Boys State” in the lower left corner of the check. Please use the tear-off sheet at the bottom of this notice (page 2) indicating your Post Chairman, as all future correspondence will be mailed directly to them.** All checks for the 2025 Boys State Session must be in the hands of chairman by **May 20, 2025**. The first 400 applications will be accepted. We encourage you to actively seek outside co-sponsors (e.g. politicians, businesses, or banks) to help pay for these boys to attend.

Boys chosen to attend Boys State must be interviewed by the Post Chairman, and his signature attesting to this must appear on Citizen Applications. Each Post Chairman should explain Boys State in detail to the boys and their parents so that they will know what is expected of them during their stay. The Boys State website (<http://www.maboysstate.org/>) contains a wealth of information, 2025 interest application, including video, photographs, program books, and program descriptions. Students and parents should be directed to this resource for information and announcements.

Beginning in January 2025, we will have applications available via email or regular mail. Please select the email option on the tear-off sheet if that is how you would like to receive the paperwork.

**Once we have received payment for your 2025 Boys Stater**

- 1. Detailed instructions will be provided in the application packets that are sent to the Post if by regular mail.**
- 2. Or emailed to the address provided on page 2**

DISTRICT	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE #
1	George Oleen	<a href="mailto:gao1964@gmail.com">gao1964@gmail.com</a>	413-229-6670
1	Dale Alden	<a href="mailto:aldewndale@hotmail.com">aldewndale@hotmail.com</a>	413-229-8163
3	Ryan Howe	<a href="mailto:Shawn.r.howe.yf@gmail.com">Shawn.r.howe.yf@gmail.com</a>	413-875-5923
4	Lisa McPhee	<a href="mailto:Lredsox1964@aol.com">Lredsox1964@aol.com</a>	978-230-6208
5	Nelson Blake	<a href="mailto:captblake82@gmail.com">captblake82@gmail.com</a>	978-726-8272
6	Dick Hynes	<a href="mailto:dickhynes.dbassociates@gmail.com">dickhynes.dbassociates@gmail.com</a>	508-735-5509
6	Wendy Eng (CONS)	48 Payne St Quincy MA	617-584-0078
7	Matt Seto	<a href="mailto:mmseto@gmail.com">mmseto@gmail.com</a>	781-789-7347
8	Bruce Heisey	<a href="mailto:bbheisey@hotmail.com">bbheisey@hotmail.com</a>	978-526-4880
9	Richard Mangels	<a href="mailto:richmangels@gmail.com">richmangels@gmail.com</a>	774-301-0164
10	Francis MacDonald	<a href="mailto:fmacdonald53@comcast.net">fmacdonald53@comcast.net</a>	508-477-0955
Chairman	Mark Avis	<a href="mailto:avis14@comcast.net">avis14@comcast.net</a>	413-535-9234

**TEAR OFF SHEET TO RECEIVE YOUR BOYS STATE APPLICATION**

---

Send this form to:

Mark Avis  
 14 Shaw St  
 Palmer MA 01069

POST \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF BOYS \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsors Name \_\_\_\_\_

Post Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_

High School Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Please send the **APPLICATION** for Boys State via **email to this address:**

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



**Are you a current 2024-2025 High School Junior  
Interested in  
Leadership, Government, Politics?**



**Consider  
Massachusetts Boys State  
Sponsored and conducted by  
The American Legion  
Department of Massachusetts**

**To be held at Stonehill College in North Easton, MA**

**June 14 -20, 2025**

**Goto The Massachusetts Boys State Website  
([www.maboysstate.org](http://www.maboysstate.org)) for additional information**



## LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR AWARD

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Applicants will be assessed based on previous year(s) accomplishments)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

POST NAME & NO: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_ CONTINUOUS YEARS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSITIONS HELD IN LEGION: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES: \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT EXEMPLIFIES THIS PERSON AS A LEGIONNAIRE: (use additional sheets as needed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IS THE PERSON A LEADER IN WHAT HE/ SHE DOES: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DOES LEGIONNAIRE INTEND TO ASPIRE TO HIGHER POSITIONS WITHIN THE AMERICAN  
LEGION: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IS THIS PERSON WELL RESPECTED IN HIS/ HER POST AND COMMUNITY: \_\_\_\_\_

WOULD YOU AS A CITIZEN LEADER RECOMMEND THIS PERSON FOR ADVANCEMENT IN  
THE AMERICAN LEGION (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This form must be submitted to: **Mark Avis, 14 Shaw Street, Palmer MA 01069** no later than **April 15**.

SUBMITTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete with attached recommendations. Do Not submit more than eight (8) pages of additional documentation.

## RULES AND DEADLINES

### FOR DEPARTMENT BLUE CAP / LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

**OBJECTIVE:** THE DEPARTMENT “BLUE CAP” OF THE YEAR is designed to recognize a Legionnaire who exemplifies the goals and objectives set forth by The American Legion. Nominees **MUST** be a “Blue Cap”

**ELEGIBILITY:** for this award requires that the candidate cannot be in an elected position authorized to wear a half white or a white cap; nor at the time of the award, have been elected (though not yet installed) to any such position. (Therefore, to prevent embarrassment, it shall be incumbent upon the recommending Post to report the ineligibility of the individual prior to the Department Convention.) This is the only restriction.

**NOMINATION PROCEDURE:** Any post, District or County may recommend any qualified member. Submissions should include this form (reverse side completed) and supporting documents as necessary for the committee to judge the qualifications, character and dedication of the nominee. **Nominee should be present at the Department Convention.**

**Supporting documents MUST be included:** They may include letters from civic groups, churches, other veteran organization; testimonials from fellow veterans, news clippings, etc.

**DEADLINES:** Blue Cap/Legionnaire Committee Chairman must receive **submissions no later than April 15, 2025.**

**FINAL SELECTION OF** one Department of Massachusetts BLUE CAP/LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR will be determined by the Legionnaire of the year Committee **no later than May 1, 2025.** There will be no honorable mentions. The winner will receive a plaque and Legion cap.

**WINNER** will be honored and a guest of the Massachusetts American Legion State Convention in **2026.**





## Veterans Employment and Education Awards PDC Larry Connors

The first American Legion Veterans Employment & Education Commission award was established in 1947, and recognized individuals across the country who had established outstanding records in the employment and retention of workers with disabilities. Since that time, categories have been added to the award program. The Veterans Employment & Education Commission is striving to award all possible pending awards. We implore all departments to submit nominations for the awards with the hope that we receive all 400+ possible nominations. Each department is encouraged to participate in this program.

The Veterans Employment & Education Commission is striving to award all possible pending awards. We implore all departments to submit nominations for the awards with the hope that we receive all 400+ possible nominations. Each department is encouraged to participate in this program.

1. Employer of Veterans Award—Small
2. Employer of Veterans Award—Medium
3. Employer of Veterans Award—Large
4. Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons Award
5. Employer of Older Workers Award
6. Michael Guty Homeless Veterans Outreach Award
7. Employment Service Award a. Disabled Veterans Outreach Personnel (DVOP)
8. Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER)
9. Employment Service Local Office

The deadline for submission to the Veterans Employment & Education Commission in Washington, D.C., is January 15. It is important that the Department winners are submitted by this time to ensure that they are considered for the national award to be delivered at the annual National Convention.

Please submit written correspondence AND/ OR an electronic scanned copy in the form of an e-mail to the Washington, D.C. National Headquarters office. Please title your e-mail and letter: '[Title] Awards-[your state name]'

All entries must be accompanied by an official nomination form and the narrative must not be longer than two pages. Supporting documents may be submitted but must not exceed ten pages. Nominations from posts, or sources outside The American Legion, must be sent to Department headquarters. The Department then selects one nominee as its winner and sends the nomination form for the winning employer to the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. That nomination form must be signed by either the Department Adjutant or Department Employment Chairman. Selection of the national winners will be made by the Veterans Employment & Education Commission during the annual Washington Conference. The national winners will receive a stipend for travel expenses and are presented award plaques at the National Convention.

Lawrence A. Connors  
connors@comcast.net  
(774) 404-1779



## Grass Roots Information

Interested in what the Legion is advocating for in Congress on ***The Veteran's Role in Supporting the Military?*** Check out [our information paper](#) in the [Legislative Toolkit](#). This is a great starting point for a conversation with your elected officials!

As part of our ongoing Grassroots efforts, LegDiv staff is available to provide **Grassroots Training** tailored to the hosting Department's needs. If you are interested in hosting a Grassroots training event, please contact [grassroots@legion.org](mailto:grassroots@legion.org) or [ejohnson@legion.org](mailto:ejohnson@legion.org).



## Voter Voice

The American Legion's Legislative Division uses VoterVoice as its grassroots advocacy platform for connecting American Legion members and advocates with their members of Congress. VoterVoice allows The American Legion to contact every member of Congress on large, national campaigns as well as target specific members on key committees that pertain to The American Legion's legislative priorities.

In 2023, The American Legion conducted action alert campaigns that resulted in nearly 48,000 emails sent to Congress by Legionnaires and advocates.

### Contact your congressional representatives

You can contact your representative through our campaigns located on our Legislative Action Center, [votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home](https://votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home). Be sure to share The American Legion's legislative priorities using the Legislative Agenda when you contact their office. While you are there be sure to sign up for our legislative alerts so you can stay up to date on all of The American Legion's legislative campaigns.



AMERICAN LEGION voter voice



## Washington Conference

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**March 2-5, 2025** – The American Legion's 65th Annual Washington Conference will be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel. This conference provides an opportunity for Legionnaires to meet with their respective lawmakers and hear from members of Congress and VA leadership. The National Commander will also address attendees on legislative priorities during the National Commander's Rally. More details, such as agendas and schedules, will be updated [here](#).

The Christmas and New Year's holidays will quickly be upon us. Let us not forget the men and women in our military, many of whom will not be with their families this season. This is a sacrifice that most cannot imagine unless they have been through it. Some of them are your family and neighbors. They deserve our kindness and appreciation and perhaps some help. Ask what you can do to help them and their families, some of whom may be in need at this time of year.

We must not forget that we still have troops who are making the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. With the ongoing conflicts in Europe and the Middle East, more of our troops are in extremely hazardous areas. Freedoms that way too many take for granted. Each year we see thousands of people around the globe looking to enter the U.S., some legally, some illegally. Doesn't that say something about this great country we live in? It sure does to me!

As we look to 2025, I personally hope that Congress – both House and Senate: Independents, Democrats and Republicans, will do the job we sent them to do when we voted for them. That is to compromise and to LEGISLATE. Too much time is spent attacking each other. There will also be a new administration in the White House. No matter our political views, we must support our government.

Does all of this make you frustrated? Angry? If so, you need to contact your elected officials and let them know. We voted them into office and we can vote them out of office. They should be addressing our concerns. But they don't know what those concerns are unless we let them know. Let us make our voices be heard. I continue to encourage everyone to go to [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org), legislative and sign up for the grassroots action center. Takes but a few minutes and then you can easily send emails to Congress on pending legislation.

This time of year is also a great time for buddy checks. The holidays can be a depressing time for many. Let's connect. No regrets.

Remember: BE THE ONE. Saving lives. Changing lives. One at a time.

John Lenotte, Alternate National Executive Committeeman Department of MA;  
Past Commander, Post 4 Haverhill MA; Past Commander District 8 Essex County and Past Commander, Department of MA. Member American Legion National Media and Communications Commission. Member, American Institute of Parliamentarians. Local Board Member, Selective Service System. I may be reached at [jplenotte@gmail.com](mailto:jplenotte@gmail.com)





### **FEBRUARY**

22-26: Washington Conference – Washington, D.C.

### **MAY**

5-8: Spring Meetings – Indianapolis

16-18: Oratorical Contest Finals – Hillsdale, Mich.

### **JULY**

18-26: Boys Nation – Washington, D.C.

24-26: Junior Shooting Sports National Championship – Hillsdale, Mich.

### **AUGUST**

7-9: National Membership Workshop – Indianapolis

14-19: American Legion Baseball World Series, Shelby, N.C.

22-28: 106th National Convention – Tampa, Fla.

### **SEPTEMBER**

26-28: Combined Americanism Conference – Indianapolis

### **OCTOBER**

6-9: Fall Meetings – Indianapolis

19-24: Department Service Officer National Conference – Virginia

### **NOVEMBER**

16-21: National American Legion College



It's been a long time since the American Legion was featured in a television show, and it might very well be the first time the Legion has been featured in a comedy series, but that is exactly what is happening TODAY as Office Joe debuts on Amazon.

Written and Directed by a U.S. Army veteran Nick Palmisciano, a member of American Legion Capel Hill Post 6, the series follows Joe Hauser, an Army Staff Sergeant who picks up his DD214 from Fort Lewis, Washington and drives across the country just in time to start his new job as a graphic designer in a boutique marketing company.

Watch now on Amazon Prime:

<https://www.primevideo.com/.../0Q7Q14CQ5IGEU91Z3M4OU6Z7B2>

**POST COMMANDERS:**  
ORDER BIG, SAVE BIG!

**WE'VE HEAVILY DISCOUNTED**  
our 5LB bulk bags in all your favorite flavors—priced to compete with major retailers!

**YOUR POST IS ALREADY PURCHASING COFFEE**  
Why not switch to premium coffee at a competitive price and support your fellow veterans? Every subscription helps fund The American Legion's Be The One initiative to help end veteran suicide.

SCAN ME

Subscribe now at [www.betheonecoffee.com](http://www.betheonecoffee.com)  
Use code LEGION for 15% off and free shipping!

**FLASH SALE: 5LB BULK BAGS**

**JOIN OTHER POST COMMANDERS WHO'VE MADE THE SWITCH.**



## Around the Department— Auxiliary Golf Tournament

American Legion Auxiliary  
Children and Youth



### Tournament

**When: March 30, 2025 at 9:00 A.M.**

**Where: Trombetta's Farm**

**655 Farm Road**

**Marlboro MA 01752**

**Basket Raffles    50/50 Raffle    Lots of different Contests**

**Gather your team of 4 or 5 players to play!**

**Cost: \$20.00 per player**

**Tee Sponsorship (multiple tee sponsors highly encouraged) \$50.00**

**Join us for this fun event that impacts youth in our community!**

**All proceeds to benefit :**

**FERONIA FORWARD**

**For more information and to register your team**

**Contact Lisa Gauthier**

**978-350-7755**

**[lisagauthier1959@yahoo.com](mailto:lisagauthier1959@yahoo.com)**



# Around the Department— Auxiliary Golf Tournament

American Legion Auxiliary  
Children and Youth



Tournament  
March 30, 2025

Tee Sponsorship (multiple tee sponsor highly encouraged)

\$50.00

Contact information:

**Name, address, phone, email of sponsor:**

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Please make check out to ALA Department of Massachusetts ( mini. Golf in memo)

Mail to Lisa Gauthier, 139A Elm St, Winchendon, MA 01475 by February 10, 2025



# Around the Department— Boston Veteran's Day





# Around the Department— Boston Veteran’s Day



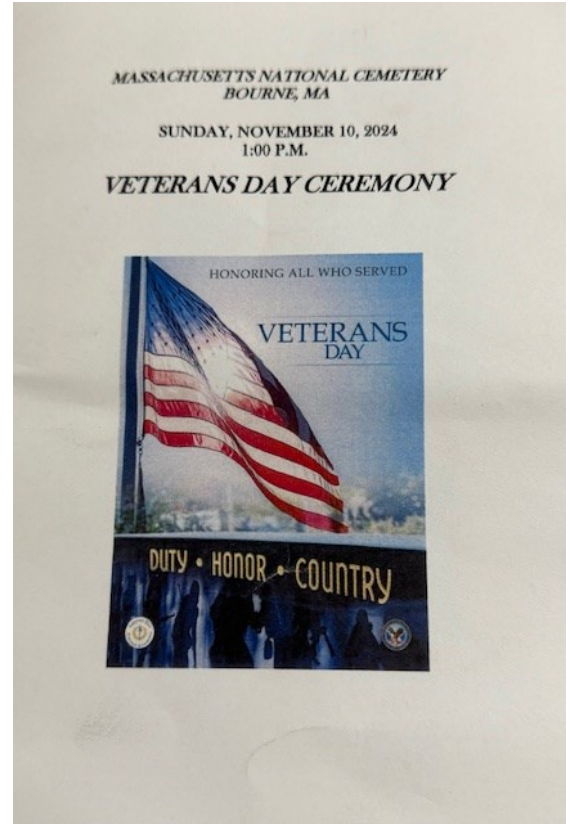
Boston Mayor Michelle Wu signed legislation, passed by the City Council, that adjusts the property tax exemption for veteran homeowners to reflect cost-of-living increases, after this year's Veterans Day Parade, November 9, 2024.

The legislation is part of the Hero Act, which is the most comprehensive and expansive legislative package dedicated to the welfare of Veterans in MA history. Past National Commander John "Jake" Comer, National Executive Committeeman Jodi Pajak, Dept. of MA. Commander Nelson Blake, Deborah Sampson recipient, Senior Vice Commander District 7, and Post 16 Commander Mary Tuitt, and Dept of MA Adjutant Lisa McPhee were a part of the ceremony. (Photos by Dept. of MA Photographer Lisa Borges)





# Around the Department— Massachusetts National Cemetery





# Around the Department— Department Commander's Banquet







# Around the Department— Department Commander's Banquet



1/11/2025		11:00 AM 1:00 PM	Membership DEC Meeting	Cherry Valley Post 443 167 Main St Cherry Valley MA (Leicester)
2/1/2025			American Legion Auxiliary Mission Training National Junior Meeting The American Legion Information Conference The Sons of the American Legion Meeting	Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor 101 Harborside Drive Boston, MA 02128
2/22/2025	2/26/2025		Washington Conference	
3/12/2025			LEGIONS BIRTHDAY	

**AMERICAN LEGION 2025 Membership Standing** as of November 27, 2024 75% Goal 12/11/2024

**Department Membership Standings 2025 Membership Year**

**District 4 Worcester 70.94%**

**District 7: Suffolk 70.14%**

**District 3: Hampden/Franklin/  
Hampshire 69.93%**



	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1195	824	68.95%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN/ HAMPSHIRE	3422	2393	69.93%
4	WORCESTER	4432	3144	70.94%
5	MIDDLESEX	3623	2453	67.71%
6	NORFOLK	2319	1578	68.05%
7	SUFFOLK	1142	801	70.14%
8	ESSEX	2442	1626	66.58%
9	BRISTOL	2496	1731	69.35%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3573	2471	67.65%
297	CAPITOL HILL	423	363	85.82%
462	HEADQUARTERS	1509	541	35.85%
	National Quota	26,576	17,871	67.24%

Fundraiser!

Dr. Coral May Grout Leadership run for  
National ALA President 2026-2027



*American  
Legion  
Family pins  
\$25 ea*

See any committee member or contact  
978-729-6773

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	190	126	66.3%
	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN			
3	HAMPSHIRE	670	338	50.4%
4	WORCESTER	1037	510	49.2%
5	MIDDLESEX	940	425	45.2%
6	NORFOLK	377	166	49.3%
7	SUFFOLK	103	42	40.8%
8	ESSEX	612	355	58.0%
9	BRISTOL	268	175	65.3%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	765	490	64.1%
462	HEADQUARTERS	184	62	33.7%
	National Quota	5,106	2,689	52.7%

## How large is the Sons of The American Legion (SAL)?

Currently, there are more than 379,000 members of the SAL in this country and abroad.

## What is the administrative structure of the SAL?

The squadron is the basic level of membership in our organization. Different states (detachments) use different ways of grouping numbers of squadrons together. In most states, squadrons are grouped geographically and report to their own districts (also called areas or divisions). All districts (or areas or divisions) report to the state headquarters, referred to as a detachment. All state detachments report to the National Headquarters. In addition to the 50 state detachments in the U.S., there are also detachments in France, Mexico, Philippines and Puerto Rico.

## What is the main purpose of the SAL?

The mission of the SAL is to support veterans and their families and the policies of our parent organization, The American Legion. Virtually everything that involves the SAL could be grouped under three areas: 1) support for veterans and their families, 2) promoting patriotism and Americanism and 3) promoting programs which benefit the youth of our country.

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	228	109	47.81%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN / HAMPSHIRE	748	311	41.58%
4	WORCESTER	983	415	42.22%
5	MIDDLESEX	1256	306	24.36%
6	NORFOLK	835	374	44.79%
7	SUFFOLK	196	96	48.98%
8	ESSEX	442	128	28.96%
9	BRISTOL	280	131	46.79%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	790	333	42.15%
	National Goal	5758	2203	38.26%



★  ★

**Post 98**  
**Saturday morning**  
**Coffee break** 

 **Veterans, Aux, and Potential Members**

**American Legion Hall**  
**32 Beach st**  
**8:00—10:30**  
**Come on down**

*Coffee Hour*

*Last Friday of the Month*

*09:00 - 12:00*

 **Free**

*American Legion North Adams*

American Legion North Adams Post 125

**FUNday !!!**

**4th Sunday of the Month**

<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Meat Tables</b> Begins at 3PM	<b>Queen Of Hearts</b>
<p>We will service a simple lunch starting at 12:00pm until sold out or 3pm.</p>	<p>1. Purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win.</p> <p>2. Win various cuts of meat or other prizes.</p> <p>3. Tickets are randomly drawn, and winners receive their prizes.</p>	<p>The QOH with begin 15 minutes after the last Table is raffled.</p>





North Adams  
American Legion Post 125



**PEARL HARBOR**  
Remembrance Day

To Benefit the American Legion Post 125 Baseball Team

**Saturday, December 7**

American Legion Drive, North Adams

**5 PM** Cocktail Hour & Charcuterie  
**6 PM** Ceremony  
**7 PM** Wayne Soares Comedy Show  
**8 PM** DJ Music & Dancing

**50/50 Raffle, Wine & Bourbon Tasting**  
Tickets \$20 per person • Available at Post 125

**Granby American Legion 12 Days of Christmas Raffle**

Your chance to win a prize each day for 12 days in December!  
A winner drawn every day, from Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December to  
Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December, and your ticket goes back in for  
another chance!

**\$10 for 1 ticket, \$15 for 2 tickets, \$20 for 3 tickets,  
\$25 for 4 tickets, or \$30 for 5 tickets!**

**It's Snowing Prizes!**

Tickets are available in the Lounge  
so please see the bartender.

1. Steve Cayer - Custom Made Cedar Deck Planter
2. American Specialty Design - Art Class Certificate & A Wine Gift Basket
3. Brian Marsh - 30 Minute Professional Photo Shoot
4. Diamond Automotive - Oil Change Up To 7 Qts Of Oil
5. Dressell's Service Station - Vehicle Wheel Alignment
6. The Whiskey Barrel - \$100 Gift Certificate
7. Ebenezer's Bar & Grill - \$100 Gift Certificate
8. Granby Liquors - \$75 Gift Certificate & \$25 Delaney's Market Gift Certificate.
9. Atkins Farms - \$50 Gift Certificate & \$50 Delaney's Market Gift Certificate.
10. The Wine Haus at Jameson Farms - \$100 Gift Certificate & A Wine Gift Basket
11. D.Hotel Suites - 1 Night Hotel Stay & \$75 Delaney House Dinner Voucher
12. Brunelle Fuel LLC - 100 Gallons of Home Heating Oil Delivered

**Please support your local American Legion Post and have a chance  
to win some great prizes & stocking stuffers!**





The Granby American Legion Post 266 is a member of the South Hadley & Granby Chamber of  
Commerce and is also a tax exempt organization under section 501 (c) (19)



## Massachusetts E-Legionnaire

The Massachusetts E-Legionnaire is the official publication of the Department of Massachusetts American Legion and is published at least 12 times per year

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## ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Do you have an article or news announcement to share with the rest of the Department of Massachusetts? If so, please follow these basic guide-lines for submissions.

- Submit your text in Microsoft Word format (.doc) or as a text file (.txt or .rtf). Save your file as the same name as the article, so we can easily keep track of it. Be sure to make it clear who the author is, whether it's you or if you are just forwarding it to us. • **WE LOVE ARTICLES WITH PHOTOS**, or any other kind of images! Include photos and/or artwork for articles *separately* (NOT embed-ded in the article) as high resolution (300 dpi, or better) JPGs. Please name these files accordingly so we can track them along with your article. Let us know in your e-mail of any corresponding captions, and/or name of the photographer if necessary.

- Spell check everything! Especially people's names, web addresses, etc. You can help us greatly here by simply running your spell check function in your word processing program.

- **E-mail everything directly to us at fmacdonald53@comcast.net no later than the 25th of every month for it to appear in the very next issue.** This way we have plenty of time to work with in case we need to clarify anything with you.



### Want to Subscribe to Mass E-Legionnaire:

Send your email address to: deptsecretary@masslegion.org or to the Editor at fmacdonald53@comcast.net.

Still receiving correspondence through the U.S. Postal Service? Send the Department office your Name & Address and you will get a hard copy mailed to you.

The American Legion, Dept. of Mass, Inc.  
Room 546-2, State House  
Boston, MA 02133



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