

Sons Of The American Legion—Detachment of Virginia



FOCUS

Taking A Closer Look

Volume 12, Issue 2 April 2021

Detachment Officers

- Detachment Commander – Victor Graulau
- Detachment Vice Commander—Joe Gallagher
- Detachment Vice Commander—David Boggs
- Detachment Vice Commander—Tyler Vanice
- Detachment NEC—Willie Morgan
- Detachment Alt-NEC— Jeff Lee
- Detachment Adjutant—Kevin Chaplin
- Detachment Ass't Adjutant—Scott Williams
- Detachment Finance Officer—Jeff Evans
- Detachment Chaplain—Robert Wilson, Sr.
- Detachment Sgt At Arms—Jeremy Wallace
- Detachment Judge Advocate—Steve Gower
- Detachment Historian—Mark Young, Sr.

Spring Forward...Move Forward



Springtime always means that we switch to Daylight Savings time, longer days, and warmer temperatures. Yet for the Sons, in this ever changing environment, it also means we need to spring forward with the way we do things - from the way we hold meetings, how we communicate with our membership, and even more importantly—how we continue to support the programs we support.

By now, hopefully, you will have heard that Sons will be able to renew their Membership online. That change should take place by July of this year. This is the first big step toward moving the Sons forward with technology for the organization on a National basis. We hope that you will encourage your Squadron to accept and move forward with Online Membership Processing this year. We feel that this will be a big improvement toward meeting our membership goals on a yearly basis. As a member, when this becomes available, you will be able to go to the specified website by National and pay your dues with your credit card and get a temporary membership card until your permanent card comes in the mail. This will also enable you to update your address, phone number, birth date, and email address—all online.

Another change or move forward that needs to be done before the online membership can be available for your Squadron is the Squadron Data Form. Each Squadron needs to complete the Squadron Data Form and send it in to our Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin, via email at kchaplin@lexacom.net, as soon as possible. Detachments have to send in all of their Squadron Data Forms to National by May 1. A sample form is included in this issue. The form will ask for your Squadron's physical address, mailing address, phone number, email address, dues amounts for regular members, junior members, and dual members, as well as other information. The form is pdf fillable and is easy to complete. It should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. If all of our Squadrons complete and turn this form in, our Detachment will be in a great position to move forward with Online Membership. This will be a yearly requirement of all Squadrons. **Continued on Page 7**

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About This Issue

This is the second issue for the 2020-21 year. We talk a lot about some of the new things coming up in the very near future. A lot of High Tech stuff.

Don't let the High Tech keep you from the personal touch-doing 'Buddy Checks'.

We will talk a lot about the new On—line Membership processing that will be coming up in July.

Our Adjutant will talk some about 'Snap Shots of Service'. I won't give a spoiler alert here—read his blog.

Our Detachment Historian has an article in this issue on the 'Commander In Chief's Guard' Some great history in this article.

We will also have another word search for our Junior Members to work on.

Commander's Corner—Victor Graulau



Det. Cdr. Graulau presenting Det. Sgt. Arms, Jeremy Wallace with his cover in August 2020.

Here it is the beginning of Spring, and we are still dealing with the COVID pandemic in more ways than one could ever imagine. Virtual meetings and conference calls are the order of the day and squadrons throughout the Detachment of Virginia are strugg-

ling to conduct the business of supporting our Veterans. I look back through 2020 and the first quarter of 2021, and reflect on the accomplishments and also the unmet challenges.

Let's look at those challenges:

Membership has been suffering due to COVID restrictions or that is what some state, others cite the \$3 increase in processing fees, and a few stated it has to do with post closures and fewer general membership meetings. Some of our squadrons met this challenge head on, embracing new ideas, like virtual meetings with follow up conference calls to the membership.

Get aggressive, and call your members in arrears, tell them that you value them as a volunteer and a supporter



Detachment Commander, Victor Graulau, addresses the Virtual Detachment Convention

of our Veterans.

I. If they are unemployed or incapacitated due to illness, extend them a hand up by taking care of their 2021 dues. If they are willing to split the difference or pay for their membership in the future, that's great, but let them know that when they are on their feet, **Continued on Page 4**

Adjutant's Blog—Spring 2021 Kevin Chaplin

This has been a very interesting and challenging year for everybody. The restrictions on gatherings have made it difficult for the Legion Family to get together socially, have fundraising events, or even visit with veterans at the VA or in their homes. Please let us know how your Squadron and Post are carrying on those very important activities in support of the Legion. I know many have gotten creative and have come up with ways to raise funds, assist our veterans, and promote our programs while adhering to these restrictions. Send your success stories to me and they may get included in the Sons or the Legion's national media stories. Do not forget there is a National Photo Contest, Snap Shots of Service. This contest showcases Sons in service with a focus on Americanism, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Children and Youth, and National Security. Send in your pictures using the form found at this link.

https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.n.org/files/legion/documents/snaps_hot_1.pdf

Please make sure you are wearing some sort of SAL apparel in those pictures. By the way, the Detachment of Virginia won the VA&R category last year.

I would like to remind everybody that the annual Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) will be due on 5/29/21. This report captures important information about what your Squadron has done this administrative year. We will be emailing or mailing the report form to your Squadron Officers soon and we will be glad to assist you with any questions you may have. With only 21 of 71 Squadrons reporting for the 2019-2020 reporting year, the Detachment of Virginia showed that we donated \$72,608 to our programs and community

charities, and we donated over 30,800 hours of our time. It would be great to get more Squadrons reporting their activities, even if you only were able to do few things, please let us know so it can be counted. This data is added to the Legion's reports and the National Commander uses these numbers when reporting to Congress. You do a lot for our Veterans and their families, so please let us know about it.

Changes are coming in the way membership will be processed. Soon you will have the option to process Online Membership Renewals at the Squadron level. How does online Membership Renewal work? The first step is to create an account on MySAL.org and this is something every Squadron Adjutant should do as soon as possible. This will give you electronic access to your members' contact information, and you will be able to make changes if needed. **Continued on Page 6**

Annual Squadron Data Report



ANNUAL SQUADRON DATA REPORT (SDR)

20 Membership Year

Detachment District/County Squadron #

CHANGES (or) CORRECTIONS

Please type or print in ink and forward to your Detachment and National Headquarters

1) Squadron's Home (Physical) Address:
(Street address, city, state and zip code)

2) Squadron's Mailing Address:
If different than physical address

3) Squadron's Dues Mailing Address:
If different than physical address

Note: If the above address contains a member's name or is being sent to a member's home address as the contact, please provide the member's ID#.

4) Annual Squadron Dues for 20 **Regular member** **Dual member**
Junior member **Max. age** **Effective Date**
Month / Day / Year

Note: Include all district and county per capita the squadron will be responsible for paying.

5) Squadron Telephone Number:
Note: DO NOT use personal phone numbers of members

6) Squadron Fax Number:

7) Squadron Email Address:

8) Squadron Internet Website:

9) Squadron Facebook Page:

10) Squadron Meeting Day & Time:

Squadron Adjutant or Commander Signature

Date

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Complete and return this form to your Detachment and National Headquarters no later than April 15th. Failure to meet this deadline may prohibit your members from renewing their membership online through mysal.org and cause Renewal Notices to be mailed with incorrect information.

Commander's Corner con't

Cont. from page 2 we will go back to the normal routine.

2. Starting July 2021, Sons will be able to renew online.

3. June 2021 all Squadrons in the Detachment will be able to process membership via MYSAL.ORG. (Yes that is right! Squadrons and Sons will not have to wait for membership to process.) No more delays via US Mail. The squadron will receive notification via MYSAL.ORG within two weeks. All that is required is a bank routing number and account and all processed membership will be handled by EBT.

4. Its not too late to renew. Let them know if they renew, Sons membership is good at any American Legion Post, plus the perks that go with it, discount hotel and rental cars, and retail stores.

If your squadron does not have the means of using MYSAL.ORG, get with your Post Adjutant or Commander, as they will be able to process membership via MYLEGION.ORG.

Ok, lets move on to Consolidated Squadron Reports and the new Squadron Data Report are now available. Please check VASONS.ORG for the latest information. The CSR is online in either Excel or Adobe Acrobat PDF files. The Squadron Data report has been sent via email and is also available on VASONS.ORG. Get your CSR and Squadron Data Report submitted as soon as possible. Cutoff Date for both is 21 May. You can send them to your Area Vice Commander or to the Detachment Adjutant Kevin Chaplin.

In closing, please remember no matter how small your effort may seem to you, that effort may be big to the Legion Family. Every effort counts!

I thank everyone who sent their prayers and well wishes during and after my health scare in February. My family also sends their thanks. **Victor Graulau, Jr. Detachment Commander**

Membership Pointers



Colsen Moore, SAL 284 Member and grandson of PDC, Linwood Moore. Picture appeared on the National Renewal Notice Postcards.

1. National per member dues increased to \$5 per Resolution 14. For the 2021 Membership year please be sure that your transmittal is \$10 for Detachment plus \$5 for National, per member when transmitting Membership to Department.

2. If your Squadron has not signed up for MySAL National Membership Tool, please do so as soon as possible.

3. Weekly Detachment Membership Reports are available at www.vasons.org.

4. Squadrons can request the Detachment Membership Report be sent to them by signing up through the Department Website at on the main landing page 'Click HERE To Sign Up For The Virginia American Legion Email List'.

5. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible.

6. Please do not hold any memberships!!!

Revised 2021 Membership Target Dates—Below Are The Only Changes

April 14, 2021 90%

Now May 12, 2021

May 12, 2021 100%

Now June 9, 2021

American Legion History—100 Years of Service Part V



Here is the next installment in the rich 100 Year History of the American Legion. We are going to look at key dates and events in the next several decades.

Sept. 11, 2002-The American Legion takes lead in conducting “A Day To Remember” events to mark the anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the nation.

November 2002-The Legion launches the national “I Am Not A Number” campaign to identify and document the delays veterans face in obtaining medical care from VA.

Oct. 17, 2003- American Legion efforts on Capitol Hill break the deadlock on the Disabled Veterans Tax when Congress creates a 10-year phase-in for service-connected disabled retirees to receive military retired pay and VA disability compensation without subtraction from either. Legion efforts also result in passage of the Military Family Tax Relief Act.

Sept. 3, 2004- American Legion lobbying leads to more progress in elimination of the Disabled Veterans Tax with passage of PL 108-375 that eliminates the 10-year phase-in for 100 percent service-connected retirees, allowing them to immediately begin receiving both retired pay and VA disability payments.

Sept 19, 2004-The American Legion launches a national program, the Blue Star Salute, where posts across the country hold public events to recognize troops, their families and local businesses on Armed Forces Day.

May 7, 2005- The American Legion lobbied successfully to remove from VA funding legislation administration-proposed increases in VA prescription co-payments and institution of user fee for Priority Group 8 veterans using VA health facilities. Efforts focus on legislation to provide mandatory, vice discretionary, funding of VA health care.

August 2005-Delegates at the 87th National Convention in Honolulu unanimously voice their support for the global war on terrorism with Resolution 169.

Oct. 17-18, 2007-The American Legion National Executive Committee passes Resolution 35 and adopts The American Legion Riders as a national program of The American Legion. The first American Legion Riders chapter was established by American Legion Post 396 in Garden City, Mich., in 1993.

June 30, 2008-President George W. Bush signs into law the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, a next-generation GI Bill strongly supported by the Legion. The bill renews the federal government's commitment to veterans by providing them with substantially better education benefits. The Post-9/11 GI Bill took effect Aug. 1, 2009, and sent an unprecedented number of veterans to college. Today, as at its formation, the Legion remains at the forefront of efforts to improve education and other benefits for all veterans.

Oct. 22, 2009- President Obama signs the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform Act of 2009, guaranteeing “advance funding” for VA appropriations, a formula that The American Legion has strongly supported for many years. The new law sets funding for VA one year in advance.

2010's

February 2010-The entire Legion family bands together and wins \$250,000 for Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) in PepsiCo's Refresh Everything Project, submitting the most votes in an online contest and beating out hundreds of other groups and charities to take first place in the contest's first month. A big part of getting the word out was the American Legion Online Update e-newsletter. This is an early example of the still growing power of online and social media to augment everything the Legion does.

October 2010-Continuing a long-standing tradition of advocating for timely and adequate medical care for veterans, the Legion forms a PTS-TBI Ad Hoc Committee to both examine current methods by VA and the Department of Defense of treating the two conditions, and investigate potential alternatives. **Continued on Page 9**

Squadron Donations for American Legion Programs

At our virtual Fall Conference, Squadron donations for American Legion programs was discussed. Due to the unprecedented times we are in, all of the American Legion Programs are desperately in need of support. If your squadron has donations for the various American Legion Programs, please send those donations to the address below. Our Finance Officer will then send them on to National Headquarters for processing.

Jeff Evans

Detachment Finance Officer

6349 Cabot Ave

Norfolk, VA 23502

Also, please send an email to Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin at kchaplin@llexacom.net with your Squadron Number, charities donated to, and amounts per each charity. Thank You!!!



Adjutant's Blog—Spring 2021 Kevin Chaplin - Continued

Continued from Page 2 You can also download lists that contain phone numbers, addresses and email information. Each Squadron that wishes to participate will need to complete an Authorization form where you will provide some banking information. Once you have been authorized, setup and trained, you will be able to complete your Squadron's Membership Renewals online. The dues to National and the Detachment will be electronically drafted out of your bank account, (\$10 for the Detachment and \$5 for National per member). National will then send the Detachment their portion of the dues and provide them the renewal information. This has been very successful in other states and the Legion is already processing renewals this way. We will be providing updates on how to participate soon.

There is a new form that will need to be submitted called the Consolidated Squadron Data Report or SDR. This form documents your Squadron's dues structure and will allow your members to renew their dues online using the National website. Many of you have been asking for this capability and it is finally coming. We will be sending more information about this form soon.

We are here to help. **Kevin Chaplin, Detachment Adjutant**



Detachment of Virginia Winning Photograph 'Snapshots of Service' VA & R Category with Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin.



Detachment Mid Winter Meeting 2021



Spring Conference2021 DEC Meeting



SAL Online Membership Renewal Coming in July

The new Squadron Data Report (SDR) will help Sons of The American Legion squadrons keep their membership rolls up-to-date, and will eventually allow members of those squadrons to renew their membership online.

It's part of the new MySAL.org launching April 1; however, SDRs for 2021 will not be due until May 15. Online SAL membership renewal will go into effect in July for the 2022 membership year, provided that a member's squadron has submitted an SDR.

Squadrons that do not submit an SDR will not have member renewal capabilities until the form is submitted and recorded.

The Squadron Data Report is available for download here. Note that the instructions with the download call for an April 15 deadline to submit, but for 2021 that deadline has been extended to May 15.

The Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) has also been revised to allow for online submission through MySAL.org.

The American Legion, March 24, 2021

Spring Forward...Move Forward—Continued from Page 1

The Squadron Consolidated Report Form will also need to be submitted on line this year. There are 2 options for Squadrons to use. One is to use the PDF Fillable form or the Excel CSR Form. All of our Squadrons should have received by now the pdf fillable version or the excel version of the CSR form. The big benefit of using the Excel version of the CSR Form is that it provides a summary page that is professional looking that your Squadron can post in the Post Home, send out to its members, and use it as a recruiting tool for new members. We are requesting that Squadrons complete one of the 2 versions and send to Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin, no later than May 21, 2021. Please send the completed CSR to Adjutant Kevin at kchaplin@lexacom.net. If your Squadron needs help completing this report, please contact our Detachment Commander, Victor Graulau, Detachment Vice Commanders, Joe Gallagher, Tyler Vanice, or David Boggs, Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin, or Assistant Detachment Adjutant, Scott Williams.

Please do not enter your CSR data on MySAL. Please submit the CSR to Adjutant Kevin, per above. We need these reports to determine the Detachment Award Winners for Americanism, Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, and Veterans Employment and Education. We will tally all of the results and announce the winners at our Virtual Detachment Convention in July. We will also publish the totals in August or September so that everyone can see what our Detachment accomplished this year.

So, to summarize, what are our next steps so that we can accomplish the above? First, please make sure that your Squadron is signed up on MySAL. Second, please complete the Annual Squadron Data Report Form and send it to Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin at kchaplin@lexacom.net. Third, please complete your Squadron CSR in pdf fillable or Excel form and send to Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin by May 21. **Scott Williams, Detachment Assistant Adjutant**

Detachment Scholarship Award

Each year the Detachment of Virginia awards a \$1,500 Detachment Scholarship to a graduating Senior attending an accredited College/University or Trade School. The \$1,500 can be used to help pay for Tuition and Fees or for books. The prospective applicant needs to be an SAL Member in good standing—meaning being a 2021 member for this year's application and active in his Squadron. This year we made the Scholarship Application Form easier to fill out. The application is now in PDF Fillable format. The pdf fillable 2021 Detachment Scholarship Application is available on our Detachment website www.vasons.org. Check for the link at the bottom of the landing page on our website. The winning recipient will have the check sent to the college or trade school he will be attending in the Fall.

We encourage all Sons Members who will be graduating High School and attending college in the fall to apply for this prestigious detachment award. We would like to have as many applications to consider for the award winner as possible. The award winner will be announced at our Virtual Detachment Convention in July. Please forward your applications to Clint Bolt, Scholarship Committee Chairman at SonsCDBolt@aol.com. **Scott Williams, Scholarship Committee, Vice Chairman**

Squadron Consolidated Report Form 2021



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION | CONSOLIDATED SQUADRON REPORT

JUNE 1, [] to MAY 31, []

Please check one box indicating the reporting entity level: Detachment District Squadron

1	[] Detachment (State)	2	[] District
3	[] Squadron Number	4	[] Squadron Name
5	[] Paid-to-Date Membership Count, Current Year	6	[] Paid-Up Final Membership Count, Prior Year
7	[] City/Town	8	[] Zip Code

If the reporting entity is a District (or Detachment) the entity agrees that their report of dollars and hours ONLY INCLUDES those approved and expended by Officers and Members of that entity, and ARE NOT cumulative of the Squadrons (or Squadrons and Districts) that they represent.
 Please type or print all information clearly. For the program details below only mark lines for which you are reporting data (leave "0" values blank).

AMERICANISM

1	[] Donations, Boys State / Girls State	2	[] No. of Hours, Boys State / Girls State
3	[] Donations, 5-Star / 10-Ideals Education	4	[] No. of Hours, 5-Star / 10-Ideals Education
5	[] Donations, Flags Presented (All Sizes/Events)	6	[] No. of Hours, Flags Presented (All Sizes/Events)
7	[] N/A	8	[] No. of Hours, Flags Presented (All Sizes/Events)
9	[] Donations, Flag Education Programs	10	[] No. of Hours, Flag Education Programs
11	[] Donations, Scholarships Awarded	12	[] No. of Hours, Other Educational Programs
13	[] Donations, Oratorical Contest	14	[] No. of Hours, Oratorical Contest
15	[] Donations, Color Guard	16	[] No. of Hours, Color Guard
17	[] Donations, Other Organizations	18	[] No. of Hours, Community Service
19	[] Donations, Scouting	20	[] No. of Hours, Scouting
21	[] Donations, Junior Shooting Sports	22	[] No. of Hours, Junior Shooting Sports
23	[] Donations, American Legion Baseball	24	[] No. of Hours, American Legion Baseball
25	[] Donations, Other Teams Sponsored	26	[] No. of Hours, Other Teams Sponsored
27	[] Donations, Blood Drives	28	[] No. of Hours, Blood Drives
29	[] Donations, National Emergency Fund	30	[] No. of Hours, National Emergency Fund
31	[] Donations, Legacy Scholarship Fund	32	[] No. of Hours, Legacy Scholarship Fund
33	[] Donations, Other Americanism Projects	34	[] No. of Hours, Other Americanism Projects

CHILDREN & YOUTH

1	[] Donations, Child Welfare Foundation	2	[] No. of Hours, Child Welfare Foundation
3	[] Donations, Special Olympics	4	[] No. of Hours, Special Olympics
5	[] Donations, Children's Miracle Network	6	[] No. of Hours, Children's Miracle Network
7	[] Donations, Ronald McDonald House	8	[] No. of Hours, Ronald McDonald House
9	[] Donations, Children's Organ Trans. Assn.	10	[] No. of Hours, Children's Organ Trans. Assn.
11	[] Donations, T.A.L. Vets. and Child. Found.	12	[] No. of Hours, T.A.L. Vets. and Child. Found.
13	[] Donations, Other C&Y Projects	14	[] No. of Hours, Other C&Y Projects

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

1	[] Donations, VA Medical Ctrs. & Facilities	2	[] No. of Hours, VA Medical Ctrs. & Facilities
3	[] Donations, State Veterans Facilities	4	[] No. of Hours, State Veterans Facilities
5	[] Donations, Nat'l Veterans Assist. Day	6	[] No. of Hours, Nat'l Veterans Assist. Day
7	[] Donations, Operation Comfort Warriors	8	[] No. of Hours, Operation Comfort Warriors
9	[] Donations, Fisher House	10	[] No. of Hours, Fisher House
11	[] Donations, Other VA&R Projects	12	[] No. of Hours, Other VA&R Projects

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

1	[] Donations, VE&E Projects	2	[] No. of Hours, VE&E Projects
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INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1	[] Other Donations, Not Covered Above	2	[] Other Hours, Not Covered Above
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Signature: []	Title: []	Date: []
Contact Phone Number: []	Contact Email: []	

April - Children and Youth Month

The American Legion has been actively involved with children's issues since the early 1920s. In many instances, the American Legion has been the driving force on behalf of children on the federal, state and local levels.

In 1938, April was formally designated as Child Welfare Month (now called Children & Youth Month) and has continued on an annual basis. During this special time, we urge each of you to show your community that the American Legion Family is dedicated to America's youth.

Each year the Committee on Children & Youth focuses on three primary areas of concern. They may include-Child Health, Child Safety, and Family Support. The American Legion Children and Youth Brochure is available at www.legion.org.

Source—American Legion Website



American Legion History—100 Years of Service Part IV

Continued from Page 5

December 2010-The Legion officially begins a relationship with United Services Automobile Association (USAA), making the veteran-founded insurance company "The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services." The purchase of USAA products gains money for Legion programs. USAA representatives often give members helpful financial information and tips through Legion media.

May 5, 2011 - The National Executive Committee authorized establishment of The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) to promote emergency communications and disaster preparedness, engage youth in math and science and facilitate public communications with our nation's federally licensed amateur radio operators who are veterans. TALARC membership opened free for members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion who are FCC licensed ham radio operators.

August 2011-The American Legion Baseball World Series is held for the first time in the tournament's new permanent home, Shelby, N.C. Prior to this, the tournament had rotated to different cities. Total paid attendance at the Shelby contests soars to an all-time high of 86,000 total.

October 2012-VA guarantees its 20 millionth home loan. 1936-1937 National Commander Harry Colmery and 1943-1944 National Commander Warren Atherton escorted the original GI Bill of Rights through Congress in 1944, arguing passionately for veterans educational benefits, government-assured health care and what they called "readjustment allowances." Today Colmery and Atherton are lauded as the "fathers of the GI Bill" and its successors.

Aug. 30, 2013- National Commander James E. Koutz announced that the American Legion family raised more than \$1.1 million for Operation Comfort Warriors during the 2012-2013 fundraising year. It easily surpassed his original goal of \$500,000.

2014-in the midst of a VA waiting-list scandal that reached up to the deaths of veterans waiting for care, The American Legion calls for the resignations of several top officials, including VA Secretary Eric Shinseki. The scandal would ultimately engulf multiple facilities and offices; the Legion kept the issue in front of the public and Congress via articles and testimony.

August 2014-National Commander Michael D. Helm announces that Legion Family members and friends donated more than \$4 million (his goal) to Legion charities and programs during his year in office.

July 2016-The Legacy Scholarship is expanded to children of post-9/11 veterans who have a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater.

For our Junior Members

Veterans and Remembrance Day Word Search Solution

Veterans & Remembrance Day

"The soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war." - Douglas MacArthur

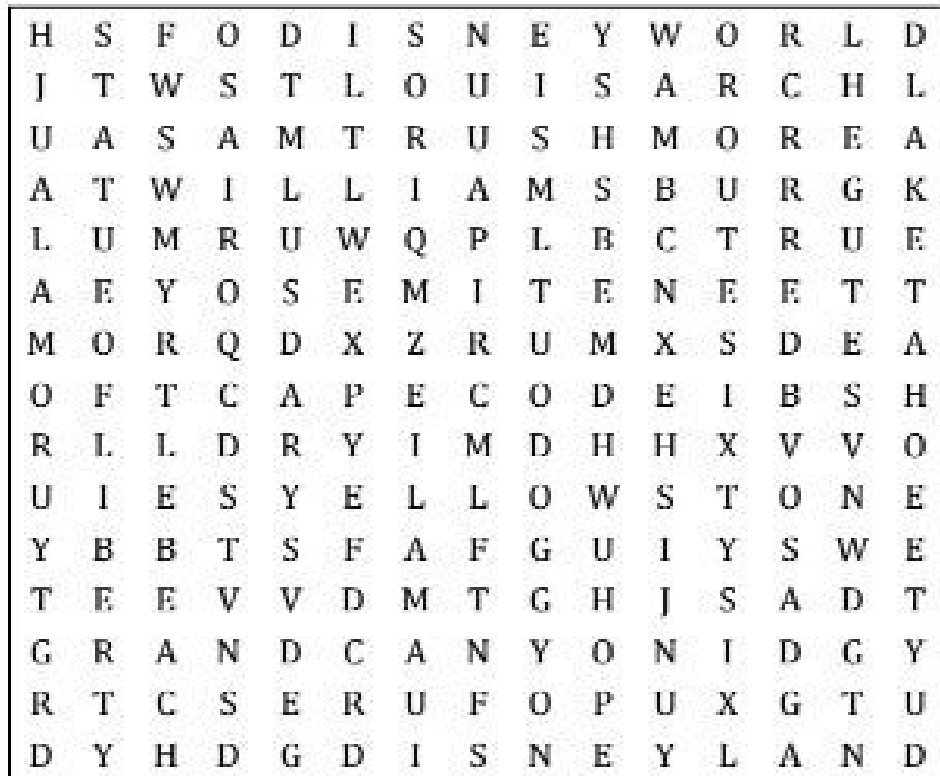


A 15x15 grid of letters with words circled in black. The words found are: MEMORIAL, PEACE, MEDALS, HONOR, CELEBRATE, PARADE, VETERANS, PRIDE, WAR, SOLDIERS, POPPY, HOLIDAY, PATRIOT, BRAVE, REMEMBER, NOVEMBER, ARMISTICE, HEROES, WORLD, MILITARY.

- | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| MEMORIAL ✓ | CELEBRATE ✓ | WAR ✓ | PATRIOT ✓ | ARMISTICE ✓ |
| PEACE ✓ | PARADE ✓ | SOLDIERS ✓ | BRAVE ✓ | HEROES ✓ |
| MEDALS ✓ | VETERANS ✓ | POPPY ✓ | REMEMBER ✓ | WORLD ✓ |
| HONOR ✓ | PRIDE ✓ | HOLIDAY ✓ | NOVEMBER ✓ | MILITARY ✓ |

For our Junior Members

US Landmarks Word Search



Alamo

Cape Cod

Disneyland

Disneyworld

Grand Canyon

Lake Tahoe

Maui

Mt Rushmore

Myrtle Beach

Route Sixty Six

Statue of Liberty

St Louis Arch

Williamsburg

Yellowstone

Yosemite



The Commander In Chief's Guard Is Formed

On, March 11, 1776, the Commander-in-Chief's Guard was formed, a unit charged with the personal protection of the Commander-in-Chief's personal household and the papers and money belonging to the Continental Army.

With the taking of Dorchester Heights on March 4, George Washington knew British General William Howe would be forced to abandon Boston. Consequently, Washington began making plans for the defense of New York City, which he believed would be the next most logical place of attack for the British army.

First, however, Washington decided to create an elite unit of soldiers responsible for protecting his own person and household, as well as the official papers of the army. On March 11, 1776, Washington sent an order to each regiment surrounding Boston, requesting that 4 soldiers be selected for the unit, which would meet for the first time the next day at noon. The letter requested that the men be selected based on their "sobriety, honesty, and good behavior," and that they be "from five feet, eight inches high, to five feet, ten inches; handsomely and well made."

The unit was officially called the Commander-in-Chief's Guard, but was popularly known as Washington's Life Guard. The Guard normally had around 180 men who guarded Washington's headquarters, ordered and prepared his food, escorted his personal baggage and the papers of his office on journeys, delivered messages and looked after Washington's personal staff.

When Washington arrived in New York City after the Siege of Boston had ended, an assassination plot against him was uncovered, which included several members of his own guard. Sergeant Thomas Hickey, one of Washington's Guard, was born Irish and had deserted from the British army. He was the only conspirator hanged for his role in the affair and was the first soldier to be tried for treason. The following April, when the Guard was reformed due to expiring enlistments, Washington required that no foreigners be part of the team, required that all or most of them be loyal Virginians and forbade any British deserters from being part of the army.

During the winter at Valley Forge of 1777-78, Baron Friedrich von Steuben was tasked with training the Continental Army in European battle techniques. He chose the Commander-in-Chief's Guard as his model for training the troops. Von Steuben trained the Guard with his techniques and they in turn trained the rest of the army, turning it into a formidable fighting force. To reduce the possibility of inter-colony rivalry, the Guard was augmented with soldiers from all the other colonies for the training.

Washington's Life Guard was formally disbanded on November 15, 1783. Only 330 men served in the Guard for the entire duration of the war, so it was an extremely elite unit of which to be a part. Only two men, Major Caleb Gibbs and Captain William Colfax commanded the Guard during its entire eight year existence. Major Gibbs was a member of the famed Marblehead Regiment founded by General John Glover. William Colfax later became a general in the War of 1812.

Source: <http://www.revolutionary-war-and-beyond.com>

Dr. Mark Young, Sr., Detachment Historian

Squadron 17—Lovington Chartered



Welcome to the Detachment of Virginia, Squadron 17—Lovington. Squadron 17 was chartered earlier this year. Squadron 17 is in the West-



Ern Region, 10th District. Jay Rarick is Squadron Commander and Adjutant is Thom Guthrie.

Photos above are from the Squadron 17 Chartering Ceremony at American Legion Post 17. Pictured are Squadron Commander, Jay Rarick, Squadron Adjutant, Thom Guthrie, and AL Post Family members.

Serving Those Who Served...Full Steam Ahead

Project ATLAS For Veterans At American Legion Post 176

National Commander Oxford visited American Legion Post 176 Springfield, Virginia, on March 5, 2021 during his visit for the Washington Conference. We had members from local, district, state, and national present for this event.

SAL Squadron 176 member Nathan Naylor represented the Philips Company showing the National Commander and guests about ATLAS (Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations). Veterans can now meet face to face with their VA providers through video telehealth technology in a private appointment room at American Legion Post 176 in Springfield, the first American Legion Post in the country to do this.

ATLAS is VA's innovative virtual health care option to help increase Veteran access to care. It not only provides a solution for Veterans with long travel times to VA facilities, but it also provides easy access for Veterans with limited internet connectivity at home.

Veterans who live near Springfield, Virginia, have likely sat idling in traffic on Interstate 395 on their way to receive health care in Washington, D.C. For those Veterans, navigating D.C.'s heavy traffic is no longer a problem – at least for their VA health care appointments. Thanks to ATLAS (Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations), those Veterans can now meet face to face with their VA providers through video telehealth technology in a private appointment room at American Legion Post 176 in Springfield.

The state-of-the-art appointment space in Post 176 is one of several ATLAS sites nationwide. ATLAS is VA's innovative virtual health care option to help increase Veteran access to care. It not only provides a solution for Veterans with long travel times to VA facilities, but it also provides easy access for Veterans with limited internet connectivity at home.

“The ATLAS initiative is designed to provide convenient access to VA health care for Veterans living in rural areas, those with limited internet access and who don't have a convenient location to connect with VA by video from their home” said VA Chief Officer of Connected Care, Neil Evans, M.D. “Telehealth has long been a principal part of VA's care delivery to Veterans, even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

The ATLAS site in Springfield is a joint effort to meet Veterans' needs and provide an alternative option for high-quality care. The collaborative effort was facilitated by the VA Secretary's Center for Strategic Partnerships (SCSP). VA clinicians provide the clinical services through telehealth equipment donated by Philips North America, while The American Legion offers the community- based appointment space.

“VA is providing Veterans with that space to come in... to speak one-on-one with a VA provider using robust broadband service that is available to them, right in their community,” said Deborah Scher, executive advisor to the secretary and lead of SCSP. “We are grateful to all of our partners who play a role in this critical initiative.”

“We are primarily about helping Veterans to have and live a better life,” said Dennis Madtes, an Army Veteran and post commander at American Legion Post 176. “ATLAS will do that by cutting hours and time and frustration off their life just in their commute to get to VA here.”

The Springfield ATLAS site provides a convenient, comfortable space for Veterans to have candid conversations about their physical and mental health with their VA providers. The video telehealth technology enables Veterans to receive care closer to home. And the ATLAS appointment room offers complete privacy and is free of outside disturbances and distractions.

“I know that I can speak to a provider in a safe environment, in a confidential environment. I can actually focus on my physical and mental well-being,” said Alicia Martin, a Navy Veteran. “At the end of the day, this is crucial. Saving lives, one Veteran at a time, including mine.”

There are currently seven other operational ATLAS sites across the country: Asheboro, North Carolina; Boone, North Carolina; Eureka, Montana; Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; Howell, Michigan; Keokuk, Iowa; and Linesville, Pennsylvania. VA plans to open additional ATLAS sites through 2023 in collaboration with The American Legion, Philips North America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Walmart.

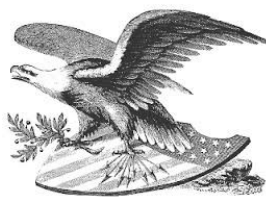
Tyler Vanice, Detachment Vice Commander and District 17 Communicator, March 2021 Issue

Serving Those Who Served...Full Steam Ahead



Squadron Everlasting

Please keep the families of the following members in your thoughts and prayers - PNC— Steve Laws (NC), Robert Campen (Squadron 2), Thomas Jones (Squadron 7), Mike Dennis (Squadron 21), David Kees (Squadron 21), Gus Muccin (Squadron 56), James 'Buck' Owen (Squadron 104), Adam Kolstrom (Squadron 148), Clayton Shepherd (Squadron 148), Paul Klunk (Squadron 159), Daniel Maida (Squadron 221), and Myron Amos (Squadron 1097), John Baxter (Squadron 148), Darrell Fox (Squadron 74), Donald Jackson (Squadron 144), Jeffrey Lilley (Squadron 126), Daniel Maida (Squadron 221), and Ralph Summerson (Squadron 284). If your Squadron has any members who have passed away, please notify our Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin (kchaplin@lexacom.net) and Detachment Chaplin, Robert Wilson, Sr. (robertwilsonsr54@gmail.com).



Detachment Communications

In an effort to improve Detachment Communications, we are using a new email tool to send email messages throughout the Detachment. To date we have almost 2,000 email addresses from Sons Members across the Detachment. The Detachment is using Mailchimp email tool to handle high volume emails. We ask that when you receive emails from the Detachment to please open them. The email tool tracks this kind of information. If you want to receive these emails, please send your email address to Kevin Chaplin, kchaplin@lexacom.net. Thanks!

Around The Detachment



Around The Detachment—Top left 2 photos Squadron 176 member, Nathan Naylor, shows American Legion National Commander, Bill Oxford the Project ATLAS System for Veterans to access health care services. Top right photo—National Auxiliary President, Nicole Clapp, American Legion National Commander, Bill Oxford, and SAL National Commander, Clint Bolt at the Washington Conference. Left bottom row photo—Squadron 325 helping Salvation Army collect Donations at Christmas in 2020. Middle bottom row, Squadron 293 Chili Cookoff in January—squadron raised over \$1,000 at the event, and bottom right photo Squadron 327, Fred Vaccarella presenting Squadron 327 donation to Hampton VA Hospital.



WANT TO ADD A SQUADRON?

If your post does not have a Squadron and is interested in starting up a Squadron, you need 10 members to charter a Squadron. It also needs to be approved by the sponsoring American Legion Post.

If you need more information about starting a Squadron, please feel free to contact Detachment Commander, Victor Graulau, Detachment Vice Commander, Joe Gallagher (Eastern Region), Detachment Vice Commander, David Boggs (Western Region), Detachment Vice Commander, Tyler Vanice (Northern Region), or Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin. We would be glad to help you in any way to get a Squadron started.

THE FOCUS

The Focus is the Detachment of Virginia, Sons Of The American Legion's E-Letter or newsletter . This is a great tool for our Squadrons to promote their activities and accomplishments. Every Squadron does something within the Detachment. It can be putting flags on veterans graves to a Fisher House Fundraiser to having a Squadron Member who is an Eagle Scout to a Child Welfare Foundation Fundraiser. We want to hear what your Squadron is doing.

It does not take that much time to put a simple article together for The Focus. A few of our Squadrons contributed articles to this issue. The basic points or questions the article needs to answer are as follows: 1. What was the event? Dinner, Raffle, etc. 2. Who held the event? 3. What was the event for? 4. When was the event held? 5. Where was the event held? 6. Other highlights from the event... 7. What were the results from the event? How much did you raise?

We are in REAL need of getting articles from our Squadrons on their various activities. We received over 21 Consolidated Reports this year. We know Squadrons are active. We want to hear from you!

Please send your articles to Scott Williams at SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net

Find us on 

Like us on Facebook - Sons Of The American Legion Detachment Of Virginia. We currently have 457 likes. This is one great way to promote our activities and accomplishments. Please like us today to keep up with our Detachment Activities.

Founded in 1932, Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires.

SAL members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership. Members of The American Legion, [American Legion Auxiliary](#) and Sons of The American Legion comprise the Legion family, which has a combined membership of nearly 4.2 million.

Although Sons has its own membership, the organization is not a separate entity. Rather, SAL is a program of The American Legion. Many Legionnaires hold dual membership in SAL.

Upcoming Events

CSR's Deadline	May 21, 2021
Memorial Day	May 31, 2021
Flag Day	June 14, 2021
Independence Day	July 4, 2021
Detachment Convention -Virtual	July 2021
Legion College	August 2021

Detachment Officers and Committee Members Needed - If you are interested in serving at the Detachment Level—either as an officer, committee chairman, or committee member, please contact Detachment Commander, Victor Graulau, NEC, Willie Morgan, Alt NEC, Jeff Lee, or Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin. It is a great honor to serve and represent your Squadron.



Sons Of The American Legion Detachment of Virginia

"The Focus"

Articles and information contributed by: Detachment Commander Victor Graulau, Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin, Detachment Assistant Adjutant, Scott Williams, Detachment Historian, Dr Mark Young, Sr., Detachment Vice Commander, Tyler Vanice, and The American Legion Website. **Photographs provided by:** Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin, Detachment Assistant Adjutant, Scott Williams, and various SAL Members from the Detachment.

Edited By: Scott Williams