

# Sons Of The American Legion—Detachment of Virginia



## FOCUS

### Taking A Closer Look

Volume 13, Issue 2 February 2022

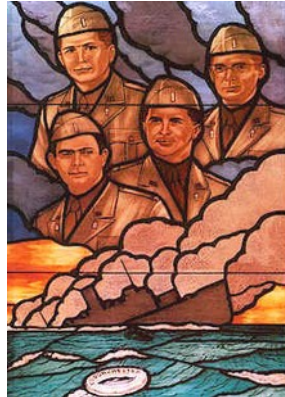
#### Detachment Officers

- Detachment Commander—Joe Gallagher
- Detachment Vice Commander—David Boggs
- Detachment Vice Commander—Tyler Vanice
- Detachment Vice Commander—Jarrod Vass
- Detachment NEC—Willie Morgan
- Detachment Alt-NEC— Jeff Lee
- Detachment Adjutant—Kevin Chaplin
- Detachment Asst Adjutant—Scott Williams
- Detachment Finance Officer—Jeff Evans
- Detachment Chaplain—Robert Wilson, Sr.
- Detachment Sgt At Arms—Mark Young, Sr.
- Detachment Judge Advocate—Steve Gower
- Detachment Historian—Mark Young, Sr.

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#### Remembering the Four Chaplains



Each February, the American Legion commemorates the anniversary of the Four Chaplains. For those who may not know about the Four Chaplains, we will give a brief history of the Four Chaplains. It is important to note that there are Four Chaplains Memorials and a chapel in Philadelphia dedicated to the Four Chaplains.

Their story is one of heroism, sacrifice, and tragedy.

Hans J. Danielsen, the ship's captain, was concerned and cautious. Earlier the Tampa had detected a submarine with its sonar. Danielsen knew he was in dangerous waters even before he got the alarming information. German U-boats were constantly prowling these vital sea lanes, and several ships had already been blasted

and sunk. The Dorchester was now only 150 miles from its destination, but the captain ordered the men to sleep in their clothing and keep life jackets on. Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ship's hold disregarded the order because of the engine's heat. Others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable .

On Feb. 3, at 12:55 a.m., a periscope broke the chilly Atlantic waters. Through the cross hairs, an officer aboard the German submarine U-223 spotted the Dorchester. The U-223 approached the convoy on the surface, and after identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire the torpedoes, a fan of three were fired. The one that hit was decisive—and deadly—striking the starboard side, amid ship, far below the water line. Captain Danielsen, alerted that the Dorchester was taking water rapidly and sinking, gave the order to abandon ship. In less than 20 minutes, the Dorchester would slip beneath the Atlantic's icy waters.

Tragically, the hit had knocked out power Dorchester telegram and radio contact with the three escort ships. The CGC Comanche, however, saw the flash of the explosion. It responded and then rescued 97 survivors. The CGC Escanaba circled the Dorchester,

#### About This Issue

This is the second issue for the 2021-22 year. We will, once again, hear from our Detachment Commander, Detachment Adjutant, and Detachment Vice Commanders.

Don't let the High Tech keep you from the personal touch

Please continue to do those 'Buddy Checks' with those members who have not renewed yet.

February is our 'Four Chaplains month. Our Feature story explains the sacrifice of the Chaplains in World War II.

We also included some stories from some of our Squadron Activities since the last issue.

As a reminder, please get those Squadron Data Report forms completed and turned in as soon as possible.

## Commander's Corner—Joe Gallagher



Comrades, I want to wish each of you a most Happy, Wonderful, and Hopeful New Year. It's hard to believe that we are almost halfway through our Legion Year. There are some areas that we all need to accomplish together and I would like to touch on those below and ask that everyone please put these on your lists as PRIORITIES to happen quickly.

First and foremost is to get your membership turned in. There is no mystery that both on the National Level and Department Level that we have some major opportunities to improve on processing membership. I can tell you from personal experience at our Squadron 284 that we have been able to accomplish this via processing online via My SAL/My Legion.org. I can also tell you that Department is working diligently on changes to improve the process for all membership that is transmitted via paper as we have for years. Regardless of which way you choose to process your membership, it is most important that you keep copies of everything until you are assured that it has posted at National showing the Membership being paid and active. This ensures that if there is a cyber issue or paper transaction that gets lost, that we have the documentation needed to quickly address the issue and rectify it for all. I am asking as well that if you don't see your transmitted membership show up on the reports that you notify myself or our adjutant Keven Chaplin at once so that we can find out what is going on and begin the process of getting recorded. This ensures that if there is a cyber issue or paper transaction that gets lost, that we have the documentation needed to quickly address the issue and rectify it for all. I am asking as well that if you don't see your transmitted membership show up on the reports that you notify myself or our adjutant Keven Chaplin at once so that we can find out what is going on and begin the process of getting recorded. So, we want to make sure that each squadron's dues are captured, and payment of that amount returned to the squadron. Otherwise, the system will only collect the National amount and the Detachment amount, and the squadron will not be receiving anything. Let's get it in. Virginia is trailing near the bottom Nationally, if you have turned in membership and it isn't showing in the reports let us know ASAP.

Lastly on this subject, if you need assistance with processing/transmitting membership online, please reach out to myself, Kevin Chaplin our Adjutant/membership chair and as always to your respective Vice Commanders. We all stand ready to assist in anyway possible. **Continued on Page 4**

## Adjutant's Blog—Winter 2022 Kevin Chaplin



We are coming down to the home stretch in our membership year with about five months left before the year ends. Check your membership card, if it does not say 2022, you are no longer an active SAL member. Please contact your Membership Chairman at your Squadron and get your dues paid.

There have been a lot of changes this year in how our membership is being processed and recorded. Any membership sent into the Departments will now be entered and processed on the MyLegion.org web site and the time it takes to get processed should be much shorter. Our membership reports have not been accurate for the past several months due to delays in processing at the Department and National. By the time this article is published, we should have some new membership reports in place. All membership data for reports is now coming from the National database. Please check your Squadron's numbers and make sure they are accurate. Squadron Commanders and Adjutants should access the membership portal and make sure your Roster is correct and focus on those members that have not renewed yet. Now is the time to contact them and see how they are doing and find out why they have renewed. Here is the link to the portal: <http://MySal.org> Members will need to register using their email address.

This membership portal also allows the Squadron Adjutant or the Squadron Commander to process online membership renewals. The portal will give you electronic access to your members' contact information, and you will be able to make changes if needed. You can also download lists that contain phone numbers, addresses and email information. We will be setting up training classes for Squadron Officers in the next couple of months. When you submit renewals or enter new members 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. Please contact me if you have any questions or need assistance.

If your Squadron has not submitted the new Consolidated Squadron Data Report or SDR (See Page 3), please do so as soon as possible. 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. This feature will be turned on soon and it is vital that your Squadron's dues information is accurate. Please contact me if you need the form or need assistance completing it. **Detachment Adjutant/Membership Chairman—Kevin Chaplin**

# 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 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 Continued from page 2

Secondly, each year the Commander chooses a project and asks all squadrons in the Detachment to support the project. This year my project is one that combines Children and Youth with Americanism. I am asking each Squadron in the Detachment of Virginia to raise a few bucks and buy small American flags on a pencil size sticks, NOTE:(Only FLAGS made in the USA.), and flag etiquette children's leaflets, (found on Emblem Sales). Then reach out to an elementary school close to your post home, contact the principal, and ask if your squadron can come in and do a program for the entire first grade class on Flag Etiquette and Education, while doing so, leave one of the flags with each 1st grader and the leaflet. The goal is to build and shape respect for our flag, and in doing so, to mold our next generation starting with these first graders. I would ask that we give them info as well about the SAL and how they might consider joining our ranks. Please just drop me a quick email telling me that your squadron has made this happen. If you need to know where to get the flags and handout booklets on Flag Etiquette, just go to Emblem Sales.com. If you need help let me know. You can reach me at anytime via email at SALJGallagher@gmail.com, or call me at 804-741-4680. Remember this should be counted as a Children and Youth in your yearly CDR that we encourage all to fill out each year showing the impact you and your squadrons have had on our veterans, communities, and nation. It is past time to create a new generation of loyal, respectful, Americans.

In addition to my Commander's project above, I am asking we all support our National Commanders Project of, "Flying Flags for Heroes". You can find out everything about this project by logging into, <https://www.flyingflagsforheroes.com/> This is an easy one and honors our Veterans who have gone on to Post and Squadron Everlasting. Join us. The Detachment of Virginia has pledged to place 15000 flags of the 1,000,000 flags placed on Veterans Graves is the goal nationally set by National Commander Fox.

In closing I want to extend my personal thanks to all in the Detachment of Virginia who continue to serve in countless ways. Please know that each of you who make up the detachment of Virginia have touched many lives, made a huge impact on your communities, the Commonwealth and the Nation. **For God and Country, SAL Detachment Commander, Joe Gallagher 'Tis Lucky To Be a Son in the SAL**

## "LEADERSHIP THROUGH ACTION NOT THROUGH POSITION"

### Membership Pointers



1. Please make sure your Squadron has turned in their Squadron Data Report Form.
2. Please make sure your Post Adjutant has updated the Post Records with the current Squadron Commander and Adjutant's name.
3. Please make sure that your Squadron Adjutant has access to MyLegion.org..
4. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible.
5. Please do not hold any memberships!!!
6. Please direct all Membership Questions to Detachment Commander, Joe Gallagher or Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin.

#### Upcoming Membership Target Dates

March 9, 2022	80%
April 13, 2022	90%
May 11, 2022	100%
July 28, 2022	105%

**(Delegate Strength Target Date)**

# Remembering the Four Chaplains—continued from page 1

rescuing an additional 132 survivors. The third cutter, CGC Tampa, continued on, escorting the remaining two ships. Aboard the Dorchester, panic, and chaos had set in. The blast had killed scores of men, and many more were seriously wounded.

Others, stunned by the explosion were groping in the darkness. Those sleeping without clothing rushed topside where they were confronted first by a blast of icy Arctic air and then by the knowledge that death awaited. Men jumped from the ship into lifeboats, over-crowding them to the point of capsizing, according to eyewitnesses. Other rafts, tossed into the Atlantic, drifted away before soldiers could get in them. Through the pandemonium, according to those present, four Army chaplains brought hope in despair and light in darkness. Those chaplains were Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed.

Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers. There they tried to calm the frightened, tend the wounded and guide the disoriented toward safety. "Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offer prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live," says Wyatt R. Fox, son of Reverend Fox.

One witness, Private William B. Bednar, found himself floating in oil-smeared water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying," Bednar recalls. "I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

Another sailor, Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, tried to reenter his cabin but Rabbi Goode stopped him. Mahoney, concerned about the cold Arctic air, explained he had forgotten his gloves.

"Never mind," Goode responded. "I have two pairs." The rabbi then gave the petty officer his own gloves. In retrospect, Mahoney realized that Rabbi Goode was not conveniently carrying two pairs of gloves, and that the rabbi had decided not to leave the Dorchester.

By this time, most of the men were topside, and the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight.

When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men.

"It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, another survivor who saw the chaplains' selfless act.

Ladd's response is understandable. The altruistic action of the four chaplains constitutes one of the purest spiritual and ethical acts a person can make. When giving their life jackets, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew; Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic; nor did the Reverends Fox and Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line.

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains—arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers.

Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors. When the news reached American shores, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and heroic conduct of the four chaplains.

"Valor is a gift," Carl Sandburg once said. "Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes." That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling, and Father Washington passed life's ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage, and selflessness.

The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously December 19, 1944, to the next of kin by Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, Commanding General of the Army Service Forces, in a ceremony at the post chapel at Fort Myer, VA.

# Remembering the Four Chaplains—continued from page 5

A one-time only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961. Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements that required heroism performed under fire. The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor. **Source: *Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation***



Special Medal for Heroism

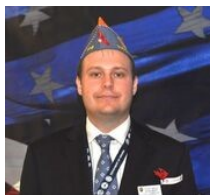


Presented posthumously to the Four Chaplains



The Four Chaplains—George L Fox (Top Left), Alexander D Goode (Top Right), Clark V Poling (Bottom Left), and John P Washington (Bottom Right). The Chaplains biographies are available at [fourchaplains.org](http://fourchaplains.org). Additional information on the story of the Four Chaplains also available at the same site. Many videos of good information available on YouTube on the Four Chaplains.

## Around The Detachment-A Few Words From Our Vice Commanders



I hope everyone had a fantastic New year and that everyone is well.

I would like to thank everyone who has kept in touch with me. As many of you are aware, I like to keep in contact since proper communication can fix many issues (new membership software from National is excluded) and it will help strengthen the organization as a whole. How? With proper communication, we can deliver urgent news and updates to the squadrons and likewise, the squadron and its members can reach us about their concerns or needed assistance. It's mutually beneficial and costs nothing. So, with that, please keep your Detachment officers involved.

The northern region has the most members, so I would like to have them continuing pushing for renewals and new members. I know the weekly reports have been reporting incorrect data and your Detachment Officers are just as frustrated as you are. I will strongly state that COVID is no longer an excuse though for not turning in membership, especially when turning in transmittals have never been easier with the online software. Please use it!

The Spring Conference is quickly approaching. Each Squadron is expected to have at least one person in attendance to represent their squadron. This is the best way to voice your concerns or to show appreciation for individuals or squadrons' efforts. Please register and say hello to your officers.

Please continue working on serving veterans and your community. The last year has been rough for many and as Sons, I know we can make a difference. **Tyler Vanice, Detachment Vice Commander**



I hope this newsletter finds all the squadrons of the western region of Virginia doing well. I know that the ongoing covid pandemic is still a challenge for many, but hopefully it is not impacting each squadron too much.

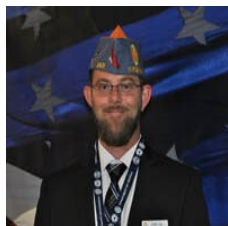
There are a couple of outstanding issues I would like to address. The officer report form for listing the officers of the squadron, and the squadron data report is still missing from several of the squadrons. This information is vital to the operations at the detachment and national levels. The processing of membership reporting is much easier and quicker using the on-line option. Membership is the lifeblood of our

organization, and retaining, and gaining new membership is an ongoing process. By using the on-line option, it helps in reporting and updating this vital area. If you need any assistance in setting up, and using this process, please reach out to me, or any of the detachment leadership for assistance. We would be glad to help in any way.

The spring conference is just around the corner, and I hope your squadron is going to attend. There is a great deal of information that is passed along, and the opportunity to network with other squadron officers, to see how they are operating and what they are doing. This exchange of ideas may help each of us as we continue to support the American Legion, and all the different programs that are offered.

I do hope to see many of you as I travel the western region.

Again, if I can assist in any way, please let me know, as I am only a phone call, or e-mail away. **David Boggs, Detachment Vice Commander**



Here is hoping this will find all of the Squadrons in the Eastern Region doing well. We are a little more than half way through this year.

Squadrons continue to process membership and work toward their goal for this year. Remember that membership is the lifeblood of our organization. If you or your Squadron is having issues processing membership or have any questions, please contact Detachment Commander, Joe Gallagher or Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin for more help. We encourage all of our Squadrons to process their membership

Using the On Line option.

Please remember that I am here to help in any way I can. Communication is vitally important to the success of the Sons. If there is anything I can do to help you or your Squadron, please let me know.

Also, please remember that our Spring Conference is coming up on March 4 to 6 at the Renaissance Portsmouth Waterfront Marriott hotel. I hope to see many of the Eastern Region Squadrons represented at the Spring Conference.

**Jarrod Vass, Detachment Vice Commander**

## Scratch one off my “Bucket List”

As a former member of the US Army Security Agency (ASA) who served in Vietnam, I have always had this item on my “Bucket List”. That was to visit the gravesite of the first American killed in ground combat during the Vietnam War, an ASA Direction Finding Specialist, SP4 James T. (Tom) DAVIS on the anniversary of his death, December 22, 1961. See: <https://www.nsa.gov/Portals/75/documents/about/cryptologic-heritage/cryptologic-memorial/davis.pdf>

In conjunction with the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) National Commander Michael FOX’s “Flying Flags for Heroes” initiatives to place 1 million US flags on veteran’s graves in local cemeteries, I conducted a road trip to Good Hope Cemetery, Livingston, TN where SP4 Davis is buried.

December 22, 2021 (the 60th anniversary of the ambush that took SP4 DAVIS’ life) turned out to be a beautiful, but cold and windy day in rural north/central Tennessee. I was quite disappointed to find nobody else at the Good Hope Cemetery, however it did resolve the issue of how I was going to document my activities there. Tripod and selfies!

I began by locating SP4 DAVIS’ grave which has both a civilian headstone and a military grave marker, placing a small US flag on each, as well as a US/ASA banner at the headstone.

After rendering the appropriate honors and taking a few moments to reflect on SP4 DAVIS’ ultimate sacrifice, I located and placed US flags on nine other veterans’ graves: Gunner Captain Harold D. WILLIAMS, SK3 Daniel M. WILLIAMS, US Navy; SGT Byrd W. BOHANNON, US Army; PFC Tommy Earl PARRISH, US Army; TSGT Kent W. McDONALD, USAF; PFC John Q. McDONALD, US Army; PFC Hollis O. HUNTER, US Army; Wiley WHITE, US Navy; and PN3 Allon WHITE, US Navy. I also placed a flag on a memorial to “James Thomas Davis and all patriots who rest here”, dedicated in 2006, by the Southeast Asia Army Security Agency Veterans Association.

While I was packing up to leave, a little old lady arrived and went to one of the graves at which I had placed a flag – that of PN3 Allon WHITE, her late husband of 67 years. Her name is Ethel, and she thanked the American Legion and me for remembering and honoring our veterans by placing these flags on their sometimes-forgotten graves. Come to find out, she had been a classmate of Tom DAVIS, remembered him well, and had liked him very much. --- **Ron Perkins (AKA The Unknown Rider)**



**Remember To Set Your Clocks Forward 1 Hour For Daylight Savings Time On March 13!**



## A Word from our Americanism Chairman, David Boggs

Of the Four Pillars of the American Legion, the third pillar is Americanism. The idea of a patriotic organization dedicated to the to the ideas of morality, citizenship, with a deep pride in the United States flag, this pillar involves so many different areas. From flag education, which is a part of our detachment commanders project this year, to the junior shooters, and the oratorical programs put on by our posts/squadrons, it helps develop a lasting love of country. It allows us to reach out to our local communities and demonstrate the ideas and values of the American Legion, and the Sons of the American Legion.

As of the date of this newsletter, I have not received any reports. I know that the posts and squadrons participate in many of these areas, so why not send in the activities your squadron is involved in. No matter if it is a large or small part, let us know what you are doing by sending in a report of the activity.

Please send in a copy of your report to my e-mail address: [dbboggs @ outlook.com](mailto:dbboggs@outlook.com).

## Squadron 17 Recognizes First Responders

To say thank you to those who serve Nelson County every day, Squadron 17 and Post 17 sponsored First Responders Appreciation Day on Saturday, October 16th. We hope to make this an annual event. Pictures below are from that event in October 2021.



**Photo 1—Squadron 17 sponsored "First Responders Appreciation Day" for the first time on October 16, 2021 at Calvary Baptist's Church's parking lot in Lovingston, Nelson County, VA. Photo 2—Calvary Baptist also staffed a "prayer station" for anyone who desired prayer while they stopped in. Photo 3—Some of the first responders who stopped by. We had fire fighters, EMTs and law enforcement stop in to see us and let us say "thank you" for their service to the community. Photo 4—A great shout-out goes to Antonio "Tony" Jorge and the great folks at TBC Roasters Coffee at the Rockfish Community Center for donating their superb coffee and associate coffee service items. Thanks Folks! Photo 5—We had pastries, snacks and drinks, hot and cold, for our First Responders.**

## Fall Conference 2021 Photos



**Photos taken at the Fall Conference—Left to right—Past Detachment Commander Victor Graulau presents the Detachment Award Winners the Detachment Awards for Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (with Alternate NEC, Jeff Lee), Detachment Members Attending the Fall Conference, Department of Virginia Adjutant, Dave Stein addressing the Fall Conference (with Detachment Commander, Joe Gallagher, and Detachment Vice Commander, Tyler Vanice), and Sons of the American Legion, Past National Commander, Clint Bolt, addressing the Detachment Fall Conference (with Detachment Commander, Joe Gallagher). Photos taken by Scott Williams.**

## 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 2022 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 2022 Detachment Scholarship Application will soon be available on our Detachment website [www.vasons.org](http://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 of 2022.

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 Detachment Convention in July. Please forward your applications to Clint Bolt, Scholarship Committee Chairman at [SonsCDBolt@aol.com](mailto:SonsCDBolt@aol.com). **Scott Williams, Scholarship Committee, Vice Chairman**

## Squadron 293 Holds Annual Chili Cook Off

The Sons of the American Legion (SAL) held their 2022 Annual Chili Cookoff fundraising event yesterday at Post 293 in Purcellville, Virginia, where 18 Chili contestants delivered amazing Chili, to more than 100 members and guests as a great community event. SAL Commander Andy Rider, introduced a very special guest, Purcellville's Mayor Fraser, for the Mayor's Choice Award winner. After sampling a pound of Chili he declared Dru Broome, the Mayor's Choice and presented him with an engraved wooden cutting board. Dru will enjoy his trophy and bragging rights until the 2023 chili cookoff.

There were 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners and trophies announced by ticket vote with the largest count of tickets going to Ryan Fortenbaugh at 24. 2nd place went to Terry Tretick with 20 tickets and 3rd place went to Darren Sharp with 16 tickets.

Any male descendant (sons, adopted, or stepsons) of a veteran may become a Son and all are welcome. With nearly 150 members and an annual fundraising goal of fifteen-thousand dollars, we support Loudoun County veterans and families. Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of every month at the Post.

Andy Rider won the 50-50 drawing but gave it back to the Legion! Give him a pat on the back when you see him!



Photos from SAL 293 Chili Cook Off. Article from American Legion Post 293 February 2022 Newsletter.





## THE MEANING OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION EMBLEM

NATIONAL CONVENTION PHOENIX 2021 - YOUTH TRAINING

### The Star

Represents our country, and the five-point program  
of the Sons of American Legion.

**Patriotism • Citizenship • Discipline • Leadership • Legionism**

### The Ten Points

Represent the ten ideals of every SAL Member

**PATRIOTISM • HEALTH • TRAINING • KNOWLEDGE • HONOR  
FAITH • HELPFULNESS • COURTESY • REVERENCE • COMRADESHIP**

### The Blue of the Emblem

Like the blue of our flag, stands for justice.

### The Wreath

is in memory of our comrades, and those of our fathers  
who willingly gave lives for their country.

### The Two Stars

Stand for freedom and democracy.

### The Sun

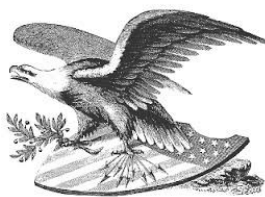
As background represents the Sons of The American Legion  
and the rays represent the loyalty of its membership

### The Design of the Emblem

is taken from the emblem of The American Legion  
but is oval in shape so as to be easily distinguished.

## Squadron Everlasting

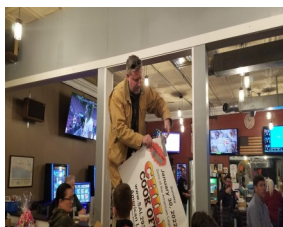
Please keep the families of the following members in your thoughts and prayers - Kent Caldwell (180), Ronald Curlings (55), Anthony Jenkins (53), Isaac Kelley (2—PDC), Andy Ogle (85), Ray Palmer (77), John Strickler (1976), Samuel Walker (79), Mike Allred (8), Carlton Barricks (2), John Baxter (148), Hugh Binford (79), Frederick Curtis (79), Darrell Fox (74), David Gillespie (327), Donald Jackson (144), Jeffrey Lilley (126), Daniel Maida (221), Roger Pittman (25), Greg Raines (320), Thomas Regan (74), Michael Strickler (130), Ralph Summerson (284), Kenneth Webber (327), Charles Wilson, Jr (146), Ind William Weston (28). Aubrey Clark (8), Michael Dudek (327), Harold Switzer (21), William Weston (28), Barry Ferguson (29), Rand Gaber (177), James Jackson (2), David Morelli (21), Greg Raines (320), Thomas Regan (320), Douglas Smith (28), Charles Wilson (146). 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



Photos—Left to Right Squadron 284 Boston Butts Fundraiser in November 2021 (with Linwood Moore), Squadron 2 Fundraiser in November with Detachment Commander Joe Gallagher in attendance, Squadron 293 participating in Purcellville Christmas Parade (with Squadron Commander Andy Rider and Squadron Vice Commander Dave Hankins), Squadron 2 Wreaths Across America (with David Tuck), and Squadron 293 Chili Cook Off (with Squadron Commander Andy Rider).

Detachment Vice Commander Jarrod Vass addresses the General Membership Meeting at AL Post 368.



# 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, Joe Gallagher, Detachment Vice Commander, Jarrod Vass (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](mailto:SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net)

Find us on 

Like us on Facebook - Sons Of The American Legion Detachment Of Virginia. We currently have 458 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

March 4—6 , 2022

Spring Conference

May 2022

Veterans Appreciation Day

May 21, 2022

Armed Forces Day

May 30, 2022

Memorial Day

June 14, 2022

Flag Day

July 4, 2022

Independence Day

July 15-17, 2022

Detachment Convention

**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, Joe Gallagher, 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 Joe Gallagher Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin, Detachment Assistant Adjutant, Scott Williams, Detachment Vice Commanders, David Boggs, Tyler Vanice, and Jarrod Voss, Jay Rarick (Squadron 17), American Legion Post 293 Newsletter, Ron Perkins, Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation Website. **Photographs provided by:** Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation Website, Ron Perkins, American Legion Post 293 Newsletter, Scott Williams, Jay Rarick (Squadron 17), SAL National Website, SAL Detachment of Virginia Website, Kimberly Marsh,

**Edited By:** Scott Williams