

# Sons Of The American Legion—Detachment of Virginia



## FOCUS



### Taking A Closer Look

Volume 13, Issue 3 July 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.

#### Spring Conference—Flying Flags For Hero's

National Commander, Michael Fox (CA) was our guest at our Spring Conference. After the Spring Conference, National Commander Fox and several of the Detachment officers placed flags at the Albert G. Horton Jr. Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. The weather cooperated and allowed us time to place flags honoring our American Heroes.



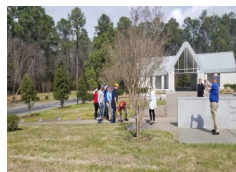
Flying Flags for Heroes is SAL National Commander Fox's commander's project for his year. The goal is to place 1 million American Flags on Veterans graves for his year. This is being done to bring attention to all of our American Heroes.

Additional Pictures from this effort will be published later in this issue. **See Page 11**

The Detachment of Virginia, along with SAL National Commander, Michael Fox laid approximately 400 Flags at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. It was a high honor to lay these flags for our American Heroes.

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#### About This Issue

This will be the final issue for the 2021-22 administrative year. We will summarize this year's accomplishments and take a look back on a year that was almost back to normal.

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

June was a big month for Boys State, Junior Law Cadet, and American Legion Baseball.

We look forward to seeing everyone in person at the Detachment Convention in a few short weeks.

We hope you will enjoy a look back over the past year. We overcame a lot this year. Great job all!!

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

## Commander's Corner—Joe Gallagher



As we prepare to roll into a new legion year and the transfer of officers it is a time to reflect on what we as the Sons of the American Legion in the Detachment of Virginia have accomplished in the past year. There has been much that we have done to support the 4 pillars of the American Legion as well as our programs and communities. I want to share with you the Detachment of Virginia totals so far for this legion year. As impressive as this is below, keep in mind that it is only about 1/3 of our squadrons reporting. We all know that every squadron is doing something and let's encourage one another to get

our CSR % of squadrons reported up, no reason we shouldn't be at 100%. I have heard that squadrons have said we didn't do much so see no need in reporting. Everything counts as does every dollar count and both should be reported. It's a part of who we are and what we do regardless if its 1 hour of service or 1000s of hours. This is all apart of the voice that is heard in Congress each year. Take a look below at what 1/3rd of Detachment totaled for the 2021-2022 year.

### Totals

#### Overall Totals

**Dollars Donated \$334,003**

**Hours Volunteered – 53,446**

**Value of One Vol. Hour = \$28.54**

**Volunteer Hours Value = \$1,525,349**

**Total Volunteer Value = \$1,859,352**

Congratulations to all in the Detachment of Virginia, our efforts in supporting the 4 pillars, our veterans, **Continued on page 4**

## Adjutant's Blog—July 2022 Kevin Chaplin



We are just finishing up our membership year and the at the time this article was written, the Detachment is only 24 members short of reaching our 100% membership goal of 4,023 members. I am hoping by the time you read this article we will have reached our goal and surpassed it. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work in encouraging our members to renew and recruiting new members for our great organization. Congratulations to the 21 Squadrons that reached or surpassed their 100% membership goal. Don't forget to sign up on the Department website for the weekly membership report. [www.valegion.org](http://www.valegion.org). (See Member

Ship by the numbers—later in this issue)

As you may have heard, membership cards have not been sent to the Detachment yet due to a national paper shortage. I have heard it may be as late as September before we will get our 2022-2023 membership cards. Remember, your 2021-2022 card is valid through the end of the year. Please don't wait to get your membership renewed. The new membership year started July 1st. Did you know you print your membership card on [MyLegion.org](http://MyLegion.org)? Get online now by going to [www.MyLegion.org](http://www.MyLegion.org) and get registered.

Squadrons should have submitted their Consolidated Squadron Reports (CSR) by now. Currently the Detachment has a 44% turn in rate or 30 out of 68 active Squadrons have submitted their CSR. Thank you to everyone who completed one. There is still time to submit your Squadron's report and get your volunteer work and donations counted. National will be accepting these reports until July 15th. Every Squadron did something so please send them to me as soon as possible. The American Legion needs these numbers when the National Commander testifies to Congress about the great work our organization does for our Veterans, active military, and their families. The Detachment's Consolidated Accomplishment report is attached. The value of our time and donations is almost two million dollars. Imagine what it would look like if every Squadron had their accomplishments counted?

By now, each Squadron should have elected new officers. Please make sure your Squadron submits their New Officer form to the Adjutant so we can update our contact lists and keep you updated with important information throughout the year. This form can be found on our website. [www.vasons.org](http://www.vasons.org)

If your Squadron has not submitted the new Consolidated Squadron Data Report or SDR, 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 assistance completing it.

# 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

and our communities, have made a big impact and positivity in many lives that we have touched. Take this amount which we really know is greater, as 2/3rds have not reported on a CSR and couple this with the fact that by the time you are reading this the Detachment of Virginia should have busted the 100% membership mark, I can not be more grateful to all who took the challenge this year to try new ways and new approaches and make it a great year. I am proud of all and thank you as your Commander this past year.

I ask that all join me in celebrating our great year and a Huge Thanks to our Officers. As we move to a new year, I ask all that we embrace our in coming Detachment Commander and officers. We should all realize not only did our accomplishments this past year touch countless 1000s, but we provided our organization some fabulous support for our National American Legion Commander in providing solid volunteerism and contributions that speak volumes to the United States Congress in gaining what our organization, being the largest Veteran support group on the world, wants Congress to consider for the benefit of our veterans and their families.

I would like to Thank each of you personally for your efforts and support this past year. From a National SAL perspective, we realigned ourselves as the SAL to be in line with our parent organization being the American Legion. We also migrated to a new method of doing membership online. Neither of these changes were easy, as change is always tough, but we the SAL in Virginia helped make it happen, gave what you see above and ensured at the same time that we were at 100% membership. We are a part of our National SAL who this year reported that we cracked the \$9,000,000 mark in contributions to CWF. We remain the largest giver to CWF. We in Virginia embraced our National Commander's project, "Flying Flags for Heroes", where we as the SAL surpassed the National Commander's goal of placing 1,000,000 flags. The list goes on and on.

As you finish reading this, please give yourself and fellow SAL members in Virginia a big PAT on the Back for a job well done this year. I look forward to helping our Detachment continue to grow and continue leading the way in the Sons of The American Legion, a most important program of The American Legion.. ***Tis Lucky to be a member of the SAL.*** ***Joe Gallagher, Detachment Commander***

### "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 the Detachment Commander or Detachment Adjutant.



### Upcoming Membership Target Dates

July 28, 2022

105%

(Delegate Strength Target Date)

**As of the July 12, 2022, Membership Report, the Detachment of Virginia is 21 Members short of our National Goal for this year. Please send those memberships in as soon as possible.**

# And The Winners Are...

**Here are the Detachment Winners for the 2021-22 Year for Americanism, Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA & R), and Veterans Employment and Education (VE & E). Congratulations to all!!**

## Americanism

Small	Squadron 368 (Newport News)
Medium	Squadron 28 (Dumfries)
Large	Squadron 284 (Colonial Heights)

## Children & Youth

Small	Squadron 144 (Highland Springs)
Medium	Squadron 67 (Hampton)
Large	Squadron 2 (Petersburg)

## Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Small	Squadron 368 (Newport News)
Medium	Squadron 28 (Dumfries)
Large	Squadron 327 (Norfolk)

## Veterans Employment & Education

Small	No Submission
Medium	No Submission
Large	Squadron 327 (Norfolk)

**Congratulations on your accomplishments!! Please have a representative in attendance at the Detachment Convention to accept your award.**





**Sons of The American Legion  
Accomplishments**



June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022  
for

## DETACHMENT OF VIRGINIA

Overall Totals	
<b>Dollars Donated \$</b>	<b>346,457</b>
<b>Hours Volunteered</b>	<b>57,587</b>
<b>Value of One Vol. Hour*</b>	<b>\$28.54</b>
<b>Volunteer Hours Value \$</b>	<b>1,643,533</b>
<b>Total Volunteer Value \$</b>	<b>1,989,990</b>

Pillar	Donations	Hours	Hours Value*
<b>Americanism</b>	<b>\$224,568</b>	<b>35,016</b>	<b>\$ 999,357</b>
<b>Children &amp; Youth</b>	<b>\$40,540</b>	<b>8,513</b>	<b>\$ 242,961</b>
<b>Vets Affairs &amp; Rehab.</b>	<b>\$46,742</b>	<b>4,955</b>	<b>\$ 141,416</b>
<b>Vets Employ &amp; Edu.</b>	<b>\$1,850</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>\$ 2,283</b>
<b>Internal Affairs</b>	<b>\$32,757</b>	<b>9,023</b>	<b>\$ 257,516</b>

Americanism	
<i>Boys State / Girls State</i>	\$10,261 in Donations to Boys State / Girls State with 1,382 Hours of Participation
<i>Legion Ed. Programs</i>	\$575 in Donations to 5-Star / 10-Ideals Progs. with 289 Hours of Participation
<i>Flag Programs</i>	\$2,755 in Donations to Flags Presented (All) with 802 Hours of Participation
	3,904 Flags Presented (All Sizes / Events)
<i>Flag Education</i>	\$3,488 in Donations to Flag Education Progs. with 286 Hours of Participation
<i>Other Ed. Programs</i>	\$4,885 in Donations to Scholarships Awarded with 86 Hours of Participation
<i>Oratorical Contest</i>	\$15 in Donations to Oratorical Contest with 57 Hours of Participation
<i>Color Guard</i>	\$466 in Donations to Color Guard with 449 Hours of Participation
<i>Community Service</i>	\$17,457 in Donations to Other Organizations with 17,477 Hours of Participation
<i>Scouting</i>	\$3,500 in Donations to Scouting with 3,735 Hours of Participation
<i>Jr. Shooting Sports</i>	\$158,327 in Donations to Jr. Shooting Sports with 2,310 Hours of Participation
<i>Am. Legion Baseball</i>	\$0 in Donations to Am. Legion Baseball with 32 Hours of Participation
<i>Other Teams</i>	\$10,700 in Donations to Other Teams with 2,114 Hours of Participation
<i>Blood Drives</i>	\$1,210 in Donations to Blood Drives with 218 Hours of Participation
<i>N.E.F.</i>	\$2,650 in Donations to Nat'l Emergency Fund with 648 Hours of Participation
<i>Legacy Schol. Fund</i>	\$1,300 in Donations to Legacy Scholarship Fund with 1,096 Hours of Participation
<i>Other Amer. Projects</i>	\$6,979 in Donations to Other Amer. Projects with 4,035 Hours of Participation

Children and Youth	
<i>CWF</i>	\$6,532 in Donations to Child Welfare Found. with 419 Hours of Participation
<i>Special Olympics</i>	\$2,786 in Donations to Special Olympics with 766 Hours of Participation
<i>CMN</i>	\$577 in Donations to Children's Miracle Net. with 48 Hours of Participation
<i>Ronald McDonald House</i>	\$427 in Donations to R. McDonald House with 48 Hours of Participation
<i>C.O.T.A.</i>	\$1,627 in Donations to Child. Org. Trans. Assn. with 188 Hours of Participation
<i>T.A.L. Vets. &amp; Child. Found.</i>	\$1,775 in Donations to T.A.L. Vets. & Child. F. with 471 Hours of Participation
<i>Other C&amp;Y Projects</i>	\$26,816 in Donations to Other C&Y Projects with 6,573 Hours of Participation

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation	
<i>VAMCs &amp; Facilities</i>	\$5,075 in Donations to VAMCs & Facilities with 410 Hours of Participation
<i>State Vets Facilities</i>	\$200 in Donations to State Vets Facilities with 40 Hours of Participation
<i>Nat'l Vets Assist. Day</i>	\$550 in Donations to Nat'l Vets. Assist. Day with 68 Hours of Participation
<i>O.C.W.</i>	\$14,699 in Donations to Op. Comfort Warriors with 755 Hours of Participation
<i>Fisher House</i>	\$9,989 in Donations to Fisher House with 236 Hours of Participation
<i>Other VA&amp;R Projects</i>	\$16,229 in Donations to Other VA&R Projects with 3,446 Hours of Participation

Veterans Employment and Education	
<i>VE&amp;E Projects</i>	\$1,850 in Donations to VE&E Projects with 80 Hours of Participation

Internal Affairs	
<i>Other Totals</i>	\$32,757 in Donations, Not Covered Above with 9,023 Hours, Not Covered Above

\*As reported by: [Independent Sector](#) in April 2021 .

## Adjutant's Blog—Continued from Page 2

The form can be found on the SAL website. [www.vasons.org](http://www.vasons.org). *Kevin Chaplin, Membership Chairman and Detachment Adjutant*

### Membership By the Numbers—2021-22 Year

**Congratulations to the Squadrons below for achieving 100% or higher for the 2021-22 Administrative Year!!!**

Squadron	Name	Location	Percent
293	Shelbourne Parish	Purcellville	170%
190	Sgt William H Harrison	Portsmouth	155%
159	Chincoteague Inc	Chincoteague	147%
34	Leesburg Johnson-Brent	Leesburg	127%
215	Goochland	Goochland	123%
221	Caroline County Memorial	Caroline County	119%
146	Hopewell Memorial	Hopewell	114%
144	Battlefields	Highland Springs	113%
177	Fairfax	Fairfax	111%
175	Mechanicsville Inc	Mechanicsville	111%
99	Bruce-Walker	Halifax	110%
56	Northampton	Cape Charles	107%
156	Orange County	Orange	106%
162	Lorton	Lorton	104%
284	Colonial Heights	Colonial Heights	104%
16	Lynchburg	Lynchburg	104%
368	Denbigh	Newport News	103%
1976	Bicentennial	Annandale	101%
3	Roanoke	Roanoke	100%
8	Halifax County Inc	South Boston	100%
89	Ratcliffe-Owens-Sumner	King George	100%

### Regional Totals as of June 23, 2022

Northern Region	96.11%
Eastern Region	94.94%
Western Region	89.60%

Thanks to all Squadrons for their hard work in Membership for this year!!

# Congratulations!!

## In Memoriam—Jim ‘Jimbo’ Althouse



James (Jimbo) Althouse died on 26 June 2022 doing one of the things that he enjoyed most, riding his motorcycle. He was born on 25 Dec 1959 in Syracuse, NY where he remained until he graduated from West Genesee Senior High School. Jim lived his life in the service of others. He was always there to lend a hand wherever he saw a need. He had a passion for his family, friends, and volunteering with many organizations including The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and Rolling Thunder.

Jim enlisted in the Army in September 1978 and served as an enlisted Soldier for six years (Finance Specialist and Equipment Records/Parts Specialist). He had a break in service to attend Old Dominion University and returned to the Army as an officer in 1987. Jim was a US Army Persian Gulf War Veteran. In Operation Desert Storm he served as a Field Artillery Officer in 3d Armor Division and was awarded a Bronze Star Medal. When he retired in September 2001, he was a Quartermaster Major assigned to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Following his military career Jim served as a Management Analyst for the Department of the Army, Fort Lee, Virginia. He retired on 31 Dec 2021 after 17 years and was awarded a Meritorious Civilian Service Medal.

Jim was a 29-year member of the American Legion. He was a founding member of Southern Virginia American Legion Riders, member of the Sons of the American Legion, and the first male Unit 284 Auxiliary member. He was the Commander of Post 284 from 2014-2015, 11th District Commander from 2019-2020, the Post Legionnaire of the Year for 2019, and Department American Legion Rider Chairman from 2018-2022. Jim had a bachelors degree in accounting from Old Dominion University and two advanced degrees from the Florida Institute of Technology (Logistics Management and Contract Management).

Jim is survived by his wife of five years Mari Althouse; son, Talon Althouse; step children Jacob Wells, Jacqueline Lane (Daniel); two grandsons Brooks and Bennett Lane; sisters Sandra J. Althouse; Suzanne R. Doolan (Michael), aunts Helen Dayal and Laura Bigness; and multiple nieces/nephews/cousins and other living relatives. He was preceded in death by his parents Burr E. Althouse and Y. Ruth (Highbrown) Althouse.

A memorial service will be held on 23 July 2022, 1200 pm, at the American Legion Post 284, Colonial Heights, VA, and a military ceremony will be held on 25 July 2022, 3:00 pm, at the Amelia National Cemetery. Donations in his memory may be made to the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation at <https://www.legion.org/vcf>.

Jim lived a full and accomplished life. He loved his family, his friends, travel, was well loved and will be missed by many! **Source:**

**Progress Index**

## 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), James Althouse (284), Aubrey Clark (8), Barry Clark (8), Michael Dudek (327), Dennis Lapont (1976), Edward Lee (148), Morgan Miller (8), Joseph Morin (130), Carl Newlin (21), Wayne Parrish (146), Alen Smith 327, Harold Switzer (21), and William Weston (28). 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).





## Last WWII Medal of Honor recipient leaves legacy



In 2016, World War II Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams was honored by state and federal dignitaries during a ceremony dedicating a Navy ship after him at the West Virginia Culture Center in Charleston, W.V. Sam Owens / The Charleston Gazette-Mail

By Henry Howard

JUN 29, 2022

Marine Cpl. Hershel "Woody" Williams, the last living World War II Medal of Honor recipient, passed away June 29 at the Huntington, W.Va., VA Medical Center, which bears his name. He was 98.

Williams, an American Legion member for more than 70 years, received the medal for his actions during the Battle of Iwo Jima in February 1945. Williams was cited for his valor going alone and fighting for four hours to knock out Japanese forces, allowing for Allied tanks to proceed.

Later that year, at age 22, Williams received the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for military valor, from President Harry Truman.

"For me, receiving the Medal of Honor was actually the lifesaver because it forced me to talk about the experiences that I had, which was a therapy that I didn't even know I was doing," Williams said during a 2018 Boy Scouts recognition ceremony in Fairmont, W.Va.

In a 2014 video interview with The American Legion, Williams shared his experiences in World War II, receiving the medal and more.

His legacy, however, will not be limited to his actions on the battlefield. He spent decades of his life honoring families of the fallen, inspiring youth and promoting patriotism. For example, Williams, a member of Post 177 in Barboursville, W.Va., regularly spoke at Boys State.

American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard praised Williams during a visit June 29 to Post 54 in Bedford, Va.

"He was a tremendous Legionnaire and he was passionate about honoring Gold Star Families," Dillard said. "He was truly a patriot. People like Woody you cannot replace. We will miss him."

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin shared similar sentiments on Twitter, saying, "Today, America lost not just a valiant Marine and a Medal of Honor recipient, but an important link to our nation's fight against tyranny in WWII. Woody Williams gave to his nation on the battlefield and after, establishing a foundation to honor and recognize Gold Star families."

## Last WWII Medal of Honor recipient leaves legacy—from page 9

The idea for his nationwide tribute to Gold Star families originated during an appearance at an American Legion post, Williams told *The American Legion Magazine* for a profile in 2015. At the event, he asked Gold Star Mothers to raise their hands. He then thanked them, paying tribute to the 10 women for their sacrifice.

Afterward, a teary-eyed man lingered behind and approached Williams. “I said, ‘Sir, is there something I can do? Is there some way I can help you?’” Williams recalls. “He said, ‘Dads cry too.’”

The man, a widower, had recently lost his only child in the war in Afghanistan.

Following that exchange, Williams set out on a new mission: honor families of the fallen by establishing a Gold Star Memorial in every state. To date, more than 100 monuments have been installed in dozens of states while other memorials are in the planning stages.

Learn more about the initiative online at [www.hwwmohfoundation.org](http://www.hwwmohfoundation.org).

Dillard also called for a state funeral to honor Williams, as supported by a resolution passed in 2018.

“All Medal of Honor recipients are extraordinary and Woody Williams was particularly special to The American Legion,” Dillard said. “He was a proud Legionnaire who demonstrated legendary valor at Iwo Jima and then spent a lifetime serving veterans and Gold Star Families. He was a true American hero in every sense of the word. We extend our condolences to his family.” *American Legion Department of Virginia—Weekly Membership Report, July 1, 2022*

## Around The Detachment 2021—2022



Top Left Photo, Newly elected Detachment Commander, Joe Gallagher installed by Detachment Alt NEC-Man, Jeff Lee (July 2021), Top Middle Photo—SAL National Commander Clint Bolt at the National Jr Shooting Sports competition in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Top Left Photo, SAL National Commander Clint Bolt presenting a National Scholarship Award at Boys Nation (August 2021), Bottom Left and Bottom Center—Squadron 67 Annual Book Bag Give-Away with NEC-NEC Man, Willie Morgan, James Logan and other Squadron 67 Members (September 2021), and Bottom Right—Squadron 2 David Tuck with Department President Staci King at a Squadron 2 Fundraiser Event (October 2021).



From Squadron 17, Lovingson—Squadron 17 Commander, Jay Rarick presents award to Thom Guthrie. Adjutant Guthrie of Post 17 is also the Adjutant for Squadron 17 and is a Past Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Virginia [State] Commander. He is a dual member with the American Legion and this marks his 20th year of continuous membership in the Sons of the American Legion. Photo credit: Post 17 Commander Judy Petsch. June 15th, 2021

# Around The Detachment 2021—2022

## 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.

## Spring Conference 2022 Photos



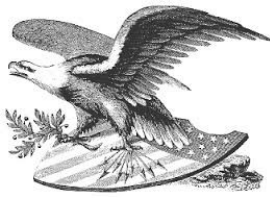
Photos taken at the Spring 2022 Conference in Portsmouth, Virginia. SAL National Commander was the Detachment of Virginia’s guest of honor. Photos above are from the Friday night DEC Meeting, Department of Virginia Auxiliary Spring Session and the Spring Conference Banquet. Photos courtesy of the American Legion Department of Virginia and Scott Williams.

## Flying Flags For Heroes Spring Conference 2022



Detachment of Virginia Officers led by Detachment Commander, Joe Gallagher, Detachment Vice Commanders David Boggs and Tyler Vanice, Alternate NEC Jeff Lee, Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin, Judge Advocate, Steve Gower, along with SAL National Commander, Michael Fox, other Detachment Of Virginia SAL Members, and Department of Virginia American Legion Members laid American Flags and Albert G. Horton, Jr Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk for Flying Flags for Heroes. Photos courtesy of American Legion Department of Virginia and Scott Williams

**Thanks for a Great Year!!**



# 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 2021—2022



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.



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 Lovingson, 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.



Squadron 327 support of a Softball team in 2022; Squadron 284 holds Spaghetti Fundraiser Dinner, Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin lays wreath on Memorial Day, and American Legion Post 160 Sons and Auxiliary work on Poppy Project.



## 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.

# 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

July 15-17, 2022

Detachment Convention

July 29-31, 2022

American Legion Department  
Of Virginia Leadership College

Aug 26-31, 2022

National Convention

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Sept. 5, 2022

Labor Day

Oct. 21-23, 2022

Fall Conference

Williamsburg, Virginia

**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, American Legion Department of Virginia Membership Weekly Report, July 3, 2022 progress Index. **Photos provided by:** American Legion Department of Virginia, Scott Williams, Squadron 327, Squadron 284, Squadron 17, Squadron 176, and American Legion Post 160.

**Edited By:** Scott Williams