



# FOCUS

## Taking A Closer Look



Volume 14, Issue 3 July 2023

### Detachment Officers

- Detachment Commander –David Boggs
- Detachment Vice Commander— Tyler Vanice
- Detachment Vice Commander— Jarrod Vass
- Detachment Vice Commander— Jay Rarick
- 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, II
- Detachment Judge Advocate- Steve Gower
- Detachment Historian—James Marsh

### Inside This Issue

<i>Commander's Corner</i>	2
<i>Adjutant's Blog</i>	2
<i>Be The One</i>	8
<i>Palou's Roll</i>	9
<i>VA &amp; R</i>	10
<i>SAL QR Code</i>	12
<i>Detachment Activities</i>	14

## NEC Willie Morgan—Detachment Son of The Year



Detachment NEC-man, Willie Morgan was named the Detachment Son of the Year for 2022-23, at the Spring Conference in Portsmouth in March. In the photo to the left, Mr. Morgan is with SAL PNVC, Steve Gower and SAL National Commander, Christopher Carlton. Mr. Morgan is a Dual Member of Squadron 67 in Hampton. He has also served as Detachment Commander and Vice Commander over the years. He has served in numerous capacities at the Squadron and Post level as well. He is a United States Navy Veteran. He will be presented with the award at the Detachment Convention in Herndon.



**A few pictures from around the Detachment—Squadron 17 participating in an Honor Guard Ceremony, Squadron 2 Installation of Officers, and Squadron 148 Fish Fry. More photos on page 14 from this year.**

### About This Issue

This will be the Final Issue for the 2022-23 year. We will wrap up our year with our accomplishments, awards, and targets for the 2023-24 year.

Please note the SAL QR Code on page 12 for SAL On

Line Renewals.

AL Post 180 supporting the Be The One Initiative of the American Legion is in this issue along with our own American Legion Indy Car on a roll with wins recently.

We also have an article on VA Reps and Deps for you to look at. It is great news as we have more independence on approving our own Reps and Deps which should mean greater support from the SAL at our VA Hospitals and Facilities.

## Commander's Corner—David Boggs



As I sit down to write my final Notes from the Commander, I would like to take some time to say Thank You. To the Detachment officers, who spend countless hours working to improve communications and engagement with our members, to the Department Leadership for their support and guidance, and finally to every Blue Cap member. Thank you for the work you put in this year. It is only through your efforts that we were able to accomplish our goals

and achievements. Without each one of you, we would not be able to fulfill our mission, which is our unwavering support of the American Legion.

Our new website is up and running, and I hope that you have had a chance to see the vast improvement. All of our forms are in one location, which should help our squadrons in completing their reports. Our Detachment Adjutant Kevin Chaplin has completed our yearly report on our activities, and I must admit I am very proud of our squadron members and leadership. Keep up the good work!

Finally, elections for Commander and Vice Commanders will take place at our convention in July. Please have your Squadron represented to vote for our new leadership team. I ask that

you support them in all that they do to lead our Detachment to greater achievements.

And lastly, thank you for the privilege of being your Commander. I hope I have made you proud of who we are!

Remember who you honor by being a member of this great organization. **David Boggs, Detachment Commander**



2023 Mid-Winter DEC Meeting

## Adjutant's Blog—Kevin Chaplin



We are just finishing up our membership year and at the time this article was written, the Detachment is only 8 members short of reaching our 105% membership goal of 4,314 members. What an awesome job everyone! I am hoping by the time you read this article we will have reached our 105% 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 37 Squadrons that reached or surpassed their 100% membership goal. (See Page for listing)

Don't forget to sign up on the Department website for the weekly membership report. [www.valegion.org](http://www.valegion.org)

Membership cards have arrived at Department Headquarters. Please contact the Department Adjutant, Dave Stein ([adjutant@valegion.org](mailto:adjutant@valegion.org)) regarding distribution. The new membership year started July 1st. Did you know you can 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 46% turn in rate or 31 out of 68 active Squadrons have submitted their CSR. Thank you to everyone who completed one.

The American Legion needs these numbers when the National Commander testifies before 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 over three 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. <https://vasons.org/report-forms-and-manuals/>

If your Squadron has not submitted the new 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.

## Adjutant's Blog—Cont. from Page 2

SAL Renew ([mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org)) If your members renew online and you have not submitted this form, they may not charge the member the correct amount of dues. Please contact me if you need assistance completing it. The form can be found on our website under Resources, Reports Forms and Manuals. [www.vasons.org](http://www.vasons.org) **Kevin Chaplin, Detachment Adjutant**

Squadron	Name	Location	Percent
280	Great Bridge	Chesapeake	183%
186	Major Charles A Ransom	Midlothian	150%
162	Lorton	Lorton	146%
364	Botts-Payne-Murphy Memorial	Woodbridge	134%
190	Sgt William H Harrison	Portsmouth	133%
75	Gloucester	Gloucester	130%
330	Culpeper Inc	Culpepper	127%
159	Chincoteague Inc	Chincoteague	122%
199	Muhlenberg	Woodstock	121%
176	Springfield	Springfield	117%
17	Rev E Clarence Perdue, Sr	Lovingston	117%
67	Harry S Foster	Hampton	115%
139	Arlington	Arlington	114%
25	Braxton-Perkins Inc	Newport News	114%
77	Shenandoah Inc	Strasburg	112%
146	Hopewell Memorial	Hopewell	111%
56	Northampton	North Hampton	111%
28	Quantico-Buck Keyes	Dumfries - Buck Keyes	110%
93	Buchanan	Buchanan	109%
104	Appomattox	Appomattox	108%
53	Giles B Cook	Front Royal	108%
34	Leesburg Johnson-Brent	Leesburg	108%
177	Fairfax	Fairfax	107%
284	Colonial Heights	Colonial Heights	106%
1976	Bicentennial	Annandale	105%
72	John D Sudduth	Warrenton	104%
10	Robert Vincent Mc Maugh Memorial	Manassas	103%
148	Westmoreland County	Colonial Beach	102%
16	Lynchburg	Lynchburg	101%
2	J Thompson Wyatt	Petersburg	100%
144	Battlefields	Highland Springs	100%
157	Madison County	Madison	100%
126	Floyd-Davidson Inc	Buena Vista	100%
99	Bruce-Walker	Bruce-Walker	100%
29	Waldon France Inc	Danville	100%
164	John Ratliff	Grundy	100%
3	Roanoke	Roanoke	100%



Sons of The American Legion  
Accomplishments



June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023  
for

**DETACHMENT OF VIRGINIA**

Overall Totals	
Dollars Donated \$	377,717
Hours Volunteered	89,680
Value of One Vol. Hour*	\$29.95
Volunteer Hours Value \$	2,685,916
Total Volunteer Value \$	3,063,633

Pillar	Donations	Hours	Hours Value*
Americanism	\$188,610	54,802	\$ 1,641,305
Children & Youth	\$75,850	10,867	\$ 325,452
Vets Affairs & Rehab.	\$55,366	9,254	\$ 277,157
Vets Employ & Edu.	\$7,227	3,192	\$ 95,600
Internal Affairs	\$50,665	11,566	\$ 346,402

Americanism	
<i>Boys State / Girls State</i>	\$9,105 in Donations to Boys State / Girls State with 277 Hours of Participation
<i>Legion Ed. Programs</i>	\$125 in Donations to 5-Star / 10-Ideals Progs. with 82 Hours of Participation
<i>Flag Programs</i>	\$5,702 in Donations to Flags Presented (All) with 3,130 Hours of Participation 5,704 Flags Presented (All Sizes / Events)
<i>Flag Education</i>	\$3,241 in Donations to Flag Education Progs. with 619 Hours of Participation
<i>Other Ed. Programs</i>	\$7,743 in Donations to Scholarships Awarded with 855 Hours of Participation
<i>Oratorical Contest</i>	\$310 in Donations to Oratorical Contest with 69 Hours of Participation
<i>Color Guard</i>	\$3,644 in Donations to Color Guard with 1,847 Hours of Participation
<i>Community Service</i>	\$72,567 in Donations to Other Organizations with 33,157 Hours of Participation
<i>Scouting</i>	\$37,963 in Donations to Scouting with 3,557 Hours of Participation
<i>Jr. Shooting Sports</i>	\$1,884 in Donations to Jr. Shooting Sports with 772 Hours of Participation
<i>Am. Legion Baseball</i>	\$3,339 in Donations to Am. Legion Baseball with 42 Hours of Participation
<i>Other Teams</i>	\$21,510 in Donations to Other Teams with 4,218 Hours of Participation
<i>Blood Drives</i>	\$1,135 in Donations to Blood Drives with 408 Hours of Participation
<i>N.E.F.</i>	\$2,530 in Donations to Nat'l Emergency Fund with 479 Hours of Participation
<i>Legacy Schol. Fund</i>	\$3,600 in Donations to Legacy Scholarship Fund with 1,744 Hours of Participation
<i>Other Amer. Projects</i>	\$14,212 in Donations to Other Amer. Projects with 3,547 Hours of Participation

Children and Youth	
<i>CWF</i>	\$15,887 in Donations to Child Welfare Found. with 3,109 Hours of Participation
<i>Special Olympics</i>	\$2,466 in Donations to Special Olympics with 993 Hours of Participation
<i>CMN</i>	\$577 in Donations to Children's Miracle Net. with 142 Hours of Participation
<i>Ronald McDonald House</i>	\$427 in Donations to R. McDonald House with 56 Hours of Participation
<i>C.O.T.A.</i>	\$627 in Donations to Child. Org. Trans. Assn. with 80 Hours of Participation
<i>T.A.L. Vets. &amp; Child. Found.</i>	\$1,895 in Donations to T.A.L. Vets. & Child. F. with 566 Hours of Participation
<i>Other C&amp;Y Projects</i>	\$53,971 in Donations to Other C&Y Projects with 5,921 Hours of Participation

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation	
<i>VAMCs &amp; Facilities</i>	\$9,045 in Donations to VAMCs & Facilities with 1,419 Hours of Participation
<i>State Vets Facilities</i>	\$3,315 in Donations to State Vets Facilities with 871 Hours of Participation
<i>Nat'l Vets Assist. Day</i>	\$2,710 in Donations to Nat'l Vets. Assist. Day with 234 Hours of Participation
<i>O.C.W.</i>	\$7,982 in Donations to Op. Comfort Warriors with 389 Hours of Participation
<i>Fisher House</i>	\$6,850 in Donations to Fisher House with 184 Hours of Participation
<i>Other VA&amp;R Projects</i>	\$25,464 in Donations to Other VA&R Projects with 6,157 Hours of Participation

Veterans Employment and Education	
<i>VE&amp;E Projects</i>	\$7,227 in Donations to VE&E Projects with 3,192 Hours of Participation

Internal Affairs	
<i>Other Totals</i>	\$50,665 in Donations, Not Covered Above with 11,566 Hours, Not Covered Above

\*As reported by: [Independent Sector](#) in April 2022 .

# And The Winners Are...2023 Year

<b>Americanism</b>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Squadron 368 (Newport News)</b>
	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Squadron 8 (South Boston)</b>
	<b>Large</b>	<b>Squadron 2 (Petersburg)</b>
<b>Children &amp; Youth</b>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Squadron 368 (Newport News)</b>
	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Squadron 67 (Hampton)</b>
	<b>Large</b>	<b>Squadron 2 (Petersburg)</b>
<b>VA &amp; R</b>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Squadron 368 (Newport News)</b>
	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Squadron 28 (Dumfries)</b>
	<b>Large</b>	<b>Squadron 284 (Colonial Heights)</b>
<b>VE &amp; E</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Squadron 67 (Hampton)</b>
	<b>Large</b>	<b>Squadron 327 (Norfolk)</b>

**Congratulations one and all on your accomplishments!!!**

## 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 26, 2023 105%**

**Delegate Target Strength**

**Congratulations to the Detachment of Virginia for Achieving 104.38% Membership as of The National Membership Report on, July 3! The Detachment is currently ranked 15th in the Nation and 4th in the Southern Region!**





## 2023 - 2024 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

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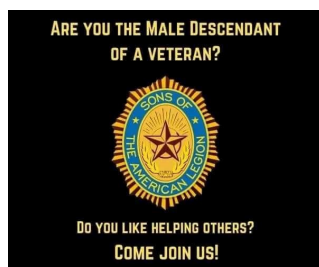
<b>SEPTEMBER 13, 2023</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>OCTOBER 18, 2023</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 15, 2023</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>DECEMBER 13, 2023</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>JANUARY 18, 2024</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 14, 2024</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>MARCH 13, 2024</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>APRIL 10, 2024</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>MAY 15, 2024</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>** JULY 24, 2024</b>	<b>105%</b>

**\*\* DELEGATE STRENGTH TARGET DATE**

**Target dates fall on the second Wednesday of the month unless there is a holiday on that day or at the beginning of that week.**

**Since Columbus Day falls on a Monday, the October target date will be on a Thursday.**

**The January target date will be on the third Thursday of the month because of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.**





## 2023 - 2024 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION RENEWAL SCHEDULE

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### CUT-OFF DATE

### RENEWAL POSTCARD MAIL DATE

#### 1ST NOTICE:

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2023**

**OCTOBER 23 - 27, 2023**

#### 2ND NOTICE:

**FEBRUARY 23, 2024**

**MARCH 25 - 29, 2024**

#### 3RD NOTICE:

**APRIL 22, 2024**

**MAY 27 - 31, 2024**

Transmittals not received by the cut-off date may not prevent a subsequent renewal notice from being delivered at or around the renewal date.

**Note:** Renewals transmitted and received by the cut-off date(s) noted above will be updated/processed prior to printing renewal notices, assuming they can be successfully scanned once received. Membership that must be hand-keyed (i.e., new members, renewals and/or membership cards that can't be scanned) will take longer to process. Please transmit membership as early and as often as possible in advance of the Target Dates to help avoid delays in processing.



American Legion Post 327 and Unit 327 celebrated their 75th Anniversary in December with Department Commander Rick Oertel, SAL National Commander Christopher Carlton, Detachment Commander, David Boggs, Detachment Vice Commander, Jarrod Vass, and Past Detachment Commander Fred Vaccarella.

***Purpose is why we journey; Passion is the flame that lights the way.***

## Putting Be the One first

American Legion Post 180 in Vienna, Va., celebrated the nation's birthday while conducting outreach to support those who swore to protect our nation with their lives.

More than 35 American Legion Family members and community supporters participated in the post's third annual Celebrate America 5K, which was combined with The American Legion Be the One initiative. The July 1 run-walk event was among the initial post events held on the first of the month, intended to be a specific day to raise awareness in communities throughout the nation, per Resolution 13, approved by the National Executive Committee.

The Be the One initiative's goal is to reduce the rate of veteran suicide by raising awareness about the issue, empowering everyone to take appropriate action, and connecting veterans with fitness and wellness opportunities. American Legion National Commander Vincent "James" Troiola has made the initiative a priority, encouraging posts and members to find ways to raise awareness in whatever way fits best in their communities.

"Fitness and wellness go hand-in-hand with the Be the One campaign," Post 180 First Vice Commander Dave Wallace said. "Be the One to listen. Be the One to reach out. Be the One to stop one veteran from committing suicide. Having the wellness side has been proven to be the key factor in an individual's mindset. So having this event just made sense."

Past National Commander Dan Dellinger was among the participants.

"Post 180 has taken to heart the program by National Commander Troiola," he said. "Be the One is very important to help stop veterans suicides. If you see something or hear something, say something."

Dellinger noted the post is aiming to bang a continuous drumbeat of spreading the word throughout the community.

"We have a large veterans community here," he explained. "We are going to try to do something on the first Saturday of every month to promote (Be the One.) We are going to try to continue to do this as much as possible."

After all, Dellinger concluded, Be the One drives toward the heart of The American Legion's dedication to helping fellow veterans.

"Every servicemember had a battle buddy. We stood beside them in battle. We need to make sure we stand beside them today."

Post member Mike Paruti organized the 5K, which started and ended at the post. Participants received information packets about the Be the One, which was also highlighted on the keepsake T-shirt. (Visit, access and download promotional materials at the Be the One resources page.)

"Be the One is, of course, a very special message," said Paruti, noting that this year's 5K is the first held since 2019. "It's very special that we rebirth this event with the Be the One message. Hopefully, they take away that message and understand how easy it is to Be the One. If you see any signs of where the message might apply, act on it."

Paruti was pleased with the turnout.

"It was great to have everyone come out, a mix of young, old, fast, slow, veterans, non-veterans. Everyone supports the military, which is great. But it's great to know that there are so many people who support our military, The American Legion, and our post in this community."

Vienna Mayor Linda Colbert was among Legion Family members and others from the community who walked the 5K.

"I love to support The American Legion and whatever event they are doing, and I love to be here and support them," she said. "I'm all about being healthy and doing things to support our town. I also love seeing people here being so patriotic."

Post 180 is the service organization with the longest tenure in its town, Wallace said. That dedication to community is seen in its various community events not just for the Fourth of July but throughout the year.

"This also allows us to show how we educate the children, our different programs that can reach out to them with Boys State, Junior Law Cadet program and others, and remind everyone who we are and what we can bring to the community," he explained. **Henry Howard, July 3, 2023 SAL Round Up July 9, 2023**



## Palou's incredible roll continues with win at Mid-Ohio

Just when it seemed Chip Ganassi Racing's (CGR) Alex Palou couldn't look any more dominant, he did. And the result was another win in the No. 10 American Legion Honda.

In Sunday's Honda Indy 200 at Mid-Ohio, it was again Palou controlling the end of the race, to the point where the television broadcast was more focused on closer battles for positions eight and lower. He wound up finishing 5.0242 seconds head of CGR teammate Scott Dixon, leading the final 24 laps of the race.

It was Palou's third straight win and fourth in five NTT INDYCAR SERIES races – three of those in Legion's Be the One No. 10. Only twice since 2016 has a driver won three straight races in the series, with the last being Dixon in 2020.

"Third win in a row for the No. 10 car, super special to do it here at Mid-Ohio where we've been good in the past," Palou said via CGR media. "We needed that win, and it's a special weekend for Honda. We had all the power and fuel mileage we needed to make our strategy work. We went long and just ran really fast lap times to get to Victory Lane. We did it and we're going to keep it going with The American Legion."

Palou took his first lead on lap 28, led again laps 31- 53, and then took his final lead on lap 53 after passing polesitter Colton Herta and No. 2 qualifier Graham Rahal. His lead grew to as many as eight seconds the rest of the way.

"I had a good car and good strategy, honestly," Palou said. "We've got a really fast car, (but) we knew we needed to try something different to the guys starting up front – that's why we started on primary (tires). Everything went well. The strategy, the pit stops, and our pace was pretty good."

Palou's lead in the INDYCAR SERIES points standings ballooned to 110 points over the second-place Dixon. Also worth noting is the past three times an INDYCAR driver won three races in a row – Dixon in 2013 and 2020, and Simon Pagenaud in 2016 – they went on to take the series championship.

"I know we can have some good couple of races coming up now, and we'll still try and maximize (points), do the best we can and win when we can," Palou said. "So, yeah, try and get (the car) on top."

Rookie Marcus Armstrong had another strong weekend while carrying American Legion branding on his No. 11 Ridgeline Lubricants Honda. After qualifying 18th, he was able to move up nine spots by the close of the race, increasing his lead in the INDYCAR SERIES rookie points race.

"It was a good race," Armstrong said. "In the end, we made up a lot of track position there by just staying out and doing fast laps. We did that for the rest of the day, that same strategy, and it paid off. The team did a great job in pit lane. Blair, Eric, and the rest of the crew did a great job on pit wall. I just drove as fast as I could, it turned out well, but we can do better next time."

Also carrying American Legion branding was Marcus Ericsson, who entered the race second in the points standings. But Ericsson was involved in an on-track incident with Felix Rosenqvist on the opening lap of the race that forced the No. 8 Huski Ice Spritz Honda back to the garage for repairs. After briefly returning to the race track at the halfway mark, the No. 8 car was forced to retire as a result of the damage sustained in the first lap crash, leading to a 27th-place finish. Ericsson still sits at fourth in the series championship.

"At the start, I thought I had more grip there, but bumped into Felix's tire and went over his car," Ericsson said. "It's very disappointing for the No. 8 car and crew, as well as Felix. It was never my intention, obviously, so I feel really bad for him. Congrats to the team on the 1-2 finish."

In the INDY NXT race earlier in the day, Chip Ganassi Racing developmental driver Kyffin Simpson recorded his best finish of the season and put together maybe his best overall weekend behind the wheel of the No. 21 HMD Motorsports/Ridgeline Lubricants featuring American Legion branding. After topping the weekend's second practice session, Simpson was able to qualify third for the Firestone Grand Prix at Mid-Ohio.

Simpson ran near the top of the field the entire race and then used a late restart to pass Christian Rasmussen and score a second-place finish behind Louis Foster. The performance moved Simpson from 13th to ninth in the INDY NXT points standings.

**Congratulations Virginia on a Great Year!!!!**

## Palou's incredible roll continues with win at Mid-Ohio

"The HMD crew gave me a great car this weekend," Simpson posted on Instagram. "I felt comfortable from the first lap and even with all the safety cars, rain, and the pressure from behind, we didn't make any mistakes. Hard but fair racing all round and I gave it everything chasing Louis down for the win. Didn't quite have enough laps to get there... P2."

Next up for CGR and the rest of INDYCAR is the Honda Indy Toronto street course on Sunday, July 16. *The American Legion, July 3, 2023; SAL Round Up July 9, 2023*



## Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

You may or may not have heard, but The American Legion has finally granted our request to allow the Sons of The American Legion to Certify our own VAVS Representatives and Deputies at VA Hospitals and Medical Centers across the Country! This resolution was passed by the SAL at the Fall 2022 NEC Meeting, with subsequent approval by TAL at their Spring meetings. This has been a major undertaking by our VA&R Commission over the last couple of years, and is a major accomplishment for all of us with The Sons of The American Legion!

There is a large untapped need at every VA across the Country for volunteers, support, and the fulfillment of needs for our Veterans. This is now our opportunity to fill those needs without time delays, unnecessary red tape, and extraneous levels of approval that only delay our mission. Simply stated, a VAVS (Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service) Representative and/or Deputy appointment allows our Organization to have a "liaison" to a VA facility. That individual then communicates what needs there are to fill and what ways there are that we as Sons can help, in each and every VA.

Attached is a short brochure describing the role of a VAVS Representative and/or Deputy. It is a volunteer position that is available at EVERY VA FACILITY, with over 155 facilities in the U.S. Each VA can have 1 Representative from the SAL and multiple Deputies. The Sons of The American Legion is currently 1 of only 41 Veteran and/or Community Service Organizations that is authorized by the Dept. of Veteran Affairs to be a member of the National Advisory Council, providing these positions and services at VA facilities.

It has been a cumbersome process to appoint VAVS Representative and Deputies up to this point, but that has now ended with our new ability to certify these positions across the Country. A Certification form is also attached to this email. An appointment to a Representative or Deputy now only requires the approval of the Detachment Adjutant and Detachment VA&R Chairman. Note: Associate positions are for a Representative or Deputy who will be at a VA that is in a neighboring State from his Detachment.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, identify 1 or 2 individuals to serve in these capacities at your neighboring VA. If you have 5 facilities within your Detachment, then line-up members for each of the 5. This is such an important role, and is so important that we build on what we have.

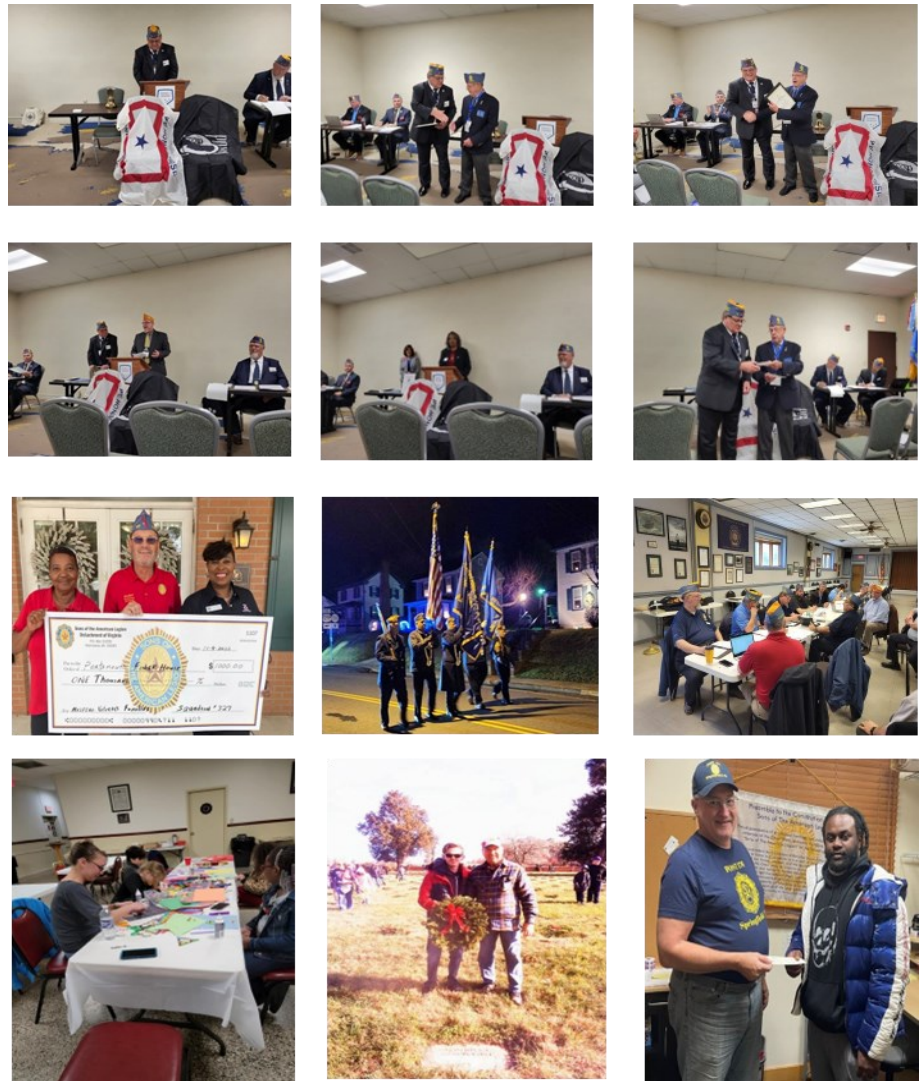
We currently have Representatives and/or Deputies in 31 VA facilities across the Country. That means we need to fill the other 124!

Please let us know if you have any questions, or need further assistance in making this happen. **Gabe Cinquegrana, National VAVS Representative National VA&R Commission Vice-Chairman; SAL Round Up– July 9, 2023**

### Squadron Everlasting

Please keep the families of the following members in your thoughts and prayers— Sean Adams (148), Donald Chenault (284), Charles Frazier (53), Frederick Kuester (175), Gerald Willis, Jr. (327), John Arch-deacon (199), Steven King (146), Jacob Nicholas (177), John Archdeacon (199), Donald Chenault (284), Floyd Cline (176), Alfred Garrett (146), Perry Howard (159), Steven King (146), George Lus-sier III (28), Jacob Nicholas (177), and Colton Tally (144) If your Squadron has any members who have passed away, please notify our Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin (kchaplin@lexacom.net) and De-tachment Chaplin, Robert Wilson, Sr. (robertwilsonsr54@gmail.com).

### Around The Detachment



From Around the Detachment—Fall Conference Photos from October 2022 in Williamsburg, Virginia. Squadron 327 presenting a \$1,000 donation to the Portsmouth Fisher House. Squadron 17 along with Post 17 participating in a Christmas Parade. Squadron 25 Community Service. Squadron 17 Detachment Vice Com- mander, Jay Rarick participating in a Blood Drive. American Legion 327 Juniors and Jr SAL working on Christmas Cards for Veterans. Wreaths Across America.





**Types of Volunteers**

- Regular Scheduled Volunteers – Individuals that participate on a regularly scheduled assignment under VA supervision and have completed the background check process.
- Occasional Volunteers – Those that do not meet the requirements of Regular Scheduled, ie; special events or patient activities helpers.

**Traditional Volunteer Assignments**

- Patient escort
- VTN drivers
- Red Coat Ambassadors
- Friendly visits/Hospice Care
- Clerical positions
- Chaplain Services
- Pharmacy
- Recreation therapy

**Other Volunteer Assignments**

- Fundraisers off/on station
- Gardening
- Monthly Birthdays
- Audiology/Pharmacy helpers
- Bingo or other activities

Services rendered for functions performed other than those assigned by the VA in the Volunteer assignment given, are not credited hours for the VA's records, but may be accounted for by the affiliated Organization of the Volunteer



**VAVS REPRESENTATIVE & DEPUTY HANDBOOK**

The U.S. Veterans Administration Center for Development & Civic Engagement Office or formerly Voluntary Service (VAVS), operates the largest volunteer program in the federal government supplementing staff and resources in all areas of patient support.

**VAVS Purpose and Structure**

**Purpose:** To assist with the coordination of plans and policies for community participation in VA's Programs, and provide support for its needs. **Membership:** 1 Representative and up to 3 Deputy Representatives per certified Organization.

**Member Selection Process**

The source for appointment nominations may vary in each Organization. Many originate at a local level, or at other levels of the Organization that are deemed responsible for a VA territory or region.

- Individuals are nominated using that Organization's nomination forms at the local and state-level as defined by that Organization.
- Final Certification is by the National Certifying Official of the Organization.

VA is not involved in the nomination process unless a nominee is rejected after a background check or is considered unacceptable. Appointments are not official or in effect until notice is received by letter to the specific CDCE Manager from the Organization's National Certifying Official.

**Membership Qualifications**

- Be a Registered Regular Scheduled (RS) Volunteer at the VA facility.
- A sincere interest in the welfare of hospitalized and other Veterans, and a desire to help them
- The ability to work with others
- Knowledge of your organization and the ability to communicate and disseminate information
- Attend Regularly Scheduled Quarterly Meetings



Online Renewal QR Code



**VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION**

- HOUSING/AUTOMOBILE ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT
- CLOTHING ALLOWANCES
- DEPENDANT EDUCATION BENEFITS
- VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

# 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, David Boggs, Detachment Vice Commander, Jarrod Vass (Eastern Region), Detachment Vice Commander, Jay Rarick (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 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. 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.



**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, David Boggs, 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

### Sons Of The American Legion Detachment of Virginia

#### "The Focus"

**Articles and information contributed by:** Detachment Commander David Boggs, Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin, Detachment Assistant Adjutant, Scott Williams, Henry Howard, SAL Roundup, July 9, 2023, The American Legion, SAL Roundup, July 9, 2023, Gabe Cinquegrana, National VAVS Representative National VA&R Commission Vice-Chairman; SAL Round Up— July 9, 2023.

**Photographs provided by:** Scott Williams, Detachment Vice Commanders, Jarrod Vass and Jay Rarick, American Legion Post 327, and various other Detachment Members.

**Edited By:** Scott Williams

# Around The Detachment



Photos from around the Detachment from January 2023 to present. At the top Squadron 157 and Post 157 providing a lift chair for a veteran; Detachment Officers along with SAL National Commander, Christopher Carlton, laying the Virginia Wreath at the World War II Memorial; DEC Mid Winter Meeting held at Colonial Heights Post 284; Spring Conference at Portsmouth, Virginia with SAL National Commander, Christopher Carlton as our Distinguished Guest, Squadron 327 at OBX Shred Fest presenting a \$2,000 donation to OBX Shred Fest (Operation Comfort Warriors); Squadron 327 supporting the AL Post 327 Picnic; Squadron 2 Installation of Officers, and Detachment Historian, James Marsh laying flags at a local cemetery in Petersburg.