



November 2023 Issue  
**NEVADA LEGION NEWS**

The American Legion, Department of Nevada

AMERICAN  
LEGION  
**BE THE  
ONE**



NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>

**VETERANS DAY**

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



**HAPPY FALL**

*Why you don't walk between the colors  
(Breaking Ground)  
Between these flags that proudly fly  
let no man dare to stand  
For here our fallen Comrades lie  
We call it Hallowed Ground.*

*A symbol, yes, but mark it well;  
Here let us humbly pause  
In memory of the lad who fell  
In fighting for our sacred cause.*

*On Sea or land these buddies dies.  
Some lie beneath a foreign sod  
In graves caressed by winds and tide.  
In spots unknown to all but God.*

*And so, this place is Hallowed Ground.  
And it shall be forever blessed  
As though it were a grassy mound  
Beneath which gallant heroes rest  
Be ever watchful.*

*Of those flags which signify  
That we should guard this spot with care  
Where our departed comrades lie.  
And, if a man should dare to tread  
This spot where lie our gallant brave.*

*He desecrates those noble dead  
As though he walked upon their grave.*

  
**BE THE  
ONE**

## Department Auxiliary President

Hello Members,

I would like to start by introducing myself. I am Charmaine Meana the American Legion Auxiliary Department President. I am a member of BMI Unit 40 in Henderson. I have been working to bring together the American Legion Family for Nevada. I hope to be having another meeting before years end for anyone who wishes to attend. Also, I have an email list already since the first meeting. If you have an event, let me know so I can pass it along to other Posts who might attend. In these trying times, it takes one big family to help hold everything together and help each other or lend a hand.

American Legion Family: Be The Team!

I am now doing the American Legion Department Website as well as the Department Newsletter. Please submit articles or info to me at: [charnvaux@gmail.com](mailto:charnvaux@gmail.com)

I would like to have your articles preferably by the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month so I can post the monthly newsletter on the website by the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

For those of you not aware, The Veterans Creative Arts Festival was held for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year here in Las Vegas in September. Turnout was small. Please get the word out to our very talented Veterans. They need to be working on their project now for next September. There are 150 categories from Art, Music, Poetry, Theatre, Dance and so much more. Let's get our Veterans in the competition! For more information: <https://www.legion-aux.org/nvcaf> A huge thank you goes out to Unit 76 & Post 76 for bringing this wonderful event to life in Las Vegas.

Last but not least, BMI Post 40 will be hosting the 105<sup>th</sup> American Legion Department of Nevada's Annual Convention. It will be held at Sunset Station Hotel and Casino in Henderson, NV.

Mark your calendars for June 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Have a very Happy Veterans Day!

For God and Country,

Charmaine Meana

ALA Department President

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





Greetings fellow members,

My news articles will be on one of the Pillars of The American Legion: Veterans Administration and Rehabilitation this year. This article is on the history of VA & R. The other articles will consist of the programs under this Pillar.

For more than 90 years, the Legion has been the nation's leading advocate for proper health care and earned benefits for America's veterans. The Legion was instrumental in creating the Veterans Administration in 1930, and an ardent supporter of its rise to Cabinet status when it became the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in 1989. As the relationship between VA and veterans evolves, the Legion will help VA meet its critical mission.

As it has for decades, the Legion continues to aggressively lobby for adequate funding of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), to provide timely access to quality health care. Additionally, the Legion seeks to ensure fair rulings on claims and other earned veterans benefits for those who have service-connected injuries and illnesses. A nationwide network of more than 2,500 American Legion accredited service officers and other professional staff works diligently to assist veterans in obtaining the benefits and care they have earned and deserve through VHA, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and the National Cemetery Administration.

Today, as the number of discharged veterans from operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Enduring Freedom (OEF) and New Dawn (OND) surpasses 1.2 million, the Legion's congressionally chartered role to support them could not be more relevant. However, the Legion also strongly believes that a veteran is a veteran, regardless of war era or location of service. In this way, the Legion is the only organization that works on behalf of about 23 million U.S. veterans alive today.

The Legion has tens of thousands of members who volunteer nearly a million hours annually in VA facilities to help their fellow veterans navigate the VA system (saving the department about \$20 million per year).

Source: <https://www.legion.org/pillars/211651/pillar-1-veterans-affairs-rehabilitation> August 2, 2012.

This is an email that was sent out on October 27, 2023 from Department:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) operates the largest health care system in the country, with over 1,400 sites of care nationwide. When you become enrolled in the VA health care system, it's for a lifetime. You are instantly and automatically entitled to receive care at any VA location without ever having to register for VA health care benefits again. Learn more at:

[http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/division\\_flsh.asp?dnum=1](http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/division_flsh.asp?dnum=1)

After you enroll, you can immediately start receiving your health care at a VA facility, or at a later date - the choice is yours. Enrolling in the VA health care system is quick and easy - just complete an online Application for Health Benefits online at:

<https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/> Need help enrolling? Contact the VA toll free at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

To change your message subscriptions: 1) Log into <http://www.ebenefits.va.gov/>; 2) Go to the Message Center; 3) Select "My Preferences" and update your subscription preferences.

VADir Event ID: HLT.14.E.01

For God and Country  
Brenda Horton  
Department 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander  
BAnnHorton3@aol.com





## Greetings Legionnaires

At the Legion Fall Meetings in Indianapolis National Commander Seehafer talked about the importance of our Legislative Priorities and demonstrated how we can flood Congress with knowledge of their importance.

Take out your phone / computer / tablet; enter [legion.org/action](https://legion.org/action) in the address bar of your browser.

You will be taken to a page that lists our Legislative Priorities. You click on one of them (or preferably each of them one at a time) and you get a red banner across the bottom of the description of the legislation that states, "Send Message". Click on that and it takes you to a preformatted message that will go to each of your elected representatives. You can leave the message as is or you can edit all or part of it – your choice. The first time you do this – your Congressional Reps will be blank. Just continue and fill in your Name and address – then it will populate with the Congressional Reps for your address. And it will save this information for future actions so you only need fill this in once. At the end the app will ask you for your affiliation to the Legion – complete as it applies to you. You can see there is a choice for non-veteran friends to select as well so anyone can do this. When done – hit "Send Message" again and off it goes.

You can do this once every 24 hours. Your family can do it – friends who care about Veterans can do it. The more the better. Hit our Reps every day so they will never forget us.

**SPREAD THE WORD!**

Continuing in Service,

Jeanette Rae Evans, NEC



Greetings everyone!

My Name is Ron Petroski. I am your newly elected Department Sergeant at Arms. My newsletter articles will be about Children and Youth.

As we know November is upon us. This is a special month because in 1972 The American Legion started a new program called "Family week". Those dates are November 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. This program helps promote healthy families and communities. Our children are precious to our society and essential to further our democracy. President Reagan was quoted as saying, "The family unit is essential to promoting great values to include acceptance and guidance and support of the children."

The child welfare program is to help those families in need. External help whether financial or mental support is a huge part of the program. In your communities during the holiday season please help those families with a Thanksgiving/Christmas meal. This will promote The American Legion in a positive manner. For God and Country

**Wellcare is excited to partner with The American Legion.**

We are grateful for those who have served this country and are committed to supporting their good health and well-being.

Visit us online at, [WellcareNow.com](http://WellcareNow.com)

Or call, 844-599-0128 (TTY: 711)  
8 a.m.- 8 p.m., 7 days a week

**AMERICAN LEGION** | wellcare  
THE OFFICIAL MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PROVIDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

*The coverage you need & more*

**AMERICAN LEGION**  
**BE THE ONE**

## Sons of the American Legion – Detachment Commander



The Detachment of Nevada ended last year on a high note by taking home fundraising awards for exceeding \$2.00/member in donations to the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) coming in at (\$24.83/member, an award for highest per-capita donations to the CWF in the Western Region, the CWF Meritorious Achievement Award for the highest increase in per-capita donations, and for the second year in a row, the CWF Excellence Award for the highest per-capita donation in the nation.

Membership for 2023 ended with 383 members and 107.28% of last year's membership standings. This placed us in 8<sup>th</sup> place overall in the nation. The results mean that we are expected to improve by only 1% this year, but for those that know me, I won't be satisfied with 1%. If we only reach 1% this year, we will just have a larger target the next year. If we consistently aim for greater than 105%, we know what is expected year after year.

The above accomplishments are an amazing example of what a group of dedicated members of the Sons of The American Legion can do. I want to thank each member of the Legion Family who contributed to our successes.

Our National Convention welcomed a new National Commander, Donald "JR" Hall and a new Western Region Vice-Commander, James Fischer. Both of these men have some outstanding plans for the SAL and we will support their goals with the same enthusiasm that we have shown in the past. Commander Hall has issued a Commander's Challenge to all Squadrons to support the four pillars and become a National Four Pillar Squadron. To do so, a Squadron needs to raise \$1/member for each of Operation Comfort Warrior (VA&R), CWF (Children and Youth), Department's Boys State (Americanism), and hold a blood drive (National Security). Achieving each of the above will result in an award for being a National Four Pillar Squadron.

This year also brings a change to the Western Region with the addition of Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, and Latin America which means, hopefully, a significant increase in attendance at the Western Rendezvous, which is now an officially recognized Detachment event. If you want to attend or offer some help, please contact me or Jim Stewart.

Flying Flags for Heroes placed and unreal 70,673 flags in 2022-2023 for over 197 flags per member. There may be more that I don't have recorded; regardless, this is an amazing number, and I can't thank everyone enough!

As in past years, I have CWF and other challenge coins and pins to raise money for CWF and VCF, etc. I am happy to take \$10-20 donations for various causes in exchange for these. I mention this because despite the fundraising achievements we made last year in raising the bar for CWF donations, on the last Western Region call, the Detachment of Colorado was busy bragging about their fundraising successes for the per-capita CWF fundraising and issued a challenge that they could out raise anyone. I take this as an opportunity to prove them wrong and raise the stakes to \$30/member. Maybe they have a plan for this year and we need to be ready to beat them at the fundraising game.

On a personal note, I have not been as attentive to the Detachment, I have been working on reinvigorating Squadron 7 after some challenges last year and the transfer of our Squadron Commander to somewhere in Virginia, taking with him a significant portion of our membership (his Sons). Without the support and dedication of the Squadrons, the Detachment cannot succeed. Build and support your Squadrons as they are the backbone of the organization.

Detachment EC meetings will be the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 via teams.  
Teams Meeting ID 272 911 810 647  
Passcode D3p5ib

Phone in – 775-393-9964  
Conference ID 796 285 50#

Please join us if you can.

Let's have an exciting 2023-2024 and don't forget your buddy checks and watching out for our entire Legion Family.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shawn Horton  
Commander, Detachment of Nevada





**Join Governor Joe Lombardo  
for Veterans Day!**

**Lt. Governor Stavros Anthony  
and other dignitaries will join the  
Governor in Honoring Nevada's Heroes.**

**November 11, 2023  
1:30 P.M.**

**Nevada State Veterans Memorial  
Grant Sawyer Building  
555 E. Washington Ave. Las Vegas,  
NV 89101**



**Register Today!**

Go to: <https://bit.ly/2023VeteransDay>

Or Scan QR Code



## District 2 - Commander Fred Doten

With the “Heat from Hell” now in the past District 2 is coming alive again. It’s been a summer of sweltering heat that has kept most of us indoors. With cooling temperatures coming back posts are out and about in our communities.

The District quarterly meeting held in September was hosted by Post 31 in Boulder City. They showcased their new home and provided outstanding hospitality. As a unique surprise, they auctioned off a nice TV. Tickets were \$10 and only folks at the meeting could buy tickets. Doc Moss bought two tickets and gave one to his wife. If he won, the TV would go to Post 149. If she won, then the TV would go to the Auxiliary of Post 149. Bad decision on Doc’s part, the TV went to the Auxiliary – As it should be.

Post 31 discussed their theme for the year. “What can we do for our members?” will drive the Post’s direction for the year. Instead of directing all their efforts to the community their driving force will be doing things for their members. More games, more picnics, and more member events are what will be stressed. Only time will tell if it works. I know what they are doing must be working as they exceeded their membership goal last year. They were one of the four post that hit the 100% goal.

And speaking of membership, District 2 is on the move again this year. It has always been my belief that if you can reach the 50% mark by the end of “Early Bird” season you will finish the year well. The district is presently at 56% so is moving. Now we need to be at 75% by the end of the year. We finished last year at 92% and I believe we can do better next year.

With fall here many of the posts will be out in their communities again. Until next month, stay healthy and happy.





I would like to create an events calendar for all of the scheduled riders events and place them online and in the newsletter. If you know of an event, please send me the details and I will make certain that it is distributed.

We need more engagement from the riders, it is well known that the Legion Riders events can be great membership opportunities. Always carry a packet of membership forms with you for the Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary, you never know when they might be handy.



I can always be reached via email ([commander@nevadasal.org](mailto:commander@nevadasal.org)) or phone (720-394-5965), just leave a message if I don't answer.

Sincerely,

Shawn Horton  
Commander, Detachment of Nevada  
American Legion Riders Department of Nevada Liaison



## Department Membership Chair

When speaking to potential new members, I have created the following talking points to hit a mark with every generation of Veteran. Reminding ourselves of the great things we do for our Veterans and Community allows us to be able to reach out and find those who are on the fence about joining our great organization.

-The American Legion is the nation's largest and most influential organization of U.S. veterans. Today, it counts 1.6 million members who support their communities in more than 12,000 posts worldwide.

-Since COVID-19 disrupted the American way of life in 2020, American Legion members from coast to coast have responded to the call to serve their communities. While adhering to social-distancing guidelines, Legionnaires provided meals to community members.

-Since its 1919 founding, The American Legion has been a staunch advocate for veterans, military members, their families and the communities in which they reside.

-It ushered in the modern VA, drafted and drove passage of the GI Bill and updates, and brought into existence dozens of health-care benefits for veterans.

-The Legion raises funds to award scholarships, provide support for wounded service members and distribute emergency aid to disaster victims.

-The American Legion advocates on Capitol Hill for a well-funded, appropriately staffed VA that can handle benefits claims efficiently, quickly and accurately. In fact, The American Legion helped usher in much-needed change to the review of VA benefits claims disputes. President Trump signed the historic legislation onstage during The American Legion's 99th National Convention in 2017.

-The American Legion offers free assistance to those applying to their service branches for corrections to military records and discharge statuses. American Legion experts help veterans with claims for Combat Related Special Compensation and the procurement of accurate records.

-The American Legion fulfills a sacred duty by honoring the memories of U.S. veterans after their deaths. American Legion honor guards salute their fallen comrades at funeral services throughout the country. American Legion Riders provide motorcycle escorts at services for veterans.

-The National Emergency Fund has provided more than \$9 million in immediate financial assistance to American Legion Family members and posts affected by natural disasters. The financial grants have helped American Legion members and Sons of The American Legion members rebuild their lives.

-The American Legion Legacy Scholarship provides college scholarships for children of military personnel who have a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater. The needs-based scholarship is designed to fulfill a gap after all federal and state grants and scholarships have been used by eligible applicants.

-Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) is designed to assist minor children of eligible active-duty service members or eligible American Legion members through cash grants. These grants help families meet the costs of shelter, utilities, food and medical expenses.

Use these talking points to open the conversation door, at the end of the day when asking someone to join the worst they will say is "NO", but at least they have become better educated because of you.

v/r

Paul "Pip" Valentin

Department Membership Chairman

## Suggested Remarks for Veterans Day

Seventy years ago, one distinguished veteran, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, presented the nation's highest military award to another distinguished veteran - a hero of two wars.

Hiroshi Miyamura (her ō she mēya mura) was the son of Japanese immigrants and a proud resident of Gallup, New Mexico.

After serving with the famed all-Nisei (knee cy)100th Infantry Battalion in World War II, Corporal Miyamura was recalled to active duty as a machine gunner in the Korean War. When his unit came under attack by Chinese forces near the Imjin River in 1951, Miyamura is estimated to have killed more than 50 enemy soldiers.

Despite his own serious injuries, Miyamura refused to abandon his wounded comrade, Joe Annello. He carried him even after both were captured. When his captors threatened to shoot Miyamura if he did not drop Annello, his wounded friend convinced him to listen. The enemy showed no mercy as a severely wounded Miyamura and his fellow POWs were forced to march 300 miles with little food over a 5-week period.

Through indomitable will, Miyamura survived his 28 months of captivity. Miraculously, so did Annello. The battlefield actions that led to Miyamura's Medal of Honor were initially classified Top Secret by officials who feared that the enemy might retaliate against him if they had known the extent of the harm that he inflicted on their forces.

On November 29, 2022, Hiroshi Miyamura, transferred to what we in The American Legion refer to as Post Everlasting. He was 97.

Ladies and gentlemen, these are the type of heroes America continues to produce – in many ways humble at home but ferociously brave on the battlefield.



Another Medal of Honor recipient, retired Marine Colonel Barney Barnum, described the combat that he saw in 1965 at Operation Harvest Moon.

“We came together as a team,” he recently told the Associated Press. “And, you know, there’s no fury unleashed that’s greater than that of a bunch of Marines that know that their buddies have been shot.” – unquote.

On July 29, 2023, Col. Barnum attended the christening of a future destroyer – the USS Harvey C. Barnum, Jr. An appropriate honor for an American hero.

Most Americans profess to truly love our veterans, especially at gatherings like this on Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

And while their feelings are sincere, it is important to remember that veterans are defending us 365 days a year. The heroism that has been demonstrated time and again by veterans from the American Revolution to the Global War on Terrorism is sometimes unnoticed by many who enjoy the security that their sacrifice has provided.

Not all veterans have seen combat, but all have at one time made the solemn promise to sacrifice their lives for this country if called upon. Without the formidable strength that veterans have demonstrated in war, Americans would never enjoy their daily freedoms.

It was none other than George Washington who said, - quote- “To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving the peace.” – unquote.

For many veterans, our nation was important enough to endure long separations from their families, miss the births of their children, freeze in sub-zero temperatures, roast in faraway deserts, lose limbs, and, far too often, lose their lives.

Their families serve and sacrifice as well.

Military spouses have had to endure career interruptions, frequent changes of address, and a disproportionate share of parental responsibilities.

The children often had to deal with changes in schools, separation from friends and, hardest of all, the uncertainty of whether or not Mom or Dad will live through their next combat tour.

Warriors need advocates, and that is why The American Legion exists. We are here to serve veterans, their families and our communities. Veterans need each other, but, more importantly, our country needs our veterans.

You cannot fight a war without veterans and while the utopian idea of a society without war is appealing, let us not forget that wars have liberated slaves, stopped genocide and toppled terrorists.

Stephen Ambrose once wrote, "America's wars have been like rungs on a ladder by which it rose to greatness. No other country has triumphed so long, so consistently or on such a vast scale through force of arms."—unquote.

It has often been said that without our veterans, Americans would be speaking Russian, German or, perhaps, Japanese. Regardless of which view of alternative history you take, we do know that without our veterans, America would not be America.

Veterans Day, originally known as Armistice Day, commemorates the armistice of November 11, 1918, which marked the end of World War I. Since then, this day has evolved to recognize and honor all veterans from every generation who have served in the Armed Forces of the greatest nation on earth.

In times of peace and in times of war, our veterans have exemplified the values of honor, courage and commitment. They have displayed unwavering dedication to their fellow servicemembers, their brothers- and sisters -in arms. Their love

for country is proven.

But Veterans Day is not just a day of celebration and remembrance. It is a day of action. It is a day when we must recommit ourselves to the well-being of veterans and their families. The American Legion has been a stalwart champion in this endeavor, advocating for healthcare, education and employment opportunities for those who have served and sacrificed.

The American Legion continues to remind the public that more than 6,000 veterans a year take their own lives. We should all commit to “Be the One” to save one. The 9-8-8 crisis line is available to assist anyone who is contemplating such a heartbreaking and tragic outcome.

In this era of uncertainty and division, it is our veterans who serve as a unifying force. They come from all walks of life, representing the rich tapestry of our nation. Yet, when they put on the uniform, they become an even greater power – the embodiment of the American spirit.

Our debt to these heroes can never be re-paid but our gratitude and respect must last forever. Thank you for being here. God bless America.

