

NEVADA LEGION NEWS

"Veterans Strengthening America"

VOLUME 4. ISSUE 10

IS AUGUST 2021

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- * Nevada Legion Baseball
- * American Legion flags
- * Office Depot/Max Discounts
- * 300 Club
- * National Parks Pass

INSIDE THIS

2
3
4
5
6
7
10

15

Sons



Hello Managers and Coaches August 11, 2021

Well, the season is officially over for our Great State so let me start off with a big thank you for your participation / HELP this year!!

Here's some final stats:

The Tribe went to the Regionals and played in the Final Four. They played great and fought hard but were beat out by Texas.

Aces (DO), 15U won state, Legacy HS, Coach Joseph Lauria, thanks to you and all your volunteers for hosting.

Aces (DO), 17U won state, Palo Verde HS, Coach David Meng, thanks to you and all your volunteers for hosting.

I'm proud of all the teams and look forward to seeing each of you in American Legion Baseball next year.

Jesse G. Reynosa

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Richard Eberly

Hello Fellow Legionnaires,

I wanted to start off by saying that we have a great month ahead of us. Thanks to all the post that accepted my invitation to visit for this month.

The month of August I have started to visit posts and attend various events. On August 1, 2021, I had the pleasure of installing the newly elected officers of Darrell Dunkle Post 1 in Reno. Congratulations to all the newly elected officers. On Thursday, August 5, I took a trip to Fernley, Nevada and visited Gerald C. Daniel Post 37. Then on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, I made another local visit to Capital Post 4 in Carson City. It is nice to see that all Posts are starting to hold regular meetings and they all appear to be gearing back up to become active with lots of activities planned. Keep up the good work, I know coming out of this pandemic, things are going to be slow but you are all doing a great job.

I have a few more Northern Posts on my schedule to finish out the month. The end of the month the Department of Nevada and officers will be attending the National Convention in Phoenix. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Currently, I am working out the details in regards to trying to schedule a trip down South to start my visitations. At this time, I do not have anything set up but I am going to try and visit everyone that is having regular meetings. Again, if you are having regular meetings and your information is not current with the department webpage, please send the updated information so we know when and where you are meeting.

I know I won't be able to attend all events this year but please let me know when your post is having an event and I will try to attend. If I have a prior engagement, I will try to make the next one. As I have commitments to the Department, National and our local Posts, I will do my best to try to visit everyone and attend as many of your events as time allows. My plan is to try to get to as many of our Posts as I can because without all you do for our Veterans and communities the American Legion would not exist in Nevada.

This month two of our Northern American Legion Posts have had the opportunity to be able to celebrate their 100th Birthdays. Congratulations to the following Posts on reaching this milestone: Vernon Roberts Post 5, Winnemucca and White Pine Post 3, Ely. If I missed a post that is celebrating there 100th this month please let me know. If you are going to be celebrating your 100th this year let me know when so I have enough time to arrange my calendar. Again, if your Post has something exciting that is happening, I would like to know about it so I can try to join you and to be there for your achievement.

This month I have chosen to highlight Post 1, 16 and 76 for any information and events that they would like to share with our Legion Families. It is really appreciated the response and information I receive from the Posts in regards to their upcoming events, so that all Legionnaires can enjoy and know what is happening in our great state.

Highlighted August Posts:

Fred W. Anderson Post 16 (Fallon):

On July 31st, the post hosted their luau. Department Adjutant and I had the pleasure of attending Fred W. Anderson Post 16, Fallon, for this event. The food and event were great. The 50-50 raffle was won by Kim Eberly and was donated back. The Post was grateful and ensures us that it will be put back to good use. The event was a great success; with all proceeds earned going towards building repairs.

Likes most Post we are experiencing a slow start. We are now at 48% membership and we are planning on a big membership drive in Sept.

Post 16 will be celebrating its 100th anniversary on Sept 11th. It will be a very busy day for all of us, hope to see you there. We continue to have our Friday night dinners.

Spirit of Freedom Post 76 (Las Vegas):

Spirit of Freedom Post 76 has been an active member of the community for many years. Our featured event is our Memorial Day service at the Lakes. In May of 2021, we held our 19th annual event, which was attended by many politicians and dignitary's, and earned the Post a Certificate of Recognition from the City of Las Vegas. Our award-winning color guard continues to be requested at many events around town, as well as doing several Veterans in care events. Several members of Post 76 travel to the Southern Nevada Veterans cemetery on Thursdays to participate in the unattended veterans' burials.

Additionally, we sponsor two Troop 312s of the BSA and a Cub Scout Pack, as well as having an active school award's and JROTC award's program. During the pandemic, we were able to reach our members via Zoom meetings, and we will continue to stream them once we meet again in person, so that our home bound veteran's will be able to participate. Another program that we will continue from the pandemic is Buddy Check's. Post 76 made over 880 Buddy check calls during the pandemic, and we will continue to keep this program active.

We also have a very active recruitment program and information table schedule in place and growing for the remainder of the year.



1st Vice Commander Valerie Scheuering

Good Day Fellow Legionnaires,

In moving forward with the History and Traditions of The American Legion, I wrote about how The American Legion was established in my July article. This month I will be explaining the characteristics of the Legion's emblem, as referenced on Legion.org and in the Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies.



"Every part of The American Legion emblem has meaning. The emblem is laid upon the rays of the sun, giver of life, warmth and courage; foe of the cold, of the darkness, of fear, of apprehension. In turn, each of the emblem's parts signifies a meaning, which no American Legionnaire who wears the emblem should take lightly, and which he/she should know from the first moment it is put on. Why does the star signify constancy of purpose? Because the stars are fixed in the heavens. As the stars do not wander, so should The American Legion not wander from its fixed purposes. Further, the words "The American Legion" demand that the wearer "shall ever guard the sanctity of home and country and free institutions..." There shines the emblem of The American Legion. It is your badge of pride and distinction, honor and service."

Here is the breakdown of the emblem as identified in the Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies:

- The rays of the sun form the background of the emblem and suggest the Legion's principles will dispel
 the darkness of violence and evil.
- The wreath forms the center, in loving memory of those brave comrades who gave their lives in the service of the United States that liberty might endure.
- The star, victory symbol of World War 1, symbolizes honor, glory and constancy. The letters "U.S." leave no doubt as to the brightest star in the Legion's constellation.
- The smaller of two inner rings set upon the star represents service to our communities, states and nation. The larger outer ring pledges loyalty to Americanism.
- The Larger of the two outer rings signifies the rehabilitation of our sick and disabled comrades. The smaller inside ring denotes the welfare of America's children.
- The words "American Legion" tie the ring together for truth, remembrance, constancy, loyalty, honor, service, veterans affairs and rehabilitation, children and youth, national security and Americanism.

I hope you find this information as interesting as I have. As always stay healthy and safe. God Bless The American Legion and this Great Nation.

For God and Country

Valerie Scheuering Department of Nevada 1st Vice Commander

2nd Vice Commander, Robert Morris



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration Southern Nevada Healthcare System

Media Release

6900 N. Pecos Road North Las Vegas, Nevada 89086 www.lasvegas.va.gov

> **RELEASE 21-08-01** August 9, 2021

VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System Launches Improved Website August 11 NORTH LAS VEGAS, Nev.- VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System is launching a new publicfacing website Aug.11 that will give Veterans, families, caregivers and all other visitors better service and an easier online experience. It will replace the current website which, like that of most VA medical centers, dated from almost a decade ago.

Veterans, families and caregivers have expressed that VA Medical Center websites are confusing to navigate, contain outdated or missing information, and do not match their VA health care journey. VASNHS listened, and in conjunction with VA facilities around the nation, has made changes.

To better meet the needs of our website visitors, VASNHS has built an all-new website template for medical centers and other facilities. Veteran feedback was used to develop a site that provides everything that Veterans, families and caregivers need to prepare for a visit, get care, and connect with the Veteran's VA health care team:

- Directions to main medical centers and associated clinics
- · Phone numbers
- · Parking and transportation information
- · Hospital and clinic hours
- Patient registration
- Making appointments and refilling prescriptions

Site visitors will find a new complete list of VA health services, social programs, and care coordinators, including:

- · Primary and specialty care
- · Mental health care
- Caregiver support and care coordinators for LGBT Veterans, women Veterans, returning service members and more

Around half of our VAMC website traffic is on mobile devices. VASNHS has built a mobile-first user experience that gets visitors to all content and tools in just one or two clicks, including:

- Online scheduling, prescription refills and access to medical records
- A new list of health services that uses patient-friendly names and descriptions
- New social and health program pages that make it easier to connect Veterans and their caregivers with care coordinators to help them with their health care journey

The new site has increased speed and mobile features that allow users to call VA or get driving directions with a single click. No special action is needed to visit VASNHS's new website. When the change goes into effect, visitors will automatically be redirected to the new site when visiting www.lasvegas.va.gov.

National Park Access Pass



National Park Access Pass

The Access Pass, part of the America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Series, is available free for US citizens or permanent residents with permanent disabilities. Applicants must provide documentation of permanent disability and residency or citizenship. The pass may be obtained in person at a federal recreation site or through the mail using an application form. (Note: While the pass itself is free, the cost of obtaining an Access Pass through the mail is \$10 for processing the application.) Read more about the Access Pass, and other passes, below. Please note that passes are not available at all national parks; see a <u>list of all federal recreation sites (PDF)</u>, including national parks, where the passes are issued.

U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States that have been medically determined to have a permanent disability (does not have to be a 100% disability) may get a free, lifetime pass that provides admittance to more than 2,000 recreation sites managed by five Federal agencies, including Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Access Passes are available online.

Required documentation: A copy of ID issued by an authorized U.S. agency such as your driver's license, passport or state-issued ID and documentation that proves permanent disability such as:

- Statement by a licensed physician (Statement must include: that the individual has a PERMANENT disability, that it limits one or more aspects of their daily life, and the nature of those limitations.)
- Document issued by Federal agency such as the Veteran's Administration, Social Security Disability Income or Supplemental Security Income
- Document issued by a state agency such as a vocational rehabilitation agency

HISTORIAN'S PAGE

NATIONAL AVIATION DAY

Ever since 1939, August 19 has been celebrated as National Aviation Day, the legacy of a presidential proclamation first made by Franklin D. Roosevelt to celebrate the birth date of civil aviation pioneer Orville Wright. Together with his brother Wilbur, the Wrights are credited with inventing, building, and flying the world's first successful airplane. Specifically, Orville Wright piloted the first controlled, sustained flight of a powered, heavier-than-air machine with the Wright Flyer on December 17, 1903, near Kitty



Hawk, North Carolina. Although not the first to build experimental aircraft, the Wright brothers were the first to invent aircraft controls which truly made fixed-wing powered flight possible. Orville was born in Dayton, Ohio, while his partner and older brother, Wilbur Wright, was born on a farm near Millville, Indiana. Today, National Aviation Day celebrates the history and development of the aviation.



WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

Formerly known as Woman Suffrage Day, this day marks the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (1920), granting women the right to vote. Ratification came in Tennessee, where suffragist (Anitia) Lili

Pollitzer, age 25, persuaded Tennessee state legislator Harry T. Burn, age 24, to cast the deciding vote. "I know that a mother's advice is always safest for a boy to follow," he said, "and my mother wanted me to vote for ratification." The country's 26 million voting-age women were enfranchised by this change in the Constitution. Longtime suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt summed up her experiences in the battle this way: "Never in the history of politics has there been such a nefarious lobby as labored to block the ratification." Upon ratification, Catt founded the League of Women Voters, an organization now dedicated to providing impartial, in-depth information about candidates, platforms, and ballot issues.

National Executive Committeeperson, Jeanette Rae Evans



Hot August Days

The country has reached its debt limit and technically cannot borrow any more money (the federal government operates on deficit spending). Speaking on the floor Thursday afternoon, McConnell said Democrats should include provisions for raising the debt ceiling in the budget resolution and make it happen by themselves, without Republican support, through reconciliation.

However, Democrats are favoring an approach whereby the debt limit increase would be included in a continuing resolution in September, which will be needed to keep the government open beyond the October 1 start of the fiscal year. Doing this would put GOP lawmakers in the position of letting the federal government shut down rather than increasing the debt limit. This is rapidly shaping up to be a political game of chicken, with potentially terrible results should no one cave.

Authorizations for the Use of Military Force (AUMF)

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday voted out a Legion- supported resolution to repeal the 1991 and 2002 AUMFs. Both measures have been deemed by the Department of Defense (DoD) to be unnecessary for ongoing military operations against terror and extremism. Congress passed the 1991 AUMF in response to Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, and led to the Gulf War, which, of course, has now ended. The 2002 AUMF allowed the military to enter Iraq to overthrow Hussein. During a hearing on the resolution on Tuesday, the State Department argued that this AUMF actually hampers efforts to build permanent relationships with the new government in Iraq.

All of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) subcommittees marked up their portions of the FY22 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) this week. The full committee will meet on September 1 to complete the process, which is when all of the most controversial issues will be hammered out. At the subcommittee level, the lawmakers are creating a new Basic Needs Allowance to ensure financial stability for the lowest-paid members of the Armed Forces, especially those with families. They also call upon DoD to re-evaluate its calculation of base allowance for housing (BAH) allotments. Both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees (SASC) have extended paid parental leave to 12 weeks upon the birth, adoption, or foster placement of a child.

While the SASC completed its NDAA markup last week, the committee is not expected to file the final version until after the HASC releases its bill and report in September. The SASC conducts its final markup behind closed doors. The HASC notoriously holds an open session, often going into the wee hours of the next morning.

Resolution cosponsors Sen. Young (R-IN) and Sen. Kaine (D-VA) argued that leaving outdated AUMFs on the books cedes Congress' Constitutionally mandated role of approving wars requested by the Executive Branch. There is broad bipartisan support for the measure in the full Senate.

The House repealed both AUMFs in June on broadly bipartisan votes. The White House has indicated they, too, support the move.

https://www.legion.org/legislative/253280/senate-committee-votes-repeal-iraq-war-authorizations

Emergency supplemental spending bill

The week started without a clear path to reimbursing the National Guard and Capitol Police for the money spent in the wake of the January 6 insurrection. When it became clear that the Police would not be able to meet payroll starting in August, and the National Guard would have to cease drill weekends and training exercises, Senate Appropriations Committee leaders Sen. Leahy (D-VT) and Sen. Shelby (R-AL) managed to hammer together an agreement on Wednesday. The full Senate passed it 98-0 Thursday. The full House passed it just a couple hours later, on a 416 to 11 vote, with six Democrats and five Republicans voting in opposition. (cont. on page 8)

NEC, continued...

The bill differs from the spending bill passed by the House back in May, but the House did not bother debating those differences. Continuing his effort to obstruct progress in protest of wearing masks, Rep. Roy (R-TX) first introduced another motion to adjourn, which was handily defeated with only 173 yeas and 247 nays.

The White House has issued a statement in favor, as well.

The bill includes \$521 million for the National Guard. Another \$500 million goes to the Department of Defense for Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program needs. Another \$600 million goes to the State Department and \$25 million to the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement to address Afghan SIV needs.

Bill the Legion is working on

On Tuesday, July 20, Rep. Amodei (R-NV) introduced H.R. 4506 – the VACCINES Act and published a press release which included a quote of support from The American Legion. https://amodei.house.gov/news-releases/reps-amodei-lamb-introduce-bipartisan-bill-ensure-all-veterans-have-assess-care

On Thursday, July 22, NLD staff met with staff from the office of Rep. Vicente Gonzalez to discuss their bill H.R.4382: Repatriate Our Patriots Act, which seeks to prohibit the deportation of certain veterans and expedite their naturalization. The staffer provided a legislative lay of the land in the House of bills seeking to address military naturalization and deported veterans.

On Wednesday, July 28, NLD Staff met with SVAC Staff to discuss legislative updates on the True Cost of War Act, a toxic exposure bill sponsored by SVAC Chairman Tester (D-MT).

https://www.tester.senate.gov/?p=press_release&id=8312

On Wednesday, July 28, NLD staff monitored an SVAC Full Committee markup hearing which included several pieces of legislation which The American Legion supports and has previously testified on including S.1040, the WWII means test bill.

On Wednesday, July 28, SVAC Chairman Tester (D-MT) published a press release indicating his bill, S.2172 - Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Act had passed through the committee via the Full Committee markup that occurred earlier in the day. The press release included a quote of support on behalf of The American Legion.

On Thursday, July 29, SVAC Chairman Tester (D-MT) and Senator Boozman (R-AR) published a press release indicating their introduction of the *MAMMO for Veterans Act* which The American Legion provided a quote of support for.

https://www.tester.senate.gov/?p=press_release&id=8496

Until next month – Stay Cool – Stay Safe Jeanette



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Membership Jerry Bootzin

The Challenges Continue!!

Membership 2021 Renewals:

We still have posts throughout the Department that have 2021 renewals below 90% of Goal. Our smaller posts have the same issues as our larger Posts. Whatever the size of the Post, if you are not over 90% of goal and 2021 members that you have tried to process through MyLegion as renewals without success, you still have work to do. The work has nothing to do with your ability to get on MyLegion groups as you are still able to try to get in touch with your members that have not renewed for 2021. 2021 membership ends on December 31, 2021. It is important to get to our members who have not renewed to renew for 2021 by every means possibly.

I am finding that many of the members who have not renewed for 2021 do not have emails or phone numbers in the roster. Short of going to the homes of members and knocking on the door, in uniform, you could contact them through snail mail. You could also try a postcard or letter.

Buddy checks are still effective for making Post members feel they are part of the post. Telephone is the best method followed by email. Buddy Check Scripts are available on the National Website under publications.

The 2022 renewal notices are out and all of you are now receiving checks for 2022 members. Remember, that those checks represent American Legion Membership beginning January 1, 2022.

MyLegion Issues:

We all have been frustrated over the last few months in the new roll-out of the MyLegion and the ability to use the system. As of today, I have received calls from Posts who are not able to get on their My Legion Groups, to Posts that have had various levels of success in getting renewals done, completing financial batches, etc.

Post Adjutants should assure they have access to the Post or District MyLegion Account by calling the Nevada Department Office. Do NOT call National as you will be referred back to The Nevada Department Office to help resolve your issue. The My Legion System is still in the process of updating.

In the interim, provide me with the renewing names and membership number of 2020 members that you have tried to process through my Legion as renewals without success. We want to give credit to those Posts who's actual renewed members are higher than the National membership statistic reports.

Jerry Bootzin

TAL Nevada Department

Membership Chairman



Department of Nevada Children and Youth Program



Julia Edie, 5, received hearing aids thanks to the Department of Nevada's Hear Today - Learn Tomorrow program, on Friday, March 25, 2016. Photo by Lucas Carter/The American Legion

DO YOU OR A FRIEND NEED HELP IN OBTAINING HEARING AIDS FOR A HEARING IMPAIRED CHILD?

HEAR TODAY-LEARN TOMORROW

(IRS 501(c) Non -Profit)

We issue grant funds to Audiologists to complete hearing aid funding! OUR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: family must be Nevada residents; child is less than

18 years old: family needs funding help to obtain hearing aids.

APPLICATION PROCEEDURES/ NEED MORE INFORMATION: Obtain an application from

Department of Nevada HQ's 702-382-2353

TALDON737@AOL.COM

THE LEGIONNAIRE TRUST?

We're inspired by the community of veterans still serving in America

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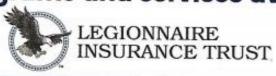
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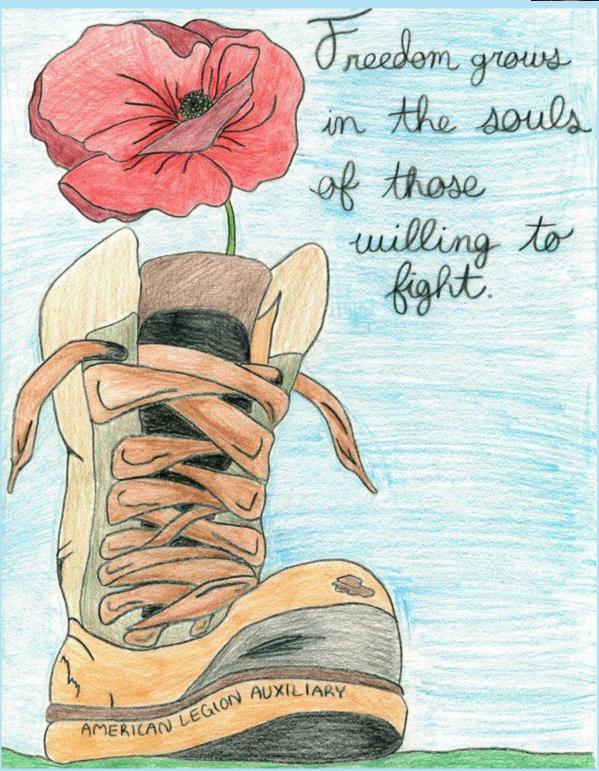
Provides financial recognition for departments' innovative membership development efforts

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The mission of Nevada's Legionnaires is to provide services to fellow veterans, their families and their communities.

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(775)-722-6319

4th District Leon Werner

xnavy61@gmail.com

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Detachment Commander, Shawn Horton

Last month I accompanied my wife to the VA hospital for a hip replacement and the hospital, staff, and stay was well above what I expected. While waiting around, I had an opportunity to talk to a Gulf War Veteran who was being evaluated for his hip replacement and his situation wasn't as positive; he was too young. The VA spent a lot of time evaluating his situation and as of that day they have rejected hip replacement due to his age. The veteran looked to be in good shape, talked about wanting to get back to work, and continually cringed in pain. We discussed the challenges he faced with not being able to work due to the pain, the cycle of being trapped into the VA bureaucracy, and the



prospect of getting the approval for a new hip. His situation turned into a vicious cycle, can't work to take advantage of private healthcare and yet can't get a hip replacement because he is too young. This was a wake-up call to me.

On the ride home, my wife reminded me of a local post member who is in the same situation and that gave me a moment to reflect on why I joined the Sons of The American Legion; to support veterans and service members. The best way I can help is to keep my membership active, donate what I can, give of my time, recruit others, and write to my Senators and House Members urging them to look into how the VA makes decisions can be streamlined. Further, our membership numbers give weight to The American Legion's lobbying efforts in Washington DC. Every additional member we have as a Legion Family gives veterans a stronger voice. This is why I continue to be active in The American Legion family. Please, take a moment to reflect on why you joined and continue renewing, making sure you are following through on your reasons.

Part of being active is doing my duty to fill the empty spots in the Detachment leadership. I am putting out a plea for volunteers to step forward at the next Detachment Executive Committee meeting. At this time there is a need for a Detachment Senior Vice-Commander, two Junior Vice-Commanders (north area and south area), a Detachment Chaplain, and a Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms. There are openings for the National Executive Committeeman and an Alternate National Executive Committeeman; while those positions need filled I am more interested in building the Detachment to support the various Squadrons first.

I am also requesting help from the Posts and Squadrons in identifying and providing the contact information for the Squadron Commanders and Adjutants. This missing information is sorely needed and has been missing for a number of years. I have sent out e-mails and made a couple of phone calls as time allows and still only have verified information for three Squadrons. I will be reaching out over the next week to get contact information.

As always, I am available by email (shawn.horton@chezhorton.com) or telephone (720-394-5965), I don't always answer numbers I don't recognize but leave a message and I will get back to you.

Sincerely,

Shawn Horton Commander, Detachment of Nevada

The American Legion August 2021 - July 2022 "300 Club" Lottery

FILL OUT THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR PAYMENT

YOUR LOTTERY NUMBER (S) FOR THE "360 CLUB" WILL BE ISSUED IN THE ORDER THEY ARE RECEIVED

City:		State:	Zip:
Phone:	Email:	85 85	Post #
Quantity of Number	s:@ \$5	0.00 Each =	s



Send Check or Money Order
Payable to:
The American Legion
737 Veterans Memorial Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89101
Attn: 300 Club



Open To All Legion & S.A.L. Members Only
Support The American Legion Department of Nevada
Buy Your Lottery Numbers Today
Only 300 Are To Be Sold

CHANCES TO WIN

4 Numbers are Drawn on the 15th of each Month \$50.00 Per Number

OK TO COPY THIS FORM



The American Legion Department of Nevada

737 Veteran's Memorial Drive Las Vegas, NV 89103 702-382-2353 TALDON737@AOL.COM

The mission of Nevada's Legionnaires is to provide services to fellow Veterans, their Families and their communities. Legion Department of Nevada has been welcoming VETERANS from all branches of our Armed Forces. Today, we continue to welcome all military personnel serving our country. Joining a Post in our State enables you to continue serving your God, Country and Community. Our mission is to implement the goals, aspirations, dreams, peace and blessings for our country, friends and families embodied in our preamble.



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