



AUGUST 2025, Issue 13

NEVADA AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWS

Happy August Holidays and Observances

- **August 4: U.S. Coast Guard Established (1790) / National Coast Guard Day**
- **August 5: Women Airforce Service Pilots Established (1943)**
- **August 7: Purple Heart Medal Established (1782) / Purple Heart Day**
- **August 10: Spirit of '45 Day: A day to remember the end of World War II.**
- **August 14: End of War with Japan Announced (1945)**
- **National Navajo Code Talkers Day**
- **August 16: National Airborne Day**
- **August 19: National Aviation Day**
- **August 26: Women's Equality Day**
- **August 22-28: American Legion Family National Convention – Tampa Bay, FL**
- **August 29: Marine Forces Reserve Birthday**



**Thank you, Department,
District, Post, ALA, SAL &
ALR Officers 2024-2025
for a successful year.
Wishing you all continued
success.**

**Congratulations incoming
Department, District, Post,
ALA, SAL & ALR Officers
2025-2026 for a bright
and successful year with
all of Nevada working
together.**



Greeting Legionnaires,

As we start a new year there are a few changes I have made and I know that our Legion Family is making some changes too. I have instituted a change to our DEC's so that all members can attend on Zoom. This not only allows our members to see what is going on in the State but reduces travel costs and travel time for our attendees.

I have also brought back the tradition of a theme. This year's theme is SCAR. Might sound a little funny but, let me explain. When we entered the Military, our lives changed drastically. We all learned to march, salute, military traditions and rules. We learned to make a bed that a quarter would bounce off of to how to fold our underwear, lol. So, we each changed in subtle to major ways. Also, our time in service produced scars both seen and unseen. So, what better way to not only remember how we changed in the service but to use that scar as our symbol.

Service, service to our community, state and nation and ensuring we are helping our veterans in any way we can...

Commitment, commitment to our organization and its four pillars, Veterans and Rehabilitation, Children and Youth, Americanism and National Security,

Allegiance, allegiance to our country and our flag ensuring we honor our flag our commitment to defense of our constitution and why we all raised our hand,

Remember, remember all who came before us those who gave their all-in defense of our great nation and to account for all our POW's and MIA's from the wars and conflicts.

SCAR, an easy way to remember each day why we are here and what our mission truly is. I look forward to a truly successful year and remember that membership is the lifeblood of our organization.

Remember to smile have some laughter in your lives while continuing to do great things in your communities!! Remember too that we don't all get along at times but, if we work towards our defined goals, we can get a lot accomplished.

For God and Country

Pam Walker
Department Commander

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Department Auxiliary President

Greetings Members,

June was a busy month with Nevada Girls State and The Department Convention hosted by Post/Unit 16 in Fallon, NV.

June 15th – 21st, I attended Nevada Girls State as a Counselor & 1st time attendee. I see why Courtenay Burns & Daela Gibson have devoted 3 decades of Service to Nevada Girls State. I was in awe and met 82 fabulous and talented young ladies. We beat Nevada Boys State by 2 Delegates and it was our highest turnout since before COVID. I want to thank every Unit in Nevada as I pushed you all greatly to get us Delegates and you all went above and beyond! I applaud you all!

Nevada Girls State costs approximately \$850 per attendee. Transportation costs have soared and we only charge \$375 per attendee. We do not have an endowment like Boys State does. Courtenay & Daela have made this happen for decades by securing Grants & personal donations. This year we fell short by \$5,000. We have to make that up and start again for 2026 Nevada Girls State. I want to thank the Posts that donate to us yearly, but we need more help. If you know of a corporation or benefactor that could help us, please email me. I do not want to see us lose this program. It is a life changing experience for these young ladies.

Finally, but most importantly, Congratulations to Nevada Girls State Senators Thifany & Abby who represented Nevada at Girls Nation!

June 27th -29th, I attended The American Legion Family Department of Nevada Convention hosted by Post/Unit 16 in Fallon, NV. Fallon hosted an outstanding Convention.

Friday, I attended the American Legion Family Private Whiskey Tasting at Frey Ranch on my way into town. Wow! Who knew. The tour was amazing & very educational and the tasting was unexpectedly good. Next, I checked in and a lovely Gift Basket was already in my room. Thank you, Unit 16, I truly loved every bite!

Saturday, I hosted the ALA Department Convention and was pleased to see so many Units in attendance. In the evening, I attend the American Legion Family Banquet. The food was amazing and was catered by a Veteran owned Catering company. The guest speaker Doc Ballard is a Medal of Honor recipient and this was my 2nd time hearing him speak. He is fun & clever and a joy to listen to.

Sunday morning, we had a lovely breakfast catered by the same Veterans as dinner. It was awesome. We then concluded ALA business for the Convention.

Congratulation to all of our Officers for 2025-2027 and Department Chairs. I look forward to working together with you all. Congratulations to our ALA Unit Member of the Year, Penny Juoni, ALA Secretary, Unit 149!!! Finally, thank you to all Units who donated Baskets for our ALA Department Fundraiser at the Banquet. It was a success and Pip was an amazing MC!

Daela & I are looking forward to hosting ALA training for all Units starting this fall. If you have ideas or something you would like to see in our training, please let me know. I have received 1 so far. She would like to know how to properly record volunteer hours and the proper category it should be associated with. Done!

I look forward to seeing the Delegates Attending National Convention and wish everyone a Happy August & September.

No articles are due in August due to National Convention.

Articles are due by September 25th, 2025 for the October Newsletter.

For God and Country,

Charmaine Meana
ALA Department President
AL Webmaster/Newsletter
charnvaux@gmail.com

"American Legion Family - Be the Team!"







June was definitely a very busy month for me. There was the 250 Birthday of the United States Army, Nevada Boys State, COL Doc Ballard's visit to Nevada, and the Department Convention in Fallon.

On June 14th, we celebrated the 250th Birthday of the United States Army. There were several activities and events commemorating this very special day. The one I attended was the gala hosted by the Association of the United States Army. Brigadier General Dan Waters, Past Department Commander, was the Special Guest Speaker at the event. It was a night of fun and camaraderie.



The Nevada Boys State session was held again on the campus of the University of Nevada-Reno from Friday, June 13th to Friday, June 20th. We had 81 delegates attend this year that included one delegate from the Department of California. This year's session was one for the books with the creation of a new city, Brush City, who won the highest achievement of the Nevada Boys State, Honor City. The other amazing change was the creation of a brand new political party, giving the delegates three parties to run and it was from this new third party that this year's NBS Governor was elected. A year of firsts!



Immediately following Nevada Boys State, COL Donald "Doc" Ballard, Medal of Honor Recipient, visited our State. Duby Reid Post 30 in Sparks hosted a Meet & Greet for Doc. This was an opportunity for the veterans from numerous Veteran Service Organizations from the community to meet and chat with Doc and to hear his humorous stories.



Doc then visited the NDVS Northern Nevada Veterans Home in Sparks and the Gold Star Family Memorial. Doc is a Board Member on the Gold Star Family Foundation.



Doc's next tour was to the Top Gun School based at the Fallon Naval Air Station in Fallon, Nevada, although I think his favorite part of the visit to Fallon NAS was meeting all of the Navy Corpsmen at the new medical clinic on base. He felt at home there.





At the Department Convention, the Fred Andeson Post 16, this year's convention host, did an excellent job planning and executing the event. From the Friday Night Post Home Dinner, the Street Taco lunch, the Commander's Banquet, to the Past Commander's Club Breakfast, Post 16 did a wonderful job!



Besides Doc as a Special Guest at the Department Convention, we were also honored to host our National Vice Commander, Gary Leach, CA, as well as our Trailing Candidate for National Commander, Jay Bowen, CO.



Doc completed his Nevada visit with a charity dinner for the Axelson Foundation in Genoa, Nevada that supports other veteran charities like the Gold Star Family Foundation.

Whew! After all of that...I need a nap! Until next time.

Jim Stewart, PDC

National Executive Committeeman

Department of Nevada



VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA



Greetings Legionnaires,

The American Legion Grassroots Action Center is live with current legislation:

Scan the QR code, or go to:

<https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>.



Currently, there are six active campaigns:

- H.R. 1004 & S. 410 - Love Lives On Act of 2025.
 - Senators Cortez-Masto, & Rosen, along with Representatives Horsford, Lee, & Titus are co-sponsors.
- **H.R. 1423 & S. 649 - GI Bill Parity Act of 2025.**
 - **No Nevada Legislator has co-sponsored.**
- H.R. 2102 & S. 1032 - Major Richard Star Act of 2025.
 - Senators Cortez-Masto, & Rosen, along with Representatives Horsford, Lee, & Titus are co-sponsors.
- H.R. 2605 & S. 1441 - The Service Dogs Assisting Veterans (SAVES)
 - Senator Rosen is a co-sponsor.
- H.R. 1815: VA Home Loan Program Reform Act
 - Passed House & Senate.
 - Not yet signed into law by the President.
- H.R. 3151 & S. 1536 - SHIPS for America Act of 2025.
 - Representative Amodei is a co-sponsor.

Please go to the Grassroots Action center to generate an email to your legislators and encourage them to co-sponsor these bills.

At the state level, we were following:

- A.B. - 145 – This bill revises provisions relating to veterans. (BDR 37-77)
 - Senators Michelee Cruz-Crawford, & Roberta Lange, along with Assemblymembers Ken Gray, & Reuben D'Silva were sponsors.

A.B. 145 did not received a vote. The bi-annual legislative session ended on June 2, 2025.

In Washington, The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced it's on pace to reduce total VA staff by nearly 30,000 employees by the end of fiscal year 2025.

Congress will be in recess during the month of August. Please follow up with you representative to attend any town halls.

Congresswoman Titus: Nevada's 1st Congressional District - <https://titus.house.gov/>

Congressman Amodei: Nevada's 2nd Congressional District - <https://amodei.house.gov/>

Congresswoman Lee: Nevada's 3rd Congressional District - <https://susielee.house.gov/>

Congressman Horsford: Nevada's 4th Congressional District - <https://horsford.house.gov/>

Always in Service,

Manny Garcia

Nevada Delegation Legislative Committee Chairman

National Legislative Council





National security has become the main for front this year. We have both sides of the political aisle, being for and against screening those coming in our country. We as the American Legion members need to come together with our state and federal leaders to come together and up hold the laws put in place. Vetting has been thrown out the door for what reason only the leaders understand. Is it to grow the census numbers? What I don't understand is that we need An ID to buy houses to cigarettes?

The powers that be state it's hard to get an id. Like a driver's license? Grassroots have to be used to show them That We the people have a voice! Another issue that has become front news is the Farmers and meat industry has been found to hire illegals and children. What happened to the Everify program was that was instituted in 1996?

E-Verify is a United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) website that allows businesses to determine the eligibility of their employees, both U.S. and foreign citizens, to work in the United States. The site was originally established in 1996 as the Basic Pilot Program to prevent companies from hiring people who had violated immigration laws and entered the United States illegally.

How did they skip this step when hiring? We need to focus on keeping our government in check. Please make sure we keep them accountable?

In July, I was honored to represent the Department at Post 7 during the parade in the morning. I got to visit with the up and coming post Post 48 Jack Hanks with District 3 Officers to do a membership drive on of all days Independence Day? While visiting in Owyhee Commander Litchfeild, District Adjutant Brenda Horton and I started to Sponsor the new members and renew those who have been up to date. It cost me a few dollars!!!! But This why we need to get back to our roots. July 5th, I volunteered to March in the Elko Silver State Parade carrying the Pow Flag.



Like someone stated at our last convention we are only getting to wear these hats for Department and District as on honor. It's the blue caps who keep the Legion going. It's a privilege to be Representing the Legion as a whole.

Ron Petroski
1st Vice Commander

Dear Department of Nevada American Legion Members,

Please ensure that your members are aware of this information.

Email scams are on the rise, and scammers are becoming more sophisticated in their attempts to trick people into revealing personal information, sending money, or clicking harmful links. We want to make sure everyone stays vigilant and knows how to spot the signs of a scam.



How Email Scams Typically Work:

Scammers often pose as someone you trust—a coworker, supervisor, vendor, or friend. These emails may:

- Ask you to purchase gift cards or send money urgently
- Request sensitive information like passwords or account numbers
- Include links to fake login pages that look real
- Have a generic or unusual tone that seems “off”
- They often create a false sense of urgency, such as “Are you available? I need your help ASAP.”



Red Flags to Watch For:

- The sender's email address doesn't match their name or organization
- Poor grammar or awkward phrasing
- Unexpected attachments or links
- Vague or urgent messages with little detail
- Requests to keep the conversation secret



How to Protect Yourself:

- **Never click links or download attachments from unknown or suspicious sources.**
- **Double-check the sender's email address**—don't rely on the display name.
- **When in doubt, verify the request** through another communication method (phone, text, in person).
- **Report suspicious emails** to [your IT department/security contact/email provider].
- **Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA)** on your accounts.

Remember: it's always better to double-check than to fall for a scam.

If you ever receive a questionable email, please don't hesitate to reach out or notify your email server (AOL, Google, Yahoo) for review.

Stay safe and aware,

PRANAVA MOODY

TAL Department of Nevada

2nd Vice Commander

District 2 Commander

District 3 has been busy with everything going on this summer. Let me start by saying what a great Convention we had in Fallon, thank you Post 16.

With July brought a number of challenges, where do I go, what do I do, how can I as a District Commander, maximize my participation. Between Flag raising ceremonies, 4th of July parades, Post barbeques, I feel like Lions and Tigers and Bears oh my.

One of the highlights was attending the opening ceremonies for the Owyhee Indian Reservation POW WOW, what a wonderful and educational visit. Being with our Native American Veterans and listening to them sharing stories from their military and personal lives and learning about their history as Native Americans. It just furthered my thinking that if we don't continue to learn about our history one of two things happen, 1: we will lose it, 2: even worse we will have to go through it again, both of which I never want to happen.

Sending out emails to the Posts in the District. Participated in the Battle Born Youth Challenge Academy graduation, presenting four ROTC Excellence Certificates. Participated in the Color Guard for the Owyhee Indian Council Fundraiser. Participated in the Veterans Appreciation at Highland Manor in June. Participated in the Elko County Veterans Resource Fair in June. Completed the weed-eating project at Maidens Grave Cemetery with a total of 63,500 square feet being cleared with a total of 82-man hours.

I did some thinking about how to make District 3 and the Department better. How can I promote more participation than just the same 3 members, then it dawned on me, transparency. Members don't get active because they are unaware of what is going on, they stay unactive because of lack of information. We began by emailing the District agenda for our August meeting to every Post Commander, 1st Vice and Adjutant 30 days in advance, that way if they have comments, concerns or need clarification on an item it can be addressed. Then the finalized agenda will be sent out 10 days prior to the meeting. We will also have every meeting available through Zoom to maximize participation.

Then I got thinking about what motivates people to do things. With being a US Army veteran one of the highlights of the year is Army/Navy game, then the light came on and screamed, "Do A Challenge". It simply makes sense we all want to win so why not figure out a way that every District can compete against each other and the outcome is a benefit to the Department and every District/Post has a good time seeing growth. So, I came up with 4 challenges ran them pass my Executive Council and then sent them out to the other District Commanders, Department Commander and Department Adjutant and I am thankful that every District Commander is taking on the challenges. So, with being totally transparent I am including the challenges with this article.

1) LIT (Legionnaire Insurance Trust)

To add some fun into this and help make money for the Department, District 3 (Lincoln Litchfield) does hereby challenge the other District Commanders to see who has the highest percentage of members signing up.

2) District Meetings

District 3 (Lincoln Litchfield) does hereby challenge the other District Commanders to see who has the highest % of members attending their District meeting.

3) Membership

District 3 (Lincoln Litchfield) does hereby challenge the other District Commanders to see which Post is able to achieve 100% membership 1st and the District that is able to have 100% membership for their District 1st. I am tired of seeing Department of Nevada so far down the list and believe we can become number 1.

4) American Legion Event

USA 250 Challenge

What a fun way to lead up to our 250th birthday for our Nation, so District 3 (Lincoln Litchfield) does hereby challenge to the other Districts on the percentage of members that complete one of these, added points for each additional category completed. And possibly more points for doubling the amount.

Let's have fun with this. And here is to a great 2025-26 year.

Lincoln Litchfield

District 3 Commander

Any takers Mic Drop









Greetings from Northern Nevada and District 4.

Post 16 Fallon hosted an awesome 2025 Department Convention; we are grateful for all the hard work and effort put into the successful event. My home Post 37's very own Sandy Schneeberger was awarded the Department Legionnaire of The Year Award. The amount of time and effort that Department VSO Schneeberger volunteers to The American Legion is insane, and we are grateful for her contributions.

Post 16 Fallon is also hosting a few events in the near future, with a BBQ trivia @ the Post and a 3-day Camp out at Lake Lahontan here in the next few weeks.

Post 37 Fernley, with the help from Post 1, 30, 6, Local Girl Scouts, and Local Boy Scouts, retired over 12,000 flags over 2 Saturdays in the last month. It is a rare feat that we clean out the Flag Store in Sparks and get all caught up, but with a lot of help from a lot of people, we are there!

District Adjutant Pip and I continue to work with Post 19 Hawthorne getting them back up to speed and up and running.

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig Schermerhorn

Commander, The American Legion District 4, Department of Nevada

Commander, The American Legion Post 37, Fernley NV

Chaplin, Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Nevada

Adjutant, Sons of The American Legion, Squadron 37, Fernley NV

<https://www.legionnv37.org/>

<https://www.nvlegion.org/>





**1st-3rd August
@ Lake Lahontan**

VETERANS & FRIENDS *at the Lake*

**TICKETS PER PERSON \$30
KIDS 10 & UNDER ARE FREE BUT STILL NEED
A TICKET!**

**Turn in your ticket at the lake
for a chance to win a prize!!!**

**TICKET INCLUDES 3
MEALS: FRI DINNER,
SAT LUNCH & DINNER
*ALSO, BEER, WATER &
SODA PROVIDED!!**

**Ask about RAFFLE
TICKETS!!
(50/50 drawing
purchase at the
lake only)**

**TICKETS FOR SALE AT:
VFW POST 1002 &
AMERICAN LEGION POST 16**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

WELCOME TO SCOUTING

Scouting invites every youth to a safe, fun place to learn, explore, and grow.

Scouting America is chartered by Congress to serve our nation's youth by instilling the values of the Scout Oath and Law. Scouting America aims to prepare young people for lives of impact and purpose. We welcome, at every level of our movement, youth and families who wish to live such a life of impact and purpose, guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

Scouting America is committed to creating a welcoming, safe environment where Scouts can freely express themselves, share their experiences, and become the best version of themselves by learning from and respecting each other.

Scouting America is non-partisan. The National organization, Local Scout communities (councils), and units will ensure that their decisions, public statements, relationships with third parties, activities, and events are consistent with our non-partisan nature and maintain the welcoming and supportive nature of Scouting.

The Value of Scouting

Discovery is at the heart of Scouting. Whether it's a campout, derby car race, or hike on the trail, we believe every adventure helps us uncover a little more about ourselves. We build the foundations for humility and compassion—strengthening character through actions—to prepare youth for a lifetime of leadership.



Nevada Women In Trades (NVWIT) Est. 2018 in Nevada

Mission: To prepare women in Nevada for successful careers in highly skilled blue-collar (Trade) occupations.

Vision: Pipeline Comprehensive Course (PCC) Pre-Apprenticeship Program will prepare women with the necessary math, science, interview skills, hands-on training, testing skills required to pass the trades apprenticeship exams and with networking opportunities.

The Pipeline Comprehensive Course (PCC) Pre-Apprenticeship Program consists of a 30-hours a week six-week program with small group classes. Students receive individual coaching, mentoring, certifications in OSHA, CPR, and Forklift Operator Awareness.

The Trades Apprenticeship Programs are a proven “**earn while you learn**” training model that offers workers a pathway to middle class and helps companies recruit, develop, and retain a highly skilled workforce. The **Pipeline Comprehensive Course (PCC)** Pre-Apprenticeship Program intention is to help individuals prepare for and succeed in the Trades Apprenticeship Programs.

Pre-Apprenticeship Program Eligibility Requirements:

High School Diploma or Equivalent

Nevada Driver's License

Birth Certificate and proof of United States work eligibility

Demonstrate basic math and reading skills on the NVWIT Aptitude test

Random drug test provided by NVWIT

Application Process: \$50 application fee, Scholarships are available on a case-by-case basis.

Accepting applications: July 30-31, August 4th-7th, and 11th-13th.

Location: Historic Westside School 330 W Washington **all times 3:30pm- 5:30pm (be there no later than 4pm to fill out the application)**

Classes start on October 20, 2025, part of a **mandatory six-week program**. Monday - Friday from 9AM to 1PM with four (4) Saturday classes scheduled from 9AM to 230PM

To learn more about Nevada Women In Trades (NVWIT), please visit our website at:

www.NevadaWIT.org or contact us at: 702-801-6591 email: info@NevadaWIT.org

Evelyn Pacheco

Evelyn Pacheco

President and Army Veteran

Nevada Women In Trades (NVWIT)

Greetings from Fred Anderson Unit 16 in Fallon, Nevada!

Unit 16 kicked off July still riding high on the positive energy from the successful Department Convention. We want to thank everyone who attended and helped make the event such a memorable experience.

But we didn't slow down just because convention ended! The very next week, we proudly represented Post 16 in the annual Fallon 4th of July Parade. Members of the American Legion Family tossed candy to enthusiastic spectators and helped keep the kids cool with refreshing sprays of water. Everyone loves a small-town parade!

We'd also like to spotlight one of our newest members, **Christy McKenzie**. Since joining Unit 16, Christy has jumped right in and is now leading a donation drive to support the **Veteran's Guest House of Reno**. In partnership with the Auxiliary from VFW Post 1002, our members are collecting food and water, paper goods, toiletry kits, clothing, and gift cards. The drive runs from **July 1 through August 15**. If you'd like to contribute, you can contact Christy directly at **850-368-8168**.

Looking ahead, Unit 16 is gearing up for **Community Day in Fallon**—a back-to-school, family-friendly event packed with fun! Activities include a **free barbecue, free bounce house, free school supplies, free swimming** at Fallon's city pool in Oats Park, and opportunities to meet our local first responders and explore their vehicles. To support this event, Unit 16 is assembling **800 "Goodie Bags"** for local schoolchildren.

And don't forget—Post 16 continues to host our popular **Friday Night Dinners**. Whether it's a classic fish fry, juicy smash burgers, crispy chicken tenders, or a hearty plate of spaghetti, the American Legion Family serves up **handmade, affordable meals** the whole family will enjoy.

There's always something happening at Post 16—if you're in Fallon, stop by and say hello!

Kelsey Hurlburt
Unit 16





DONATION DRIVE for Veterans Guest House of Reno



Requested Donations



- Cases of water
- Sugar free drinks of all kinds
- Individual bags of chips and/or popcorn
- Individual trail mix, peanut butter and crackers or cheese crackers, microwavable minute rice bowls, fruit snacks, microwavable mac and cheese
- Paper products of all kinds
- Canned chili, raviolis and spaghetti's, baked beans (especially Bush brand)
- Jelly
- Gift cards for milk
- Heavy Duty plastic forks
- New t-shirts of all sizes
- Travel size toiletries/kits
- Special K strawberry cereal

Donations can be dropped off at American Legion Post 16 or VFW Post 1002

JULY 1ST - AUGUST 15TH

For questions or pick up, contact Christy McKenzie 850-368-8168

American Legion Post 16
90 N. Ada St.

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VFW Post 1002
405 S. Maine St.