



“The Pride”

Detachment of Maryland

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

www.mdsal.org

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Summer Issue - September 10, 2022

Commander’s Corner

I’m honored to be your Detachment Commander and looking forward to leading this organization this year. I was a member of Squadron 183 for 10 years and have been a member of Squadron 130 for 13 years. I am an honorary life member of my Squadron (#130).

As a member I have had the opportunity to talk to a lot of veterans and legionnaires and every one of them was willing to tell you what The American Legion and American flag meant to them. They were always willing to help you in any way they can, especially when it comes to The American Legion.

My theme this year is: **“Developing Our Youth For The Future”**. We need to get our youth involved. We want our organization to survive, so we must engage our youth! My project is Southern Maryland Youth Camp. My goal is to raise \$75,000 this year to purchase a gator, revamp heating and air conditioning units in the cabins and fixing and replacing the bunks in the cabins. I will be trying to raise money throughout the year, to make sure we complete these projects.

God Bless You and God Bless America!!!
Larry Ford
Commander
443-413-4710

Adjutant’s Corner

Summer D.E.C.: The first Detachment Executive Committee Meeting for this administrative year will be called to order by Commander Ford, on September 10, 2022 at 1:00 P.M. The meeting is being hosted at Laurel Post 60, located at 2 Main St, Laurel, MD 20707. Preceding the DEC Meeting, all Commissions and Committees will meet at 11:30 AM. Then, following the DEC Meeting from 3:30 until 6:00 PM will be the Annual Showdown between Commander **Larry “Butterbean” Ford** and National Commander candidate, **JR “Boom Boom” Hall** competing in the “Battle of the Guest Bartenders”. All Guest Bartender tips, plus food & games profits will benefit the National Support Fund and the Detachment Commander’s Project. The Bragging Rights for this year is decided by your generosity in tips. A big Thank You to the Laurel Legion Family for continuing to host this most audacious event.

National Convention News: The 50th Annual National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 26-28, 2022. The Detachment had 28 members and guests in attendance representing the state of Maryland at this milestone event. Our newly elected National

Commander is Chris Carlton from the Detachment of Indiana and the newly elected National Vice Commander East is Ernie Laberge from the Detachment of Massachusetts. Congratulations to these gentlemen and we look forward to their visit to Maryland.

Only two resolutions were presented and passed by all of the National Delegates in attendance of which both originated here in Maryland at our 49th Annual Detachment Convention this past June. The resolutions that passed were the reorganization of the National Legislative Commission call-in process authored by Past Detachment Commander Tom Deal and the founding of “The American Legion Family Day” which was authored by Past Detachment Commander, JR Hall. Job Well Done gentlemen. Congratulations to our own Harry White Wilmer Squadron #82 which won the National History Contest Award, winning the National Americanism Snapshots of Service Award is Glen Burnie Squadron #40 and winning the 2022 National Children & Youth Best Regional Report Award is Susquehanna Squadron #135. The Detachment of Maryland received recognition for our membership

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initiatives finishing at 101.78% with 15,810 members with a Retention Rate of 91.33%. The Detachment also received the National Legacy Scholarship Fund Regional Donation Award. Just when you think it couldn't get any better, our own JR Hall was announced being unanimously endorsed by the National Advisory & Selection Committee as Leading Candidate for the High Office of National Sons of The American Legion Commander. I know each of us were extremely proud displaying our Maryland colors in Milwaukee and once again, congratulations to all.

S.A.L. Youth Plan For Success:

The youth members of the Detachment of Maryland have expressed a genuine interest in getting more involved within the Detachment Projects while in they were in attendance at the Detachment Youth Training Sessions. As a result of this and in conjunction with Commander Ford's theme this year "Developing Our Youth For The Future", the Detachment of Maryland will embark on an unprecedented phase in the development of the youth members of the S.A.L. throughout the state. At the Annual Detachment Campout, the Detachment of Maryland will host the inaugural nomination and elections of a slate of officers for members that are high school age and younger. The purpose of this initiative to fold. The first is to get younger members more involved and to maintain this involvement as they enter adulthood. The second is to establish a forum from which younger members can speak out regarding their concerns and needs as members of the Sons of The American Legion giving the

Detachment of Maryland a unique opportunity to grow and improve as an organization that will assist in safeguarding our future.

Yours In Service,

Bill Matoska
Detachment Adjutant
matoskaw@yahoo.com
443-710-9664

Commander's Project

"Southern Maryland Youth Camp"

Commander Ford has taken on the Southern Maryland Youth Camp as his project this year. As his chairman would like to invite all Squadrons in the Detachment to donate to this wonderful endeavor.

The aim of The Southern Maryland Youth Camp is to provide camping and recreational activities for our young people, including those with disabilities. It is located in Cheltenham, Maryland. Every year the Detachment sponsors a camp-out open to the entire Legion Family. The camp is need of improvements and updating, thus the reason for donations to the Commander's Project.

The goal this year is \$80,000+. We are selling t-shirts as part of the fund-raiser, and we are asking you to join in. Your donations will help.

If you are having a fund-raiser to support the Commander's Project, please contact the Commander or myself.

Let's continue to provide those facilities to our young people.

"Developing Our Youth For The Future"

Bill Stem
PDC and Commander's Project
Chairman
Wstem847809@aol.com
410 598-9355

"Firing up our membership potential in the community."

I look forward to being the membership chair for the Detachment of Maryland this year. Last year (As of July 21st) the Detachment family exceeded our 2022 membership goal by 569 members to 101.34 percent. In addition, our membership renewal rate is at 90.94 percent, truly a reflection that we are bouncing back from COVID restrictions over the past few years. My theme this year is 'Firing up our membership potential in the community.'

The theme is focused on targeting new potential members using the four-pillar approach within your local community.

VA&R – Talk to veterans about being a dual member in your own post
Children & Youth – signing up our children and grandchildren
Americanism – signing up members in other non-profit organizations within the community
National Security - signing up our first responders in your community.
This is a perfect opportunity to begin a special relationship with your local firefighters and police officers.

Additional information regarding my membership theme will be presented at the first DEC meeting on September 10th, 2022, at Laurel Post 60.

My goals this year is to get back to the pre COVID days of 16,000+ members in the Detachment of Maryland. In addition, I would like to see our member renewal rate hit 92% this year, which is 1.06 higher than what we accomplished in 2022. I look forward to seeing everyone at our DEC meeting on September 10th, 2022

Joe Lohman
Membership Chair
1st Vice Commander
Squadron60@verizon.net

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Americanism Report

We are beginning yet another new Administration year 2022-2023 with new officers but we still have the same Americanism Programs. Scouts, Boys State, Flag Replacement, Fisher House, NEF and many other local community programs. Let us all keep up the proud tradition of the Detachment of Maryland of supporting all of the programs. Talk with your Squadrons and the rest of your Legion Family and see what you can do. Find ways to support all the Americanism projects you can through picnics and fundraiser events, no matter how big or small, as every event you hold helps to show your support for all worthwhile projects. Even volunteering at events held by others means so much, which is evident by all the smiles and camaraderie you will be able to see and share. Also don't forget to share your ideas and event details with others as we are all working together as one for the common good.

We surely ended that last year strong as evident from our recent Convention so let's continue on SAL Strong. Talk to your Squadron and help to step up and take on the challenge in building the foundations that we all care about because we are "Proud possessors of a priceless heritage..." and our desire is "to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism..."

Yours in Service

Michael Obremski

Americanism Chairman

2nd Vice Commander

THE BOYS STATE UPDATE REPORT:

Congratulations to the Maryland Boys State Graduates 2022.

Job well done gentlemen.

Of course, we would like to see the Maryland Boys State program

continue to grow. And one way to achieve real growth is to invite this year's graduates to participate at their sponsoring post for other activities and to give presentations that will help further the promotion of the Boys State programs at their schools encouraging counselors and Junior classmen to register for the program. This is the edge these students need to have on their academic resume that will set them apart and above the rest with college entries.

If you or anyone that you know is interested in attending Boys State 2015 or becoming a counselor, we would welcome you to join us.

Dennis Renehan
Committee Chairman & Boys State Staff member event.

Dennis J. Renehan
Committee Chairman
Boys State Staff
CIC Fort City
dawgtrucker@yahoo.com
410-330-3003

National Emergency Fund:

Trees down, houses and cars destroyed, power out for over a week, wreaking havoc on lives and livelihoods.

This is not some random event affecting people far away but right here in your neighborhood. Some of these victims are part of the Legion family. These are examples of friends and relatives that can benefit from grants from the National Emergency Fund.

Last year we raised over \$8000 for the NEF. With your support I'm sure we can do better this year.

It's all up to you, if I can be of any help, please contact me.

For God and Country

Bill Stem PDC/NEF Chairman

If you need assistance, please contact...

WWW.LEGION.ORG/EMERGENCY/APPLY

Community Affairs:

Well things are beginning to heat up, summer temperatures, and planning for the Detachment Fisher House-Bethesda Fall Meal. That's right! We are finally able to resume our Saturday feast to the Fisher House guests. Mark your calendars for the date has been set for Saturday, Oct 29, 2022. Time: TBD and I will provide at September DEC meeting. Steaks, hamburgers, and hot dogs will be cooked on site, and roasted pulled pork sandwiches will be provided as well. If you would like to assist and volunteer, please contact me via email at: robert.monko@verizon.net.

Did you know... Maryland currently has three Fisher House locations?

NSA Bethesda Home of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center I, II, III, IV, V

<https://www.bethesdafisherhouse.org/volunteers-1>

Malcolm Grow Medical Clinics & Surgery Center @ Joint Base Andrews

<https://fisherhouse.org/programs/houses/current-houses/maryland-malcolm-grow-medical-clinics-surgery-center/>

Walter Reed at Forest Glen Army Annex
<https://fisherhouse.org/programs/houses/current-houses/maryland-walter-reed-at-forest-glen-army-annex/>

Our efforts to date have focused on

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Fisher House's main location in Bethesda. I would encourage each squadron of the Detachment to visit the links above and review what is needed in supporting their mission on a daily basis. This can be done by donating directly to the house or just bring the items to the November DEC meeting and the Detachment will arrange to deliver the items to those locations.

Rob Monko
Detachment of Maryland
Community Affairs – Fisher House
Chairman

Flag Replacement:

As we begin a new year it is the time to start searching your community for the need of placing and replacing flags. Download and print your forms off the mdsal.org website or pick up some at the DEC Meetings. Remember each 3x5 Flag count as 5 points and smaller flags count as 1 point. Make sure you keep an accurate record for each flag thru out the year.

It is of the utmost importance that you get out there and get these flags placed. It helps your Post Home as well as your squadron. This shows your respect for our Country and our Veterans at home and abroad. Thru out the year keep the Detachment of Md notified on your success so we can recognize your squadron in the upcoming Pride. This could get more squadrons involved.

Chairman
Flag Replacement Program

Jerry Saunders, Sr.
saljerry@comcast.net

CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER

It is my honor to serve as Children & Youth Chairman for the 2022-2023 Administrative Year. With your support, I am looking forward to making this the best year yet for our C&Y Programs. Together, there's

nothing we can't accomplish!

I would like to take the time to thank all of our Children & Youth Program Chairman for their continued dedication and hard work! The best way we can show our appreciation is to make sure we all support each of these programs.

I am urging all of our Squadrons to pick at least one program or a combination of and hold a fundraising activity. When doing so, remember to include your community and educate them on the many wonderful programs we support! Please let us know when you plan your activity so we can help get the word out! Remember to get your junior members involved!

The Annual Detachment

Campout at The American Legion, Southern Maryland Youth Camp is coming up, **September 30th - October 2nd**. This is a wonderful weekend full of fun and comradeship! This event is open to the entire American Legion Family. This is a great way to get our youth involved! This event is FREE to all attendees! Cabins are available. You may also set up tents or bring campers (no hook up available) Please RSVP to Dave Hullihen at daveh.195@yahoo.com so we are sure we have adequate supplies. You can also get more information about the event on the Detachment of Maryland facebook page.

It's not too early to start thinking about our **Annual Toys for Tots Drive**. If we all start our collection efforts early, we may be able to increase our donation totals. Let's set a record! We will again be accepting your donations at the Fall DEC meeting, **November 19th** at Post 116. If you need assistance with pick up, please let us know early.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF)

provides grants to assist with the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of our children here in the United States. As of April, of this year, the Sons of the American Legion has surpassed 9 million dollars in total donations! You all should be proud for being part of this achievement! This year, I would

like to challenge all of our Squadrons to pick a monetary amount you are comfortable with, per member to donate to this foundation.

Our first DEC meeting of the Administrative year will be held on September 10th at Laurel Post 60. I am looking forward to seeing you all and starting the year off with a bang by supporting these programs!

Yours in Service,

Jason C. Miller
Children and Youth Commission
Chairman
SAL246Betterton@gmail.com
410-490-2550

Casey Cares Newsletter

Cares Foundation has been a program that the Sons of The American Legion has supported for years. We help enhance the lives of children and their families as they suffer through hard times.

In the upcoming year please plan a donation in your budget, maybe set up a pajama collection for your meeting or post or hold a raffle to raise money. Any donation will certainly help change the lives of a Casey Cares Family.

If you need any information on the Casey Cares Foundation, please contact me and I will do my best to get you the information you need or put you in contact with the person that can.

Robert Keys (Bob)

Chairman – Casey Cares

Cell: 443-756-1152

Toys For Tots

Although the official kick off for the Toys For Tots program starts in October, we want to get our support for this program kicked off “Now” ... The Sons of The American Legion

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have long supported the Marine Corps, Toys for Tots Program. That being said, we are asking that everyone coming to the Fall meeting to each bring a toy. Thank you and hope this brings some early winter Holiday Season spirit, too all. Remember a big part of the Holiday Season is giving to others... especially the children.

Junior Shooting Sports

I am so happy to be Chairman of this committee. I was really surprised how little we have pushed this program in our Detachment, but we can improve on that. I am excited that we can teach the youth in our community gun safety along with the competition that could help them eventually lead to Olympic prowess. If we have any Squadrons or Posts who would like to start a Junior Shooting Sports program, please let me know. I will get you as much info as I can to help you get started. I am trying to start a Junior Shooting Sports program at my Post, but it is not always an easy project. Let's work together and make this one of our major programs. Also, at our Detachment Camp Out in September we will have a Junior Shooting Sports Competition with prizes awarded. Let's teach our youth gun safety while we invite new members to our organization. Any questions or suggestions, please let me know.

Chairman
Buddy Mastin (PDC)

—Special Olympics— Maryland

Hello Again,

As we get this year started and each of us is working on our budgets, I ask to remember the Special Olympics of

Maryland. Please remember the Sons of The American Legion has a long history of working with and for the great athletes of SOMD. We had a fantastic year last year for the program and we are looking to continuing to support the bowling tournament for years to come. This is an annual cost of \$15,000.00 a year in donations, not counting pledges for the Polar Bear plunge. We still do get to report and get credit for plunge donations, but it does not count toward the money we need to raise annually for the bowling tournaments.

Volunteers are still needed all the time, and this is a chance for you to work for one of our programs and have a great time doing it. We will be putting dates on the webpage and handing them out as they come in for bowling, winter games, and other chances to volunteer.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Eddie Souder ~ Chairman
eddie.souder@verizon.net
301-706-3960

DOUGLAS HENLEY MEMORIAL LAPS OF LOVE

Hello To All,
The 2022 Doug Henley Memorial Laps of Love took place at this year's convention at Delta Hotel in Hunt Valley on June 18th during the detachment cookout and youth all-star games. Thank you to all who participated and raised money for this event. We had another great year of fundraising thanks to your efforts. For those who were unable to attend, I am sorry to say you missed out on seeing outgoing Detachment Commander Fayer doing part of the youth all-star's obstacle course and incoming Detachment Commander Ford attempting to. Both were quite the sight to behold during our laps.

The 2023 Doug Henley Memorial

Laps of Love will take place during our next convention at Delta Hotel in Hunt Valley on June 24th, 2023 during the detachment cookout and youth all-star games.

So while you are planning your budgets and donations as a Legion, Squadron, Unit or as an individual for the upcoming year. Please think about helping these three programs, Special Olympics, Casey Cares and CWF by donating to the Laps of Love.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me and I will do my best to help you. Thank you for your continued support and everything you have already done to help with this great program.

Sincerely,

Bobby Miller II
443-986-3493

bdigital262@yahoo.com

George Grossnickle Memorial Scholarship

Glad to announce that this year we have our first two recipients of the George Grossnickle Memorial Scholarship, and it was a pleasure to be able to present the scholarship to the first recipient at our 49th Annual Detachment Convention in Hunt Valley, this past June. Each of the scholarship grants is in the amount of \$2000.

I want to mention that during the review and judging of each of the applications, it was nice to see the recognition and praise each of these recipients received from the faculty at their schools, as well as others from within their communities which they've interacted with. They both excelled in their educations, which takes personal time and commitment and then also made time to support their communities. Our very first recipient of the George Grossnickle Memorial Scholarship is Rylie Lach, who will be attending

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Susquehanna University and our second recipient is Daniel Joseph Tserkis, who will be attending Towson University. Congratulations to each of them for winning this scholarship and we wish them well in their continued education. Information is currently available at our website and applications for the 2023 awards will be available at the website on January 1, 2023.

WWW.MDSAL.ORG

Scholarship Committee:

Bill Hill Jim Alexander
Bill Matoska

Legislative Alert!

The Legislative Priorities for this year were released in February and are listed here:

Citizenship for Honorable Service; Pay the Coast Guard; Address the Forever Wars & Restore Congressional War Powers; Protect the American Flag; VA Health-care Modernization; Suicide Prevention & Peer Support; Address Toxic Exposure & Burn Pits; Improve Health Care for Women Veterans; Concurrent Receipt; Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity; GI Bill for Honorable Service.

You can help your veterans by taking an interest in one or two items listed and learning a little about what they are, then go to American Legion VoterVOICE and send your senators and congressmen an e-mail asking them to support a particular priority.

It is easy and very needed. **VoterVOICE**, www.votervoicenet.com/americanlegion/home Do it TODAY! Do not delay, it's easy, once you get to the site you can see what the American Legion is asking us to talk to our representatives about.

VERY important for each of us to get involved and support our veterans. This is one simple request. As always if you need help, feel free to call or email me.

Despite initial bipartisan agreement, the Honoring Our PACT Act is now in jeopardy. This transformative bill providing healthcare to veterans exposed to burn pits and toxic hazards initially passed both the House and Senate with bipartisan support in June, and again in the House of Representatives just two weeks ago in a 342-88 vote. You heard that right: this same bill has already passed the House twice and the Senate once and required a final 60-vote confirmation in the Senate to be sent to the President's desk. And on July 27th the vote fell short 55-42. As Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester said, "This is a sad day in the U.S. Senate. The American people are sick and tired of the games that go on in this body" You have a right to be outraged at what has transpired – and to let your Senators know about it. We urge you to contact your Senators and demand that they stay in Washington until they pass this much-needed legislation."

Tom Deal
Legislative Chairman
Detachment of Maryland

VAVS Variety

Greetings fellow sons and welcome to a new year of veteran support. I take this opportunity to make you aware of your VAVS Representatives for the ensuing year. They are:

Dave Tatman, Squadron #82
Charlotte Hall Veterans Home
301-645-1537
tatman_david@comcast.net

Tom Deal, Squadron #135
Perry point Veterans Center
443-206-0402

tom.deal@verizon.net

Robert Filippi, Squadron #183
Loch Raven VA
443-928-5573
kassbob@aol.com

Drain Plummer-El, Squadron #285
Baltimore VA
443-467-5549
ikon69@icloud.com

Bob Manzo, Squadron #183
VA Clinics
410-952-6471
bmanzo1085@yahoo.com

I am looking forward to a great year of supporting our veterans. Please check with your post for advice on any veteran in need with the extreme heat we are now experiencing. You may want to contact your older veteran friends for a "Buddy Check" and bring them some water for their needs.

Respectfully,
Leon Adkins, Squadron #218
Chairman, VAVS
410-713-9523
ledadki@gmail.com

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

"the only Veterans Home in the state"

The CHVH is open once again. Masks are still required but volunteers are being allowed in the building and residents are attending events off campus. Volunteers should bring a copy of their COVID vaccination card.

The SMR bingos are being held on the third Monday of each month. Two hundred dollars are given out to residents at each bingo. If you are interested in volunteering your time, give me a call. Additional help is always welcome. To make a monetary donation, send checks to SMD Finance Officer, 2 Main St., Laurel, MD 20707, with a copy to Detachment Adjutant Matoska.

I will be attending the volunteer orientation on Friday, July 1. The volunteer orientations are held on

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the first Friday of each month for new and recurring volunteers who are interested in volunteer opportunities at the CHVH. The volunteer orientations are by reservation only due to social distancing and new COVID restrictions. If you are interested in attending a volunteer orientation, contact the Recreational Services Clerk, Sade' Herbert, at sherbert@hmrmd.com or call her at 301-884-8171 extension 5143.

The Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is the only Veterans Home in the state of Maryland. If you would like to make a donation, check out the website, www.charhall.org. Wish lists and donation forms will be available at each Detachment meeting.

For God and Country,

Dave Tatman

CHVH Representative

tatman_david@comcast.net

301-645-1537

Perry Point VA Medical Center

Perrypoint VA is allowing some volunteers back to help our veterans. Recent exciting news: Help USA was fortunate to recently be awarded an additional allocation of project-based HUD-VASH rental assistance that will allow us to create an additional 76 homes for formerly homeless veterans and families as well as build a new management building with a full gym, which Phase I was unable to provide. They will seek financing from the State of Maryland through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program as well as other loan resources. They are working know on these applications as well as with our investors on some timing issues related to the term of our lease with the VA. They hope to be through those issues in the next several weeks and can turn their attention more fully to completing applications and the designs.

They will be reaching out to the appropriate parties to discuss issues related to the Town of Perryville and Cecil County governments and the impacts on life and safety, schools and other key issues. This is great news for the Perrypoint campus. In 2018 HELP USA renovated or replaced 50 existing homes and all are currently occupied by Veterans and their families. This will add more needed housing for at risk veterans.

Also, more really exciting news!!!! I attended a meeting at Perrypoint and exciting news on a Fisher House coming to Perry Point campus. It is in design phase; they have picked out a site and are working with Perrypoint to cross the t's and dot the I's. It is scheduled for 2025 to be built. More details when they are available.

Tom Deal

Perry Point VA Rep.

VA Clinics

Greetings,

As we begin our new administrative year, I am pleased to bring you updates on the VA Clinics located in Maryland. Did you know there are 13 Community based VA Community Outpatient Clinics in Maryland? These clinics are located across the state from Pocomoke City to Cumberland and serve communities where there may not be a regular VA hospital. These clinics vary in services provided, most have Internal Medicine doctors, pharmacy, and other medical assistance available.

In addition to the Outpatient clinics, there area also 9 Vet Centers that provide non-medical assistance such as counseling, PTSD care, Substance Abuse Care, and other great services. In most cases, you do not need to be enrolled in the VA Healthcare System to use these centers. The

locations of the community Clinics and Vet Centers can be obtained by visiting the VA website@ <https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?STATE=MD&dnum=ALL>

I look forward to bringing any updates as the year progresses.

Yours in Service,

Bob Manzo
VA Clinics Representative

Heroes Haven

Heroes Haven is working on another great year supporting our wounded veterans and first responders. We have had several successful fundraisers so far this year. One remaining fundraiser is our Annual Fall Golf Tournament on September 24, 2022 at Nutters Crossing Golf Course, Salisbury, Maryland. For entry forms go to: HeroesHaven.org.

Currently preparing our fall hunt week, presently we have four new participants signed, with two more possibilities and four to eight alumni returning. Hunt Week will be October 19-22 with a Banquet on October 22, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Adkins

Heroes Haven Representative

Chaplin's Corner

Please keep those recovering at home in our prayers.

Let us not forget to finish the course we have begun. Let us keep in our memories the passing of our comrades.

Please let me know of anyone on sick call or the passing of any member.

E-mail me at; bizybill@hotmail.com

Thank you & God Bless,

William Yeagy

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Time and Place Committee

50th Annual Convention Summer of 2023

Well, the time is just around the corner. What a great milestone for the Detachment to achieve. 50 years of coming together from across the state of Maryland to show our comradeship within Maryland and how to support the various programs. Leading the way for our continued support of the American Legion and all of the programs they support, as well as a few others.

We are holding a banquet as well during the weekend on Saturday evening, with more details with regards to how to participate and what is involved, coming out over the next several months.

We're working hard to ensure a fantastic weekend of events are enjoyed by all to help us celebrate this major milestone for the Detachment.

Look for more details to come in future Pride articles, and posted on the Detachment website, as WWW.MDSAL.ORG.

On behalf of the 50th Convention Committee, we look forward to seeing your ideas and if there are any questions, please let us know.

To: Past Detachment Commander

Re: Memories from your year as Commander to be included in the 50th Convention Book

Past Detachment Commanders, please let me start by thanking you for your contribution of time and service to this great Detachment of Maryland. Without your leadership and guidance over the years, we

could not have become the successful and well-respected Detachment that we are today.

Our request is to ask if you would please take the time to send me a short summary/outline of your year as Commander. It could include special moments at an event, time with other leadership within the Legion Family during your year or highlights of your convention. Or anything you would not mind sharing with the 15,000+ members of the Detachment.

The goal is for something around a couple of paragraphs, but not to exceed a page. These memories will then be disbursed throughout the 40th Convention Book. If you have pictures, send those along as well, with as much information about those in the picture as possible. (Names, date, location, event) -- All photos will be returned. Please send your items to me by March 31, 2023 so they may be included.

You may submit by sending email with the details, attaching a word document to email, or by writing something the ole fashioned long hand version.

Mail Picture to:
19040 Festival Drive
Boyd's, MD 20841

or
Send Digital to:
Hill1062@msn.com

Our hope is to have everyone share their memories and to see you at the Detachment of Maryland 50th Convention.

Joe Gladden & Bill Hill ~ Co-Chair

Eastern Shore Region

Well, I hope all Eastern Shore Region members have had a great summer. I want to thank everyone who attended the 49th SAL Convention. I wish to welcome and congratulate our officers for the 2022-2023 year. Last year we

finished in 1st place in membership at 106% of goal. Congratulations to everyone for working hard on membership. Congratulations also to Tom Deal for getting the John S. Tingle, Sr. award for the Detachment VAVS Volunteer of the year, great job Tom. We are looking for another great year from the Eastern Shore Region. Good luck to Bear Weinzirl on his retirement he really deserves it. Stepping up as adjutant is Michael J. Brison from Betterton Squadron #435. Congratulations to Squadron #77 Blake Blackston for winning 2nd place in The American Legion's William C. Kesting Memorial Gold Tournament. Don't forget our website and Facebook page when you have events happening at your Squadrons. This year you will receive information/visits and assistance from a DEC member assigned to your Squadron. D.E.C. members and Senior DEC Karl Kibler will be visiting more then they have in the past. I am inviting all Squadron Commanders to our meetings this year and we need a representative at each meeting from each Squadron. Anyone is welcomed to attend our meetings. I would like to see more members attend our Detachment and E.S.R. meetings. Our new Detachment Commander Larry Ford needs our support and cooperation in this coming year.

"When we all join in, we rise together"

"Developing our Youth for the Future"

Buster Blackiston
Commander
Eastern Shore Region
410-708-6541
roundtop729@atlanticbb.net

Northern Central Region

I want to thank all of you who elected me as your new NCR Commander. Below are the following slate of gentleman stepping up to

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make this one of the greatest Regions.

Commander ~ Dave Hullihen Sq # 277
 1st Vice Cmdr~ Nathaniel Russel Sq# 187
 Adjutant ~ Mark Sprucebank Sq # 34
 Sgt-at-Arms ~ George Wright Sq # 19
 Finance Officer ~ Joe Gladden Sq # 130
 Chaplain ~ Bill Yeagy Sq # 130
Americanism Chairman
 Drain Plummer-El Sq # 285
CY&A Chairman
 Dave Sprucebank Sq # 40

Our 1st meeting will be Sunday
 September 18th at Jackson &
 Johnson Sq, 263 @ 1 pm

Our 2nd meeting will be Sunday
 November 27th at Patrick Henry Sq #
 34 @ 1pm.

My project this year will be the same as Detachment Commander Larry Fords which is the Southern Maryland Youth Camp. We want to make sure lots of money is raised for this project by keeping the projects the same. This way we won't be taking away any monies for this worthy cause. So, let's get out there and continue to do what we do best.

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns. I am still looking for a VA&R Chairman, so if anyone is willing to step up, please let me or Mark Sprucebank know. As we go through this year, we will be posting other meeting dates. Hope to see everyone at our meetings, thanks and have a great summer.

For God and Country

Dave Hullihen
 NCR Commander

Southern Maryland Region

Greetings Comrades,

First of all, I want to congratulate past Region Commander Gary Shupe

for an outstanding year. It was a great pleasure working with you, and I look forward to your assistance this year as a Past Commander. I want to express my gratitude for your trust in me to be this year's Commander. I will do everything I can to keep the Region, the Great Southern Maryland Region.

I also want to thank the newly incoming officers and DEC men. You are the strength of the Region, and we can look forward to another successful year! Too all Squadron Commander's, the Region meeting schedule is in the Blue Book. Please keep all dates available so you or a representative can attend these meetings. These meetings are vital for the distribution of information from the Detachment and for us to assist your Squadron in order to help you succeed throughout the year.

Our first Region meeting is:

September 18th at 1:00 PM
 Squadron 255
 13390 Point Lookout Road
 Ridge MD

Serving those who served,

Tommy Bryant
 SMR Commander

Western Maryland Region

As I begin the year as the second Commander of the WMR I am proud to say the region reached 104% of its membership goal and was second in percent of membership from the previous year.

The WMR is the largest in the Detachment of Maryland. We have over 6000 members with 24 squadrons. We may also be the largest region by geography stretching from Reisterstown in the east to Oakland in the west, a distance of over 185 miles.

A region of this size presents many challenges, the greatest of these is

getting participation from all of the squadrons at the region level. My goal for 2022-2023 is to increase participation.

When I first joined the Sons 27 years ago, I was not very active. I viewed the Legion as a good place to have a beer, get good food, and meet people, especially at the dances they held monthly. After several years, one of the Sons asked me if I would attend a meeting. I did. This friend would leave messages on my answering machine reminding me of upcoming meetings. Later, he asked me if I could help at a fundraiser selling sandwiches at a local event. I did. Then, I was talked into putting on a roof at a bunk at Camp Westmar, selling raffle tickets, and assisting with events at the Legion. The list just keeps growing. Now, I am the second commander of the WMR, all because someone asked me if I could help. Every time I see this friend, I tell him how much I "hate" him for getting me so involved!

The WMR is permitted 11 DECmen. We have 3. DECmen are extremely important in assisting squadrons in the region with their reports and with keeping squadrons informed with news from the region and detachment. In addition, DECmen act as the governing body of the Detachment between conventions. If you chose to be a DECmen it is a huge commitment, but it is a very worthwhile way of serving in the Sons and honoring the service of our fathers.

The WMR also needs a permanent Adjutant. Bill Hill, the first commander of the WMR has volunteered to be Adjutant until someone can be found to do the job for the remainder of the year.

If you are reading "The Pride", you have already advanced past the point of seeing the Legion as just a place for a beer and food. Someone has already asked you to participate. Now, I am asking you to take the next step and take an active role in the Region.

To attempt to increase squadron participation in the Region, I will

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hold meetings across the Region. The first meeting is scheduled for September 17th at Grantsville #214 at 1pm, the western part of the region. I will then hold meetings at Morris Frock #42 in Hagerstown on December 17th at 11am, Sykesville #223 on February 19th at 1pm, and finally, Emmitsburg Kump's Dam on May 21st at 11am hosted by Francis X Elder #121. With meetings spread across the region it should be possible for each squadron to attend at least 2 meetings without having to travel too far.

I will also be visiting as many squadrons meetings as possible. I will be asking you to step up to region leadership. I am willing to attend events you have when my schedule permits, just call me. I will also be asking you to find that one person you see in the bar who you can ask to participate in squadron events. Hopefully, that person will someday tell you how much they "hate" you for getting them so involved!

Yours in Service,

John Davies
WMR Commander

calldontsend@hotmail.com
717-387-3638

NEC Update!

As we've transitioned to a new NEC after the National SAL Convention in Milwaukee in late August, I am submitting this as my last pride article as your NEC.

I would like to this time to thank everyone for entrusting me to be your NEC for these past few years. It has been a great learning experience. I know going in as your new NEC and ALT. NEC Bob Manzo and Alt. NEC Tom Deal will do a fantastic job. I would like to also thank the National Commander Mike Fox (CA) for also doing a great job. His project this year Flying Flags for Heroes was a great success. His goal was to get 1

million flags in nonmilitary cemeteries for our veterans and as of this writing there were 1,435,535 flags placed to support this program. Great job by everyone I am sure Mike is very proud of this, and I am proud to say over 65,000 of those came from Maryland. Once again Maryland shines thanks to everyone. I would also like to say congratulation to the new incoming Commander Larry Ford and all of his new officers.

Although I will not be the NEC, I will still be around as I was elected to be the new Northern Central Region Commander for this coming administrative year. Thank you everyone for your support

For God and Country

NEC (2020 – 2022)

Dave Hullihen

New NEC ~

I am honored to serve the Detachment as NEC for the next two years. I bring greetings from our newly elected National Sons of The American Legion Commander, Chris Carlson of Indiana. Chris is looking forward to serving the Sons of The American Legion and I am sure will do a great job. Chris's Commanders slogan is "Be the One". That means that he is calling on all members to:

Be the One that makes a difference in a veteran's life.

Be the One to help a veteran struggling with PTSD or other service-connected issues get the help they need.

Be the One to reach out to a veteran that may be in crisis and help prevent that one veteran from joining the ranks of the 22 a day who commit suicide.

I look forward to bringing you information from the National Organization as well as representing

you at the two national executive meetings this coming administrative year.

For God and Country

NEC (2022 – 2024)

Bob Manzo

JR's Journey- The Leading Candidate Heads To Charlotte

I am excited to announce that JR is officially the Leading Candidate for National Commander. This means that campaign will be kicking into high gear to get to Charlotte, NC in August of 2023.

We currently have a couple of official campaign fundraisers going on. For a \$5.00 chance the winner and a guest will sail with us on the JR's Journey Cruise out of Baltimore on the Carnival Legend on April 16-23, 2023. The tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. We are also extending a special opportunity to each squadron, unit, or post. If you sell at least \$300.00 worth of tickets, then you can keep half the money and donate it to the charity of your choice. This is a great way to offer a cool prize without having to worry about paying for the prize. Simply sell tickets and we take care of the rest. If interested, reach out to me and I will send you as many tickets as you want. The drawing will take place at our Fall DEC meeting in November 2022. If you need tickets, please contact me at joeglad123@aol.com or 443-742-0842.

If you're not feeling lucky and simply want to book a room on the cruise, reach out to our travel agent, LuAnn at 443-618-4403 and she will give you all the details. The great thing is that the cruise does not have to be fully paid until January of 2023. Make a \$500.00 deposit, select your cabin and make payments on it until you are paid off. Come join JR, myself, and many others on what I know will be a great week at sea and in the Caribbean.

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At our Detachment Convention in June 2022, we started the Gun Raffle. JR has designed a beautiful Big Henry "Big Boy 45" Rifle. It's been engraved military branches and other American symbols. Tickets for this the gun are \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00. If you need tickets for the gun, or you are having a gun bash and you want us to bring the gun, please contact Tom Deal at tom.deal@verizon.net or 443-206-0402.

Another way you can help is by donating directly to the Campaign. We are blessed to have several donations come in already from around the state and from all branches of The American Legion Family. These donations should be made payable to the National Support Fund and sent to Tom Deal 1434 Clayton Street Perryville, MD 21903-2534.

Let's show JR that we care and support him. Over the next 12 months, I call on you to "Step Up To The Challenge" and make JR's Journey a success.

United In Service

Joe Gladden
National Campaign Chairman
Past National Commander 2013-14
Joeglad123@aol.com

Commander's Challenge

Detachment Commander Larry Ford has continued the Challenge this year and concluding with the 50th Anniversary Convention. I want to explain how *every* Squadron or Region can meet the challenge. The goal is to continue to raise awareness for the Four Pillars of The American Legion. And to those who do not know they are:

VA&R, Children and Youth, Americanism, and National Security.

The challenge is fairly simple, *Americanism, Children & Youth and the VA&R portions of the Four Pillars requires a monetary donation of \$1 per member based on your respective*

squadron's previous year's membership at the designated cut-off date for each pillar made payable to the Detachment of Maryland There will be a requirement of at least a \$50 minimum donation with a \$250 maximum donation toward each pillar depending on your squadron membership, i.e., if your squadron has 60 members you will make a donation totaling \$180-\$ 60 for each pillar.

National Security: Squadrons will Honor a Police Officer or Fire Fighter in your area for their service to the community. One entry per Squadron. One winner will be chosen from each District and sent to Detachment where one winner will be selected for Police Officer/Fire Fighter of the Year and presented at Detachment convention in June. The winner will receive the Dave Barr Memorial Trophy:

Plain and Simple:

1. Americanism: Donation based upon squadron membership.
2. V A&R: Donation based upon squadron membership.
3. C & Y: Donation based upon squadron membership.
4. National Security: Submit a Police Officer/Firefighter of the year.

The four pillars are what The American Legion is based upon, and we need to make sure we are doing our part to teach more about these four pillars. For each Squadron, Region, or others meeting the Commanders Challenge they will be honored by receiving 2 gratis tickets to the 50th Anniversary Gala. After completing the challenge in year two, an additional 2 gratis tickets to the 50th Anniversary Gala be rewarded and then after year three and for completing the challenge for three consecutive years an additional four (4) tickets for the 50Th Anniversary Gala will be awarded resulting in the

potential reward for meeting the Commander's Challenge of 8 tickets for the 50th Anniversary Gala. When you have met the requirements of the Challenge for all four pillars you will need to verify completion with Chairman, Karl Kibler. Do not wait until the end of the year to validate, when you have completed the challenge send in the information and you be notified you have met the challenge.

Posts and Auxiliary Units may also participate in the "Commander's Challenge" utilizing the same criteria and receive the same awards.

On behalf of Commander Fayer and the Vice-Commanders, I want to Thank You for participating in the "Commanders Challenge"

Yours in Service

Karl Kibler

Email: homer51@comcast.net

410-829-9317

Public Relations Advisory

We want to brag about you!

If you are hosting an event, or have had a successful one which you just want to brag about, please send an outline. It may be about either what's taking place or what has taken place. Provide some details around what the event may be supporting, such as a Draw Down to raise funds for a scholarship program, or a Dance to support the Detachment Commanders Project and an event, which may be purely held in your community to support a local program such as a food bank, or children's clothing drive. We'll do our best to publish them on the Detachment website in advance of the event and we'll help get the word out to the Detachment and Legion Family. Please send all articles to:

Bill Hill (PDC)

Email: Hill1062@MSN.COM



“Developing Our Youth for the Future”

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

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Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland



2023 Membership Target Date:

SEPTEMBER 14, 2022	10%
OCTOBER 13, 2022	25%
NOVEMBER 9, 2022	35%
DECEMBER 14, 2022	45%
JANUARY 19, 2023	60%
FEBRUARY 15, 2023	75%
MARCH 15, 2023	80%
APRIL 19, 2023	90%
MAY 17, 2023	100%
**JULY 26, 2023	105%

** Delegate Strength Target Date



Detachment of Maryland Meeting Schedule 2022—2023

Summer DEC

September 10, 2022 (Saturday) / Laurel Post 60 @ 1pm

September 30—October 2, 2022

Annual Detachment Campout @ Southern Maryland Youth Camp

November 5, 2022—Past Detachment Commander’s Crab Feed

Overlea Perry Hall Post 130

Fall D.E.C. Meeting

November 13, 2022 / Reisterstown Post 116 @ 1pm

All events for this weekend will be at The Grand Hotel

Mid-Term Squadron Officers Training

PDC Ray Edwards Memorial Children & Youth Fundraiser—Draw Down

February 4, 2023 (Saturday)

Winter D.E.C. Meeting

February 5, 2023 @ 11am

Detachment Commander’s Project Drawdown

March 4, 2023 / Perryville

Spring D.E.C. Meeting

April 15, 2023 / Greenbelt Post 136 @ 11am

50th Annual Detachment Convention

June 23rd to 25th, 2023
Delta Hotels-Marriott
Hunt Valley, MD 21031