



District 17 Communicator

Volume 5 – Issue 12

JUNE 2024

Commander's Corner

Legionnaires,

It has been my great pleasure to serve as District Commander for the 2023-2024 Legion Year. We recently recognized Memorial Day on May 27, when we remember and honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, as we also practice the Cardinal Principles of the American Legion.

Thank you to all who support each other in our efforts to serve our veterans, their families, and communities. Thank you for helping our district reach its membership goals. Let's carry that enthusiasm into the 2024-2025 legion year to exceed our membership goals.

I would like to encourage posts to actively participate in the Be The One Campaign, as it is the goal of this campaign to have participants reach out to veterans in an effort to prevent suicide. "Buddy Checks" can be done on a monthly basis and be used as a tool to disseminate information otherwise.

Thank you, Jim Glassman, for being a knowledgeable and supportive District Adjutant. Thank you, 17th District Vice Commanders, for your kind help and support.

For God and Country

Shirley D. Buchanan
17th District Commander

Adjutant's Corner

Congratulations to our Department with a total of 36,465 - #3 in National.

District 17 finished 2nd in the Northern Region. District 17 ended this year at 101.07%. District 16 was first with 102.39%.

Congratulations to Post 24, Post 123, Post 139, Post 176, Post 180, Post 1775, and Post 1995 for reaching their 100% goal this year. They will be awarded the Old Dominion Silver Award.

Standings as of 29 May 2024

24	---	107.56%
44	---	100.00%
85	---	86.61%
123	---	100.00%
130	---	92.34%
139	---	122.56%
162	---	92.50%
176	---	101.78%
177	---	99.89%
180	---	103.47%
184	---	92.90%
194	---	95.92%
270	---	92.35%
1775	---	110.81%
1976	---	97.57%
1995	---	106.67%
SUM:		101.07%

Legislation (Bill Aramony)

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

ADVOCACY.

The American Legion offers you the capability to email Congress directly and ask your representatives to act in support initiatives supported by The American Legion. at

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

For Virginia Legislation: Go to <https://lis.virginia.gov/> and see how your representative votes.

The Private First-Class Desmond T. Doss VA Clinic Act, S.3938, is a bill introduced March 14, 2024, to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Lynchburg, Virginia. In the Senate, SEN Warner introduced, and SEN Kaine co-sponsored. In the House, Rep Bob Good introduced a companion bill. Virginia Department Commander Sonnie Dickerson wrote a letter to Rep. Bob Good supporting this bill, as did the Virginia VFW Commander. Wonderful advocacy from the top!

We need you to contact your State Senators and Delegates. In a May 2024, special legislative session, the Virginia General Assembly made changes to the budgeting of the Virginia Military Survivors & Dependents Education Program that will adversely impact the beneficiaries. VMSDEP is a Commonwealth of Virginia program that provided eight college semesters of education benefits to spouses and children of qualifying Veterans including those disabled by military service, killed, missing in action, and taken prisoner. The breadth of the program and its eligibility was changed by the budget

amendments impacting multiple families. We have started advocacy to restore the benefits. Let me know if your dependents qualify, or in the past qualified, for VMSDEP. We need help to restore the benefits of this deserving program.

A JLC statement you may send to your representative is attached to this memorandum. See the next page for a sample email to your Delegate and Senator.

A sample email, attaching the JLC statement, is: BEGIN sample email.

Delegate [name] or Senator [name] I am [name/brief description of self or military service]. I write on behalf of the American Legions Post xx, VA concerning the effect of the special session budget negotiations regarding VMSDEP. It appears that they relied on inaccurate data as to the cost of the program. A task force (Executive Directive Seven - 2024) has been created by the Governor to get correct data in regard to the impact. The Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations has issued a statement (see attached) requesting that the Governor and General Assembly call a special session to postpone the upcoming changes to the VMSDEP Program. We request your support for this initiative so that students receiving the VMSDEP waiver in 2023-24 or who formally committed to an institution to enroll in the summer or fall 2024 courses will not be impacted by the changes in program eligibility." END Sample Email.

BILLS SUPPORTED BY THE LEGION THAT PASSED IN 2024

March 6, 2024, Wednesday, the Military Construction, Veterans' Affairs, and Related Agency (MilCon-VA) appropriations passed through Congress as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. The MilCon-VA appropriations provides full

funding for veterans' medical care, directs funding to state veterans' homes and VA research, and provides \$2 billion more than what was requested by the President for military construction. These projects will be focused on the Pacific theatre and on improving barracks. Additionally, over \$336 million will be allocated for child development centers and another \$88.6 million is allocated to the expansion of Arlington Cemetery.

Although the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act of 2023, H.R.542, passed the House, as of April 19, 2024, there was no Senate agreement consolidating the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act S. 141/H.R. 542 and the HOME Act which concerned homeless veterans. May 14, 2024, a bipartisan House and Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs leaders introduced H.R. 8371, the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act. The legislation includes bipartisan and bicameral proposals to reform and improve the delivery of healthcare, benefits, and services at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for veterans, their families, and their survivors. It also includes a section "Housing our Military Veterans Effectively Act of 2023", or the "HOME" Act of 2023. The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act did not advance to the House Floor before Memorial Day.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released its Annual Homeless Assessment. Report. According to HUD's findings, homelessness among veterans has risen over 7% in the past year: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/aha/r/2023-ahar-part-1-pitestimates-of-homelessness-in-the-us.html>.

H.R.3581 COPE Act (Caregiver Outreach and Program Enhancement Act), passed the House and was received in the Senate

December 5th. Sponsored by Rep. Jen Kiggans (R-VA-2), the bill authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to award grants to implement, coordinate, improve, or enhance mental health counseling, treatment, or support for family caregivers of veterans participating in the family caregiver program.

The National Defense Authorization Act for 2025 May 22, 2024, the House version of the FY 2025 Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) went to the House Floor after considering more than 700 amendments during a 12-hour markup. The bill adheres to the spending caps from last year's debt ceiling deal, allowing a 1% increase over the \$874.2 billion FY24 defense policy bill. The Senate Armed Services Committee is scheduled to take up its version of the legislation on June 12, 2024. While the legislation won't be in final form after these markups, it moves forward. Key provisions include the following:

Automatically register all male U.S. residents ages 18 to 26 into the Selective Service.

The annual statutory pay raise is 4.5% plus an additional 15% pay raise for E1 through E5 service members. The move would bring most service member's base pay to more than \$30,000 a year.

\$1.2 billion to housing allowances (bringing allowances to 100% of regional housing costs) and expands eligibility for the military's Basic Allowance for Subsistence stipend.

Create a Reserve Component Transition Assistance Program (TAP).

Language improving pay and benefits for Defense Department childcare workers, to

help with recruiting and retention of those posts.

Not including the salary hike, the cost of the quality-of-life reforms total about \$4.2 billion, a significant section of the constrained authorization bill total.

PENDING LEGION PRIORITIES

Pending Bills supported by the Legion include:

The Afghan Adjustment Act, S.2327, streamlines the immigration process for the 150,000 Afghans applying for special immigrant visas and increase the level of vetting the applicants undergo. On February 6, 2024, TAL National Commander wrote to Congress urging its passage. The bill authorizes an additional 12,000 Afghan SIVs and extends the time that applicants can apply for the program by one year, until December 31, 2025. 07/13/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The Contract Our Veterans Act of 2024, H.R. 7401, would require the Department of Defense to work with certain veteran-owned small businesses in procurement contracts. 02/15/2024 referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

The Veterans Mental Health and Addiction Therapy Quality of Care Act, S.3546, addresses evaluations of the quality of mental health services at the VA and non-Department providers. Senate-12/14/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Expanding Home Loans for Guard and Reservists Act, H.R.6225, ensures that activated Reservists could easily receive home loans through the Post 9/11 GI Bill. House - 04/17/2024. Forwarded by

Subcommittee to Full Committee (Amended) by Voice Vote.

Pay Our Coast Guard Act, H.R.2693, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations on September 13, 2023. H.R.5641, the Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2023 had 66 co-sponsors and 04/19/2023 was referred to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. In the Senate, the Pay Our Troops Act, S.2791, 09/13/2023, was read twice and referred to the Committee on Appropriations. These Bills would make appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event an appropriations Act expires, providing the same protection as the other U.S. Armed Forces branches.

Keep Our Border Agents Paid Act, S.2999, was referred on September 29, 2023, to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. TAL supports ensuring that U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement employees are paid during any government shutdown.

The Love Lives On Act, H.R. 3651, would allow Gold Star Spouses to keep their Gold Star benefits should they re-marry before age 55. 04/16/2024 forwarded by Subcommittee to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The Expanding America's National Cemeteries Act of 2023, H.R.1413, would enable an existing VA-run national cemetery to transform into a new location capable of providing full military honors as ANC nears capacity. The Department of Defense (DoD) has proposed restricting Arlington eligibility primarily to recipients of awards such as the Purple Heart, Silver Star, or higher, potentially disregarding the service of deserving veterans from World War II, Korea, and the Vietnam era, as well as a sizable number of female veterans. House - 03/30/2023. Referred to the Subcommittee

on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

The Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act, S.815/H.R.1572, would honor the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps. Senate - 03/15/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. House - 03/14/2023 Referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee.

Protecting Veterans from Predatory Actors, H.R.1204, aims to protect veterans from predatory actors who file Camp Lejeune and other claims for a fee or substantial percentage of recovery. Specifically, it caps attorney's fees at 12% of a payment made in an administrative claim, and 17% of a payment for a judgment rendered or a settlement entered in a judicial claim. House 02/27/2023 Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. S.378 - Senate 02/09/2023 Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

The Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act of 2023. S.740/H.R.1139, GUARD, would reinstate criminal penalties for unaccredited actors who charge unauthorized fees while assisting veterans with filing a claim for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation benefits. 04/26/2023 - Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. 03/29/2023 - House Subcommittee Hearings held.

An alternate bill, the PLUS Act of 2023, H.R.1822/S.1789 would reinstate criminal penalties, but legalize the practice of charging veteran fees up to \$12,500. The

Legion opposes the PLUS Act. House - 04/14/2023 PLUS Act Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. Senate - 06/01/2023 PLUS Act Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

VET-TEC Authorization Act of 2023, H.R.1669, requires VA to permanently implement a program to provide veterans the opportunity to enroll in high technology programs of education and obtain non-degree training and skills related to computer programming, media application, data processing, or information sciences. Passed House. 05/30/2023 - Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Veterans Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2023, H.R.1606, would authorize the Small Business Administration (SBA) to carry out the Boots to Business (B2B) Program over the 2023-2028 period. It allows entrepreneurship training to military service members (including the National Guard or Reserves), veterans, and their spouses and dependents. It also offers SBA grants to Veteran Business Outreach Centers for training.

The Military Spouse Hiring Act, S.596/H.R.1277, expands the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to permit employers to claim a tax credit for the portion of the wages paid the spouse. Military spouses frequently relocate. The bill aims to help them secure employment. As of February 9, 2024, the bill had the support of 143 lawmakers in the House and 47 in the Senate. SEN Kaine introduced the bill in the Senate and Rep. Don Beyer introduced it in the House. 03/01/2023 - Senate (47 co-sponsors) - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. House-(146 co-sponsors). 03/01/2023 - Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

The Military Family Protection from Debt Act, H.R.5190, aims to ensure that the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, which caps interest rates for deployed servicemembers at 6%, can be extended to military spouses and dependents. House-11/02/2023 Subcommittee Hearings Held.

Major Richard Star Act, H.R.1282, is supported by most Congressional members. (70 co-sponsors in the Senate and 326 co-sponsors in the House). House-07/18/2023 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 117.

PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program Act, H.R. 2768, would authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to State and local entities to carry out peer-to-peer mental health programs. House - 07/18/2023 Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.

The TBI and PTSD Treatment Act, H.R. 105, would authorize VA to furnish hyperbaric oxygen therapy through a provider authorized by the Veterans Community Care Program to veterans who have a traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder. 02/08/2023 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization Improvement Act, H.R.592, would prohibit VA from commencing an activity under the Electronic Health Record Modernization Program at a facility of the Veterans Health Administration until the VA certifies to Congress that the electronic health record system has met specified improvement objectives at each facility where the system is being utilized as of the date of the enactment of this bill. House - 07/19/2023 Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.

The Not Just A Number Act, S.928, would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to

prepare an annual report on suicide prevention, and for other purposes. Senate - 07/12/2023 Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.

The Veterans' Health Empowerment, Access, Leadership, and Transparency for our Heroes Act, S.1315, modifies the Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP), such as requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to develop and implement plans to improve the administration of the VCCP. Senate - 07/12/2023 Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.

The Military Family Nutrition Access Act, S.497, excludes military housing allowances from income when determining eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). 02/16/2023 Introduced in Senate

The Veterans Service Recognition Act of 2023, H.R.4569, would allow noncitizen service members to apply for naturalization during basic, provide a review process for those in removal proceedings, and an opportunity for noncitizen veterans who have been removed, but not been convicted of serious crimes, to obtain legal permanent resident.

House - 07/12/2023 Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Below is the status of the veteran Joint Leadership Council's supported bills. The Virginia General Assembly bills originate in both the House and Senate.

JLC EFFORTS: VIRGINIA VETERAN BILLS

Governor Directive Seven (2024)

HB 523. SB344 is its companion bill- Charitable Gaming. Amends charitable gaming law to allow, organizations receiving a charitable gaming permit or authorization to conduct electronic gaming, certain organizations to use a predetermined percentage of its receipts for expenses related to the rental of real property where such real property is involved in the operation of the organization and used for lawful religious, charitable, community, or educational purposes. DEL Paul E. Krizek, Chair ABC & Gaming subcommittee, sponsored. VOTE: Adoption (92-Y 4-N) Senate: Conference report agreed to by Senate (40-Y 0-N) Approved by Governor-Chapter 504 (effective 7/1/24).

HB 324, Goal 2 Action 2.4 (support relocated military families). Supports relocated military families by allowing spouse or children licensure in a different state. House: Passed (99-Y 0-N) Senate: Passed (33-Y 7N) Approved by Governor-Chapter 439 (effective - see bill -- The Compact has been passed in three states and takes effect when it is enacted by a seventh participating state or upon the effective date of the bill, whichever is later.

HB 326, the Social Work Licensure Compact, Goal 2. Action 2.4 (support relocated military families). Allows social workers eligible for an active, unencumbered license in the compact member state where they reside to apply for a multistate license in the other compact member states. House: Passed (99-Y 0-N) Senate: Passed (33-Y 7-N) Approved by Governor-Chapter 439 (effective - see bill Takes effect when it is enacted by a seventh member state).

HB 736, VFW-/JLC initiative as the Claims Sharks Veterans' Services Protection Act now HB 736, Sewell Veterans' Services Protection Act; prohibited practices; penalty. Department of Law; compensation for veterans' benefits matters; work group; report. Directs the Department of Law's Division of Consumer Counsel to convene a work group to examine and make recommendations regarding the practice of persons receiving compensation for preparing, presenting, prosecuting, advising, consulting, or assisting any individual regarding any veterans' benefits matter, as defined in the bill. Senate: Conference report agreed to by Senate (40-Y 0-N). House: Conference report agreed to by House (94-Y 1-N) Approved by Governor-Chapter 730 (effective 7/1/24).

HB 589, Office of Data Governance and Analytic; reciprocal data-sharing agreements. Goal 4 Action 4.5. (Share veteran-specific data to support data informed outreach plans for veterans.) Passed House. Passed Senate. House: Passed (96-Y 0-N) Senate: Passed (40-Y 0-N) Approved by Governor-Chapter 292 (effective 7/1/24)

HB 366, Virginia National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program. Goal 2. Action 2.3. Makes changes to the Guard State Tuition Assistance Program, including: (A) the provisions relating to the requirements and conditions for eligibility for and award of grants under the Program subject to regulations as prescribed by the Adjutant General; (B) eliminating the requirement to satisfy financial obligations with the institution of higher education at the beginning of each semester; (C) simplifies the requirements relating to academic performance and good standing; and (D) provides that upon acceptance, grant funds shall be disbursed to the applicable

institution of higher education for credit against the recipient's student account.

House: Passed (99-Y 0-N) Senate: Continued to 2025 in Finance and Appropriations (13-Y 2-N)

SB 4, HB 558 and SJR4, the Surviving Spouses provides for a referendum at the November 5, 2024, election to approve or reject an amendment to the Constitution of Virginia that would expand the real property tax exemption that is currently available to the surviving spouses of soldiers killed in action to be available to the surviving spouses of soldiers who died in the line of duty with a Line of Duty determination from the U.S. Department of Defense. House: Passed (98-Y 0-N) Senate: Passed (39-Y 0-N) Approved by Governor Chapter 394 (voter referendum)

SB 10, Reeves Income tax, state; subtraction for tax, military retirement benefits, uniformed services to include the United States Armed Forces, the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the commissioned corps of the United States Public Health Service. Senate: Continued to 2025 in Finance and Appropriations (14-Y 0-N)

HB 1513, the Guard Medical Protections crossed over to Senate and referred to Committee on Finance and Appropriations—Active-duty status for any service member injured while in the line of duty. Provides that the Adjutant General may maintain state active-duty status for any service member injured while in the line of duty during a state active-duty mission who is unable to return to civilian employment for a period of up to 90 days after the date of the service member's injury. House: Passed (99-Y 0-N) Senate: Passed (39-Y 0-N). Approved by Governor-Chapter 226 (effective 7/1/24)

SB 229, the Vet Suicide Prevention, A Health Commissioner; workgroup made recommendations on Advisory Council on Breakthrough Therapies for Veteran Suicide Prevention. Directs the State Health Commissioner to establish a work group to examine the feasibility of and make recommendations for the placement and infrastructure of an Advisory Council on Breakthrough Therapies for Veteran Suicide Prevention. Senate: Passed (35-Y 5-N) House: Continued to 2025 in Rules.

SB 22, HB 225, Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact; authorizes Virginia to become a signatory to the Compact. Applies to active-duty military. Senate: Passed (40-Y 0-N). House: Passed (98-Y 0-N) Approved by Governor-Chapter 31 (effective - see bill - the Compact has been passed in three states and takes effect when it is enacted by a seventh participating state or upon the effective date of the bill, whichever is later.)

SB 343, HB 619, Military centered community zones; localities may establish, by ordinance, one or more zones. Military centered community zones; local designation. Allows localities to establish, by ordinance, one or more military centered community zones, defined in the bill as a community that has a significant presence of military personnel living or working in the designated area and where such presence drives, or has the potential to drive, significant economic activity. The bill provides that a locality, or another political subdivision acting on behalf of the locality, may offer unique benefits to businesses looking to locate within a zone for the purpose of serving the needs of the military personnel, including reduction of certain fees and taxes. In addition, the bill provides that local governing bodies are authorized to enter into agreements for the payment of economic development incentive grants to such businesses. The bill also allows a governing body to provide for certain

regulatory flexibility and incentives and provides that the establishment of a military centered community zone shall not preclude the area from also being designated as an enterprise zone or from receiving support under the Virginia Military Community Infrastructure Grant Program
House: Passed (94-Y 2-N) Senate: Passed (39-Y 0-N) Approved by Governor-Chapter 298 (effective 7/1/24)

Veterans remain relevant by serving The American Legion, advocacy, and teamwork.

For God and Country

Bill Aramony billaramony@gmail.com and 703-299-8496 (Leave a message if possible)

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Blessings to you, your family, the American Legion Family, veterans, and our military this summer. I hope this summer brings you some rest, relaxation and time with friends and family! Please check on your fellow veterans as well.

June is PTSD Awareness Month. During June, and throughout the entire year, help raise awareness of PTSD and mental health. Everyone with PTSD—whether they are Veterans or civilian survivors of sexual assault, serious accidents, natural disasters, or other traumatic events—needs to know that treatments really do work and can lead to a better quality of life.

Juneteenth is an annual observance on June 19 to remember when Union soldiers enforced the Emancipation Proclamation and freed all remaining slaves in Texas on June 19, 1865, at the end of the Civil War. This day is an opportunity for people to celebrate freedom and equal rights in the United States.

I pray for your health, happiness, well-being and faith. Take care of each other.

Blessings,

Chaplain Paul, pmccomb98@gmail.com.

What's Going on at your Post

Greenspring Post 123 – Commander Vance Morrison

At Greenspring Village (the senior living community where our post is located), the Memorial Day Commemoration was jointly sponsored and conducted by Greenspring Post 123 and Greenspring's Community Resources staff. The theater was packed to its capacity of 250. Commander Vance Morrison welcomed the assembly and led the pledge of allegiance. Our color guard (Tom Doshier, Larry Swindell, and Ed Wyse) posted and later retired the colors. Member Les Burger, a former commander of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, was the guest speaker. Member Gray Parks with his guitar sang two ballads, Freedom Isn't Free (which he wrote) and Grand Old Flag. Judge Advocate Elizabeth "Libby" Hayes recited the poem In Flanders Field. Four members served as ushers and several others sang in the choir. In the lobby, Second Vice Commander/Chaplain Mickey Garverick and spouse Ruth set up and staffed a "missing man" display and Sergeant-at-Arms Tom Boltz and spouse Jean distributed poppies.

On May 14, sixteen people attended Veterans Having Coffee, a coffee klatch open to all resident veterans of Greenspring Village, that Post 123 sponsors monthly.

Our post proposes to place a display cabinet, interior lighted and on wheels, in a public space on the Greenspring campus to exhibit post memorabilia. This project has been approved by the Greenspring administration and now is being constructed by the Greenspring Woodshop. The cabinet will be dedicated appropriately upon completion.

Falls Church Post 130 – Commander Jamie Carl

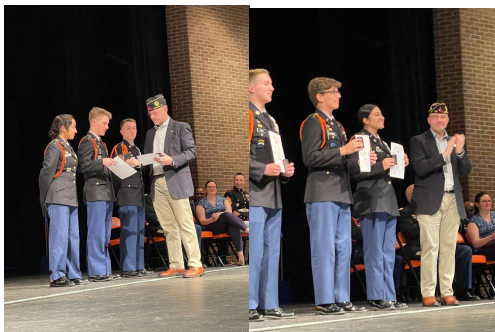
Post 130 Hours of Operation are
Monday - Saturday Opens 12:00 noon to
22:00 Hrs. (12 PM to 10 PM)

Sunday Opens 13:00 Hrs to 22:00 Hrs. (1
PM to 10 PM)

EVERY FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
POST 130 HAS 8 BALL POOL
TOURNAMENT DOUBLE
ELIMINATION. We play singles with low
turnout. With high turnout, we have luck of
the draw for partners
So come on down show us what you got
Pool Players.

Lorton Post 162 – Commander Chris Warner

On May 15th, I represented Post 162 at the
Hayfield HS JROTC Award Ceremony and
awarded 6 Cadets awards.



On Saturday, May 25th, about 20 members
of the Post went and placed flags at
Cranford United Methodist Cemetery in
Lorton.



On May 26th, American Legion Post 162
conducted a Memorial Day Ceremony,
along with a Brick placing ceremony for
Memorial bricks. We also had a Memorial
Day picnic at the Post.



We will be conducting a Flag Day (and
Army Birthday) ceremony on June 14th at
7pm, followed by Karaoke. We will also be
doing a Trivia Night on Thursday, June 20th
at 7pm.

Springfield Post 176 – Commander Kevin Gaddis

Post 176 had a very busy month in May. The
Post 176 Sons of American Legion Squadron
176 were especially busy with fundraisers.
SAL Squadron 176 hosted their annual
Kentucky Derby event on Saturday, May 4th
and the annual SAL Squadron 176 Cinco de
Mayo celebration fundraiser on Sunday, May
5th. Come out and support the Sons. Also,
Colonel Greg Gadson, US Army (Ret.) and
author Terese Schlachter spoke to a crowd of
70+ on Monday, 5/13. They shared the story
of his journey, "Finding Waypoints", and

how they ended up collaborating on this fierce, tender, and heart-wrenching book of war, suffering, recovery, and support. Colonel Gadson left us with two great reminders - "The scars of war are with us for life", and when discussing concern over what the future may hold, he reminded the audience, "Why worry about a day that we're not promised



Many veterans, Auxiliary, Sons, Riders, friends, family, and community members gathered to honor and respect those who gave their lives in service to our great nation on Monday, May 27th. Memorial Day, previously known as Decoration Day, has been observed for more than 155 years. Initially the day was designated to beautify the graves of those soldiers who died during the Civil War.

The Color Guard, shown below, was comprised of (L-R) Royes Gernandt (Rifleman), Antonio "Tony" Esteve (American flag), Andy Galusha (POW/MIA flag), Pete Tuttle (American Legion flag), Mike Wolfe (VFW flag), and Mark Regan (Rifleman).

Auxiliary President Kim Palmer sang the National Anthem, and American Legion Chaplain Reverend Mark Arbeen prayed over the ceremony. Later in the program he explained the meaning behind each item on

the POW/MIA table. VFW Post 7327 Commander Joseph Byrnes and Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 353 Commander Angelo Wider both shared remarks on the meaning of Memorial Day, during this joint event by the three organizations.

Commander Gaddis also provided comments, followed by an introduction of Delegate Kathy Tran, a strong supporter of the military and veterans, who spoke briefly. Marine Corps Master Sgt. (Ret.) John Rose, along with his wife Colleen, encouraged others when they spoke of how they continue to move forward, following the challenges they experienced both in service to the country and in their personal lives. Emcee Karla Pfleeger read "In Flanders Fields", followed by the sounding of Taps by buglers William Hauck and Eric Roos.





Fairfax Post 177 – Commander Eric Parkhurst

May proved to keep the volunteers and staff at Post 177 busy! The month kicked off with Law Day on 1 May where the Post 177 Honor Guard presented colors for the Fairfax Law Association Law Day bash. Commander Parkhurst spoke at the Civil Air Patrol Squadron DC053 award ceremony and the BSA Scouts troops 18887 & 1888 Court of Honor. Memorial Day Weekend was a huge success beginning with a great Ribs/Fried Shrimp dinner Friday. Saturday the SAL hosted a BBQ with the band Take 3 entertaining. Take 3 is a local band comprised of Active Duty and Veteran members. Sunday morning, we hosted rider in the wee hours of the morning with Donuts and Coffee before they departed Post 177 under Police Escort to join the Ride of The Patriots and on to Rolling to Remember. Monday morning, we joined forces with VFW #8469 hosting an audience of nearly 200 folks from the post and surrounding community for the annual Fairfax County/City Joint Memorial Day Ceremony followed by a great buffet lunch.

Upcoming Events:

The next blood drive is on June 11, 2024. If you want to donate at this drive, go to www.redcrossblood.org and search by sponsor code: AMERICANLEGION176 or Call 1-800-RED-CROSS to speak with a representative. Tell the rep that you want to donate at drive sponsor code AMERICANLEGION176. If you have questions or need any assistance, please contact me, Theron Patrick, at tpatrick@theronpatrick.com or call 571-328-6614.

Sonny's Annual Fish Fry will be June 23, 2024, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. The cost is \$20, and tickets are available at the Post 176 Social Quarters.



As the summer months descend upon us, we are ramping up with numerous activities and opportunities. 2 June we will host the District 17 Convention. 8 June, 1100-1500, the Combat Warriors MC will hold a Charity BBQ event in our Banquet room commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day. Our monthly 2nd Sunday Breakfast will be held 9 June, 0930-1100, offering a

full buffet of breakfast items, made-to-order omelets and pancakes and our nearly famous Bloody Mary and Mimosa bar. Our General Membership meeting 12 June will be held jointly at 1900 as we install our new officers for the Legion, SAL, Auxiliary and ALR.

Herndon Post 184 – Commander David Womak

As with all American Legion Posts this month, Post 184 in Herndon was busy. Early in the month, Post 184 was able to assist a disabled veteran with a borrowed wheelchair during his recent visit to Herndon to see his son. This allowed the veteran to travel without his personal wheelchair which greatly eased the burden of travel. Post 184's Poppy Distribution continued as in the past raising approximately \$4,000 for the Post's Veterans-in-Need fund.

For the Town of Herndon's Memorial Day Ceremony, Post 184 led the service with several community organizations participating including Scout Troop 1570, the Herndon High School Navy JROTC Color Guard, and the Reston Chorale. The Mayor gave welcoming remarks and Vice Admiral Jeffrey Trussler, the 68th Director of Naval Intelligence, was the guest speaker. Post 184 looks forward to sending three boys to Boys State next month.

Arlington Post 194 – Commander Dewanda Mintz

MAY

May was Military Appreciation Month dedicated to honoring the contributions & sacrifices of armed forces members, past, & present

May 14th @ Arlington Career Center-Space Force JROTC VA-21 Awards Ceremony, we were honored to present awards to 2 graduating seniors of the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps:

Cadet Jacqueline Amaya received 'The American Legion Dorie Miller Post 194 Military Excellence Award'

Cadet Samuel Griffin received 'The American Legion Dorie Miller Post 194 Scholastic Award'



As we gather for our final meeting of 2024, it's a time to reflect, celebrate, & mark a significant transition with our installation ceremony. It's been an honor to serve & lead such dedicated Legionnaires & Auxiliary Members. I enjoyed the conferences, conventions, traveling, listening & supporting each of you, in addition to, my fellow veterans & their families. Most of all I enjoyed being the American Legion Dorie Miller Post 194 Commander & with great pride I pass the torch to our new 2025 Post & Auxiliary Officers. Congratulations to all and thank you for your unwavering commitment. Here's to a bright future ahead for Post 194. For God & Country

Cadet Samuel Griffin received 'The American Legion Dorie Miller Post 194 Scholastic Award'





On May 17th @ the Giant Food Store, the Auxiliary kicked off our Memorial Day Poppy Drive, which the Post concluded with great success on May 24th and 25th
On May 31st @ Post 176, we closed the month with our Annual Spring Cabaret Fundraiser - Veterans Helping Veterans and Their Families

Centreville Post 1995 – Commander Randy Young

Post Social Hour – Post 1995 invited all Legionnaires and their ladies on May 2nd, to a no-host social hour at Rosemary's Thyme Bistro at the Colonnade Shopping Center in Centreville. This was our third social hour event and because the Bistro is a full-service restaurant, we encouraged Legionnaires to bring their dates and make an evening of it. The gathering commenced at 4 PM and wrapped up at 7 PM. Rosemary's Thyme is a Mediterranean themed restaurant and offered us a full menu of Turkish, Italian, and Greek foods from handmade pizzas, through small plates to full entrees. Each time we have a social hour the gathering grows a little bit larger. Our next social will be in August.



Attendees at the Post's April social gathering

Post Elections – At the May membership meeting in addition to the regular agenda we held elections for the Post 1995 leadership for the Legion year of 2024-2025. The slate of officers was the same as last year and all were re-elected for another one-year term. This past year was one of growth and greater community service thanks to these dedicated Legionnaires. The swearing in ceremony will take place at the Chantilly Regional Library on June 11th during our regular membership meeting. In honor of the Army Birthday, we will be serving cake and punch to celebrate the 249th anniversary of the Army.

Legion Auxiliary – President Tami Parks (Post 1995)

I have been honored to serve as the 17th District President this year 2023 -2024. The support I received from all the Auxiliary members was awesome. Those of you who agreed to serve as District chairmen, Unit presidents and those agreeing to serve in your individual Units. Constantly going above expectations to serve our Veterans, families and the communities we live in.

The year is almost done and having voted on new officers holding Installations for the officers or for those who are serving again in

their Units. Remember to celebrate and build onto your successes from last year. Be ready to bring forward new ideas to commit to and expand upon for the new year and new 17th District officers serving the Auxiliary. Don't forget to Be The One. Congratulations on a job well done!

I look forward to seeing all our Auxiliary members at the Department Convention in July from the 11th to the 14th.

Leadership College on August 2 to the 4 National Convention in August 23 to 29, New Orleans, LA.

All the best,

Tamara Parks
17th District President

**Sons of The American Legion -
Tyler Vanice, Department Vice
Commander**

June is upon us. Many of our squadrons in the district will be installing new officers for the 2024-2025 legion year. Please remember to turn in your New Officers List found at www.vasons.org. As a reminder, the new officers should plan on joining the Detachment Convention in Dulles on July 13, 2024. Awards will be dispersed, installation for the Legion Family state officers, and you'll be able to mingle with the new officers alongside you. Please get registered soon!

As of May 23, the 17th District has reached 94.50% of its target for membership. I would like to thank the following for reaching, or exceeding, the 100% membership target:

Squadron 130
Squadron 176
Squadron 177

Squadron 85, 180, and 1976 are close to reaching the goal and should push their members to renew or join to finish the race!

As of May 28, the Detachment Scholarship Committee has not received a single application for the [High School Scholarship](#). Deadline is June 3. Please call your graduating seniors and get them to apply!

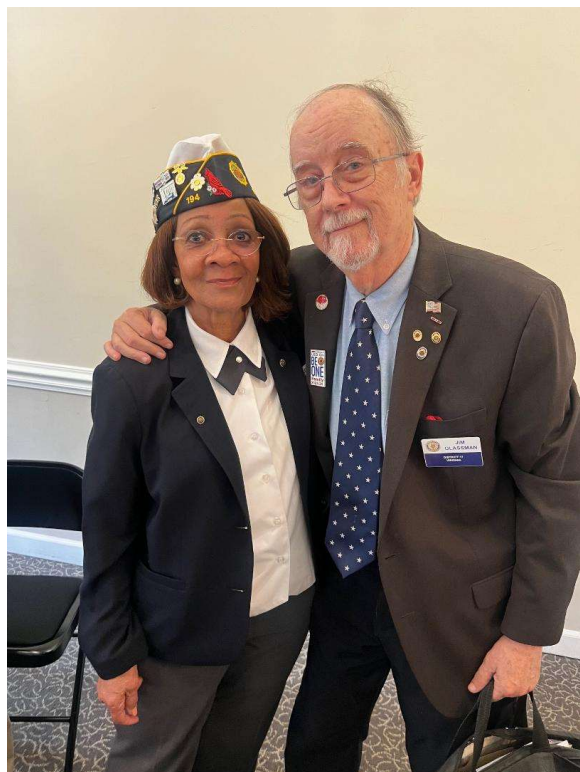
Please follow the [Detachment of Virginia's Facebook](#) Public Page if you haven't done so already. You are encouraged to share your events and updates there! We would love to see what you are doing or even promoting your events.

As always, please reach out to me if you need assistance.

For God and Country,
Tyler Vanice
Detachment Vice Commander
Detachment of Virginia

Legionnaires. I reported today at our District Convention that after 50 years of service to The American Legion, that it was time for me to stand down. For 50 years my life was dedicated to The American Legion. For the past 36 years, I was a member of Alexandria Post 24. The last 35 years, I served as the Post Adjutant and did Membership. (I served 4 years as District 17 Vice Commander and 2 years as District Commander. For the past 3 years, I served as the District Adjutant and Membership guy. It's now time for me to have a life for myself. Over 50 years, I met a lot of friends and great Legionnaires who helped me through the good and the bad times.

I'm counting on all of you to keep this great organization moving forward.



All the best, Jim Glassman