

From: March, Joseph H.
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Attachments:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Legionnaires Graduate from the 2009 National American Legion College

INDIANAPOLIS (October 30, 2009) -- A new generation of leaders came to Indianapolis from 31 departments (states) of The American Legion. The 51 students of the National American Legion College honed their leadership, team building, communications and mentoring skills to pass the intensive course. They received diplomas from National Commander Clarence E. Hill during a ceremony held here this morning.

Members of the class completed the six-day crash course of the nation's largest veterans organization that saw them lay a solid foundation for Legion post revitalization in a variety of geographical settings to include a rural area, the inner city, suburban communities, a metropolitan area and a cyber post. They were also provided the instruction and tools to construct resolutions for American Legion activities at their respective posts for presentation at a mock district meeting.

Commencement took place this morning at The American Legion national headquarters.

The National American Legion College is designed to reinforce a volunteer's leadership, management and communication skills. This helps prepare young members of The American Legion to lead the nation's largest wartime veterans organization on the local and state level. The importance of mentorship for both other members and special groups in the community was a central point to several of the activities for the class.

"This organization doesn't have a reputation if you don't publicize it," American Legion National Commander Clarence Hill told the graduating class. "It's only when you are in the game that we can be successful. Take all you have learned back home and make it a priority to tell The American Legion story to those within your communities. You are all leaders. Make the organization be for the next 90 years what it has been for the last 90 years."

Members of the class included:

Full Name	City	Department	Post
Wayne A. Campbell	Birmingham	Alabama	347
Judith S. Beischel	Fountain Hills	Arizona	58
Michelle A. Tremblay	Phoenix	Arizona	75
Matthew Shea	San Francisco	California	911
Louis V. Brackett	Fruita	Colorado	2006
Steven A. Carter	Aurora	Colorado	1976
George A. Sheehy, IV	Oxford	Connecticut	174
Michael Addis	Seminole	Florida	252
Jacinth Conti, Sr.	Inverness	Florida	155
Ryan D. Gonzales	Lakeland	Florida	208
Martha Harris-Davis	Pensacola	Florida	340
Fletcher Williams	Crestview	Florida	75
Sherry L. Davis	Stone Mountain	Georgia	147
Charles A. Patterson	Waianae	Hawaii	17
Ronald Herr	Nampa	Idaho	18
Barry C. Cicero	Western Springs	Illinois	1941
Denise A. Fields	Atlanta	Illinois	341
Thomas H. Naragon	Lisbon Falls	Maine	158
Louis E. Brault	Chicopee	Massachusetts	275

Teresa A. Ash	St. Paul	Minnesota	406
Dennis L. Woeltje	Cape Girardeau	Missouri	63
Michelle D. Harada	Wolf Point	Montana	61
William J. Kerns	Crete	Nebraska	294
John H. Percy	Papillion	Nebraska	32
David S. Evans	Reno	Nevada	12
Gary W. Wayman	Nashua	New Hampshire	43
Warren F. Kaiser	Northvale	New Jersey	1044
John R. Venturina	Ossining	New York	1123
James D. Moore	Pikeville	North Carolina	11
Robert L. Krause	Fargo	North Dakota	191
Kevin J. Semmens	New Rockford	North Dakota	30
Kenneth K. Wiederholt	Gwinner	North Dakota	191
Gerald H. Pope	Covington	Oklahoma	190
Jay C. Richardson	Weatherford	Oklahoma	91
Troy T. Michaels	Dallastown	Pennsylvania	605
Michael D. Strauss	North Augusta	South Carolina	71
Byron I. Callies	Watertown	South Dakota	17
Kenneth E. Orrock	Rapid City	South Dakota	22
James L. Beck	Seimer	Tennessee	162
George Harper	Memphis	Tennessee	27
Bruce A. Lamb	Big Sandy	Tennessee	228
Michael A. Simon	Blanco	Texas	352
Glen Bradford	Spanish Fork	Utah	68
Wesley H. Latchford	Virginia Beach	Virginia	110
Christopher T. Brock	Sedro Wooley	Washington	43
James M. Narovich	Sedro Wooley	Washington	43
Gary W. Roach, Jr.	Chewelah	Washington	54
Barbara J. Belmont	Menasha	Wisconsin	33
Victoria L. Duncan	West Bend	Wisconsin	36
Ronald J. Hessil	Pleasant Prairie	Wisconsin	21
Michael Novak	Indianapolis	Indiana	777

Mentors for the 2008 National American Legion College included Kenneth M. Romero of Post 70 in Johnstown, Colorado; Paul A. L'Heureux of Post 153 in Auburn, Maine; Patricia A. Harris of Post 124 in Raleigh, North Carolina; Robert S. White of Post 703 in Parma, Ohio; Sean Sparks, National Staff in Indianapolis, Indiana and Bill Sloan of Post 67 in Sheridan, Indiana

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To contact a graduate for an interview, call Matt Herndon at (317) 630-1406.