FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEGION NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

Indiana is the 1958 winner of the Arthur D. Houghton SAL Trophy by virtue of mustering a 195.34 percent increase in membership over 1957 on January 1, this year.

Honoring the visit by Rev. Feltham S. James of Charleston, South Carolina, National Chaplain of The American Legion on April 20, the Fairmont, West Virginia Post 17 is planning an elaborate program featured by a "Back to God" presentation by the local symphony orchestra.

Four of the 25 posts in the Department of Alaska of The American Legion qualified for 1958 Honor Ribbons for equaling or exceeding their entire 1957 enrollment in the number of members.

William C. Doyle of Burlington, New Jersey, Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee of The American Legion testified before the House Armed Services Subcommittee in Washington, D.C., against the proposed 10-percent reduction in the strength of the Nation's reserve components.

Dressed as a Chinese coolie and pulling an authentic imported rickshaw hauling Department Commander Ralph A. Watkins of Buckeye, Past Department Commander Soleng Tom of the Arizona American Legion contributed the most humorous entry in the 33rd annual rodeo parade in Tucson which opened the annual Fiesta de los Vaqueros, said to be the largest all-horse drawn procession in the world.

National Rehabilitation Director John J. Corcoran told the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Independent Agencies on March 1, that The American Legion continues in the firm belief that the Congress and not the Bureau of the Budget has the responsibility to determine what will best meet the needs of the Nation's veterans.

Herman A. Wenige, 78-year old Department Americanism Chairman of the Indiana American Legion and for many years adjutant and service officer of the Lawrence Capehart Post 35 at Jeffersonville, has just signed up his 601st member for 1958 to make him again the top go-getter in the Hoosier State.

Rev. Feltham S. James of Charleston, South Carolina, national chaplain of The American Legion, was presented by Vice President Richard Nixon and delivered the invocation before the U.S. Senate during the 35th national rehabilitation conference in Washington, D.C.
An "Open Letter To Every Taxpayer" pointing out that every attack on the principle of non-service-connected hospitalization of the veteran who is "sick, broke and has no place to go" was a boost to raise local taxes if the federal government's responsibility in this matter is repudiated, was distributed to all delegates of the 1958 national rehabilitation conference in Washington, D.C.

The handsome new 39th Birthday Anniversary Citations for American Legion Posts authorized by National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., are now ready for distribution to department headquarters.

Four of the 23 posts in the Department of Alaska of The American Legion qualified for 1958 Honor Ribbons for equalling or exceeding their entire 1957 enrollments by last December 31, in advance memberships for this year.

The Forty & Eight, the fun and honor organization within The American Legion, in its 1958 child welfare program will give major emphasis to efforts to reduce the incidence of juvenile delinquency.

American Legion Posts throughout the nation and their Auxiliary Units will observe April as annual child welfare month with special activities to focus public attention on the 1958 objectives in this major program.

The American Legion has testified before a Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee in support of H.R. 2542 and H.R. 3663, both introduced by Congressman John Dowdy of Texas, which would provide more effective control of interstate distribution of obscene literature and impose severe penalties for violations.

Conrad N. Hilton, famous hotel magnate, has just received his 40-year continuous American Legion membership card from El Paso, Texas, Post 58 of which he is affiliated.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Memo to All Editors:

Undoubtedly there is a hue and cry - largely editorial - raised in your area from time to time over non-service-connected hospitalization for veterans.

The "Open Letter To Every Taxpayer" below, is intended as an answer to press attacks on the principle of non-service-connected hospitalization.

Here is how to use it:

Carry it with the by-line of a post, district or department officer, as a featured news release, as follows:

OPEN LETTER TO EVERY TAXPAYER

by

John H. Doakes,
Department Rehabilitation Director,
The American Legion

Or use it just as is and sign it as above at the bottom. In such case it should be sent to the "Vox Pop" Column or the "Letters to the Editor" Department of a newspaper.

That means more to the voter of the local taxpayer. Without any corresponding argument, the taxpayer can be assured of that.

OPEN LETTER TO EVERY TAXPAYER!

Quite a few people have been demanding that patients whose disabilities are nonservice-connected should be thrown out of Veterans Administration hospitals.

In fact, the most popular whipping boy of the entire veteran benefit program is the principle of non-service-connected hospitalization.

The forgotten individual in this anti-veteran propaganda is the local taxpayer.

He is completely overlooked because the interests that inspire the mounting attacks are inspired by hostility toward the veteran program and have failed completely to think through to a logical conclusion the effect on local taxes of their demolition tactics.

Nonservice-connected hospitalization is a Federal nationwide program to care for the war veteran who is "sick, broke and has no place to go."

American society is a Christian way of life. No one - veteran or non-veteran - is permitted by the social conscience today to starve to death or to die for want of medical aid.

MORE
The indigent war veteran is therefore automatically a ward of the public. The only question that remains is "in what unit of the government should such an indigent war veteran be cared for at public expense?"

The American Legion has always contended that this should be done by the Federal government, since the care of the veteran is a federal obligation that must not be passed on to the states and local governments.

There isn't a state institution of any kind today that is not overcrowded, under-staffed, and unable to cope with the demands on its services.

So let us be realistic - from the taxpayer's standpoint.

Let us look at a typical state. One half of all VA beds in that state are filled with penniless veterans, flat on their backs, who "have no place else to go." In a populous state this bed-ridden non-service-connected hospitalized population may be in excess of 2,500.

Now let us imagine what would happen if overnight the principle of federal responsibility for the care of such war veterans were repudiated and the 2,500 cases of human suffering and misery were dumped into the governor's lap. He would become a pretty desperate governor. There would be no room, no beds and no medical care available in the state government. Whether he wanted to or not, the governor would have to summon immediately his state legislature into special session. He would have to ask them to provide the funds necessary for building the hospitals and employing the staffs to take care of these indigent veterans. The legislature would have to provide new sources of state income.

That means more local taxes to heap on the shoulder of the local taxpayer. Without any corresponding decrease of federal taxes - you can be assured of that.

The war veteran in this needs bracket would also not fare well. In a wealthy state he might get a fair break. In others, his plight would indeed be tragic. There would be no uniformity of standards of care.

The humanitarian cost of taking care of the indigent taxpayer already is a part of the present tax burden. It is a part that can never be eliminated so long as we are a decent society in which we let no one starve to death or die without medical aid.

Only in the Federal government today are there the facilities for handling the care of the indigent war veteran. The VA Hospitals are there. The medical staffs are there.

City governments, county governments and state governments do not have the facilities or the medical manpower to take over this care WITHOUT DRASTIC INCREASES IN LOCAL TAXES!
What is little known is that the high cost of medical care today is pauperizing veterans to the point where they can no longer pay for their care. The American Legion can cite case after case in VA Hospital after VA Hospital where men and women - hospitalized for nonservice-connected disabilities, have exhausted all their own financial resources. When their last penny is gone, it is usually their doctor who directs them to the nearest VA Hospital for public care!

A recent American Legion survey of 8,572 VA patients showed they had spent $3,952,080.05 for their own care before going to the VA.

Those who print and make attacks on this principle of nonservice-connected hospitalization never tell the whole story! Perhaps they do not even realize that every blast they foment is a plug to raise local taxes!

Mr. Taxpayer do not be misled! Think this through to realize how all this propaganda can COST you! Then insist on letting well-enough alone!
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. —-(ALNS)——Applications are not yet available for Legionnaires who wish to apply for The American Legion's group life insurance plan.

A group life insurance policy for Legionnaires only was submitted by the Occidental Life Insurance Company of California. It was approved at a special meeting of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in Washington, D. C., on February 22.

National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., immediately ordered the plan to be put into effect as soon as possible, under the direction of the office of the national adjutant in Indianapolis.

Many Inquiries

News of the National Executive Committee's 'go-ahead' decision has brought a large number of queries to American Legion Offices all over the country, including many requests for application forms.

However, it was estimated on February 22 that it would take about a month to set up machinery to handle the queries and to provide application forms at National Headquarters. These steps could not be taken until the NEC had authorized them.

Policy A Bargain

The approved plan, when ready to go, would make low-cost group life insurance available to nearly all members of The American Legion except those too disabled to work. Good insurance risks could be insured promptly. Many Legionnaires who are able to work regularly but who may be impaired health risks, could come into the plan when 75 percent of the members of their posts are insured.

The plan provides group life insurance, on a voluntary basis, for Legionnaires at a flat rate of $12.00 a year in addition to American Legion dues. Because the rate is fixed at a low level, the amount of insurance reduces at set age steps, starting with $4,000 through age 34 and reducing thereafter. The insurance terminates at age of 70. Because of state laws, some variations will exist in the plans for Texas, Ohio, New York, Puerto Rico and North Carolina. Details will be made available through official publications of The American Legion relative to situations involving members in these states and Puerto Rico, as well as the complete plan.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RENO, Nev.---(ALNS)---The American Legion of Nevada is sponsoring the fund drive of the Nevada Heart Association as a state-wide community service project. In an appeal to all Nevada Legionnaires, Department Commander Vic Whittlesea has pointed out that "Nevada is the last state in the Union to create an organized campaign for this great humanitarian cause."

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GRAHAM, Tex.---(ALNS)---Joe B. Friedal, Commander of Ligon-Daniel Post 34 of The American Legion here, has taken the membership challenge seriously. In reply to a letter from National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., Joe reported that his post had passed its membership quota of 390 on Feb. 16.

He further pledged another 16 by March 15. Joe himself had enrolled 326 of the 390 members.

But this is the clincher. Joe Friedel has been blind since 1925.

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AZUSA, Calif.---(ALNS)---Sedley Peck, long-time member of The American Legion's National Executive Committee for the Department of France, was presented a gold life membership card at a dinner given in his honor by the New York Branch of Paris (France) Post 1. Peck and his wife had just returned from a four-month trip to Europe and North Africa and were en route to their home in Azusa, Calif.

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MUSKEGON, Mich.---(ALNS)---Merritt Lamb Post 9 of The American Legion here broke all previous records when, at the invitation of the local chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, the post organized the Mothers March on Polio. Over $7,000 was collected in one night.

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OMAHA, Nebr.---(ALNS)---National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., has accepted an appointment as a member of the board of judges to select the winner of the Criss Award given annually by Mutual of Omaha, insurance company. Other judges include Dr. Charles W. Mayo, Henry Ford II, Lt. Gen. (Ret.) James H. Doolittle, Dr. Elmer Hess, Irene Dunn and Arthur E. Stoddard.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEGION NEWS IN A NUT SHELL

3/11/58

It took a woman to demolish the claim of Denver, Colorado, Post 1 that in Russell M. Riggle who will be 58 on May 31, 1958, it had the youngest member in The American Legion with a 40-year continuous membership card. She is Mrs. Margaret H. Lee of Spencer, Ind., who has just received her 40-year card from Indianapolis Memorial Post 3 and she will be 58 on July 3, making her 33 days younger than Legionnaire Riggle.

Several hundred representatives of American Legion bands, drum corps and other musical and drill units are expected to attend the first national Uniformed Groups' Congress at National Headquarters in Indianapolis on April 11, 12 and 13, sponsored by the National Contests Supervisory Committee. They will discuss the 40th national convention contests scheduled for August 30 and 31 in Chicago, Illinois.

American Legion Posts throughout the country are being urged to spearhead community observances of National Maritime Day on May 22.

Governor Harold W. Handley in the presence of National Adjutant E. A. Blackmore and Department Commander Robert E. Gates, signed a statewide proclamation designating March 10 to 17 as American Legion Birthday Week in Indiana.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Independent Agencies was told on March 11th by National Rehabilitation Director John J. Corcoran that The American Legion continues in the firm belief that the Congress and not the Bureau of the Budget has the responsibility to determine what will best meet the needs of veterans.

J. Edgar Hoover, FBI Director, has presented an autographed copy of his Communist-debunking Book "Masters of Deceit" to the Memorial Section of the National American Legion Library in Indianapolis.

National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., has urged American Legion post cooperation everywhere with the annual crusade of The American Cancer Society during the month of April.

Mancel Talcott, 68, former mayor of Waukegan, Ill., and for 28 years chairman of the National Graves Registration and Memorial Committee of The American Legion died in a hospital at Avon Park, Florida, on March 13.
WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ALNS)—The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Independent Agencies was told on March 4, that The American Legion continues in the firm belief that the Congress and not the Bureau of the Budget has the responsibility to determine what will best meet the needs of veterans.

Appearing before the House Appropriations Subcommittee, John J. Corcoran, director of the National Rehabilitation Commission of The American Legion, asked the members for a more equitable approach to the VA administrative problems than is provided in the recommendations of the Bureau of the Budget.

"There is a new sense of urgency as we appear here to ask for funds which will provide adequate means of administering the laws enacted by the Congress to benefit the war veterans who are disabled physically, mentally and economically," Corcoran testified. "The note of urgency comes from the fact that the recently announced figure of 749,000 World War II veterans out of work, represents a 125 percent increase in unemployment as compared with December 15, 1956. It is probable that similar increases in unemployment among World War I veterans and of the Korean Conflict would be registered if reports on these two groups were available."

Corcoran asserted that with the increase in unemployment in the ranks of war veterans, there will be fewer members of this segment of the population who will be in position to continue paying for treatment in non-government facilities. He added that it does not appear that this is the time to reduce the capacity of VA Hospitals, or to close any of their doors.

"It appears to us that needed and authorized VA Hospital construction offers an excellent opportunity to provide employment in building projects and allied fields," Corcoran stated.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ALNS)—An order from the Veterans Administration to reduce hospital expenditures by two percent in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 1958 which was sent out on March 6th has drawn an urgent request from The American Legion that action be taken to assure adequate funds for this essential program.

In telegrams sent by National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., to Rep. Albert Thomas, (D-Texas) Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Independent Offices, to VA Administrator Sumner Whittier and to Chairman Olin E. Teague (D-Texas) of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, attention was called to testimony presented by The American Legion before these Committees. Text of the telegram follows:

"The American Legion is receiving protests from representatives in widely separated areas over the country. These protests reflect the damaging results coming from an order to reduce VA Hospital expenditures by two percent in the fourth quarter of fiscal 1958. This alert was sent out on March 6, 1958. This is in addition to reports that the VA will close beds, wards and hospitals beginning April 1, as the result of cuts in the VA regular budget for fiscal 1959.

"We attribute these untimely reductions to the policy and actions of the Budget Bureau. We believe they are directly in contrast with the President's announced plans or steps to combat unemployment and other effects of the current recession. Such reductions in the VA Department of Medicine and Surgery comes at a time when there are at least 750,000 World War II veterans unemployed, and when there is a rapidly rising waiting list of sick veterans eligible to care in VA Hospitals. We urgently request that actions be taken to stop this curtailment and assure adequate funds for the VA to carry out the programs established by the Congress in behalf of the war disabled."
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—(ALNS)—A novel "Report Card U.S.A." theme has been adopted for American Education Week, November 9 to 15, 1958, the National Americanism Commission of The American Legion has announced.

The theme was adopted by the Planning Committee representing The American Legion and its three co-sponsors of American Education Week. The co-sponsors are the National Education Association, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the United States Office of Education.

The Planning Committee pointed out that the daily topics were only suggestive and intended to be a general guide to local planners of American Education Week activities. The Committee favored giving maximum flexibility to local planners in setting up observance that reflects real local interests.

**Daily Topics**

The daily topics for 1958 American Education Week follows:

- **Sunday, Nov. 9** - Report Card: Building Character
- **Monday, Nov. 10** - Report Card: Responsible Citizenship
- **Tuesday, Nov. 11** - (Veterans Day) Report Card: Education and Survival
- **Wednesday, Nov. 12** - Report Card: The Curriculum
- **Thursday, Nov. 13** - Report Card: The Teacher
- **Friday, Nov. 14** - Report Card: Developing Talents
- **Saturday, Nov. 15** - Report Card: Community Teamwork
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ALNS)—American Legion Posts throughout the country are being asked to spearhead community observances of National Maritime Day on May 22. Proclaimed annually by the President, this year’s salute to the nation’s “Fourth Arm of Defense” will be highlighted by the keel-laying of America’s first nuclear-powered merchant ship—the Savannah.

A special poster on National Maritime Day will be displayed on all U. S. Post Office bulletin boards and trucks. The design for the poster will be chosen from the winning entry from high school students competing coast-to-coast under the annual Maritime Poster contest according to the current issue of “The Merchant Marine Bulletin,” official publication of the National Security Commission of The American Legion.

Robert H. Bush of Iowa, who was recently appointed chairman of the National Security Commission, keynoted this occasion by saying, "As a Navy veteran, I have seen how necessary a strong, mobile Merchant Marine is to our striking potential."

"As an Iowa banker, I have good reason to know how much the industrial health of the midwest, and of the country at large, depends upon a healthy American shipping industry. I, therefore know how important it is to find solutions to the maritime problems with which this Commission and its Merchant Marine Committee must constantly cope."

Colorful ceremonies can be built around Maritime Day by arranging for post commanders to present copies of these posters to local postmasters and civic officials. In addition, communities can join in saluting the Savannah as the new emblem of American trade and defense. Named after the first-ocean-going steamship which crossed the Atlantic 139 years ago, The new Savannah will signify the beginning of a new era in the American Merchant Marine.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAN YOU BEAT IT?

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.--(ALNS)--It took a woman to demolish the claim of the Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham Post 1 of Denver, Colorado, to having the youngest member of The American Legion with a 40-year continuous membership card.

She is Mrs. Margaret H. Lee of Spencer, Indiana, who has just received her 40-year membership card from Memorial Post 3 of The American Legion in Indianapolis.

Department Adjutant Frank J. Myers of the Indiana American Legion received the following letter from Mrs. Lee:

"Here am I, Margaret H. Lee, 'singing out' to help Memorial Post 3 dispel the braggadocio of Denver Post 1.

"My 40-year continuous membership card is overdue. And I am more than a month younger than Denver Post's Mr. Riggle. I will be 58 on July 3, 1958."

Department Adjutant Myers expedited the issuance of the 40-year card to Mrs. Lee. She was a charter member of one of the original Indianapolis Posts which were merged many years ago into Memorial Post 3.

Denver Post 1 recently advanced its Russell M. Riggle as the youngest 40-year card-toting member in The American Legion. He will be 58 on May 31, 1958.

Now can any one successfully challenge Mrs. Lee?

HICKMAN MILLS, Mo.--(ALNS)--Construction work finally has started on the new $125,000 home of Memorial Post 598 of The American Legion here.

This post broke ground for its new home with elaborate ceremonies on May 19, 1957. The construction was due to start on the following day.

But May 20, 1957 turned out to be a tragic day. On that day a devastating tornado struck Hickman Mills. The homes of 69 members of Memorial Post 598 were completely destroyed.

Amid the ruins of the community, this American Legion Post set aside all its own plans. It played a part in disaster relief that will live forever in the memory of this community.

Hickman Mills has now been rebuilt. The scars of the deadly twister have been eliminated. American Legionnaires have been finally able to rest in their constant assistance roles. Now led by Post Commander Buford L. English and Adjutant Frank W. Murphy, they have taken up where they stopped on May 20, 1957 in building their new home. They have the best wishes of the entire community in the fulfillment of their delayed building plans.
AVON PARK, Florida—(ALNS)—Mancel Talcott, 68, World War I Navy veteran, twice mayor of Waukegan, Ill., and for 28 years the chairman of the National Graves Registration and Memorial Committee of The American Legion, died in a hospital here on March 13.

At the time of his death he held the distinction of holding the longest tenure on a national committee chairmanship in American Legion history - 28 years. He organized the National Graves Registration and Memorial Committee in 1930 and headed it as chairman up to the time of his death.

A charter member and past commander of Homer Dahringer Post 281 at Waukegan, Talcott was responsible for setting up and organizing the graves registration program of The American Legion. He also made a number of personal surveys of American military cemeteries overseas of World Wars I and II. He had played a leading role in drafting American Legion participation in the program of the forthcoming interment of the Unknown Soldiers of World War II and of the Korean War in Arlington National Cemetery next Memorial Day and had been looking forward to this event.

A member of the YO & 8, the Masons, the Elks, the Moose, the Eagle and numerous other organizations, Talcott was widely known in national American Legion circles. His death came as a shock to thousands of Legionnaires who knew him well. He had made his home at Sebring, Florida recently.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—(ALNS)—The VA has announced a pilot study is underway to review claims of veterans that have been disallowed since World War II. There are more than 3,000,000 such rejected claims.

The order for this cross-section study was issued by Administrator of Veterans Affairs Sumner G. Whittier at the request of The American Legion which has maintained that the VA may have erred in disallowing some of the claims.

The VA expects the pilot study to show whether a full nation-wide review of disallowed claims is in order. The pilot study is being made at the VA Regional Offices in Brooklyn, Milwaukee, Togus, Maine, Wichita, Kansas, Seattle, Columbia, S. Car., and Lubbock, Texas.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEGION NEWS IN A NUT SHELL

Labor Day (Sept. 1, 1958) will witness The American Legion's 40th annual National Convention Parade in Chicago, it has been announced by Harold A. Cummins, executive vice president of the Illinois National Convention Corporation.

Senate action aimed at an unforeseen increase in postal rates for nonprofit organizations could so increase costs as to force suspension of many of the 1000 post, district, department and national publications of The American Legion.

The first National Congress of Uniformed Groups is scheduled to be held at National Headquarters of The American Legion in Indianapolis Apr. 11-13, to lay plans for the participation of drum and bugle corps and other uniformed groups which will be competing at the Legion's 40th National Convention in Chicago, Aug. 30 to Sept. 4.

President Eisenhower headed the long list of distinguished Americans who extended greetings to National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., on the 39th anniversary of the founding of The American Legion Mar. 15 to 17.

The VA has announced a special dividend averaging $100 for holders of WW I Government Life Insurance, which will be in addition to the regular dividends now being paid policyholders of both World Wars I and II.

J. Edgar Hoover, FBI chief, has presented an autographed copy of his new book "Masters of Deceit" to the library at American Legion National Headquarters.

Six departments had topped their 1958 American Legion membership quotas by March 13 - North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, New Mexico, Alaska and Nebraska.

Support of the American Cancer Society's April fund drive has been urged by National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion who stated, "We stand on the threshold of victory over cancer."

FOLLOWING FOR RELEASE APR. 1, 1958, OR LATER
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICAGO, ILL.---(ALNS)---Plans for the American Legion's historic 40th national convention to be held in Chicago Aug. 30 to Sept. 4, 1958, began to take shape with the announcement of Convention Corporation officers and headquarters hotels.

Harold A. Cummins, executive vice president of the Illinois American Legion National Convention Corporation, has announced that convention sessions will be in the Chicago Stadium and that the Palmer House has been selected as the National Headquarters hotel. The Conrad Hilton Hotel is to be the headquarters of the Auxiliary.

Offices and housing for the National Headquarters staff will be at the Morrison Hotel, Cummins said.

The annual National Convention parade is to be on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 1. The exact parade route has not yet been picked but is expected to be on Michigan Blvd., Cummins said.

Other officers of the Convention Corporation include, in addition to Cummins, Maynard K. Hillstrom, treasurer; Kenneth Graves, secretary; James P. Ringley, vice chairman of the board; Perc Brautigam, vice president of the corporation; Miss Edith Shutters, assistant secretary of the corporation.

Philip W. Collins, who died on Feb. 13, had previously been elected president of the corporation and chairman of the board of directors. A successor has not yet been named.

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INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.---(ALNS)---Three more American Legion departments had passed their 1958 membership quotas on March 13, bringing to six the number of quota-breakers on that date. The new honor departments and their percentages were: New Mexico 103.69, Alaska 101.52, and Nebraska 100.16. Departments which had previously passed the 100 percent mark are North Dakota, South Dakota and Iowa.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ALNS)—The future of more than a thousand American Legion publications, including the national Legion Magazine, stood in doubt on March 18 as the Senate and House named conferees to meet on the pending postal rate increase bill (HR 5836).

The long-debated postal increase was passed by the House Aug. 13, 1957, with no raise in postal rates for nonprofit religious, educational, scientific, philanthropic, agricultural, labor, veteran, or fraternal organizations. However, on Feb. 26 the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee, without granting the right of a hearing, reported out a bill containing substantial increases for such organizations.

The Senate on Feb. 26 passed this bill after first defeating by a 49-to-35 vote an amendment offered by Senator Carroll of Colorado to strike out the provision relating to nonprofit groups - Section 203 subdivision (b).

Named to the conference committee to iron out the differences between the Senate and House bills were:

From the House: Tom Murray (D-Tex.), James H. Morrison (D-La.), James C. Davis (D-Ga.), Edward H. Rees (R-Kan.), and Robert J. Corbett (R-Pa.).

From the Senate: Olin D. Johnston (D-S.C.), A. S. Mike Monroney (D-Okla.), and Frank Carlson (R-Kan.).

In a special bulletin to department adjutants, National Legislative Director Miles D. Kennedy of The American Legion asked that wires be sent to Congressman Tom Murray, House Office Building, Washington, urging rejection of Section 203, subdivision (b) of the Senate-passed bill.

James F. O’Neil, publisher of The American Legion Magazine, warned that postal increases as contained in the Senate bill "will jeopardize the future operations of The American Legion Magazine and could well start it on the road to liquidation."

Jack R. C. Cann, secretary-treasurer of The American Legion Press Association, also reported the possible boost to editors of some 1,000 post, county, district and department Legion publications. He stated that the new rate, if passed, would force many to suspend operations.
INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.--(ALNS)--Indianapolis will become the capital city of American Legion musicians and drill masters on April 11, 12 and 13.

Hundreds of representatives of American Legion bands, drum and bugle corps, drill teams, firing squads, color guards and other units interested in pageantry are expected to attend the first National Uniformed Groups Congress in the Hoosier Capital City.

It will be held at National Headquarters under the sponsorship of the National Contests Supervisory Committee. Chairman Louis R. Shealy of Anniston, Ala., will preside over the sessions. Jim Condon, secretary of the Committee will lead discussions.

The theme of all the 3-day deliberations will be "PROGRAMMING FOR PAGEANTRY."

There will be an individual registration fee of $5.00 for each delegate. This will include the Congress banquet.

In general, the Congress will concern itself with the promotion of American Legion Pageantry and with plans for the national contests to be held in conjunction with the 40th national convention in Chicago, Ill., Aug. 30 to Sept. 4. The competitions there are scheduled for August 30 and 31.

The agenda for the Congress will include just about everything that the uniformed groups are interested in.

It will include ways and means of financing uniformed groups; rules and entry forms for national competition; contest judging; promotion of local competitions; junior musical activities; color guards and firing squads; public relations activities; and new ideas. Clinics will be held on the various topics with open discussions by all.

National Adjutant E. A. Blackmore will greet the opening session. The first annual banquet will be at 6:30 p.m., on April 12.
INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—(ALNS)—Birthday greetings came from all over the United States as The American Legion celebrated its 39th anniversary Mar. 15-17. President Eisenhower praised the Legion for having been a vital force in protecting and defending the pillars of democratic government at home and abroad.

"Legionnaires have worked hard toward preserving and extending the principles of justice and freedom that Americans hold so dear. With these sacred beliefs as a shield, The American Legion can look forward with assurance and faith to a continuing good from their work for God and country," the President said.

National Commander Honored

Highlight of the Legion birthday observance was the luncheon sponsored by the Cook County Council in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce in Chicago, where Legionnaires and civic leaders honored National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., at the Morrison Hotel on Mar. 13.

Commander Gleason told the gathering of more than 700, "If we seek to put the welfare of our fellowman and our community above everything else, we will command the allegiance of responsible war veterans and the support of every responsible citizen. With this foundation of public respect and acceptance on which to build, The American Legion can grow in size and service to God and country far beyond the boldest dreams of those who brought a dream to reality 39 years ago."

Many Greeting Received

Following are excerpts from some of the many birthday greetings received:

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen: "As out of Calvary or the war against evil came the peace of Easter, so out of the World War against tyranny came The American Legion of peace."

Vice President Richard M. Nixon: "The Legion has been a major force in keeping this nation strong, not only militarily, but also spiritually and morally by encouraging good citizenship and promoting health-welfare programs for the benefit of veterans and their families."

(MORE)
Birthday Story, cont'd - p. 2

The National Tribune: "Born in the crucible of war, it has been a great force for good and a powerful force for peace through the strengthening of American moral, spiritual, patriotic, economic and fighting resources."

The U. S. Press Association: "The Legion at 39 has retained the fire of youth, but added to it the judgement and experience of maturity. Over nearly four decades its service to the community and to the youth of the nation, as well as to its veterans, have made it a good and faithful neighbor to all America."

Other Messages


Proclamations were issued in major cities of the nation in honor of the 39th anniversary of the Legion's founding. In Chicago, Mayor Richard M. Daley called on citizens to salute the organization.

In the Nation's Capital, for the second consecutive year, the commissioners of the District of Columbia proclaimed March 10 to 17 as American Legion Birthday Week. In a ceremony at the D. C. Department Headquarters, Commissioner Robert E. McLaughlin presented the proclamation to Department Commander C. D. DeLoach, commending the Legion for having dedicated itself to the task of "restoring a dynamic faith in America based on a closer relationship with God."
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.--(ALNS)--The Nevada American Legion has been declared the winner of the 1958 Henry D. Lindsley Trophy for enrolling the highest percentage of membership for the period Jan. 1 to Mar. 31, 1958, as compared with the total number of members on Dec. 31, 1957, enrolled for that year.

WASHINGTON, D. C.---(ALNS)---The Veterans Administration has announced a special dividend of $32 million will be paid to policyholders of U. S. Government Life Insurance of the first World War. The payment is to be made between Apr. 15 and May 15.

VA Administrator Sumner G. Whittier said the money will be distributed in addition to the regular annual dividend of $262 million already declared for 5,300,000 policyholders of both World Wars I and II. This is being distributed at the rate of $22 million a month.

The special dividend will go to some 325,000 veterans of World War I, VA officials said. They explained that payments would vary widely depending on the type and length of policies, but would average about $100.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.--(ALNS)---"We stand on the threshold of victory over cancer," National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion stated in urging support of April as "Cancer Control Month," as proclaimed by President Eisenhower.

The American Cancer Society hopes to raise $30 million during its April crusade.

Commander Gleason praised the work of two million cancer crusaders and stated that through their efforts has come the "promise of conquering cancer in the not too distant future."

Stating that the American public has supported the Cancer Society for 45 years, Gleason added, "We have come far - let us see the job through. Legionnaires can help support this program through their generous response."
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.--(ALNS)--FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover has presented an autographed copy of his new book "Masters of Deceit" to the library at American Legion National Headquarters. Just released by Henry Holt and Co. of New York, the book has been greeted as the definitive story of Communism and its efforts to take over America. "Masters of Deceit" will be placed in the Verna Grimm Memorial Collection at Legion Headquarters.

TACOMA, Wash.--(ALNS)--The Tacoma-Pierce County (Wash.) Association for Mental Health has commended and thanked The American Legion in its area for support and voluntary funds provided to carry out studies in mental illness.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.--(ALNS)--The distribution of TV slides greeting The American Legion's 39th birthday anniversary Mar. 15 to 17 has met with enthusiastic response, according to the Legion's National Membership and Post Activities Section. Prepared in cooperation with the National Public Relations Division, the slides were sent to some 500 TV stations along with suggested spot announcements.

WASHINGTON, D. C.--(ALNS)--"Every American can be proud of The American Legion Magazine and its splendid service for better Americanism," said Sen. Edward Martin of Pennsylvania at the annual meeting of the Keystone State's Legion delegation during the recent National Rehabilitation Conference. "It occupies an honored place of leadership in the crusade to uphold and advance American patriotism. With outstanding courage and vigor it battles for ideals of our republic and is constantly on guard to protect our country against the dangers that threaten our safety and security," said Martin.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AHADARKO, Okla. --- (ALNS) --- Oscar O. Morgan has not only been chaplain of Havens-Cannon Post 23 of The American Legion here for the past 23 years but has also enrolled more than 50 members in his post for 1958. At an "Oscar O. Morgan Day" celebration, the hard-working chaplain was presented a national certificate and pin for his membership work plus an American Legion chaplain's medal by Post Commander Lyle Griffis.

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A native of Grants Pass, Ore., MacKenzie served with the Army Engineers in World War I. He affiliated himself with Capital Post 9 of The American Legion at Salem, Ore. After serving as post commander, he was elected as Oregon's member on the National Executive Committee, serving from 1927 to 1929 and again in 1930-31.

He was vice chairman of the National Convention Commission of The American Legion at the time of his death.

MacKenzie was a member of the national American Legion staff from 1931 until his resignation on March 13, 1942, serving first as convention liaison officer and later as national convention director. He was responsible for massive American Legion national conventions in Detroit in 1931, Portland, Ore., in 1932, Chicago in 1933 and '39, Miami in 1934, St. Louis in 1935, Cleveland in 1936, New York City in 1937, Los Angeles in 1938, Boston in 1940, and Milwaukee in 1941.

After leaving the Legion staff in 1942 to accept a position with the Distilled Spirits Institute of America, he continued in a consulting capacity on national convention matters and had been a member of the National Convention Commission since 1946.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEGION NEWS IN A NUT SHELL

A new national champion high school orator will be crowned at the finals of The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest at Portales, N. M., Apr. 21, climaxing weeks of competition involving some 330,000 students, with a $4,000 college scholarship as top prize.

Final steps were being worked out at the end of March to put The American Legion's new membership life insurance program into operation, as authorized by the National Executive Committee at a special meeting February 22, 1958.

New Mexico on Mar. 27 became the first American Legion Department to enroll more members for 1958 than its total 1957 membership.

On March 28, 55-year-old Vincent Bow of Greenville, Michigan, was holding the title of youngest 40-year continuous member of The American Legion, crowding out entries from Nebraska, Massachusetts, Indiana and Colorado.

The holding of The American Legion's 40th National Convention in Chicago, Aug. 30 to Sept. 4, 1958, will mark only the second time since the close of World War II that the mammoth conclave has been held in an inland city.

The Minnesota American Legion topped its 1958 membership quota of 86,683 on Mar. 26, becoming the seventh department to pass the 100 percent mark.

"This organization approves the idea of recognizing the fact that our government and our society are based upon law, and that our reliance upon the law is a strong weapon in the continuing resistance to dictatorship, whether based upon socialism or facism," National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion has advised the American Bar Association, which is sponsoring May 1, 1958, as LAW DAY -- U. S. A.

Two Past Department Commanders of the Virginia American Legion - Morgan Strother and G. K. Linkous - died within 20 minutes of each other on March 21.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORTALES, N.M.--(ALNS)--A new champion high school orator, the top contender from a starting field of 330,000 will be crowned at the finals of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest at Portales, N. M., on April 21.

The winner will receive a $4,000 college scholarship and will take his (or her) place on the list of blue ribbon American Legion orators, which includes such names as Sen. Frank Church, Jr., of Idaho, who was the 1941 champion.

There will be four finalists in the Portales contest, which is to be held on the campus of Eastern New Mexico University. They will have earned their way to the final round by taking first place in local, county, district, department, sectional and regional contests.

The runner-up will receive a $2,500 scholarship; 3rd place, a $1,000 scholarship; and 4th place, a $500 one. In addition, many departments will also grant scholarships to their department champions.

All participants are required to present a prepared oration on some phase of the Constitution and in addition to give an extemporaneous address on a section or amendment to the Constitution to be selected by lottery just six minutes in advance.

Schedule Announced

Complete schedule of the regional and sectional oratorical contests were announced by C. A. Tesch, national Americanism director of the American Legion, on Mar. 25.

Regional Contests

5. Gainesville, Fla., Apr. 16, 1958; for Ala., Fla., Ga., S. C.
8. Lawrence, Kan., Apr. 15, 1958; for Iowa, Kan., Mo., Oklah.,
Sectional Contests

Sectional A. Watertown, Mass., Apr. 17, 1958; for winners of Regionals 1, 2, and 3.
Sectional B. Houston, Texas, Apr. 18, 1958; for winners of Regionals 4, 5 and 6.
Sectional C. Sioux Falls, S. D., Apr. 17, 1958; for winners of Regionals 7, 8 and 9.
Sectional D. Lodi, Calif., Apr. 18, 1958; for winners of Regionals 10, 11, and 12.

National Contest

Portales, N. M., Apr. 21, 1958; for winners of Regionals A, B, C, and D.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.--(ALNS)--"Over the top and still going" was the way National Membership Director George Rulon described American Legion Posts which have earned the 39th Anniversary Citation. The special award was authorized by National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., to go to posts which, first, reached the total of their 1957 membership by the Legion birthday, March 15 to 17; second, transmitted additional memberships during the birthday period, and third, held a special observance of the anniversary.

By March 26, eleven departments had certified 1,473 posts for the award. First department to request anniversary citations was Minnesota, where Public Relations Director C. A. (Chic) Zwiener said he expected approximately 370 posts to qualify.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 3-28-58

ST. PAUL, Minn.—(ALNS)—Minnesota became the seventh American Legion Department to pass its 1958 membership quota when on March 26 it reported to National Headquarters 86,703 members against its quota of 86,683, for a percentage of 100.02.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—(ALNS)—Final legal steps and administrative procedures were being worked out at the close of March to put into operation The American Legion Life Insurance Program authorized by the National Executive Committee at a special meeting on Feb. 22.

National Headquarters expected to start mailing brochures and application forms to the entire membership of approximately 2,800,000 on or about April 1. Additional bulk mailings are to be made to posts and department headquarters.

Preliminary information concerning the new insurance program was brought to all Legionnaires in the April issue of The American Legion Magazine (pages 29 and 30).

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.—(ALNS)—New Mexico became the first American Legion Department to surpass both its 1958 membership quota and its total enrollment of 1957 when on March 27 Department Commander W. Peter McAtee reported 12,133 paid-up members for 1958. New Mexico's total 1957 membership was 11,459 and its quota for this year been set at 11,124.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ALNS)—The American Legion's National Foreign Relations Commission has called attention to Pan American Week, April 14 to 20, marking the 68th anniversary of the founding of the Pan American Union. The occasion provides an opportunity to renew inter-American friendships in accordance with American Legion policy, the commission stated.

** CORRECTION: Please correct the Indianapolis, Ind., datelined release in the ALNS of 3/21/58 concerning the winning of the Henry D. Lindsley membership trophy by the Department of Nevada. The correct dates are Jan. 1 to Mar. 1, 1958 - not March 31 as was erroneously carried in this story. **
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—(ALNS)—First place in the Who's-the-Youngest-40-Year-Member-of-The-American-Legion sweepstakes is now being held by Vincent Bow, a member of Ray I. Booth Post 101, Greenville, Mich. Bow, who received his 40-year continuous membership card at his post's annual birthday party on Mar. 20, was 55 at the time. He was born Apr. 5, 1902.

Edward W. Runge, a member of Sidney Post 17 at Sidney, Nebr., who was born Oct. 19, 1901, holds second position. Pushing him closely and now in third place is Boston, (Mass.) Park Commissioner Frank R. Kelley, who was born Oct. 4, 1901. Kelley a charter and life member of Alexander Graham Bell Post 299, is a past national vice commander.

The controversy started with a story in The American Legion News Service concerning Russell M. Riggle, a 40-year-member of Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham Post 1 at Denver, Colo., who will be 58 on May 31, 1958. Indiana quickly came up with Mrs. Margaret H. Lee, a 40-year-member of Indianapolis Memorial Post 3, who was born on July 3, 1958.

Denver Post 1 has countered that, while the world's biggest American Legion Post doesn't claim the youngest 40-year member, it does claim to have the youngest Purple Heart veteran with a record of 40 years of continuous membership. Riggle received the decoration in World War I.

No further comment has been received from the Hoosier department. But so far no 40-year woman Legionnaire has been reported to National Headquarters younger than Mrs. Lee.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ALNS)—Paul H. Griffith, past national commander of The American Legion, has been named a "Dollar-A-Year" man for the United Christian Missionary Society. Griffith, an elder and chairman of the board of the National City Christian Church in Washington, was selected for his speaking and leadership ability in men's activities, it was announced by the society.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 3-28-58

CHICAGO, Ill.--(ALNS)--The 40th Annual National Convention of The American Legion, to be held in Chicago, Aug. 30 to Sept. 4, 1958, will be only the second time since the end of World War II that the mammoth conclave has been held away from either the East or West Coast. Convention officials report that early indications are the Windy City will draw record crowds.

St. Louis, Mo., was convention host in 1953. No other convention since 1945 has been held in an inland city. Two streamlined conventions limited to delegates only met in Chicago during World War II, but the last full-scale convention held by The American Legion in the Mid West's largest city was in 1939.

NEW YORK, N. Y.--(ALNS)--That the program advocated by The American Legion for war veterans has a direct and positive relationship to the solution of such urgent problems as unemployment, national security and even foreign affairs was the gist of an address by Rehabilitation Consultant T. O. Kraabel to the district 1 conference of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.

WARRENTOWN, Va.--(ALNS)--John D. Sudduth Post 72 of The American Legion here includes in its extensive community service program the operation of a summer playground with more than 1800 children under supervision.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.--(ALNS)--Jane Gould Rishworth, national secretary of the American Legion Auxiliary, was married Mar. 16 to Otto Mayer of Indianapolis.

EUGENE, Ore.--(ALNS)--Sidney S. George, 66, past commander of the Oregon American Legion, passed away Mar. 9. He was serving as a member of the National Constitution and By-Laws Committee of The American Legion at the time of his death.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 3-28-58

RICHMOND, Va.-(ALNS)---Two past department commanders of the Virginia American Legion died within 20 minutes of each other on Mar. 21. They were Morgan Strother and G. K. (Link) Linkous.

Mr. Strother passed away in St. Luke's Hospital, Richmond, at 5:22 a.m., after failing to rally from surgery for ileitis several weeks previously. Mr. Linkous died at 5:40 the same morning in Danville, (Va.) of a cerebral hemorrhage.

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.-(ALNS)---The California Department of The American Legion is instituting a leadership development program to train future post, district and department officers for their responsibilities. A questionnaire distributed to post commanders brought 98.3 percent Yes replies to the question, "Do you believe there is a need for leadership training program?"

Following action by the California Convention in June 1957, a Leadership Development Committee was named, with Sam Gray of Bell (Calif.) chairman. After nearly a year spent in an intensive study of the problem, the committee has recommended a course of action to train and develop California's potential Legion leaders of the future. Included are orientation courses for incoming officers, use of the Extension Institute Study Course distributed by National Headquarters, and seminars on post administration.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.-(ALNS)---National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion has approved the general principle of LAW DAY--U.S.A., as sponsored by the American Bar Association May 1, 1958. In a letter to Bar Association President Charles S. Rhyne, Commander Gleason said:

"While The American Legion does not have an official endorsement of LAW DAY--U. S.A., I am sure I can speak for two and a half million Legionnaires in saying this organization does approve the idea of recognizing the fact that our government and our society are based upon law, and that our reliance upon the law is a strong weapon in the continuing resistance to dictatorship, whether based upon socialism or facism."
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SELBYVILLE, Del.--(ALNS)--The Department of Delaware's baby American Legion Post - Selbyville No. 39 - believes in putting community service first. And when the 66 members of the new post say First, that's what they mean.

Four months before the post received its permanent charter and only three months after 17 veterans had held a meeting with the idea of perhaps forming an American Legion Post, a program was planned, organized and carried through to a successful conclusion to purchase an ambulance for the community.

The ambulance went into operation on Dec. 10, 1957, after a community-wide drive, which included the sale of ambulance insurance at $5.00 per year. The post received its permanent charter late in March 1958.

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LIVINGSTON MANOR, N. Y.--(ALNS)--Lester White Post 566 of The American Legion here has presented an autographed copy of "Sea of Glory" by Francis Beauchesne Thornton - the story of the four heroic chaplains of World War II - to the Memorial Library at American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis.

ALLEGAN, Mich.--(ALNS)--Oscar Briggs Post 89 of The American Legion here is gaining national recognition for its efforts to bring air education to the schools, according to the current issue of the Legion's "Air Review."

The post has presented special teaching aids for the use of guidance teachers in working with students interested in careers in science and aviation and also service memberships in the National Aviation Education Council Library.

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TRENTON, N. J.--(ALNS)--The Morris County American Legion honored Albert E. McCormick of Mountain Lakes (N. J.) at a testimonial dinner on Mar. 29. McCormick is alternate member of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion of New Jersey. He was president of the 1957 American Legion National Convention Corporation.