LEGION NEWS IN A NUT SHELL

Following Senate approval of statehood for Alaska, National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion sent congratulations to Governor Mike Stepovich "on the successful termination of a long and arduous battle that has been viewed with favor by our organization for many years."

Even after Alaska becomes a state and a 49th star is officially added to Old Glory (probably on July 4, 1959), you can still display your old 48-star flags until they are worn out.

The only valid yardstick by which we can measure the adequacy of American military strength today is the armed might of Russia," National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion asserted in a criticism of proposed further cuts in U.S. Armed Forces.

All delegates and visitors at The American Legion's 40th National Convention in Chicago, Sept. 1-4, have been assured accommodations in only first-class hotels, with some of the nation's largest and best hostelries ready to roll out the red carpet to the veterans' reunion.

Gen. Robert E. L. Eaton, commander of the Tenth Air Force, has been named grand marshal and Lt. Gen. W. H. Arnold, commander of the Fifth Army, marshal of The American Legion parade, which on Labor Day, Sept. 1, will open the 40th National Convention of the veterans' organization in Chicago.

Three American Legion Departments had topped the 200,000 mark in membership by July 1 - Pennsylvania, Illinois and New York.

An $1,100 check has been sent to the widow of a Wasco, Calif. Legionnaire as the second death benefit paid under The American Legion's new Life Insurance Plan.

Mrs. Norton H. Pearl, past national president of the American Legion Auxiliary, has been appointed acting director of women's activities in the Office of Defense and Civilian Mobilization.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 7/3/58

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)---Immediately following passage of the Alaska statehood bill by the Senate, National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion wired congratulatory messages to Governor Mike Stepovich, Department Commander William H. Sanders and NECman Herald E. Stringer.

"The American Legion welcomes Alaska as it stands on the threshold of becoming the 49th full member of the United States," Commander Gleason said.

After years of Congressional debate and committee hearings, the issue was finally brought to a head at a night session of the Senate on June 30, when by a decisive vote of 64 to 20 the upper body passed the statehood bill as previously approved by the House, and sent it to the President.

Alaskan statehood had been listed as "must" legislation by Eisenhower and he was expected to sign the bill promptly and set the machinery in motion for formal admittance of the huge territory as the 49th and largest state. Before admission, however, citizens of Alaska will have to vote their approval and elect state officers. It was anticipated that this would be done before the close of 1958.

If, as expected, Alaskan voters approve statehood and when all other legal requirements have been met, the President will proclaim the formal admission of the new state. Where to put the 49th star in Old Glory will have to be determined by either Congressional action or by a committee which the President may appoint.

Changes in the flag become effective on July 4, after a change has been authorized.

National Americanism Director C. A. Teach of The American Legion has pointed out that even after the flag has been changed to make room for the additional star, householders and others may still display the old 48-star banner until it is worn out.

It has been 46 years since the last states were admitted to the Union. They were Arizona and New Mexico in 1912.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASTORIA, Ore. (ALNS)—National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., pinpointed national security as "the greatest challenge facing The American Legion" today.

"Unless and until the sense of urgency, the freedom-at-any-cost philosophy that inspires The American Legion's national security program, is reflected in the thinking and actions of our government, America will not be prepared," Commander Gleason asserted.

In an address to Legionnaires at the Department of Oregon Convention at Astoria on June 27, the veterans' spokesman again urged adoption of President Eisenhower's Defense Department reorganization plan. He gave an urgent warning against further proposed cuts in the Armed Forces, stating that the only valid yardstick by which we can measure the adequacy of American military strength today is the armed might of Russia.

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SOMERSET, Wis. (ALNS)—Bernard Peterson, 10th district commander of the Wisconsin American Legion, rapidly organized work crews of Legionnaires to assist in salvage operations when a disastrous tornado hit this area.

George Rulon, national membership and post activities director of The American Legion has pointed out that there is a close relationship between all-out community service such as this and membership. Peterson's 10th district has already enrolled more members for 1958 than its previous year's total on Dec. 31.

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NEW YORK (ALNS)—With a membership on July 1 of 205,301, the New York Department of The American Legion joined the exclusive ranks of the over-200,000 member departments. Previously topping 200,000 were Pennsylvania and Illinois.

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WASHINGTON (ALNS)—A salute to The American Legion's "laboratory in government" was paid to the District of Columbia's Boys State by the Washington "Sunday Star Teen Magazine" on June 22. This was the first independently held Boys State to be sponsored by the D. C. American Legion.
CHICAGO (ALNS)—Housing assignments at The American Legion's 40th National Convention in Chicago, Sept. 1-4, have been announced by Corporation President James P. Ringley. All department delegations are to be housed in top-flight hotels.

Individual room reservations are being handled through the departments, and Convention officials have urged all delegates and visitors to send their requests for rooms to their department headquarters. Rooms are assigned upon receipt of the registration fee of $3.00.

Hotel assignments are:

- **Palmer House**: Mexico, Italy, Philippines, Canada, France, New Mexico, Alaska, North Dakota, Idaho, Minnesota, Nevada, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Alabama, Montana, Tennessee, Washington, Michigan, Arizona, Vermont, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Hawaii and Panama Canal Zone. The Palmer House has also been designated the American Legion Headquarters hotel and will house the National Commander and other national officers.

- **Conrad Hilton**: Delaware, Ohio, California, New Jersey and New Hampshire. The Hilton will also be the location of the annual banquet of The American Legion Press Association on Sunday evening, August 31.

- **Sherman**: South Dakota, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Kentucky and Nebraska. The Sherman has been named headquarters hotel of the Forty and Eight.

- **Sheraton-Blackstone**: Louisiana.

- **Morrison**: Mississippi, Florida, Illinois, Oregon, Texas, South Carolina, Wyoming, West Virginia, Virginia and Massachusetts. The Morrison will be the center of many Convention activities with all commissions and committees scheduled to meet there.

Staff offices of the National Headquarters will operate there. It is also the official headquarters of both the Auxiliary and the Eight and Forty.

- **Sheraton**: Iowa.

- **LaSalle**: Indiana, Missouri, North Carolina and Georgia

(MORE)
Housing assignments, etc. - page 2

Pick Congress: Wisconsin and Utah

Hamilton: Connecticut
Drake: Pennsylvania.
Knickerbocker: Colorado.

The only department not yet assigned a specific hotel headquarters by July 1 was Arkansas.

CHICAGO (ALNS)—Officials have been named to organize and direct the mammoth parade at The American Legion’s 40th National Convention which will swing down Chicago’s famed Michigan Ave. on Labor Day, Sept. 1.

In 1939 when Chicagoans were last host to a full-scale Legion National Convention, there were 120,000 in the historic line of march with a million spectators thronging the sidewalks and stands. Chairman of the Parade Committee for the 1958 National Convention Corporation is Anthony Altier of Chicago. He is long experienced in managing convention parades for the Department of Illinois, which have frequently taken four to five hours.

Honorary grand marshal is W. C. Dan Daniel, Junior Past National Commander of The American Legion. Gen. Robert E. L. Eaton, commander of the Tenth Air Force, has been appointed grand marshal of the parade.

The tremendous task of marshalling the thousands of paraders and scheduling their entry into the parade route from assembly areas has gone to Lt. Gen. W. H. Arnold, commanding general of the Fifth Army, and his assistants. Gen. Arnold has been named parade marshal.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)—-The second death benefit paid under The American Legion’s new Life Insurance Plan went to the widow of a Wasco, Calif., Legionnaire. A foreman for the Pacific Gas and Electric Co., the Legionnaire died on June 7, of injuries received in an automobile accident.

The Legionnaire was 50 at time of death. His widow received a $1,100 check from The American Legion Insurance Department.

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OAKLAND, Calif. (ALNS)—Ira Chapman, member of Oakland Post 5 of The American Legion, asks if anyone can beat the record of military service set by his family. Chapman and two brothers all served in World War I. Each of the two brothers has had a son in uniform, and Chapman has had four sons in service, one of them still on active duty. The youngest of the Chapman brothers was killed in World War II.

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CUYAHOGA FALLS, Ohio (ALNS)—A small Cuyahoga Falls factory was declared the winner of the national American Legion Employment Citation in Ohio for its 1957 record of employing disabled veterans.

The firm, selected by the Department Employment Committee of the Ohio American Legion, is Cascade Rubber, Inc. During 1957 the firm had 49 male employees, 25 of whom were veterans and six were disabled veterans.

The citation was presented through Commander Parke G. Thompson of the 11th district. Selected to receive an Ohio Department citation as a part of the same program was the Lancaster Glass Corp. and the Rockwell Spring & Axle Co. of Newark.

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PORTLAND, Ore. (ALNS)—Portland (Ore.) Post 1 of The American Legion has challenged all of the Legion's other 17,000 posts to match its record of 40-year members. On June 24, the post boasted 98 comrades who have been members in good standing for 40 years.

CHICAGO (ALNS)—Blanche Osborne, past commander of Women's Marine Post 907 of The American Legion in Chicago, and veterans affairs editor of the "Chicago American," has been named chairman of women Legionnaire activities for the 40th National Convention to be held here Sept. 1-4.

The annual ex-service women's National Convention dinner will be held at the Congress Hotel, Sept. 2. Other officers include Gertrude Hladik, past commander of Sig-Yeo Post, secretary; Florence Thorp, commander of Helen J. Ross Post, treasurer; and Myrl Leonard, past commander of Sig-Yeo Post, co-chairman in charge of distinguished guests.

WASHINGTON (ALNS)—Mrs. Norton H. Pearl, past national president of the American Legion Auxiliary, has been appointed acting director of women's activities for the Office of Defense and Civilian Mobilization, which on July 1 combined the functions of the former Federal Civil Defense Administration with those of the Office of Defense Mobilization.

Mrs. Pearl has filled a succession of executive posts with the FCDA since 1951, most recently as assistant director of the religious office at FCDA Headquarters in Battle Creek, Mich. She was president of the National Auxiliary in 1946-47.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP CARD

"Comrades, I hold in my hand a little scrap of paper, two and three-eighths by three and three-quarters inches in size. It is of no intrinsic value. It is not a bond, not a check, not a receipt for value. It is my membership card in The American Legion.

"It tells me that I have entered into a material and spiritual kinship with my fellow Legionnaires: to practice the principles of Freedom, Justice and Democracy; to forgive and forget the faults of my comrades; to hush the tongues of scandal; to care for the sick, the hungry, the needy; and to be just to all mankind.

"It tells me that no matter where I may be in the world, I am welcome to visit a place where good fellowship and comradeship prevail among veterans and service-minded men and women.

"It tells me that my loved ones, my home and my household are under the protection of every member of this great organization, who feels morally bound to protect and defend mine as I feel morally bound to protect and defend his.

"It tells me that should I ever be overtaken by adversity or misfortune, the hands of my comrades everywhere on the face of the earth will be stretched forth to assist me in my necessities.

"And finally, it tells me, my comrades, that when my final exit from the stage of life has been made, there will be gathered at my final rites relatives, friends, comrades, brothers, who will recall to mind my virtues, though they may be few, and will forget and forgive my faults, though they may be many.

"It tells me all this and a great deal more.

"This little scrap of paper, two and three-eighths by three and three-quarters inches in size."

This was the way Sam Lingo, chaplain of Hughes Aircraft Post 612 of The American Legion, Santa Monica, Calif., described his membership card at a recent meeting of that post.

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LEGION NEWS IN A NUT SHELL

Drum and bugle corps, bands and other uniformed groups planning to compete at The American Legion's 40th National Convention in Chicago must file their entries before midnight, Aug. 1.

Light rescue duty teams are to be organized by The American Legion to assist in civil defense and disaster relief work.

The American Legion has urged Congress to pass HR 7576 "to permit an orderly expansion of civil defense activities and uniformity of planning and operations at state and local levels."

Hearings on the VA hospital program before the House Veterans Affairs Committee, originally scheduled to start on July 8, were postponed because of inability of some committee members to attend on the opening day.

As a part of the Theodore Roosevelt Centennial observance, the mighty U. S. First Fleet passed in review before Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz in San Francisco Bay on July 3.

The Mexico Department of The American Legion on July 7 had enrolled a 1958 membership equal to its total 1957 membership.

The Star of Italian Solidarity, highest foreign award of the Italian government, has been presented to W. C. (Dan) Daniel, past national commander of The American Legion.

Delegates and visitors to The American Legion's 40th National Convention in Chicago have been invited to visit the VA Research Hospital there on Aug. 30 and 31.

CORRECTION: If the three-time national championship drum and bugle corps of Skokie, Ill., retains its title at the 40th National Convention of The American Legion in Chicago, the corps will equal the as-yet untopped record of the Boys of '76 of Racine, Wis., who won in 1922, 1923, 1924 and 1925.

National Adjutant E. A. Blackmore of The American Legion has requested departments and posts to get prior clearance from National Headquarters before issuing their own releases, ads, or other promotional materials on Legion life insurance.
INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)---A warning has been issued by Louis R. Shealy, chairman of The American Legion’s National Contests Supervisory Committee, that Aug. 1 is the deadline for drum and bugle corps and other uniformed groups to file their entries to compete at the 40th National Convention in Chicago.

"By action of the National Executive Committee, all competing units must file at least 30 days prior to the convening of the National Convention," Shealy said. "We will not be able to accept any entry forms postmarked after midnight, Aug. 1."

Shealy also announced the result of a mail vote on the use of F sharp bugles. By a vote of 14 no, 6 yes, and 2 abstaining, the Contests Supervisory Committee ruled out the use of F sharp bugles.

Existing rules permit the use of G, D, and F bugles. A mail vote of the committee was taken after some corps had taken steps to add F sharp sections. "The committee has definitely ruled that the controversial F sharp bugle will not be permitted in this year’s contest," Shealy stated.

Entries have already been received from 35 drum and bugle corps, as well as from many bands, choruses, color guards and firing squads, it was reported at National Headquarters here on July 10.

Corps which have not yet filed were also reminded that their entries must be accompanied by individual accreditation sheets and photostats of discharges.

Housing for music and marching units should be arranged either through department headquarters or directly with the Convention Corporation at 8 South Dearborn St., Room 1012, Chicago, Ill.

Contests of music and drill units at the 40th Convention are to be held on Aug. 30 and 31. An all-day meeting of corps representatives with the Contests Committee will be held on Friday, Aug. 29. Convention dates are Sept. 1 to 4.
WASHINGTON (ALNS)—National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion has announced the appointment of an advisory committee on light duty rescue teams. The committee will assist in developing American Legion rescue squads for civil defense and disaster relief assignments.

Accepting Commander Gleason's appointment were: Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, president of the American Red Cross; Leo A. Hoegh, director of the Office of Defense and Civilian Mobilization; Maj. Gen. Ralph J. Olson (Wis. N.G.), president of the National Association of State and Territorial Civil Defense Directors; and Walter R. Halstead, president of the U. S. Civil Defense Council.

Also serving on the committee with Commander Gleason is Mrs. J. Pat Kelly, national president of the American Legion Auxiliary.

In the next few weeks, The American Legion plans to launch a nationwide light duty rescue program among its 17,000 posts and 14,000 Auxiliary units.

The basic plan of organization, training and use of these light duty rescue teams has been worked out in detail with officials of the Federal Civil Defense Administration. All squads and teams will operate under the control and direction of civil defense officials at all levels of government.

WASHINGTON (ALNS)—Full support of legislation to modernize the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950 to permit the orderly expansion of civil defense activities was urged in testimony presented by The American Legion before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Ray A. Pierce, chairman of the Legion's National Civil Defense Committee, told the Senate committee that a National Convention mandate (Res. 598, 1957) calls for adoption of HR 7576 as a means of providing adequate, well-trained paid staffing in every state, together with uniformity of planning and operation to insure a strong civil defense program.

The Legion representative pointed out that lack of uniformity has rendered effective state and local planning impossible. "What appears to be needed," he said "is a uniform system of defense at all levels."
WASHINGTON (ALNS)--Hearings on the Veterans Administration hospital program, which had been scheduled to get under way on July 8 before the House Veterans Affairs Committee, were postponed by Committee Chairman Olin E. Teague (D-Texas).

It was reported that Teague delayed the hearings because he felt the importance of the subject merited the presence of the full Veterans Affairs Committee and several members could not be present on the opening date. July 15 was understood as tentative date for beginning the hearings.

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)--The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, which on July 9 observed the fourth anniversary of its incorporation in 1954, has reported a steady growth. For the first five months of 1958 total contributions to the Foundation increased 26 percent over the same period of 1957, and memorial gifts were up 22 percent for the same period.

SAN FRANCISCO (ALNS)--Re-enacting one of the dramatic moments of American history, the U. S. First Fleet, consisting of 26 ships, 14 squadrons of Naval aircraft and more than 17,000 men, passed in review before Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz in San Francisco Bay on July 3.

The review commemorated the 50th anniversary of the historic 'round-the-world cruise of the Great White Fleet, described by Theodore Roosevelt as his greatest contribution to world peace. The 1908 cruise by American battle ships, all painted white for peace, was conceived by the indomitable Teddy as a combined good will mission and demonstration to the world of American strength.

This year is being observed as the centennial of the birth of Theodore Roosevelt, and the mammoth review in San Francisco Bay was held as a part of the observance. National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr. of The American Legion forwarded a congratulatory telegram to Admiral Nimitz.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEXICO CITY, D. F. (ALNS)—The American Legion Department of Mexico on July 7 had enrolled a 1958 membership equal to its official total for 1957 - 709. Mexico was only 10 members short of an all-time membership high on that date.

DANVILLE, VA. (ALNS)—W. C. (Dan) Daniel, past national commander of The American Legion, received Italy’s highest foreign decoration, the Star of Italian Solidarity, at a special ceremony here on July 3.

Usually reserved for diplomats of the first rank, the award was made to Daniel in recognition of his work in international goodwill. H. Armand de Masi, national executive committeeman for the Legion’s Department of Italy, made the presentation on behalf of the Italian government.

CHICAGO (ALNS)—Delegates and visitors attending the 40th National Convention of The American Legion in Chicago, Sept. 1-4, have been invited to visit the Veterans Administration Research Hospital at 333 East Huron Street, Chicago. Guided tours have been arranged by the Special Services Department at the hospital.

On Saturday, Aug. 30, tours will be conducted from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tours on Sunday, Aug. 31, will be from 2:00 to 4:00 and from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The hospital has received many awards, and Legionnaires have been urged to include a visit there on their list of “things to do in Chicago.”

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M. (ALNS)—One of the reasons the New Mexico American Legion has hit an all-time membership high this year is W. P. (Bill) Erxleben, who has enrolled more than 1600 members for 1958. Erxleben is vice chairman of the National Transportation Committee of The American Legion.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
7/11/58

CORRECTION

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)—Apologies to the fine Drum and Bugle Corps of Racine (Wis.) Post 76 of The American Legion!

A release issued by The American Legion News Service on June 20 stated that if the Skokie (Ill.) Indians were able to retain their national drum and bugle corps championship this year at Chicago, it would be the first corps to win four consecutive national crowns.

Robert G. Wilkie, department adjutant of the Wisconsin American Legion, has reminded that the Racine Drum and Bugle Corps won national championships in 1922 in New Orleans, 1923 in San Francisco, 1924 in St. Paul, and 1925 in Omaha. The corps, known as the Boys of '76, also took part in The American Legion Pilgrimage to Paris in 1927.

All Legionnaires salute the Racine Corps which over the years has contributed so much to the fine traditions of The American Legion.

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* AMERICAN LEGION LIFE INSURANCE *
* A speaker's kit on The American Legion Life Insurance Plan has been prepared for the use of department leaders, post commanders, and others who will have an occasion to speak on this new program. Individual requests for the kit will be filled by American Legion Life Insurance Department, P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis 6, Ind. Because of technical details in New York, Puerto Rico, Ohio, Texas, North Carolina, Illinois, New Jersey and Florida, kits may not at this time be mailed to those departments. Notification will be made when kits are available for use in the listed departments.

NEW BRAUNFELS, Texas (ALNS)—The New Braunfels American Legion Band has been invited to participate in the third annual World Music Festival and Contest at Kerkrade, Holland, in August. It was reported that this was the first time a United States band would compete in the 25-nation contest.

New Braunfels Post 179 has launched a fund-raising drive to meet the transportation cost of about $400 per man for its 50-piece band. Rooms and meals are to be provided by the Dutch government.
SPECIAL NOTICE TO AMERICAN LEGION EDITORS

7/11/58

National Headquarters is very appreciative of the support you have given the new American Legion Life Insurance Plan through the columns of your publications. The program is off to a good start and has the potential of making a great contribution to the future stability of our organization.

Because this is an entirely new field for us, we do encounter technicalities not experienced in other programs. Reproduced below for your information is a bulletin relative to the insurance which National Adjutant E. A. Blackmore has sent to all Department Commanders, Department Adjutants and Members of the National Executive Committee. Your cooperation in connection with Mr. Blackmore's request will be sincerely appreciated.

SPECIAL NOTICE
PROMOTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

The initial response to The American Legion Life Insurance Plan has been most gratifying. The launching of the program was necessarily on something of a "crash" basis, but we are now developing plans and procedures for long-range promotion.

In every state the sale of life insurance is rigidly controlled by state laws. Because of this fact, it is necessary that all promotional materials and all public statements pertaining to The American Legion Life Insurance Plan be checked and cleared in advance.

For this reason, we must request that any life Insurance advertisements or other promotional materials prepared by either Departments or Posts be sent to National Headquarters for clearance prior to release. The National Headquarters will then submit the proposed promotional materials to the Occidental Life Insurance Company of California for review by its legal staff.

I realize that this requirement may cause some delays in your plans for promoting American Legion Life Insurance; but in view of legal requirements, have no choice but to make the request and to ask that this information be transmitted to Post Commanders through your regular channels of information.

The National Headquarters is preparing additional promotional aids in cooperation with the Occidental Life Insurance Company and within the next few days you will receive a speaker's packet on the program. Other promotional materials will also be forthcoming within the immediate future. Material which you receive from the National Headquarters will have been screened and approved in advance. I hope you will be able to make use of the speaker's packet and other aids to be provided in informing our membership of this important new American Legion program.

Sincerely,

E. A. BLACKMORE
National Adjutant
NORTH BERGEN, N. J. (ALNS)—J. George Fredman, prominent New Jersey Legionnaire and past national commander-in-chief of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, died at his home here on July 2. He was the originator of the economic boycott in 1933 against the Nazis. Funeral services were in Jersey City, July 3.

PROVIDENCE, R. I. (ALNS)—Brother has followed brother as judge advocate of the Rhode Island Department of The American Legion. Louis Cosentino of Rogers Williams Post 35 has been named to that post for the coming year, succeeding his brother, John, who is a member of Thomas L. Ryan Post 47. Both are practicing attorneys and are under 40 years of age.

TRENTON, N. J. (ALNS)—The 30th annual memorial services for Captain Emilio Carranza, Mexican flyer who was killed when his plane crashed in the South Jersey pines in July 1928 on a non-stop flight from New York City to Mexico City, were held by the New Jersey American Legion on July 12.

Legionnaires from the Mt. Holly Post of The American Legion recovered the flier's body following the crash, and memorial services have been held since then as a gesture of inter-American friendship.

Simultaneously with memorial rites at Bergen, the Mexico Department of The American Legion conducted similar rites at the tomb of Captain Carranza in the Dolores National Cemetery, Mexico City.

ZEARING, Iowa (ALNS)—Zearing Post 116 of The American Legion was first in the Department of Iowa to transmit advance dues for 1959 membership to Department Headquarters in Des Moines. A check and list of 82 members already enrolled for 1959 were transmitted on June 12, 1958.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEGION NEWS IN A NUT SHELL

National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion has commended President Eisenhower for his "decisive action in dispatching U. S. military forces to the Middle East in the interest of world peace."

In a message to the White House on July 15, Commander Gleason stated, "I commend you for your wisdom, courage and foresight in dispatching U. S. military forces to Lebanon. They are with you and with all the peace-loving people of the earth."

The lieutenant governor of Tennessee, Jared Maddux, has resigned to become the department commander of the Tennessee American Legion.

National Chaplain Feltham S. James of The American Legion will lead an impressive memorial and patriotic service in the auditorium of the new Prudential Life Insurance Building in Chicago, beginning at 5:00 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 31, on the eve of the Legion's 40th National Convention.

The Maryland Department of The American Legion was the 15th to exceed its 1958 membership quota and the 12th to top its total official membership for 1957.

A warning that Russia's worldwide network of air routes is a threat to both the U. S. air transport industry and to our national security was sounded by Sen. Alexander Wiley (R-Wis.) through The American Legion "Air Review."

American Legion service officers have been alerted to assist widows of veterans with new problems of compensation vs. dependency and indemnity compensation, resulting from the recently-enacted military pay raise bill.

St. Petersburg (Fla.) Post 14 of The American Legion boasts 131 members who have belonged to The American Legion for 40 years, a record so far unbeaten by reports from any other post.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON (ALNS)--Action of the President in dispatching U. S. Marines to Lebanon to cope with the growing Mid East Crisis was commended by National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion.

In a message to the White House on July 15, Commander Gleason stated, "I commend your decisive action in dispatching U. S. military forces to the Middle East in the interest of world peace. Our prayers are with you and with all the peace-loving people of the earth."

WASHINGTON (ALNS)--As the House Veterans Affairs Committee opened hearings on July 15 to determine who is to control the Veterans Administration medical and hospital program, VA Administrator Sumner G. Whittier called on Congress to set a policy to "answer the questions now left unanswered" in the care of sick and disabled veterans.

Appearing as the first witness, Whittier urged Congress to adopt a policy which "would dispel many of the dark clouds of misunderstanding, would make operations among the different departments of government and the Congress a more efficient functioning effort, and give the administrator of veterans affairs a happier and smoother highway to follow as he seeks to carry out the will of Congress and the people in caring for the needy and disabled veterans of this republic."

On hand to hear the testimony of the VA chief were 16 members of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, presided over by its chairman, Olin E. Teague (D-Tex.). Hearings were scheduled to continue with representatives of other government and non-government agencies, including The American Legion, testifying.

The current hearings stemmed from an interchange of letters between Chairman Teague, the President and Whittier.
Teague has contended that existing law established the policy that the VA administrator, within the limits of the agency's facilities, may furnish hospital care to certain veterans whom he determines to be in need of such care.

He further has maintained that the Bureau of the Budget has denied the VA the right to replace VA hospital beds eliminated through alteration, modernization or conversion, as well as the right to convert beds withdrawn from a particular medical use to another medical use and the right to expand a program of care for long-term chronic cases.

Whittier indicated in his testimony that the average daily patient load in VA hospitals and domiciliaries is tied to the appropriations made by Congress. Since 1954, VA appropriation bills have been geared to furnish a specific sum of money to care for a specific number of veterans on an average daily patient load basis, he said.

WASHINGTON (ALNS)—Effects of the recent military pay increase on benefits due widows of veterans who died of service-connected causes is under study by The American Legion's National Rehabilitation Division.

It was pointed out that the higher military pay rates resulted in higher rates of dependency and indemnity compensation under the Survivors Benefit Act. The VA was reported to be making a review of cases potentially affected by the new pay rates.

According to American Legion claims experts, many widows are still receiving lower rates of death compensation under laws in effect prior to the adoption of the Survivor Benefits Act. Many widows failed to elect to take benefits under the new act even after being advised that it was to their benefit to do so.

The VA has stated that a second notice will not be sent to these widows except where a high award is payable, on election, solely because of new rates under the military pay bill. American Legion service officers have been asked to be on the alert for cases where widows may not be receiving full authorized benefits.

COOKEVILLE, Tenn. (ALNS)—The lieutenant governor of Tennessee, who also serves as speaker of the State Legislature, has resigned both positions to become department commander of the Tennessee American Legion. He is Jared Maddux, a member and past commander of Cookeville Post 46.

His term as lieutenant governor was not scheduled to end until January 1959. He is also a past commander of Tennessee's fourth district and a past department judge advocate. As lieutenant governor he served Tennessee under another department commander, Frank G. Clement, now governor of the Volunteer State.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICAGO (ALNS)—A patriotic and memorial service honoring America's war heroes will be held in the auditorium of Chicago's Prudential Life Insurance building on the eve of the 40th National Convention.

National Chaplain Feltham S. James of The American Legion will preside at the ceremonies, which are scheduled to begin at 5:00 p.m. A band concert on the plaza in front of the Prudential building is scheduled at 4:30.

The joint memorial service of The American Legion and its three affiliated groups will include the placing of wreaths by National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., Auxiliary National President Mrs. J. Pat Kelly, Chef de Chemin de Fer William E. Armstrong of the 40 and 8, and la Chapeau National Mrs. Mayro Cox of the 8 and 40.

A combined American Legion chorus, under the direction of Clyde A. Parnell of Alonzo Cudworth Post 23, Milwaukee, will sing America, the Lord's Prayer, the Battle Hymn of the Republic, This is My Country, and the Star Spangled Banner.

The colors are to be advanced and retired by the national championship color guard of Kankakee (Ill.) Post 85. The invocation is to be given by the Rev. Neal Kaveny, Illinois Department chaplain; memorial prayer by Mrs. Albert C. Zondler, national chaplain of the American Legion Auxiliary; and benediction by Rabbi Bernard A. Mussman, District of Columbia Department Chaplain.

The memorial address, entitled "Whence Came This Freedom," will be made by National Chaplain James.

SOMERVILLE, Mass. (ALNS)—Somerville Post 19 of The American Legion teamed up with Swift & Company to sponsor a Space Show and World of Tomorrow Exhibit. Held as an observance of the 103rd anniversary of Swift's Cambridge-Somerville Plant, the exhibit featured missiles, satellites, space suits and a "moon hut."
BALTIMORE (ALNS)—The Maryland American Legion on July 14 became the 15th department to pass its 1958 membership quota and the 12th to top its total official membership for 1957. Its 35,313 members is the third highest enrollment for Maryland in 11 years.

SANDUSKY, Ohio (ALNS)—Looking forward to the 40th anniversary of the founding of The American Legion, March 15-17, 1919, Commodore Denig Post 83 here put in its bid for public recognition of the event next spring.

The post requested the city commission to arrange a floral design in Washington Park honoring the event. The request was granted, and City Manager Stuart W. Gosser had eight-months' advance notice to get the display prepared.

RAPID CITY S. D. (ALNS)—H. A. (Swede) Nielson, past department commander of the South Dakota American Legion, passed away on July 9 following a brief illness.

MILWAUKEE (ALNS)—Alonzo Cudworth Post 23 of The American Legion here has set an unusual leadership record by providing simultaneously from its membership a department commander, district commander and county commander.

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)—Quick replies came from St. Petersburg, Fla., and Denver, Colo., to a challenge issued by Portland (Ore.) Post 1 of The American Legion. The Oregon post challenged any other post to top its record of having 98 40-year members still on its rolls.

First topper came from Ray Olson of Denver Post 1, which on July 8 had 109 40-year members. But the Denver report was soon toppled by Richard Simmons of St. Petersburg Post 14 with 131 40-year Legionnaires.
WASHINGTON (ALNS)---The July issue of The American Legion's "Air Review" contains a lead article by Sen. Alexander Wiley, senior minority member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, concerning the threat of Russia's worldwide network of air routes to America's airline industry.

Reprinted in the Congressional Record of July 8, the Senator's article also underscores the challenge to American national defense resulting from Russia's build up of a huge civil fleet of high performance jet transports.

DONNA, Texas (ALNS)---This Texas community of 7,171 has provided the governor of both The American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State for 1958. Border Post 107 of The American Legion here took the lead with the Chamber of Commerce in sponsoring a city-wide celebration of this event on July 12.

DAYTON, Ohio (ALNS)---A World War II veteran and his mother are heading South Park Memorial Post 675 of The American Legion and its Auxiliary Unit for the coming year.

Ross T. Risley is the commander of the post, and his mother, Mrs. Victor B. Risley is president of the Auxiliary Unit.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (ALNS)---The Hawthorne, N. J., American Legion drum and bugle corps, three-times national champions, more popularly known as "The Caballeros," won first place in an intersectional competition here on July 5.

Police estimated more than 24,000 persons jammed Hedges Stadium here, largest crowd in the 10-year history of the event.
WATERVILLE, Me. (ALNS)—When the Waterville "Morning Sentinel" held an open
house on June 24, the Maine Department of The American Legion used the occasion to
thank the paper for its many services through the medium of a paid ad in a special
edition of the paper.

CHICAGO (ALNS)—A testimonial dinner is to be tendered Lester R. Benston by
Chicago and Illinois American Legionnaires on July 30. Benston retired June 1 as
rehabilitation director of the Illinois American Legion.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (ALNS)—"There is more than a possibility that Uncle Sam is
preparing to star again in the character of which he never seems to tire and in which
he is alternately applauded and rotten-egg by Europe - that of the great Inter¬
national Sucker."

This quotation was the concluding sentence in a "Saturday Evening Post"
editorial - in the issue of Nov. 25, 1933.

Entitled "The Legion Guides Right," the editorial supported The American Legion
opposition to the recognition of Soviet Russia. S. J. (Chic) Madia, Wyoming de¬
partment adjutant, forwarded a copy of the 25-year-old, but modern-sounding editorial
to National Headquarters of The American Legion recently.

ZANESVILLE, Ohio (ALNS)—The 54 members of National Trail Post 756 of The
American Legion, most of whom live along U. S. Route 40 between Gratiot and Hope¬
well, have performed a signal service to their area by setting up a volunteer fire
department at Gratiot, furnishing the equipment and a majority of the needed manpower.

The equipment includes a 2½-ton pumper complete with a 300-gallon tank, hand
tanks, hoses and ladders. Even before the volunteer fire squad of Legionnaires had
completed their training, they were called upon to make their first runs to ex¬
tinguish grass fires.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEGION NEWS IN A NUT SHELL

Olin E. Teague, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, has indicated to The American Legion that his committee would propose legislation to give the VA more authority in the use of hospital beds.

Daniel M. Lund of Culver City, Calif., was elected president and Randall Revelle of Seattle, Wash., vice president of The American Legion Boys Nation, held on the campus of the University of Maryland, July 18 to 25.


Passage of a modified version of the President's Defense Department re-organization plan seemed assured on July 24 when Senate-House conferees agreed on a compromise version of the bill, containing some but not all of the strengthening provisions urged by The American Legion.

Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham Post 1 with a membership of 9,100 continued to hold its title as the world's largest American Legion Post on June 30, and 37 other posts reported memberships over the 2,000 mark by that date.

A completely-revised and up-to-date "Brief History of The American Legion" is available at 15¢ per copy from National Emblem Sales, The American Legion, P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis 6, Ind.

The time of the Patriotic and Memorial Service at The American Legion's 40th National Convention in Chicago has been changed from 5:00 to 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 31, in the auditorium of the Prudential Building.

The Mexico and Arizona Departments of The American Legion were 13th and 14th respectively to push their 1958 membership ahead of their final total enrollment for 1957, and Puerto Rico was 16th in Topping its 1958 membership quota.
WASHINGTON (ALNS)—As the House Veterans Affairs Committee heard testimony from American Legion representatives during hearings on the Veterans Administration hospital program, Chairman Olin E. Teague (D-Tex.) indicated that the committee would propose legislation to give more authority to the VA in the use of its beds and, if necessary, to pinpoint the hospitals and beds required.

Among those testifying before the committee on July 23 were John J. Corcoran, American Legion national rehabilitation director, T. O. Kraabel, special consultant to the director, and Dr. H. D. Shapiro, the Legion's chief medical consultant.

Congressman Teague noted that, while the members of the House Veterans Affairs Committee received over 1,000 letters a week on veterans’ pensions, not one is being received on veterans requiring hospital care.

Teague suggested that if more post and department service officers would write to their Congressmen concerning hospital cases, his committee would be better able to take needed corrective action through legislation.

In his testimony, Corcoran emphasized that “the veterans hospital program as inaugurated and supported by Congress has become and will remain an integral part of the American scene.”

"We think," he said, "that the Budget Bureau has taken over much that Congress intended the Administrator (of the VA) should have by way of administrative powers and latitude of judgment."

Pointing out that the VA hospital program, in addition to its direct service to veterans, has contributed greatly to the health of all Americans through its research, training programs, and clinical studies, the Legion rehabilitation head said that he hoped "these hearings will suggest reasonable and effective procedures to insure that the mission of the VA and the will of Congress cannot be thwarted."
WASHINGTON (ALNS)---Top honors in the 13th annual American Legion Boys Nation were won by Daniel M. Lund of Culver City, Calif. The high school junior was elected Boys Nation president on the Federalist Party ticket in a landslide victory over his opponent, Timothy Orr of Lancaster, Calif., running on the Nationalist slate.

First official act of the 17-year-old president was to appoint young Orr his secretary of state. The Nationalist Party won the vice presidency for its candidate, Randall Revelle of Seattle, Wash.

Among the highlights of the week was a personal meeting with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, who spoke of the exciting new era which these youngsters will face in the years ahead. In addition, the 98 high school students, representing 47 states, the District of Columbia and the Canal Zone, visited with their Senators and Congressmen during their trip to Capital Hill.

The high school statesmen were scheduled to meet with President Eisenhower during their visit to the White House at the conclusion of Boys Nation, July 25.

An added feature of the 1958 Boys Nation was the appearance of representative participants on "College News Conference" originating in Washington from the television studios of the American Broadcasting Company, the program was telecast nationwide at 1:30 to 2:00 p.m. (EDT). Wheaton was the moderator. The growing crisis in the Middle East was discussed.

The 13th meeting of The American Legion's top youth-training program met on the campus of the University of Maryland, July 18 to 25. Attending were two outstanding high school juniors who had been selected from 49 Boys States, previously held by American Legion Departments throughout the nation.
INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)—The Ohio Legion News has been declared the best American Legion newspaper for 1958. Edited by M. M. (Boots) Carothers, the paper was picked to receive the top award of The American Legion Press Association at its annual business meeting in the Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago, on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 31.

In the first year of publication, American Legion Post 14 News of Rockville, Conn., edited by Buell I. Chapman, won the Wally Plaque as the best post newspaper of the year. The Jack R. C. Cann Plaque, awarded to the best Legion paper produced by a duplicating process, will go to the Bell Telephone Post Bugler of Milwaukee, Wis., David Cis, editor.

Fletcher Newell of the Luke-Greenway Post Tribune, Phoenix, Ariz., will be presented the William E. Rominger Memorial Award for the best editorial of the year appearing in an American Legion publication.

With more than a thousand newspapers published by departments, districts, counties and posts, keen competition has developed for the annual awards of The American Legion Press Association. First place winners will all get plaques at the association’s dinner in Chicago on the eve of the 40th National Convention there.

Certificates will be awarded second and third place winners in the four categories, as follows:

**Best paper:** 2nd place, Michigan Legionnaire, William J. (Bill) Luddy, editor; 3rd, Maine Legionnaire (which took first place last year), James L. Boyle, editor.

**Best post paper:** 2nd place, Legion A-I-R, Jeffersonville, Ind., Herman A. Wenige, editor; 3rd, Voice of Fort Black, Pittsburgh, Pa., Regis F. Cusick, Jr., editor.


(MORE)
Best editorial: 2nd place, M. M. (Boots) Carothers, editor Ohio Legion News; 3rd, Robert F. Brennan, editor Legion Veteran, Cleveland, Ohio.

WASHINGTON (AINS)—Approval of a comprehensive version of the President's plan for defense procurement would include the American Legion's recommendation that veterans' health services be maintained at pre-war levels.

CHICAGO (AINS)—National Chaplain Feltham S. James of The American Legion has announced that the patriotic and memorial program to be held at the 40th National Convention in Chicago on Sunday, Aug. 31, will begin at 4:30 p.m. instead of 5:00 as previously planned.

CHICAGO (AINS)—The annual Chaplains' Breakfast held during The American Legion National Convention will be at the LaSalle Hotel Grill, 8:30 a.m., Monday Sept. 1.

Plans for the annual event are being made by Rev. Bernard Gerdon, immediate past national chaplain. Reservations for the breakfast should be sent to Father Gerdon at 4720 E. 13th., St., Indianapolis, Indiana.

CANTON, O. (AINS)—Eighty years of American Legion membership is the record set by the husband and wife team of Francis and Cy Paumier, both of whom are 40-year and life members of Canton Post 44.

Cy joined the Legion while he was still in uniform and within two days after his discharge from service in July 1919. Francis became a Legionnaire in Cleveland the same year when she returned from duty as an Army nurse. Prior to World War I she served on the Mexican border.

The two Legionnaires were married in 1925 and have been leaders in the Canton Post ever since. Cy has held an elected office in all except one year of his 40 years' membership. As commander in 1949, he led Canton to an all-time high enrollment of 3,618. Francis was child welfare chairman for 20 years and was one of the leaders of a successful drive to set up a child welfare bureau in the Canton Police Department.
WASHINGTON (AlNS)—Approval of a compromise version of the President's plan for Defense Department reorganization by the Senate-House Conference Committee has cleared the way for final passage of the bill giving streamlined unified command of the nation's Armed Forces.

The Senate-House conferees agreed to make some changes in two of the three House-approved provisions which had been criticized by the President as seriously weakening his original plan. Retained without change was the provision described by the President as "legalized insubordination," permitting a service secretary or a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to take dissenting views to the Congress on his own initiative.

The American Legion had given strong support to Mr. Eisenhower's plan to bring greater unity to the Defense Department and to cut red tape in field commands.

SANTURCE, P. R. (AlNS)—Puerto Rico became the 16th department of The American Legion to make its 1958 membership quota when on July 21 Commander Oscar Romero reported a membership of 11,673 against the assigned quota of 11,199.

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AlNS)—Arizona was the 14th American Legion Department to enroll more members for 1958 than its total official membership on Dec. 31, 1957. On July 23 Commander Ralph A. Watkins, Jr., reported 15,165 members, compared with the final 1957 total of 14,971.

DENVER (AlNS)—The awarding of eight scholarships in advanced tubercular nursing has been announced by Mrs. Mayro Cox, chapeau national (president) of the Eight and Forty. With a cash value of $1,000 for a year's study, the new awards bring to 11 the number of scholarships granted by the organization since the training program was launched last year.

A subsidiary organization of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Eight and Forty has the assigned project of prevention and treatment of tuberculosis among children. The scholarship program was established to help meet the critical shortage of nurses with supervisory and teaching skills in TB nursing.
INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)—Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham Post 1 of The American Legion at Denver, Colo., has retained its title as king of king-sized posts. A round-up of reports by American Legion membership giants as of June 30, found the Denver Post with 9,100 members, topping by nearly 3,000 second place Omaha Post 1.

By the mid-year date, 38 posts had reported membership of more than 2,000. At the close of 1957, 46 posts had enrolled 2,000 or more members, and National Adjutant E. A. Blackmore is looking for eight more posts to top the 2,000 mark before the books are officially closed for 1958.

Third place was taken by Memphis Post 1. The complete list of over 2,000 posts as reported to the National Adjutant by June 30 follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POST</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>MEMBERSHIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham Post No. 1</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
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<td>2. Omaha Post No. 1</td>
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<td>3. Memphis Post No. 1</td>
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<td>Tennessee</td>
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<td>4. Alonzo Cudworth Post No. 23</td>
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<td>Wisconsin</td>
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<td>5. Lowe-McFarlane Post No. 14</td>
<td>Shreveport</td>
<td>Louisiana</td>
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<td>6. Lincoln Post No. 3</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>3,938</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Chicago Police Post No. 207</td>
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<td>Illinois</td>
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<td>8. Adam Plevacki Post No. 799</td>
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<td>New York</td>
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<td>9. Hugh A. Carlisle Post No. 13</td>
<td>Albuquerque</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
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<td>11. Gilbert C. Grafton Post No. 2</td>
<td>Fargo</td>
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<td>12. Oklahoma City Post No. 35</td>
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<td>13. Harrisburg Post No. 27</td>
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<td>15. Nicholson Post No. 38</td>
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<td>16. East Liberty Post No. 5</td>
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<td>17. Capitol Post No. 1</td>
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<td>Kansas</td>
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<td>18. Spokane Post No. 9</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
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<td>19. Harvey Seeds Post No. 29</td>
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<td>Florida</td>
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<td>21. Jos. N. Neel, Jr., Post No. 3</td>
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<td>Georgia</td>
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<td>22. Hammond Post No. 3</td>
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<td>23. Carson-Wilson Post 1</td>
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<td>24. Los Angeles Police Post No. 381</td>
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<td>26. Sioux Falls Post No. 15</td>
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<td>27. Fort Wayne Post No. 47</td>
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<td>32. Florence Lauderdale Post No. 11</td>
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<td>New Jersey</td>
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<td>36. Peoria Post No. 2</td>
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<td>37. Seattle Post No. 1</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>38. William G. Carroll Post No. 26</td>
<td>Minot</td>
<td>North Dakota</td>
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INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)—A new 38-page "Brief History of The American Legion" has been published by National Headquarters. It records the eventful history of the world's largest veterans' organization from its founding in Paris, France in March 1919 up to the eve of the 40th National Convention in Chicago, Sept. 1-4, 1958.

The publication is available at 15 cents from National Emblem Sales, The American Legion, P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis 6, Ind. For shipments of 100 or more, the price is dropped to 13 cents per copy.

Replete with facts, historic pictures, and Legion tradition, the booklet is a gold mine of information for speakers, editors and officials of the organization. Nearly a year in preparation, the new brief history was edited by C. M. (Chuck) Wilson, assistant director of the Internal Affairs Division at National Headquarters.

Wilson was formerly director of membership and post activities and prior to that served for many years in the National Americanism Division. He joined the staff at National Headquarters in 1924 and was a personal participant in many of the events recorded in the completely-revised, new brief history.

MEXICO CITY, D. F. (ALNS)—The American Legion Department of Mexico was the 13th to push its 1958 membership above its final official total as of Dec. 31, 1957. On July 16, Mexico reported an enrollment of 724, compared with 709 at the close of 1957 and was just three short of a new all-time high for the South-of-the-Border Department.