THE AMERICAN LEGION

A NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR POST COMMANDERS AND POST ADJUTANTS . . .

Advance

Vol. XXI April, 1978 No. 4

Form Mailed to Adjutant . . .

Your Report Is Important!

POST ADJUTANTS will soon be receiving a very important piece of mail from their respective department headquarters — the 1977-78 Consolidated Post Report Form. This form was designed to bring all of the various activities and accomplishments of each Legion Post into one report which is clear and concise.

This report is the key to determining how well The American Legion as a whole will be able to report its accomplishments of the previous 12 months to the American people.

As Legionnaires, we have a deep sense of pride that we are the world's largest veterans' group. The Consolidated Post Report will help add to that sense of pride by proving the quality of our programs to the news media, to the Congress, and to even our next door neighbors.

Here are just a few samples of the totals which indicate the importance of our programs during 1976-77:

The total baseball and other athletic activities put forth by the reporting posts totaled $3,802,000.

Hours given to community service — 2,282,000.

Legion Posts throughout the country took time to help their fellow man by donating 102,000 pints of blood.

Legion Posts gave more than $1,200,000 to uniformed groups to emphasize their support of pageantry and expressions of patriotism.

These figures were the result of reports filed by 43 per cent of American Legion Posts during the 1977 reporting period. These are not statistics which have been projected on the basis of the 43 per cent reporting posts; *they are the actual totals of those posts filing reports.*

Completion of this report will take some time, but don't be discouraged, especially if you see you can't fill in every blank on the report form. Very few posts have the interests and resources to carry on every program of The American Legion. However, most Legion Posts do devote their energy and resources to at least two or three programs and activities that have impact on veterans and their communities.

Reports should be completed and sent to department headquarters on or before the June 15 reporting deadline, or sooner if your department requests an earlier turn-in.

The Consolidated Report is a snapout-type form in three parts. The third (bottom) copy is to be retained by your post; the top two copies are to be forwarded to your department headquarters. The form is illustrated, in slightly reduced-size, on the next page.

Once you have completed your 1977-78 report and forwarded it to your department headquarters, your own copy can serve as the basis for a press release to your news media. Many posts have used it in this manner to provide an annual report of their stewardship to their respective communities. It also allows the officers of your post to show your members how their dues dollar has been spent.

There may be portions of the form in which you can't determine an exact amount of dollars or other statistical data. Be realistic and make as reasonable an estimate as possible. *Please do not exaggerate.*

By making your post a part of this reporting effort you will be joining an ever growing team of responsible Legion leaders who are giving meaning to our theme — "We Dare To Care."

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Consolidated Post Report Form

For 1977 - 78 American Legion Year

Dept. of _____ (2) Post No. _____ (3) (6)

Located at _____
(City) (State or Country)

1978 Membership _____ (7) (11) Final 1977 Membership _____ (12) (16)

Initiation held during year ☐ No. initiated _____ (17) (20)

Estimated net assets (land, buildings, equipment, furnishings, cash, bonds, etc., less debts) $ _____ (21) (28)

Post filed 1977 Information Tax Return IRS Form 990 (29) ☐

Post home, club room or other physical facilities are: Owned debt free (30) ☐; Being purchased under mortgage or contract (31) ☐; Rented (32) ☐; Provided without cost to Post (33) ☐; Other arrangement (34) ☐

Post is incorporated ☐ Corporation Report filed with Secretary of State ☐ Officers are bonded ☐

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

SAMPLE

No. of cases handled (43)

SAMPLE

No. of Powers of _____ (43)

Emergency aid given _____ (44) (48)

Estimated hours devoted to VA Hosp. service _____ (49) (53)

AMERICANISM

Boys State: No. boys sponsored _____ (54) (55) Cost $ _____ (56) (59)

Baseball: Official American Legion team sponsored (60) ☐

Other baseball or athletic team(s) sponsored (61) ☐

Cost to Post of all athletic teams $ _____ (62) (67)

Scouting: Post sponsors Scout unit(s) (68) ☐ No. youths in Legion Scouting _____ (69) (71) No. members active in Legion Scouting _____ (72) (73) Cost to Post $ _____ (74) (78)

School Awards: No. presented _____ (7) (8) Cost $ _____ (9) (12)

Oratorical Contest: Post sponsored local contest (13) ☐

No. local contestants _____ (14) (15) Cost to Post $ _____ (16) (19)

Scholarships: Value of scholarships given $ _____ (20) (25)

Patriotic Observances: Post observed: Vet Day (26) ☐ Memorial Day (27) ☐; July 4 (28) ☐; Legion Birthday (29) ☐; American Education Week (30) ☐ Sponsored Flag Education (31) ☐

Community Services: Estimated no. hours given miscellaneous community service projects _____ (32) (36)

ECONOMIC:

Post has vet employment program (37) ☐

Estimated no. vets helped by Post to find jobs, enter vocational training, resume education _____ (38) (41)

13—010 (1978)

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Cash aid given to children or families $ _____ (42) (46)

Value of goods given (reasonable esti.) $ _____ (47) (51)

Cost of parties, gifts, other extras $ _____ (52) (56)

Cost other activities to benefit children and youth. Do not duplicate if reported elsewhere $ _____ (57) (61)

No. children given direct aid (cash or goods) _____ (62) (65)

No. children benefitted directly in other ways _____ (66) (70)

Contributions: Dollar amounts given other organizations:

Mental Health $ _____ (7) (11)

Retarded Children $ _____ (12) (16)

Nat'l Legion Child Welfare Foundation $ _____ (17) (21)

Other $ _____ (22) (26)

United Fund $ _____ (27) (31)

Red Cross $ _____ (32) (36)

Cancer $ _____ (37) (41)

Crippled Children $ _____ (42) (46)

NATIONAL SECURITY

Blood donor program: Pints blood donated _____ (47) (49)

No. blood donors from Post _____ (50) (52)

ROTC Medals: No. presented by Post _____ (53) (55)

Aerospace Education (CAP, etc.): Post has program (56) ☐

Police Cadet Program: No. of boys sponsored _____ (57) (59)

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Post has active PR Chairman or Officer (60) ☐

Post publishes newspaper or bulletin regularly (61) ☐

LEGISLATIVE

Post has active Legislative Chairman w[illegible]

Post meetings (62) ☐

SAMPLE

UNIFOR[illegible]

Post sp[illegible]

SAMPLE

Drum & [illegible] Drill Team (67) ☐;

Other (68 [illegible] Group $ _____ (69) (74)

Other and Unusual Activities: To report special events or unusual activities not adequately covered above, please attach narrative reports or additional materials. Be sure to identify by Post No. and Department. Additional statements are especially needed for Posts wishing to be considered for Americanism Citations and Children & Youth Citations.

_____ (Signature) _____ (Title)

(See instructions on reverse side of third copy.)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS COPY

COMMANDER'S CALENDAR

April

Children & Youth Month.

6 — 61st anniversary of U.S. entry into World War I, 1917.

17 — Regional competitions, National High School Oratorical Contest.

19 — Sectional competitions, National High School Oratorical Contest.

21 — Finals, National High School Oratorical Contest, Klamath Falls, Ore.

May

1-2 — Standing national commissions and committees meet, Indianapolis, Ind.

3-4 — National Executive Committee, Indianapolis, Ind.

14 — Mother's Day.

20 — Armed Forces Day.

22 — National Maritime Day.

29 — Memorial Day.

June

6 — 34th anniversary of D-Day, 1944.

14 — Flag Day.

18 — Father's Day.

25 — 28th anniversary of U.S. entry into Korean War, 1950.

The American Legion **ADVANCE**

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MEMBER AMERICAN LEGION PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editor: Frank L. Megnin

April, 1978 Vol. XXI, No. 4

Posts Prepare Memorial Rites

THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN LEGION POSTS conduct Memorial Day services each year in their respective communities in support of the Legion's solemn vow to carry on the traditional tribute established more than a century ago.

In addition to such services, or included as a part of them, is the decoration of all known veterans' graves and the scattering of flowers upon the water in memory of the sailor dead.

For those American Legion Posts wishing to establish a community Memorial Day service, the following program outline may be used:

"Star-Spangled Banner," sung by entire assembly
Invocation by Clergyman
Reading, "Lincoln's Gettysburg Address"
Vocal Solo
Recitation, "In Flanders Fields," or other appropriate poem
Introduction of Speaker of the Day by Post Commander
Memorial Day Address
Benediction by Clergyman
Taps

Where Memorial Day ceremonies are conducted in a cemetery, the following outline is suggested:

Order of March to Cemetery — Colors, music, firing squad, Gold Star Mothers in cars, Spanish-American War veterans in cars, American Legion, others.

On arrival at the cemetery the entire assembly will be seated. Gold Star Mothers, Spanish-American War veterans and distinguished guests will take seats reserved for them on the platform; Legionnaires will file into a reserved section.

Invocation
Introduction of Memorial Day Speaker by Post Commander
Brief Memorial Day Address
Decoration of Graves
Salute to the Dead by Firing Squad
Taps

All speeches used in Memorial Day services should be strictly a tribute to, or eulogy of, the dead of all wars, and speakers should be so advised.

The ceremonies for the observance of Memorial Day, as outlined in the preceding paragraphs, are those recommended by The American Legion's *Americanism Manual.* A suggested Memorial Day ceremony also appears in your current edition of the *Post Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies.*

Your Memorial Day service need not be limited to the suggested outline.

Foundation Funds Worthy Projects

DURING THIS MONTH of April, observed by The American Legion and its affiliated organization as Children & Youth Month, posts are invited to take a closer look at the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc.

The Foundation is uniquely American Legion. As far as is known, it is the only foundation devoted exclusively to children and youth.

Later this month, the Foundation's board of directors will review requests for grants for 1979. A review of applications funded during the last 2 years shows that 8 of the 10 projects might eventually, with slight modification, become programs of the National Commission on Children & Youth.

One example is the "School Alert" program sponsored by the Epilepsy Foundation of America to alert school personnel and students to the problems of the epileptic child. This program might be modified to fit into each community.

Another excellent example is a project conducted by the American Lung Association of Central Indiana supported by dedicated funds of the Eight & Forty. This project develops materials to help the school-age child understand the asthmatic.

Since 1954, when it first started granting funds, the Foundation has approved grants totaling more than $600,000 under the following policies adopted by its board of directors:

1. Grants are not made for everyday expenses.

2. Grants must have the potential of helping children nationally or at least in a large geographic area.

3. Grants for more than one year at a time are not given. Reapplication for a second or third time will be evaluated on its own merit.

4. No one field of interest, such as health or social research, will be allowed to dominate.

5. Grants are made only to an institution or agency which is tax exempt — not to individuals.

6. Grants will not be given for "bricks and mortar."

7. Grants will not be given to match government funds.

As Post Commander, you should make sure a part of your Children & Youth Month meeting touches on the merits and accomplishments of the Foundation.

The Foundation is a part of the total American Legion Children & Youth Program as mandated by Resolution No. 514 adopted by the 1956 National Convention. It operates solely on the income derived from gifts received in the form of stock, bonds, land, mineral rights, as well as cash.

One important means of supporting the Foundation's work is through its memorial program which helps children and youth while paying tribute to members and friends.

Further information may be obtained by writing American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206.

Boys State Offers Great P/R Value

AMERICAN LEGION department organizations are putting the final touches on their respective 1978 Boys State sessions. Posts which will be represented at Boys State should be making sure they will gain the maximum benefits of their sponsorship.

From its founding in 1919 The American Legion has held the belief that the strength of America rests in our democratic form of government. A primary way to maintain that strength is by giving youth a chance to learn firsthand the practical operation of government through American Legion Boys State.

If your post is sponsoring one or more youths to this summer civics workshop, you should be making plans to gain the greatest possible public relations from your sponsorship. Make sure that public recognition of your post sponsorship is a priority item with your post public relations officer.

Your post's sponsorship will make an impact in the community in several ways — the post will be involved with the community, involved with youth, and involved with parents of high school students.

The student himself, through your post's sponsorship, becomes involved in the community. He will return to his senior year in high school with a renewed spirit that can be related to his fellow students; he can inspire them to strive for greater achievement.

The successful Boys State citizen can also be an effective speaker for your post by appearing at various community functions. He should also be invited to report on his experiences at a post meeting.

Your post has a golden opportunity to identify itself as a valuable community asset through sponsorship of one or more youths to Boys State. Don't let this opportunity pass by. Make every possible effort to make your "American Legion community action" known to the general public.

...suggested

Proclamation

WHEREAS, More than a century ago the first order was issued for a nationwide observance of a day to honor those "who died in the defense of their country;" and

WHEREAS, Thousands of gallant Americans since that time have kept the faith of their heritage and paid the supreme sacrifice for the preservation of our precious freedom; and

WHEREAS, It is both fitting and proper that a special day be set aside to pay tribute to the deeds of those who died while serving our great Nation as well as honor the millions of Americans who wore the uniform of our country with honor in time of war and have also passed on into eternity; and

WHEREAS, Such a special day of commemoration provides not only an occasion for expression of patriotic unity, but also a rededication of our efforts to achieve the ultimate goal of an honorable world peace to assure that such sacrifice will never again be necessary; and

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States of America, through enactment of Public Law 90-363, June 28, 1968, has set aside the last Monday in May as Memorial Day; now

THEREFORE, I, (**Full Name**) —, (**Title**) — of the City (Town, County, State) of (**Name**) —, do hereby proclaim Monday, May 29, 1978, as Memorial Day, and do hereby call upon all citizens to observe the day in honor of our heroic dead in the finest tradition of the original order for such an occasion which said in part, "Let no avarice or neglect, no ravages of time testify to present or coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic." I further call upon each residence and business firm to display appropriately and proudly the Flag of the United States of America in observance of this holiday.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City (Town, County, State) of (**Name**) —, this _____day of May, 1978.

— (**Full Name**) —
— (**Title**) —

...Suggested

NEWS RELEASE!

(Memorial Day)

Memorial Day ceremonies will be conducted (**Day**) — , (**Date**) —, at (**Place**) —, under the sponsorship of (**Name of Post**) — Post No. — of The American Legion, Post Commander (**Full Name**) — announced today.

All residents of (**Community**) — are invited to attend and participate in this patriotic commemorative observance, Commander (**Last Name**) — reminded. The ceremonies are scheduled to begin at (**Time**) —.

— (Insert here details pertaining to your post's Memorial Day program. Include the names of individuals and identity of organized groups participating.)

The observance of Memorial Day is an American tradition which began during the Civil War. The first national observance resulted in 1868 from an order issued by Gen. John A. Logan, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, calling for commemorative rituals "to respect comrades who died in defense of their country."

For many years after the Civil War the GAR in the North and the Confederate Veterans in the South took charge of Memorial (or Decoration) Day rites in their respective communities. When these two organizations, because of the advancing age of their members, became unable to continue the annual observances, The American Legion pledged its help to preserve the tradition, Commander (**Last Name**) — explained.

A significant part of the Memorial Day ceremony here in (**Community**) — will be the decoration of all known veteran grave sites, Commander (**Last Name**) — added.

Although it began as an occasion to honor the dead of all wars, Memorial Day has since become a time for the decoration of graves of family and friends.

Through enactment of Public Law 90-363, June 28, 1968, the Congress designated the last Monday in May be observed as Memorial Day.

In his proclamation designating Monday, May 29, as Memorial Day, (**Title**) — (**Full Name**) — called upon all citizens "to observe the day in honor of our heroic dead" and in the finest tradition of General Logan's historic order. He further asked all residences and business firms to "display appropriately and proudly the Flag of the United States of America in observance of this holiday."

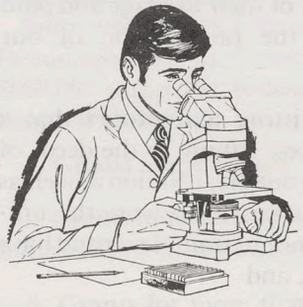
Service Officer Help Sought to Locate 347,000 Veterans of 1945-62 A-Tests

AMERICAN LEGION POST SERVICE OFFICERS are asked to assist in the location of some 347,000 veterans who participated in nuclear tests over a 17-year period and particularly in the atomic test, known as "Smoky," conducted in 1957.

This project is related directly to much of the interest shown recently by news media to the defense program which saw about 200 nuclear weapons tested between 1945 and 1962 here in the United States and in the Pacific.

Concern is growing over the disturbing number of veterans of these tests who have developed cancer, leukemia, or other diseases which might be related to radiation exposure.

Also of concern is the fact that for the some 347,000 persons, most of whom were active duty personnel, involved in these tests over a 17-year period, there has been little or no system of medical follow-up by the Defense Department or the Department of Energy. This applies to scores of individuals indicated as having received excessive radiation exposure.



The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta has begun a medical study of the participants in "Smoky." So far, only 450 of the 3,100 who participated have been contacted, and of these, 8 have been diagnosed as having leukemia. The major problem has been to local individuals identified in the test records after all these years.

Congress is now considering a possible study of all individuals involved in all atomic tests. But, again, the problem will be to locate the individuals involved.

Because of the great difficulty and importance of this task, American Legion Departments and Posts can be of significant service in this effort in two ways:

1. By publicizing the fact that such an investigation is under way and urging any veteran who participated in any of these tests to contact an American Legion Post Service Officer; and

2. By assisting any veteran who participated in "Smoky" to contact:

   Dr. Glyn G. Caldwell
   Bureau of Epidemiology
   Center for Disease Control
   1600 Clifton Road, N.E.
   Atlanta, Georgia 30333

   All other cases should be refrerred to the Department of Defense through its toll-free number: 800-638-8300.

The question of the long-range health effects of exposure to even low levels of radiation needs to be thoroughly investigated which is why this study, and the Legion's assistance, is so important.

New Copyright Law Applies to Posts

AMERICAN LEGION POSTS which use music to entertain their members and guests are advised to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the 1976 Copyright Act which went into effect Jan. 1.

Both the 1909 statute and the 1976 act recognize the general principle that a copyright is a property not to be used without the owner's permission. The 1976 act gives the copyright owner the right to license any "public performance."

There are specific and limited exemptions, such as performances in the course of religious services at a place of worship, or noncommercial performances where no admission is charged and no performer, promoter, or organizer is paid.

All performances which do not meet the specific limited exemptions in the new law must be licensed, *even if given by a nonprofit organization.*

A "public performance" is one "at a place open to the public or at any place where a substantial number of persons outside of a normal circle of a family and its social acquaintances is gathered." Private clubs, country clubs, *veterans' organizations,* fraternal, and similar groups *are now required to obtain licenses to perform music.*

Bulk licenses are the simplest, fastest, and most popular solution, and are easy and inexpensive to obtain. One key source is the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), the oldest and largest American performing right licensing organization.

Inquiries should be directed to ASCAP, One Lincoln Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10023, or to one of its 14 district offices in major cities across the country.

Legion Life NEWS

American Legion Life Insurance Plan — Chicago, Illinois

'77 Claims Top $2.75 Million

CHICAGO — Payments totaling more than $2.75 million were paid during 1977 to 1,333 beneficiaries of those insured under the American Legion Life Insurance Plan, reports Harold E. Heinly, chairman of the Life Insurance and Trust Committee. Since the Plan was established in 1958, more than $25.25 million has been paid in death claims to more than 16,000 beneficiaries of deceased Legionnaires.

Payments during 1977 went to beneficiaries residing in 50 American Legion Departments. New York led all other departments where death claims were paid with $314,063, followed by Illinois ($209,254), and Pennsylvania ($172,655).

A complete breakdown of payments made during the previous year appears elsewhere on this page.

* *

Plan Operates at No Cost to Legion

CHICAGO — It's a fact that the American Legion Life Insurance Plan — an outstanding "fringe benefit" opportunity for Legionnaires — costs The American Legion NOTHING. It is a self-sustaining program.

Premium cost has remained the same since the Plan's inception.

The offices of the Life Insurance Plan here have been processing payments of death claims averaging in excess of $200,000 a month to designated beneficiaries.

Life Insurance Plan Observes 20th Birthday

CHICAGO — The American Legion Life Insurance Plan is 20 years old this month (April). For 20 years this Plan, the only official Amerian Legion Life Insurance Plan, has been offering maximum protection at minimum cost. A total of six units of coverage can be purchased, providing protection value at any age.

In order to help the post membership understand this program and its benefits, each Post Commander should appoint an insurance officer and inform the Plan office here of the name and address of the appointee.

1977 Claims to Beneficiaries (By Department)

Alabama	$ 17,483	Montana	$ 3,663
Arizona	16,665	Nebraska	83,516
Arkansas	28,193	Nevada	6,710
California	109,847	New Hampshire	15,048
Colorado	19,140	New Jersey	96,263
Connecticut	17,258	New Mexico	8,283
Delaware	550	New York	314,063
D. of C.	8,250	North Carolina	27,544
Florida	86,414	North Dakota	29,975
Georgia	66,170	Ohio	71,685
Hawaii	275	Oklahoma	62,672
Idaho	2,062	Oregon	19,380
Illinois	209,254	Pennsylvania	172,655
Indiana	158,631	Rhode Island	5,775
Iowa	89,716	South Carolina	15,543
Kansas	78,210	South Dakota	35,420
Kentucky	44,467	Tennessee	113,498
Louisiana	51,738	Texas	69,993
Maine	35,832	Utah	1,710
Maryland	103,483	Vermont	4,103
Massachusetts	86,663	Virginia	74,543
Michigan	47,863	Washington	19,398
Minnesota	43,541	West Virginia	26,129
Mississippi	10,560	Wisconsin	61,129
Missouri	58,850	Wyoming	2,051
		Miscellaneous	7,983

For Free Materials To Send Your Members, Use the Handy Coupon Below.

American Legion Life Insurance Plan
Attn: Gene L. Fattig, Director
P.O. Box 5609, Chicago, Ill. 60680

Please rush the following items, free of charge:
(How Many?)

_____ Insurance Applications
_____ Question and Answer Brochures

Your Name _____ **Post No.** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **ZIP** _____

Legion to Observe Maritime Day

A NATIONAL NEWS WEEKLY recently observed that the U.S. merchant marine "is well on its way to becoming one of the fastest and most efficient fleets in the world."

Such analysis — after the many years of neglect of our fourth arm of national defense — provides greater impetus for American Legion Posts to actively observe National Maritine Day, May 22.

The May 22 date marks the anniversary of the first transoceanic steamship voyage by the SS Savannah in 1819.

The significance of Maritime Day needs to be stressed throughout the land. First and foremost, there is the vital relationship between our nation's merchant marine and our national security posture. And second, there is the unquestionable importance of a modern and viable merchant marine in working effective solutions to the energy crisis, to our international balance of trade deficit, and to the Soviet surge for global supremacy on the high seas.

To re-emphasize the Legion's continuing support for a viable U.S. merchant marine, your post should —

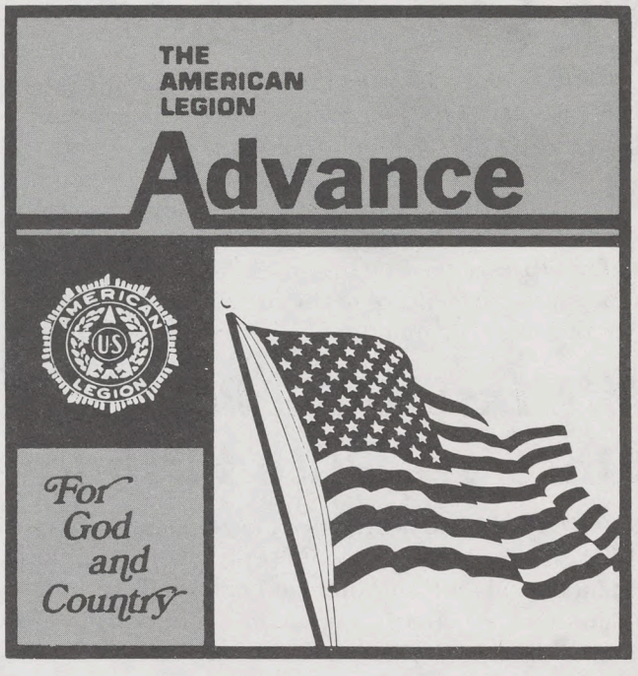
1. Contact local government officials and maritime organizations to extend your post's cooperation and willingness to participate in National Maritime Day:

2. Let your Congressman know of your support for the continued rebuilding of the American maritime fleet to a position second to none in the world; and

3. Establish a merchant marine member as a part of your post's national security committee. He should keep your membership informed of the vital role of America's fourth arm of defense and of recent developments in the maritime field.

While this may well be the greatest year in maritime building in more than two decades, we must continue this momentum. Active participation by your post in the observance of National Maritime Day 1978 will be a positive demonstration of an influential part of our society in reviving our merchant marine to a position of second to none in the world.

For further details on the planning and observing National Maritime Day, write: National Security-Foreign Relations Division, The American Legion, 1608 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.



Litho in U.S.A.

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