PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Pre-Convention Meeting and
Post-Convention Meeting

Tampa Convention Center
Tampa, Florida

August 25 & 28, 2025

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PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Pre-Convention Meeting

Monday, August 25, 2025

...At 9:00 a.m., Monday, August 25, 2025, the Pre-Convention meeting of the National Executive Committee was called to order, National Commander LaCoursiere presiding.

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: I'll now call the Pre-Convention National Executive Committee meeting to order. With the colors of our nation in place, Hand Salute! Two! I call on National Chaplain Daniel DePozo of Nevada for the Invocation, followed by the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony. Please uncover at this time.

Invocation
Daniel DePozo, Nevada, National Chaplain

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, today and every day, hold our military troops in your loving hands. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us and our great nation in times of peril and need. We remember the many wounded and those who have paid the supreme sacrifice in these causes of freedom. Give comfort to those who mourn for these fallen heroes. We ask all of this, Dear Lord, and bless us today as we continue in our last journey of the year for the NEC. We ask this in your name. Amen. *...Chorus of "Amen."*

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony
Daniel DePozo, Nevada, National Chaplain

The POW/MIA Empty Chair Resolution 288 adopted at the 67th Annual National Convention encourages the designation of a POW/MIA chair or flag at all official meetings of The American Legion. This is a symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving our nation. With the POW/MIA flag positioned to my left, let it serve as a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners, the repatriation of the remains of those who have been killed in action and a full accounting of those who are still missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor. Amen. *...Chorus of "Amen."*

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: I call on National Sergeant-at-Arms Everett G. Shepard III of Connecticut to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion. After the Pledge, please cover for the Preamble.

...The National Executive Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: I call on National Adjutant Rodney K. Rolland of Georgia for the roll call.

Roll Call
National Officers

National Adjutant
Rodney K. Rolland, Georgia

National Commander
James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., Connecticut

National Vice Commanders
James C. Kellogg, Minnesota
Gary B. Leach, California
Joseph A. "Joe" Lysaght, South Carolina
Roger P. Mathison, Wisconsin
Charles K. "Chuck" Robbins, New Jersey

Past National Commanders

John P. "Jake" Comer	Massachusetts	
Robert S. Turner	Georgia	(Excused)
Bruce Thiesen	California	(Excused)
Daniel A. Ludwig	Minnesota	
Joseph J. Frank	Missouri	(Excused)
Anthony G. Jordan	Maine	
Butch L. Miller	Virginia	
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr.	Idaho	(Excused)
Richard J. Santos	Maryland	
Ronald F. Conley	Pennsylvania	(Excused)
Hon. John A. Brieden, III	Texas	(Excused)
Thomas L. Bock	Colorado	(Excused)
Paul A. Morin	Massachusetts	
Martin F. Conatser	Illinois	
Robert W. Spanogle	Michigan	(Excused)
David K. Rehbein	Iowa	

Clarence E. Hill	Florida	
Jimmie L. Foster	Alaska	
Fang A. Wong	New York	
James E. Koutz	Indiana	
Daniel M. Dellinger	Virginia	
Michael D. Helm	Nebraska	(Excused)
Harold D. Barnett	Georgia	
Charles E. Schmidt	Oregon	
Denise H. Rohan	Wisconsin	
Brett P. Reistad	Virginia	
James W. "Bill" Oxford	North Carolina	
Paul E. Dillard	Texas	
Vincent J. Troiola	New York	
Daniel S. Wheeler	Virginia	
Daniel J. Seehafer	Wisconsin	

National Executive Committee Members

Department	Committee Member		Alternate	
Alabama	Hardwick O. Hall, Sr.			
Alaska	James E. Pisa			
Arizona	Andres Jaime, Jr.			
Arkansas	Mary V. Erdman			
California	Jere L. Ramano			
Connecticut	Robert S. Murray			
Delaware	Michael A. Havel			
D.C.	Christopher V. Herndon			
Florida	Jim V. Ramos			
France	Hans J. Stockenberger			
Georgia	Phil Youngblood			
Hawaii	Francis E. Riddell, Jr.			
Idaho	Robert L. Skinner			
Illinois	Roy Weber			
Indiana	Kenneth R. Cooper			
Iowa	Dennis J. Soppe			
Kansas	Dan K. Wiley			
Kentucky	William O. Moore, Jr.			
Latin America	Randall L. Butler			
Louisiana	Rudolph A. Bourg, Sr.	(Excused)	Byron K, Comeaux	
Maine	Lloyd H. Woods			
Maryland	Melvin G. Smullen			
Massachusetts	Jodie L. Pajak			
Michigan	Larry C. Money			
Minnesota	William C. Barbknecht	(Excused)	Peggy Moon	
Mississippi	Murry Q. Toney, Jr.			
Missouri	George E. Scarborough			
Montana	Larry G. Dobb			
Nebraska	James A. Costello			
Nevada	L. James Stewart			
New Hampshire	Robert E. Dionne, Sr.			
New Jersey	Berley Hanna, Jr.			
New Mexico	Edward Cheatham, Jr.			
New York	Timothy S. Van Patten			
North Carolina	Davis S. Shore	(Excused)	Jerry L McClough	(Excused)
North Dakota	Steven D. Anderson			
Ohio	Ronald L. Chapman			
Oklahoma	Charles S. O'Leary			
Oregon	Kevin John Owens	(Excused)	Eugene G Hellickson	(Excused)
Pennsylvania	E. Michael Stelacio			
Philippines	Michael S. Napsey	(Excused)	Carl A Nord	(Excused)
Puerto Rico	Ramon L. Rivera			
Rhode Island	James Weinreich			
South Carolina	Jimmy E. Hawk			

Department	Committee Member		Alternate	
South Dakota	Frederick N. Nelson			
Tennessee	Robert W. Hensley			
Texas	John C. Hince			
Utah	Terry D. Schow			
Vermont	Thomas J. Scanlon			
Virginia	Linden B. Dixon, Jr.			
Washington	Robert A. Clark			
West Virginia	William W. Kile			
Wisconsin	Robert L. Shappell			
Wyoming	Keith R. Davidson			

NATIONAL ADJUTANT ROLLAND: Commander, that ends the roll call.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER LYSAGHT: Mr. Commander, in the absence of the NEC and Alternate NEC from North Carolina, I move that Gaither M. Keener, national finance chairman, be seated to represent North Carolina in this body with voice but no vote. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: We have a motion on the floor and a second. Is there any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, nay. Motion carried. The next order of business is the approval of today's agenda and then the reading of the minutes from our previous meeting.

Acceptance of Agenda

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I move that today's agenda be approved. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: We have a motion and a second on the floor for today's agenda to be approved. Any discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, say nay. Carried.

Minutes of the Previous National Executive Committee Meeting

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I move that since the minutes have been provided in digest form and distributed digitally that they be approved without being read. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: We have a motion and second to approve the minutes without being read as they have been compiled in digest form and distributed digitally. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by aye. Opposed, nay. Carried.

Disposal of Letters or Communications

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: Next item on the agenda disposal of letters or communications Mr. Adjutant any letters or communications?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT ROLLAND: No. *...National Vice Commander Mathison assumed the Chair.*

Opening Remarks
James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., Connecticut, National Commander

Good morning, members of the National Executive Committee, Legion Family members, staff and guests, I want to open by giving sincere congratulations that are in order to the Department of Virginia and Post 280 for winning the World Series during the centennial year of American Legion Baseball. It was another great job of hosting by Shelby and Cleveland County. *(Applause)*

I don't know about you, but I'm excited about the next few days, two days and a wake-up. I'm excited to be recognizing the Youth Champions, the Spirit of Service winners, hearing from a Medal of Honor recipient and presenting the Distinguished Service Medal to three truly great service branches in honor of their 250th birthdays.

The American Legion has other major events like the Washington Conference, department conventions and other big gatherings, but nothing at all compares to the scope and nature of our National Conventions where we can all meet as one and just celebrate who we are as an American Legion Family. We often talk about the impact of The American Legion, but I want it to be clear. Impact is not a vague slogan for us. It's measurable. It's personal, and it's happening every single day because of your leadership and your dedication.

In fiscal year 2024 alone, accredited American Legion service officers secured 21 billion in VA disability benefits free of charge for veterans and their families. Those are not just numbers on a spreadsheet. It's rent being paid, prescriptions getting filled, children being supported and hope restored. Since 1989, our National Emergency Fund has provided more than 10.7 million to veterans and posts and communities devastated by disasters. When hurricanes, floods or wildfires hit, the Legion is not just present, we are a lifeline. *(Applause)*

Nobody celebrates disaster, but I am proud that 20 years ago, after the worst national calamity in American history, so many departments, posts, units and squadrons responded to Hurricane Katrina. We'll hear a little more about that during our general session tomorrow.

There are many other things to celebrate. Our Be the One mission has trained over 18,000 people in suicide prevention with the help of our partners at Columbia University. Every one of those trained individuals represents a potential life saved. We've also remained a powerful voice in employment support, hosting or supporting over 1,100 career events in 2024 alone and placing more than 2,500 veterans in meaningful jobs. For our youth, our Child Well-Being Foundation has awarded over 21.5 million in grants since its founding, including $852,000 last year. I know that there will be much more ahead. Our Legacy Scholarship program continues to give children of fallen or disabled veterans a chance to pursue their dreams. Here are some more statistics from our impact reports.

These are serious numbers to be shared beyond these four walls. 96,000 units of blood donated in 2024 to our blood donor program. 114,000 young people engaged in Legion youth programs, instilling leadership, patriotism and civic pride. 1.4 million buddy checks since 2020, because outreach is not just about contact, it's about connection. Over 1,400 posts involved in Vets in the Classroom, keeping history alive for the next generation. This is not the work of one headquarters building in Indianapolis or Washington, D.C. This is the collective

effort of our posts, units, squadrons and Riders chapters across this great country. It's you, our NEC members, who ensure that these programs reach every corner of America.

We've also been very strong on the policy front. Our Washington staff testified multiple times before Congress this year on legislation affecting veterans and their families. But advocacy is not just for our D.C. team, every Legionnaire can be a part of that fight by signing up for legislative action alerts at legion.org/action. The challenges ahead are very real. Veteran suicide, homelessness, transition support for post-9/11 veterans and ensuring VA accountability but so is our resolve.

As we prepare for America's 250th anniversary, I encourage all of you to take part in our USA250 Challenge, focusing on fitness, mental wellness and community service. This is more than a celebration; it's a way to serve while honoring the ideals our nation was founded upon. We don't do this for the T-shirts, although I do like mine, but because we care about veterans, children and the communities in which we live. In the end, our impact is not measured solely in billions of dollars or thousands of programs, it is measured in the veteran who can finally breathe easier, in the child who receives a grant or scholarship. The people in this room are stewards of our values: service, patriotism and commitment. And together we will keep serving, not because we have to, but because we swore an oath, and we mean it.

Thank you for your leadership, your dedication, and your love for veterans, their families and our great country. May God bless you all. May God bless this convention, and may God bless the great United States of America. Thank you all. *(Applause)*

...National Commander LaCoursiere resumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: Now we'll go on to the report of the Resolutions Subcommittee, Chairman William Kile from West Virginia.

Oral Report: Subcommittee on Resolutions
William W. Kile, West Virginia, Chairman

Mr. Commander, I now ask that you prepare the NEC for memorializing resolutions.

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: Please rise and uncover.

Memorial Resolution
Bobby D. Bryant, Oklahoma

WHEREAS, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, Bobby D. Bryant - Department Vice Commander – 2015; Department Commander – 2015 to 2016; National Executive Committee Member - 2016 to 2017; National Vice Commander – 2017 to 2018; National M&PA Committee Member – 2024 to 2025; and

WHEREAS, We humbly bow to the will of Divine Providence, while ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of his distinguished service to our country and his outstanding contributions to American Legion comradeship; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, in regular meeting assembled on this 25th Day of August in the year of our Lord 2025, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, Bobby D. Bryant, that we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That in token of our common grief, a copy of this resolution be presented to his family.

Similar resolutions will be presented to the families of the following: H. Warren Post, Florida; David M. Hicks, Illinois; Kenneth J. Trumbull, Illinois; Thomas E. Somerville, Indiana; Stephen R. Slathas, Kansas; Philip R. Dorsey, Maryland; James L. Flattes, Sr., Massachusetts; Alfonso M. Christian, Puerto Rico; Norman I. Nelson, Utah; Frank L. Cooley, West Virginia.

"Abide With Me"
Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou, Who changest not, abide with me.
H. F. Lyte

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: I ask the body be seated.

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: You can all cover. Thank you, Bill. I now call on the vice chairman of The American Legion Department Advisory Committee, Past National Commander David K. Rehbein of Iowa.

Oral Report: The American Legion Department Advisory Committee
Past National Commander David K. Rehbein, Iowa, Vice Chairman

Thank you, commander. Members of the NEC, guests, you don't have a written report, so let me give you an oral summary update on what's happening in our two departments, Washington and Colorado. First, let me begin with Washington and thank Charlie, PNC Charlie Schmidt, for taking the lead role in guiding them back to department status, because they are back to department status. ***(****Applause)*

The last couple of steps for Washington to become a fully functioning independent department again was the hiring of a department adjutant, which they achieved on August 18 when Barbara Lombrano agreed to take the job of department adjutant. Now they have to work out the repayment plan with national. And from what I know of Washington's finances, that repayment plan is not going to be difficult for them to achieve. So, I expect those two steps maybe to be accomplished by the time we come to Fall NEC.

Now, let me move to Colorado. And I need to thank a couple of people there, too, Past National Commander Paul Dillard; Past National Commander and Kansas Department Adjutant Jimmie Foster, because they played a significant role in helping Colorado get back on their feet. Right now, Colorado has three objectives to meet: They need to decide what to do with their headquarters building because it's going to seriously affect the future of their department. Their headquarters building is a 27,000-square-foot building with three significant tenants and a $1.7 million mortgage. That can be dealt with, but if they choose to keep that building, it's going to seriously affect them coming back to a department and repaying national for the funds that national has put forward in helping them get back on their feet.

Past Commander Paul Dillard has taken the lead to help them come to at least a consensus priority of which direction they want to go;

sell the building, keep the building, whatever it is, but they need to come to that consensus priority. Past National Commander and Department Adjutant Jimmie Foster has written a job description for them for when it comes time to hire that new adjutant. That, we think, is going to be another challenge for Colorado, to find that person to come be their department adjutant because of the issues that they still have in front of them. My particular job was to help them write the document similar to our Outline of Authorization, defining their committees, defining their committee structure. They've made a lot of progress on that. I think we can get that done in the next few months.

So where do we stand? They have an executive committee meeting of their acting officers on September 20. At that time, it's my hope we will be able to present that committee structure document for them for their approval. The job description of the adjutant, I don't think that's going to be any problem at all. But at that meeting, they need to seriously consider which way they're going on that building.

If things continue to progress as I hope they will, as I think they probably will, we will probably be coming to you at our Fall NEC meeting with a recommendation to restore their charter and begin the process, the probationary process, of putting the MOU together, thinking about the repayment plan, thinking about some other serious issues in Colorado. But I think it's time now for Colorado to become responsible for their own affairs again, rather than national telling them what they can and can't do and what they must and must not do. They have to become a functioning department again.

So, I expect that to be the recommendation at the Fall NEC meeting. We'll have more information for you before then, but that's where our committee stands right now, and I thank you, commander, for the support that you have given us, that the national staff has given us. This has been a long process. As you know, it's been two and a half years since those two charters were suspended. Time to get them back. Time to get them back fully functioning. Thank you, commander.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Department Advisory Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Department Advisory Committee. Is there any discussion? All those in favor, signify by aye. Opposed, nay. Carried. I now call on Gaither M. Keener of North Carolina, chairman of the Finance Commission, for purposes of a report.

Oral Report: Finance Commission
Gaither M. Keener, Jr., North Carolina, Chairman

Thank you, Mr. Commander. National Commander and members of the NEC, it has been my honor and pleasure to serve you this year as commission chair. We met at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 23. All members were there, all NEC liaison members were there, some past national commanders were there, and a lot of guests.

You have my report before you. We received reports from the various committees and commissions and national office and staff. The Finance Commission approved a $1,500 budget overrun for the Library Division for a digital archive platform test. The current authorized headcount for National Headquarters is 257.

Mr. Commander, there are no emergency matters to come before the NEC. That is my oral report, sir.

Report: Finance Commission
Gaither M. Keener, Jr., North Carolina, Chairman

Mr. Commander and members of the NEC – It has been my honor and pleasure to serve you this year on the Finance Commission.

The Finance Commission convened at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 23, 2025, in the Marriott Water Street. All Finance Commission members were present. All NEC Liaison Committee members were present as well. Several guests from various departments joined us.

The following reported to the commission: the national adjutant, national treasurer, our national headquarters' executive directors and the Finance controller. We received reports from your Convention and Marketing Commissions. Written reports were received from the Media & Communications and Internal Affairs Commissions, the Membership & Post Activities Committee, and our Charitable Giving and IT offices.

The Finance Commission approved a $1,500 budget overrun for the Library Division for a digital archive platform test.

The current authorized head count for national headquarters is 257.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, I move to approve the report of the Finance Commission. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: It's been moved and seconded to approve the report of the Finance Commission. Is there any discussion? All those in favor, signify by aye. Opposed, nay. Carried. Next, we have Michael E. Walton from Illinois with the Convention Commission report.

Oral Report: Convention Commission
Michael E. Walton, Illinois, Chairman

Good morning, commander and members of the NEC. You have my written report. The Convention Commission met Saturday, where we reviewed each of the members' assignments, and they will report back to our commission at our fall meetings.

The Color Guard contests were very well attended. 13 Color Guards performed in four categories with Lady Lake Post 347 of Lady Lake, Florida being awarded the National Commander Color Guard. As you may recall, we introduced the new competition class three years ago with the National Junior ROTC Competition Class, and it has really taken off. We had 24 units compete this year on Friday night, and West Caldwell High School took first place in what we believe was a very impressive display again.

We had a wonderful Patriotic Memorial Service conducted yesterday, and the Lumina Youth choir was outstanding in their performance.

The exhibit and trade show is well underway with over 90 exhibitors, so make sure you get to that west hall soon. We have many things for the family to do or have done so far here. Emblem sales is once again on par for another stellar year. The city of Tampa and the Department of Florida has done an outstanding job. I know they welcomed us originally with sunny skies, but as you know, it's a little bit of rain and a little bit of thunder, as they're known as the Thunderbolts, we got a good air-conditioned building, though, and the Bucs and Rays games were well attended by our American Legion Family. Our Indy convention team are doing an outstanding job for us, as they do every year.

There were no items that require action by the National Executive Committee meeting during National Convention at our meetings. You have the future National Convention dates listed in your report. Don't forget, we're going to Louisville next year. Commander, thank you for allowing me to serve. That concludes my report.

Report: Convention Commission
Michael E. Walton, Illinois, Chairman

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael E. Walton (IL) at 8:00 A.M., August 23, 2025. Roll call was taken and all members were present.

Chairman Walton reviewed the convention assignments for each commission member and reminded them that a detailed convention report should be provided to the commission at the 2025 Fall Meeting. The Color Guard contests were well attended by contestants and observers. Six (6) color guards competed in four categories with Lady Lake Post 347, Lady Lake, Florida, being awarded the National Commander Color Guard. The JROTC competition class had twenty-four units competing with West Caldwell taking first place in what was another impressive display. There was no band contest this year.

There were no items, which require action by the National Executive Committee during National Convention, discussed at the meeting.

Dates for future Conventions are:

Louisville, Kentucky	August 28 – Sept 3, 2026
Kansas City, Missouri	August 27 – Sept 2, 2027
Columbus, Ohio	August 25 – August 31, 2028
Indianapolis, Indiana	August 24 – August 30, 2029
Salt Lake City, Utah	August 23 – August 29, 2030
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	August 22 – August 28, 2031

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Convention Commission. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Convention Commission. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, nay. Carried. Next is Paul A. Evenson of South Dakota, chairman of the Marketing Commission.

Oral Report: Marketing Commission
Paul A. Evenson, South Dakota, Chairman

Good morning, commander, members of the National Executive Committee and guests. Thank you for the opportunity to provide a brief update from the Marketing Commission. The Marketing Commission continues to focus on following strategic priorities: The value of membership, diversifying revenue and Be the One brand awareness.

Our Army-Navy game partnership remains one of our strongest platforms to elevate national brand awareness. The American Legion is the only veteran service organization selected through their competitive process, giving us exclusive representation at America's Game. This partnership will continue to assist in strengthening relationships, rally public sport and reenergize pride within our Legion Family.

Corporate partnership growth remains strong. We welcome new partners, renewed existing ones and secured over $125,000 in new investments tied directly to the National Convention activities alone.

Ongoing sponsorship support from USAA, Wellcare and Mutual of Omaha remains vital in fueling our mission. Our digital network continues to move forward. Legion.org is involving into a more external-facing platform designed to engage prospective members and donors through storytelling, improved navigation and refreshed membership experience. A new website content calendar and streamlined update process will ensure consistency across all divisions.

Finally, the commission reviewed a report on Emblem Sales which continues to deliver both revenue and brand visibility. This concludes our report. On behalf of the commission, I thank you for your continued support of our efforts to grow the Legion's impact for our veterans and their families.

Report: Marketing Commission
Paul A. Evenson, South Dakota, Chairman

Marketing Commission Overview

The Marketing Commission met in Tampa, Florida on August 23, 2025. The commission focused on the Army-Navy game partnership, corporate development expansion, Legion.org progress, and updates on overall marketing initiatives.

Army-Navy Game Update

The commission outlined the Army-Navy Game partnership objectives and the contractual assets that support a strong, exclusive presence at America's Game.

Partnership Objectives:

- Strengthen strategic relationships with sponsors, lawmakers, and veteran advocates.
- Elevate national brand awareness through storytelling and high-profile presence.
- Rally public support for veterans through purpose-driven fundraising.
- Re-energize pride and unity within the Legion Family.

Partnership Asset Overview:

- Branding and IP Rights
- Broadcast and Digital Medial Integration
- Print, Digital and Radio

- On-site Game Day Activation and Fan Engagement
- Academy Activations
    - Navy vs. FAU (Homecoming) on October 25, 2025
    - Army vs. Temple on November 8, 2025

Corporate Partnership Update

The commission reported strong partnership expansion highlighting the following:

- Three (3) new partners**,** eight (8) existing partners renewal, and three (3) additional in advanced discussions.
- $127,750 new partner investment**s** tied to convention activations.
- Enhanced convention activities supported by partners:
    - Wellcare and Consumer Cellular supported the USS Tampa Post 5 Veteran Cemetery Project
    - Daisy provided a unique attendee experience in the exhibit hall with an inflatable gun range challenge
    - American Legion Gaming Area sponsored by Consumer Cellular
- Ongoing convention sponsorships include:
    - USAA
    - Wellcare, a Centene Corporation
    - Mutual of Omaha
    - Founding Fathers Products ($75,000 check presentation during General Session)

Legion.org Content Update

The commission reported significant progress in streamlining Legion.org and other Legion digital properties:

- Launch of internal Website Change Request Form with approval workflows.
- Content refreshes across divisions, ensuring accuracy and external relevance.
- Development of a comprehensive website content calendar for events, holidays, and campaigns.
- Long-term planning for a modernized membership experience, including tailored *MyLegion* content and backend enhancements.

2025 Marketing Commission Initiatives

The Marketing Commission continues to align its strategy with the organization's top priorities: value of membership, diversifying revenue, and Be the One/brand awareness. The following key metrics/successes were reported:

- Transforming Legion.org into more of an external-facing platform designed to engage prospective members and donors through compelling storytelling, streamlined pathways to join or give, and a modernized user experience that showcases the Legion's impact.
- 86% of revenue goal accomplished prior to the end of Q3; tracking 97% of goal with committed partner investments that are currently in the contract phase of the sales process.
- Creation of Revenue Pod that allows for more collaboration with Marketing, Media & Communications (ad sales) and Fund Development.
- Collaborating closely with VA&R and Internal Affairs to define and refine the Be the One platform

The Marketing Commission hosted special guest Nick Palmisciano from Diesel Jack Media who showcased the latest produced content supporting multiple divisions across The American Legion. Additionally, Chairman Robert Burke shared an update on Emblem Sales, including current performance metrics in 2025 showcasing the growth YOY from 2024 with emphasis on driving both revenue and brand alignment across Legion merchandise.

Emblem Committee
Robert K. Burke, Massachusetts, Chairman

As of July 31st, Flag and Emblem Sales has achieved a total order value of $10.5 million, compared to $10.2 million in 2024. Approximately 66,000 orders have been fulfilled through the second quarter of 2025, with an average order value of $160.00.

Flag sales for 2025 have reached a record-breaking $2.7 million to date, positioning this year to potentially be the highest in our history. Current sales are 5% higher than those recorded in 2024, and we have achieved record sales nearly every month of this year.

Currently, there are 2,492 posts registered in the "Flag Rewards" program, with over 44,000 schools, businesses, churches, and individuals participating as sponsors. Since the National Convention in 2024, an additional 5,000 sponsors have joined the Flag Rewards program.

Emblem Sales remains committed to promoting items to members and patriotic Americans through both electronic and print channels. In 2025, we have dispatched over 525,000 marketing emails at a cost of just $577.00. These efforts have generated additional revenue exceeding $135,000.00.

Since the release of the 2025 Catalog, we have introduced 24 new items, with numerous other offerings being rebranded and updated. These refreshed products are now available for purchase on our website.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Marketing Commission. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Marketing Commission. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by aye. Opposed, nay. Carried. I now call on Mark A. Avis from Massachusetts, the chairman of Americanism.

Oral Report: Americanism Commission
Mark A. Avis, Massachusetts, Chairman

Thank you, commander, members of the National Executive Committee, past national commanders and guests all, your Americanism Commission met on Saturday, August 23 in the Tampa Convention Center. There were a total of 135 commission, council and committee members collectively in attendance.

The commission was honored to highlight the noteworthy achievements of our 2025 Youth Champions, and the commission heard from other distinguished guests and speakers. Colonel Jeffrey Gaylord of Tennessee was honored as your 2025 Educator of the Year during the commission meeting and gave a great presentation on the importance of inspiring and caring for our youth.

The commission had the privilege of awarding the Daniel J. O'Connor Americanism trophy to the Department of Ohio, the Frank N. Belgrano trophy to the Department of Missouri, and the Ralph T. O'Neil trophy to the Department of Vermont.

The commission was encouraged to have an active role in their department America250 initiatives and were reminded to continue growing their youth programs.

You have been provided copies of the commission report before you. There are currently no matters of emergency nature from the Americanism Commission to be presented to the National Executive Committee. On behalf of the Americanism Commission, I extend our deepest gratitude to you, commander, and to all members of the National Executive Committee for the support extended to the commission's Americanism and Children & Youth programs. Your Americanism Commission is tirelessly working to support the two pillars of Americanism and Children & Youth.

Finally, I would like to quickly thank the members of the NEC for their generous donations to The American Legion Baseball Centennial Classic held in Milbank, South Dakota in July. It was a great event and a perfect way to honor 100 years of American Legion Baseball. Thank you. Commander, it's been my honor to serve you, and I thank you for that opportunity. Subject to any questions, that concludes my report.

Report: Americanism Commission
Mark A. Avis, Massachusetts, Chairman

The Americanism Commission joint meeting of the Children & Youth Committee, Youth Education Committee, Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee, and Americanism Council met on Saturday, August 23, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Tampa convention center, Ballroom C, First Floor. One hundred thirty-five members of the Americanism Commission, Americanism Council, Committee on Children & Youth, Committee on Youth Education and Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee were collectively in attendance. Americanism Commission members and other voting members answering the roll call were: Mark Avis (MA), Chairman; Darell T Bishop (OH); Douglas L Boldt (NE), National Commander's Representative; Lyman R Brenner (DE); Patricia Dandy (SC); Randy Edwards (UT); Randy Goodman (GA); Doug Harris (SD); John Reece (IL); Fran Riter (NY); Steve Colcord (IA); Sandra Crossno (ID); Lewis Jones (PA); David King (KY); Scott Paradis (ME); Randy Goodman (GA); Alan Davis Sr. (MN); Leslie Clevinger (VA); Michael Donnelly (NC); Gerald Theriot (LA);; James Watson (TX) Mike Pollitt (NH), Consultant; G Douglas Willey (MD), Consultant; Richard Neville, (NC), Chairman, Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee; Herbert Petit (LA), Chairman, Committee on Children & Youth; and Michael Westergren (AR), Chairman, Committee on Youth Education.

The Commissioned welcomed PNC Daniel Dellinger (VA) for remarks. The Commission was also graced with PNC Anthony Jordan (ME), and David Rehbein (IA) and were introduced by the Americanism Commission chairman.

The Commission was pleased to have Michael Westergren (AR), Chairman of the Committee on Youth Education, provide the invocation and benediction for the meeting. Chairman Herbert Petit (LA) excited the audience in leading the pledge of allegiance. Many distinguished guests were recognized, and the business of the commission proceeded.

Chairman Mark Avis opened the meeting with his experience with the 2025 youth program season, The American Legion's relationship with Hillsdale College, and our civics education initiatives with the Jack Miller Center.

The Commission then received reports from Richard Neville (NC), Chairman of the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee, Herbert Petite (LA), Chairman of the Committee on Children & Youth, and Michael Westergren (AR), Chairman of the Committee on Youth Education.

The Americanism Commission honored the 2025 American Legion Youth Champion Delegation and heard remarks from each of the young champions in a pre-recorded video assembled by the Media & Communications division. Before the video, each youth champion biography was written so the Commission could learn more about these fine Americans.

It was next announced the recipient of The American Legion National Education Award for 2025 is Colonel (Ret) Jeffrey Gaylord of Tennessee. Col Gaylord has dedicated 9-years to teaching and coaching the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) in Murphysboro, TN and now is the regional director of the program. Col Gaylord has supported The American Legion World Series for many years with his incredible JRTOC teams presenting the colors before each game.

Following the National Education Award the Americanism Commission had the privilege of awarding the Daniel J. O'Connor Americanism trophy to the department of Ohio. The department was represented by their department adjutant and a delegation of three to accept the award. The O'Connor trophy is awarded to the department that achieves the most outstanding results in conducting Americanism programs.

Next, the Commission awarded the Frank N. Belgrano, Jr. trophy to the department of Missouri. The department was represented by their department adjutant and a delegation of two. The Belgrano trophy is awarded to the department rendering the most outstanding service to the Scouting America organization.

The final award presentation was for the Ralph T. O'Neil trophy. The O'Neil was awarded to the department of Vermont with a delegation of two. The O'Neil education award is given to the department within the United States documenting the greatest activity in operating The American Legion School Medal Program.

Chairman Avis then provided remarks to the commission on the need to support their departments America 250 efforts. He encouraged that all get involved with their state America 250 commissions and ensure they have a presence in all activities celebrating 250 years of this great nation.

Program manager Jeffrey Bennett then briefed the Commission on the Patriotic Memorial Service to be held Sunday, August 24th at 11:00 am following the Convention Committee on Americanism meeting.

With the conclusion of the American Legion Youth Program season, Americanism Commission Chairman Mark Avis (MA) thought it appropriate to brief the commission on the success of the program season and, more importantly, discuss the strategic objectives of the Commission for the future. This year-in-review was important for the Commission because it served to affirm the commission chairman's intent and pay due compliment to the hard work of the commission and committee members for the 2025 program year.

Americanism Division Director Ron Neff was asked to make announcements.

The commission had no new business to conduct or old business left resolved and was recessed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, nay. Motion carried. Next, we have Matthew J. Shuman, chairman of the Legislative Commission.

Oral Report: Legislative Commission
Matthew J. Shuman, Arizona, Chairman

Good morning, Legion Family. Mr. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee, past national commanders, staff and guests, there are currently no matters of an emergency nature to present to the National Executive Committee from the Legislative Commission. You have been provided with copies of our report. As required by resolution, the annual report of the national Legislative Council is attached to that report as well.

On behalf of all members of the national Legislative Commission, I express my sincere appreciation for the support that this body has given us over the last year. Commander LaCoursiere, I want to thank you, in particular, sir, for your steadfast commitment to our mission and always being willing to lean into big ideas and new challenges.

When the 119th Congress began this past January, our Legislative Council hit the ground running. They engaged frequently with their legislative staff, reached out to members of Congress and were always willing to raise their hand when we needed them. They serve as our eyes and ears in town halls across our beautiful country.

Legion Family, it is because of our membership that bills have been signed into law. When the VA stopped accepting VA Service Purchasing Program applications, it placed many veterans in the crosshairs of potential home foreclosures. To prevent the creation of more homeless veterans overnight, your legislative division and commission activated our community and demanded a solution.

Commander, you might be surprised to find out that our Grassroots Action Alert, which ran for 20 days, resulted in 8,383 messages being sent to Congress advocating for legislative correction. And because of that, on July 30, H.R. 1815 was signed into law by President Donald J. Trump ensuring that veterans were able to keep their homes. Additionally, commander, our national Legislative Council is operating at full speed as we speak. One of our members of the NLC is representing us at a congressional roundtable this very moment. The Legislative Commission, council and staff worked hand in hand to address the challenges that are facing our military and veteran communities, along with their families.

In short, commander, we have the watch. Thank you all for your continued support and leadership for the legislative program. We are eagerly waiting for Congress to get back to work at the end of the August recess. Mr. Commander, subject to any questions, this also concludes my report. Thank you, sir.

Report: Legislative Commission
Matthew J. Shuman, Arizona, Chairman

This report summarizes the Legislative Commission and congressional activities since the 2025 Spring NEC Meetings on issues of particular concern to The American Legion. It is arranged by program area.

RECENT CONGRESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Since the 2025 Spring NEC meeting, The American Legion National Legislative Division has been actively shaping the legislative landscape, collaborating with both parties in Congress and fellow veteran advocacy organizations to help ensure the passing of several key military and veteran legislative bills.

The largest package of legislation passed by Congress since the Spring NEC Meeting is H.R. 1: One Big Beautiful Bill Act, passing in a 51-50 vote that called for Vice President JD Vance to serve as the tiebreaker. This bill includes tax cuts and cuts in funding for certain government programs to increase spending for border security, defense, and energy production.

Other bills that became law include H.R. 1815: VA Home Loan Program Reform Act. This legislation authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to take actions in cases of default on home loans under the VA home loan program, such as paying the holder of the loan an amount necessary to avoid the foreclosure of their loan. The legislation also established a five-year Partial Claim Program which allows the VA to purchase a portion of the indebtedness on VA loans for primary residences that are in default or at imminent risk of default. Additionally, S. 201, the Aviator Cancers Examination Study (ACES) Act also passed out of Congress in July. This bill requires the VA to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to study and report on the prevalence of cancers among veterans who served on active duty as aircrew members and those who regularly flew in fixed-wing aircraft. The Legislative Division lobbied directly for both pieces of legislation.

As Congress is set to return in September, the National Legislative Division's primary focus for the remainder of this Congressional Session is clear. We are committed to ensuring that the legislative packages are successfully passed, and that Legion-supported amendments remain in the final versions of these bills that get signed into law. This strategic focus underscores our commitment to advocating for key military and veteran legislation.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

Since the Spring NEC Meeting, the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Division has been actively engaged on legislative priorities.

On May 21, 2025, Policy Analyst Matthew Cardenas submitted The American Legion's Statement for the Record (SFR) to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs expressing strong support for multiple bills aimed at strengthening VA services and benefits. The Legion endorsed measures to expand eligibility for VA health care to certain Cold War-era veterans (S. 3186), improve care access for rural veterans through expanded transportation and telehealth (S. 3267), ensure coverage for service-connected reproductive health needs (S. 3298), streamline VA claims processing and appeals (S. 3356), and enhance caregiver program transparency and oversight (S. 3364). Additional backed legislation included efforts to improve VA workforce recruitment and retention, expand access to specialized care, increase oversight of community care networks, and modernize critical VA infrastructure and health IT systems. Consistent with long-standing Legion resolutions, the testimony emphasized reducing barriers to care, protecting earned benefits, and holding VA accountable for delivering timely, high-quality service to all who served.

On June 11, 2025, American Legion VA&R Director Cole Lyle testified before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, voicing Legion support for legislation to protect and improve veterans' benefits and health care. The Legion backed bills to provide relief for VA administrative errors (H.R. 984), combat scams targeting veterans (H.R. 1663), hold VA personnel accountable for misconduct (H.R. 3185), streamline community care scheduling (H.R. 3482), detect and prevent fraud in the Veterans Community Care Program (H.R. 3483), modernize VA's hospital inventory systems (H.R. 3494), upgrade the VA's electronic health record system, and stop late copayment collections caused by VA delays. While taking no position on a bill to study blockchain at VA (H.R. 3455), the Legion stressed the importance of efficiency, transparency, and accountability in all reforms, consistent with its long-standing resolutions to safeguard veterans' care, benefits, and trust in the VA system.

On June 12th, VA&R Director Cole Lyle testified in front of the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Health regarding pending and draft legislation, expressing support for bills such as H.R. 2605, Service Dogs Assisting Veterans (SAVES) Act and H.R. 785, Representing Our Seniors at VA. Mr. Lyle also submitted a Statement for the Record on all 12 bills. All of the proposals were supported by The American Legion, except for H.R. 3464, which we supported on the condition of amendments. The American Legion's recommended amendments to H.R. 3464 focused on enhancing data clarity, reducing administrative burden, improving demographic and geographic reporting (including for caregivers and survivors) and ensuring key terms and chronic condition categories were clearly defined to strengthen transparency and oversight.

On June 24, 2025, Policy Associate Kenneth Harman submitted a Statement for the Record to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs on pending legislation. This legislation largely focused on improving the appeals process for veterans, caregivers, and survivors, as well as ensuring the infrastructure to process these claims are well-supported and modernized. Specifically, The American Legion expressed support for H.R. 3627, Justice for America's Veterans and Survivors Act, H.R. 3951, Rural Veterans' Improved Access to Benefits Act, and H.R. 3854, Modernizing All Veterans and Survivors Claims Processing Act.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

Employment and economic opportunity for veterans have been key areas of focus for this Congress and the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The Legislative Division has been working closely with the Veterans Employment and Education Division and Congressional staff to identify opportunities to testify and provide commentary on legislative proposals in this subject area.

On June 11th, 2025, Senior Policy Associate Andrew T. Petrie testified before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity on numerous pieces of legislation regarding education, employment, and veteran homelessness. Based on this testimony, legislation was later amended to include The American Legion's recommended language.

In July 2025, H.R. 1815, the VA Home Loan Program Reform Act, was signed into law by President Trump. The American Legion strongly supported this legislation to help veterans secure their mortgages in the face of potential foreclosure and applauds the swiftness of its passage in only three months from introduction to signature. Following its passage, National Commander James LaCoursiere provided the following comments in the Committee's press release:

> *"On behalf of The American Legion's 1.5 million members, I extend our deepest gratitude to Chairman Bost, Ranking Member Takano, Congressman Van Orden, and the dedicated staff of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs for their steadfast leadership in advancing and securing the final passage of H.R. 1815, the VA Home Loan Program Reform Act. This critical legislation represents a profound commitment to safeguarding the financial security and dignity of veteran homeowners, especially during times of hardship. Your timely action ahead of the August recess reflects unwavering dedication to those who have borne the battle. We commend your continued advocacy on behalf of America's veterans."*

The Legion is working to advance several key pieces of legislation with the goal of final passage by December. H.R. 1423, the GI Bill Parity Act, has been one of our most popular grassroots campaigns with nearly 30,000 messages to Members of Congress since January 2025.

The Legislative Division is tracking more than 60 bills in the Veterans Employment and Education space and will continue to advocate for their passage before the end of the 119th Congress.

NATIONAL SECURITY

The major Congressional focus in the National Security space has been the FY26 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). In July, the Senate Armed Service Committee (SASC) voted 26-1 to advance the bill which authorizes $925 billion in total national defense spending, $878.7 billion to the Department of Defense, $35.2 billion to the Department of Energy and $10.8 billion for defense-related activities outside NDAA jurisdiction. The House companion FY26 NDAA bill passed the Armed Services Committee on July 15 with a 55-2 vote. Like the Senate version, the 2026 NDAA is largely focused on reforming the Pentagon's acquisition and procurement processes and is set to lift total defense spending to $1 trillion in the next fiscal year.

No further action is expected on the NDAA until September. The National Legislative Division has continued to advocate to Congress that they include the following provisions in the final version of the NDAA:

- **Military Quality of Life:** The American Legion urges Congress to continue to improve the quality of life for servicemembers and military families. Factors contributing to better quality of life include proper compensation, appropriate housing for families and

single servicemembers, quality healthcare for servicemembers and their families, both domestically and overseas, reasonably priced commissaries, equal opportunities for career development, and access to affordable childcare. We support increased funding for new barracks and renovation of qualified barracks and family housing, expanding financial assistance to servicemembers for private and public childcare facilities, granting military construction authority for building new child-development centers, and retaining military commissaries and exchanges, MWR programs, educational benefits, and spouse employment programs.

- **Lethality of the Armed Forces:** Continuous modernization of the armed forces is essential to maintaining military superiority and ensuring national security in this increasingly complex and dynamic global environment. The American Legion supports modernization, including updating military infrastructure, rebuilding the defense industrial base, increased funding for research and development, integration of emerging technologies, and enhancing talent acquisition by reforming recruitment strategies and retention incentives to military personnel with advanced technical skills.
- **Funding of the State Department and Foreign Operations:** The American Legion supports adequately funding the State Department to advance American security interests abroad. Diplomats are the first line of defense through relationship-building and promoting foreign policy objectives, possibly preventing the U.S. from entering wars. Underfunding diplomacy risks empowering foreign adversaries, a critical concern to U.S. national security.
- **Border Security:** A secure nation begins with secure borders. The American Legion supports increased funding to field advanced technologies to counter threats at ports of entry, greater DHS oversight to eliminate barriers for increased Border Patrol recruitment, and increased funding for DOD counter-narcotics and counter-transnational organized crime missions. National defense begins at home, and this effort is critical to our sovereignty and safety.
- **Protect Coast Guard Pay and Entitlements:** The U.S. Coast Guard carries out missions vital to our national security. The American Legion supports legislative actions that guarantee Coast Guard servicemembers get fair pay and full benefits on schedule, particularly during instances of government shutdowns or funding discontinuance. The repeated threat of government shutdowns brings severe and unnecessary hardship to Coast Guard servicemembers.
- **Full Accountability and POW/MIAs:** The American Legion remains firmly committed to achieving the fullest possible accounting for all U.S. servicemembers still listed as Prisoners of War or Missing in Action. We support NDAA language that continues to prioritize funding for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), enhances interagency cooperation, and mandates reporting on mission progress. Roughly 81,000 service members remain unaccounted for. Accountability for our missing heroes is a sacred obligation that reflects the values of our nation.

In addition to the NDAA, the Legislative Division has been working with its partners to highlight additional defense-related legislation that remains a priority. One of the most prominent bills includes the SHIPS for America Act. Reintroduced in April by Senator Mark Kelly (D-AZ) and Senator Todd Young (R-IN), this bipartisan legislation would revitalize the U.S. Merchant Marine fleet to rebuild domestic shipbuilding capacity and improve the competitiveness of U.S. flagged vessels in international commerce. The Legislative Division has been meeting with the staff of Senators Kelly and Senator Young to see how the American Legion can best support this legislation. A House companion bill was introduced in May 2025 by Representative Trent Kelly (R-MS) that has 78 Republican and Democratic cosponsors. This issue area has gained increased traction this year and remains a popular campaign within our grassroots advocacy messaging.

AMERICANISM

On June 11th, 2025, The American Legion staff attended the annual Congressional Baseball Game. The Legislative Division handed out Legion-branded items at an information booth and spoke to multiple guests about our policy priorities. Many guests, including sitting Members of Congress, remarked that they had either served, played American Legion baseball, or were involved with Boys/Girls State. During the game, The American Legion ran an advertisement highlighting our programming and we are looking forward to engaging with opportunities like these going forward.

The Legislative Division is currently working with Representative Tim Burchett (R-TN) to introduce a Congressional Resolution commemorating 100 years of American Legion baseball. The resolution recognizes and honors the accomplishments of The American Legion Baseball program in mentoring young Americans in honor of the programs 100th anniversary. The American Legion's youth programs remain an integral part of the organizations mandate, and the legislative division will continue to engage with Congressional offices to honor and support these programs.

The Legislative Division is working with Representative Steve Womack (R-AR) to gather cosponsors for his Flag Protection Amendment. The Amendment was introduced June 13, 2025 as House Joint Resolution 101 and referred to the House Judiciary Committee, and currently has 23 co-sponsors. The resolution proposes an amendment to the Constitution authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the U.S. flag. The Senate has a companion resolution S.J. Resolution 58, introduced by Senator Mike Crapo, (R-ID) on June 12, 2025.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION MEETING

On August 23rd, 2025, the Legislative Division conducted the National Legislative Commission Meeting in Tampa, Florida. National Commander James LaCoursiere and Sons of The American Legion's National Commander Paul Navarrate welcomed the members of the Commission and thanked them for being in attendance. Following their remarks, Chairman Matthew Shuman provided opening comments and set the agenda for the meeting. The Legislative Division provided an overview of the efforts from the 119th Congress so far, as well as a review of key legislative efforts The American Legion supports. This included over 255 bill reviews, 15 Statements for the Record, and five testimonies before Congress.

Following the legislative review, the Legislative Director hosted a congressional staff panel with representatives from the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs. The panel discussed their respective committee's priorities for the rest of the year, and the different hurdles legislative proposals need to overcome. They also explained what staff listen for during meetings with constituents and how they use testimony from Veteran Service Organizations to inform their viewpoints on legislation.

Following the staff panel, the congressional staffers worked with Legislative Division staff to facilitate hands-on training for the attendees. After watching an instructional video, Chairman Shuman reviewed the top tips for a successful meeting with their Members of Congress. Additionally, Chairman Shuman walked the attendees through a step-by-step worksheet that outlined the necessary steps to take when discussing issues with elected officials and how to ensure that their message resonates. The participants broke into four groups to plan

their own mock congressional meeting, which they were able to practice with and get advice from the congressional staff from the panel. Finally, Chairman Paul Espinosa provided a report on the status of the National Legislative Commission and the most active grassroots campaigns.

This concludes The American Legion National Legislative Commission's Report to the National Executive Committee.

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ACTIVITIES REPORT 2024-2025

In 1975, The National Executive Committee created the National Legislative Council to assist the work of the Legislative Commission. The Legislative Council is composed of a chairman that leads the council, vice-chairs for each department and the member Legionnaires assigned to each Member of Congress. The purpose of the National Legislative Council is to have Legionnaires that forge relationship with their assigned Member of Congress therefore offering sound judgment and advice on issues of importance to The American Legion, veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

The following Annual Consolidated National Legislative Council Activities Report for 2024-2025 is submitted for the record.

1. 2024-2025 Legislative Campaigns

.	Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Shortfall	44,584 messages sent 118th
2.	Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act	28,381 messages sent 118th 30,056 messages sent 119th
3.	Fulfilling Promises to Afghan Allies Amendment	4,267 messages sent 118th
4.	Sen. Elizabeth Dole Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act (signed into law Jan 2025)	24,936 messages sent 118th
5.	Contact The Speaker: Hello Girls of World War I	21,850 messages sent
6.	Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act	11,225 messages sent
7.	Love Lives On Act	59,967 messages sent
8.	SHIPS for America Act	17,515 messages sent
9.	Service Dogs Assisting Veterans (SAVES) Act	27,228 messages sent
10.	Saving Veterans from Foreclosure	8,383 messages sent
11.	Major Richard Star Act	68,210 messages sent
12.	GUARD Act	16,335 messages sent
13.	Ensure the Coast Guard is Paid	15,645 messages sent in the 118th
14.	Expanding America's National Cemeteries	15,645 messages sent
15.	Presidential Medal of Freedom to Diane Carlson Evans	6,619 messages sent to White House

2. Advocacy Metrics

Since September 1st, 2024, Legionnaires have sent over **117,000** messages to Congress and the White House through our VoterVoice platform, www.legion.org/action, representing a 3.4% increase from the 2023-2024 total.

National Legislative Division staff will provide records of the state message totals to National Legislative Council Vice Chairs and Department leadership.

Rank	State	Total Messages Sent September 2024 -August 2025	Total Legionnaires Registered (as of 8/14/2025)
1	Wisconsin	7,807	17,248
2	Florida	7,657	83,257
3	Ohio	6,279	30,702
4	New York	5,795	33,364
5	Texas	5,704	32,985
6	Kansas	5,163	9,720
7	Tennessee	4,587	12,487
8	Indiana	4,209	30,026
9	California	4,201	42,432
10	Arizona	4,089	28,090
11	Oregon	3,682	6,729
12	Pennsylvania	3,616	43,740
13	Illinois	3,539	24,697

14	New Jersey	3,536	18,221
15	Virginia	2,800	24,146
16	Michigan	2,474	34,069
17	North Carolina	2,437	21,865
18	Massachusetts	2,417	13,095
19	Nevada	2,372	4,850
20	South Carolina	2,161	19,358
21	West Virginia	2,103	4,780
22	Colorado	2,099	11,273
23	Missouri	1,926	17,474
24	Alaska	1,870	4,326
25	Minnesota	1,853	24,468
26	Georgia	1,798	21,228
27	Connecticut	1,515	7,904
28	Washington	1,512	11,481
29	Maryland	1,407	26,518
30	Maine	1,372	6,750
31	Iowa	1,245	11,935
32	Hawaii	1,235	1,346
33	Arkansas	1,159	6,407
34	Louisiana	1,114	7,537
35	Alabama	1,042	10,116
36	Oklahoma	820	6,932
37	Utah	787	4,835
38	Rhode Island	768	1,383
39	Nebraska	737	9,216
40	New Hampshire	728	7,917
41	Kentucky	570	7,554
42	Montana	511	4,011
43	Delaware	497	5,881
44	Idaho	494	4,529
45	New Mexico	444	5,496
46	South Dakota	440	5,082
47	Mississippi	436	4,211
48	North Dakota	266	4,271
49	Wyoming	254	2,641
50	Vermont	247	2,975

Additionally, there are **1,383 Legionnaires** registered in Washington, D.C.; **738 Legionnaires** registered in Puerto Rico; **122 Legionnaires** registered in the U.S. Virgin Islands; **4 Legionnaires** registered in the Northern Mariana Islands; and **3 Legionnaires** registered in the American Samoa.

3. National Legislative Council Meetings

The National Legislative Council does not hold national meetings. Rather, meetings are held by the individual departments at the discretion of Department leadership. However, many NLC members attended the Washington Conference and were invited to sit in on the Legislation Commission meeting and trainings. We anticipate the same happening for the 2025 Convention. NLC members are also invited to attend Legislative Commission virtual meetings when they are held.

4. National Legislative Council Vacancies

There are currently zero National Legislative Council vacancies reported to Legislative Division staff. The National Legislative Council is fully staffed as of May of this year. When changes have been made, the appropriate Department leadership has notified Legislative Division staff of the changes.

5. National Legislative Council Training Sessions

The Legislative Division has held four virtual training courses via Zoom for the NLC members since the 2024 Convention. Training was held in October and December of 2024, and again in January and April of 2025. Another training course is being planned for this September or October, pending scheduling. The training covered how to follow legislation through the Legion website, how to use the Voter Voice system, how to report their meetings with Members of Congress, and how to better connect their local post with the local congressional staff. Attendance was as follows:

October 2024 – 92 attendees
December 2024 – 55 attendees
January 2025 – 76 attendees
April 2025 – 47 attendees

Training is important to ensure NLC members understand the various topics that are before the Congress and review with new members how they can best utilize the Legion website.

6. National Legislative Council Activities

At the onset of the 119th Congress, the Legislative Division initiated the rebuilding and reappointment of the Council. This consisted of identifying the members of Congress who either retired or lost their seat and ensuring that their successor was included in the updated rosters. The Legislative Division worked closely with Department leadership to receive the nominations for Council membership, and processed the appointment requests for National Commander approval. The Council members all received their appointment letters and were offered training sessions on how to connect with their assigned member of Congress and grow a solid working relationship.

In July 2025, the Legislative Commission Chairman sent a letter to all NLC members and encouraged them to schedule a veteran Town Hall meeting with the representatives during August Recess. August Recess is a three-week period in which Members of Congress return to their home districts/states to visit with their constituents and participate in discussions regarding local issues. The Legislative Division asked the NLC members to request their local representative hold a town hall meeting at a Legion Post. Chairman Shuman also recorded a video message encouraging all Legionnaires to reach out to their Members of Congress during recess, and Chairman Espinoza contacted each department individually. This outreach resulted in multiple town halls being conducted throughout the summer. Legislative Division will work with Membership & Internal Affairs Division to generate a report to detail these instances further.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Legislative Commission. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Legislative Commission. Is there any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, nay. Carried. I now call on David F. Wallace of Virginia for the Media & Communications Report.

Oral Report: Media & Communications Commission
David F. Wallace, Virginia, Chairman

Commander, members of the National Executive Committee, national officers and friends, the American Legion Media & Communications Commission conducted its meeting Saturday and heard updates on the 2025 strategic plan, as well as plans to advance American Legion messaging around the 250th anniversary of the nation. Emphatically, the American Legion Family USA250 Challenge.

The 250th anniversary presents many excellent opportunities for The American Legion. The commission believes this is the way forward heading into 2026 and the semiquincentennial of the great nation we are so proud to serve. Having no other urgent matters to come before the NEC at this time, this concludes my report.

Report: Media & Communications Commission
David F. Wallace, Virginia, Chairman

The American Legion Media & Communications Commission met Aug. 23 and received reports on the status of the division it oversees and strategic priorities for the months ahead.

In addition to the portfolio of digital, print, social and physical media produced every day, multiple times a day, and distributed by the Media & Communications team, the commission strongly supports continued work by staff to reduce veteran suicide by promoting and publicizing the Be the One mission; resources for membership attraction, acquisition and retention; efforts to improve corporate financial stability; and talent management. These are the organization's top four stated strategic priorities.

In addition, the commission also received updates on several emergent and rising priorities, including:

1. **The 250th Anniversary of the Nation and the USA 250 Challenge.** Launched on July 3, the USA 250 Challenge is now vigorously promoted through all media channels, urging American Legion Family members to conduct 250 or more acts of fitness, wellness or service in vividly branded shirts, to show pride in the nation's 250th anniversary, with net proceeds going to the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.
   Media & Communications efforts are also now under way to help the nation "celebrate and educate" during the nation's 250th anniversary. Multiple media initiatives are in process, including development of a post toolkit for the 250th anniversary, coverage of semiquincentennial events and activities across the country, national American Legion salutes to the 250th anniversaries of the U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps through all platforms; promotion of the America250 Commission and its pathways to honor the national milestone; and a special 2026 series in *The American Legion Magazine*.
2. **Operation Metrics.** The Media & Communications team looks to expand its interdivisional leadership with the collection, documentation and publication of American Legion impact numbers for uses across all channels, in support of membership, planned giving, external media awareness and digital/social media postings.
3. **American Legion Baseball Centennial.** The 100th anniversary bookazine, "A Century of Citizenship Through Sportsmanship," is in market and will have a shelf life of about two years, through the 100th American Legion World Series, and beyond, for posterity. The Media & Communications staff has worked closely with Americanism/American Legion Baseball to develop and distribute multiple media elements, including a new video, Major League Baseball shout-outs, coverage of the Centennial Classic Tournament in Milbank, S.D., department American Legion Baseball historical pieces; physical displays; magazine stories; and more.
4. **Tango Alpha Lima.** The national American Legion podcast team is entering a new agreement to produce the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation's podcast. Tango Alpha Lima continues to grow audience, now ranked among the top 10 nationwide, with many relevant, fascinating and well-known guests, including a scheduled appearance from award-winning documentary filmmaker Ken Burns on the making of "The American Revolution" for PBS, which debuts in November, ahead of the 250th anniversary of the nation.
5. **Army-Navy Game.** The Media & Communications team is working closely with Marketing to build on the success of The American Legion's first sponsorship of the Army-Navy Game in 2024. The game will again be the cover story of the December *American Legion Magazine*, and Media & Communications staff will provide coverage and coordinate external media engagements, as well as ad placements.

The Media & Communications team is also working to assist the Marketing Commission in fulfillment of the new legion.org national website; the Legislative Commission in developing enhanced media elements for the Washington Conference and National Commander's

Testimony; leadership in Sons of The American Legion to expand that program's media portfolio; and the Office of Fund Development to ensure regular, effective communications and ads are producing positive results.

The Media & Communications economic model, meanwhile, continues to evolve as times change. Greater emphasis on digital media, without reducing the importance of printed media like *The American Legion Magazine*, is conditioning the budget.

In a nutshell:

- The American Legion Magazine is running below budget for commissionable outside ad sales after eight issues but, when combined with placements for corporate partners the magazine is accountable for $5.5 million in national revenues in that span. Paper and printing are running under budget, but a 5% increase in postage (July) continues to drive up cost.
- Advertising and other revenues from digital media continue to grow and exceed expectations, with the e-newsletter program, website and Thank You Thursday ads all running well above budget.

The American Legion Media & Communications Commission is closely studying changes in the information landscape and urging staff to continue driving the organization's priorities using every available channel in the most cost-effective ways. This is the way forward, and is likely to be the way for the foreseeable future, in an ever-changing economy and a rapidly evolving society of media consumers.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Media & Communications Commission. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Media & Communications Commission. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, nay. Carried. I now call on Mike Cooke of Wyoming, Membership & Post Activities chairman.

Oral Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
Mike Cooke, Wyoming, Chairman

Good morning. Commander, past national commanders, members of the NEC and guests, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to brief you on the Membership & Post Activities Committee's meeting. You have a copy of my written report. There are no emergency matters to come before this body.

First, I'd like to discuss the National Membership Workshop, which was held two weeks ago. It was very successful with approximately 350 attendees, the most since the pandemic. The focus was Be the One training, education, leadership, development, communication, post development and revitalization, membership, recruiting, and retention and community engagement.

I'd like to give you a brief update on some of the things currently happening during this convention. This past Saturday and today we are holding subject matter expert training at the convention center. We also held a strategic insight series training Saturday. In fact, as we speak, there's also training sessions underway for newly elected district commanders at the Marriott Water Street Hotel. Commander, thank you for your support and guidance. This concludes my report.

Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
Mike Cooke, Wyoming, Chairman

The Membership and Post Activities Committee met at 10:30 a.m. on August 23, 2025, in the Marriott Water Street, Florida Salon V, Second Floor. There were 63 individuals in attendance.

As of the July 28, 2025, Delegate Strength Target Date, the 2025 membership total was 1,429,837 – 51,814 members less than the 2024 total. The 2025 total includes 68,032 DMS members acquired, 8,793 encumbered renewals, and 1,353,012 traditional members (goal was 1,445,882). Two departments exceeded 100% of their membership goal. Those departments were France and Hawaii.

The online renewal program continues to be a great tool for members. The 2025 campaign saw 211,773 members who renewed online. Members can set up their membership to auto-renew and now they have the option to renew their membership for three years at a time. 53,936 individuals have taken advantage of the multiyear option – 6,118 have joined and 47,818 individuals have renewed using the multiyear option. Members are encouraged to use one or both options when they log on to renew. When a member selects one of these options, it will decrease the number of renewal notices that will need to be sent out next year.

During the 62nd National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis, there were 350 attendees that were assigned to four different groups: Foundational Growth & Belonging, Member Engagement, Recruitment and Retention, and Strategic Leadership & Legacy. The workshop was very successful, with those telling us via our survey they enjoyed training pertaining to growing and retaining membership at the post level featuring American Legion programs and initiatives around Be the One.

The 2026 traditional membership goal is 1,367,356 (see attached). This goal was derived from the departments' 2025 total traditional membership as of July 1, 2025, which includes DMS transferred members, traditionally acquired members and renewals, and added up to 1.5% for growth.

The first target date for the 2026 membership year is the 50% target date on September 10, 2025. The 2026 membership report will be sent out on a regular basis immediately following the national convention in Tampa.

For 2026, the Leading Candidate outlined at the recent National Membership Workshop his six priorities to departments: Be The One, Better Together, Legislative Agenda, The 3 C's, Veterans and Children Foundation, and America 250.

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee. Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, nay. Carried. The Chair recognizes Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Robert E. Newman of Indiana for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Internal Affairs Commission
Robert E. Newman, Indiana, Chairman

Good morning, commander, members of the National Executive Committee. You have received my written report, and there are no emergency matters that need to be brought to your attention.

During the Legacy Run from South Boston, Virginia to Tampa, Florida, we had 391 individuals registered, and we collected $412,630 for the Veterans & Children Foundation along the way. We expect to receive more donations during the Legion Riders presentation during the general session tomorrow. We look forward to seeing the impact the Riders will have on raising money for the VCF for years to come.

Special thanks to our national commander for his active support and positive approach to our programs, with special emphasis on membership and training during this year. This concludes my report, commander.

Report: Internal Affairs Commission
Robert E. Newman, Indiana, Chairman

The Internal Affairs Commission and guests totaling 32 attendees met in the Marriott Water Street Hotel, Florida Salon V, Second Floor, August 23, 2025. We informally reviewed eleven resolutions that will go before the Internal Affairs Convention Committee.

The American Legion Riders have continued the tradition of service to America's veterans and their families by supporting the Veterans & Children Foundation. We had 353 total riders and passengers for this year's run starting in South Boston, Virginia to Tampa, Florida, and 38 people registered as supporters. At this point, the riders have raised $412,630.24 and we expect more donations on Tuesday August 26, 2025, on the convention floor.

January 1 – December 31, 2024, we approved 109 grants (95 individual grants and 14 post grants) totaling $313,697.98 in emergency assistance. During the same period our members, posts, and departments have donated $499,595.46 in return. Since Jan. 1, 2025, we have granted $150,157.76 in emergency assistance to 32 members and eight posts. The NEF remains healthy with over 6.4M available (the market value as of May 31, 2025).

Over 802 servicemembers, veterans and their families were directly impacted by Operation Comfort Warriors in 2024, we approved 11 grants totaling $89,639.57. In 2025, American Legion Charities approved 7 grants totaling $85,500.00 for the following: Birmingham VA Medical Center-Phoenix Clinic, National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, Team River Runner, Tacoma Rainiers, VetsBoats, Alabama PTSD Retreat, Project Healing Waters-Rapid City. Donations from departments, detachments, posts, units, squadrons, and Riders chapters have been key in fundraising for OCW. In 2025, there have been 484 donations for a total of $177,790.27.

Two successful National Regional Information Conferences (NRIC) were held during this past year. One in Denver, Colorado, and the other in Boston, Massachusetts. Both events featured sessions on legal updates, membership retention, program leadership, resolution writing, and suicide prevention. Planning is currently underway for the next two NRIC events. The first will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana on January 31, 2026, and the second to take place in Atlanta Georgia on February 7, 2026. Registration will open on August 27, 2025 (tentatively).

The Sons of The American Legion 2025 membership as of August 24, 2025, is 400,801 members. There are currently 20 detachments that have exceeded their membership goal, 7 of those detachments are over 105%.

As Chairman of the National Internal Affairs Commission, on behalf of all our members, I wish to extend to all members of this body my appreciation for your support and encouragement during this past year. A special thanks to National Commander LaCoursiere for his active support and positive approach to our programs.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by aye. Opposed, nay. Carried. Next, we have Chairman Matthew D. Jabaut, of Maine, for the Veterans Employment & Education Commission report.

Oral Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Matthew D. Jabaut, Maine, Chairman

Good morning, Commander, members of the NEC, PNCs, and guests. There are no emergency matters, and you have my written report. It is my pleasure to present a couple of highlights of the work of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission.

Let's begin with small business. This year, we expanded our support for veteran entrepreneurs. The SBA reports that nearly 6% of American companies are veteran-owned, and we're working to grow that number. Through the commission, the VE&E division, and the Small Business Task Force, we hosted a network reception and a full-day conference here at the convention, connecting over 150 veteran entrepreneurs with government and industry leaders. Those events showcase success stories like Horse Soldier Bourbon and highlight advocacy efforts, including our work with Congress and the Vets First policy and Honor and Hire our Heroes Act. Lieutenant Governor Jake Collins and Former Acting Secretary of the Army Patrick Murphy were our honored guest speakers.

Next, on homelessness and housing, a critical issue, the 2024 Point in Time count showed an 8% reduction in veteran homelessness. While we celebrate that progress, our work continues until every veteran is housed. Our staff conducted site visits in Washington, D.C., and here in Florida, including at St. Vincent de Paul Cares, which is building a new facility to house over 100 veterans. One standout moment presented by Michael Raposa from St. Vincent de Paul Cares, for the first time in 15 years, Hillsboro County's list of homeless veterans dropped below 100. This is a testament to the work this community is doing in this space.

In terms of veteran employment and transition, we hosted a successful career exploration hiring fair right here in Tampa with 50 employers and over 200 registered veteran job seekers and families in attendance. Employers included Disney, BAE Systems, and General Dynamics. Recognizing that many job seekers are also parents, we partnered with the American Legion Auxiliary to host a family fun event, proving once again the power of the Legion Family. We want to thank our partners from the Department of Florida and the American Legion Auxiliary, as we could not have been successful without them. Anecdotally, a Legionnaire also informed us that they would not have been able to join and attend the job fair if it had not been for the support and childcare we offered during the event.

Finally, I want to express my deep appreciation to all the posts, departments, our Legion Family, and national staff. Your support makes

our mission possible. What we do matters. Together we are building pathways to prosperity, dignity, and continued service for every veteran. Thank you for your time, , and your commitment. This concludes my report.

Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Matthew D. Jabaut, Maine, Chairman

INTRODUCTION

On Saturday, August 23, 2025, at the JW Marriott, Tampa, Florida, the Veterans Employment & Education Commission convened presentations from a variety of subject matter experts on veterans' employment, education, training, homelessness, housing, justice-involved veterans, and small business development.

This report summarizes The American Legion's Veterans Employment & Education (VE&E) Commission's actions after the 2025 Spring National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting. The report highlights accomplishments, developments, and priorities concerning the diverse subjects encompassing the VE&E Commission.

SMALL BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING

Veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) and entrepreneurial veterans face unique challenges within the veteran community. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), small businesses constitute 99.9% of American companies, with approximately 6% being veteran-owned. The SBA has increased the number of Veterans Business Outreach Centers and expanded access to federal contracts. Additionally, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the SBA and Veterans Affairs (VA) is set to enhance self-employment assistance and provide greater access to SBA training and counseling for active-duty service members and service-disabled veterans participating in the Veteran Readiness & Employment Program (VR&E), also known as Chapter 31. The American Legion's Small Business Task Force (SBTF) is crucial in supporting VOSBs.

The SBTF, facilitated by the VE&E Division, comprises expert Legionnaires who help define and implement best practices for developing small businesses and government procurement policies. This task force fosters an entrepreneurial ecosystem that supports the growth and success of VOSBs.

The Division Staff partnered with the SBA, The American Legion Small Business Task Force, and key sponsors to host a networking reception and a full-day small business conference during the 106th National Convention. The events brought together over 150 registered guests, including veteran entrepreneurs, government officials, and private-sector leaders.

On Saturday evening, we kicked off with a networking reception featuring remarks from Legion leadershipas well as special guests, including Florida Lt. Governor Jay Collins and the Honorable Patrick J. Murphy. This provided an informal environment for around 30 attendees to connect and build relationships before the main conference.

Monday's conference will begin with opening remarks from senior SBA officials Tim Green and William Briggs, alongside American Legion leaders Matt Jabaut and Charles Fowler. Throughout the day, participants will engage in high-level discussions and panels covering:

- Veterans in Manufacturing, Exporting, and the Industrial Base – featuring SBA leaders, industry executives, and regional economic development experts.
- Procurement and VETS First Policy – with insights from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veteran Institute for Procurement.
- Entrepreneur Success Strategies – highlighting best practices in branding, mentorship, capital access, and incubator support, including a session led by FAVOB and spotlighting veteran-owned businesses like Horse Soldier Bourbon.
- Federal Policy and Advocacy Roundtables – covering VETS First expansion, onshoring, subcontracting, and access to federal tools.

The Honorable Patrick J. Murphy will deliver keynote remarks, and breakout sessions allowed attendees to dive deep into policy, advocacy, and entrepreneurial strategy.

The VE&E Division remains committed to advocating for veteran business owners with lawmakers and government agencies. In July 2025, Division Staff engaged with representatives from the offices of Rep. Van Orden (R-WI) and Sen. Tuberville (R-AL), and Sen. Slotkin (D-MI) to discuss various legislative initiatives, including the amendment to the NDAA regarding VETS First and other American Legion small business legislative priorities for the 119th Congress.

Additionally, Division staff reviewed several bills, including *H.R. 2801 Honor and Hire Veterans Act of 2025, H.R. 3195, Including Surviving children in the definition of small Business*. These discussions highlight The American Legion's commitment to improving small business programs and benefits for veterans, service members, and their families. Division staff also focused on creating valuable opportunities and events for veterans and their families.

Recognizing the strong interest in entrepreneurship among veterans and their families, Division staff developed a Small Business Workshop. This workshop provides comprehensive information on starting businesses, securing federal contracts, and understanding available government benefits. The program has attracted an impressive lineup of speakers from partners, including the SBA, Horse Soldier Bourbon, Capital Bank, Valor Insurance Partners, Global Procurement Solutions, INC.

HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING

In 2024, the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Point-in-Time (PIT) Count reported that 32,882 veterans were homeless on a single night in January—an 8% decrease from 2023. In 2024, HUD connected over 90,000 veterans to housing through the HUD-VASH program, representing the most significant number of veterans housed in any year since 2019.

Addressing Veteran Homelessness:

The VE&E Division remains committed to tackling the pressing issue of homelessness among veterans. We are actively working on multiple fronts to ensure we have the resources to serve our service members and their families . Alongside connecting them with their local Posts, we are engaging external resources to strengthen our assistance efforts. Together, we will strive to make a meaningful impact on the lives of our veterans.

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Conference:

The Division participated in the 2025 National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) Annual Conference from May 27-30, 2025, in Washington, D.C. This conference presented a valuable opportunity to gain insights and resources to help in our mission to end veteran homelessness. We were honored to contribute to the collective effort of bringing back valuable knowledge to enhance our initiatives.

Partnership Building with Local Veteran Shelters:

Division Staff scheduled visits to veteran shelters in Washington, DC, including the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, Access Housing, and U.S. VETS National. These visits aim to build partnerships and strategize ways to get our members more involved in supporting homeless veterans. These grassroots efforts continue to inform the division of current successes and challenges homeless veterans are facing.

Homeless Shelter Site Visits in Tampa, Florida:

On August 21, 2025, Division staff met with St. Vincent DePaul Cares in St. Petersburg, Florida, to review best practices they have initiated in their catchment area of Florida, to include 22 counties, and where improvements can be made from the federal level to provide better support and opportunities for local organizations to continue ending veteran homelessness. While meeting with the organization, the staff were given a chance to conduct a walkthrough of their facility and see the current initiatives and new construction efforts to house more than 100 veterans in a new facility in the long-term.

The American Legion's Homeless Shelter Site Visits:

- **St. Vincent DePaul Cares:** St. Petersburg, Florida
  - **Visit time:** 9:30 am to 11:30 am
  - **Type:** Family Shelter

Homelessness Panel at National Convention:

VE&E hosted a homeless panel of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from various sectors, including government, non-profits, and the VA. The goal of this panel is to bring together key stakeholders to discuss strategies for ending veteran homelessness and to provide updates to Legion members. The panel included:

- Moderated by: **Mark Walke**r (DC), Deputy Director, Swords to Plowshares
- **Anthony Love,** Principal Advisor, Intra/Inter-Agency Collaboration and Director of Community Engagement, VHA Homeless Programs
- **Danielle Applegate, CGI** Federal
- **Cindy Borden,** National Coalition for Homeless Veterans
- **Michael Raposa,** St. Vincent DePaul
- **DJ Reyes,** Tampa Veteran Treatment Court, Col. (RET) U.S. Army

The panel aimed to identify best practices, understand on-the-ground realities, and establish future initiatives to reduce veteran homelessness, with resources and solutions tailored to the needs of veterans. One notable comment was from Michael Raposa, CEO of St. Vincent De Paul CARES, "For the first time in 15 years of us doing this work in Hillsborough County, the number of veterans on what we refer to as the name list … today, for the very first time, that number is under 100."

Support for Incarcerated Veterans:

Division Staff has been in conversation with experts in the justice-involved veteran landscape to develop the incarcerated veterans portfolio and better advocate for their legislative needs. The team has met with the Council on Criminal Justice's Veterans Justice Commission to learn best practices for supporting veterans from transition to reentry from the justice system. We are also in conversation with experts in the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) system, like Veteran Mentor Colonel DJ Reyes. We hope to gain insights into VTCs as alternative justice models that focus on rehabilitating veterans and ensuring their needs for housing, employment, and more are being met.

Division Staff attended RISE25, the nation's largest and only conference for treatment court professionals. The conference, held in May in Kissimmee, Florida, hosted over 8,000 judges, lawyers, social workers, and more to share best practices and data on the latest trends in alternative sentencing models. Staff made valuable connections with experts across the country in the VTC field that will continue to guide our advocacy efforts home in DC.

Division Staff met with Joan Suelter, Post Administrator for Post 403 located inside Sumter County Correctional Institute in Bushnell, Florida. The post is thriving, with over 50 members who have their own Color guard, host activities, and meet regularly. The Legion has provided a crucial community for these incarcerated veterans in a space where hope and purpose can be hard to find. Division Staff plans to forge a relationship with this post and eventually many other Legion prison Posts to tell their stories and get a better sense of their experiences as justice-involved veterans.

EMPLOYMENT & TRANSITION

The unemployment rate for veterans as of July 2025 was 3.0 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' monthly Employment Situation Report. Looking closer at the data, men have a slightly lower unemployment rate, 2.7% similar to July last year. This is compared to Women who have an unemployment rate of 4.4% which is down from 5% in July 2024.

In 2024, 17.9 million veterans were identified, accounting for 7 percent of the civilian population aged 18 and over. Veterans are predominantly male and older, reflecting service during past conflicts such as World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam era.

Career Exploration & Hiring Fair at the 106th National Convention:

Division Staff secured 50 employers for our Career Exploration & Hiring Fair on Monday, August 23, 2025. We aim to ensure employers offer meaningful jobs for service members and their spouses. Of our notable employers, The Walt Disney Corporation, BAE Systems, General Dynamics, and other related career fields were in attendance. We had 86 job-seeking veterans and family members.

The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary partnered to host a family fun event for job seekers who are also parents. This event exemplified the partnerships that are possible with The Legion Family when we work together towards a common goal. One

attendee commended the event and told staff that "the only reason I was able to attend today's event is because of the Auxiliary's support. The family fun event had coloring books, games, toys, a karaoke booth, and kids' meals."

Division Staff Outreach for Career Fair:

Division Staff contacted major military installations in the Tampa Bay area of Florida to better understand their TAPS (Transition Assistance Program) or TRS (Transition Readiness Services). These programs provide comprehensive support to transitioning service members and their families as they prepare for life outside the military. As The American Legion prepares to host a Career Exploration & Hiring Fair in Tampa, Florida, on August 23, 2025, from 3 pm to 6 pm EST, we want to reassure you that you are not alone in this transition. With our full support, this event is an excellent opportunity to explore myriad opportunities awaiting you in the civilian workforce, whether in the public or private sector.

We contacted the following major installations:

- MacDill Air Force Base – TAP Office
- Military Family Readiness Center – MacDill AFB
- Navy Reserve Center Tampa, Florida
- University of Tampa
- University of South Florida
- Hillsborough County Community College
- St. Vincent DePaul Cares Shelter Network

Additionally, Staff contacted various employment centers, veteran service organizations, military installations, and news outlets to notify these organizations of the events taking place at the National Convention.

Participation in Hiring Our Heroes (HOH):

The VE&E Division collaborated with the American Legion Auxiliary and Hiring Our Heroes in preparation for the 106th National Convention in Tampa, Florida, to host a workshop on how to leverage LinkedIn and a career fair while also providing a space for the children of veterans and military families during the event.

The Departments of Ohio, Virginia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Nebraska, Georgia, Kansas, North Carolina, Washington, D.C., and Texas have all actively participated in the Hiring Our Heroes (HOH) initiative. This collaboration demonstrates the commitment of these departments to improving employment opportunities for veterans across the country.

EDUCATION, LICENSING & CREDENTIALING

The VE&E Division is devoted to ensuring that all veterans have the opportunity to utilize their earned education benefits to acquire the skills, experience, and connections needed to pursue gainful employment. With the federal government spending $12 billion a year on education benefits for veterans and their families, it is paramount to ensure proper oversight and administration of these vital programs. Additionally, the VE&E Division routinely engages with subject-matter experts, policymakers, government agencies, and other stakeholders to comprehensively examine and respond to veteran needs.

Education Services Session

During the 2025 National Convention, the VE&E Division hosted and attended several sessions that shed light on veterans' education. The Division is focused on reestablishing relationships with key stakeholders in the federal government and on Capitol Hill. This is exemplified by meetings held with the Department of Veterans Affairs Education Services Team ahead of the Convention to assist in preparing remarks and suggesting themes. Executive Director Kenneth Smith's remarks highlighted this effort during his session on "VA Education Policy and Legislative Updates." During this session, Executive Director Smith discussed automation and the impact it has had on the timing of delivery for education benefits. Mr. Smith discussed the Supreme Court's Rudisill v. McDonough decision and the challenges of its implementation. Director Smith reiterated the VA's commitment to a customer-centric approach, with a focus on customer experience, Continuous improvement, leveraging technology, and a people-first culture. Continued engagement with the Administration is crucial to advancing the legislative priorities of The American Legion.

Local University Site Visits

Along with engagement with federal partners, the Division continues to collect grassroots testimony and engages directly with student veterans and University staff responsible for processing VA education benefits. This work is critical to ensure the laws and regulations align with the needs of veterans as they pursue higher education. During their time in Tampa, the VE&E Division visited The University of Tampa and The University of South Florida. At these meetings, staff met with students to learn about their experience directly. Staff provided resources to the universities and forged long-term relationships, which will help to inform future decisions and testimony. Staff discussed current challenges and successes the students are experiencing. Additionally, they discussed the potential impact of future changes that the division is aware of.

Student Veteran Panel

During the commission meeting, the Division, in partnership with Student Veterans of America, hosted a student veteran panel titled: "The Student Veteran Experience, A campus Conversation." During this panel, the commission members heard directly from student veterans and their experiences in higher education. Commission members learned about the difficulty of accessing benefits and specific challenges student veterans face in higher education. These testimonials will be necessary for future development of resolutions and commission work. Additionally, commission members learned about best practices and information they can take back to their departments and posts. This panel was moderated by Jared Lyon, President and CEO of Student Veterans of America, a close partner of The American Legion and the division.

CONCLUSION

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission is fully aware that it would be impossible to carry out its mandates without the active involvement of Posts, Districts, Counties, Departments, and individual Legionnaires. We sincerely appreciate their continued support and participation. I would also like to thank the National Commander, the National Adjutant, the National Executive Committee, and the staff of both the Washington and Indianapolis offices for the outstanding support and cooperation they have provided during the past year.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by aye. Opposed, nay. Carried. Now it's time for the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation report. We have Commission Chairman John W. "Jay" Bowen, Sr., of Colorado.

Oral Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
John W. Bowen, Sr., Colorado, Chairman

Good morning. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee and past national commanders and guests. You have a copy of my written report. The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, along with the Veterans Health Administration and Veterans Benefits and National Cemetery Committees, met Saturday, August 23, 2025, here at the Tampa Convention Center.

The VA&R Convention Committee met on Sunday, August 24, at the Tampa Convention Center. The report from this meeting will be delivered on the convention floor scheduled for Thursday. The Be the One Mental Wellness Committee met Friday. During our morning session on Saturday, the VA&R Commission first hosted a panel discussion with senior leaders from the Department of Veterans Affairs and was briefed by the medical director of the Supporting Community Outpatient Urgent Care and Telehealth Services, or SCOUTS, program. After lunch, the commission was briefed by representatives from America's Warriors Partnership, the FORGE Overwatch Project, Simulation Learning, Evaluation, Assessment and Research Network, or SimLEARN and the Advanced Manufacturing for Prosthetics Project.

The final order of business was an update on the Be The One Mental Wellness meeting by committee Vice Chairman Jeremy Ehart. The Be The One Mental Wellness Committee was briefed by the president of the Stay in the Fight Veterans Foundation and a combined team from the Stop Soldier Suicide Program. A full report of this meeting will be available at the NEC meeting in October.

Commander, I would like to quickly mention that VA&R will be holding the Second Annual VSO Symposium this October 19-24, 2025. The American Legion continues advanced training for service officers organized and facilitated by our training and litigation partner Bergmann & Moore. Information flyers are available at our national staff office. There were no emergency matters requiring action by the NEC at this meeting.

In closing, commander, it has been my great honor to serve in this capacity. Our commission and division staff continue to work diligently in the best interests and are true advocates for our nation's veterans. Sir, subject to questions, this concludes my report. Thank you.

Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
John W. Bowen, Sr., Colorado, Chairman

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission held its meeting at the Tampa Convention Center, Ballroom B, First Floor, Saturday, August 23, 2025. The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission had a total of 94 call-ins. There were 21 members of the Commission, 15 members of the Health Administration Committee, 9 members of the Veterans Benefits Committee, 10 members of the National Cemetery Committee, 6 members of the Be The One Mental Wellness Committee and 33 VA&R Council members.

VA&R Division Director Cole Lyle led a panel question & answer session with leaders from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Panel members were Margarita Devlin, Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), and Dr. Thomas O'Toole, Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

Highlights of the session included a frank discussion between Director Lyle, Dr. O'Toole, and Ms. Devlin, on the limitations of VA care as a clinical approach and the importance of partnering with community leaders including The American Legion, employers, and veteran families.

The Commission was also briefed by Dr. Colleen McQuown, Director of the Supporting Community, Outpatient, Urgent Care, and Telehealth Services (SCOUTS) Program. Dr. McQuown spoke on an emerging best practice from San Diego, deploying Intermediate Care Technicians, who are often themselves recently transitioned veterans, to the homes of veterans to reduce emergency room visits and improve holistic health. This initiative aligns with many American Legion priorities, most markedly Resolution No. 20: Home and Community-Based Services and Veteran Choice to Age In Place. Not only does the SCOUTS program boast a 99% satisfaction rate for its 3700 patients, but the program also employs recently transitioned veterans, improves health outcomes, and increases VA utilization.

The afternoon session included briefings from Cheree Tham, Co-founder & Chief of Programs and Initiatives for America's Warrior Partnership, Casey Woods, Executive Director of the Forge Overwatch Project, Dr. Sherri Boisvery, Clinical Lead and Devin Harrison, Associate Director for the Simulation Learning Evaluation, Assessment, and Research Network (SimLEARN), and finally Alex Berardo-Cates, Project Lead and Director Dr. Mark Zhang from the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Healthcare Innovation and Learning (OHL).

Ms. Tham provided an update on America's Warrior Partnership, a national program which connects veterans to VA and community services, including housing, employment, education, spirituality, and benefits access, all with the goal to reduce suicides in the veteran community.

Ms. Woods gave an informative presentation on the Overwatch Project, a peer support training program which has trained over 50,000 veterans over the course of 2 years to recognize signs of suicidality in their fellow veterans and intervene before any lives are lost.

Dr. Boisvert and Mr. Harrison discussed VA's SimLEARN Initiative, which trains VA clinicians and hospital staff in healthcare delivery through state-of-the-art simulations of real medical situations.

The final presentation by Mr. Berardo-Cates and Dr. Zhang highlighted innovations in VA's ability to create custom prosthetics for veterans, and emerging technologies which allow for low-cost deployment of replacement prosthetics whenever veterans need them.

At the conclusion of the presentations Jeremy Ehart (KS), Vice Chairman, Be The One Mental Wellness Committee provided a brief update on the actions and presentations during the Be The One Mental Wellness Committee meeting and any new relevant topics within his committee. The meeting concluded with a business session for the good of The American Legion.

The minutes for the subcommittee meetings are available upon request from the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Staff offices.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission. Discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, nay. Carried. It's now time for the National Security Report. Chairman James E. Grenier, Jr. of Virginia.

Oral Report: National Security Commission
James E. Grenier, Jr., Virginia, Chairman

Good morning. Commander LaCoursiere, members of the National Executive Committee, you have received my written report. There are no emergency matters that need to be brought to your attention.

The National Security Commission held a successful and very informative joint meeting on Saturday. Chief Michael Banks, the chief United States Border Patrol, highlighted the morning session when he provided a briefing regarding the state of border patrol and border security. The afternoon session featured a disaster preparedness panel, where three of the panelists were Legionnaires from posts with recent national disaster experiences. The posts were Palisades, California Post 283; Lenoir, North Carolina Post 29; and Kerrville, Texas Post 208. All three discussed the unique experiences both during and after disasters and their lessons learned.

Lastly, thank you, Commander LaCoursiere, for your leadership and unwavering support to the National Security Commission during the year. This concludes my report.

Report: National Security Commission
James E. Grenier, Jr., Virginia, Chairman

On Saturday, August 23rd, the National Security Commission convened in the Tampa Convention Center. National Security Commission Chairman James Grenier opened the meeting by recognizing Past National Commanders Clarence Hill, Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola, and Charles Schmidt. The National Security Commission was honored by their attendance and was appreciative of their participation in the National Security session.

The National Security Commission Chairman, James Grenier, Jr (VA), was present. The following National Security Committee Chairmen were present: George Wehrli (FL), Guillermo Guillen (VA), and Doug Haggan (FR), Thomas Schottenbauer (MN) and Michael Landkamer (NE). Vice Chairman Dale Todd and Chairman William Flanagan (IL) were not present.

On August 6th, the National Security Resolution Screening Committee met to discuss four resolutions that would be heard at the National Convention. The committee voted and reached the following recommendations:

Resolution No. 5: National Defense Budget Review
Recommendation: Referred to Standing Commission on National Security
Motioned: Gary Walker, Second: Devell Durham

Resolution No. 21: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Service in Honduras
Recommendation: Referred to Standing Commission on National Security
Motioned: Michael Landkamer, Second: Gary Walker

Resolution No. 33: Order of Precedence for Armed Forces Branch Flags
Recommendation: Referred to Standing Commission on National Security
Motioned: Cindy LaCoste, Second: Devell Durham

Resolution No. 35: Medal of Honor for Michael Ollis
Recommendation: Referred to Standing Commission on National Security
Motioned: Gary Walker, Second: Devell Durham

The National Security meeting was honored by a visit from National Commander James LaCoursiere, Jr, who expressed pride in being part of the American Legion and emphasized the organization's commitment to supporting servicemembers. His recent visit to see U.S. airmen in Europe left him feeling encouraged as he found that the troops felt prepared, well-trained, and supported. Representing the American Legion family, National Commander LaCoursiere reaffirmed that servicemembers and their families remain a top priority in both advocacy and legislative efforts. He concluded by thanking the commission, expressing excitement about being in Tampa, and looking forward to the upcoming convention.

National Security Commission Chairman James Grenier then spoke briefly about the American Legion's legislative priorities, support for border security, improvements for military quality of life, and the modernization of the armed forces. He further stressed the commitment to support a fully funded state department and diplomacy as a tool in our national security. He closed his remarks by renewing the pledge for full accountability of POW/MIA servicemembers.

The National President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Trish Ward, spoke briefly and offered thanks to the National Security Commission, and expressed the American Legion Auxiliary's mission to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of veterans, the military, and their families.

Following Chairman Grenier's remarks, the meeting welcomed three guest speakers who gave presentations about the POW/MIA recovery program, Stoney Beach; Customs and Border Patrol; and the U.S. Space Force.

Program Director for Stony Beach, DIA, Bradley Taylor

The first speaker was Mr. Taylor from the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), who discussed the agency's ongoing role in the POW/MIA accounting mission, particularly in Southeast Asia. He leads the Stony Beach team, established in 1987, which focuses on gathering and reporting intelligence to help account for missing U.S. service members in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Mr. Taylor explained that environmental challenges, especially acidic soil, have made recovery efforts difficult, with over 400 individuals classified as non-recoverable. However, the team continues to investigate to provide answers and closure to families. Top priorities include live-sighting reports, the 41 Last Known Alive (LKA) cases, and time-sensitive leads. He emphasized the need for greater cooperation from the

governments of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia—particularly access to unreleased Vietnamese archives. Stony Beach works closely with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), conducting joint and independent investigations. Operations are hampered by limited resources, personnel shortages, and bureaucratic hurdles, with a current hiring freeze preventing the team from filling two vacancies. In the Q&A, Mr. Taylor noted that they were able to retain all positions but face a hiring freeze extended to October 2025, which affects their ability to fill two vacant positions. DIA maintains support from another analytic office for post-1991 cases. Mr. Taylor emphasized that this mission is not just historical—it remains a current national priority to provide answers to families of the missing.

Chief of the United States Border Patrol, Chief Michael Banks

The second speaker, Chief of the United States Border Patrol, Michael Banks, presented an overview of recent enforcement successes and operational reforms that have led to a 96% increase in immigration enforcement results over seven months. A major change was adopting a Zero Release Policy, preventing the release of unauthorized migrants into the public for three months. There has been a 30% increase in the prosecution of immigration law violations, including notable cases like the successful prosecution of a U.S. citizen juvenile. In the fight against human trafficking and labor exploitation, agents recently rescued 16 underage children from forced labor at marijuana farms. Chief Banks also emphasized the integration of wall systems at the U.S.-Mexico border, including lighting, surveillance cameras, and detection technology, as effective force multipliers. A "whole-of-government" approach is currently being implemented, with coordination across agencies including the FBI, DEA, ATF, and National Guard to target deployments based on shared intelligence. Finally, the agency has increased its communication efforts, using social media to share accurate updates and counter misinformation.

Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Intelligence, U.S. Space Force, Brigadier General Brian Sidari

The National Security Commission welcomed its third speaker, Brigadier General Brian Sidari, Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Intelligence of the U.S. Space Force. The U.S. Space Force has become a vital pillar of national defense, tracking over 9,000 satellites while confronting growing global challenges in the space domain. Brig Gen. Sidari stated that foreign adversaries do not share the U.S. vision of a free and open space environment, making it imperative to defend American interests in, to, and from space. The Space Force safeguards U.S. diplomatic, economic, military, and intelligence power by training Guardians, acquiring cutting-edge space systems, and supporting joint force exercises. Its mission is not only to deter conflict in space, but to be prepared to win and control the domain if deterrence fails—at a time and place of the United States' choosing. To achieve this, the Space Force is focused on competitive endurance, a strategic posture that ensures superiority, stability, and safety in space through credible and sustained combat-ready capabilities. This strategy is underpinned by avoiding operational surprise by leveraging broad domain awareness data and delivering timely, actionable intelligence to decision-makers; denying adversaries the first-mover advantage through resilience, deterrence, and rapid response; and conducting accountable counter-space campaigns that protect U.S. space assets while avoiding long-lived orbital hazards. As space becomes more contested and congested, the Space Force aims to better integrate space intelligence into national security decisions. It invests in new technology and develops operational concepts to keep U.S. space leadership. Additionally, it seeks to enhance global space monitoring cooperation with countries like South Korea, Japan, Germany, France, the U.K., and the U.S. to share tracking capabilities. However, disparities in threat anticipation remain, highlighting the need for ongoing cooperation and communication.

Disaster Preparedness Panel: Jim Cragg, LTC USAR, former Commander of Post 283 (CA), Wayne Mihelich, Retired MCPO (NC), Robert Garcia, Retired Police Officer, US Army Veteran, Post 208 Commander (TX)

In the afternoon session, the National Security Commission, Director Sean Counihan moderated a panel on disaster preparedness with Jim Cragg, Founder/CEO of S.O. Technologies, Retired LTC USAR, and former Commander of Post 283 (CA); Wayne Mihelich, Retired MCPO (NC); and Robert Garcia, Retired Police Officer, US Army Veteran, and Post 208 Commander (TX). They discussed water distribution, infrastructure rebuilding, and coordination challenges, stressing the critical role of veterans, community support, and effective communication. The conversation highlighted the long-term nature of recovery and emphasized the need for enhanced planning and collaboration among agencies, volunteers, and local communities. The group also discussed the possibility of posts building ties with local emergency services, developing backup communication plans, and preparing for local disaster risks. The American Legion could join the Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters at the national level and help members access the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other aid programs. Continued support for long-term recovery in North Carolina, following Hurricane Helen, including funding for rebuilding, was also highlighted.

Military and Assistant Defense Attache, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Colonel Stefan Busch

The last speaker of the day was Colonel Stefan Busch, who discussed the importance of Germany's Ministry of Defense learning from American military organizations, which Col. Busch considers the largest and most advanced in the world. Col. Busch considers the American Legion as the U.S.' largest and most advanced veteran service organization. Col. Busch expressed gratitude for the opportunity to be present and mentioned the need to continue learning and adapting, as the German armed forces are still at the beginning of understanding how to merge and recognize their longstanding alliance with the United States. Col. Busch lastly stated that Germany aims to reach 5% of their GDP in defense spending by 2029.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the National Security Commission. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the National Security Commission. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, nay. Carried.

Receive Additional Resolutions, Motions and Petitions

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: Do we have additional resolutions, motions and petitions to consider?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, we have no additional resolutions, motions or petitions to consider.

Act Upon Unfinished Business and Resolutions from the Previous Day

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: Do we have unfinished business or resolutions to consider?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, we have no unfinished business or resolutions to consider.

Confirmation of Interim Committee Appointments

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: Are there any motions from the floor to remove members of standing or special commissions, committees, boards or subcommittees of the NEC? Hearing none, we'll move to the next order of business. I recognize the chairman of the Subcommittee on Resolutions for the confirmation of interim committee appointments.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, may I address the national adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: Yes, you may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify that the list of interim committee appointments is a true and correct list?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT ROLLAND: I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Thank you, Mr. Adjutant. Mr. Commander, I move that the list of the interim appointments be approved without being read. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: We have a motion and a second that the list of interim committee appointments be approved without being read. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Carried.

Interim Appointments
National Executive Committee Meeting

John B. Reece, Jr. (Illinois), Americanism Commission, Member
(replaces Philip H. Mette – deceased)
Lowell E. Long, Jr. (Montana), Committee on Children & Youth, Member
(replaces Jeffrey D. Holmes – resigned)
Theresa A. Thomas (Illinois), Americanism Council, Member
(replaces John B. Reece, Jr. – resigned)
Elizabeth Martinez-Gonzalez (Puerto Rico), Americanism Council, Member
(replaces Carmen I. Rosario – resigned)
Kent B. Anderson (Utah), Americanism Council, Member
(replaces Glen M. Bradford – resigned)
Philip G. Mowry, ESQ (Pennsylvania), Constitution & By-Laws Committee, Member
(replaces John Fielding III – resigned)
Hayden D. Woods (Oklahoma), Membership & Post Activities Committee, 2026 Member
(replaces Bobby D. Bryant – deceased)
John A. Powell (West Virginia), National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee, Member
(replaces David R. Hall – resigned)
Jeffrey J. Van Horn (Illinois), SAL Commander's Advisory Committee, Consultant
(replaces Timothy D. Aboudara, Sr. [California] – resigned)
David R. Hall (West Virginia), Media & Communications Commission, 2026 Member
(replaces Frank L. Cooley – deceased)
Robert F. Russell, Sr. (Georgia), Media & Communications Council, Member
(replaces James E. Fultz III – resigned)
Carol E. Gruwell (Montana), Conventional Armed Forces Committee, 2026 Member
(replaces Michael Allison – resigned)
Charles F. Patchin (Pennsylvania), Unconventional Forces & Intelligence Committee, 2026 Member
(replaces Robert C. Miller, Jr. – deceased)
Rodney H. Bennett (Illinois), National Security Council, Member
(replaces Terry Abdelnour – resigned)
John W. Fritz (Pennsylvania), National Security Council, Member
(replaces Stephen J. Murin – resigned)
Edward A. Richards (Texas), National Security Council, Member
(replaces Robert Masten – deceased)
Christopher J. Schoo (Illinois), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, 2027 Member
(replaces David M. Hicks – deceased)
Jason Moore Brown (Montana), Health Administration Committee, 2026 Member
(replaces Tina J. Hyndman – resigned)
Ronald J. Swaim (Illinois), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council, Member
(replaces Christopher J. Schoo – resigned)

Confirmation of Cancellation of Post and/or Squadron Charters

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, may I address the national adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: Yes, you may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify the list of cancellations of post and squadron charters is a true and correct list and everything has been done to try to revitalize these posts?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT ROLLAND: I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, I move the list be approved without being read. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: It's been moved and seconded to approve the list of cancellation of post and/or squadron charters without being read. Discussion? Hearing None, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, nay. Carried.

The American Legion Post Charters
Presented to the National Executive Committee For Cancellation Consideration

The recommendation for each Post submitted for cancellation is based on a review of revitalization potential, specifically considering two key criteria: **community size** and the **local veteran population**.

Eighty-one (81) Posts have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2025 Pre-NEC meeting proceedings at the National Convention in Tampa, Florida on August 25, 2025.

***** See merging Post information below *****

DEPARTMENT	POST #	NAME	LOCATION
ALABAMA	***1165*****	Pfc Harold James Battle (*to merge with James McCullough Post 0338*)	Birmingham
FRANCE	DK01	Copenhagen	Copenhagen, Denmark
FLORIDA	0208	Cyber, Inc.	Orlando
GEORGIA	0503	Howard Forrest, Inc.	Valdosta
IDAHO	0024	Blaine County	Hailey
ILLINOIS	***0085*****	Kankakee (*to merge with Bradley Post 0766*)	Kankakee
	0089**	Fred Herring (*to merge with Spring Bay Post 1115*)	Metamora
	0131	Chicago Heights	Chicago Heights
	0414	Forest Park	Forest Park
	0464	Wickler-Copeland	Warren
	1043	La Moille	La Moille
	1259**	Sauk Village (*to merge with Edward Schultz Post 0697*)	Sauk Village
	1437	Col. A. L. Brodie	Westchester
	1943**	Samuel Schiera (*to merge with Zion-Benton Post 0865*)	Winthrop Harbor
IOWA	0157	Herndon-Oehlert	Woodburn
MASSACHUSETTS	0133	Charles H. Alward	Wayland
	0213	Frank West	Pepperell
	0239	Chauncey D. Walker, Inc.	Belchertown
	0277	Indian Orchard	Indian Orchard
MICHIGAN	0061	Ira Penberthy	Calumet
	0156	Stout-Nesbit	Montgomery
	0563	Lawrence O Starrett	Dowagiac
MINNESOTA	0013	Floyd N Knudston	Hitterdal
	0163	Popek-Kostecky	Willow River
	0306	Harvey E Gladitsch	Vesta
	0389	Mountain Lake Inc	Mountain Lake
	0412	Charles B Rikhus	Ulen
	0582	Francis Harnack	Revere
	0600	Champlin	Champlin
MISSISSIPPI	0005	Kemper County	De Kalb
	0031	Bruce	Bruce
	0086	Johnnie Evans	Ludlow
	0122	Moody-Davis	Utica
	0136	Dougherty-Lowrie	Coldwater
	0148	John T Simmons	Slate Spgs
	0150	Turner-Houston	Como

DEPARTMENT	POST #	NAME	LOCATION
MISSISSIPPI (cont'd)	0163	Choctaw	Conehatta
	0177	North Desoto County	Southaven
	0179	Houlka	Houlka
	0205	Harris-Chinn	Canton
	0219	Gates And Burkes	Carthage
	0222	Jack Williams, Jr	Marks
	0231	William H Beaman	Aberdeen
	0235	Mitchell-Grice	Baldwyn
	0255	John Wayne Brown	Bruce
	0261	Walker-Stringer	Brandon
	1982	Mize Moore Dodds	Booneville
	1991	John W Wade, Jr	Puckett
NEBRASKA	0005	Wright-Irion	Scottsbluff
	0276	McDonald-Ryan	Danbury
NEW JERSEY	0156	Rodgers-Ulrich-Hubbs, Inc.	Palmyra
	0165*	Frederick A. Mackenzie, Inc. (*to merge with Bayonne Post 0019*)	Bayonne
	0421	James P. Collins, Inc.	East Hanover
	0430	Galloway Township, Inc.	Galloway Township
	0502	Whiting	Whiting
NEW YORK	0324	Lasher-Still, Inc.	Westport
NORTH CAROLINA	0119	Clemmons	Clemmons
	0127	Egbert-Chesterfield-Walter H. Gavin, Inc.	Warsaw
NORTH DAKOTA	0308	Loren Doug Hagen	West Fargo
OREGON	0048	Eugene Cougar Greene, Sr	Warm Springs
	0073	Maupin	Maupin
	0087*	Heppner (*to merge with Ione Post 0095*)	Heppner
	0131	Deer Ridge	Madras
	0135	Wamic	Wamic
	0164	Don L. Medlock	Spray
PENNSYLVANIA	0031	Freemansburg	Freemansburg
	0125	Downs-Amey, Inc.	Ambler
	0348	Zinkham-Mohr	Freedom
	0449	Keystone	Central City
	0636	Miller-Rankin	Foxburg
	0684	Arnold	Arnold
	0809	Donegal	Maytown
	0844*	Eddystone Memorial, Inc. (*to merge with Frederick A. Scott Post 0777*)	Eddystone
SOUTH CAROLINA	0063	Walter Johnson	Kershaw
SOUTH DAKOTA	0044	Westlund-Peterson	Alsen
	0144	Pedersen-Stoddard	Belvidere
	0156	Engebretson-Lien	Lily
	0158	Oldham	Oldham
	0238	Forney-Swigert	Oelrichs
TENNESSEE	0058	Campbell County, Inc.	La Follette
WYOMING	***0090****	Hole-In-The-Wall (*to merge with Powder River Post 0013*)	Kaycee

Sons of The American Legion Squadron Charters
Presented to the National Executive Committee For Cancellation Consideration

Fifteen (15) Squadrons have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2025 Pre-NEC meeting proceedings at the National Convention in Tampa, Florida on August 25, 2025.
***** see merging squadron information below *****

DETACHMENT	SQDN #	NAME	LOCATION
GEORGIA	0503	Howard Forrest	Valdosta
ILLINOIS	0131	Chicago Heights	Chicago Heights
IOWA	0371	Lake Park	Lake Park
MASSACHUSETTS	0277	Indian Orchard	Indian Orchard
MICHIGAN	0156	Stout-Nesbit	Montgomery
	0201	Atlanta	Atlanta
	1111	Stars & Stripes	Walker
MINNESOTA	0600	Champlin	Champlin
NEW JERSEY	0156	Rodgers-Ulrich-Hubbs	Palmyra
	0165**	Frederick A. Mackenzie (*to merge with Bayonne Sqdn 0019*)	Bayonne
	0421	James P. Collins	East Hanover
NORTH CAROLINA	0555	Mint Hill	Mint Hill
PENNSYLVANIA	0449	Keystone	Central City
	0684	Arnold	Arnold
SOUTH CAROLINA	0107	Westminster Memorial	Westminster

Unfinished Business and Technical Motions

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, I would like to make at this time a technical motion and move that the national adjutant be instructed to review the minutes of the NEC meeting, take out all the cuss words, and make any necessary corrections without changing the intent of the NEC meeting and to proceed and edit and distribute those minutes. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: It's been moved and seconded for the national adjutant to be instructed to review the minutes of the NEC meeting and make any necessary corrections without changing the intent and to proceed and distribute those minutes. Discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, nay. Carried.

Announcements

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: Mr. Adjutant, are there any announcements?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT ROLLAND: We have two announcements. There's a Four Corners reception at Post 138 in Tampa today from 12 to 4:00 p.m. Post 138 is located at 5535 West Prescott Street in Tampa. All of you are invited. See Terry Schow of Utah for details. Second message, call-in checks are available in the back of the room.

Closing Remarks
James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., Connecticut, National Commander

This has been a good meeting with a lot of excellent reports. My tenure may be getting shorter, but our commitment to Be the One is very long term. Let's never lose sight of this mission, not just in Tampa, but especially when we return home. In the meantime, we still have a great convention in front of us! Let's all enjoy it. I now call on Chaplain DePozo for the benediction. Please stand and uncover.

Benediction
Daniel DePozo, Nevada, National Chaplain

Most Heavenly Father, as we depart this meeting this morning, let us go forward with the knowledge we received. We ask your blessings. Amen. *...Chorus of "Amen."*

Salute to Colors and Adjournment

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE: Please cover. With the colors of our nation in place, hand salute. One. Two! I now declare this Pre-Convention NEC meeting adjourned. Thank you, all.

...At 10:00, a.m., Monday, August 25, 2025, the Pre-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting of The American Legion was adjourned.

PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

POST-CONVENTION MEETING

Thursday, August 28, 2025

... At 12:15 p.m., Thursday, August 28, 2025, the Post-Convention meeting of the National Executive Committee was called to order, National Commander Wiley presiding.

Call to Order
Dan K. Wiley, Kansas, National Commander

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: This meeting of the National Executive Committee will come to order. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in a salute to our colors, by the numbers. Hand Salute! Two! For the Invocation, I call on Past National Commander Daniel Seehafer of Wisconsin. Please uncover.

Invocation
Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin, Past National Commander

Family, we pray. Heavenly Father, we once again come before You this day. Again, as we come to a close of another convention but yet embark upon a new beginning. We heard phrases about covering, that is, keeping track of ourselves here, our backs, talk about looking forward, all these little phrases throughout. But, Lord, it's not just a phrase, it's our heart. And without a doubt, better together is important. It's our lifeblood. Let's together change lives and save lives. We just ask now for blessings upon our new leadership and upon this meeting that all that we would say and do would glorify You and, yes, importantly take care of our veterans and their families. We pray this, and so much more, in Your life-saving name, and so it shall be, Amen. ...*Chorus of "Amen."*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Thank you, Commander Seehafer. I now call upon National Adjutant Rodney K. Rolland.

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony
Rodney K. Rolland, Georgia, National Adjutant

At this time we pause to remember those who are listed as prisoners of war or missing in action from wars in which we have been engaged. Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th Annual National Convention, encourages the designation of a POW/MIA chair at all official meetings of The American Legion. This is a symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving our nation. With the POW/MIA flag positioned to my left, let it serve as a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners, the repatriation of the remains of those who have been killed in action, and a full accounting of those who are still missing. Let us rededicate ourselves for this vital endeavor.

Pledge of Allegiance

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

...The National Executive Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Please recover. Legionnaires, please join me in reaffirming our commitment to the principles and ideals on which our American Legion was founded by reciting the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

...The National Executive Committee recited the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Please be seated. I now call on the national adjutant to call roll.

Roll Call

National Officers

National Adjutant
Rodney K. Rolland, Georgia

National Commander
Dan K. Wiley, Kansas

National Vice Commanders

Benjamin E. "Ben" Headen, Arizona
Jan D. Larson, Maryland
Gerald T. "Jerry" Landkamer, Nebraska
Stephen T. "Steve" Weismann, Tennessee
Ronald L. LaRose, Vermont

Past National Commanders

John P. "Jake" Comer	Massachusetts	
Robert S. Turner	Georgia	(Excused)
Bruce Thiesen	California	(Excused)
Daniel A. Ludwig	Minnesota	
Joseph J. Frank	Missouri	(Excused)
Anthony G. Jordan	Maine	(Excused)
Butch L. Miller	Virginia	
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr.	Idaho	(Excused)
Richard J. Santos	Maryland	
Ronald F. Conley	Pennsylvania	(Excused)
Hon. John A. Brieden, III	Texas	(Excused)
Thomas L. Bock	Colorado	(Excused)
Paul A. Morin	Massachusetts	
Martin F. Conatser	Illinois	
Robert W. Spanogle	Michigan	(Excused)
David K. Rehbein	Iowa	

Clarence E. Hill	Florida	
Jimmie L. Foster	Alaska	
Fang A. Wong	New York	
James E. Koutz	Indiana	
Daniel M. Dellinger	Virginia	
Michael D. Helm	Nebraska	(Excused)
Harold D. Barnett	Georgia	
Charles E. Schmidt	Oregon	(Excused)
Denise H. Rohan	Wisconsin	
Brett P. Reistad	Virginia	
James W. "Bill" Oxford	North Carolina	
Paul E. Dillard	Texas	
Vincent J. Troiola	New York	(Excused)
Daniel S. Wheeler	Virginia	
Daniel J. Seehafer	Wisconsin	
James A. LaCoursiere, Jr.	Connecticut	

National Executive Committee Members

Department	Committee Member		Alternate	
Alabama	Hardwick O. Hall, Sr.			
Alaska	James E. Pisa			
Arizona	Andres Jaime, Jr.			
Arkansas	Michael W. Westergren			
California	Jere L. Ramano			
Connecticut	Robert Murray			
Delaware	Dwight D. Lacy			
D.C.	Herman T. Preston, Jr.			
Florida	Jim V. Ramos			
France	Hans J. Stockenberger			
Georgia	Phil Youngblood			
Hawaii	Clyde R. Drumheller, Jr.	(Excused)	Jerry V. Bongard	(Excused)
Idaho	Robert L. Skinner			
Illinois	Ronald E. Hoffman			
Indiana	Kenneth R. Cooper			
Iowa	Robert W. Waugh			
Kansas	Jeremy J. Ehart			
Kentucky	William O. Moore, Jr.	(Excused)	Michael D. Leon	
Latin America	Randall L. Butler			
Louisiana	Rudolph A. Bourg, Sr.	(Excused)	Byron K. Comeaux	
Maine	Lloyd H. Woods			
Maryland	Ronald L. Holcombe			
Massachusetts	John P. Lenotte, Sr.			
Michigan	Brett E. Holt			
Minnesota	Carl R. Moon			
Mississippi	Murry Q. Toney, Jr.			
Missouri	George E. Scarborough			
Montana	Glen A Sharbono			
Nebraska	James A. Costello			
Nevada	L. James Stewart			
New Hampshire	Robert E. Dionne, Sr.			
New Jersey	Eugene J. O'Grady			
New Mexico	Edward Cheatham, Jr.			
New York	Frank J. Peters			
North Carolina	Davis S. Shore	(Excused)	Jerry L. McClough	(Excused)
North Dakota	Steven D. Anderson			
Ohio	Ronald L. Chapman			

Department	Committee Member		Alternate	
Oklahoma	Charles S. O'Leary			
Oregon	Don Weber			
Pennsylvania	Michael D. Murphy			
Philippines	Michael S. Napsey	(Excused)	Mark E. Frease	(Excused)
Puerto Rico	Carmen I. Rosario			
Rhode Island	James Weinreich			
South Carolina	Jimmy E. Hawk			
South Dakota	Frederick N. Nelson			
Tennessee	Lanny D. Culver			
Texas	John C. Hince			
Utah	Terry D. Schow	(Excused)	Richard G. Fisher	(Excused)
Vermont	Joseph Zickmund			
Virginia	Leslie J. Clevinger			
Washington	Robert A. Clark			
West Virginia	William W. Kile			
Wisconsin	Robert L. Shappell			
Wyoming	Ronald W. Wood			

NATIONAL ADJUTANT ROLLAND: Commander, that ends the roll call.

Acceptance of Agenda

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Thank you. Mr. Adjutant. I will now entertain a motion to accept today's agenda.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, I move that today's agenda be approved. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: A motion has been made and seconded to approve today's agenda. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, say nay. Motion carried.

Installation of the National Executive Committee

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Would all members of the National Executive Committee please rise, if able, for your swearing in? That's members of the NEC, not alternates. Okay. We've got everybody. If you'll raise your right hand for me and repeat after me.

I do solemnly pledge myself, to perform faithfully and impartially the duties of the office of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion. I further pledge that I will support and defend the Constitution of The United States of America and the National Constitution and By-laws of The American Legion. I do not subscribe to the principles of any foreign government or group opposed to our form of government, So Help Me God. Please put your hand down. Congratulations, I know that each of you will justify the trust that has been reposed in you. *(Applause)*

Appointment of the America 250 Ad Hoc Committee

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: With America's upcoming 250th birthday, I'd like to recommend the appointment of the America 250 Ad Hoc Committee as follows: Chairman Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin; Vice Chairman Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin; Members Matthew J. Shuman, Arizona; Matthew D. Jabaut, Maine; Paul L. Espinoza, New Mexico; Patricia A. Harris, North Carolina; and Randy D. Edwards, Utah.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, I recommend the approval of your ad hoc appointments. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: We have a motion on the floor to accept the appointments to the 250th Ad Hoc Committee. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Opposed, nay. Motion carried. I now call Past National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer to the floor podium for a special order of business.

Special Order of Business

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I call the Past National Commander LaCoursiere to join me here. Commander, your red cap was taking you throughout the world for the good of The American Legion. You have been an outstanding national commander, and now this cap we place on your head is the blue cap; it's the future that you'll bring in and escort all your friends and comrades in Connecticut and throughout the states. Your job is to help in any way as you will, but as a New Englander, we're proud to welcome you back to the state. Good luck to you. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Thank you, Past National Commander Comer. I now call on the national adjutant for the reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting.

Acceptance of Minutes of the Preceding Meeting

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, the minutes have not yet been assembled, and I move their reading be deferred until our next meeting. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: It has been moved and seconded that the reading of the minutes of our last meeting be deferred. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor indicate by the saying aye. All opposed, say nay. Motion carried. I now call on the national adjutant for disposition of letters or communications.

Disposition of Letters or Communications

NATIONAL ADJUTANT ROLLAND: Mr. Commander, there are no letters or communications.

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: I now call on the chairman of the NEC Resolutions Subcommittee for receipt of resolutions, motions and petitions.

Receive Resolutions, Motions and Petitions

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, there are no resolutions, motions or petitions.

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: I now call on the national adjutant for reading of interim committee appointments.

Confirmation of Interim Committee Appointments

NATIONAL ADJUTANT ROLLAND: Deloris I. Todman (Virginia), Americanism Commission, 2026 Member (replaces Leslie J. Clevinger – resigned).

Linden B. Dixon, Jr. (Virginia), Americanism Council, Member (replaces Tyrone A. Vaughn, Sr. – resigned)

Roger P. Mathison (Wisconsin), Convention Commission, Member (replaces James Michael Rohan – resigned)

Carol A. Jordan (Ohio), Aerospace Committee, 2026 Member (replaces vacant, membership expired)

George Roundtree (District of Columbia), Veterans Benefits Committee, 2027 Member (replaces vacant, membership expired).

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I move the recommended appointments be approved. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Is there any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. All those opposed, say nay. Motion passes.

Appointments or Removals of Members of Standing or Special Commissions, Committees, Task Forces or Subcommittees

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Are there any motions from the floor to remove members of standing or special commissions, committees, boards or subcommittees of the NEC? Hearing none, I now call on the national adjutant for the reading of recommended appointments.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT ROLLAND: Subcommittee on Resolutions: Chairman, William W. Kile, West Virginia. Vice Chairman, Lloyd H. Woods, Maine. Members: Robert L. Skinner, Idaho; Jeremy J. Ehart, Kansas; Dr. Carl R. Moon, Minnesota; Michael D. Murphy, Pennsylvania; Phil Youngblood, Georgia.

Subcommittee on Committees: Chairman, Terry D. Schow, Utah. Vice Chairman, David S. Shore, North Carolina. Members: James E. Pisa, Alaska; Jimmy E. Hawk, South Carolina; Leslie J. Clevinger, Virginia.

The American Legion Department Advisory Committee: Chairman, Paul E. Dillard, Texas. Vice Chairmen, Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon; Marty Conatser, Illinois. Consultants: Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska; Brett P. Reistad, Virginia; Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin. Members: Patrick E. Phillips, Arkansas; Paul I. Spedaliere, Connecticut; Paul Martel, Florida; Robert M. Shreve, Georgia; Robert E. Newman, Indiana; Charles D. Aucoin, Louisiana; James E. Wallace, Michigan; Douglas L. Boldt, Nebraska; Joseph A. Lysaght, South Carolina; Randy D. Edwards, Utah; Roger P. Mathison, Wisconsin.

Advisory Committee to the National Commander: Chairman, Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts. Vice Chairman, James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., Connecticut. Members: Thomas L. Bock, Colorado; Hon. Vincent M. Gaughan, Illinois; David K. Rehbein, Iowa; John P. Comer, Massachusetts; Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts; Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota; Gaither M. Keener, Jr., North Carolina; Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon; Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania; Paul E. Dillard, Texas; Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia; Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia; Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I move the recommended appointments be approved. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Is there any discussion? All in favor, say aye. All those opposed, same sign. Motion approved.

Appointment of National Officers

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: I recommend the following appointments of national officers for the following year: Rodney K. Rolland for national adjutant; Shawn Long of Indiana for national treasurer; Mark Seavey of Virginia for national judge advocate; Michael Pollitt of New Hampshire for national chaplain; and David W. Lockhart of New York for national historian.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I move the recommended appointments be approved. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Is there any discussion? Hearing none. All in favor, say aye. All those opposed, same sign. Motion approved. As national commander, I recommend the appointment of Gaylord K. Sanneman of Kansas as national sergeant-at-arms. Is there a motion?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I move the recommended appointment be approved. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Is there any discussion? Hearing none. All in favor, say aye. All those opposed, same sign. Motion approved. *...National Vice Commander Headen assumed the chair.*

Installation of Officers

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: At this time, I call forth three distinguished Legionnaires for validation of their new appointments: Michael Pollitt of New Hampshire; David W. Lockhart of New York; and Gaylord K. Sanneman of Kansas. Would you three please come forward in front of the dais. Each of you will assist the National Executive Committee and others in carrying out our objectives over the next twelve months. You are entrusted with important duties, and each of you shall perform essential functions throughout the year to preserve the integrity of The American Legion. As you stand before this executive body, I will remind each of you of your duties and obligations.

First, I want to present Michael Pollitt, who is selected to serve as national chaplain. Mr. Pollitt. To you is given the spiritual leadership of this great veterans organization. You will, I know, lend dignity and respect to your office. You should remain in close confidence with the commander and the other national officers of The American Legion. You should be ready upon occasion to take your part in performing such

divine and nonsectarian services as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be recommended by national headquarters from time to time. Into your keeping we place the spirit of comradeship of this organization. May harmony and unity prevail.

Next is David W. Lockhart, who is appointed to the office of national historian. Mr. Lockhart, I remind you that your office is an important one. To you is given the responsibility of preserving and compiling the records of this organization. The future can only be judged by the past. Your duties include collecting all records and data of value and interest for the national headquarters of The American Legion, and you shall compile during your term of office a complete history of the year's activities. Further, you shall assist department and post historians so as to coordinate and unify the work of these officials. Be mindful that the lamp of recorded experience may do much in guiding the footsteps of those who follow. Ever remember that without the recorded history of this organization, Legionnaires who serve after we are gone will not know of our organization's great accomplishments and policies.

The final office is that of national sergeant-at-arms, and I want to introduce Gaylord K. Sanneman, who will serve in that capacity over the next year. Mr. Sanneman, you are the sentinel or tiler, the outer guard of this organization. You will guard especially against the loss of one of The American Legion's greater possessions, our deep and abiding spirit of comradeship. You will learn the identity of and introduce to the commander all visiting comrades and guests. You are responsible that no one shall remain a stranger in our midst. Be ready at all times to assist your commander. Into your hands is given charge of the stand of colors which you will properly display at all national meetings and on ceremonial occasions.

Now, after hearing these obligations, will all three of you raise your right hands and repeat after me, giving your names: I, do solemnly pledge myself to perform faithfully and impartially the duties of the office in The American Legion which I am about to assume. I do not subscribe to the principles of any foreign government or group opposed to our form of government and pledge to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America. And I further pledge to uphold the principles outlined in the National Constitution and Preamble of The American Legion in service to our veterans, their families, their communities, state and nation. Please put your hand down. Past National Commander Dellinger, please adorn the newly appointed officers with their new caps. Congratulations! My fellow Legionnaires, I know that each of you will justify the trust that is reposed in each of your offices. I look forward to working and sharing with you many experiences over the next twelve months as each of us continue to serve America's veterans. *(Applause)*

To the National Executive Committee: I commend you on the selections you have approved. You have chosen them to guide the destiny of this organization, and it is our duty to aid and assist them in every way. This is the legacy we have inherited, and we will not fail in this mission to keep The American Legion an organization of free men and women veterans that has been faithful to its principles and ideals for more than 100 years. You may return to your seat. National Chaplain, if you would take a seat on the stage, please.

At this time, I'm going to take a moment of personal privilege. I'm going to ask Jeremy Ehart to please come forward. Jeremy, as virtue of my election of the national commander, you have now assumed the office of National Executive Committee member. And when I look at that hat, it doesn't say National Executive Committee member, it says something different. So, if you'll please remove that hat. I have one that might be better. *(Applause) …National Commander Wiley resumed the Chair.*

Introduction of National Commander's Aide

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Ladies and gentlemen, I would like you to meet the man who will be my aide this next year, Doug Hensley. *(Applause)*

I now call on the national adjutant to read the dates of meetings that occur over the next year.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT ROLLAND: These have previously been confirmed and are read for information purposes.

Dates of Annual Meetings

2025 Fall Meetings	October 6-9
Commissions and Committees	October 6-7
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 6-7
National Executive Committee	October 8-9
2026 Washington Conference	March 1-4
2026 Spring Meetings	May 4-7
Commissions and Committees	May 4-5
National Executive Committee	May 6-7
2026 National Convention – Louisville, Kentucky	August 28-September 3
2026 Fall Meetings	October 5-8
Commissions and Committees	October 5-6
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 5-6
National Executive Committee	October 7-8
2027 Washington Conference	February 28-March 3
2027 Spring Meetings	May 3-6
Commissions and Committees	May 3-4
National Executive Committee	May 5-6
2027 National Convention – Kansas City, Missouri	August 27-September 2
2027 Fall Meetings	October 4-7
Commissions and Committees	October 4-5

Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 4-5
National Executive Committee	October 6-7
2028 National Convention – Columbus, Ohio	August 25-31
2029 National Convention – Indianapolis, Indiana	August 24-30
2030 National Convention – Salt Lake City, Utah	August 23-29
2031 National Convention – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	August 22-28

Homecoming Information

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Thank you, Mr. Adjutant. Some upcoming events: For homecoming on Saturday, October 4, we will be having the homecoming at American Legion Post 64, located at 601 South Holt Road in Indianapolis. Roundtrip bus transportation from the Indianapolis Sheraton will be provided from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. that evening. Dress will be casual.

We also have a homecoming in the state of Kansas that everybody is invited to. It will be in Olathe, Kansas, American Legion Post 153, the last weekend in March, March 27-29. You can email if you want more details or to get on the list, Jeremy Ehart. That information will be coming out shortly after we get through the homecoming in October, but it will be mailed to everybody also.

Also, immediately following this meeting, I hope you can join us across the hallway in a celebration hosted by Team Kansas in Rooms 118-119, here at the convention center, from 2-4 p.m. All are invited.

Introductions

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: As the newest national commander in this room, I would like to introduce the leading candidate for national commander. Jay Bowen, will you please rise. *(Applause)*

Thank you. I'm supposed to tell you, Jay, the year goes by fast. We will now entertain the introduction of new NEC members. Please introduce only the new NEC members and new alternate NEC members. Please be brief, quick, and again, only new members of the NEC including the alternate NEC, since people have flights to catch and others will be attending the reception. Since we don't have a microphone, use your military voice. All right. Let's start. New members of the NEC and alternate NEC.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER LUDWIG: Mr. Commander, I'm pleased to announce Minnesota's new NEC, Dr. Carl Moon, and new Alternate, Paul Hassing.

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER HANNA (NJ): Mr. Commander, from New Jersey, I'll introduce the new NEC, Gene O'Grady and our new ANEC, Mike Wilson.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MORIN: New National Executive Committee member, John Lenotte, and our Alternate National Executive Committee member, Sandra Davis.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SANTOS: From the Department of Maryland, we have the National Executive Committee member, Ron Holcombe, and Ruth Higgins, the Alternate National Executive Committee member. From the Department of Delaware, we've got Dwight Lacy, National Executive Committee member, and the Alternate National Executive Committee member, Tammy Hull.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER WEBER (OR): Don Weber, NEC and Alternate NEC, Betty Fish-Ferguson.

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER HERNDON (DC): Mr. Commander, I'd like to introduce Herman Preston, our new NEC, and Detashia Coleman, our Alternate NEC, wonderful patriots, all.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER PETERS (NY): NEC, Frank Peters; Alternate, James Yermas.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER WEBER (IL): Department of Illinois, Alternate NEC, Joe Lampert.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER WESTERGREN (AR): Mr. Commander, Michael Westergren, Department of Arkansas. I stand as the giant Mary Erdman stepped down over 10 years. I have next to me Marie Wilbanks as Alternate.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER SKINNER (ID): New Alternate NEC, Jinny Cash.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER HOLT (MI): Brett Holt, Department of Michigan, new NEC; Alternate, Brian Mohlman.

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DIXON (VA): Linden Dixon, Virginia. Pleased to announce Leslie Clevinger as new NEC and Bill Feasenmyer, Alternate NEC.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MURPHY (PA): Pennsylvania, Michael Murphy, the NEC, and Richard Schloendorn, Alternate NEC.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER WEINREICH (RI): Mr. Commander, Department of Rhode Island, new NEC and Jim Weinreich and my new Alternate NEC, Betty Leach.

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVIDSON (WY): Keith Davidson, Immediate Past NEC from Wyoming, to introduce our new NEC Ron Wood from Wyoming.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ROSARIO (PR): Department of Puerto Rico, I am the new NEC, and I have the Alternate Antonio Arroyo from Puerto Rico.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KOUTZ: Mr. Commander, we've got repeat NEC, Kenneth Cooper, and re-elected our Alternate NEC, Laurie Bowman.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CULVER (TN): Lanny Culver, Department of Tennessee.

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER SCANLON (VT): Department of Vermont. Our new NEC is Joe Zickmund and our Alternate NEC is Mark Cloutier.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER WAUGH (IA): Department of Iowa, new NEC, Bob Waugh; Alternate, Randy Johnson.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER DIONNE (NH): Department of New Hampshire, NEC, Bob Dionne, and my new Alternate NEC, Maurice Anderson.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER SHARBONO (MT): Department of Montana, new NEC, Glen Sharbono, and new Alternate, Lowell Long.

PAST NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER KING (KY): Department of Kentucky, brand-new Alternate NEC, Michael "Bubba" Leon.

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER WARNKEN (KS): I'd like to once again introduce Jeremy Ehart, our new NEC. Our Alternate is yet to be determined, and we will do that at our next Department Executive Committee. We'll select our Alternate to take Jeremy's place.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER WOODS (ME): My alternate new NEC is Kirk Thurston.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER KILE (WV): West Virginia, new Alternate NEC, David Hall.

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: All right. Anybody else? Did we miss anybody? Thank you and welcome aboard, everybody. I now call on the national adjutant for announcements.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT ROLLAND: Would all the national vice commanders, the chaplain, historian, sergeant-at-arms and commander's aide, please remain in this room and see Holly Soria or Jenn Blohm at the conclusion of this meeting to have your picture taken. Holly and Jenn are standing in the back of this room. All new National Executive Committee members will have their portraits taken during the Fall NEC meetings. Thank you, commander.

Unfinished Business and Technical Motions

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Is there any unfinished business to come before this committee at this time?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I would like to make at this time a technical motion and move that the national adjutant be instructed to review the minutes of the NEC meeting and make any necessary corrections without changing the intent of the NEC meeting and to proceed and edit and distribute those minutes. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: You've heard the motion and the second. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, nay. Carried. I now call on National Chaplain Michael Pollitt for the benediction. Please uncover.

Benediction
Michael Pollitt, Virginia, National Chaplain

Before I begin, I would like to remember my dear friend in heaven, comrade George West.

My brothers and sisters, for this special calling of ours, let us pray. Oh, God, I am an American veteran, and ever with your grace and your strength to guide me, I have sacrificed for You and country and You have made my heritage long and proud, for I shivered that cold winter in Valley Forge and I wept at Washington in flames, and I spilled my blood as my nation was torn in two, I am an American veteran. I charged up San Juan Heights with Colonel Teddy, and I came to France in the war to end all wars. I am an American veteran. I was there on that Day of Infamy, stormed the beaches of Normandy, and I scaled the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc. I met my foe on island after island, and I raised the flag on Mount Suribachi. I am an American veteran. I was there with MacArthur in Korea and in the jungles of Vietnam. I was there at Desert Storm, Iraq, and then the mountains of Afghanistan, and I remain ready to pledge my all, for I am my brothers' and sisters' keeper. Oh, God, I am an American veteran and humbly I beseech thee to harken to my prayers and make haste to establish thy justice, freedom and peace among men and women and among nations. And for this we humbly pray. Amen. *...Chorus of "Amen."*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Thank you, Chaplain Pollitt. Legionnaires, please join me in a salute to the flag of the United States of America. By the numbers. Hand salute. Two! Is there a motion to adjourn the meeting?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: So, moved. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. All those opposed, same sign. Motion passed. This meeting is adjourned.

... At 1:00 p.m., Thursday, August 28, 2025, the Post-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting of The American Legion was adjourned sine die.

Abbreviations

AFB ..... Air Force Base
ATF ..... Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

CEO ..... chief executive officer
COL ..... colonel

DEA ..... Drug Enforcement Administration
DHS ..... Department of Homeland Security
DIA ..... Defense Intelligence Agency
DMS ..... Direct Membership Solicitation
DOD ..... Department of Defense

EST ..... eastern standard time

FAU ..... Florida Atlantic University
FAVOB ..... Florida Association of Veteran-Owned Businesses
FBI ..... Federal Bureau of Investigation
FY ..... fiscal year

GDP ..... gross domestic product
GUARD Act ..... Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act

HR ..... house resolution
HUD ..... Department of Housing and Urban Development

JROTC ..... Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps

LTC ..... lieutenant colonel

MCPO ..... master chief petty officer
MIA ..... missing in action
MOU ..... memorandum of understanding
MWR ..... Morale, Welfare, and Recreation

NDAA ..... National Defense Authorization Act
NEC ..... National Executive Committee
NEF ..... National Emergency Fund
NLC ..... National Legislative Council
NRIC ..... National Regional Information Conferences

OCW ..... Operation Comfort Warriors

PBS ..... Public Broadcasting Station
PNC ..... Past National Commander
POW ..... prisoner of war
PTSD ..... Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Q3 ..... third quarter

ROTC ..... Reserve Officers' Training Corps

SBA ..... Small Business Administration
SBTF ..... Small Business Task Force
SCOUTS ..... Supporting Community, Outpatient, Urgent Care, and Telehealth Services
SHIPS for America Act ..... Shipbuilding and Harbor Infrastructure for Prosperity and Security for American Act
SimLEARN ..... Simulation Learning Evaluation, Assessment, and Research Network

TAP ..... Transition Assistance Program

USAA ..... United Services Automobile Association
USAR ..... United States Army Reserve

VA ..... Department of Veterans Affairs
VA&R ..... Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
VASH ..... Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing
VCF ..... Veterans and Children Foundation
VE&E ..... Veterans Employment & Education
VHA ..... Veterans Health Administration
VOSB ..... veteran-owned small business
VSO ..... Veterans Service Organization
VTC ..... Veterans Treatment Court

YOY ..... year over year

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