Cut on Dotted Line

May 2019

Volume LXXVI, No. 1 Jefferson City, Missouri

KERRY BOARDMAN

Department Commander

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires!

The end of the year is quickly approaching. I’ve never seen a year go by so fast. It’s been a pleasure serving The American Legion Department of Missouri. I’ve met so many wonderful Legionnaires, families, and members during my travels through the state. When I was first elected, I was told the year would go by quickly. I didn’t believe it, and now here I am.

Our membership numbers are below what I anticipated and expected even though a lot of hard work has been done by Senior Vice President, Zone Commanders, District Commanders, Post Commanders, and Legionnaires throughout the state believing in The American Legion. Everyone has the mission of recruiting and retention in turning our numbers around.

With numbers being down, Department’s financial income is also down. While Department costs continue to stay the same or in some cases rise. The Financial Officer and Budget Committee are working diligently on presenting the budget that turns around our continued losses. Changes will certainly come about that are not always favorable to some. Just remember they have the best interest in The Department in their endeavors to return the Department in the black. Finally all are trying to live with a most amazing program presented by The American Legion Department of Missouri. The NEC again pledged $25,000, called for a fundraising drive and approved a resolution to move forward. The NEC was resurrected in 1989 when Hurricane Hugo pummeled the Carolinas and Puerto Rico.

American Legion’s National Executive Committee (NEC) approved a resolution in August that stated the fund to “Invest the most urgent needs through American Legion channels.”

NEF was resurrected in 1989 when Hurricane Hugo pummeled the Carolinas, which devastated the Gulf Coast—primarily Mississippi, and parts of Louisiana and Alabama. The American Legion’s National Executive Committee (NEC) approved a resolution in August that year establishing the fund to “Invest the most urgent needs through American Legion channels.”

The program began in 1986 as a one-time effort in the wake of Hurricane Camille, which devastated The Gulf Coast—primarily Mississippi, and parts of Louisiana and Alabama. The American Legion’s National Executive Committee (NEC) approved a resolution in August that year establishing the fund to “Invest the most urgent needs through American Legion channels.”

The current school year became a very eventful year in the lives of many high school students when they decided to participate in the ASTH National High School Oratorical Scholarship Program. But, the lives of these three high school students changed along the way. They became the three finalists in the State contest held in Jefferson City at the 2019 Spring Convention.

This all happened when each of them won their high school competition, then their county competition and moved up to their District and Zone level competitions. Each received medals and in some cases county and district scholarships. Each received a $13,000 renewable scholarship for attendance at Dury University. By winning their Zone competition (State Semi-finals), each student became eligible to compete at the State competition.

February 16TH soon became “A dream come true” for all three contestants. Upon arrival at the Capital Plaza Hotel, they found themselves the guests of honor and the center of attention at the VIP luncheon held in their honor. Then they found themselves sequestered in preparation for participating in the State Finals Oratorical Contest. Unknown to the contestants, seven highly recognized professionals were also having lunch and receiving a briefing as to their duties as oratorical judges for the contest. Before the contest began, escort, time keepers, and tabulators also were briefed as to their duties and responsibilities.

Judge Duane Benton performed the opening ceremony, then called for contestant number one. “Silence can be loud” and this was never truer than during this contest. All heads turned as contestant number one entered the room and every eye in the room followed as the contestant was escorted to the stage. In turn, each contestant presented a prepared oration about some phase of the Constitution of the United States, emphasizing the duties and obligations of a citizen to the United States government. The prepared orations had to be original and be between 8 and 10 minutes in length. In addition, each contestant was required to speak for 3 to 5 minutes on a randomly assigned amendment or article of the United States Constitution.

Each of the four contestants presented outstanding orations, said Judge Benton, Chair of the Department Oratorical Commission. Marissa Gertz, a junior at Smithton High School in Sedalia, Mo. won the highly competitive Missouri State competition with her oration titled “The United States Constitution: The Perfect Recipe.” Her oration earned her a $2,000 scholarship and a Gold Medal. She presented her winning oration in the national contest in Indianapolis, Indiana in April. There, she advanced to the Semi-Finals – a rare achievement for a junior – and was awarded an additional $5,000 scholarship.

Receiving a Silver medal and a $1,800.00 scholarship for second place was Andrea Moore, a junior from Clark County R-I High School in Kahoka, Mo. A scholar- ship of $1,600.00 and a Bronze medal was presented to third place winner Elizabeth Cardoza, a junior from Central High School in Springfield, Mo. “The seven judges had a very hard job,” said Judge Duane Benton.

Gertz competed in the national contest with approximately 54 other contestants, who won their Le- Scholarships and a Trip to the National Oratorical Contest Awarded

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For God and Country...

Each Veteran’s Welfare Is The Nation’s Responsibility

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Jefferson City, Missouri

Scholarships and a Trip to the National Oratorical Contest Awarded

In recognition of 100 years of service to the Community State and Nation members of the Department leadership were recognized by House representative Holly Rehder - District 148 of Sikeston and Senator Wayne Wallingford - District 27, Cape Girardeau on the floors at the State Capitol.

continued...
DEPARTMENT MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS
John Buckwalter, Chmn. 
Jerome Goolsby, Sr. Vice Commander 
Victoria Duncan, Treasurer 
John Partin, Adjunct Editor 
Jack Rennaker, Editor

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF MISSOURI
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District 1 Commander............................................................ Robert Dodd
520 Sutton Dr., Palmyra, MO 65371 (573) 769-3951

District 2 Commander............................................................ Edgar Alford
423 W Country Lane, Kansas City, MO 64114 (816) 941-0389

District 3 Commander............................................................ R. E. Hutz
3379 N. Reynolds Rd., Raymore, MO 64083 (816) 505-7208

District 4 Commander............................................................ Marvin Harper
202 McCandles St., Barnard, MO 64423

District 5 Commander............................................................ Steven W. Beoche
439 W County Line Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114 (816) 941-0389

District 6 Commander............................................................ Bill Anderson
P.O. Box 21, Windsor, MO 65360 (660) 356-0179

District 7 Commander............................................................ Joseph "Joe" Cochran
2605 S. Ohio Ave., Sedalia, MO 65301 (573) 280-5366

District 8 Commander............................................................ Terry McDonald
454 S Greenwood Ave., Columbia, MO 65203 (573) 289-8708

District 9 Commander............................................................ Robert White
7 Prairie Dell Trl, Union, MO 63376 (530) 834-0259

District 10 Commander............................................................ Michael Leiblich
12721 Oak Park Dr. Apts. D, St. Louis, MO 63146 (314) 363-2715

District 11/12 Commander....................................................... Darlene Coats
5389 Wells Ave., St. Louis, MO 63132 (314) 477-6841

District 13 Commander............................................................ Bill Henderson
5933 Hwy J, Farmington, MO 63640 (573) 760-3311

District 14 Commander............................................................ Franklin C. Adams
805 Cherokee Rd., St. Louis, MO 63130 (314) 871-8083

District 15 Commander............................................................ "Coc" Rickie Conway
P.O. Box 447, Mt. Vernon, MO 65712 (417) 366-3322

District 16 Commander............................................................ Marilyn Hersch
1308 Bower Ln., De Soto, MO 64019 (816) 633-2393

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
3341 American Avenue – P. O. Box 179 – Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 893-2353 Fax (573) 893-3900 Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

HALLIE WILLIAMS
Sr. Vice Commander
Greetings Fellow Legionnaires:

I would like to thank the Districts and Posts for your hard work with renewals and recruitment. Keep up the good work and keep pushing for 100% in membership.

Please continue to work the programs and stay visible in the community. If you do not have a Buddy Check List, as it can be a big help to some of the Posts and Districts.

Our National Vice Commander, Steve Sweet, was well received during his visit to Missouri. He was very grateful for all the gratitude and love he was shown.

We need growth in membership in our Department. Our membership program is not ideal at the moment. Please continue to work the programs for the betterment of the organization as a whole. It is my desire to visit more of our Posts and Districts throughout our Department in Missouri.

In closing, please note that building membership is our number one priority. Therefore, our goal is to recruit and retain. I welcome any calls you may have at 314-359-4748 or 314-381-7538. Have a safe and relaxing summer.

Thank you for your service and may each of you have a Blessed & Safe Season.

God Bless America
Hallie Williams
Sr. Vice Commander
Department of Missouri

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN
By Jerome Goolsby

Good day fellow legionnaires. We just returned from the Spring Meetings in Indianapolis; it was a very busy week. At the meeting I was given a brochure about The American Legion, a brief history on what it has done for our 4 pillars in the last 100 years, it is amazing. I will bring it to the convention. Please watch the Department newspaper and info from the Department HQ for when and where to bring your books to be part of the contest.

The program year is winding down and the Department Convention is just around the corner. In a few, many of you will be finishing up your work and I thank you for your efforts to record the history of your Post and District.

Post and District elections will be coming up soon for many of you. Please remember that the job of Historian is not simply a spot to filled on the officer report; the Historian fulfills an important function in your Post and District; recording the events of your activities for posterity. This is no minor undertaking and must be done as seriously as possible. Please install Historians who will not just fill a spot but do the important work of compiling a recorded history for your Post or District.

I also have a project that every District Underwriter will understand during the next year – make sure every veterans memorial in your District is recorded on The American Legion’s database at https://www.legion.org/memorials. I know that District 4 has completed their area, if your District has, well done, if not, please try to get it done by Veterans Day if you can.

I hope to see many history books submitted for the Yearbook, Narrative, District and Open Class competitions which will be held at the Convention. Please watch the Department newspaper and info from Department HQ for when and where to bring your books to be part of the contest.
Scholarships and a Trip

To the National Oratorical Contest Awarded

Continued From Page 3

Spring has finally sprung and along with the great weather we have some excellent employment news for the nation. All reports and indicators show that unemployment is at an all-time low for a very long period of time.


The unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage point to 3.6 percent in April, the lowest rate since December 1969 when the first foot of snow fell on the moon. Over the past 12 months, the number of unemployed persons decreased by 387,000 down to 5.8 million.

The civilian labor force increased by 263,000 in April, and the unemployment rate declined to 3.6 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today (May 3rd, 2019). Notable job gains occurred in professional and business services, construction, health care, and social assistance.

And professional and business services added 76,000 jobs in April. Within the industry, employment gains occurred in computer systems design and related services (+14,000). Over the past 12 months, professional and business services have added 535,000 jobs.

In April, construction employment rose by 33,000, with gains in nonresidential specialty trade contractors (+5,000) and in building and civil engineering construction (+11,000). Construction has added 92,000 jobs over the past 12 months.

Employment in health care grew by 27,000 in April and 404,000 over the past 12 months. In April, job growth occurred in ambulatory health care services (+17,000), hospitals (+8,000), and community care facilities for the elderly (+7,000).

In April, average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 6 cents to $27.77. Over the year, average hourly earnings have increased by 3.2 percent. Average hourly earnings of private sector production and nonsupervisory employees increased by 7 cents to $23.31 in April.

More Information from Veterans’ Employment and Training Service

DOLVETS@subscriptions.dol.gov

Veteran Unemployment Rate 2.3 Percent in April

In April 2019, the veteran unemployment rate was 2.3 percent, down from 3.7 percent in April 2018; this represents the lowest veteran unemployment rate in the month of April in the entire data series (started in 2000). The unemployment rate of 2.3 percent is also tied for the lowest monthly rate for veterans for any month in the data series. The non-veteran unemployment rate for April 2019 was 3.3 percent.

In March 2019, the unemployment rate for adult women matched the low since 1953,” said Secretary Acosta. “With healthy job growth, rising wages, and low unemployment, we continue to work to increase labor force participation to fill high levels of open jobs.”

Not only is the nations unemployment on the decline but our veteran’s unemployment is showing great progress also.

I hope everyone will enjoy the Spring and be safe in all you do.

Dennis Woelfje, Chairman
# American Legion Department of Missouri, Budget 2019-2020

## DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

### BUDGET 2019 - 2020

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## anv J8221

**Raymond Bassett**

**Department Chaplain**

**Chaplain’s Corner**

Now is the Time

We keep saying that once we get through with some difficulty, life will get back to normal. It does, sort of, which is to say that the present troubles go away to make room for the next set. Life has its ebb and flows, its high spots and its lows. What it doesn’t have for very long is smooth sailing.

The conditions that prevail for all of us are like seasons of the year, cold followed by heat, sun and rain. Work a five-day week an’ you’ll join the Thank God It’s Friday! Club.

Ecclesiastes put it this way, there is a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to hate and a time to love. So, we gather for our special ceremonies to recreate a bit of the mood and message of the original, a feel for what it was like when the Jews waited for God to send a Messiah.

High and low, God’s times, our times—always ebbing, flowing, never the same, never subject to prediction. And we have needs as well—for change for a new perspective, starting over.

This is what the season leading up to Easter offers. The winter has been with us, coughs and colds and the frozen earth, dull moments with little light. How we look forward to the sight of apple blossoms, crocuses breaking through the soil, spring. But first there is God’s time.

Thousands celebrated without knowing what it was really about. They crowded churches with their pious parade as if the joy of the resurrection could be known apart from the sorrow of the cross. It cannot.

How can the memory be enhanced by Jesus at the least, and reflection. There is no virtue in giving up something for Lent to prove what you can do. For some, maybe eat just a little less, that the season might have its mark of more solemnity, so that the feast to come is that much more joy. Then perhaps we should think more seriously about the needs of others and to fulfill a vow or two for the sake of the needs.

Now is the time for us to know the time of God, to remember Jesus and how he died for us. Now is the time to deepen our love for Him by deepening our love for one another. To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven.

There is in your court. The only question is whether or not you believe it worth following through with your life, your time, your energy.

Chaplain, Raymond Bassett

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**Missouri Legionnaire**

**May 2019**
Greetings Riders of Missouri!

I would like to say up front how proud I am of the great things that you all have been doing around the great state of Missouri. From volunteering at local activities to raising funds at the national level, know that your efforts are well appreciated.

We welcomed two new Chapters to the Riders of Missouri; Joplin Chapter 13, and Lemay Chapter 162. Welcome to the Riders of Missouri!

And our Chapters have been doing the Legions work in the communities; from Chapter 331 hosting Easter egg hunts for the local children, Chapter 99 raising $12,000 during their first year to help provide needed repairs to their Post Home, and support programs of The American Legion, to Chapter 13 assisting in the identification and interment of 11 veterans whose cremated remains had been stored at two local funeral homes.

We participated in the Grand Opening of the Missouri National Veterans Memorial in Perryville. This national memorial opening is the culminating of hard work of dedicated volunteers, which I am proud to say the Riders of Missouri have been involved with since its beginning. In September we will once again support the memorial by participating in the first “Missouri Vietnam Wall Run”.

We took part in Anniversary events at Century 21 Posts and other historic venues across the state. 100 years! That says volumes about The American Legion and its members.

This year’s Missouri Legacy Ride promises to be a great adventure in motorcycling. Department Ride Captain “Big” Brian Keller has painstakingly planned the ride to be a showcase for the Riders of Missouri and The American Legion Legacy Fund. In contrast to past in-state Legacy Rides, this year’s ride will travel through and make stops in larger cities to provide greater visibility to the Legacy Fund.

The Department Convention is fast approaching. It will take place 11-14 July at the Marriott, St. Louis Airport. If you haven’t made your reservation, do so soon.

I’d just like to remind Directors that if your Consolidated Chapter Reports haven’t been submitted, do so soon. The CCRs are used to determine Chapter of the Year. So you will want to be included. And Reports haven’t been submitted, do so soon. The CCRs are used to determine Chapter of the Year. So you will want to be included. And Reports haven’t been submitted, do so soon.

Thank you to everyone for helping the Auxiliary to “Let Our Light Shine” throughout the state of Missouri. Thank you to all for your generous donations for “Kids Of Our Heroes Adventure Camp”. This camp is owned and operated by two retired military, Darrell and Michele Hovland. It is amazing what they can do to help these kids ages 11-17. All of their staff are volunteers and no one gets paid. The camp is run strictly by donations. It is such a worthwhile project. The camp helps these kids learn to adapt to their home life. If anyone would like to help us help the camp please contact myself or an Auxiliary member.

We will be having a parade of checks at Convention and hope to be able to give the camp a sizable check to help these kids.

May God Bless All Of You!!!!!!!!

Sharon Slagle, President
ALA Department of Missouri
660-254-0341 sharonaslgale101402@gmail.com

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Missouri Legionnaire

ALAMETRONS MESSAGE
Sharon Slagle

It has been my pleasure to serve as The American Legion Auxiliary President this past year. What a thrill it was to go to different towns and Posts and meet so many friendly and happy people. The Auxiliary and Legionnaire women and men that I have met has made my year a fun filled experience.

The Legion Family helps make all of members a group of people that you want to work that much harder for. They always make you feel welcome and part of their group and that you can accomplish just about anything.

Thank you to everyone for helping the Auxiliary to “Let Our Light Shine” throughout the state of Missouri. Thank you to all for your generous donations for “Kids Of Our Heroes Adventure Camp”. This camp is owned and operated by two retired military, Darrell and Michele Hovland. It is amazing what they can do to help these kids ages 11-17. All of their staff are volunteers and no one gets paid. The camp is run strictly by donations. It is such a worthwhile project. The camp helps these kids learn to adapt to their home life. If anyone would like to help us help the camp please contact myself or an Auxiliary member.

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May God Bless All Of You!!!!!!!!!

Sharon Slagle, President
ALA Department of Missouri
660-254-0341 sharonaslgale101402@gmail.com

77th Annual Detachment Convention

Saturday, July 13, 2019
8:00 A.M. Joint Session with The American Legion Family
12:00 Noon Luncheon
1:00 P.M. Business Session
4:00 P.M. Adjourn

Sunday, July 14, 2019
9:00 A.M. Final Session of Detachment Convention
9:00 A.M. DEC (Followed by the First DEC Meeting of 2019-2020)
12:00 Noon Lunch
1:30 P.M. DEC
5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Sons of The American Legion DEC (Closed meeting, all Detachment Officers are expected)
Saturday, July 13, 2019
8:30 A.M. DEC (Chief, Deputy, DEC Officers are expected) Vote 1
9:30 A.M. Joint Session with The American Legion Family
12:00 Noon Luncheon

8:00 A.M. DEC

** Refer to The American Legion Convention Program for important events throughout the day you may wish to observe**

In appreciation of your continued support of The American Legion Boys State of Missouri, please join us for The American Legion Appreciation Night Tuesday June 18, 2019 6:45 p.m.

In appreciation of your continued support of The American Legion Boys State of Missouri, please join us for

The American Legion Appreciation Night
Tuesday June 18, 2019 6:45 p.m.

The activities will begin with our great Night at Hendricks Hall followed by the evening’s special program.

Hendricks Hall University of Central Missouri
Warrensburg

Please RSVP by emailing Jessie.Abney@mobostate.org by June 12th

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Hendricks Hall University of Central Missouri
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Please RSVP by emailing Jessie.Abney@mobostate.org by June 12th
Legion Family members from the following Departments: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, Montana, Ohio, South Carolina, Virginia, and Washington gathered in St. Louis to help the Legionnaires from Missouri celebrate the Centennial Celebration on the St. Louis Caucus. The event started with a reception at the newly renovated Soldiers Memorial and Military Museum where over two hundred Legion Family members tour the museum, and which features the military history on Missourians dating back to the Civil War. On special display was the GI Bill exhibit.

In attendance were the following Past National Commanders: Daniel Dillinger of Virginia, Thomas Rock of Colorado, Marty Comer of Illinois, David K. Rehbien of Iowa and Joseph Frank of Missouri.

On Friday May 10, 2019 a formal Ceremony was held on outside landing of Soldiers Memorial, Alex Slocom of Mathews-Crawford Post 131 in Warrensburg, MO served as the Master Ceremony. The 10th District Honor Guard consisting of Mike Le Blanc, Jim Christman, Steve Dodson and Lee Smulcenski presented the colors; Saint Service Women’s Post 404 members: Cheryl Darlington, Elizabeth Gonzales, Vicki Lumbrugh, Susan Linnar, Kathy Sutphen, Tori Vernau and Carol Wheeler performed the POW/MIA Ceremony. The Department Commander Kerry Boardman welcome the visiting Legion Family members and introduced the present and past leaders of the Department of Missouri that were present. Past National Commander David K. Rehbien, Chairman of the National 100th Anniversary Observance Committee from the Department of Iowa gave a brief history on the St. Louis Caucus ending his talk with the reciting of the Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion tying in the fact that the Preamble was written during the 1919 St. Louis Caucus.

As part of Friday’s ceremonies, City of St. Louis Chief of Staff Stephen Conway delivered a proclamation from The Mayor of St. Louis which declared the Day May 10, 2019 as American Legion Centennial Day in the City of St. Louis.

After being introduced by Past National Commander Joseph Frank the National Commander Bret Reistad a heartfelt speech that explored each line of the Preamble. In his speech he stated “As national Commander of the American Legion, I suppose I’m biased, But I find our preamble every bit as inspirational as the Declaration of Independence and the U. S. Constitution. In fact, if you think about it, the U. S. Constitution, as originally written, was lacking in a few regards and required some needed amendments. I’m in in no way disrespecting it- just stating that it needed a bit of work before everyone was able to achieve their full rights.” After the National Commander’s, Legionnaires and guest gathered at the Legion monument located on the corner of 13th and Pine. Prior to laying of the wreath in honor of all the Legionnaires who have gone to Post Everlasting, PDC Charley Goodin read a letter that had been written by the then National Commander William C. Doyle in 1969. The letter which was address to the 100th Commander was one of the 68 items that had been placed in a time capsule during the 50th Anniversary of the St. Louis Caucus. The capsule was to be unearth during the 100th Anniversary but to due circumstances out of our control the capsule was not dug up. The letter read:

May 10, 1969
To the National Commander
The American Legion
On Our 100th Anniversary
My dear Commander:

The fact that this letter has been delivered to you gives evidence that The American Legion always has been correct in having faith in the future of America. On May 10, 1919, the founders of this great American Legion met here in St.
Louis and demonstrated their faith in the future by dedicating our organization to continued service in peacetime to the country they had served in war. Here and now, as we observe the 50th Anniversary of our founding, we have remained true to the principles set out by the founders. Through our National Security program, we have championed the cause of peace and the preservation of freedom through preparedness. Through our Rehabilitation program, we have made the American veteran the best cared-for in the world. We have helped America’s children over many of the pitfalls of childhood, pitfalls of both physical and social disorder, through our multi-faceted Americanism and Child Welfare programs.

We expect that these four basic programs are continuing in your day in some form and perhaps under some name more in keeping with the times, providing The American Legion still is functional. It would, of course, be our hope that as you read this message, our organization might no longer be functional, for this would mean that wars would have ceased long enough ago, and the numbers and vitality of membership would be on the decline. Even if this has happened, there should still be an American Legion of sorts, for vibrant young men are joining our ranks today as they become eligible upon honorable separation from service in the Vietnam era.

We don’t know what your world will be like, but we know it will be different from ours. Just last December, and over the period including Christmas Day of 1968, man first left the earth’s atmosphere and orbited the moon. Those men were Americans. This summer, if all goes well, the first men will land on the moon. Those men, it is expected, will also be Americans.

As we place this capsule, we are just beginning to probe the mystery of space. As you open it, we expect you will have gone far beyond.

We wish you well, and we are confident that if in your era there is an American Legion of substance, and if there is a need for the type of service The American Legion was founded to provide, you will be providing it then, just as we are now.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM C. DOYLE
National Commander—1968-1969

After the Ceremony at the monument the Legion Family attended a luncheon at the Missouri Athletic Club an establishment that also played an important role in the Caucus events in 1919. Legionnaire Douglas Millison of Bennett & Dennis Herrick Mem’l Post 626 in Gladstone, MO served as the Master of Ceremony for the luncheon. After lunch National American Legion Auxiliary President Kathy Dugan of Mississippi told the crowd about her specific emphasis on female veterans this year. Sons of The American Legion National Commander Greg “Doc” Gibbs of New York brought greetings from the more than 330,000 members of the Sons.

Thank you to all the Legionnaires of the Department of Missouri who came out and supported this historic event and gave our visiting Legion family members Show-Me-State hospitality.

As chairman of this event I would like to give a special thank you to the following Legionnaires who help to make this event a success: Dalene Coates, Melanie Klingeman, Michael Klingeman, Judith Hanses, Ray Buerneman, Albert Jackson, Alex Slocum and Doug Millison. I would also like to thank the Department Staff, Theresa Boss, Patty Clark and Melissa Mayer for your outstanding support before, during and after the event.
Marshall Post Celebrates the Legion's Centennial

Legionnaire James “Jim” Thompson (L) and Past 7th District Commander Jim Brown share a laugh at a luncheon honoring Thompson and other Legionnaires of Marshall Post 191 on April 13, 2019.

On April 13, 2019, Marshall Post 191 held a Legion Centennial Event at Bloomfield's Family Restaurant in Marshall, Missouri honoring five of its most distinguished members at a special luncheon.

Past 7th District Commander Jim Brown e mooted the event which honored Dan Silverthorn, a World War II veteran with 70 years of continuous membership in The American Legion; John Huston, a Korean War veteran with 52 years of continuous membership, and James “Jim” Thompson, a World War II veteran with 44 years of continuous membership.

Legionnaire Thompson was one of 18 original members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) that received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2016. The OSS was the forerunner to the CIA and Thompson’s work was considered classified information until 2008. He stated that until that time not only could he not speak about what he did he couldn’t leave the country without special permission.

American Legion Department Historian Jerome Goolsby spoke to the gathering thanking the honorees for not only helping to build the Legion into the highly respected organization it is today but also for building the world we all live in with their hard work and dedication.

American Legion Post No. 191 Auxiliary President Deana Koon presented poppies to the five honored veterans during the luncheon.

2019 AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

The Baseball Commission met at Spring Conference February 16, 2019 and selected locations for the A (15 and under), AA (17 and under), and AAA (19 and under) Zone and State post season Tournaments. District Baseball Chairmen are responsible for locations/game times for their respective District Tournaments. Zone and State Tournament brackets/pairings will be finalized when the Commission meets in June.

2019 Season Information

A = AA District Tournaments must be completed by July 7. District Baseball Chairmen are responsible for these tournaments.
A State Tournament – July 10-14 – Jackson
AA Zone Tournaments – July 11-13
Zone 1 – 1 District Host
Zone 2 – 1 District Host
Zone 3 – Springfield
Zone 4 – TBD
AA State Tournament – July 18-20 – Washington
AA Regional – July 25-28 – Birmingham, AL
If Zone 3 does not register 2 or more teams, the teams finishing 1st and 2nd in AAA Zone 4 Tournament will advance to the State Tournament Finals. Teams must register, pay fees, and purchase insurance by May 15.

District Chairmen are to review, approve and submit all paperwork to Commissioners by June 20.

See you at the ballpark!!

Thanks to all for your continued support.
Gary Stone
Department of Missouri Baseball Chairman

Who Will Help You?

Today’s travel can involve unexpected financial risks. But you’re GUARANTEED help in case there’s a medical emergency away from home.

The Legionnaire Emergency Assistance Plus (EA+) Program offers you and your family security you need while traveling. EA+ delivers high-value benefits to protect you such as:
☞ Emergency Medical Assistance
☞ Medical Evacuation & Transportation Home
☞ Travel Assistance For You & Your Companion

U.S. Mint Legion Centennial Coin designs

Candidate for Zone 11 Commander

George A. Whitehan Post 642 and the 7th District of The American Legion Department of Missouri has a Legionnaire that is deserving of your consideration for the office of Zone II Vice Commander for The American Legion of Missouri. Legionnaire Joseph Cochran gained his eligibility in The American Legion his service with the United States Army from 1972 to 1984 and was honorably discharged in 1984. Joe is an active and dedicated member of The American Legion through his loyal and committed membership in George A. Whiteman Memorial Post 642. Legionnaire Cochran has held the offices of Post Commander for two years, Commander of the Post 642 Color Guard for three years, during this time the color guard competed and won the position of The Department of Missouri’s Color Guard. During his time as commander of the color guard, they won National Honors as the top Color Guard in National in the Military Class.
Legionnaire Cochran has served the Department of Missouri as Department Sgt-at-Arms, and as the Chairman of the Competition Committee.

Candidate for Zone IV Vice Commander

Arnold Hodge Post 281 of The American Legion Department of Missouri has a Legionnaire that is deserving of your considerations for the office of Zone IV Vice Commander for The American Legion Department of Missouri. Legionnaire Phillip Baker gained his eligibility in The American Legion by joining the United States Army in 1963 and retired with twenty years of honorable service. Legionnaire Baker earned his eligibility for the Maryland Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, as well as the National Defense Service Medal. Legionnaire Baker attained the rank of Sergeant (E-5) while serving on active duty. Following active duty service Phillip volunteered for service for sixteen years with the New York State Army National Guard. Legionnaire Baker retired from the Army National Guard as a Staff Sergeant (E-6).

Phillip is an active Legionnaire serving the Arnold Hodge Post 281 since 2010; in offices including; State Adjutant, Vice Commander, Historian, Financial Officer, Bingo Chairman and Honor Guard. Legionnaire Phillip Baker has served the 13th District as Vice Commander from 2013-2015. Legionnaire Baker has served as the Department of Missouri Sub-Committee Chairman in 2014-2015. Legionnaire Baker serves on various Department Committees. Legionnaire Baker proudly serves as the Chairman of the Membership Committee, Phillips is also a committee member of the Membership Committee and services on the Department of Missouri’s 100th Anniversary Adhoc Committee. Legionnaire Baker presently services The American Legion National Headquarters as an American Legion Council Member, appointed by the National Commander in 2015-2016 and again in 2016-2017.

Legionnaire Baker has been awarded The Department of Missouri Recruiter of the Year Award in 2012, the Department of Missouri Top Recruiting Award in 2015 and Phillip received the 2016 Department of Missouri Distinguished Legionnaire of the year award. Phillip has won numerous awards during his services to The American Legion, both here in Missouri and New York State.

The Arnold Hodge Post 281 of The American Legion Department of Missouri endorses Legionnaire Phillip Baker for the office of Zone IV Vice Commander for The American Legion Department of Missouri.

Have you ordered yours yet? If not, FREE postage if you order during Department Convention!!!
**2019 National Convention Fact Sheet**

**Hotel**
Omnni Severin Hotel - 40 West Jackson Place, Indianapolis, IN 46225

**Registration Hours**
- Monday, August 12 - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 13 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 14 - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 15 - 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, August 16 - 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 17 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Location**
- 40 West Jackson Place
- Indianapolis, IN 46225
- Hotel: Omni Severin Hotel
- Registration: LaGuardia

**Missouri Caucus**
- Sunday, 1:00 pm, August 25th
- Location: Servin Ballroom

**Missouri Party**
- Dining

**Airport shuttle**
- Shuttle Service: SJC

**Parking**
- Valet Parking: $40.00 per day (4pm – 6pm)
- Self Parking: $10.00 per night

**Hair dryer**
- Yes - in Room

**Iron and board**
- Yes - In Room

**Coffee pot in room**
- Yes

**Swimming pool**
- Yes & Fitness Center – Yes

**All Rooms are No Smoking**

**Rooms Available:**
- 15-Kings or 20 Doubles
- Limited ADA rooms

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**2019 NATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS / EVENTS**

**THURSDAY, JULY 11**
- Sons of The American Legion General Session
  - 8:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m
  - Salon I

**FRIDAY, JULY 12**
- Americanism
  - 10:00 a.m - 4:30 p.m
  - LaGuardia
- Foundation Committee
  - 10:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m
  - O'Hare
- Credentials Committee
  - 7:00 p.m - 8:00 p.m
  - Tempelhof

**SATURDAY, JULY 13**
- Color Guard Competition/Exhibition
  - 5:00 - 6:00 p.m
  - Salon I & II
- Resolutions Committee
  - TBA
  - TBA
- Delegate Selection
  - TBA
  - TBA

**SUNDAY, JULY 14**
- Post Service Officers Training
  - 5:30 – 7:00 p.m
  - Salon II
- Protestant Services
  - 5:00 p.m
  - Hartfield

**2019 CONVENTION SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS / EVENTS**

**REGISTRATION & NATIONAL COMMANDER’S BANQUET**

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Legionnaire for the year 2019.

Sidney Malone

(The American Legion) Department of Missouri
Distinguished Legionnaire Award is awarded to living
members of The American Legion who have rendered
and continue to render outstanding and even sacrificial
service to The American Legion and its programs, For God and Country.

Legionnaire Sidney Malone earned his membership to The American Legion though his service
during the Lebanon and Grenada era, serving the
United States Army enlisting in 1977 and serving honorably until 1986. He has been a member of The American Legion for 17 years. Legionnaire Malone has served the
Wayne Miner Post 149 in Kansas City as a Service Officer, 2nd Vice Commander, 1st Vice
Commander and commander. Mr. Malone has served the District as a District Service Officer, Jr. Vice District Commander 2017-2018, Senior Vice Commander 2018-2019. RTJC and County Government Committee Chairman. Legionnaire Malone currently serves the Department of Missouri as an Assistant Sergeant at Arms and member of the
Oratorical Commission, and the RTJC Awards Committee. Legionnaire Malone is a 2018 Graduate of the National American Legion College.

Legionnaire Malone has demonstrated his dedication to The American Legion, the Veterans of Missouri, his community and the Nation. The American Legion Department of Missouri takes great pride in presenting Sidney Malone as the Distinguished Legionnaire for the year 2019.

Brain Taylor

Law & Order Award

The Department of Missouri is proud to award officer Brian Taylor of the Jefferson County Sheriff’s office.

Brian Taylor has served the Jefferson County Sheriff’s office for ten years. Officer Taylor began his law enforcement career in the City of Desoto where he started in the Patrol Division before being assigned to the Jefferson County Municipal Enforcement as a Narcotics Investigator.

Brian started with the Jefferson County Sheriff’s office as a Road Patrol Deputy. He was quickly transferred to the Detective Bureau; he was also assigned to the Major Case Squad of Greater St Louis as an investigator during his time in the Detective Bureau he handled Felony Crime Investigations with an emphasis on violent crimes. It was during this time he was also assigned to the Jefferson County S.W.A.T. unit as a Crisis Negotiator.

Lieutenant Taylor has been instrumental in obtaining numerous confessions on high profile crimes, which often resulted the prosecution of the offender. During his tenure as an active member of The Jefferson County SWAT, he was responsible for the peaceful resolution to numerous hostage situations, active shooters and barricaded suicidal subjects. While assigned to the Jefferson County Municipal Enforcement as a Narcotics Investigator he and other members of JCSO were responsible for the largest amounts of meth lab seizures in the State of Missouri.

Officer Taylor has received many accolades for his accomplishments including the Governor’s Medal of Valor and Jefferson County Life Saving Award in 2015 for pulling an elderly male from a burning vehicle.

In addition to Detective Taylor’s dedication to law enforcement, he is dedicated to his wife and three children.

David McGee

EMT/Firefighter Award

The Department of Missouri is Proud to award to Paramedic/Firefighter Captain David McGee “The American Legion EMT/Firefighter Award for the Year 2019.”

David started with the Gladstone Public Safety as a Paramedic/Firefighter in 2002. Captain McGee has been a paramedic for 19 years. David continues his training of fire skills and knowledge currently attending classes on extrication and how to fight fires on hybrid vehicle fires.

Davis also keeps his medical skills current as he has served and an EMS instructor at both JBM Training Academy and currently teaches new medics at Penn Valley Community College.

In April of 2018, Officer McGee was fighting a house fire and was on the catwalk of the second floor when crews were told to exit the structure as conditions had heavily damaged the roof area Captain McGee crew started down the stairs to exit and David fell off the second-floor catwalk and fell to the first floor landing on his self-contained breathing apparatus. He was pulled from the structure and wanted to continue suppression efforts with his crew but was forced to go to the hospital because of the fall. David broke his back on the fall, but thankfully not debilitating.

Through David’s efforts he has become a true asset to the city of Gladstone. Da-
vaid is married to Jodi and has two daughters who are in college.

Jim Eddleman

Distinguished Service Award

Jim Eddleman is a lifelong Perryville resident and the founder and primary donor of Missouri’s National Veterans Memorial. Jim is a graduate of the Perryville High School class of 1965, he was active in football, basketball and track.

Mr. Eddleman served on the 1960’s Light Infantry brigade in the Vietnam War in 1967-1968 and was assigned to the 3rd Army Unit upon his return home. During his time serving he made a promise to himself that he would one day honor his comrades if he made it out alive.

In 1972, Jim earned a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness from Southeast Missouri State University.

In 2017 Jim and his wife Charlene connected with other veteran supporters in Pere-
ryville and by the end of 2017 they had an office and building plans in place for Missouri’s National Veterans Memorial. Jim was making good on his promise, by donating his third-generation family farm and a substantial amount of funds to the cause.

Because of Jim’s incredible generosity America’s Wall, a full-scale black granite replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall on the National Mall in Washington D.C. is complete as well as a welcome center and military museum.

Jim, like his father C. C. “Red” Eddleman, has been a member of The American Legion Post 133 for many years.

Marissa Gertz

Oratorical Contest Winner

The Department of Missouri is proud to announce Marissa Gertz, a junior at Smithton R-VI school in Smithton, MO as our State Oratorical winner for 2019, winning the $2000 scholarship. Giving her oration the titles “The United States Constitution: The Perfect Recipe.”

Marissa Gertz imagines the Constitution as perfect as her grandmother’s chocolate chip cookie recipe. She takes you to her kitchen gathering all the rich, fudgy ingredients and precise measurements ending with the perfect product. Just as the constitution is the perfect recipe for the United States with all its liberties and freedoms it represents.

Alongside 54 other contestants, she presented her winning oration in the national contest in Indianapolis, Indiana in April. There, she advanced to the Semi-Finals – a rare achievement for a junior – and was awarded an additional $3,000 scholarship.

Gertz is also involved in many activities within her school and community. She is looking forward to her senior year of high school with all future opportunities that life has in store for her.