Lanny Culver was selected to be the Department Division Vice Commander for 2019. Lanny has been District Commander for 2017 and 2018. During his tenure as Legionnaire he has previously held position as Post Commander, Post Adjutant and Eighth District Commander, Department Membership & Post Activities, Department Trophies & Award Committee for 2018. The American Legion Department of Tennessee appreciates Lanny of going above and beyond his duties as in all his different positions. He is dedicated to helping every post in the West TN Division and the Four Pillars. He shares his knowledge with Legionnaires, Posts and Districts. Please congratulate Lanny for his dedication to the American Legion.

Robert Seay from Andrew K Stern, Post 250 Germantown was selected as Department Legionnaire of the Year. He is a strong supporter of the Americanism programs in Oratorical and Boys State. He has been active in Post Color and Honor Guard and participates in flag presentation events on Memorial, Fourth of July and Veterans Day at West Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery. He has worked as Chaplain and Political Coordinator. Legionnaire Seay has contacts with members of the US Congress, and state and local levels to advance the veteran causes and procure funding for post efforts. He is dedicated to his local youth’s and community’s activities as well as civic organizations. Please thank Mr. Seay for his continued service to the American Legion and Four Pillars.

Eighth District Commander Joel Pipkin, Jr. was selected for the Department District Commander of the Year for 2019. He was elected Eighth District Commander for two years from 2018-2020. Commander Pipkin has been a Legionnaire for 17 years in the American Legion.

He has shown exemplified leadership in Post 243 Scotts Hill and among the District Posts. He is willing to assist with problems and give advice to his peers. He is active in local youth and civic organizations. Please congratulate Commander Pipkin on a job well done.

2019 DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

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2019 DISTRICT COMMANDER OF THE YEAR

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DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

2019-2020 TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
Luther Holsonback was elected and installed on June 2, 2019 at Depart- ment Convention in Franklin, TN. Commander Holsonback “VISION” for the American Legion is: 21st Century “Blueprint” For Success
VISION
Every Post take the initiative to be proactive, growth oriented with in- formed, trained and knowledgeable members who understand and communicate the programs and principles of The American Legion to all eligible veterans, military per- sonnel, family members, community and Post members.
GOALS
I. Image
• Every Post should develop a vi- sion statement along with a 5-year Strategic Plan Annually
• Legionnaires are considered to be in uniform when wearing the official American Legion cap, therefore all Legionnaires are encouraged to wear his/her Legion cap during all Legion activities.
• Every Post should exclaim the ideals as the American Legion as set forth in the preamble and vision statement.
• Every Post will and should be a value-based organization, by an- nual or periodic self-evaluation using the checklist contained in the Post Officers Guide.
• Division and District Commanders will take an active role in assisting Posts to maintain a current Certification of Post Officers.
• Division and District Commanders are encouraged to see that every Post in Tennessee completes and submits an annual Consolidated Post Report (CPFR).
II. Partnership
• Every Post should establish a vi- able, functioning American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion Squadron.
III. Public Relations
• Every Post should use available media to educate and inform the community of local Post and Na- tional patriotic events and other local Post activities.
• Every Post should strive to have at least one article each month pub- lished in local newspapers to keep veterans and local residents in- formed of Legion activities, events, or important issues.
• Every Post should establish an an- nual Public Relations plan outlining the Public Relations activities of the Post as overseen by a Public Relations committee.
IV. Programs
• Every Post will endeavor to pro- mote and accomplish one or more American Legion programs annu- ally.
• Each District should endeavor to increase, by a minimum of 5, the number of participants in the Na- tional High School Oratorical Contest.
• Each District should endeavor to increase, by a minimum of 5, the number of participants in American Legion Boy’s State Program.
• Each District should endeavor to produce one nominee to be consid- ered as the Department nominee as the National Law Enforcement Offi- cer of the Year, Emergency Management Technician, and/or Firefighter of the Year.
• Each District should endeavor to produce one nomination of an Em- ployer that has significantly enhanced opportunities of hiring veterans.
• Each Post should endeavor to have an American Legion Baseball Team, a Legion Rider Chapter, and a Junior Shooting Sports Program.
• Each Post should endeavor to re- connect with an active duty unit or a local National Guard or Reserve Unit, and ensure the Family Sup- port Network is fully operational to support these units.
• Each Post should endeavor to fully support all established Junior and Senior ROTC programs in their local area.
• Each Post should endeavor to fully publicize the “Eagle Scout of the Year” program.
• Each Post should endeavor to fully establish a liaison with all local veteran’s healthcare our extended care facilities.
• Each Post should endeavor to es- tablish and fully train a team to provide Military Honor Flowers.
• Each Post should endeavor to fully establish a voter registration and awareness forum to fully educate voters on important issues. To ma- ximize voter turnout for all elections.
V. Training

(continued on page 7)
AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

The Legion Riders will begin their trip from Deer Lake, FL to Indianapolis, IN on August 13, 2019. They will make stops in many different states along the way to arrive in Indianapolis on August 23rd for the 101st American Legion National Convention.

American Legion Riders raise funds to give opportunities for college age dependents of the First Responders and Military Personnel, that have lost a parent or parents as a result of the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

Please support the Legacy Scholarship Fund as a remembrance of this tragedy in history.

BENTON COUNTY MAYOR HOSTS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS ON VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS IN WESTERN TENNESSEE

By Mike Lawler, NALPA

Benton County Mayor, Brett Lashlee, organized and hosted a roundtable discussion of issues that are being encountered by Veterans Service Officers (VSO’s) in Western Tennessee. In attendance were Tennessee State and Congressional representatives, the Assistant Commissioner, Regional Director and a Veterans Cemetery Director from the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services. 5 Mayors and 5 VSO’s from several surrounding counties, and representatives from Veterans Service Organizations. The meeting was held at Parker’s Crossroads.

Mayor Lashlee opened the discussion stating the complications faced by county level offices of Veterans Services and the financial challenges counties are having with adequate funding of these offices. He stated that although a majority of the VSO’s work to assist the federal levels of government and Veteran Affairs, absolutely no funding is provided to the county to properly maintain the office of Veterans Services.

As each VSO took their turn explaining their particular issues, it was plain to everyone that each had the same problems; overworked and underpaid. Especially in rural counties, like Benton County, most can only afford to pay someone to do the job part-time and most VSO’s end up volunteering 15-30 hours of their time to make sure they support our veterans the best they can.

When a VSO is only part time (continued on page 6)
**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

**FROM THE DEPARTMENT**

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**

by Membership Chairman Michael Hannan

Since this is my first opportunity to reach out to the membership of our department, let me begin by letting you all know that I feel extremely blessed to have been appointed as your Membership Chairman. I'm humbled that our Commander has the confidence that we will have an excellent year with his excellent choice. Both he and I are very aware that our successes will only happen through the dedication of our Department leaders and their willingness to follow through on what has been shared with them during the recently concluded Orientation sessions.

Due to HIPPA laws, the Legionsnaires of Tennessee are stymied somewhat because the VA cannot release personal information of veterans they service who may be eligible for Legion membership. This puts us in the position where we all have to put our thinking caps on to try and increase our rolls. There are a number of tools that are available and they have the potential to help us reach our goals. Rather than turning up a whole page with possibilities – let me share three of them with you to consider.

The first tool is a program that Commander Lou has indicated is a must for each district, and that is to conduct a revitalization. We will have more than enough information, suggestions and tips made available to every District Commander in the very near future. The information garnered from this program is invaluable to every participating post. All that is required are fully charged phones, positive attitudes, and a couple of hours devoted to your fellow Legionsnaires.

The second tool is becoming familiar with “Project Stay Active” which is a report that is regularly available to Legionsnaires who have moved into your area, but not yet transferred their membership to one of your local posts. All of their information needed to make contact will be available.

The third is a program dubbed “Buddy Checks”: This is where a group of Legionsnaires get together (or on their own) to make calls to its post members who have not been at a Legion meeting, or function, in quite some time. They are asked how they are doing, if there is anything the membership can do for them and generally let them know they are missed and that your post members would like to have them stop in for a visit in the very near future. This phone call may lead them to pay their dues if they have forgotten or were previously not interested in paying them.

Let me ask: one thing of each and every one of our Legionsnaires: Become familiar enough about the Legion to be able to approach potential members out in public. They can usually be spotted at the grocery store, Lowe’s or Home Depot or at any public function like a ball game, concert or flea market. They will be wearing some sort of apparel indicating that they are a veteran of one of our branches of the military service. They are all proud of that and we would love to have them in our midst. So I leave you with two words: “Just Ask!”

Thank you in advance for all you do for The American Legion.

**VISIBILITY AND BRANDING**

by Michael Lawler, Media and Communications Chairman

How visible is your post? Are you using Legion brand (logos and emblems) to promote your events in the media? Let’s look at a couple of definitions. Visibility is: “the ability to see or be seen; or the quality or state of being known to the public.” While branding is: “the usage of a name, term, design, symbol, or any other feature that identifies one’s goods or services as distinct from those of others.”

When you have events, are you advertising those events to elicit the most public participation? Do those events have the Legion logo or emblem prominently displayed? Are you using the media as an article to describe the outcome or success of the event? You gain twice the visibility on the same event by doing so. Are you using social media and/or a website to get out information to promote your post or events? If you aren’t, you are missing the boat for recruiting many of our younger veterans.

Do you communicate with your local media outlets? If they publish or run an ad or event for you, do you follow up with a phone call or email expressing your thanks? Are you giving out a journalism award to someone in your local newspaper and/or radio? These things help keep the doors open for continued or increased support. If you send photos or articles to the paper, make sure they are photos with our brand in them. (ie a Legion banner, emblem, vest, hat, etc.) Some readers need to have something visually attract them to read a caption or article.

How many of you wear a Legion shirt or ball cap when going to the (continued on page 5)

**EAST TENNESSEE**

by Gary Sidham, East Tennessee Vice Commander

Hello from the East Division, I hope everyone is having a fun and safe summer. I would like to thank the following Posts for hosting the Commander’s Tour in the East Division: First District Post 113 in Knoxville, Second District Post 112 Oliver Springs, and Third District Post 257 Collegedale.

Also, I would like to thank every Legionsnaire and Post that supported your local 4th of July or Independence Day parades and festivities. These festivities require a lot of planning and a lot of work but are truly a labor of love that we have for our Country and our Independence.

My first three months serving as the Vice-Commander have been very busy from orientation in June to the Commander’s Tours in July. I have enjoyed getting out to Post meetings and catching up with some old friends in the First District and making some new friends in the Second and Third Districts. I’m here to serve if there is anything I can do to help you please don’t hesitate to ask.

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE**

by Middle Tennessee Vice Commander Larry Kersey

My fellow Legionsnaires it is with a grateful heart that I am able to serve you again as your Vice Commander this year. We also lost of 3 of 4 District Commanders from last year Mrs. Deidre Tyer as 6th District, Mr. Charles Oderhout as 4th District and Mr. Donnie Morris as 7th District. They all served with great loyalty and competence. They will all be missed and I’m sure they will all stay active serving the veterans of their communities and the Department of Tennessee. This year we have 3 new and one returning Commander. Shawn Brunsle Post 163, 4th District, Mr. Willie Smith Post 289 6th District, Mr. David Ogburn Post 146 7th District Commanders. And for John Davis Post 173 returning as 5th District Commander. I have confidence in each of them as to their loyalty and ability to assist you and your post this year. I hope you had a chance to meet each of them at your District Commanders Tour along with our new Department Commander Luke Holsonback and Department Membership Chairman Michael F. Hamman.

With that being said, I have asked each Commander to pay special attention to post that are struggling in membership growth which may be stifling the post with its ability to serve their community and veterans. I know Department Commander Holsonback has requested each District to have a major revitalization which I hope every post in the District would send at least 1 or 2 members to participate. That doesn’t mean that your District Commander wouldn’t want to have a revitalization especially for your post if they feel its warranted. With this effort put forward I hope to see Middle Division be leading the way in Department growth.

I want to jog everyone’s memory of the 5-year Strategic Plan that was filled out by your post officers or board that set down goals your post would like to achieve. If we were the leadership for the post, I would be reviewing them again and see where you stand with attaining the goals you’ve set. These are to help you stay on track. Don’t worry if you haven’t hit every goal thus far just keep working toward the end goal. Don’t give up! Remember, your District Commander and I are here to assist in any way we can. So, don’t hesitate to contact us. We all need to work as a team for the greater end of your post and the Department of Tennessee, so we are able to reach our Veterans and be a positive influence in our communities.

Especially the children, so they grow up with a better-informed view of our great country that we so greatly love.

Before I close, I am going to challenge everyone who reads this article especially posts leadership to personally sign at least one new member up this year. If everyone were all to do so the Department of Tennessee would be achieving what other states wish they could achieve. I know we are all volunteers and Tennessee is called the Volunteer State but, volunteers are always willing to give of their time and efforts to achieve whatever needs to be done. So, let’s put the effort forward to make the Department of Tennessee and Middle Tennessee a shining star that I know it can be. Thanks ahead of time!

twitter.com/AmericanLegion
EIGHTH DISTRICT WELL REPRESENTED AT BOYS STATE
by Joel Pipkin, 8th District Commander

This year’s Boys State for the Department of Tennessee was held in Cookeville May 19th-25th. The 8th District was well represented with 33 young men from across the District. Thanks to 8th District Chairman Ronnie Butler and Western Division Chairman Bill Martin for their efforts in making this program a success for our District.

As schools reopen, this is the time to start working for 2020. Post should contact the counselors with their local High Schools to promote Boys State and other Americanism programs for the new school year.

Building relationships with the schools is a must for Post who want to raise awareness for these programs and promote The American Legion in their communities. Don’t wait until the middle of the school year.

Remember to invite the Boys State attendees and their parents to your Post. Ask them to tell the Post of their Boys State experience and don’t forget to share pictures with the local newspapers.

DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

The resolutions to amend the Department Legion Riders Constitution and Bylaws, which passed the Department Executive Committee, were voted down by your Convention Delegates. Therefore the 2010 edition of the Department Riders Constitution and Bylaws, without recommended amendments, remains as the governing document for all Post Legion Riders within the Department of Tennessee.

Members of the Legion Riders are first and foremost “current paid members” of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion (SAL). All will abide with the edits of their respective American Legion, Department of Tennessee; or The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Tennessee; or, the SAL Detachment Constitution and By-Laws regarding paying appropriate membership dues (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL) on time.

Expired members cannot be active members in a Post American Legion Riders (ALR). Membership in the Legion Riders requires current membership. Riders will abide by the edits of the Department of Tennessee Legion Rider Constitution and Bylaws. The American Legion Riders is not a motorcycle gang or club, but members of the Legion Family supporting the causes of The American Legion.

Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion (SAL) may wear their approved Legion Rider vest to all Legion business meetings providing the shoulder and back patches are in accordance with the provided guidance for design (vest and patches are not authorized for events requiring semi or formal dress). Legion Riders will be expected to wear their respective American Legion or SAL caps when attending Department Legion business functions (Mid-Winter Conference and Department Convention). Legion Rider Berets may be worn to District Meetings/Conventions, Post and Rider meetings.

The Legion Rider Director at Post and Department Level are authorized to purchase and wear the “Riders Director” Cap Patch on his/her American Legion Cap (right side of cap only). The Rider Director may wear the “Riders Director” patch on the left front of his Rider Vest.

The National Executive Committee (NEC) recently passed a resolution to recognize The American Legion Riders as an American Legion Nationally recognized program (like Legion Boys State, Baseball, ROTC, Oratorical, Eagle Scouts, etc.); thus, allowing Departments to further promote and to organize an American Legion Riders (ALR) program within their Department. This implied the need for three things within the Department:

1. A Legion Rider Constitution & Bylaws;
2. An application for Legion Rider Post Charter; and
3. A Department of Tennessee Legion Post Rider Charter.

The application for a Post ALR charter, the ALR constitution and Bylaws and the ALR Post Charter are now available. American Legion Posts wishing to make their Legion Rider unit legitimate, may request the charter application from the Department website. The American Legion Department of Tennessee Legion Rider Constitution and Bylaws can also be viewed and printed from the Department’s website.

The responsibility is left with Post Commanders and their respective Post Legion Rider Director to complete the Charter Application and return to the Department for review and approval.

Approved applicants will receive an American Legion, Department of Tennessee “Legion Rider” Charter and will be expected to abide by the Department ALR Constitution and Bylaws. Those American Legion Posts that do not have a Legion Rider Charter, are not be authorized to organize or to support a Legion Rider unit.

Lanny Culver, the American Legion Department Vice-Commander for Western Tennessee explained that most people do not see what our VSO’s have to do on a daily basis. It is not just about filling out paperwork and assisting the veterans with their VA appointments and transportation; there is a lot more to the job and he sees the frustration throughout his travels in western Tennessee. Benton County VSO, Bonnie Evans, added that they deal with homeless veterans and those who are seeking help for substance abuse; they help those veterans and their families that are hungry, or those dealing with domestic violence; and when a veteran passes, they assist that family with funeral and burial benefits. And these issues do not just take a single office visit, sometimes it takes weeks to complete a task. And very often, when the VSO’s need training to stay up with and meet current requirements, the counties do not have the money in their budget to send them.

Lashlee, and all of the mayors in attendance, echoed the same sentiments, stating that they needed financial assistance from either the state or federal source to increase salaries or hire additional part time people to give the veterans the care they deserve. Matt Van Epps and James Irwin, from the Department of Veteran Services, commented that this was an issue across the state, especially in the rural counties. Some VSO offices in urban areas or near VA centers, are manned by multiple VSO’s or several assistants, while some counties cannot fill the VSO position at all, due to not being able to fund the position with enough money to keep someone in the job. They stated that they would pass on what they heard at the meeting to their respective offices.

State Representatives, Michael Curcio and Kirk Haston, along with State Senator Steve Allbrook, who was representing Congressman Mark Green, all stated that they were somewhat aware of the problems with the VSO’s, but now had a better understanding of the issues. They stated that they would attempt to get the information into the proper channels and would help where they could.

Overall, this meeting and resolution was successful in making everyone aware that most of the county VSO’s need help in helping our veterans. Everyone agreed that they should meet again to discuss any progress in this important veterans issue.
• Every Post should have a representative at all District Meetings.
• Every Post should send a member to the annual Tennessee Legion
  Conference and Department Convention.
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7. Membership
• The Department shall meet or exceed established annual membership goals.
• Use the latest technology to include myLegion and the associated post on-line membership transmittal program.
• Membership strength shall result from minimum target goals: 80% from renewals, 10% new member recruiting; and 10% reconnect efforts.
• Every Post and the Department should be 100% by February 28th of each year.
• Statewide membership goal is to enroll 10% of the 450,000 eligible veterans in Tennessee by February 28, 2024.
• The Department will fully challenge elected and appointed officialcy.
• Each District Commander should strive to revitalize at least one dorm post within his/her respective district annually.
• Each District Commander should strive to establish one new post within his/her respective district annually, utilizing eligible veterans within the community and the Head-quarters Post 2000 membership roster.
• Every Post should establish, train, and maintain a team of not less than 2 individuals to serve as an existing membership Renewal Team.
• Every Post in the immediate vicinity of a military installation, National Guard, or Reserve unit, should establish, train, and maintain a team of not less than 2 individuals to serve as the Reconnect Team.

VIII. Legislative
• Every Post will refrain from endorsing a political party, candidate, or issue while serving in the official capacity of The American Legion; strict standards of non-partisanship will be maintained.
• Every Post should endeavor to establish a relationship with all elected officials at the local, state, and national level.
• Every Post should routinely invite elected officials to meetings to keep abreast of issues and to deliver the veteran viewpoint to lawmakers.
• Every Post should endeavor to establish a Legislative Committee to keep membership updated on issues that may affect benefits, services, or programs.
• Every Post Commander should endeavor to make routine calls or office visits to elected officials.
• Every Post should endeavor to provide for training on the preparation of resolutions and the legislative process.
• Every Post should endeavor to establish a “rapid reaction” team to notify the membership of important issues requiring their individual communication to elected officials.

IX. Communication
• Every Post should endeavor to keep all Post members informed by the proper dissemination of information received by the Post.
• Every Post should endeavor to develop a means of reaching Post members that do not attend regularly scheduled meetings or functions to keep them informed of items of interest impacting the military community.
• Every Post should thoroughly discuss and disseminate the procedures established to read- disseminate individuals concerns, issues, or recommendations.
• Establish and maintain a cost-effective method to keep members of the Department Headquarters Post 2000 informed of important issues.
• Every Post should strive to establish electronic communication venues (Email) and establish a website to serve as the main website to be linked to both the Department and National websites.

2019-2020 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

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FOR GOD & COUNTRY

BUDDY CHECK RESOLUTION

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Composing and Developing Committee

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MAY 8 -9, 2019

Indianapolis, Indiana

Resolution No. 18: Buddy Check

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission
WHEREAS, At its core, The American Legion is an organization by, for, and about veterans of our United States; and
WHEREAS, Serving those who serve an honor and distinction not unique to The American Legion, but one Legionnaires should endeavor to serve as an example for all Americans; and
WHEREAS, Our most sacred responsibility is to care for our fellow men and women who served this nation with honor; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaires are naturally inclined, through demonstrated commitment to serve something greater than self, to extend hearts and hands to others; and
WHEREAS, Our duty is to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; and
WHEREAS, Only with servant leadership and direct contact can we uncover needs and priorities of our warriors and avert any crisis; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaires shall conduct veteran outreach as part of their daily routine; and WHEREAS, Legionnaires at all levels join together at least twice per year to contact all members both active and expired with a health and welfare check to be known as “Buddy Check”; and
WHEREAS, “Buddy Check” is not a membership drive or attempt to solicit participation in, or donations for, American Legion programs, it is solely a health and welfare check or offer of assistance; and
WHEREAS, This resolution has the concurrence of the Media & Communications Commission and the Marketing Commission; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in Regular Meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That the process of “Buddy Check” be made formal and executed Legion-wide concurrent with the weeks of The American Legion birthday and of Veterans Day; and, be it further RESOLVED, That the “Buddy Check” be promoted through national and department marketing, media and social media campaigns; and, be it further RESOLVED, That the “Buddy Check” weeks be the primary operational focus of every member, post, department and the National Headquarters; and, be it finally RESOLVED, That results of each “Buddy Check” week be established as a reportable item on the annual Consolidated Post Report.
It is my honor to step into my new role as Department Chaplain. I have a James Patterson connection that I want to share. Early last year, my friend and mentor, Ray Dye couldn’t serve any longer due to medical issues. James Patterson was called to the front, of our meeting to lead the prayer at Post 19 and briefed everyone that Ray could no longer serve and simply called me to come up and take over. That is the day I became chaplain at Post 19 and the rest is history.

Why would a man focus so deeply on veterans and then go out to the highways and by-ways to “bring them in?” May I challenge you with the words of a recent Medal of Honor Recipient as we search for an answer? “At the end of the day, this country is worthy of any sacrifice. We have a volunteer force that does it every single day. We are not kicking down doors because we want to get paid on the 1st and 15th. We do that because we love our country, and we love our Army and we love each other.” Army Staff Sergeant David Bellavia.

Don’t we also believe that “this country is worthy of any sacrifice?” My challenge to you is that a better Legion begins with me! We do not plan on being average or becoming a dying organization. We serve because America is worth it! The people we meet and serve, in our community, in every neighborhood, are in need of your time, attention, and your presence. There is much to do to serve our veterans, our communities, and our young people as we teach the value of Americanism. We cannot do everything but “we must never refuse to do the something we can do.”

There is a great spiritual principle that applies as we resolve to grow this great organization. Matthew 7:7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” For God and country we need to get into a new habit of ASKING people to join us as we expand our membership. SEEK and you will find. It is a lot of work to get out of our homes and seek new members. It requires that we spend time in our communities. KNOCK and the doors will be opened to you. As we serve for God and Country, we are not alone in this process. With the help of the almighty God we can spend this next year digging deep and becoming involved and watching the growth and progress here in the great state of Tennessee.

Finally, let us talk about the American Legion membership application in your wallet. Will you join me this year and resolve to carry that application and always be prepared to ask, seek and knock on doors to invite others to join us? Let me suggest a membership goal for each of us. How about ONE MORE as a membership goal for each Legion member across the state? As soon as you invite a prospective member to our meeting and sign them up then we resume the search for ONE MORE. Each one signs one up. Presently Legion membership is 21,500 in Tennessee. When each Legion member signs up ONE MORE we would stand at 43,000. Anyone can sign up ONE new member, right? May The Lord bless us as we rise to the occasion and continue to serve the Great State of Tennessee. Call on me at any time, to help, as we raise the standard of service, sacrifice and growing this great organization.

by Rick Baur Department Children and Youth Chairman

As I start my 5th year as the Chairman, I always get the final Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) packages before they go to the National office. A few things to remember when your post gets a TFA application.

First off, they must be a member, so make them a member of your post. Ensure the application completely filled out and follow the instructions on Page 4 of the application packet. Remember TFA will only apply if there are children living in the household. Documents are very important for this application; they determine the approval or denial of the application. DD-214, a Copy of their driver license or state ID, didn’t need S.S. card, birth certificate of all children living in the household, marriage or divorce papers, financial statements (i.e. paystubs, bank statements), A letter from the applicant or post as to how the situation occurred, why it’s needed, any other letters from the post or family are encouraged. I investigate all TFA packets and make the Department approval or denial of it before I send it to National. Keep in mind the National board only meets on Tuesday’s and Thursday’s, if approved they normally cut and send out checks on those days to Department Headquarters. If your close to headquarters then you may come by and pick them up, if you’re not close then we will mail them to you. If you need additional assistance or questions. Please feel to contact me at 615-926-6522 (cell) or rbaur60@gmail.com

facebook.com/AL.Tennessee

Commander Weisman presented Soaring Eagle to Bricen Hicks Eagle Scout of the Year 2019.

L-R 7th District President Melissa Hine, Past West Division President Julia McIbee and 3rd District President Geneva Pettit.
The Tennessee Legionnaire, August 2019–9

VETERANS ISSUES

LEGION ACT

We need your help contacting members of Congress. The American Legion must continue to serve as a powerful voice for veterans in our nation’s capital. The power of our voice is only as strong as our membership allows us to be. The American Legion’s Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and Sons of The American Legion are the heart and soul of our organization.

Today, we need your help in contacting your members of the Senate and House of Representatives. Please reach out to your assigned Senator and Representative and ask them to Co-Sponsor S. 504 and H.R. 1641, respectively. Your member needs to encourage congressional leadership to bring the LEGION ACT (S. 504) and the Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act (H.R. 1641) to the floor for a vote, and to promise to vote for this legislation, to ensure all veterans are able to be recognized for their contributions and sacrifice in service to this country.

Because The American Legion’s membership periods are congressionally chartered, the organization is prevented from expanding membership eligibility without an act of Congress. These acts expand membership eligibility to honorably discharged veterans that have served on federal orders in unrecognized times of war after World War II.

Since the end of World War II, the Federal Government has designated specific periods of war, the dates of which are important for qualification for certain benefits or membership in veterans organizations established by Congress. In between those recognized periods of war, during so-called peacetime eras, the US military has been involved in not fewer than 12 known eras, which are unrecognized by the US Government as periods of war, resulting in numerous US combat casualties. In the spirit of our 100th celebration, we need Congress to take immediate action so we may welcome and recognize through membership all of our fellow veteran brothers and sisters. A select number of members of Congress have come together in bipartisan fashion to introduce S. 504 and H.R. 1641.

Contact your Senator and Representative today to tell them to support S. 504 and H.R. 1641 today! “These veterans are unable to receive some of the benefits and...”

(continued on page 11)

WHO IS GOING TO FILL YOUR SHOES?

1. You have Stopped Learning New Things?
2. Is being a multi-year Post Commander or Adjutant frustrating and negatively affects your life?
3. Do you regularly notice you don’t enjoy what you’re doing?
4. Do you feel you’ve given all you can?
5. Do you have someone to fill your shoes?

The American Legion is no different than many organizations. We have discovered providing a mentor for high performing members not only helps them settle into their leadership role as a Post, District, Division, or Department officer, but also, greater job satisfaction.

A mentor, basically, is someone who serves as a counselor or guide. Being asked to serve as a mentor is an honor. It indicates the company has faith in the person’s abilities and trusts him or her to have a positive impact on the situation. The use of a mentor may be an informal, short-term situation or a more formal, long-term assignment.

In an informal mentoring program, the mentor usually helps the mentee for a limited period of time. Advice from the mentor may include the most basic of information about everyday routines including tips about “do’s and don’ts” not found in the employee manual to helping the employee learn job responsibilities and prepare them for future roles in the organization. A mentor who is available to answer questions and provide leadership development.

Mentors often are volunteers; forcing someone who does not want to serve as a mentor to do so can quickly create problems. Obvi- ously, someone with a negative attitude, who might encourage a new legionnaire to gripe and/or complain, should not serve as a mentor.

Effective mentoring programs must have senior level support from the beginning, otherwise it will fail to get the attention and support it needs to become part of the organization’s culture. Experience shows the most effective mentoring programs are run by past organizational leaders at all levels.

Both the mentor and the mentee need to understand the parameters. This can influence the success of mentoring.

Select the right mentor. Not everyone makes a good mentor. A mentor is someone who is respected, successful and understands the culture of the American Legion as it is today. They must be willing to make a commitment of their time and knowledge.

Ensure proper pairing and create an emotional bond. It is helpful to conduct a behavioral assessment on both the mentor and mentee. This ensures proper matching and helps both parties understand each other’s communication styles, strengths and limitations.

Establish goals and a purpose. The mentor needs to outline these areas at the beginning. The goals should be in alignment with the strategic plan. Just as important, the protégé should outline their objectives as well.

The mentor’s role is to coach and advise the mentee. The mentor does not interfere with the supervisor or manager’s decisions. The new employee, while expected to seek the mentor’s advice particularly on critical issues, is not bound to accept that advice.

Confidentiality is important. Both parties need to feel confident that discussions remain between them— not immediately relayed to a supervisor or manager.

Discuss time limits. If the mentoring period has a time limit the mentor should state that at the beginning.

There’s Strength In Numbers

PRESIDENT SIGNS BLUE WATER NAVY VETERANS ACT INTO LAW

The decades-long fight for Blue Water Navy veterans to receive VA disability benefits for illnesses linked to exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War is over.

On Tuesday, June 25, President Trump signed into law H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. The American Legion-supported legislation will extend disability benefits covering medical conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure to those who served on ships off the coast of Vietnam, known as “Blue Water” Navy veterans.

Veterans who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975 are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange if diagnosed with a medical condition associated with the herbicide, according to the Agent Orange Act of 1991. Presumptive diseases of exposure to the herbicide include certain cancers, Parkinson's disease and diabetes. However, this act applied only to veterans who served on land and in Vietnam's inland waterways. H.R. 299 extends these benefits to any military personnel who served on any vessel during the Vietnam War that came within 12 nautical miles of the coastlines of Vietnam.

H.R. 299 further expands coverage and includes the provision that every veteran exposed to herbicides like Agent Orange should receive the same presumptive benefits. A provision in H.R. 299 states, “A veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975,” will be eligible for disability compensation for presumptive conditions of herbicide exposure. This will allow veterans who fall into that category and whose claims have been denied or held in pending status to gain access to VA medical care for conditions on the presumptive list.

H.R. 299 will afford spouses of certain veterans whose death was caused by a service-connected disability access to pension benefits. The bill also provides the children of veterans of covered service in Thailand who suffer from spina bifida access to health care, vocational training and rehabilitation, and monetary allowance.

Renew Your Membership!!!
AMERICANISM

by Michael Walczyk

Americanism, the third of the four pillars of The American Legion, is an active patriotism, loyalty to, and love of, our country.

Depending on where you are as you are reading this, the school year has begun or is about to. As part of that active patriotism, now is the time to get into our schools, grades 9-12, and promote participation in the Oratorical Contest. This includes public, private, parochial, military and home schools. By participating, students will gain a deeper understanding of our Constitution and develop the ability to speak clearly about it.

While you are in the schools, this would also be a good time to begin talking about Boys State, and the Auxiliary’s similar Girls State Program. While limited to high school juniors, the program teaches the rights and privileges and responsibilities of citizenship through participation in city, county and state like governments.

As reported, Tennessee Citizens Flag Alliance website, Senate Joint Resolution 49 was introduced on Flag Day, June 14th, 2019, which would give Congress the authority to prohibit acts of deliberate desecration of the US Flag. This is a complimentary resolution to House Joint Resolution 65 introduced the previous day. Please contact your Senators and Congressmen and ask them to support this legislation. (continued on page 12)

ORATORICAL

from Department Chairman Charles Oberhoudt

You need to reach out to your schools at beginning of school year. Do not forget those homeschooled and the Christian schools in your area.通知s and appointments for the assigned speeches are on the Department oratorical page along with the Department date and location. Your contest should be centralized in your District or Division for the contestant’s travels. The script, which all should be using at all levels, is available. There has been a slight change on this. Have copies to send out to chairpersons or will be handed out at mid-winter conference.

Please submit your chairperson’s info to Department as soon as you can so we can start communicating with them.

Was just informed that Legion caps are not allowed to be worn at all contests here in Tennessee. (continued from page 3)

AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

by Marty Goodman, JSSP Chairman

This is to introduce myself as your Junior Shooting Sports Chairman.

I am the Coach/Instructor of the American Legion Post 46 Junior Club. I have been a Shooting Coach for over 33 years, coaching the Roslyn Rifle and Revolver Club, Junior Team, Westbury Long Island, NY. Okay, I was a Smallbore, Air Rifle and High-Power Shooter, starting in 1965; I was one of 47 in my Long Island Shooters that went on to compete on a NCAA Collegiate Rifle Team.

My goal, to ensure our Juniors can compete on a Collegiate Team.

I have attended dozens of training and coaching clinics, at the Olympic Training Center, Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), West Point and the Fort Benning Army Marksmanship Unit.

I still compete in Bullseye Pistol, but not very well anymore. All three of my children have attended college on a Shooting Scholarship, two at Tennessee Tech, the third at Jacksonvillle State in Alabama.

I started putting together my American Legion team in 2017. We shoot both Precision (Olympic, NRA) and Sporter Class Air Rifle. If any Post is interested in starting up a team, I can walk you thru the process of where to get your shooting equipment and range equipment.

How to apply for NRA Grants, recruiting youngsters and raising funds. I can be done with a minimal amount of funds. My Post gave me $1,000 to start up, and I have given back the entire amount, therefore, costing our Post nothing.

You will need an indoor facility with at least 45 feet in length. Team instructors should take the NRA or CMP Certified Rifle Course.

Call 931-349-9438 or email marty223@charter.net any time to discuss your options. I also encourage you to visit our Facebook Page, American Legion Post 46 Junior Club.

November 1, 2019 First Round postal match competition target sales and registration opens.

January 15, 2020 First Round postal match competition target set sales and registration closes.

February 1, 2020 Targets due to the CMP - must be postmarked on or before February 1, 2019 to be eligible for scoring.

February 15, 2020 Second Round postal match competition targets mailed out by the CMP.

April 1, 2019 Second Round postal match competition ends. Targets due to the CMP - must be postmarked on or before April 1, 2019 to be eligible for scoring.

July 24-29, 2019 28th Annual National Championship (Individual Tournament), USA Shooting Facility, United States Olympic Training Center, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

CUB SCOUT PACK MAKES DONATION

Cubmaster Carter Todd and several leaders and pack members of Hendersonville Cub Scout Pack 125 present a check of $6,856.23 to the Hendersonville American Legion Post 290. Receiving the check on behalf of the Legion is Commander Toni Cory and Finance Officer Tom Ratz.

The scouting program was originally the first program adopted by the Legion after their inception over 100 years ago. Since then the Legion has provided leadership, mentorship and guidance to members of all scouting programs. This check represents the largest donation ever by the Hendersonville American Legion Post 290.

The Cub Scout Pack earned this money through the sale of popcorn. Legion Commander Cory says that the donation will be used throughout the local community to support veterans, their families and children and youth. (continued on page 12)

ADJUTANT

(continued from page 3)

thereof, of The American Legion, shall be in accordance with the following rules and regulations

(For examples of use see Attachment A) hereby declaring the policy of The American Legion:

That the word “Emblem” used hereafter shall mean all insignia, logo, badge, medal, emblem, or any colorable imitation thereof or the reproduction thereof, of The American Legion, including all trademark designs as listed in the booklet titled “Name and Emblem – Use and Protection Guide” (amended as needed) and/or listed at the United States Patent Office.

That the national organization of The American Legion is sole owner of the Emblem and all associated trademarks.

That the National Adjutant has the legal authority to authorize the use of an Emblem and may appoint designated representatives who may also authorize the use of an Emblem.

That all national officers are charged with resisting and re-staining any unauthorized use of the name, “American Legion,” “American Legion” or an Emblem.

That the use of an Emblem by the individual Legions may be limited to the wearing of the official insignia and to the possession of authorized jewelry, or merchandise, bearing an Emblem provided by American Legion Emblem Sales or official American Legion licensees, the use of an Emblem by posts shall be strictly confined to self-production by using the exact imprint or reproduction of an Emblem upon stationery, or upon post publications, notices, postcards, websites or in any manners of similar character used in the ordinary routine communications of legitimate post businesses and shall be sponsored and duly authorized by the post and the use of authorized regalia or merchandise bearing an Emblem as provided by American Legion Emblem Sales, official American Legion licensees or otherwise authorized by the national adjutant or the national adjutant’s designated representative.

That the use of an Emblem by posts for: any commercialized use; any items reproduced by non-Post commercial means; or for the sale of any merchandise bearing an Emblem and/or words “American Legion,” “American Legion” needs prior written authorization from the national adjutant or the national adjutant’s designated representative for such activity.

That the use of an Emblem by departments shall be the exact same standards as the use by (continued on page 12)
Rhonda Davidson
Department President

As an American Legion Auxiliary member for many years, I have always admired the ladies who were Department Presidents, but never thought that one day I would ever be Department President. It is indeed a great honor, and I want to thank you for placing great trust in me to lead such a wonderful group of ladies. I look forward to working with each of you in the coming year and will be dedicated to the Auxiliary mission of supporting The American Legion and honoring the sacrifice of those who are serving and have served by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military and their families.

I want to thank everyone who has supported me and helped me reach this esteemed position in the Auxiliary. First of all, I want to thank Charlotte Connors, Melinda Hackney and Glenda Vilseck for all their hard work in helping me achieve this accomplishment. I want to say “Thank You” to all of those Past Department Officers such as Pat Wallace, Peggy Monroe, Sue Cantrell, JoAnn Cody & Anita Darnell, who I have relied on and will lean on during this year. These ladies are the ones who really take care of this organization. I want to say Thank you to all those who supported me and helped me reach their convenience. I so look forward to being able to raise the funds and present the computers to the hospitals.

As “Our Hearts Go Out to Our Veterans”, we are starting to celebrate our 100 years of honoring our veterans with maintaining and increasing our membership. Which is the heartbeat of this organization. I believe that working together as a Legion Family, we can and will increase our membership and encourage more members to be actively involved.

Thank You for allowing me the honor of being your Department President, this year.

My email address is davidson_rhonda@yahoo.com
For God and Country
Rhonda Davidson
Department President 2019 - 2020

Legion Act

Recognition available to their counterparts who served during official wartime periods. Because The American Legion is congressionally chartered, we are unable to welcome many of these veterans as members of the nation’s largest veterans organization. It is fitting that during the 100th anniversary of the founding of The American Legion, Senators Kyrsten Sinema (AZ) and Thom Tillis (NC) are introducing the Legion Act, bipartisan legislation that will recognize all veterans who served honorably since the start of World War II, while also fostering growth within the veteran community. We hope that the American people will encourage all members of Congress to support the Legion Act. It is an appropriate “thank you” to those who served.” - Brett P. Reistad, National Commander

American Legion Auxiliary of Tennessee

2019-2020 Officers

President: Rhonda Davidson
First Vice President: Melinda Hackney
East TN Vice President: Sandy Whitehead
Middle TN Vice President: Sue Cantrell
West TN Vice President: Anita Darnell
Parliamentarian: Jan Bruce
Historian: Glenda Vilseck
NEC: Kathy Leedy
Alternate NEC: Jo Ann Cody
1st District President: Michelle Perry
2nd District President: Vacant
3rd District President: Geneva Pettit
4th District President: Vacant
5th District President: Vacant
6th District President: Melissa Hine
7th District President: Marilyn Solberg
9th District President: Rena Hundrieser
10th District President: Katherine Hyde

American Legion Auxiliary News

2019-2020 Membership

"Celebrating Love for Our Veterans" as we begin to celebrate our Centennial of the American Legion Auxiliary, it is time to be motivated and be proud of our organization be proud that we are 100 years old! When we are recruiting new or renew members, share your story. Why did you become a member? Why do you continue your membership? What does it mean to you and the ALA?

Awards

- 10 X 10 Award – Sign up 10 NEW Seniors and/or Junior members by November 10, 2019 and receive $100 from National
- RECRUIT/REJOIN Award – Sign up 5 between September 1, 2019 and June 14, 2020 and you will receive a personal gift from the National Membership Chairman.
- NATIONAL – will award $100 to the first 100 units that reach goal by November 10, 2019
- Leadership Conference - $50 will be awarded to a Unit in each Division which brings in the most membership to the Leadership Conference on August 3, 2019

Member, your goal is the same as it was last year. However, you must sign up one NEW member after you reach goal. Your goal is + 1.

I strongly urge everyone to get your membership collected as soon as possible. Divide your members into two teams, RED and BLUE. Contact all those unpaid members. Give your teams a deadline to have contacted all members. Award the winners and submit to me the names of your Team Captains.

Let Us Make Our Department Proud This Centennial Year and Take Pride in That Extra Step!! My e-mail is peggymonroe39@gmail.com and phone is 931-284-9920.

Peggy Monroe
Department Membership Chairman 2019 - 2020
ADJUTANT
(continued from page 10)
posts, as stated herein, except that department convention committees are privileged to use an Emblem for decoration and souvenir purposes, subject in each instance to the prior approval of the national adjutant or the national adjutant’s designated representative. That any other use of the name, “The American Legion”, or “American Legion” or an Emblem, including but not limited to licenses or permissions, shall be subject to the prior written approval of the national adjutant, or the national adjutant’s designated representative: Provided, however, (a) that any requests for such other use of an Emblem by posts shall first be subject to department written approval before submission to the national adjutant, and (b) that any such use by the departments, when approved by the national adjutant, shall be confined completely within the territorial limits of the department.

That all merchandise bearing an Emblem for commercial purposes by any entity shall be manufactured in accordance with all trademarked specifications and only upon the prior written approval of the national adjutant or the national adjutant’s designated representative.

That the manufacture, sale or purchase for re-sale of any merchandise, equipment or products of any kind whatsoever bearing thereon an Emblem, by any person or corporation without the prior written approval of the national organization of The American Legion, shall be prohibited and shall be considered in violation of the rules and regulations of the national organization and the Act of Congress of the United States, approved June 25, 1940, it being Public Law No. 663, 76th Congress, 3rd Session, Chapter No. 426. That display of an Emblem shall be in a dignified manner and each display shall be the entire Emblem standing by itself without any attachment or inclusion of or into any other symbol, with the exception of jewelry where room is not available for such independent display. The Emblem represents The American Legion, and accordingly, is entitled to all appropriate respect; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution Number 71, adopted by the National Executive Committee May 5-7, 1947, as amended by Resolution Number 51, adopted by the National Executive Committee May 3-5, 1948 and Resolution Number 11, adopted by the National Executive Committee May 5-8, 2005 is hereby rescinded.

Attachment A
Examples of what a post may use an Emblem for without prior written approval:
• Post self-made stationary
• Post self-made posters and/or flyers advertising upcoming post events
• Copy ready material provided to a Post/Department from National HQ

Examples of what a department may use an Emblem for without prior written approval:
• Department self-made stationary
• Department self-made poster and/or flyers advertising upcoming department events
• Copy ready material provided to a Post/Department from National HQ

Examples of what a department may use an Emblem for without prior written approval:
• Department self-made stationary
• Department self-made poster and/or flyers advertising upcoming department events
• Copy ready material provided to a Post/Department from National HQ

Examples of when a post and/or department may use an Emblem after receiving prior written approval via department adjutant and national adjutant:
• Having stationary made by an outside vendor
• Having posters and/or flyers, etc. made by an outside vendor
• Having any other merchandise made by an outside vendor

The American Legion Department of Tennessee
2020 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM
FEBRUARY 8-9, 2020

AMERICAN LEGION, AUXILIARY, AND SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
A first night deposit with a major credit card or check required to guarantee all room reservations. PLEASE MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATIONS BY JANUARY 8, 2020. We cannot guarantee rooms or room rate of $139 plus applicable taxes will be available after January 8, 2020.

To Make Reservations Call Embassy Suites-86, Murfreesboro at (615) 890-4464 or the National Embassy Suites Reservations Number at 1-800-EMBASSY. Online reservations: https://www.hilton.com/en/embassy/. Enter Murfreesboro as location, your dates of desired stay and Group Code: ALD. Special rate applies to Friday February 7th and Saturday February 8th. Handicapped accessible rooms available, please inquire. Room Rate $139 plus

If you wish to make your reservation, please fill out the form below and mail to American Legion Department of Tennessee, 909 Stationary Park, Nashville, TN 37214. FAX: (615) 791-5088. Use only 02/02/22 or Make Checks Payable To:

2020 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM
REGISTER BY JANUARY 8, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Post or Squadron:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration Fee: $25 (per Legionnaire or SAL):</td>
<td>$25 each x 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Includes Breakfast with the Commander, Saturday Feb 8):</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Breakfast with the Commander: Saturday February 8, 2020, $25 each for all non-registered Legion and/or SAL Guests:</td>
<td>$25 each x 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late Registration (after January 8, 2020) does not include breakfast:</td>
<td>$30 each x 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Executive Committee/Post Department Commander’s Luncheon: Saturday, February 8, 2020:</td>
<td>$33 each x 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current and Past Post Commander’s Luncheon, Saturday February 8, 2020:</td>
<td>$33 each x 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Legion Riders Luncheon, Saturday February 8, 2020:</td>
<td>$33 each x 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sons of the American Legion Luncheon, Saturday February 8, 2020:</td>
<td>$33 each x 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banquet and Awards, Saturday Evening, February 8, 2020:</td>
<td>$45 each x 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Use yourself and who you would like to sit with during the Banquet and Awards

Card Number | Expiration | CVV |
|-------------|------------|-----|

Signature
Make Room Reservations/Changes directly with the Hotel
Charge only Event Registration, Luncheons, and Banquet Charges on this form, quotes call (615) 791-5088

www.Legion.org
facebook.com/AL.Tennessee
twitter.com/AmericanLegion