‘PEOPLE AROUND THIS COUNTRY SAW US AT OUR BEST’

By Steven B. Brooks

American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad wore a smile while waving to the crowd for the entire 5.5 miles, two-hour ride on the Legion Family’s Tournament of Roses Parade float. And after almost an hour had passed since Reistad stepped off the float, the same smile remained.

The experience stayed with, and likely will stay with, the National Commander.

“It was a rush. It was a big rush,” Reistad said. “It was exciting. You couldn’t have had a better, more supportive crowd out there. It was like a parade that had no ending. It was just a phenomenal experience. I don’t think that there’s anything that I’ve ever done that compares to this level of excitement.”

The parade had an estimated 700,000 people watching in person, while another 4 million were expected to tune in on either ABC, NBC, Hallmark Channel, Univision, RDF-TV or KTLA. “I really think it gave us some fantastic exposure,” Reistad said. “People were very supportive as we passed. A lot of ‘God bless the USA’ and ‘thank you for your service.’ And they never stopped. The crowds just went on and on and on.

“And there were Legion Family members along the way that were very supporting, yelling out their post numbers. It was really great.”

The American Legion float carried the message of “Still Serving America,” highlighting every section of the Legion Family and its various youth programs. All of those components tied into the float’s celebrating of The American Legion’s centennial being celebrated this year.

“I don’t think there was a better time to do this,” Reistad said. “Having the goodwill of being out there, and people refreshing their knowledge and understanding of what The American Legion is, knowing we’re out there still doing our good work.”

The float’s riders arrived at their spot in the lineup at around 6 a.m. It didn’t take long for those walking up and down Orange Grove Boulevard to stop to thank those on the float and grab a photo op with one or all of the four Medal of Honor recipients riding along the Legion’s float.

Once the parade began, those lining Orange Grove, Colorado Boulevard, Sierra Madre Boulevard and Villa Street — most areas along the route jam packed with parade

(continued on page 4)
THE TENNESSEE LEGIONNAIRE (USPS 604-590)
Official Publication of The American Legion
Department of Tennessee

Vol. XXXVI, No. 1—February 2019

Dean A. Tuttle, Editor

Published weekly by The American Legion, Department of Tennessee. Third class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee, and at additional mailing offices. Subscription price $1.00 per year to members, included in dues: $4.00 annually to non-members.

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THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOVEMBER 30, 2018

ASSETS

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:
CURRENT ASSETS:
Cash and Cash Equivalents $270,637.88
Investments 377,699.00
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS 648,336.88
Property and Equipment 5,524,768.14
Accumulated Depreciation (330,028.16)
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS $3,838,088.74

TOTAL ASSETS $2,489,969.44

LIMITATIONS AND EQUITY

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:
CURRENT LIABILITIES:
Accounts Payable $12,000.00
Funds held for others 82,860.89
Surplus Capital 288,640.72
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS $381,501.60

RESTRICTED FUNDS:
FUND BALANCES: $1,979,321.81
Net Income (Loss) 4,040.05
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS $2,023,362.86

TOTAL LIABILITIES/EQUITY $2,489,969.44

INCOME

Dues Earned $319,970.07
Dues Prior Years 90.00

Interest/General Funds 125.85
Charitable Contributions 139,300.00
Dividends John Dene 498.54
Conference/Conventions 7,268.50
Insurance/Emblem Sales Commission 0.00
Boys State Income (Expense) 800.00
Label/Calendar Programs 19,838.68
TOTAL INCOME $353,399.07

National Dues Current $117,549.00
National Dues Prior Years 581.00
Salaries/Taxes 612.68
Commander/Adjutant Expense 14,389.04
Vice/District Commanders 5,254.90
Conventions/Conferences 11,191.46
Office Machines/Equipment 6,642.73
Membership Expenses 3,911.25
Tennessee Legionaire 26,034.66
Embassy Sales/Flags 1,165.42
Postage 5,300.31
Printing/Supplies 2,504.54
Telephone/Utilities 6,556.86
Maintenance/Repairs 6,459.73
Service Officer Training 126.63
Insurance 7,012.12
Deprivation 11,732.00
Label/Calendar Expenses 993.60
Youth Programs/VA & A 9,649.48
Auditor/2017-2018 6,900.00
Miscellaneous Expenses 425.44
Public Relations 608.68
TOTAL EXPENSES $309,353.04

NET INCOME $44,646.03

ADJUTANT’S CORNER

Dean A. Tuttle

Competency. Too many mentors see mentoring as a training program focused around the acquisition of job skills. Obviously, one element of mentorship involves mastering the necessary competencies for a given position. But the best leaders go beyond competency, focusing on helping to shape other people’s character, values, self-awareness, empathy, and capacity for respect. They know in the long run that there is a hard truth about soft skills that these values-based qualities matter a lot more than skill enhancement. There are many ways to mentor people around these values and to build greater self-awareness.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER (continued from page 1)

Our impact has been felt by millions of veterans, their families, and our communities. These communities and so and so many other accomplishments warrant celebration? Yes, they do, and it is incumbent on us all as Legionnaires, to educate ourselves and our communities on the mission of The American Legion as we go forward into our next 100 years. So, how is that, with all of the distractions of 1919, and no technological advantages that we enjoy today, these volunteers were able to create an awareness of The American Legion? Committed, selfless sacrifice. We have all missed birthdays, anniversaries, and the ever-important time spent with our loved ones in service to a greater cause. We as veterans, understand more must, that freedom is NOT free. If we are to preserve for posterity the nation we hope for, it will require our continued and committed, selfless sacrifice. It will require, we are trained, it will require, we train others, to include fellow Legionnaires and the general public. It will require, we concern ourselves with the greater cause that presents itself every day. It will require, we concentrate on what unites us, not what divides us.

We MUST say “no” to a declining membership. The success of our lobbying efforts are in direct proportion to our membership numbers. We must say “no” to division. Stand with the Department of Tennessee as we lead the way toward our bi-centennial. FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

\[ \text{Interest/General Funds} = 125.85 \\
\text{Charitable Contributions} = 139,300.00 \\
\text{Dividends John Dene} = 498.54 \\
\text{Conference/Conventions} = 7,268.50 \\
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\text{Label/Calendar Programs} = 19,838.68 \]
**FROM THE DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**

As Membership Chairman, I look for ways to help the Department obtain the stated membership goals that the Commander set at the beginning of his term. We have just passed the National stated goal of 75% membership processed and unfortunately, we only obtained 69.2% or 17,288 of 25,000 needed. To make matters worse, as a Department, we are 641 members behind last year’s membership totals. So how do we correct this?

By now, everyone should have heard of MyLegion and the advantages it provides to the Post Commander and their membership team. Your adjutants are provided the options to a number of lists that aid in the membership process. Current rosters, expired listings, members in my area, members who have not renewed their dues, letters to mail to these members, address labels and the list goes on. However, not every post uses MyLegion.

In the Department, we have 120 posts that use MyLegion but some are not taking advantage of the benefits that it provides. I can state that with some certainty just by looking at the numbers and where we are at in terms of membership numbers. We have 8 posts that has not processed or processed only one membership renewal and we are 6 months into the year. We are provided the options to a number of lists that aid in the membership processed will be delinquent. When the first of February comes, those members will be suspended.

I know of several instances where members have called National because they have not received their renewal cards and have paid their dues to the post. To me that means the post leadership is not processing membership in a timely manner or at all. What is a solution?

MyLegion has a feature that allows online processing of membership. The Department has about 34% of the eligible posts using this feature. This year we have processed 56% of our membership this way and 44% were processed only one membership renewal and we are 6 months into the year. Of membership numbers. We have 8 posts that has not processed or processed will be delinquent. When the first of February comes, those members will be suspended.

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4–The Tennessee Legionnaire, February 2019

AT OUR BEST
(continued from page 1)
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sons deep – greeted those on the
float with cries of “thank you,” ap -
plause, salutes and often standing
ovations.

Those reactions moved Walter
“Joe” Marm – who joined fellow
Medal of Honor recipients Hershel
“Woody” Williams, Ron Rosser and
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ded payed until they are received
at all 3 levels post, departm ent and
we're going to continue to do so.”

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
SQUADRON 146 LORETTO
Loretto Squadron 146 donates $2300 and presented to Post 146 Honor
Guard. Each year SAL raises money from their annual Honor Guard
fundraiser. It is held every June in conjunction with Post 146 Flag Disposal
Ceremony.
Thank You,
Detachm ent Commander Bryan Hine

There’s Strength In Numbers
Renew Your Membership!!!
AS A LEADER

As a leader, do not let your ego get in the way. Stand tall, but not above everyone else. Do not tell people what to do, show them. Showing them is what leading is all about. When you show them, you are creating that spark. Much like a fire, it all starts with a small spark. It started the minute you stepped on that basic training and continues throughout your career. At each critical stage of your American Legion experience, you will be offered everything necessary to become a leader. What it takes now is that fire, the drive to want to be a great leader.

Something so simple is not enough to light the way. If you want the American Legion to glow, you will need to spread the fire. Start a fire in your fellow legionnaires in your commanders, and within yourself.

How do you start a fire in your fellow legionnaire? It is always easier said than done. The simple answer is to inspire them to not only want to do more, but to do more while performing their absolute best. Actions such as these take more than simply commanding an action to occur, they require setting a standard, holding others to the standard, and, most of all, becoming that standard yourself. Simply establishing and enforcing a standard will not create the spark, it will take inspiration and motivation.

Motivation can come in many forms, such as awards, praise and especially empowerment. Legionnaires, today more than ever, want to be empowered and part of something bigger than them. As an officer, you must create an atmosphere where orders are not simply given, but tasks are explained beyond the order. Tying actions to something much greater than the person will make the fire buzz. It is this internal fire that should not and must never be extinguished. If your fire was not about you, it was about the people you were leading. It was about making the next generation better than mine.

What positive actions can the younger generation take to ignite their own fire, or at least maintain it? There are several actions that can be taken by our younger generation.

For instance, I worked for a commander that would question me about a variety of issues, how I responded determined how deep he would dive into the discussion. If I did my homework and told him all the facts, issues and recommended solutions, he would tell me, “fair enough ... press on.” If I didn’t provide him the answer he was looking for, he would continue to dig until he was satisfied that I had a good grasp of the issue. I quickly learned that I could never go to him with a “no” answer; it was always a “yes sir, we can do this, but here are the risks and here is how we can mitigate those risks.” Our relationship grew stronger because he always knew that I would not just give him a surface answer to appease him, but would, in fact, relay to him an honest-to-goodness assessment of the issue.

If you can focus on becoming humble, approachable and credible, you will not only become a better leader, but you will inspire those in your chain of command to become better leaders, and your fire will grow.

This leads to the final and most difficult area where you need to create a fire; within yourself. I associate this to trying to light a match in a windstorm. While not impossible, it is extremely challenging. Changing something within ourselves takes great dedication and drive. When times are tough, you must have the will to not give in.

It is more than just getting internally motivated to do daily tasks, it is about becoming the best at what we do, in everything we do — addressing each task as if it were the most important thing in regards to national security. Much like our American Legion core value, “Excellence in All We Do,” this is an internal fire that should not and must never be extinguished. If your fire goes out and you lose that spark, expect those around you to see and feel the effects, thereby affecting the mission.

There were times where my flame began to flicker. It took several mentors and good friends of mine to put me back on track. They reminded me why I began this journey in the first place — wanting to serve our country. They reminded me that what I was doing was much larger than I was and that it was not about me, it was about the people I was leading. It was about making things better than mine.

Get out from behind your desk and be an involved leader. Far too often, we get bogged down with the day-to-day paperwork that we forget that you cannot lead papers; you lead people. Unless your fellow legionnaire sees you and can speak with you, there will be a void and a lost opportunity to create the spark.

Finally, let others inspire you. Get out and see the great work our Legionnaires are accomplishing. Let the positive attitude of the hard workers (continued on page 10)

ATTRACTING YOUNGER VETERANS

Sound Familiar? Many VSOs rely solely on their names to entice these young veterans to show up and join, and most have a marketing campaign that hasn’t made its way into the 21st Century. And quite frankly, some of the messaging is a little misleading. For example, I remember getting a welcome packet from a VSO that looked like an official government envelope until I opened it and discovered much to my dismay that this official-looking correspondence was in fact a membership package. I thought the BOLD RED ink demanding some type of action was a little over the top. When I read “send money along with application and you will receive a multi-tool with your new membership,” I decided to throw the whole envelope away.

The current VSO image and what the younger veteran generation think about local VSOs is real; they see a building with a couple windows, a dimly lit smoke-filled pool table or dart board with “Bingo Night” being boldly advertised as the biggest event happening at that particular location. How do we get the younger veterans to be part of that? The answer is we don’t. WE MUST CHANGE. The thought that eventually the younger veterans will get tired of the view,stile camaraderie is a false notion. There are too many newer and younger VSOs that have popped-up in the recent years for them to join leaving a vast number of VSOs competing for membership from a much smaller pool of veterans.

The one positive aspect from the VA is that no one can take away, is that they have held firm in the support of the various veteran issues in Washington, D.C. for decades, and have dedicated much of their efforts in resolving very troubling veteran issues involving the Veterans Administration that have surfaced in recent years. The more established veteran service organizations have a voice with the Congress and President regardless of the dominant political party. Senators, Representatives, and Presidents have made speeches at VSO national conventions because politicians know that they need the support of these Veteran Service Organizations. Politicians listen to them because of the membership numbers which unfortunately are declining.

What positive actions can the VA take to build membership? After talking to Desert Storm, OIF and OIF veterans over the past 9 years, I suggest the following 12 common sense steps to appeal to that younger generation of veterans who are the very life-blood of the existing VSOs:

- Be honest and transparent when sending out material to attract new members. Educate the younger veteran generation by conveying to them what you have accomplished locally and nationally to ensure that veteran issues stay at the forefront of the discussion. Show them you are making a difference. Let them know about your whole organization, not just a narrow scope of your membership.

Treat all veterans equally. Both men and women have served honored in the Armed Forces. To assume only men deployed or served is backwards thinking, and has no room in today’s VSO.

Update posts with free WiFi, offer video gaming like an Xbox or PlayStation 4, and install flat screen TVs, and select programming, such as sports programming, that would appeal to all veterans

I know the more seasoned veterans have experience and perhaps a different frame of reference. But we should never think that the younger generation is any different. We have always welcomed new ideas from everyone, and the younger veterans are full of ideas—just as we were at that age. You should embrace their energy and let them share their ideas about improving your post; you will be pleasantly surprised with the innovative ideas that they come up with. Be open to these new ideas.

Welcome all veterans into your post. When you see someone new walk in, welcome them with open arms, make them feel like they are part of your post and have found a new family and friends. And don’t criticize the way the look now or in their time in service. If you’re welcoming, we may overlook the staid beer smell and nicotine stained walls and windows and stay for a while.

Keep your meetings short and to the point. If you have younger veterans at your post, assign them a task during the meeting and ask them to work with the membership and complete it. Get them involved in the administration of your VSO and encourage their involvement. The younger generation, especially the millennials like to solve problems by working and teaming with a group. This is a prime opportunity for the VSO leadership to mentor those younger veterans. Be patient. Some of these young veterans suffer from a malady of challenges, such as Traumatic Brain Injury.

Turn your post or part of your post into a community type of center. Our younger veterans want a place to network, drop their child off for daycare, or do homework.

Turn your post into a place where veterans can network with the community. Invite local business owners, company executives, your
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Luther M. Holsonback, served his Country and the United States Army with honor and distinction for 20 years; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Holsonback is an alumnus of the University of Tampa, earning a bachelor’s degree, majoring in Accounting, while maintaining a 3.69 GPA; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Holsonback has served his post, the Department of Tennessee and the American Legion as Post 162 Adjutant, was instrumental in Membership, receiving accolades from public schools, local governments, civic organizations and church congregations; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire currently serves as the facilitator for Intro to Basic Training for the American Legion, Department of Tennessee; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Holsonback served admirably as District Adjutant for the 10th District; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Holsonback served admirably as Division Commander in 2017/18; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Holsonback was Department Vice Commander of the Year 2017-2018 in the Department of Tennessee; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Holsonback serves on the National American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Holsonback completed the American Legion's Extension Institute and the Tennessee Legion College; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Holsonback is a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member; and,
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Holsonback is a Charter member and Riders Director of Post 162 Legion Rider Chapter, and,
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Holsonback is dedicated to both his faith and his community, serving as a Mission Council Member; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by Post 162, The (continued on page 7)
F. Hannan served faithfully in the United States Air Force with honor and distinction for four (4) years during the Vietnam War and, WHEREAS, Legionnaire Michael F. Hannan has been a Paid-Up-For-Life (PULT) member in good standing of the American Legion for more than twenty (20) years and currently holds his membership and a position on the Board of Directors with Post 3 in Kingsport, Tennessee and, WHEREAS, Legionnaire Michael F. Hannan has been a member of and is currently a member of the Sons of the American Legion and was a charter member of a Legion Riders Chapter and, WHEREAS, Legionnaire Michael F. Hannan has held leadership positions at the Post, County, District and Department levels and has faithfully served on three (3) National Committees and/or Councils and, WHEREAS, Legionnaire Michael F. Hannan has attended, graduated and served as the Dean of the Legion College of the Department of New York and has attended, graduated and served on the faculty of the Connecticut Legion College teaching Leadership and, WHEREAS, Legionnaire Michael F. Hannan has attended, graduated and served in the United States Army, serving through December 13, 1982 and, WHEREAS, Legionnaire Michael F. Hannan has conducted and/or supported Randy L. Morris, he will do an excellent job for West Tennessee and, WHEREAS, Legionnaire Randy L. Morris is a member in good standing for 29 years. The past 6 years at Post 0055, Martin, TN WHEREAS, Legionnaire Randy L. Morris has served as Commander for 4 years at Post 0055. He also served as 9th District Commander for 2 years (2013-2015) WHEREAS, Randy L. Morris is an Honorable Discharge Veteran of the United States Army, serving from 1979-2015, attained the rank of Sergeant First Class WHEREAS, Randy L. Morris has received the Meritorious Service Medal, 14 Army Achievement Medals, Non-Commissioned Officer Medal (3rd Award), 2 Overseas Ribbons, Desert Storm Veteran WHEREAS, Legionnaire Randy L. Morris is a member of the New Home Baptist Church, Martin, TN WHEREAS, Legionnaire Randy L. Morris has a daughter that is a college graduate and works at The Henry County Medical Center, her son is a college graduate and has his own business as an accountant WHEREAS, Legionnaire Randy L. Morris and his girlfriend Sandi will give the support for his job in the American Legion office, therefore be it RESOLVED, Post 0055 will support Randy L. Morris, he will do an excellent job for West Tennessee coming up for 2019-2020. 

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WHEREAS, Legionnaire Ron Cales has been a member in good standing since 2016 with Newport American Legion Post 41, Newport Tennessee, and

WHEREAS, Legionnaire Ron Cales serves as Post Commander, and

WHEREAS, Legionnaire Ron Cales participated in successful Membership workshops and revitalizations standing of the Ancient Order of Hibernians with an Advanced Degree in Electrical Engineering.

F. Hannan is a member in good standing since 1999 with Post 173 in McMinnville, TN, and

WHEREAS, Legionnaire F. Hannan was appointed 1st District Adjutant, and

WHEREAS, Legionnaire F. Hannan has the full support by unanimous vote of Post 41, Newport, now therefore be it, 

RESOLVED, Legionnaire Ron Cales announces his candidacy for the 1st District Commander.

HANNAN (continued from page 7) participated in successful Membership workshops and revitalizations at the Post, County, District and Department levels and,

WHEREAS, Legionnaire Michael F. Hannan is a member in good standing of the Ancient Order of Hibernians with an Advanced Degree and a Life member and former member of the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 579 and,

WHEREAS, Legionnaire Michael F. Hannan has the full support and endorsement of First District Commander Todd McKinley and,

WHEREAS, during the regularly assembled meeting of American Legion Hammond Post 3 on August 20th, 2018, the officers and members, in recognition of his outstanding leadership, dedication and service to the American Legion, give full support, endorsement, and HIGH recommendation to Legionnaire Michael F. Hannan and therefore, be it 

RESOLVED that he be elected to the HIGH OFFICE of East Tennessee Vice Commander, The American Legion, Department of Tennessee for the 2019-2020 administrative year.

CANDIDATES

RON CALES

CANDIDATE FOR FIRST DISTRICT COMMANDER

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that Brady-Williams Post 100 in Dayton Tennessee endorses Legionnaire Tom Bruce for the office of 3rd District Commander for 2019-2020 and

WHEREAS, Tom earned his eligibility for membership in the American Legion through his service in the United States Marine Corps which included two tours of Combat Duty in Vietnam

WHEREAS, Tom has served his Post and District as Adjutant of Post 159, and Third District Adjutant as well as the East Tennessee Adjutant and

WHEREAS, Tom is a member of the Marine Corps League 518, Chattanooga Tennessee as well as a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 942, Soddy Daisy, Tennessee and

WHEREAS, Tom has completed the American Legion College Course and has been State Certified.

WHEREAS, Tom attended Costal Carolina, Jacksonville, North Carolina and received an Associate Degree in Electrical Engineering and retired from Hamilton County Government Engineering Chattanooga Tennessee March 13, 2012 and

WHEREAS, Tom is an active member of Post 100, Dayton Tennessee and has proven to be a dedicated strong and experienced leader in all positions he has served and has helped guide American Legion Posts in whatever categories they needed help with. He serves our Post, State and Community with dignity and compassion for our Veterans

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the members of Post 100 ask for your support and vote at the 2019 Third District Meeting

THOMAS BRUCE

CANDIDATE FOR THIRD DISTRICT COMMANDER

WHEREAS, Legionnaire Shawn Brunelle has served his post as Commander and Judge Advocate, participating in community events and currently serves as Secretary for the Cumberland County Veterans Assistance Council; and

WHEREAS, Legionnaire Shawn Brunelle has completed the American Legion’s Intro to Basic Training; and

WHEREAS, Legionnaire Shawn Brunelle has further demonstrated his patriotism through his membership with the Knights of Columbus, Sons of the American Revolution, and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and therefore be it

RESOLVED, by Post 163, The American Legion, Department of Tennessee, in a regular meeting assembled in Crossville, Tennessee, 5 January 2019, that because Legionnaire Brunelle’s experience, innate professional acumen and quest for excellence, demonstrate his eminent qualifications for leadership; and finally be it

RESOLVED, that his name be placed for nomination for Commander of the Fourth District, Department of Tennessee for the 2019-2020 term.

SHAWN J. BRUNELLE

CANDIDATE FOR FOURTH DISTRICT COMMANDER

WHEREAS, Legionnaire John Davis has been a member in good standing since 1999 with Post 173 in McMinnville, TN, and

WHEREAS, Legionnaire John Davis served as Post Commander for two years, Post Adjutant for two years and was the Chairman of the Americanism, Boys State, Oratorical, and Public Relations Committees and currently serves as Post Rider Director with Post 173, and

WHEREAS, Legionnaire John Davis served as 5th District Adjutant 2016 to 2018, and 5th District Commander 2018-2019, and

WHEREAS, Legionnaire John Davis served as Middle Tennessee Division Membership Chairman for 2017-2018 and,

WHEREAS, Legionnaire John Davis has completed the American Legion Extension Institute June 18, 2014, and

WHEREAS, Legionnaire John Davis has completed the American Legion Department of Tennessee American Legion College Course October 18, 2014, and

WHEREAS, Legionnaire John Davis was awarded the 2017 Department of Tennessee Legionnaire of the year, presented by Department Commander Nancy Harper and National Commander Charles E Schmidt, and

WHEREAS, Legionnaire John Davis was awarded the TOPS/RSVP Volunteer of the year Award for 2017, and

WHEREAS, Legionnaire John Davis has the full support of Post 173 now therefore be it,

RESOLVED, Legionnaire John Davis announces his candidacy for 5th District Commander.

JOHN DAVIS

CANDIDATE FOR FIFTH DISTRICT COMMANDER

WHEREAS, Legionnaire John Davis has completed the American Legion's Intro to Basic Training; and

WHEREAS, Legionnaire Shawn Brunelle has served his post as Commander and Judge Advocate, participating in community events and currently serves as Secretary for the Cumberland County Veterans Assistance Council; and

WHEREAS, Legionnaire Shawn Brunelle has completed the American Legion’s Intro to Basic Training; and

WHEREAS, Legionnaire Shawn Brunelle has further demonstrated his patriotism through his membership with the Knights of Columbus, Sons of the American Revolution, and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and therefore be it

RESOLVED, by Post 163, The American Legion, Department of Tennessee, in a regular meeting assembled in Crossville, Tennessee, 5 January 2019, that because Legionnaire Brunelle’s experience, innate professional acumen and quest for excellence, demonstrate his eminent qualifications for leadership; and finally be it

RESOLVED, that his name be placed for nomination for Commander of the Fourth District, Department of Tennessee for the 2019-2020 term.

The American Legion
1919 - 2019
Veterans Still Serving America
ANNOUNCE

DAVID A. OGBURN
CANDIDATE FOR 
SEVENTH DISTRICT COMMANDER
WHEREAS, Legionnaire David A. Ogburn served faithfully in the United States Navy for 30 years and the United States Army for 2 years; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire David A. Ogburn has been a member of Post 146 Loretto, Tennessee since 2016 and served as Vice Commander for 1 year and is currently serving as 7th District Membership Chairman; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire David A. Ogburn has been a member in good standing of the American Legion for 15 years; and
RESOLVED, by Post 146, The American Legion, Department of Tennessee, in a regular meeting assembled on December 20, 2018, that the officers and members of Post 146 of Loretto, in recognition of his leadership, dedication and service to the American Legion do hereby nominate, endorse, and highly recommend the nomination and election of Legionnaire David A. Ogburn as The American Legion, Department of Tennessee, 7th District Commander, 2019-2020; and
further
RESOLVED, Legionnaire David A. Ogburn announces his candidacy for The American Legion, Department of Tennessee, 7th District Commander.

JOEL F. PIPKIN, JR.
CANDIDATE FOR 
EIGHTH DISTRICT COMMANDER
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Joel F. Pipkin, Jr. served in the United States Navy for five years; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Joel F. Pipkin was Honorably Discharged from the United States Navy; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Joel F. Pipkin has been a member in good standing of The American Legion for 16 continuous years; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Joel F. Pipkin is a Paid Up For Life Member of The American Legion; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Joel F. Pipkin has been the Adjoint of Post 243 for 12 years; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Joel F. Pipkin has served as Captain of the Post 243 Honor Guard for 6 years; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Joel F. Pipkin is the Chairman of five Post 243 Committees (Americanism, Children and Youth, Flag Education, Veterans Appreciation, and Flag Etiquette); and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Joel F. Pipkin serves on the Department of Tennessee Resolutions Committee; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Joel F. Pipkin has successfully completed the American Legion Extension Institute; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Joel F. Pipkin has successfully completed the Tennessee American Legion College; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Joel F. Pipkin has served one year as the Eighth District Membership Chairman; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Joel F. Pipkin has served two years as the Eighth District Adjutant; and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Joel F. Pipkin is currently the Eighth District Commander; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That the Officers and Members of Scotts Hill American Legion Post 243, Department of Tennessee, in a regular meeting assembled on November 20, 2018, in recognition of his leadership, dedication, (continued on page 12)

LOUIS PARIS
CANDIDATE FOR 
TENTH DISTRICT COMMANDER
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Louis Paris served the United States with honor and distinction for 35 years in the United States Air Force, Air National Guard, and Navy Reserve, and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Paris, a Vietnam-era veteran, having served in the European theater of operations, and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Paris has served as 10th District Commander since mid-2018, and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Paris has improved communication among the 17 posts in the 10th District, and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Paris has strived to increase membership in the posts of the 10th District, and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Paris has worked diligently to improve participation in the American Legion Oratorical Contest and Boys State, and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Paris has completed the American Legion Basic Training program on multiple occasions, and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Paris has applied to participate in the Tennessee American Legion college, and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Paris is a Paid Up for Life (PULF) member of the American Legion, and
WHEREAS, Legionnaire Paris has participated and completed the Leadership Germantown (Tennessee) program; now, therefore it be
RESOLVED by Post 258, The American Legion, Department of Tennessee, in a regular meeting assembled in Raleigh, Tennessee, on 11 December 2018, that because Legionnaire Paris’ experience, innate profession acumen, and quest for excellence demonstrate his eminent qualifications for leadership; be it finally
RESOLVED, that his name be placed in nomination for the 10th District Commander, Department of Tennessee for the 2019-2020 term.

CULVER (continued from page 7)
D. Culver is currently serving as the Department of Tennessee Vice Commander for West Tennessee; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That the Officers and Members of Post 21 do hereby nominate, endorse, and highly recommend to the Legionnaires of Tennessee, Raymond Hice as a candidate for the office of Department of Tennessee State Commander.

HICE (continued from page 6)
WHEREAS, his leadership as Post Commander, First District Commander and East Tennessee Vice Commander has commanded the respect of Legionnaire’s throughout Tennessee. He understands what is important to fellow Legionnaire’s and is well prepared to handle the responsibilities and duties of the Department of Tennessee State Commander. His hands-on approach, led by example, and willingness to get in the fox hole with fellow legionnaires has enabled him to solve problems and achieve things that have overwhelmed others.
WHEREAS, Raymond is married to Brenda J. Hice. Brenda is a past Unit President, District President, State President and past NEC for the American Legion Auxiliary. Raymond and Brenda have made the American Legion a family affair and have served their Post, District, Division and State in an outstanding manner by providing the Leadership and creating a strong Legion Family.
WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the members of Post 21 that Ray mond Hice will continue to serve well as Department of Tennessee Vice Commander and will reflect credit upon the American Legion.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Officers and Members of Post 21 do hereby nominate, endorse, and highly recommend to the Legionnaires of Tennessee, Raymond Hice as a candidate for the office of Department of Tennessee State Commander.

(continued from page 6)
AMERICANISM

By far the largest expense most retirees will ever face are healthcare-related. And, while most seniors have developed some sort of plan in the eventualty of their death, most have not considered what they will do if they or their spouse requires help at an assisted living facility or nursing home. These expenses can easily exceed $50,000 per year.

Developing a healthcare plan is relatively easy. A review of your current health insurance coverage (Medicare and private health insurance) as well as any long or short term convalescent care insurance you may have will help you determine your exposure to these costs. Most people are under the assumption that Medicare will pay for a nursing home stay for them or their love ones. This is incorrect. Medicare may pay for some rehabilitative care for a period of 100 days, but it is Medicaid that provides this coverage, but only after you have spent down assets to allowable limits (currently only $2,000 per applicant). If you have assets in excess of $2,000, then you need to make a healthcare plan.

If you are a veteran, you may be eligible for benefits that will help you pay for some costs associated with home healthcare, assisted living or nursing home arrangements. It is important to consult with someone who understands both the VA and Medicaid benefits since these two programs contradict each other with certain planning strategies. They will be able to determine how much per month you may be eligible in VA benefits without compromising your Medicaid benefits.

If you choose to spend over $50,000 per year for your care, then healthcare planning is a necessity. Not only is your retirement income at stake, but also your legacy.

There is no charge for a consultation with their senior healthcare experts. If you are or have a loved one receiving home healthcare or residing in an assisted living or nursing home facility, they may be able to help you receive benefits that will help you pay for care. The phone number is 615-890-2155.

HEALTHCARE PLANNING AS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF RETIREMENT

By: Ron Fischer, Seniors Financial Guidance

January 1 is registration started for the 2019 season. We had our fall meeting on November 17th. There were some new teams in attendance and we expected to grow the programs again this year. We discussed the schedule, tournament sites and dates for the 2019 year. It is very easy to start a team. Many of you already sponsor teams in your communities. Why not use that team than you would think. Online registration started January 1st, and it isn’t too late.

For information contact Mickey McKeel at 931-215-0245. All scholarships were presented at Department Convention in June. The Oratorical contest Division started in February and the Department Contest is March 9, 2019 located on 318 Donelson Pike, Nashville, TN. We have some outstanding young students competing and viding for Oratorical Scholarships total of $6,000.00 at the Department levels. Please try to attend a contest close to you or the Department. Chairman Charles Osterhoudt contact information is 315-868-2267 or email coster7794@gmail.com. American Legion Junior Shooting Sports is in need of a Department Chairman. If you are interested, please contact Mickey McKeel at 615-391-5088 or email Ad junat@tnlegion.org. The schol arships are presented at the National competition.

Visit your schools and conduct a flag education and tell the story of the American Veterans. Many students don’t know what a Veteran is and why we have Veterans Day to honor the Veterans of our country.

Protection of the US Flag from physical desecration was a grass roots movement of the American Legion since President Johnson versus Texas in 1989. The American Legion has lobbied Congress to pass an Amendment to the Constitution to prevent physical desecration of the flag. The closest

(continued on page 12)

For God and Country

(continued from page 5)

YOUNGER VETERANS (continued from page 5)

local college Veteran’s Representatives, or members of the local Chamber of Commerce to speak at your event.

Don’t be afraid to work with other veteran organizations within your community. Build a strong support network for all veterans.

If you have a post close to a military base, begin working with the base transition office or AW2/AF2/USMC Wound Warrior Regiment or the Navy’s Safe Harbor Program. These once flourishing programs have had their share of budget cuts, but the mission remains the same. This is where VSOs could make a positive impact with the base leadership as well as the surrounding veteran population.

Introduce yourself and your post to your local Guard and Reserve veterans. Most of the members live, work, and shop in your community.

Sign up for and attend every veteran event that you can. Make sure the people in your community know that you are the person and post to contact when it comes to supporting veterans. Talk the talk and walk the walk.

AS A LEADER (continued from page 5)

become contagious and figure out how to get those that are less inspired to be more so. Seeing them change will help inspire you.

It is vital that we start a fire in the American Legion by inspiring our legionnaires to do the best at everything they do. It is important to provide the fuel and the air to the spark in our legionnaires and fellow veterans. Become a leader that is humble, approachable, and credible and treat yourself and your career like a fire. If you do not feed it and keep it burning, it will die off and you will be left standing in the dark.

The famous business philosopher, Jim Rohn, stated, “The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble, but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly.”

So feed your fire. Leadership is not an exact science; it takes trial and error. It is important to educate yourselves and become more informed on not only leadership, but anything that can make you more credible. Understand that you will make mistakes. Own your mistakes and teach others to do the same.

Now go out, create that spark, and start some fires.
This article is being written at the end of December due to publication deadlines, so I trust that everyone had a great Holiday and are now looking forward to the new year. As we go into the New Year, I would ask that each and everyone of you stop and reflect on the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary - “in the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.”

Please pay particular attention to the words “to support The American Legion”. What does that mean? It means that we are to work closely with the American Legion, as a family, assisting them in their efforts to enhance the lives of our Veterans and their families. As Commander Weismann puts it, “One Vision, One Force”. If we are to grow and become even stronger than we are, we must work together as one to accomplish our goals. It’s okay to have differences of opinions, but it is not okay to not be able to work out those differences by mutual agreement and continue on the path to greatness. Remember the old adage “A house divided . . .”.

As I step down from my soap box now, I would like to remind you that if your Post or Unit has not contributed to my special fund raiser - Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing - please do so. I am well on my way to the goal of $10,000 that I set early on, but would like to see that number doubled. The cost for outfitting one Veteran with the entire necessary fly fishing gear is around $600 and that does not count the fishing excursions throughout the year. I have spoken with many people who have either volunteered for this program or who have benefited from it and am told what a great program it is. Thanks to all those who have already donated.

Remember, we are “Always Looking Ahead – For Our Veterans”. God bless all Veterans, past and president, and Thank You For Your Service!! For God & Country, Kathy Leedy, President Department of Tennessee leedyk@comcast.net 615-218-7541 (c)

VOLUNTEER GIRLS STATE 2019

Nashville, TN—Tennessee area high schools are in the process of selecting more than 575 outstanding young women to participate in the American Legion Auxiliary’s 73rd session of American Legion Auxiliary Volunteer Girls State (ALAVGS) to be held May 26 through June 1 on the campus of Lipscomb University in Nashville. Delegates to the program are selected from high schools across the state based on their academic achievement and leadership potential.

These girls will have a week of activities focused on building strong, informed citizens. The more than 100 staff and counselors who design and administer the program are an entirely volunteer group of ALAVGS alumni. They come with a wide range of skills and professions and combine their talents each year to further Tennessee’s Girls State tradition.

Led by Chairwoman, Julia Wells of Jackson and ALAVGS Directors, Kathy Isaacs and Kathy Hendrickson, the Tennessee Girls State program is recognized for producing one of the most outstanding Girls State programs in the nation. The program is inspired by the music of a team of gifted musicians—who are also VGS alumni and counselors. Jenise Gordon, an administrator at Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga serves as the Citizenship Director. The 2018 Girls State Governor, Mary Noble from Bartlett High School will be leading the delegation of Junior Counselors.

The delegates will learn and live responsible citizenship. They will debate the issues that challenge Tennessee’s state legislature, and they will establish their own city, county, and state governments. Two delegates will be selected to represent ALAVGS at Girls Nation in Washington DC in July.

Girls State is designed to engage the diverse talents of every girl and to instill in each a commitment to responsible citizenship. This year’s delegates will demonstrate “citizen ship in action” by donating thousands of items to Tennessee’s Veterans Administration (VA) hospitals. In what has become a great ALAVGS tradition, the Girls State Chorus will visit and perform for veterans at the Nashville VA Hospital.

Parents, Guidance Counselors, ALA members, and friends are encouraged to join us for the closing Assembly on June 1 at 2:00 p.m. in the Alumni gym on the Lipscomb campus. This will be closing Assembly of the 2019 Girls State and participants and guests left last year with a renewed confidence in our youth and a renewed spirit of patriotism. Your presence is also an affirmation of support for the program, the counselors and staff, and for the youth who have participated. Hope to see you there!!
PIPPIN
(continued from page 9)
and service to The American Legion do hereby unan-
imously nominate, endorse, and highly recommend the election of Legionnaire Joel F. Pippin to the office of Eighth District Commander, Department of Ten-
nessee.

AMERICANISM
(continued from page 10)
vote was in 2006 when the amendment passed the House and we missed by one vote in the Senate. This was at overwhelming choice by the people and the state legisla-
tures. We must protect our rights and flag. This is another example of our elected officials not paying attention to those that have elected them to office. Let’s educate our youth and why they live in the greatest country on earth. Teach them Freedom has not and is not Free!!
May God Bless our Country
Dave Alexander
Department Americanism Chairman

BASEBALL
(continued from page 10)
to be determined. The 19U will advance to Tampa, FL. starting August 7, 2019. The Regional winner will advance to the World Series in Shelby, NC. August 15, 2019. It will be televised on ESPN.
The Department (State) will offer scholarships to players selected at the State Tournaments. National will award the Diamond Scholarship to a player selected by the Depart-
ment.
Contact information Baseball Operations Director, Mickey McKee 931-205-0245 (Post 19), 19U Chairman, is Tom LaCroix 615-406-9382 (Post 88) and 17U Chairman Greg Johnson 615-604-1657 (Post 17). If anyone is interested in being a part of the teams call Dave Alexander 615-448-8289 or email coachga@aol.com.
Have a great season and play American Legion Baseball. For God and Country
David Alexander
Americanism Chairman

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER
Gary Anderson
Department Chaplain

There was a young man growing up in Virginia. He always wanted to be a soldier. One day he had the joy of serving on General Brad-
dock’s staff as a lieutenant. He was traveling, with his brigade, towards Fort Duquesne. (Today it’s Pittsburgh, PA) The British were fighting the French in the Seven Years War and were accustomed to fighting European style. They also wore bright red uniforms.
The French and Indians planned an ambush. They wore buckskins and hid behind trees, rocks, stumps etc. The ambush worked great for the French and Indians, but terrible for the British. General Braddock was killed and the British experienced heavy losses. The young man from Virginia was the only officer who was not wounded, even though he had two horses shot out from under him. He performed bravely and ordered a retreat to avoid further casual-
ties.
The next day this young man, from Virginia, wrote two letters. One was to his mother and the other was to his brother. He told his mother about the disastrous battle and how he found lead balls in his hair, but he felt fine. He appreciated her prayers because they kept him from harm. He told his brother how he found several bullet holes in his coat but felt fine. He credited God then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight. When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains simultaneously removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. When giving their life jackets, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew; Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic; nor did Fox or Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line. One survivor would later call it “It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven.”
As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains — arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers and singing hymns.

FOUR CHAPLAINS
It was Feb. 3, 1943, and the U.S. Army Transport Dorchester was one of three ships in a convoy, moving across the Atlantic from Newfoundland to an American base in Greenland. A converted luxury liner, the Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen and civilian workers.
It was only 150 miles from its destination when shortly after midnight, an officer aboard the German submarine U2 spotted it. After identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire. The hit was decisive, striking the ship, far below the water line. The initial blast killed scores of men and seriously wounded many more.
Others stunned by the explosion were grooping in the darkness. Panic and chaos quickly set in! Men were screaming, others crying or franticly trying to get lifeboats off the ship.
Through the pandemonium, four men spread out among the Soldiers, calming the fright-
ened, tending the wounded and guiding the disoriented toward safety. They were four Army chaplains, Lt. George Fox, a Methodist; Lt. Alexander Goode, a Jewish Rabbi; Lt. John Wash-
ington, a Roman Catholic Priest; and Lt. Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister.
Quickly and quietly the four chaplains worked to bring calm to the men. As soldiers began to find their way to the deck of the ship, many were still in their underwear, where they were confronting the cold winds blowing down from the arctic.

Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, reeling from the cold, headed back towards his cabin. “Where are you going?” a voice of calm in the sea of distressed asked. “To get my gloves,” Mahoney replied. “Here, take these,” said Rabbi Goode as he handed a pair of gloves to the young of-

c. I can’t take those gloves,” Mahoney replied. “Never mind,” the Rabbi responded. “I have two pairs.” It was only long after that Mahoney realized that the chaplain never intended to leave the ship.

Once topside, the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight. When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains simultaneously removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. When giving their life jackets, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew; Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic; nor did Fox or Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line. One survivor would later call it “It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven.”

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains — arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers and singing hymns.

Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, only 230 survived. Before boarding the Dorchester back in January, Chaplain Poling had asked his father to pray for him, “Not for my safe return, that wouldn’t be fair. Just pray that I shall do my duty...never be a coward...and have the strength, courage and understanding of men. Just pray that I shall be adequate...”

Although the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were later awarded posthu-
mously Congress wished to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements which required heroism performed under fire. So, a posthumous Special Medal for Heroism, The Four Chaplains’ Medal, was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President on January 18, 1961.

It was never given before and will never be given again.