

# Sunflower Legionnaire

The American Legion -



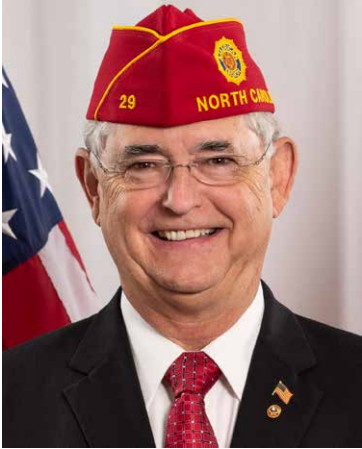
Today's Voice for Today's Veterans & Military

VOL LXXIII NO. 2

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

October, November, December 2019

## YOUR NEW NATIONAL COMMANDER



James W. "Bill" Oxford was elected national commander of The American Legion on Aug. 29, 2019, in Indianapolis, during the organization's 101st national convention. He has been a member of the nation's largest veterans organization since 1986.

## STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONS

In July, 64 American Legion Baseball teams competed in one of 11 Zone tournaments across the great state of Kansas. The top two teams from each Zone then went on to compete in one of two State Championships. The two State Champions for 2019 are: Class 'A' Larned and Class 'AA'/'AAA' Emporia.

The Emporia team represented Kansas in the National Mid-South Regional Tournament in Hastings Nebraska.

A special thanks goes out to all the coaches, managers and other volunteers for promoting healthy competition and sportsmanship among our American Legion teams involving more than 1,000 players, coaches, and managers. Special thanks also to all the Area Tournament hosts and to Hays and Topeka for hosting the State Tournaments this year.

## LEGION FAMILY SUPPORTS KANSAS MILITARY FAMILIES

The Tenth Annual Big Red '1' Turkey Run will be held Saturday November 23, 2019 at Fort Riley. The Turkey Run is for the families of the Warrior Transition Battalion. These families often find themselves transitioning out of the active military or may remain active.

This year, per information provided from Fort Riley there are 500 families that will need assistance. Volunteers are needed to gather food as well as distribute the food at Fort Riley. A list of food items

will be coming out shortly. Many members of the Warrior Transition Battalion have been severely injured, the volunteers will be able to show the face of The American Legion when they load the food into cars for those needing assistance. In addition to the Turkey Run the Legion Family is working on making the WTB Christmas great as well, which is scheduled for December 13-14, 2019. Monetary donations may be sent to Department Headquarters for either the Turkey Run, Operation Christmas or both.

Please make checks payable to: Kansas Department American Legion. In the memo area please put either Turkey Run or Operation Christmas. Thank you for all that you do, past present and future for our Veterans and their families. For any information please contact Roger Beckley (Turkey Run /Operation Christmas Committee Chairman) at [csmoif@yahoo.com](mailto:csmoif@yahoo.com) 785-212-0179 or Al Longstaff ALR Department Committeeman at [northforty@lrmutual.com](mailto:northforty@lrmutual.com) 620-897-6786 or 620-242-4978.

## EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE START TIME CHANGED

The date for the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Eisenhower Pilgrimage at the Eisenhower Museum and Library in Abilene is Saturday, October 12. All Posts, Auxiliary Units, S.A.L. Squadrons, the Districts and other Legion Family organizations are invited to attend and participate in this year's event. Saturday's program will start at approximately 9:30 AM

immediately following the Presidential wreath laying ceremony.

Memorial Roses may be purchased for placement on the wall around Eisenhower's statue by sending \$10 to the Eisenhower Pilgrimage in care of Department Headquarters. Wreath orders are reserved for Districts and State and National level organizations for \$20. Use coupon on page 8 to order roses and wreaths.

The guest speaker will be Captain Kyle Higgins (USN), commander of the USS Eisenhower.

A Homecoming luncheon following the Pilgrimage will be held at the Greyhound Hall of Fame at 407 South Buckeye in Abilene to honor Department Vice Commander Marri Krupco.

The cost for the luncheon will be \$15.00 per person (\$18.00 after October 8) and reservations may be made by using the coupon provided on page 8.



Captain Kyle P. Higgins, USN  
Commanding Officer  
USS Eisenhower (CVN69)



This Statue of President Dwight D. Eisenhower is the centerpiece of the ceremony.

## COMMANDER

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## VICE COMMANDER

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The 101st American Legion National Convention was held in Indianapolis, the headquarters city for our organization. Many of our delegates were assigned to committee and subcommittee meetings and provided reports of plans and activities of these groups. The Kansas Delegation, headed by immediate Past Commander Dan Wiley, agreed that the convention was informative, relevant, significant, and fun! The group enjoyed the social activities and hospitality of the city. Post 64 was the site of the Delegation's "night out" which provided a chance for camaraderie and fellowship, and a very good meal.

The keynote speaker was Vice President Mike Pence, who coincidentally, served as Governor of, and in the US Congress from, Indiana, where he attended school at Indiana University. His address on Wednesday was very well received by convention attendees.

A highlight and memorable moment for Kansan's came on Tuesday when native son Mike Pompeo addressed the convention. After his speech, the United States Secretary of State met with the Kansas Delegation in private to express his gratitude for the Legion's service and answer a few questions, his future plans not included. The group was most appreciative that he took the time to meet. He maintains his Legion membership at Wichita Post #4.

The National Commander torch was passed as James W "Bill" Oxford was sworn in on the last day of the convention. Bill is from North Carolina and a veteran of the US Army and National Guard. He will be visiting Kansas on Sunday, September 29th, visiting posts on the east side of the state, and departing Thursday, October 3rd. Look for the schedule and if possible, meet and greet our new National Commander.

Next year's gathering will be in Louisville, Kentucky, where it was held in 2009. (Kansas City hosted the convention in 1921 and 1942. Might be our turn one of these days.) If there is time and an opportunity to attend, mark your calendar for a rewarding and fun experience next year.

As in the past, the Districts manned the booths at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, each on an assigned day. A good number of Kansas Legion members stopped by to chat, discuss Legion

activities, and tell tales. In addition, they welcomed members from surrounding states and from as far away as Texas and Minnesota. It was reported that the Legionnaires, who donated their time in shifts, were quite successful in signing new members, INCLUDING those veterans now eligible under the LEGION ACT. Each day new applications for membership were taken for forwarding to the appropriate posts. In addition to this activity, many fair attendees stopped by to wish us well and relate stories about relatives or friends that served our country. Our results at signing new members were significant. And the exposure that our presence produces by our attendance is quite valuable as we share our mission with the public, this through our attractive, well-situated booth, and informative conversations.

Information is now out on the annual Turkey Run and North Pole projects, orchestrated by the Legion Riders and supported by our Kansas Legion Family. Both events are at Fort Riley, November 23rd for the Turkey Run and December 14th for the North Pole. The events are especially appreciated by the Veterans and their families stationed at the Fort. If you can volunteer, please contact Roger Beckley, ALR Committee Chairman, or Diana Starr, ALR Secretary. As many volunteers can certainly attest, the experience in seeing the results of these outstanding events will create memories that will not soon be forgotten.

Hutchinson post #68 will be hosting the annual Department Christmas Party on December 7th. Santa has agreed to grace us with his presence (and maybe presents). Look for a flyer to be distributed and make plans to attend. A tribute to the memory of this significant day will also be conducted.

Thanks to the post efforts, Kansas is one of 32 states to reach the first goal in membership as assigned by National. With everyone doing their part, we can attain the lately, here-to-fore elusive 100%. The Vice Commander and Membership Committee stand ready to assist by providing the tools and experience to make it happen. Membership is everyone's Mission.

Thank you for your service and what you do for the Kansas American Legion!

For God and Country

Membership eligibility in the American Legion family has had some big changes in the last couple months. In July the LEGION act was passed in congress and signed by President Trump which in a nut-shell means anyone that has served or is still serving honorably since December 7, 1941 is now eligible to join The American Legion. This includes anyone that has served even one day on federal orders; time spent in bootcamp is on federal orders regardless of post-bootcamp service. This grants all guard and reservists that served honorably the right to join, and rightly so, after-all they swore the same oath as their active duty counterparts.

The Legion isn't the only branch of the family that had an eligibility change, the Auxiliary did too. In August at National Convention a resolution was passed to change the word "wife" to the word "spouse" thus allowing male spouses of Legion members or deceased veterans to join the Auxiliary. Male spouses are the only males that are eligible to join the Auxiliary. I am very excited to see this change and my husband is now a member of our home Unit.

Both changes can greatly increase membership in the Kansas American Legion Family, but it is up to each one of us to ask them to join. For every new

"other conflict" Legionnaire that joins, most likely they are related to Auxiliary and S.A.L. potential members so sign them up too! You may also find a veteran that previously didn't join because their husband couldn't participate will now join because it is something they can do together. If you have any questions on these changes don't hesitate to ask your District or Department officers; or call headquarters in Topeka.

I wanted to congratulate Kiowa & Saint Francis on being the first in the state to reach 100% membership, however, just because you've made 100% doesn't mean you can quit, so keep up the good work! Kansas was one of 32 Departments that met our first membership goal of 50% by September 11th, great job everyone!

A huge thank you to everyone that helped in the State Fair booth, you all did a great job of recruiting new members into the family. You also represented the Legion family in a professional and caring manner, which does nothing but good things for our public relations. Thank you also to those of you that stopped by the booth to give the workers a smile and some words of encouragement. Lastly, a special thanks to Gary Foos, Area West Vice-Commander for being available throughout the entire fair to help whenever needed, you truly are an MVP.

## STATE FAIR FLAG SET GIVEAWAY

This year marks 33 years of The American Legion's participation at the State Fair in Hutchinson. By registering at Legion booth, fair participants had a chance to win one of ten US Flag sets.

Congratulations to the following winners. Fly Old Glory with pride!

- Daniel Freeland..... Wichita
- Laurie Methvin..... Peabody
- Ernest Shuler..... Hutchinson
- Kathy McLean ..Little River
- Risa Bayliff ..Lakin
- Travis Rakestraw..... Wichita
- Cindy Barton..... Hutchinson
- Bob Black..... Bazine
- Jeremy Owen ..... Pratt
- Tyler Slater..... Peabody



**DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER**

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**Dan Bartlett****2200 SW Gage  
Topeka, KS 66622****(800) 574-8387 ext. 54489****dan.bartlett@med.va.gov****Vet Centers****What are Vet Centers?**

Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers, providing social and psychological services including professional readjustment counseling to eligible Veterans and active duty service members, to include members of the National Guard and Reserve components and their families.

Vet Centers also play a significant role in VA's Emergency Response mission to assist communities. MVCs and Vet Center staff deploy in response to shootings and support emergency response efforts to natural disasters and wild fires.

**Who is eligible?**

- Veterans and active duty service members who:
- Have served on active military duty in any combat theater or area of hostility;
- Experienced a military sexual trauma (MST)
- Provided direct emergent medical care or mortuary services to the casualties of war, while serving on active duty, or
- Served as a member of an unmanned aerial vehicle crew that provided direct support to operations in a combat zone or area of hostility
- Vietnam Era Veterans who accessed care at a Vet Center prior to January 1, 2004.

Vet Center services are also provided to family members or loved ones of Veterans and service members for military-related issues when it is found to aid in the readjustment of those that served, or to help cope with the deployment of the service member. This includes marriage and family counseling and bereavement counseling for families who experience an active duty death.

**What makes Vet Centers unique?**

Non-traditional hours (including evenings and weekends), services without time limitation and at no charge. Individuals do not need to be enrolled in VA Healthcare Services, do not need a disability rating or service connection and can access Vet Center services regardless of discharge character.

**What makes Vet Centers different than VA's Mental Health?**

While Vet Centers are not a part Mental Health in the VAMCs, they are connected through coordination and bi-directional referral. Vet Center staff are licensed professionals who offer a non-medical approach to counseling and do not provide medication management.

**How do Vet Centers reach Veterans and service members?**

Outreach specialists and counselors participate in a myriad of outreach events in local communities and host various events in order to create face to face connections and get eligible individuals connected to Vet Center Services.

80 Mobile Vet Centers are on the road or out in the community, extending the reach of Vet Centers through focused outreach, direct service provision and referral. Many of these communities are distant from existing services and are considered rural or highly rural.

**How can I refer someone to a Vet Center for services?**

If you think someone may benefit from Vet Center services, please call your nearest Vet Center or encourage the Veteran or service member to call or stop in.

- [Locate Your Nearest Vet Center](#)
- [Vet Centers on Facebook](#)

**Preventing Veteran Suicide: Resources for Veterans, Community Members, and Loved Ones**

- [Suicide Prevention Month](#)
- [#BeThere](#)

**ADJUTANT'S BRIEFS****By Department Adjutant Jimmie L. Foster**

Many of the District and Department Officers have already alluded to their travels to various Events around the Department and State of Kansas in their Articles.

Many Members of The American Legion Family attended the 101st National Convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana from 23 to 29 August 2019. Many of the Elected Kansas Delegates were very busy attending various Commission or Committee Meetings to partake in items that were to be voted on in those Meetings and then reported from that Commission or Commission to the Delegates on the floor of the National Convention.

Also, the Leading Candidate for National Commander Bill Oxford from North Carolina and the Second Leading Candidate Paul Dillard from Texas came to the Kansas Caucus. Both, Bill and Paul, spoke to the Kansas Delegates and passed out brochures, pins and pens to those in attendance.

The Convention is not always business oriented, there is some free time to enjoy the host City and their venues. The Department of Kansas had a superb dinner at Kenneth N. Dowden - Wayne American Legion Post # 64. It was a relaxing evening with those visiting, making new friendships and keeping some old ones going.

For those that stayed around until Thursday afternoon witnessed the National Commander take the Oath of Office on the Stage. James W. "Bill" Oxford from Lenoir, North Carolina swore into his position as National Commander of The American Legion.

Bill and his Aide, Larry Cline, will be touring the Eastern Side of the State of Kansas from 29 September to 3 October 2019. I know some of you will not get notified of his visit to individual Posts, but your District Officers was given that information and instructed to disseminate the information down to ALL Posts, so that each American Legion Member could have the opportunity to visit him on the tour.

Next year's 102nd National Convention will be held in Louisville, Kentucky from 27 August to 3 September 2020. It is a short drive to Louisville; the City of Louisville and the Department of Kentucky promises to roll out the red carpet for this event.

PLEASE start planning now to attend.

Our Regional National Vice Commander is Bruce Feuerbach from the Department of Iowa. Bruce will be visiting the Department in the month of November. We are still trying to confirm the exact dates. We will again get the information to the District Commanders to deliver to each Post within their District. Feuerbach will be visiting the Western Side of the State of Kansas, basically I-35 and West. Bruce will also be attending Our Department Convention in Hutchinson at the Atrium Hotel and Conference Center on 15 to 17 May 2020.

The newly elected National President of the American Legion Auxiliary is Nicole Clapp from the Department of Iowa and the newly elected Sons of The American Legion Commander is Clint Bolt from the Detachment of Virginia.

Don't forget about the 2019 Big Red One Turkey Run on 23 November 2019 at Fort Riley and Operation North Pole on 13 & 14 December 2019. These two events ensure that the Dependents of Our Active Duty Military has a complete Turkey Dinner for Thanksgiving, and then have a toy or two under their Christmas tree for a memorable Christmas.

The Department Christmas Party is scheduled to be held at Hutchinson Post # 68 on 7 December 2019.

The Department Legislative Reception will be held tentatively on 15 January 2020 at 5:00 P.M., before the Mid-Winter Conference, again this year. It was in agreement with the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate last year that it should be earlier in the year to get the Legislators engaged on Our items that need to be discussed and supported for Veterans and their Families. We saw the most attendance last year from Our Legislators show up and attend the Reception and interact with the Members of The American Legion Family.

Since I brought the Mid-Winter Forum, It is not too early to start planning on attending the 2020 Mid-Winter Forum, which will be held at Fort Scott Post # 25 from 1 to 2 February 2020.

Until next time, continue to support the Greatest Veterans and their Families, in the Greatest Veterans Organization in the Free World, the American Legion (in my opinion).

**FIRST DISTRICT  
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Here it is the early days of fall. The days are getting shorter and cooler. We are in the last quarter of the calendar year. Unless your post is different from most posts that means that you have several un-renewed memberships for 2019 and 2020. Go through your un-renewed cards and contact these people and encourage them to renew. When possible make a personal contact. Get post members involved.

A special thanks to those who assisted the First District on our day at the Kansas State Fair. It was a very busy day.

Eisenhower Pilgrimage and homecoming for vice commanders and vice president is Saturday October 12, 2019 in Abilene. All posts are encouraged to have someone present.

National Commander Bill Oxford will be touring the east side of Kansas from Sep 29, 2019 to Oct 2, 2019.

The First District Commanders homecoming will be October 19, 2019 at Post 400 Topeka. Contact Commander Clint Vawter for more information and reservations at [clintv@aol.com](mailto:clintv@aol.com). There will be a district meeting prior to the homecoming at 4:00 pm at Post 400.

**SECOND DISTRICT  
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**VICE CMDR.  
MYRA JOWERS**  
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Fort Scott, KS 66701  
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We are now three-quarter's way into the 2019 year as well as into the 2020 membership renewal season! We're off to a bit

of a slow start for the 2nd District but I know it's a marathon and not a sprint. Please keep working on contacting fellow post members to renew as well as keep up the efforts to recruit. Reach out to your Adjutants for a membership list of contact information. Help your Adjutants & membership teams to contact members. It takes a few minutes of your time and helps take the burden off a busy Adjutant. You'll be surprised what a simple phone call on a Saturday afternoon will do to a fellow Legionnaire. Call to just see how they're doing. It'll also give your post an opportunity to update contact records, etc. They like to hear from their Legion other than just a dues renewal notice. Let them know we're here for them. Let them know your post's up-coming events. Let them know what we're doing in the community and we need their help. Congratulations to Past CMDR Dan Wiley for getting endorsed for National CMDR. We wish him all the luck in representing the great state of Kansas. We will do our best to assist him in his campaign. Don't forget about <http://kslegiondistrict2.org/> & can follow us on Facebook / American Legion Department of Kansas- District 2 for information. Have a safe and great Holiday Season! CMDR -

**THIRD DISTRICT  
COMMANDER  
JOHN MELVIN**  
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**VICE CMDR.  
ED BORING, Sr.**  
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Greetings District III fall has finally arrived! The kids of the communities are back in school and the Friday Night Lights are glowing on the horizons. It is a good time to make your post visible to the local school and various community organizations and remind them of the many programs for youth and community support programs that the Legion has. It is never too early to bring up Boys State, Girls State, Cadet Law, the Oratorical Contest as well as the many Scholarship programs available to students from the American Legion at all levels. Something as simple as presenting the colors at a school sport-

ing event can increase visibility of the American Legion in your community.

A friend of mine recently described this time of year as "TrickorHallowThanksMas" season. There are a lot of activities going on in our communities and a lot of chances for your local Legion Post to emphasize what they do for the community. The one holiday that was left out of my friend's description of the season was Veterans Day. Veteran's Day is easily overlooked in our communities because it is not the "retail event" the other holidays this time of year are. We rarely see advertising about the day set aside to honor all veterans; except on Veterans' Day itself. In many cases the only advertising is a small "Community Bulletin Board" type notice hidden somewhere in the local newspaper about a community event. I would like to see this time of year to change to "TrickorHallowVetThanksMas." The only way we can do this is to become more visible in the community.

I am happy to report that the District has 36 new members. Because of the passage of the Legion Act there are no more "cut off" dates for service. This act opens up membership in the American Legion to thousands of veterans who served anytime since December 7, 1941. Every post knows several of these veterans, reach out to them and welcome them to the greatest Veteran's Service Organization in the World.

**FOURTH DISTRICT  
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**VICE CMDR.  
KEITH MELICK**  
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It has been an exciting few months in The American Legion. President Trump signed The LEGION Act, into law July 30, 2019, expands eligibility in The American Legion to include veterans who served in U.S. military conflicts previously unrecognized by Congress as war eras! Reach out to all of veterans within your influence and visit with them about the benefits of membership in The American Legion and all of the accomplishment the Legion has attained.

**FIFTH DISTRICT  
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A new future is upon us and it is up to us to determine its path. Within the passage for the American Legion Act we have opened our doors to our forgotten veterans who's dates of service previously put them outside our eligibility guidelines. We have corrected that shortcoming and now we are truly an organization for all veterans. A great deal of time, effort and energy went into getting this passed and signed by the President Trump. We owe our thanks and gratitude to each and every person who had a role in making this a reality.

Another injustice was corrected this year at our 101st National convention and that is the welcoming of another groups of patriotic citizens. The spouses of our female veterans. Let us welcome these individuals into our American Legion Family. As we continue to grow our posts let us remember that we will only survive as a family and as members of the American Legion we must find a path that includes the entire family, The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion.

**SIXTH DISTRICT  
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**VICE CMDR.  
HARRY MORRISON, Jr.**  
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September 6th was District 6 day at the State Fair booth. I would like to thank Harry Morrison, Janice Price and Dewayne Kalivoda for all the help they provided with talking to people that  
**(Continued on Page 5)**

**(Continued from Page 4)**

came to the booth and giving them a better understanding what the American Legion does. We talked about the Legion Act that opened membership eligibility, into the American Legion from December 7, 1941 to present. Also we talked about programs; Boys State, Girls State, Oratorical Contest and Cadet Law while focusing on the entire family. Over all it was a very good day with all the people we visited with.

October 5th. Is our Fall Conference and Homecoming at Ellsworth Post 174. The conference will begin with a joint session at 10:00 AM. After all the introductions we will move into our break-out sessions. We should be finished around 4:00 PM. Lunch will be provided and is included in your registration fee. Legion and S.A.L. is \$8.00 and Auxiliary is \$5.00. Following the conference we will begin our social hour before the Homecoming. The banquet will begin around 5:00 PM. Cost for banquet is set at \$12.00 a plate.

The District standing for the membership report as of September 13th we have moved up to 4th with a District quota of 55.05%. Keep up the good work with renewing your members and let's keep moving up.

District Convention will be April 4th, 2020 at Concordia Post 76. Remember it is important to have your post represented at convention. Each post that attends can take part in the discussions and vote if needed.

**SEVENTH DISTRICT  
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Lots of exciting things happening throughout the American Legion that affect us all at a Post level and District level. First and foremost the Legion Act was signed into law by President Trump and has opened up the eligibility dates for membership. Also there was a change to the Auxiliary that now allows the spouses of female veterans to join their ranks, this is an exciting change and those spouses that couldn't join now have a place to

belong.

In addition there are several opportunities to enjoy District and Department activities in the upcoming months including the 7th District Family Homecoming which will be held in Hutchinson on October 26th, 2019. We will have an Executive Board meeting at 10:00 am, social hour starts at 11:00 am and meal will be at 12:00. Meal will include lasagna, garlic bread, salad and dessert for the price of \$6.00. Please RSVP to jjehart23@gmail.com or call 620-899-0010, we would love to see a representative from every post in 7th District this year.

Make sure you are watching your email for updates on upcoming events and weekly membership reports. If you are not getting weekly emails from Vice Commander Mike Jury, call either Mike Jury @ 620 899-7926 or myself @ 620 899-0010 and submit a good email address to be added to our weekly emails.

**EIGHTH DISTRICT  
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*No article submitted.*

**NINTH DISTRICT  
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ALAN MARIETTA  
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Hello again 9th District, I want to first say thank you to all the members and posts that have been working so hard on membership. We had one of two first 100% posts in the State Congratulations to Post 137 in St. Francis. We are hoping that we have a lot more posts at this level. We are currently in 3rd place in Department Standings with 55.76%. Now I ask you all to help your post get more members signed up or recruit new mem-

bers. Now on to some upcoming events; the first one that is coming up will be October 19th which will be the District Commanders, District Presidents, and District S.A.L. Commanders Homecoming. This event will take place at Grainfield Post 301 with a start time of 10am. We will have a joint session and a noon meal just \$15.00 with a RSVP to District Finance Officer Pat Hewitt, or \$18.00 at the door. The Flyer is out on the Legion Family site, also on Facebook 9th District Page. This event will have a Silent auction with donated items from Posts within the District. We will have a 50/50 raffle to help raise money for our new District. Please plan on attending.

The next event will be the Big Red 1 Turkey Run in Fort Riley it is scheduled for the 23rd of November. If you can, please come out and help with this great cause.

Until next time please if anybody is needing any assistance from the District staff please feel free to contact us. By now you should have been contacted by at least one of the Staff members. Remember that we are here to assist you with any issues that may arise.

**HISTORIAN  
JOE JOHNSTON**

In the 30's, auto accidents were becoming a serious problem. Most cars had mechanical brakes. If you have never driven a car with mechanical brakes, you don't realize the danger at highway speeds. There were very few autos sold during the depression of the 1930's so most of the cars were old and practically worn out. Adding to that, in Kansas to obtain driver's license you went to a local business that was appointed to issue them and pay 50 cents. It made no difference whether you knew how to drive or not.

This bothered Wint Smith, commander of the Kansas State Highway Patrol and Earl Todd of the State Highway Commission. With the assistance of Department Commander Preston Dunn, the American Legion Safety Campaign was formed. The Ford Motor Company furnished twelve new white cars. The Phillips Petroleum Company donated all the oil and gasoline.

Every County in Kansas was visited plus 534 towns. Safety in driving was taught as well as safety in every day living. After almost three months, on May 9th 1936 all of the units came together at Dodge City for the closing session.

**CHILDREN  
&  
YOUTH  
Pat Culver  
pculver2@swbell.net**

Today's American Legion is as focused on the welfare of our country's children and the issues facing young people as it has ever been. The structure of this organization is forever supported by the balance that our founding architects envisioned. Therefore, this pillar – Children and Youth – and its programs remain committed to serving the youth.

Members of The American Legion, and The American Legion Americanism Commission's Committee on Children and Youth have been entrusted with the awesome responsibility of upholding this pillar - the one that braces our nation's veterans by caring for their children, and our nation's children.

The purpose of the committee is to formulate, recommend and implement plans, programs and activities designed to:

- Assure care and protection for the children of veterans.
- Improve conditions for all children and youth, with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home.
- Prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible.
- Maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs.

The American Legion recognizes that families of active-duty and deployed military personnel face unique difficulties and hardships. With the help of the Family Support Network, these families with children do not have to shoulder this burden alone. Legionnaires at the Post level can then aid such as performing minor household chores and repairs, completing a Temporary Financial Assistance application and connecting the family with local programs.


Family Support Network 1-800-504-4098

Electronic applications [www.legion.org/familysupport](http://www.legion.org/familysupport)


Information and resources [www.legion.org/familysupport](http://www.legion.org/familysupport)

Publications Family Support Network Brochure [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)





**AUXILIARY  
PRESIDENT**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**Paula Sellens**  
513 Andrews St.  
Dodge City, KS 67801  
(620) 227-3816




**DETACHMENT  
COMMANDER**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**Terry Harris**  
1222 Toles Ave.  
Larned, KS 67550  
(620) 910-7998



The American Legion Auxiliary will turn 100 on November 10, 2019. The American Legion was founded after the end of World War I in Paris, France. In September of that year, the United States Congress chartered the American Legion. Several women's organizations wanted to become the official affiliate of the Legion. Instead of associating with an existing organization, a new organization was organized by women closely associated with men in the Legion. The American Legion Auxiliary was founded at The American Legion's second convention on November 10, 1919.

Since their establishments a century ago, the goals of both organizations have been to help veterans and their families. Today, The American Legion has more than 2 million members. The ALA boasts more than 600,00 members who spend millions of volunteer hours serving our mission every year.

The American Legion Auxiliary has stood alongside The American Legion as advocates for veterans' rights. Accomplishments include passage of the GI Bill, enhancing US Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, and ending homelessness among veterans.

The ALA's 100th anniversary is a time to celebrate the achievements of the last century. We must also look ahead to our next century. We function as individuals, members or a unit, district, or department. A new generation of veterans, service members, and their families will depend on the American Legion Auxiliary.

ALA units need to promote the centennial at the local community level by planning and

promoting their celebrations. If you have not already done so, organize a centennial committee to plan how your unit will celebrate. Celebrations don't have to be big. Decide what is appropriate for your unit. Some units may want a small celebration with a birthday cake. Others may decide to host a festival for the community. Consider adding a celebration to an event your unit has already planned.

Reach out to your local newspapers, television stations, and radio stations. Designate a spokesperson for each event to talk to the media. Utilize your unit's social media accounts and encourage your members to share the unit's information and events on their personal social media accounts. ALA National Headquarters has created templates that can assist you in spreading the news about your units events. These templates can be customized when accessed online.

## LEGISLAIVE RECEPTION

The legislative reception will be held at the Capital Plaza Hotel, 1717 SW Topeka Ave. in Topeka scheduled for Wednesday January 15. The reception will begin with a briefing at 5pm and followed by the reception until

Hey! How much fun was National Convention? I don't know about you but, I had a great time as I'm sure many of you did. I'm already looking forward to next year's convention in Louisville, KY. I bet I will see many of you there too.

I am very proud to say that the Detachment of Kansas, Sons Of The American Legion were awarded an honor at National Convention. We beat the goal of \$1.00 per member for donations to the Child Welfare Fund. As we move forward, I would like to see this continue. The Sons Of The American Legion as a whole has contributed more than \$8,000,000.00 and counting to this fund. As you start seeing these little clear pigs around your posts, please, don't hesitate to drop in some spare pocket change.

Then, when they get full? Turn them in! Every Nickel is appreciated.

Also the S.A.L. this year is very proud to contribute monetarily and with man hours to The American Legion Family's Big Red 1 Turkey Run, as well as The American Legion Family's Operation North Pole. If you see Roger Beckley, ALR Chairman, running around, please take the time to pat him on the back for all the hard work he does for these 2 events. I'm very proud to work with a man who leads by example. I for one am a person that doesn't tell him this enough.

I hope to see you at some of the many District Homecomings that are coming up. Remember, we now have 9 Districts and a lot of great leaders in those districts that need our support.

In closing, I again would like to say thank you for the support that the Sons Of The American Legion gets from the rest of the American Legion Family. Without all of us, The S.A.L. sure wouldn't be able to accomplish the things we do.

Until Next Time "Always Remember the Mission"

**Veterans Day  
November 11  
2020**

**Legislative Reception**

Yes, I plan to attend The American Legion Legislative Reception, Jan. 15, 2020 in Topeka. Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_ (\$20 per person). Note: please list the name of each attendee.

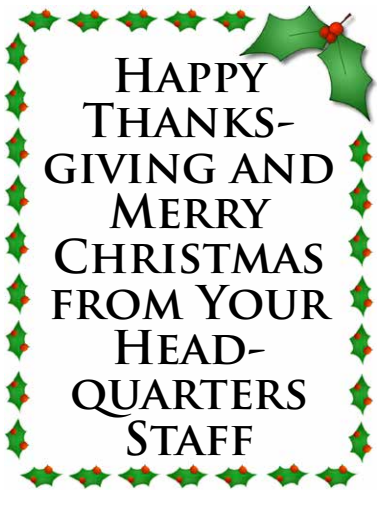
No, I am unable to attend. Enclosed is my donation of \$\_\_\_\_ to help make this American Legion function a success.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Dept. Headquarters  
1314 SW Topeka Blvd.  
Topeka, KS 66612



**HAPPY  
THANKS-  
GIVING AND  
MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
FROM YOUR  
HEAD-  
QUARTERS  
STAFF**

# + TAPS +

Alden, Robert (Korea)	Tonganoxie	Lanoué, Gerald (Korea)	Concordia
Amend, Charles (WWII)	El Dorado	Lewis, Donald (WWII)	Ulysses
Andrick, John (Korea)	Rossville	Lipari, Leonard (Grenada)	Ozawkie
Atchison, John (Korea)	Osage City	Lust, Frank (Korea)	Overland Park
Axtón, Leslie (Vietnam)	Alma	Maune, Neil (Vietnam)	McDonald
Bainter, Gayle (WWII)	Hoxie	McReynolds, Kenneth (WWII)	Hutchinson
Beech, Wayne	Chanute	Mealman, Raymond (WWII)	Overland Park
Blazek, James	Concordia	Melson, Larry (Vietnam)	Pratt
Boxler, Elmer (WWII)	Hoxie	Miller, George, Jr. (Korea)	Ellinwood
Bray, Everett (Vietnam)	Ulysses	Morton, Edwin (WWII)	Caney
Breault, Bernard (Korea)	Concordia	Murder, John, Jr. (WWII)	Kansas City #199
Brown, David (Korea)	Paola	Mussemán, George (WWII)	Dodge City
Brychta, Lester (Korea)	Barnes	Myers, Vernon (Korea)	Chanute
Burche, William (WWII)	Moran	New, Charles, Sr.	Stafford
Buss, Keith (Korea)	Concordia	Nicholson, Duane (WWII)	Topeka #421
Cason, Bob (Korea)	Iola	Oelschlager, Dale (Vietnam)	Barnes
Chapman, Howard (Korea)	Council Grove	Oglesbee, Bill (Vietnam)	Ellinwood
Church, Lee	Walnut	Osmundson, Mark (Vietnam)	Madison
Cicero, Joseph (Korea)	Frontenac	Otte, John (Korea)	Canton
Clapper, Marion (Vietnam)	Salina	Pivonka, Cyrill (WWII)	LaCrosse
Clark, Nola (WWII)	Pittsburg	Qualls, Raymond (Korea)	Baxter Springs
Cole, Donald (Korea)	Holton	Ransbottom, Gerald (WWII)	Independence
Cole, William (Korea)	Bazine	Reed, Fred (Korea)	Wichita
Crawford, Delmar (WWII)	Clifton	Reichmuth, Quinton (Korea)	Overland Park
Culver, Edward (Korea)	Whitewater	Reineri, Louis (Korea)	Pittsburg
Daise, Robert (WWII)	Goodland	Richardson, Archie (Korea)	Gardner
Davis, Allison (Vietnam)	McPherson	Rieger, Glenn (WWII)	Hiawatha
Davis, Calep (WWII)	Wathena	Roegboehn, Melvin (Korea)	Council Grove
Davis, Gary (Vietnam)	Topeka #400	Rogers, Gerald (WWII)	Republic
Deines, Weldon (Vietnam)	Herington	Rohrbaugh, Donald (Vietnam)	Pittsburg
Delzeit, David (Vietnam)	Colby	Runyan, Steve (Vietnam)	Concordia
Deters, Lester (WWII)	Corning	Sallee, Donald (Korea)	Troy
DeVault, Robert	Hutchinson	Sallee, Wesley (Korea)	Harper
Dillon, Ron (Korea)	Overland Park	Saubers, Jake, Jr. (Vietnam)	Yates Center
Dolezal, George (WWII)	Salina	Sawdy, Richard (WWII)	Overland Park
Dusil, Antone (WWII)	Kansas City #199	Schramm, Leo (WWII)	Marysville
Ellner, Dean (Korea)	Hays	Schrock, Billy (Korea)	Hutchinson
Erickson, Keith (Korea)	Olathe	Schwertfeger, Kenneth (Korea)	Smith Center
Eylander, Seymour (WWII)	Topeka #400	Scruggs, John (Vietnam)	Baldwin
Farkas, Frederick	Overland Park	Seibel, Stanley (WWII)	Bucklin
Fields, Norman (Vietnam)	Emporia	Serra, Tomas (Vietnam)	Frontenac
Fife, Robert (WWII)	Yates Center	Shelton, Lesley (Korea)	Troy
Fincham, Chester (Korea)	Frankfort	Smith, John, Jr. (WWII)	Wathena
Fischli, Richard (Korea)	Logan	Spain, Herbert, Jr.	Council Grove
Florance, Lenard (Korea)	Vermillion	Sterling, Robert (Vietnam)	Yates Center
Frakes, Roger (Vietnam)	Ozawkie	Strahm, Donald (Vietnam)	Sabetha
Frazier, Duane (Korea)	Garnett	Stroup, Nick (Vietnam)	Topeka #400
Garrison, Dale (WWII)	Concordia	Stutesman, Roy (Korea)	Emporia
Garst, Dennis (Vietnam)	Salina	Thomas, Gilbert (Vietnam)	Goodland
Garten, Perry (WWII)	Garden City	Thomas, James, Jr. (WWII)	Pittsburg
Gaug, Kenneth, Jr. (Vietnam)	Harper	Thyer, Edwin (Vietnam)	Iola
Gillespie, Dana (Vietnam)	Lebo	Tomcan, Glen (Korea)	Overland Park
Givens, Michael (Vietnam)	Wellington	Trahoon, Rolland	Rossville
Gorton, John (WWII)	Chanute	Tuckwin, Tommy (Vietnam)	Mayetta
Gouty, Pamela (Persian Gulf)	Vermillion	Turner, Thomas (WWII)	Hutchinson
Hanson, Charles (WWII)	Axtell	Urban, Wendlin (WWII)	LaCrosse
Harrell, Leslie (Korea)	Baldwin City	Valerio, Gilbert, II (Grenada)	Garden City
Heideman, Gerald (WWII)	Corning	Vancleave, Kenneth (WWII)	Erie
Heideman, Ken (Vietnam)	Corning	Vowinckel, William (Vietnam)	Glen Elder
Hertzler, Neil	Gardner	Walker, Lloyd (WWII)	Grainfield
Hitchcock, David (Vietnam)	Topeka #400	Walters, Patrick (Korea)	Hays
Hofts, Glenn (WWII)	Republic	Webb, Melvin (WWII)	Hugoton
Horttor, Carl (Vietnam)	Paola	Weible, Wayne (Vietnam)	Topeka #421
Huff, Glenn (WWII)	Overland Park	Wells, Ralph (WWII)	Clay Center
Iiams, Jack (WWII)	Overland Park	Wente, David (Vietnam)	Topeka #400
Johnson, Donald (WWII)	McPherson	Wetzel, Edgar (Korea)	Great Bend
Johnson, Wilbur (WWII)	Norton	White, Harold (WWII)	Scott City
Jolley, Joseph (Vietnam)	Shawnee	Whitmore, Kent (Vietnam)	Topeka #58
Keener, Samuel (Korea)	LaCrosse	Wilhite, Mike (Vietnam)	Emporia
Kepley, James (Vietnam)	Ulysses	Williams, James, Jr. (Vietnam)	Waverly
Kerns, Kenneth	Topeka #400	Wollenberg, Ernest	Hanover
Knoblauch, Alphons (WWII)	Cheney	Zimmerman, Peter (Korea)	Grainfield
Koehn, Claude (Korea)	McPherson	Zimmerman, Robert (WWII)	Council Grove
Kusek, Louis (WWII)	Overland Park	Zugelder, Tom	Concordia
Lackey, Joseph (Gulf War)	Dodge City		

## DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



**Glenn  
Patterson**



### We Will Never Forget

Today is September 11, 2019, eighteen years earlier the United States of America was attacked bringing death and destruction on American soil. I like many of you who read this article will also remember the "shock and awe" that America woke up to.

The phrase reminds me of World War II, when Japan attacked the ships in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; we will never forget. President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared, "this day will live in infamy". The citizens of America and the allied forces of America rallied in support to avenge the attack by Japan.

It is also worth noting that the military Imperial of Japan replied when he was notified that Japan had stopped their attack; due to the lack of the element of surprise. "I fear that we have awakened a sleeping giant".

The element of surprise was on America eighteen years ago. I fear that in many aspects America has fallen asleep again.

In respect to Japan's military attack Isoroku Yamanoto who was the commander in chief of Japanese Combined Fleet was praised for his brilliant attack against America. It has been 78 years since the attack by Japan; it has been 18 years since America was attacked by Iraq.

Today, Americans go about our normal everyday activities, seemingly without a care in the world. It is with this uncertainty that we do so to our peril. In our times of uncertainty we can always call upon the Sovereignty of Almighty God who through the spiritual resources that are always available to us: Scripture, prayer, and the loving advice of fellow Christians.

"This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessing's and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live." Deuteronomy 30:19

It is For God and Country that we associate ourselves together.

Chaplain R Glenn Patterson  
Reflections from writings; Stories of Faith and Courage from World War II

By Larkin Spivey

# VICE COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING

## HONORING:

Marri Krupko - Department Vice Commander  
Annette Scheaffer - Department Auxiliary Vice President  
Tom Wallsmith - S.A.L Detachment Vice Commander

**Saturday, October 12, 2019**

Greyhound Hall of Fame  
407 South Buckeye, Abilene

Meal provided by Snuffy's Barbeque will be served  
immediately following the Eisenhower Pilgrimage.

\$15.00 per person, \$18.00 if paid after October 8th, 2019  
Children ten and under \$8.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Meals : Salisbury Steak \_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_

Guest Names \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Unit/Squadron \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:**  
**Marri Krupko**  
**510 E Main St.**  
**Blue Mound, KS 66010**

## KANSAS SUNFLOWER LEGIONNAIRE

**Jimmie L. Foster, Editor**

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**News deadline is the 15th of March, June, September and December for the next issue.**

### THE AMERICAN LEGION

### VA HOSPITAL SERVICE OFFICERS

Robert J. Dole Regional VA Medical Center, Wichita  
Local: 316-688-6814, Toll Free: 888-878-6881 Ext. 56814  
Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center, Leavenworth  
Local: 913-758-4297, Toll Free: 800-952-8387 Ext. 54297  
Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center, Topeka  
Local: 785-350-4489, Toll Free: 800-574-8387 Ext. 54489

## 39th ANNUAL EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE

Enclosed is our payment for a rose to be placed at the  
Eisenhower Memorial on Saturday, October 12, 2019.

Purchaser \_\_\_\_\_  
Post - Unit - Other (Please be Specific)

No. of Roses \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$10 for each rose requested)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Person Placing the Rose

\_\_\_\_\_ Please appoint an appropriate individual to place our rose.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Day Time) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

### RECEPTION & DINNER

**Chapman Post #240**

**Friday, October 11**

**6:00 PM Social - 7:00 PM Dinner**

No. of Dinner Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$15 per person)

### MAIL TO:

EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE  
1314 SW Topeka Blvd.  
Topeka, KS 66612

## DEPARTMENT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 7, 2019

Hutchinson Post 68

730 W 4th St.

**Social Hour - Noon**      **Singing Group - 2:15 PM**  
**Lunch - 1:00 PM**      **Max \$10 Gift Exchange Game**  
**Pearl Harbor Remeberance Ceremony**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Number in party @ \$15.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Children 10 and under \$8.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Names \_\_\_\_\_

Tickets may also be purchased directly from Hutchinson Post 68

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to:

Mail to: Chuck Shoemaker  
PO BOX 3277  
Shawnee, KS 66203