

THE ALABAMA LEGIONNAIRE

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF ALABAMA

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

January 12-15, 2017

This year's conference will be held in Montgomery, Alabama at The Embassy Suites hotel. To make reservations please call 334-269-5055 and give them *this* code **LDA** to ensure you get our rate of \$115.00. The cutoff date for reservations is **December 12, 2016**. Please call today and make your reservations. With each room night you will receive a free breakfast and a two-hour manager's reception in the bar area. There will also be a banquet on Saturday the 14th, you will find.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us.



**FROM THE
DEPARTMENT
OFFICERS AND
STAFF!**

**DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS
WILL BE CLOSED**

**DECEMBER 22-27,
2016**

&

**DECEMBER 30 –
JANUARY 3, 2017**



Commander's Corner

Dear American Legion Family,

Montgomery, Alabama....The American Legion Department of Alabama Family will kick off the New Year at the Mid-Winter Conference 12 – 15 January 2017 at the Embassy Suites in Montgomery.

Why should you attend?

Everything we do in life is an investment and when we invest, we expect a reasonable return. We eat to create energy. We save to insure a future. We develop relationships to sustain our spirit and belonging....and the list goes on.

The Mid-Winter Conference is an investment in the tools will build the foundation of success for you, your Division, District and Post.

As with any investment, success is measured in results. Department data shows that the posts that attend conferences and conventions have the best membership performances and typically the most effective community programs. There is a great deal that can be learned at these gatherings and contribute in the process.

Our membership results are falling short of our goals. We are doing a good job in recruiting but are challenged when it comes to renewals. Please concentrate on retention and use the proven tool of personal contact to encourage those who have not renewed to do so.

December Thought:

“Believe you can and you are halfway there.” – Theodore Roosevelt

“Don't assume anyone knows anything unless you tell them yourself” – COL J.C. HARDEE USMC

Respectfully,

Jim Jeffries
Commander
The American Legion
Department of Alabama



Sr. Vice Commander Comments

“Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmas-time.” Laura Ingalls Wilder, American Author.

This is an exciting time of the year. We can enjoy each other with holiday love and cheer. It's a time of joy in our hearts, especially as we watch our children and grandchildren dream of the treasures for Christmas day.

The year of 2016 is coming to a close. We need to find a new focus for our membership drives starting in January. The district membership focus isn't as productive as planned. We are hopeful for new energy and enthusiasm for 2017 to grow our membership. Membership is vital to any organization.

I've had the opportunity to participate in some of the district membership drives. Some of the conversations focus on the increased dues as an issue for not renewing. I must say that the rising cost of doing business is a reality. We experience increased costs on housing, utilities, taxes, merchandise and more. However, many of us don't see our income increasing.

The membership dues are around the same ballpark as annual dues for other international non-profit organizations such as Kiwanis International, Lions Club, Jaycees, etc. These are great organizations that do great things in the world and our local communities, but only the American Legion focuses on our veterans. We need to work to keep our organization strong and powerful. We need to continue to be the voice of all veterans. Our membership numbers indicate the strength of our voice.

Please tell the Legion story of how we have fought and continue to fight for veteran issues, improved procedures in processing VA claims and timely, efficient medical services. Most veterans have probably used VA benefits for healthcare, education and/or housing loans. Many of those benefits are available because of the American Legion. Just think about the value and benefit of those services to all our veterans at the cost of less than 14 cents per day per member.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the Mid-Winter Conference in January. Don't forget to make your reservations. Our Adjutant, Greg Akers, has a fun night planned with games and activities. You may want to form a team and throw out some challenges.

I wish each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. I'm looking forward to growing the American Legion to a well-deserved high level of prominence.

Let me know if I can help with events and activities happening in your areas. I can be reached via email at svice.commander@legional.org or stacey36542@gmail.com, or by phone at 334-424-7138. If I don't answer, then please leave a message.

Act to Inspire,

Donna K. Stacey
Senior Vice Commander

Jr. Vice Commander Comments

Merry Christmas Legionnaires and Veterans,

November was a busy month, starting with Veterans programs in Bessemer, Alabama and ending with press conferences in Montgomery, Alabama, and parades all over the state. The Department of Alabama American Legion was well represented by all the 163 posts throughout the state.

As your Jr. Vice Commander, it is my duty to support the Department Commander's goals and to encourage you to help make membership our primary goal. It is time that we, the American Legion Department of Alabama, return to our rightful place at the top of the national membership ladder. So, I ask you, "How bad do you want it?" The American Legion Department of Alabama has been on the leading edge of Veterans advocacy in the State of Alabama for decades. With so much hanging in the balance, from healthcare and benefits to claims and appeals, Boys State program, Oratorical contest, to supporting all the programs that we run, so again, I ask you the question, "How bad do you want it?" There has never been a more critical time for your involvement and engagement with membership renewal. So I ask and encourage you to familiarize yourself with the American Legion Handbook, "Why You Should Belong?", where the question, "How bad do you want it?" can be answered because we are the largest war time Veterans organization in the world.

And while we celebrate the Veterans and their families, the holiday season represents a time to celebrate and reflect on the past and to embrace change for the New Year. This is a call to action, because far too many Veterans and their families, this time of year, will not be joy filled. Homelessness, unemployment, underemployment, and struggle with both physical and emotional pain can leave many of our Nation's finest in distress. That is why membership is so important. More membership, more power to reach more Veterans and their families. We can do a great deal as a Veterans' organization, but we can't underestimate the power of personal interaction with one another. Veterans-to-Veterans, you may not be able to pull a family out of homelessness, but taking time to acknowledge their struggle and connect them with local resources can be a wonderful expression of compassion in a world that so desperately needs it. I hope you all enjoy a wonderful holiday season and that you keep each other in mind. But remember, what the National Commander, Charles E. Schmidt said: "While membership incentives are a few of the perks to recruiting, it's not always about earning rewards. It's about making sure that every Veteran has a place to go to find the people who understand what their experience has meant. It's ensuring that we have enough resources to provide for every Veteran, spouse and child so they can all enjoy the American dream that they themselves help pay for." How bad do you want it? This is a call to action!

Sincerely,

Leroy Davis Jr.
Jr. Vice Commander
Department of Alabama American Legion
For God and Country



Adjutant's Alley

NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND

Greg Akers
The American Legion
Department of Alabama



It's that time of year again Legionnaires. I hope everyone is ready for Christmas. Take time and enjoy your families and please remember those overseas defending our freedom. Let's all make an extra effort to help the families that have remained behind have a joy filled holiday. From my family to yours Merry Christmas!

With Christmas at our doors it is a reminder that our membership season is ending. After December 31st if you have not renewed your dues your membership is considered expired. So please make every effort to renew before if possible. If your membership goes to an expired status any free insurance or benefits will lapse and you must apply for coverage again. We can now put behind us this election year. Now is the time we move forward and remember how our preamble begins "We associate ourselves together!". Our organization is a "we" organization not an "I or me" if you find yourselves asking what can the organization do for you please step back and reevaluate the question. Our organization is an organization that gives to all. We protect and establish benefits for everyone. We reach out to veterans and families in need. We house the homeless, educate our youth, and create comradery while doing so. There is no satisfaction greater than the feeling of when you're able to affect the life of someone that needs a hand. This doesn't always mean monetary help. Sometimes all someone needs is a kind word, remember one word can often save a life. Reach out to our brothers and sisters and let us continue the Legacy of helping, caring, and loving.

Our Mid-Winter Conference is fast approaching. We will be focusing on the last membership push of the year. We will also be taking a different approach to a few things during training and meetings. One of the newest changes is an idea Kathy (our beloved membership clerk) devised. During our banquet, we will be having a game night and DJ for entertainment. The games will be things such as cornhole, washer toss, put-put and many more. These games will be mini fundraisers for committees and events of the Department. You do not have to purchase a banquet ticket to take part of the games but you must present your banquet ticket to enjoy the buffet. Banquet tickets will be \$35.00 and will include entry to game night. For those simply wishing to enjoy game night entry will be \$5.00. Tickets to play each game will be \$1.00 each. So please come out and support our programs and enjoy the comradery. I look forward to seeing you there.

Please continue to help spread the word on our brick fundraiser for the Department restoration of the Alabama War Memorial. Go do www.LegionAL.org.

NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND!

Greg Akers, Department Adjutant

FROM THE DESK OF WILLIS and CHRIS FRAZIER



Season's Greetings Fellow Legionnaires and Family,

Another good year for American Legion, Dept of Alabama is coming to an end. As we close out 2016, let us reflect on the many wonderful blessings that we enjoy.

Know that we are grateful that we continue to live in a free Country.

As we celebrate this holiday, please remember the service members that are away from their families.

Legionnaires, Thank You for your service to a grateful Nation.

May Peace, Joy, Love, and Happiness be yours during this Holiday Season and throughout the coming New Year.

For God and Country & God Bless,

Willis Frazier
National Executive Committeemen

Christana Hudson-Frazier
22nd District Commander and Women Veteran Coordinator

FROM THE CHAPEL

I cannot believe that another year has passed. It would seem that time is marked from Christmas till Christmas.

I remember being told years ago that it goes faster as we age and of course I am finding -it is true.

So--this year again we will display in our living room the three antique containers that contain the ancient gifts of the magi--"Gold-Frankincense-and Myrrh". The same minerals given on the first Christmas to the baby Jesus. The containers are small but still very powerful to me.

And-on the evening of Christmas Eve, which Linda and I always spend alone we will sit under our tree and exchange our gifts which are small and personal and we will be thankful for each other- for our family-our health-our many friends and-I will be especially thankful for all of you in the Legion. The association with all of you always returns me to my youth when everything was-"fore and aft" and-"port and starboard".I will always be grateful.

Let us all continue to pray for our country and each other. Remember "We are all in this craft and we must sink or swim together"

Merry Christmas and God bless you--

Duke



MEMBERSHIP NOTES

We must place more emphasis on our membership program!! We can no longer treat membership as "business as usual" at Post, District and Department levels! **A large American Legion membership is essential to our ability to serve veterans at local, state and national levels!** It provides us "strength in numbers" that our political leaders are aware of and respond to. Members enable us to have the manpower and financial resources necessary to support our veterans, their families, our communities, and conduct American Legion programs.

To achieve our membership goals, **we must have commanders at all levels engaged and informing their members of the importance of membership.** Yes, it takes work – phone calls, visits, letters, recruiting activities, community involvement, etc. This engagement should not be a one-time action, but take place throughout the year. Have a membership action plan that you can execute routinely. If you need any assistance, contact me or Adjutant Akers.

As of December 9, 2016, our Department has achieved 69.7% of our annual membership goal of 19,000. **We need 180 members to meet our 75% goal by December 12, 2016.** It has been a long time since we have not met this December goal! And we continue to slide downward in National membership competition – currently #36, down from #13 six weeks earlier. We can and must do better than this. It appears we may be allowing the \$5 dues increase to be used as an excuse for lower membership renewals. Remember the general membership voted on this increase, and we need to be able to explain this to our Post members. Please see the Senior Vice Commander's article in this newsletter regarding how our dues compare to other service organizations. This may help to explain the increase to your members who complain.

District membership revitalizations are still underway, and results have been encouraging. In fact, I am sitting in Scottsboro Post 30 while writing this, with 13th District Revitalization. There are about 2 revitalizations scheduled monthly from now through May 2017. **Post, District, and Division Commanders should be engaged in planning and conducting these events. The absence of Post Commanders from these events is most noticeable. Post Commanders and volunteers are both critical to success in these activities.** Please let me know if you have questions or need information.

We can achieve our membership goals. Several Posts have met or exceeded 75% of their goals, but there are too many Posts at a much lower level. Only 3 Districts have met their 75% goal. We need to focus on renewing members who have not yet renewed for 2017. Telephone calls and/or personal visits usually work very well. We want to keep as many of our current members as possible. Please don't sit back and wait for renewals to be mailed in – be proactive!! Remind those members not yet renewed that dues go up by \$5 in January 2017, so they can save \$5 by renewing their membership before the end of December 2016. Keep getting new members also.

"GREAT RESULTS COME FROM OUTSTANDING PLANNING, COMMITMENT, EXECUTION AND TEAMWORK"

RETAIN -- REINSTATE – RECRUIT

Wayne Stacey, Membership Commission Chairperson

From NEC Willis Frazier

The American Legion National Commander, Charles Schmidt, and his Aide visited Alabama Nov. 8-12, 2016. I escorted him on his 4 day tour. He was also accompanied by Alt NEC Rico Hall, Sr. Vice Cmdr Donna Stacey, Dept Adjutant Greg Akers, 22nd District Cmdr Christana Frazier, Past Dept. Cmdr Wayne Stacey, 21st District Cmdr Ron Bradstreet. The group was led by Legion Rider Tony Benenotto.

During his visit, the Commander visited Post 555, Post 171, and Post 347. He also toured The Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center where The American Legion Comfort Warrior presented \$6,100.00 in comfort items to Veterans at the VA and homeless Veterans. While in Alabama the Commander along with a group of Alabama Legionnaires watched the movie "Hacksaw Ridge".

Commander Schmidt was the guest speaker at the National Veteran Award Dinner. The American Legion was the host of the 2016 Veteran's Day and therefore the Commander was the leader for this year's parade. He also laid a wreath in Linn Park (in Birmingham) at the Raymond Weeks Memorial.

The Commander was very pleased with his visit. He said Alabama Legionnaires are doing great things and we should keep up the good work.

1. Legionnaires, there are some new changes to the American Legion Legacy Fund. It is now open to any dependents of 911 Veterans that have 50 percent disability or higher. It is on a need basis, up to \$20,000.00.
2. Our Washington Office has already met with President Elect Trump's transition team. The Legion is looking forward to working with them to better serve our Veterans.
3. Remember there is "Strength In Numbers". So we need to continue to push membership.

If you have any questions, please contact me. See you at Mid Winter Conference.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
NEC Willis Frazier



Organizational Meeting

The American Legion Department of Alabama

What: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

When: Saturday, January 14th, 2017

What Time: 9:00 AM – Until

Where: The Embassy Suites Hotel, Montgomery, AL

Department Mid-Winter Conference

Who: Invited Commission Members and ANY American Legion Member Interested in the Core Mission of The American Legion

Why: The purpose of the Department Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission is to ensure that plans, programs, and activities are in place to ensure the complete restoration of the veteran and his/her family to normal, or as near normal as possible, function and adjustment, physically, mentally, socially, and vocationally to the fullest possible life compatible with the veterans abilities.

For 98 years, The American Legion has stood by the mission above and it is time for the Department of Alabama to ensure that all Alabama veterans are receiving the benefits and health care that their service and sacrifice have earned them. We can only accomplish this mission if Legionnaires are willing to step forward and provide the leadership and service that is required.

**Mid-Winter Conference
January 12-15, 2017
Tentative Agenda**

Thursday, January 12, 2017

TBA

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Auxiliary Registration – **Conference Registration Area**
Legion and SAL Registration-\$15.00 – **Pre-function Area**
Legion Store – **Consulate Room**

Friday, January 13, 2017

TBA

TBA

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Auxiliary Registration – **Conference Registration Area**
Auxiliary Silent Auction – **Governor's Room**
Legion and SAL Registration – \$15.00 - **Pre-function Area**
Legion Store – **Consulate Room**
Auxiliary Meetings – **Embassy II**
Joint opening Session – **Embassy I & II**

Welcome Remarks

Commander Jim Jeffries

President Amanda James

SAL Commander Jeffrey Gibson

ALR Director John Burke

Children & Youth Auction – Mary Day Smith

Oratorical Meeting – Earnestine Doubek - **Embassy I**

Lunch own your own

Membership Meeting – Wayne Stacey - **Embassy I**

ALL DIVISION AND DISTRICT COMMANDERS

Training Meeting – Greg Akers - **Embassy I**

ALL DIVISION AND DISTRICT COMMANDERS, NALC Graduates

PR & Marketing - Jim Johnson/Tamara Brewer **Embassy I**

Const. & Bylaws Cmte. Meeting – Jay Snow – **State Boardroom**

District Commander Meeting – Jim Jeffries – **Embassy I**

1st Time Conference Attendees, Happy Hour Discussion –

Donna Stacey

SAL Commander's Advisor Meeting – **State Boardroom**

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

5:30 pm

Saturday, January 14, 2017

TBA	Auxiliary Registration - Conference Registration Area
TBA	Auxiliary Silent Auction - Governor's Room
8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Legion SAL Registration – \$15.00 Pre-function Area
8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Legion Store - Consulate Room
8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Auxiliary Meetings – Embassy II
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Post Service Officer Training- Capitol Ball Room
9:00 am – 10:00 pm	SAL DEC Meeting – State Boardroom
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Chaplains Conference – Chaplain Duke Martin – Salon B
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Legion Meetings – Embassy I
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Legion Opening Ceremony – JROTC
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Guest Speaker – LTC Keyes Mecalf – Recruiting Commander
10:00 am – 3:00 pm	SAL Meetings – State Boardroom
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Membership Report – Wayne Stacey
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	District Commander's Report – ALL District Commanders (Report on status of District and plan of action for lagging posts)
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Boys State Commission Meeting Luncheon – Capitol I
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	ALR Meetings, John Burke – Salon A
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Legion Meetings Resume – Embassy I
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Boys State Report – Chairperson Judge Johnson
2:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Brick Fundraiser Report – Greg Akers/Mike Waters
2:15 pm – 2:30 pm	Veterans Retreat Report – Greg Akers/Roque Carmona
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Oratorical Report – Earnestine Doubek
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	ALR Report – John Burke
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Finance Comm. Mntg. – Ron Haygood – State Boardroom
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Banquet – Salon DEF2
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Game Night – Salon DEF2

Sunday, January 14, 2017

8:00 am – 9:00 am	Memorial Service – Salon ABC
9:30 am	DEC Meeting – Salon ABC

Dates for Upcoming Retention Team Visits

District 23	January 26-28, 2017
District 35	February 9-11, 2017
District 21	February 23-25, 2017
District 32	March 9-11, 2017
District 31	March 23-25, 2017
District 33	April 6-8, 2017
District 12	April 20-22, 2017
B/U	May 18-20, 2017

If you have any questions concerning the above dates, times, and places, please call Department Headquarters.

Registration

Post/Squadron # _____

Please register the below individuals for the Mid-Winter Conference at \$15.00 per person. **Due by January 5th.**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$ _____

Office use only

Check # _____ Date Received _____

Badges Printed _____

Dinner Buffet

Saturday, January 14, 2017

\$35.00

***Tossed Salad, Fruit Salad, Pasta Salad, Grilled Flank
Steak with Mushroom and Gravy, Wild Rice Stuffed
Chicken, Rolls, Chef's Choice Dessert, and Drink***

Due to Department Headquarters by January 5th

Name: _____

Please reserve _____ tickets at \$ 35.00 = \$ _____

Office Use Only

Check # _____ Date Paid _____

Tickets Printed _____



Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Alabama
Official Call
For
Mid – Winter Conference
2016 - 2017

As per the Constitution and By- Laws, Commander, Jeffery L. Gibson Sr., calls for a Mid-Winter Conference of all Squadrons and Detachment Officers. The Conference will be January 13th thru 15th, 2017, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 300 Tallapoosa Street. Montgomery, AL, 36104.

Business to come before the Mid-Winter Conference: Guest speaker, Department of Alabama Sr. Vice Commander, Donna K. Stacey, Officer Reports, Committee Reports, Adjutants workshop, Vote on resolutions approved at the Fall DEC and the acceptance of any resolutions received by the Adjutant no later than December 15th 2016.

This call includes all *elected and appointed Officers, Committee members, Past Detachment Commanders, and Squadron Delegates.* Delegate strength will be decided by the 2017 membership report as of December 31st 2016. No squadrons will be seated if their membership for 2017 is zero. Please be sure your membership is received at Department no later than January 6th 2017. **A 2017 Membership Card is required for admittance.**

The Sons of The American Legion Mid-Winter Conference will begin on Saturday the 14th at 10:00 A.M. CST. Committee meetings will be held at 10:45 A.M.; the Finance Commission along with any other Committee wishing to meet will meet at 1:00 P.M.:

Membership: Blair Miles, Chair; members include all Vice Commanders, and Squadron Commanders.

VA&R: Thomas Glander, Chair; members include Matt Gaff, Buddy Miller and Squadron delegates.

Convention & Activities: Blair Miles, Chair; members include Vice-Chair, Willie Dupree and John Burke

Constitution & By-law (Resolutions): Buddy Miller, Chair; members, TBA

Americanism: Terry Robinsky, Chair; members include Vice-Chair, Ron Haygood, Steve Bowling and Squadron delegates.

Finance Commission: Andrew Cherry, Chair; members include Vice-Chair, Steve Bowlin, Jeremy Blevins, Willie Dupree and Blair Miles.

Commanders Advisory: Matt Gaff, Chair; members include, Steve Bowling, Ron Haygood, Buddy Miller, any other Past Detachment Commanders, Jeff Gibson and Adjutant, Andrew Cherry.

Any questions contact, Detachment Adjutant: Andrew Cherry at saldacherry@aol.com or (334) 354-0624.

Christmas

Christmas is just around the corner. It is a happy time of the year. Families' getting together, Christmas carols being sung, Lights on all the houses, and of course Santa's everywhere.

This day was made special in Honor of the birth of Christ. God gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have ever lasting life. He died on the cross and rose from the dead. He died for our sins and rose to prove of life after death. What a great present God our Father gave us.

When we hear, Christmas Carols being sung, and see all the lights, let this be in Honor of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you hear Happy Holidays respond with Merry Christmas, you don't have to be Politically correct. Give Honor to God. Please remember our troops and their families, and our Nation in prayer.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Terry Robinsky, Chaplain
Detachment of Alabama
Sons of American Legion



SAL Detachment Commander, Jeff Gibson and SAL VC Area 4, David Duffey, visit Tuskegee Veterans Nursing Home for Thanksgiving with SAL Gifts for Vets.





Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Alabama
PO Box 1069
Montgomery, Al 36101

Subject: Donations to Commander Jeffrey L. Gibson Sr. project; **SAL Gifts for Vets.**

Dear American Legion Family,

Over the past year Commander Gibson's project **SAL Gifts for Vets**, have benefited Veterans at both the Tuskegee V.A. Nursing Home and the Bill Nichols State Veterans Home. Gifts of personal care products, snacks, socks, T-shirts, and other gifts, have all been a blessing to both the Veterans and the hospitals. Without your support we could not provide for the smaller niceties that make hospitalization more bearable. Your thoughtfulness also reflects the concern and compassion that the American Legion Family feels for our Veterans.

Any business, individual, Squadron, Unit or Post that would like to help support Commander Gibson's Project, **SAL Gifts for Vets** or have any questions, please contact;
Detachment Commander, Jeffrey L. Gibson Sr. 334-614-4777

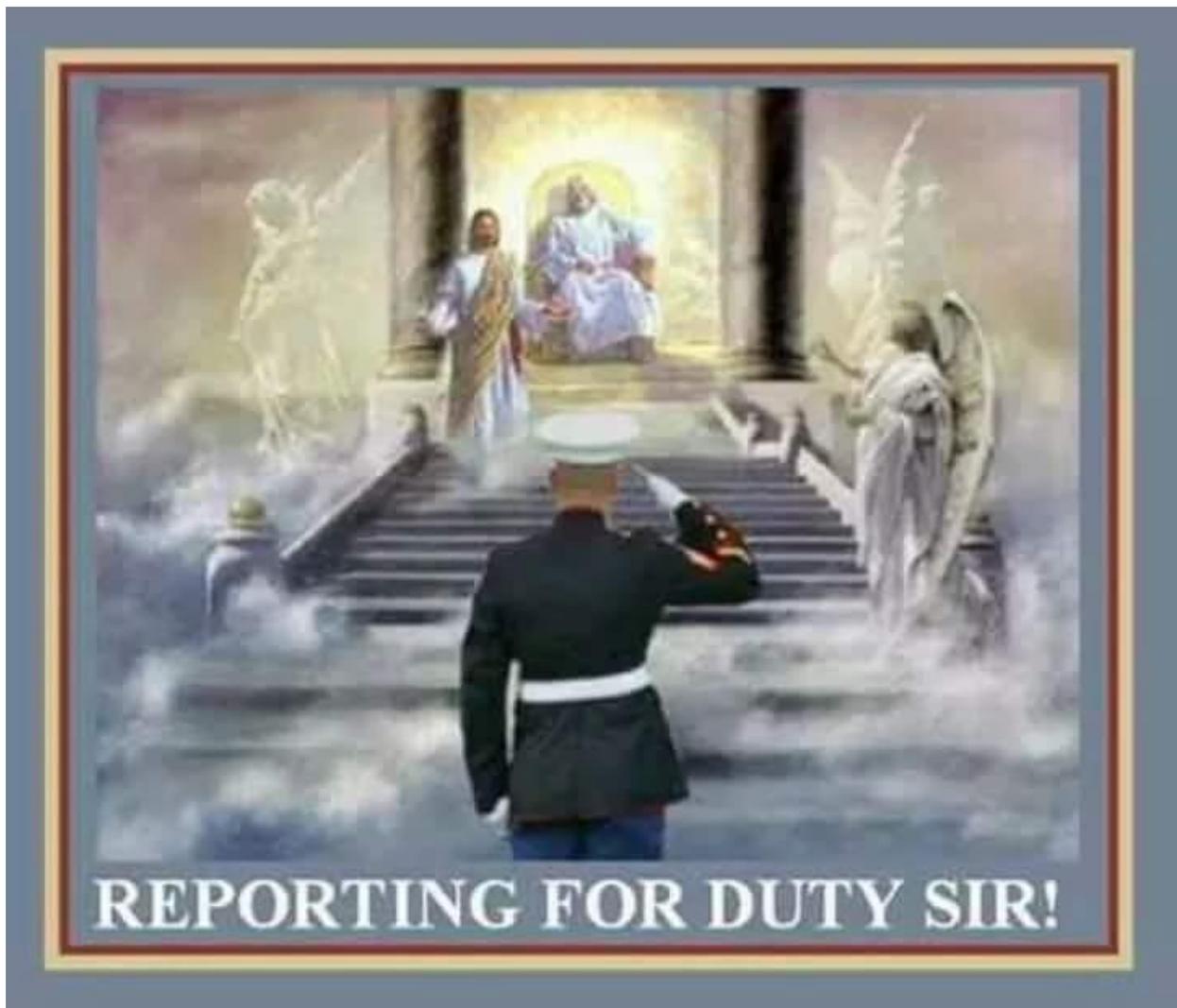
You may send checks of donation to:

SAL Gifts for Vets
PO Box 1069
Montgomery, Al 36101

Thank you for your continued support,

For God and Country,

Andrew Cherry, Adjutant
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Alabama
saldacherry@aol.com



The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Alabama, would like to send God's Blessings this Holiday Season to all who have loss love ones, from our hearts to yours.

Gone But Not Forgotten.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Alabama National Cemetery
Montevallo, Alabama
8th Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony
December 17, 2016
11:00am



Alabama National Cemetery 2011

Each wreath honors all servicemen and women for their selfless sacrifice and that of their families who are without loved ones during the holidays.

REMEMBER—HONOR—TEACH

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”

*—Ronald Reagan
40th President of the United States (1911-2004)*

Please join the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Alabama and our American Legion Family as we support this special occasion.

Thank you for your support,

Andrew Cherry, Adjutant/Finance Officer

Sons of The American Legion

Detachment of Alabama

saldacherry@aol.com



Flag Respect

The American Legion is concerned about the blatant disrespect for our National Anthem, the flag and everything it stands for. It has become fashionable among professional athletes and we have seen this spill over to college and high school athletics, as well.

To address this concern during American Legion programs, the National Executive Committee passed Resolution No. 16, ***Expectations for Rendering Proper Respect When Participating in Programs of The American Legion***, brought forth by the Americanism Commission, during the 2016 Fall Meetings. This resolution encourages all post and department program chairmen or directors of any American Legion program to make clear to all participants, in advance of program participation, that The American Legion has the expectation for rendering proper respect to the Flag of the United States, at all times, including during the National Anthem, and that if any participant of any program of The American Legion cannot, or will not, live up to this expectation, the individual should not be a participant in American Legion programs.

For individuals participating in American Legion programs at the national level, the resolution states that those who “cannot or will not” meet the organization’s expectations for proper flag respect “will be removed from the program and not be allowed any further participation.”

Through our Americanism programs, Legionnaires have an extraordinary opportunity to continue to lead by example and to help raise this, and future, generations to show proper respect for our nation and for all who have fought and died for our way of life.

We can do this by continuing to be steadfast examples of what it means to be proud Americans and to perpetuate 100% Americanism by: teaching youth about American values; encouraging new citizens to assimilate into one American culture; teaching veteran appreciation and flag etiquette in schools; upholding respect for law enforcement and the rule of law; practicing good citizenship by voting and encouraging others to exercise their civic duty; and the list for leading by example could go on and on.

Read the full text of Resolution No. 16 by clicking [here](http://www.archive.legion.org) (www.archive.legion.org).



Contact Us

The American Legion
Americanism Division PO
Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

317-630-1203
americanism@legion.org
www.legion.org

Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Alabama
56 Poorhouse Road
Seale, Alabama 36875
Detachment Commander Jeffrey L. Gibson Sr.
334-614-4777

A message from the commander of the Sons of the American Legion

Greetings:

My topic this month is:

SETTING THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE

Serving as a role model is one of the most important functions of an effective leader.

The leader see an example.

Whether in the Military or in civilian life, the other people in the organization take their cue from the leader-not from what the leader says, but what the leader does.

Everyone in the organization is a "leader watcher." The leader js always in a glass house, and that's a lonely position. People pay attention to what the leader says, they pay even more attention to what he or she does.

General Colin Powell: You can issue all the memos and give alt the motivationat speeches you want, but if the rest of the people in your organization don't see you putting forth your best effort every single day, they won't either.

"Leadership is not rank, privilege, titles, or money, It is responsibility."

Service to our Veterans, Pass, Present and Future

For God and Country

Jeffrey L. Gibson Sr.

Jeffrey L. Gibson Sr.

Detachment Commander

Sons of the American Legion



MySAL for Squadrons

Sons of The American Legion squadron adjutants and officers now have access to membership information, reports and electronic membership tools at www.mySAL.org.

The American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis developed the website to mimic myLegion.org, which assists post and district officers with their membership needs.

The new mySAL.org site allows members to:

- Search for members by name or ID number
- See payment history for all members
- Find contact information for all members
- View, download and print rosters of current, expired, deceased, undeliverable and current-paid membership
- View and edit squadron membership information
- Locate a squadron

To access mySAL.org, download the [registration form here](#). The form requires approval signatures from both the squadron and post adjutants before it's sent to National Headquarters. Once national staff verify officer signatures and receive approval from the department, they will email instructions on how to create a mySAL.org account that requires a username and password.

The squadron adjutant on file at National Headquarters is the administrator of the site, but sign-on credentials can be shared.

For God and Country,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew E. Cherry".

Andrew Cherry, Adjutant
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Alabama saldacherry@aol.com



MySAL – Squadron Sign Up Form

The American Legion National Headquarters has designed a FREE and secure internet site to assist Squadron Adjutants in their day-to-day membership processing duties. This site serves as a direct portal from the local squadron to National Headquarters' membership system.

Features include:

-  View and Edit squadron membership
-  Generate reports
-  Reports available in CSV file format allowing users to work with the data in other applications such as Microsoft Excel and Access
-  Squadron Inquiry

Payment process for individual membership dues does not change. Your Squadron must continue to transmit membership cards and dues payments to your State Headquarters.

Fill out this form and mail or fax to us to register. Please type or print.

Yes! We would like to sign up for MySAL Officers Portal:

State _____

Squadron Number

Contact Information: *Does not have to be Squadron Adjutant. The information below indicates who to call with any questions and where to send correspondence and registration instructions once authorization to release data is received from the state headquarters.*

Phone #:

E-mail **(required)** _____
Contact Name:

ID#:



Signature *required*, **must be Squadron Adjutant only**

Member ID#

Printed Name

If You're a Member In Good Standing With Your Department of The American Legion...



Endorsed by
Your Department of
The American Legion

You are eligible for LegionCare; \$5,000.00 in Accidental Death Insurance at NO COST TO YOU if a covered accident occurs while traveling on official Legion business*, or \$1,000.00 at NO COST TO YOU for all other covered accidents. This has been arranged on

your behalf by Your Department of The American Legion.

As soon as your enrollment is received, LegionCare will take effect, and will continue through August 31, 2021. Your acceptance is guaranteed, so mail your coupon today.

For immediate coverage, enroll online at www.TheLIT.com/No-Cost-LegionCare

Cut out this section and mail it in today to enroll in LegionCare.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

DATE OF BIRTH / /

AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP CARD NO. _____

DEPARTMENT _____

EMAIL _____

*MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE
YOUR DATE OF BIRTH*

X

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Have you filled out *all* the above information?

Please mail to: **Legionnaire Insurance Trust • P.O. Box 26720 • Phoenix, AZ 85068-6720**

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Cut it out

Complete details of the coverage are contained in accident only Master Policy MZ0933569H0000A/0001A underwritten by Transamerica Premier Life Insurance Company Cedar Rapids, IA. This plan is not available in all states.

*For Purposes of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust, a member of The American Legion, with current year's dues paid, could be eligible for the \$5,000 Accidental Death benefit if he/she is traveling to, attending, or returning from an official function at which the Legionnaire represents his/her Post, District, Department, or National Organization in an official capacity.

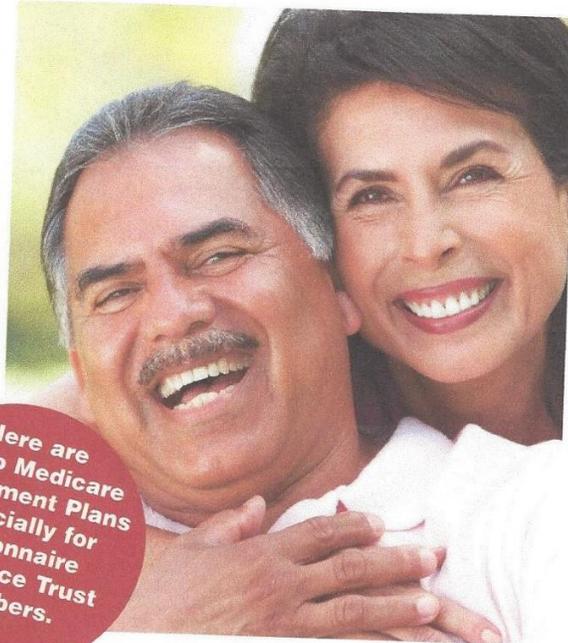
How will you pay for expenses that Medicare doesn't cover?

With the high cost of healthcare today, Medicare Supplement insurance is becoming a necessity for more and more Americans. That's why it's good to know that you now have a choice of competitive Standardized Medicare Supplement plans, offered to members like you. And, all plans are underwritten by a company known for it's prompt, personal, responsive service.

Other features include:

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- Outstanding Customer Service available from courteous representatives ready to answer your questions
- Hassle-free claims processing in about 7 days
- Excellent service from a company with an A+ (Superior, 2nd out of 16 ratings) A.M. Best rating for financial stability as of 10/20/2014

Make sure you can pay for the expenses that Medicare doesn't cover and help protect your family's retirement savings. Apply today for the greater peace of mind you want, at competitive Legionnaire Insurance Trust member rates.



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COMPLETE AND RETURN THE REPLY CARD. OR, CALL 1-800-247-1771

(Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST)

Underwritten by: Transamerica Life Insurance Company (Cedar Rapids, IA), and Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company (Harrison, NY)

Not connected with or endorsed by the U. S. Government or Federal Medicare Program.

Legionnaire Insurance Trust Members Medicare Supplement Reply Card

For your **FREE** information kit on the Medicare Supplement Insurance Plans complete and return this coupon.

Name _____ DOB _____
 Spouse Name _____ Spouse's DOB _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Telephone (_____) _____

Send to: Medicare Supplement Processing Dept.
P. O. Box 1341
Valley Forge, PA 19482-9946

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