



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

6630 Crain Highway, PO Box 441, La Plata, MD 20646

October 2025

www.Alpost82.org

301-934-8221

Commander's Corner

Commander's Message: Welcome, Fall

By John Flatley, Commander, Post 82

I hope you all had an enjoyable and productive summer. As the days grow shorter and the temperatures dip here in Southern Maryland, it's a good time to renew our commitment to each other, to our Post 82 family, and to the wider veteran community. The American Legion's Four Pillars—Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth—are the backbone of our work, ensuring we stay strong for veterans, families, and our community.

2025–26 Goals Update

• Increase retention from 91% to 95%

As of September 19, we have 532 members — 66.25% of our 2026 goal of 803. Retention is strong at 66.29%.

• Grow membership from 795 to 835

The official Legion goal is 803, but we're pushing for 835 to ensure our long-term strength. New members are joining almost weekly, and I'm confident we'll reach our goal.

• Legion 101 Training: 50 Legionnaires

One member has completed this training. Will you take the step to learn more about your Legion?

• Be The One Training: Post 82 Family

Two members have completed this 90-minute Zoom. Several more have shown interest—see this newsletter for a special incentive.

What's Going on at Post 82?

Friday, October 3

Legion Steak and Fried Shrimp Dinner
5 – 6:30 PM

Friday, October 17

S.A.L. Baby Back Rib Dinner 5 – 6:30 PM

Friday, October 31

American Legion Riders Spaghetti Dinner
5 – 6:30 PM

Every Wednesday S.A.L. Queen of Hearts

Drawing in the Lounge at 6:45 PM

Every Thursday Auxiliary BINGO

Doors open at 4:30 PM

Thank You

A big thanks to everyone who volunteered at the Charles County Fair and the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs booths. We had great camaraderie, welcomed new members, reconnected with a lapsed member, and even received invitations to future events. If you'd like to help coordinate these opportunities, please reach out—I'd love your support.





Volunteer Opportunities

• Boys State Recruitment (2026)

Karen Himmelheber has been our POC for the past two years. She's unable to take the lead this year but is able to stay on in a support role. If you'd like to serve in the Children & Youth Pillar, as our Boys State POC, contact Adjutant Chris Zabriskie at zabriskiect@gmail.com.

• Membership Team

Jamie is seeking 2–3 members to join his retention and recruitment team. Plans include a family event and other activities to add to member value. Email Jamie at 82postlaplata@gmail.com if you're interested.

• Oratorical Contest

Chris Zabriskie is bringing back this national program for grades 9–12. Contest winners advance through District, Department, and possibly Nationals, with scholarship money at stake. We'll need judges, tabulators, and a timekeeper for our late-February event. Contact Chris at zabriskiect@gmail.com to get involved.

WILL YOU BE THE ONE?

One of my top goals this year is for **40 members of our Legion Family** to step up and complete the **American Legion Be The One** training webinar. This isn't just another class—it's a powerful, 90-minute Zoom session that could help save a life.

Through this training you will learn how to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to recognize those at risk.
- Spot key risk factors and warning signs.
- Understand the types of suicidal ideation and four urgent behaviors that indicate imminent danger.

Communicate with compassion and confidence when someone may be in crisis.

This opportunity is open to everyone in the Legion Family—Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders. Get more information and register for a on-line session here

<https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-training>

But wait, there's more: in addition to your official certificate of completion, I will also award you a **Be The One** coin and bumper sticker as a personal reminder of your commitment.



Don't wait. Be the one who makes a difference. Send your certificate to me and claim your place.

Thank you again for the privilege of serving as your Commander this year. Post 82 has a proud legacy and a bright future—we are truly better together.

Ready to Serve.

John
johnflatleyjr@gmail.com
 301.848.7664

1st Vice Commander's Corner

Hello, my fellow legionnaires!

And just like that we are closing out September, Post 82 is moving right along with membership. We currently have 532 members renewed for 2026 bringing our percentage to 66.25% with 271 needed to reach our goal of 100% membership.

Please take a moment to look at your membership card, if you do not have 2026 at the top, it is time to renew your membership. I ask you to do this today via www.MyLegion.org, mail your payment to the Post or drop off at the lounge. We are #1 in our membership category, 19th in the Department of Maryland, 6th in the Southern Maryland Region and 5th in District 6. Our renewal rate is fantastic at 66.29% with a goal of 95%, again please look at your card and renew today.

We are still building our membership committee of five members to produce ideas and events to boost and expand membership. If you would like to be a part of this team you can email me at 82postlaplata@gmail.com or text at 301-751-2822. If you have ideas for boosting our membership, please send them to me. I look forward to reaching our goals as quickly as possible so we can move this team onto other events within the Post.

Your 1st Vice Commander
Jamie Zayas
Always Serving



Adjutant's Corner

American Legion Post 82 Announces 2026 Oratorical Contest

American Legion Post 82 in La Plata is pleased to announce the 2026 High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest, a program designed to develop public speaking skills, deepen understanding of the U.S. Constitution, and provide scholarship opportunities for high school students.

Who Can Participate:

The contest is open to all high school students in grades 9–12.

- **Application Deadline:** Friday, Jan 9, 2026
- **Contest Date:** Saturday, Feb 28, 2026
- **Location:** American Legion Post 82

Contest Format:

Participants will deliver an 8–10 minute prepared oration on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. In addition, each contestant will present a 3–5 minute speech on one of the assigned constitutional topics, which will be drawn just before speaking.

For more details or to register, contact Post 82 at legionpost82laplata@gmail.com or call **Chris at 240-320-6694**, or scan the QR code for an application and more information.



This is a great opportunity for young people to sharpen their leadership and public speaking skills while competing for significant scholarships. Please encourage eligible students to apply!



Chaplain's Corner

As a greeter at my church, I frequently encounter first-time guests. Some of them are new to the area and seeking a local church home, while others are from the area and no longer find satisfaction with their current church, and then there are some who have never really had a church that they have regularly attended. How about you? Do you have a church home? Are you seeking one?

Many of the people I talk with about finding a church home seem a little uncomfortable in the process of "church shopping". I encourage them to visit multiple churches and seek a well-rounded fit. I compare the process to shopping for a new restaurant.

In this process, first and foremost, the food served must be healthy or you certainly won't be back. In church shopping, you need one that provides healthy Biblical food - the pastor's messages must be consistently well-grounded in the Bible.

The parallels of this comparison continue with other key factors including that while the restaurant you are trying has healthy food, if it isn't prepared and delivered in a style you enjoy, again you won't likely be back. If the church you are visiting's services are like the antiquated ones your grandparents attended and you prefer a more contemporary approach to worship, how likely are you to return? And how about the ambience of the restaurant? If you prefer a quiet dinner atmosphere, you're not likely to enjoy a sports bar arrangement with multiple TVs blaring various sports shows

and making conversation difficult, any more than you would enjoy a more charismatic church service scenario with people clapping loudly, shaking tambourines, and shouting "amens" and "halleluiahs" throughout it.

With all this said, I encourage you to find a healthy church home that appeals to you on multiple levels so that you are encouraged to attend it regularly and encourage others to join you in doing so. I close with the following Scripture verses:

Hebrews 10: 24, 25

24 "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Yours in Christ,
Paul Stockman, Chaplain
301-768-2514
papastockman@yahoo.com

Post Everlasting

Daniel J. "Dan" Stevens, a long-time member of the American Legion Post 82.

April 18, 1946 - September 7, 2025



Hello Twizzlers:

I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer. Please remember to send in your membership dues. The address to send your dues to is Ms. Anna Sexton, 5470 Dickinson Farm Place, Welcome, Maryland 20693-3616.

At our September 9th meeting we gave donations to the Victory Towns Celebration & Rochambeau Reception, An American 250 Event in the amount of \$2,000. We also donated to War Fighters in the amount of \$5,000, Mt. Hope /Nanjemoy Elementary School in the amount of \$1,500.00.

Fall conference is October 31st, November 1, 2. This will be held at the Grand Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland. The ladies that are going, myself, Mary Shaffer, Cathy Grimm, Kathie Flanagan, Edna Caywood, Darlene Willett, Angel Hindle, Janet Fogle, Maggie Larrick, Nancy Bryant, Rita Sexton, Amelia Lukhardt, Anna Sexton, and our new member Regina Brooks.

Please let Mary Shaffer know if someone is sick or has passed away. Mary's address is 132 Dulles Street, La Plata, Maryland 20646. Her telephone number is (301) 934-4372. I would like to send my sympathies out to Rita Sexton for the passing of her niece.

Our next meeting is October 14th at 6pm.

For Service not Self,
Lesley Radcliff
Unit 82 President



S.A.L. Monthly Meetings are held the First Tuesday of Each Month at 1800hrs

At the September Squadron meeting the members reviewed Detachment Commander Jason Miller's "Commander's Challenge" and decided to accept the challenge. The challenge is in the form of a BINGO card and each square is in support of a program or an activity. Squadrons may complete one line, vertical, horizontal, or diagonal, or they may complete

the entire card. Squadron 82 will try to complete the whole card.

I volunteered at the CHVH gift shop on September 5. The gift shop offers snacks and small gift items available to the residents, the staff, and visitors.

Only 80 dinners were served at the Squadron's baby back rib dinner on September 19. Thanks to Gary Shupe, Roy Yanosh, Alana Lentz, Lennie Lentz, Cathy Bryant, Kathleen Quade, and David Quade who volunteered their time. As you might have noticed, including myself, only three of the eight volunteers were Squadron 82 members. I want to give a special thanks to the others without who we could not continue to have our fundraisers where we make the money to support many American Legion and community programs. If you are a member and have a few hours on the 3rd Friday, come on out and lend a hand. Our next dinner will be a baby back rib dinner on October 17. Check the flier on the website, www.alpost82.org.

Thirty three units of blood were collected at the Squadron sponsored American Red Cross Blood Drive September 22. Thanks to Gale Willett and Gary Shupe for handling the registration and refreshment tables. The next Squadron sponsored blood drive will be November 24.

Gary Shupe and I worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the CHVH on September 22. Twenty five residents from the Assisted Living side attended. Three hundred sixty dollars were handed out in prizes. It's always great to interact with the residents and staff. The residents especially like the increased payouts.

The 2026 membership cards are available. The Squadron 2026 membership is currently 84 which is 38.5% of our goal of 217. Well done. We are ahead of schedule. If you plan to renew your membership, why wait, renew now.



Yours in Service,

Dave Tatman Commander, Squadron 82
tatman_david@comcast.net 301-752-8273



**ALR Meetings are held the
Second Thursday of Each Month at 1800hrs**

On Saturday September 13, the Riders manned the Post display booth at the Charles County Fair. It was great being out in the community to encourage new members and give the public some insight to all Post 82 does for our veterans and the La Plata community. I would like to thank everyone who gave some time to work the booth and those who set up a very eye catching and informative display.

On Saturday September 20, Karen(R.E.D.)Himmelheber organized our participation in The 6th Annual Veterans Last Patrol Honor Ride. So the Riders had 11 bikes and 13 people honored 8 veterans who reside at Morningside House in Smallwood Village. They spent time in fellowship with these young heroes putting a lot of smiles and happy faces on all 8 veterans. Afterwards they rode over to Napoli's to enjoy some lunch together. After lunch the Riders

visited 17 veterans at The Charleston Senior Living and handed out 17 certificates while enjoying some great time together. Great job Riders it's the little things that mean a lot.

On Saturday September 27, the Riders attended the MD State ALR Fall Meeting at Post 60 Laurel MD at high noon. This meeting gives all the ALR Chapters a chance to fellowship, discuss business and share the goings on at each Chapter with lunch being provided.

Mark your calendars for Friday Oct 31 for Spooky Spaghetti Dinner starting at 5pm. Come spend the evening with us so you do not have to hand out candy at home. That money you save can be put to the best spaghetti dinners in all of La Plata and Charles County for that matter. Cost of the dinner is still \$12 with proceeds going to veterans causes. Make sure to get your 50/50 drawing tickets before you eat so you can enjoy your winnings on a full stomach. As always The Riders want to thank you for your patronage and support of our dinners.

Upcoming Rides and Events:

Saturday, Oct 4 – Cruisin Southern MD - TBD
Saturday, Oct 25 – Day Ride Destination - TBD
Next ALR Meeting **Thursday, Oct 9** @ 1800

On behalf of Director Jeff Coombs, (Animal)

Respectfully Submitted,
Kevin (BIG SEXY) Bryant
Director

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Applications are due **April 15, 2026**
Scholarship Winners notified in **August 2026**
To be considered for a scholarship, the applicant must: be a **child or a grandchild** of a veteran and be a Maryland resident.

- Not attained their 20th birthday by Jan1, 2026
- Be a full-time student when he/she enters college (at least 12 credits per semester)
- Applicants may complete the online version of the application at <https://mdlegion.org/formspage.htm>

HARRY WHITE WILMER

IN REMEMBRANCE OF

First Lieutenant Harry White Wilmer is the namesake of our American Legion Post 82. He was born in La Plata MD January 27th, 1890 to General Lemuel Allison and Mary (Fergusson) Wilmer.

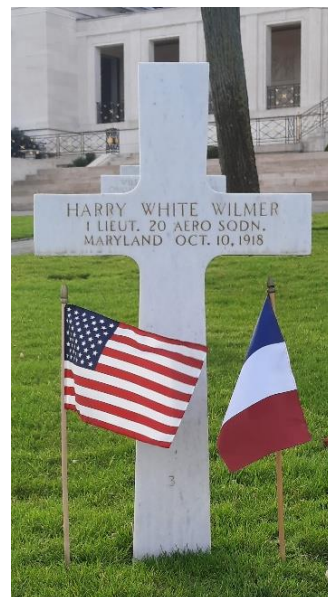
Before America entered the war, in 1914 he enlisted with the Canadian Corps under the British Empire to fight Germany. He was wounded fighting at Vimy Ridge front line trench; was returned to Canada in 1916 and awarded the Military Medal by His Majesty the KING.



Lt Wilmer was Killed-In-Action October 10th 1918 as an Aerial Observer along with his Pilot, 1Lt William Clarkson Potter, Jr. They were flying a de Havilland DH-4 biplane observation and bomber aircraft in the Meuse River-Argonne Forest Offensive in France, just days before the Armistice of November 11, 1918.

Initially they were buried by the Germans at Barricourt, Ardennes, near Stenay. Upon discovery they were disinterred and now they RIP permanently side-by-side at the [Suresnes American Cemetery](#) near [Paris](#) France.

Then he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Service, later Army Air Corps, with the 20th Aero (a.k.a. the Mad Bolshevik) Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces.



American Battle Monuments Commission

(ABMC) maintains 26 permanent American military cemeteries, 31 federal memorials, monuments and markers, in 17 countries throughout the world. They continue to care 24/7/365 for more than 200,000 American service members still **Over There**.



SURESNES AMERICAN CEMETERY

They say, we were young. We have died.
Remember us. They say, we leave you our
deaths: give them their meaning. Your
presence will do just that. For the very
character of a country can be determined by
the way it takes care of its war dead and is a
measure of its very heart and soul.



Orders are now being taken for the Wreaths Across America wreath laying at Cheltenham Maryland Veterans Cemetery on December 13, 2025. Volunteers from Post 82 will once again participate in laying wreaths for those Post 82 members who have gone before us, as we have done for many years. Auxiliary Unit 82 is once again leading our Post efforts and participating in the "3 for 2" program. For every two wreaths purchased using our account, a third wreath will be donated by WAA. Our goal is to place a wreath on all our Post Everlasting interred at Cheltenham (over 100 at last count). The wreaths are available for a 100% tax deductible donation of just \$17 each (2 for \$34).

Order online at

www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/MD0136

or by check made out to

Wreaths Across America and mailed to:

WAA, L. Rollins, Group Leader

114 Dulles St

La Plata, MD 20646

Thank you in advance for supporting our efforts to be sure all our Post Everlasting members are remembered and recognized this year.

Linda Rollins

WAA Group Leader Auxiliary Unit 82

