



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

April 2023

Alpost82.org

American.Legion4@verizon.net

301-934-8221



Commander's Message

Wow! Post 82 has been busy the past month and April looks to be even busier! In between our regularly scheduled Friday dinners we will be hosting American Legion Posts of the Southern Maryland Region for the annual Oyster Bowl on April 15th. Tickets are still available in the lounge for just \$40 per person. This event usually has an attendance around 200 people. We will serve oysters raw, steamed, and fried! Of course, we need a lot of help to pull off a successful event. Thanks to Buddy and Angel Hindle for stepping up to lead this effort.

I encourage you to volunteer by clicking on this link <https://bit.ly/Oyster-Bowl-2023>. There are several positions available; everything from set up to shucking, cooking & serving, clean up, etc. If you'd rather, contact Buddy or Angel to get your name on the list. Advance registration for volunteers is appreciated but not required. If you show up to work, we'll find a spot for you.

Thanks to our Adjutant Dave Black and 1st Vice Harry Tafe for the time and energy they put into their positions here at the post. There's no way I could do this work by myself, and both men work tirelessly to ensure our post is running at peak efficiency. Please take a moment to share your thanks with them.

I'd also like to thank the men who helped Harry in March making buddy check calls and updating our membership records. They took a list of over 170 members who were showing delinquent on our rolls and contacted as many as they could. Sadly, we identified some members who have passed to Post Everlasting. We also had several members who had lost touch with the post and were happy to hear from us. Please be sure to check in on members and let us know if your contact information changes so we can stay in touch. Of course, I'd like to see all of you at the Post. We have many opportunities for service, great dinners, and fun events for all.

Thank you to all who served at our monthly dinner March 3rd. We had a great turnout and plenty of help. We sold over 100 shrimp dinners. Thank you to Bobby Cooper of Marie's Diner for donating supplies for cole slaw and especially to Dave Taman for making it. Dave's cole slaw is delicious and sought after by dinner attendees.

One upcoming event I'd like to highlight is our "Escape the Fireworks" party this July 4th. The idea was brought forward by Legion member, Frank Fruh. Frank read about a post in Florida that created the event to honor one of their own who took his life due to PTS set off by fireworks.

Our event will be open to Legion, S.A.L. and Auxiliary members and their families. Designed to support veterans, we think there may be others who find relief such as those on the Autism spectrum. The evening will be free, but reservations will be requested. Food, games, prizes, and entertainment are on the agenda which is still being worked out. Hosted by our Post 82 Family, the planning committee consists of members of the Legion, S.A.L. and Auxiliary.

As always, your help will be appreciated. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters including a signup link for workers. Or reach out to the leadership of any of the Family organizations here in Post 82.

As we approach the end of the Legion year June 30, it's time to start the search for our next Commander and executive board members. I have appointed 1st Vice Commander Harry Tafe, Adjutant Dave Black, and Treasurer Bill Reese to serve as the nominating committee. If you are interested in serving in a leadership capacity and willing to run for election, please reach out to one of these men or let me know and I'll connect you with them.

Nominations will be presented to the membership at our May Meeting with voting held at our June Meeting. Please participate by volunteering to serve and attending the May and June meetings. Post 82 has a proud history of service and a bright future. Let's work together to serve our veterans and our community!

Honor to Serve,

**George Hawley
Commander**

Legion Membership Report

Membership

A shout-out to Commander Hawley, 2nd Vice Chris LaQuay and members Jamie Zayas, Jeff Coombs, Randy Markley, John Flatley, Paul Stockman, BJ Fitzgerald, and Bruce Gentile for their herculean efforts working on membership renewals. Due to their efforts many of you have received reminder calls asking you to renew your membership. This has resulted in a dramatic increase in renewals and a special "Thank You" is due to the Riders team for a job well done. It's not over yet and some of you may still receive a call asking you to renew. Most members who have been called have been quite thankful for the reminder.

There have been a few instances where a member has been called who already did renew. These were administrative errors which have been corrected and we do apologize for the mistakes. We now need less than 100 members to renew to reach 100% renewals for 2023. Please renew your membership if you haven't already done so. If you are not sure, check your membership card. If it doesn't say 2023 or, if you don't have a card, please let me know so we can get it sorted out.

Nominating Committee

The Post Commander has appointed the nominating committee for this year's post elections. Members are Harry Tafe, Bill Rees and Dave Black.

Please submit any names you wish to nominate for the 2024 year to one of these members by April 30th. Names received by the committee will be reported out at the May meeting with election of officers held during the June meeting.

Harry Tafe

1st Vice, Membership Chair

**Sons of The American Legion
S.A.L. Monthly Meetings are Held
the First Tuesday of Each Month at 1800hrs**



The Squadron held its regular monthly meeting on March 7. So far, we have received 6 applications for the Squadron 82 Veterans Memorial Scholarship. The annual scholarship awards \$3000 to a graduating senior from La Plata High School. Applicants have until April 30 to submit their applications. Details are available on the drop-down menu on the website, www.alpost82.org.

Thanks to Gale Willett, Roy Yanosh, David Quade, Kathleen Quade, Alana Lentz, Lee Hammonds, Rodney Hammonds, Kim Hammonds, Jason Painter, Cindy Moruzzi, Lenny Lentz, Jamie Zayas, John Flatley, Kevin Bryant, Kevin Earle, and Dave Abildgaard for volunteering their time at our fish fry on March 17. We had a successful evening, serving 213 dinners and one fish sandwich.

Do not forget the next, and last, fish fry of the year on April 21. The cost will be \$15. Dinner will consist of 2 whiting filets, green beans, cole slaw, hush puppies, fried potatoes, coffee, and tea.

First Vice Commander Gale Willett and I worked the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home on March 20. Thirty-one residents participated and \$215 in prizes were handed out to the winners.

As of March 17, the Squadron is at 85.782% of its goal for the 2023 year. We still need 30 to reach our goal of 211. If you have paid your 2023 dues, thank you. If not, please pay as soon as possible. If your card has 2022 at the top, you are delinquent. Dues may be mailed in or dropped by the Post.

I hope to see you at the Post.

Yours in Service,
Dave Tatman
Commander, Squadron 82
301-645-1537 (h)
301-752-8273 (c)
tatman_david@comcast.net

American Legion Auxiliary

**Auxiliary Monthly Meetings are the Second
Tuesday of Each Month at 1800hrs**



Hello Gems:

Goodness time is flying by! We will be having our elections for officers at our May 9th meeting. If you would like to run for an office you can contact Carol Karpiak at (301) 609-9052, Darlene Willett at (301) 848-8129 or Becky LaQuay at (301) 642-0595. There will be no nominations taken from the floor on election night.

Our March 10th dinner was a success! We sold 52 dinners. I would like to thank the following people for their help; Mary Shaffer, Linda Rollins (our soup maker) Cathy Grimm, Edna Caywood, Cindy Moruzzi, Carol Karpiak, Rita Sexton, Amelia Leukhardt, Maggie Larrick, Janet Fogle, Carol Maron. I would also like to thank Buddy and Angel Hindle for helping us clean up after the dinner. Our next dinner will be May 12th which will be Taco night.

Bingo is doing great! We have a new caller to help us out; thanks Buddy Hindle. I would like to thank all the workers that help without you we could not have BINGO. If you are interested in volunteering one or more Thursdays per month, let me know. We could use a couple more people to help.

We will be having an Americanism program for our winners on April 30th at 2pm. Come out and cheer on the winners.

Remember to show kindness and you will receive the same.

For Service not Self,

Lesley Radcliff
Auxiliary President

American Legion Riders
ALR Meetings are held the Second Thursday
of Each Month at 1800hrs.



Good Afternoon Riders and Legion Family,
Here's the latest scoop from the Steel Pony Corral:

ALR Chapter 82 is holding a Gun Raffle. Tickets are just \$20 each. Only 500 tickets will be sold with the winner getting their choice of one prize; a Henry .22 caliber rifle, Winchester Semi-Auto 12-gauge shotgun, S&W 9mm pistol or \$750 cash. Sales are going well so if you would like to purchase a ticket contact one of our Riders. We will also be selling them at all Post dinners and functions. Proceeds will be donated to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund at the Gold Star Legacy Run dinner in La Plata on June 11.

The Riders will be having a weeklong fundraiser at Foster's Grille La Plata April 10-13 eat lunch or dinner at Foster's, when you order tell them you're supporting ALR Post 82 La Plata and the Riders will receive a portion of the sale. (See attached flyer)

Our next Riders meeting, 1800 on Thursday April 13 will be held at Foster's Grille LaPlata. Please arrive early to order your food and drink (don't forget to tell them ALR Post 82 LaPlata when you order) so we can start the meeting on time.

On Thursday evening March 16, we met at Brüdergarten (Brü) restaurant in Leonardtown. Organized by Mike "Twink" Hanks, 6 Riders and 4 spouses had a fantastic night with great weather, a firepit, really good food and plenty of locally brewed and fermented adult beverages. Look for another trip to Brü this summer.



The Riders are also planning and organizing our 2nd Annual Southern MD Gold Star Legacy Ride which will take place on Saturday May 27. Our fundraising goal this year is \$40,000.00. The Riders are actively seeking sponsorships from the business community and individuals. If your workplace would like to sponsor the ride, please ask a Rider for an information packet. Also, if you know someone who would like to ride, they can sign up here, <https://linktr.ee/ALRPOST82> or visit our Facebook Page, "[American Legion Riders Chapter 82, La Plata, MD](#)"

Again, all proceeds will be going to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Election of officers will be held at our June 8 meeting. Nominations are being accepted and will be presented at our May 11 meeting. Contact Director Jamie Z or one of the current officers to nominate yourself or another Rider for a position.

Presented on behalf of
Director Jamie (Jamie Z) Zayas

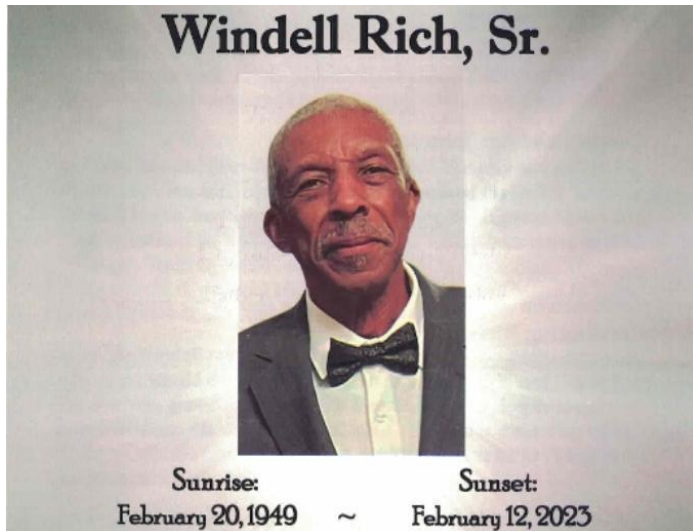
Submitted by
Kevin (Big Sexy) Bryant,

"We ride In HONOR of those who have served"

Bingo Volunteers needed!

As Lesley mentioned in her column, there's a great group of people volunteering to help with BINGO every Thursday evening. But, they could use more help. Specifically, there is a need for 2 people each Thursday. Would you please consider serving one Thursday per month from 6:30 – 9:00pm? Contact Lesley at annlesley@aol.com for more information.

Post Everlasting



Windell Rich, Sr. was born in Washington, DC on February 20, 1949, to the late Eliza and Floyd Rich, Sr. His peaceful departure from this life occurred on Sunday, February 12, 2023, at home with his family. Windell was just eight days away from age 74.

The youngest of seven, Windell, was educated by the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) and attended Anthony Bower Elementary School, Heinz Junior High School, and Eastern High School. He later attended The University of the District of Columbia.

In 1968, he went from high school into the US Army and served his country in Vietnam. Upon his return, he worked for DCPS in truancy. Windell began working as a bus operator for Washington Metro Area Transit Authority (WMATA) in 1978. He would later move to Station Manager, Train Operator, and finally Start-Up Supervisor. He made many friends throughout his career. He retired from Metro in 2009, after 31 years of service.

In 1965, Windell met, fell in love, and married Fern Rich. From this union would come three sons, Windell Jr. Mark, and Derek Rich. He was very proud of each one of his children and deeply loved his grandchildren.

He converted to Catholicism and is a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Bryantown, MD where he has often acted in the capacity of usher.

As a native Washingtonian, he enjoyed watching his favorite local teams, The Wizards & Commanders.

Windell loved driving and enjoyed traveling with his wife, children, grandchildren, extended family, and friends. He was always one to go above and beyond for those he loved. Willing to help someone whether he had just met them or had known them for years.

He is preceded in death by his brothers Floyd Rich J., Gerald Rich, Victor Rich, and one sister, Elsie Skinner. He leaves to mourn, his loving wife, Fern; three sons, Windell Rich Jr (Marlowe), Mark Rich (Kesha), and Derek Rich (Monica); grandchildren, Miguel, Miya, Daric, MacKenzie, and Matthew; two sisters, Loretta Sewell and Patricia Kennedy; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Visitation and Funeral Mass were held February 23, 2023 at St Mary's Catholic Church, Bryantown, MD.

Interment at Cheltenham Veteran Cemetery March 15, 2023

This past month we have been conducting buddy checks and membership contact confirmation calls. We were made aware of a few member's passing during these calls. Our condolences go out to all family and friends of our departed comrades.

Post Everlasting

James A. "Sandy" Tull

September 22, 1944 – March 3, 2023

Robert Lee Pitts Jr.

March 13, 1947 – May 10, 2022

Kenneth Chandler

April 14, 1936 – November 12, 2020

Darrell Wayne Lawson

September 2, 1941 - April 21, 2022

Robert Steven (Bob) Huffman

April 24, 1937 - February 14, 2023



Post 82 has once again
stepped up to serve as
the host for the
**Southern Maryland
Region Oyster Bowl** on
Saturday, April 15, 2023

This is a huge undertaking where we will feed as many as 200 people. As you may have guessed by the title of the event, the main protein being served is oysters. We will have fried oysters, steamed oysters and raw oysters. Did I mention we will serve Oysters? Of course, Oysters are not the only item on the menu, but they are the main entrée being served and **WE NEED YOU** to help shuck, prepare, cook and serve them to our guests.

There are eight prep opportunities on Friday, April 14 and thirty-five service opportunities on Saturday, April 15. Every job you can imagine from shucker, runner, breader, hall set up, hall clean up, fryer, steamer, server (4 separate locations, 5 positions available), dishwasher, and bucket dumper (buss tables).

We have a variety of ways for you to sign up to serve

1. The best way is to click this link <https://bit.ly/Oyster-Bowl-2023> sign in and select the slot or slots you want to serve in.
2. Reply to this email with your preferred service location and I'll sign you up. You'll get a confirmation email, so you know what, where and when you'll be serving.
3. Call Buddy or Angel Hindle and let them know you are ready to serve.

THANK YOU in advance for your service to our Post Family and our extended American Legion Southern Maryland Family!

QR Code for signup link



<https://bit.ly/Oyster-Bowl-2023>

What's Going on at the Post This Month?

Bingo

Every Thursday
First game begins at 7:00pm
Open to the public.

Friday, April 7

Legion Shrimp Dinner from 5 – 7:pm
Open to the public

Friday, April 14

Oyster Bowl Prep/Set Up
10:00am

Saturday, April 15

Southern Maryland Region Oyster Bowl
from 4-8:pm
Advance Ticket Purchase Required \$40
See Buddy Hindle or purchase tickets in the Lounge.

Friday, April 21

S.A.L Fish Fry from 5 – 7:pm \$15
Open to the public.

Friday, April 28

Members Shrimp in the Bar from 6 – 7:pm
Members only



Board of Directors & Executive Officers Meeting is held the Second Tuesday of Each Month at 1830 hrs.

General Membership Meeting is held the Second Tuesday of Each Month at 1900 hrs.

Post 82 Executive Committee

Elected Officers

Commander - George Hawley
1st Vice Commander - Harry Tafe
2nd Vice Commander - Chris Laquay
Judge Advocate - Bob Striegel
Adjutant - Dave Black
Finance Officer - Bill Rees
Sergeant-At-Arms - Jerry Higdon

At Large Elected Officers

Buddy Hindle
Norm Shelton
David Quade
Donna Baker

Appointed Officers

Service Officer - George Hawley
Chaplain - John Flatley
Historian - Cheryl Wedding

Welcome Home Vietnam Vets

By Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola, National Commander

MAR 22, 2023

On March 29, 1973, Army Master Sgt. Max Bielke boarded a C-130 in Saigon and headed home. Like so many other Vietnam vets, Bielke's service did not end there. He continued to work as a civilian employee with the Retirement Services Division until Sept. 11, 2001. That day, he lost his life during a meeting, when terrorists slammed into the nation's military headquarters. Bielke saw the end of what was the longest war in American history and the beginning of what would become an even longer one.

The Vietnam War's place in our national story is remembered March 29, a day when most schools and workplaces will stay open, and observances are typically kept among those of my wartime generation. We, of that generation, and The American Legion know the significance of National Vietnam War Veterans Day, which has been observed since 2017, when President Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the day the last U.S. combat troops departed from Vietnam, closing the curtain on a long and complicated time in world history.

The first known American fatality from the Vietnam War was Air Force Tech. Sgt. Richard B. Fitzgibbon, who made the ultimate sacrifice on June 8, 1956. On Sept. 7, 1965, his son, Marine Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, would make the same sacrifice. They both rest eternally at Blue Hill Cemetery in Braintree, Mass. The names of more than 58,000 Americans would eventually be etched for eternity on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington.

Even after Saigon fell, we continued – and still continue – to lose more of our brothers and sisters. Agent Orange-related illnesses, PTSD and other wounds of war take their toll more and more as the years pass. I am proud to say that more than 1 million Vietnam veterans belong to The American Legion, making them the largest segment of our membership. We honor their service. We advocate on behalf of their needs. We defend their legacy.

While historians continue to debate and second-guess the strategies and decisions of America's political leaders during the Vietnam War, the noble service of the men and women who served there should not be forgotten.

It is still not too late to heal old wounds. The next time you see a Vietnam veteran, say, "Thank you for your service." And if you are one, welcome home! To hundreds of thousands of others, like Max Bielke, we respect and remember you, though we cannot be together in person just now.

Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola
National Commander

**American Legion Riders
Post 82, La Plata, MD
*Dining for Dollars Fundraiser***

FOSTER'S GRILLE

(6390 Crain Hwy, La Plata, MD 20646)

April 10 – 13, 2023

11 AM - 9 PM



**Bring your family and friends to our fundraising
event and Foster's Grille will contribute a portion
of the receipts to our cause in supporting
American Veterans!**

**MUST TELL THE CASHIER THAT YOU ARE SUPPORTING THE
POST 82 ALR FUNDRAISER
OR PRESENT A FLYER WHEN ORDERING.
INCLUDES DINE-IN OR TAKE OUT**

Are you a current 2023 Charles County HS Junior
interested in Leadership, Government, Politics?

Maryland Boys State

June 18-24, 2023, at McDaniel College



Sponsored and conducted by The American Legion,
Department of Maryland, Inc. Veteran led, and Government
Leader taught for the future generation of leaders.

Application Deadline May 1, 2023

Apply Online Today at mdlegion.org/boysstate

For local questions, help, or sponsorship, contact:

Harry White Wilmer American Legion Post 82, La Plata, MD
82postlaplata@gmail.com

Tuition is free to the student and family.
American Legion Post 82 will sponsor your
application.

If you are interested in Government, Politics,
Leadership, attendance at a Military Academy,
College ROTC, or just a challenging **Academic
program** this is the experience for you!

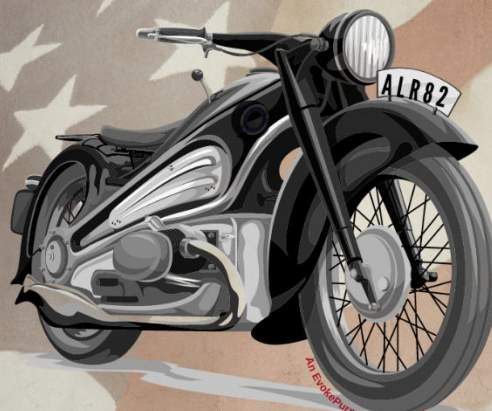


MD Boys State is a week-long practical exercise in Government
that will have a positive influence on your life!



THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND GOLD STAR LEGACY RIDE

"WE HONOR THEIR SACRIFICE BY PROVIDING A FUTURE FOR THEIR CHILDREN"



An Eagle Purpose, Inc Event

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

\$25 PER MOTORCYCLE/ \$10 ADDITIONAL RIDER

DAY OF \$30 PER MOTORCYCLE/ \$15 ADDITIONAL RIDER

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 9:30AM / FIRST BIKE OUT UP AT 10:30AM

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 82 LA PLATA, MD

LAST BIKE OUT AT 11:30AM

PLEASE SCAN QR CODE WITH PHONE CAMERA OR VISIT THE LINK BELOW TO REGISTER

★ P O K E R R U N ★



<https://linktr.ee/alrpost82>

\$250
BEST HAND

FOOD
&
DRINKS!

50/50
RAFFLE!

BIG
TICKET
RAFFLES!

MUSIC
FESTIVAL
FINALE

FREE
MUSEUM
ENTRY!

VENDORS!!!

PHOTO
OPPS!



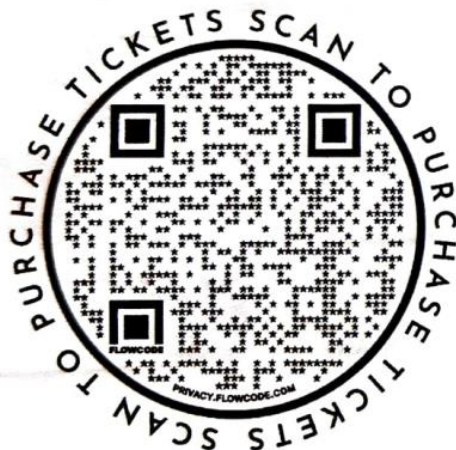
Get more information at <https://linktr.ee/alrpost82>.

Check out our Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/ALR82MD>



Introducing a festival celebrating the culture of Southern Maryland. Join us for food, drinks, live bands, local artisans and fun for the whole family!

MARYLAND VETERANS MUSEUM AT PATRIOT PARK
11000 CRAIN HWY | NEWBURG, MD 20664



DATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 23RD, 2023

[RAIN DATE: APRIL 30TH]

TIME: 10AM TO 4PM

TICKET PRICE: \$10

(CHILDREN 12 & UNDER ARE FREE)

TICKETS ON SALE NOW VIA EVENTBRITE OR UPON ENTRY (CASH PREFERRED; CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED)

TICKET PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TOWARD THE MARYLAND VETERANS MUSEUM.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

