



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

September 2026

www.Alpost82.org

301-934-8221

Commander's Corner

Commander's Message:

By John Flatley, Commander, Post 82

More Than a Membership Card

Last month, I challenged each of us to think about why someone should join the American Legion. That's an important question.

This month, I'd like to ask a different one.

"What does it really mean to belong?"

When we first join the Legion, most of us are looking for something. Maybe it's camaraderie. Maybe it's a way to continue serving. Maybe it's simply a place where people understand experiences that don't always need to be explained.

Then something interesting happens.

If we let it, membership becomes more than a card in our wallet. It becomes an opportunity to invest—not just in an organization, but in people.

Every handshake at the door. Every flag placed on a veteran's grave. Every meal served. Every scholarship awarded. Every young person mentored. Every veteran who hears, "How are you really doing?" Every hour spent making our community just a little stronger.

That's what membership looks like when it comes alive.

What's Going on at the Post?

Friday, Sep 4th Steamed Shrimp Dinner

5:00 – 6:30 PM or until sold out

Monday, Sep 7th LABOR DAY



Friday, PATRIOT DAY

Charles County Fair, Sep 17th – 20th

Friday, Sep 25th Legion Chicken Wings

5:00 – 6:30 PM or until sold out

Monday, Sep 28th Red Cross Blood Drive

S.A.L. Squadron Hosted 12:30 AM – 4:00 PM

EVERY WEDNESDAY S.A.L. Queen of Hearts

Drawing in the Lounge at 6:45 PM

EVERY THURSDAY Auxiliary BINGO

Doors open at 4:00 PM



We need members to volunteer for our Bingo/Kitchen fundraiser. Positions and times are listed in the Sign Up Genius App. [**SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER**](#)

I've come to believe that the greatest value of the American Legion isn't what we receive from it. It's what we become because we're part of it.

We become encouragers. We become mentors. We become the people who show up.

Not everyone has the same amount of time to give, and that's okay. Some members lead committees. Others volunteer at events. Some quietly support the mission through their membership year after year. Every one of those contributions matters.

But I would encourage each of us to ask one simple question:

"What is one thing I can do this year that I didn't do last year?"

Maybe it's attending one more meeting. Maybe it's volunteering for one event. Maybe it's bringing another veteran through our doors. Maybe it's simply reaching out to a member you haven't seen in a while.

Small investments, multiplied across hundreds of members, have an extraordinary impact.

The strength of Post 82 has never been measured by the number of names on our roster. It's measured by the lives we touch, the veterans we encourage, the young people we mentor, and the community we serve.

If each of us chooses to invest just a little more this year than we did last year, there is no limit to what this Legion Family can accomplish.

The uniform may come off, but our calling to serve doesn't. The American Legion gives us the opportunity to keep serving—our fellow veterans, our community, and one another. That's not just worth renewing. That's worth investing in.

So let me leave you with one challenge.

Before the end of this month, do one thing that deepens your investment in Post 82.

Attend a meeting. Raise your hand to help with an event. Invite another veteran to join you. Welcome a new member and help them find their place. Make a Buddy Check phone call – or better yet, stop by and visit a fellow veteran. Or simply introduce yourself to someone you don't know. It doesn't have to be a big thing.

Small investments, made by hundreds of members, are what make this Post extraordinary.

Membership may bring us through the door. Investment is what builds the Legion Family.

Because that's what Legionnaires do. We show up for one another.

Installation & Membership Dinner

Last month, we gathered for our annual Membership Dinner and Officer Installation Ceremony.

I was pleased to announce that, among a host of awards, the following members and programs were recognized: George Hawley – District 6 Resource Officer of the Year; Paul Stockman – District 6 Chaplain of the Year; Tom Rowe – Best Digital History Report; Squadron 82 – Best SAL Program; and the Post 82 Family – Special Olympics Award, JROTC Award, Community Service Award, and Best Blood Drive Program.

I was also proud to announce Chris Zabriskie as Legionnaire of the Year and Harry Lehman as Post Family Member of the Year.

Chris not only stepped up to serve as Adjutant this past year, but he also energized our Americanism pillar by organizing and leading our Post Oratorical Contest, hosting the District 6 Oratorical Contest, and recruiting and preparing six outstanding Boys State participants.

Harry was recognized for his unwavering support of all four units of our Legion Family. Whether volunteering at Auxiliary Bingo, serving as a SAL officer, working Rider's spaghetti dinners and Legion steamed shrimp dinners, or tackling countless maintenance and repair projects around our Post home, Harry always seems to be wherever help was needed.

Congratulations to all our award recipients and thank you for your continued service to our veterans, our community, and our Post!

Members Appreciation Day

I'll let our First Vice & Membership Chair, Jamie, share details in his section of the newsletter. But I want to encourage all our Post family to come to the Members Appreciation Day, October 12. This will be a great time to spend time with your family and introduce them to our "family". I look forward to sharing the day with each of you.

Thank you, Harry Lehman, Victor Guillot, Tom Rowe and Jamie Zayas, for helping reset the granite columns on the Pillar Memorial. Thanks to these gentlemen and the donated use of the forklift from Sunbelt Rental in White Plains, our memorial is back in good shape.



Ready to serve,

John Flatley Jr
Commander
301.848.7664
johnflatleyjr@gmail.com



1st Vice Commander's Corner

Hello Legionnaires and All our Post Members!

Our 2027 Legion Year continues to be off to a great start, renewals are coming into the Post at a steady pace, keep them coming!

Our Legion 101 class held on August 1st was well attended. We had members from the Legion, Auxiliary and Son's in attendance learning more about the American Legion, our Post, and the many ways we serve Veterans, our community and each other. Thank you to everyone who came out and participated.

Coming up this month, September 17th–20th, is the *Charles County Fair*. As in past years, the Fair Board has generously donated booth space to Post 82 in Commercial Building A, right in the heart of the Fair. This is a great opportunity for us to connect with Veterans and their families, share the value of membership in our Legion Family and promote some of the great opportunities we offer our local students including the Oratorical Competition, Boys State and Girls State.

We need your help! We have openings **Thursday evening**, all day **Saturday** and all day **Sunday**. Our Riders have offered to cover all shifts on Friday, open to close. Volunteer shifts are only **3 hours** at a time, and we are hoping to have Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members fill the remaining shifts so we can represent all that our Post has to offer. Invite a friend or family member to join you for a shift, it's always more fun with someone you know!

Please sign up here:

<https://bit.ly/Post82CCFair2026>

The Membership Committee is also working on our next Membership Appreciation Day, Monday October 12th starting at 1PM. Show your 2027 membership card and receive a hotdog, chips and non-alcoholic drink. This is open to all Post, Auxiliary and Son's members. Bring your family, friends, neighbors and that Veteran looking to join our community. Nonmembers pay just \$5.

Mark your calendars for Military Appreciation Day at Post 82 sponsored by Chick-fil-A La Plata! On Saturday, November 7th we will have family friendly games, entertainment, Veteran resources and of course Chick-fil-A! This event is open to all active military, Veterans and their family members. If you have ever attended Military Appreciation Night at Chick-fil-A La Plata, you know it is always a great time for everyone. I'm happy to have our Membership Committee partnering with Chick-fil-A La Plata to bring this FREE event to Post 82. Stay tuned, we will have more details coming soon!

Membership renewal notices were mailed to your homes last month and 59.22% of you have already renewed your investment in the American Legion. Thank you! We are asking all our current members to renew as soon as possible so we can reach our 100% goal by the end of 2026 or sooner!

For members that have pre-paid for 2027, keep an eye on your mailbox. Your 2027 membership card has been mailed. I would also like to remind members that you can renew online at www.mylegion.org and pay for up to 3 years in advance. I like this option, so you do not have to worry about remembering to renew each year. You'll also save money if dues need to be raised since your 3-year renewal is paid at the current rate. You can also stop by Post 82 and drop off your renewal fee of \$45 or mail it to Post 82, PO Box 441, 6330 N. Crain Hwy, La Plata MD 20646.

If you would like to join our Membership Committee and play a key role in our membership activities, please contact me via email below.

I look forward to seeing you at our next dinner or function, and hopefully at the Charles County Fair! If you have any changes or updates to your address, phone, email or if you need assistance in renewing, please let me know.

Jamie Zayas, 1st Vice Commander
– Always Serving 301-751-2822 (call or text)
82postlaplata@gmail.com



Hello Twizzlers!

This year our theme is, *This is what they fought for America The Beautiful*. District 6 is the Declaration of Independence. The juniors are sparklers. President Pat Walker's project this year is Junior activities. Her goal is to raise \$5,000.

We will be hosting the first district meeting of the year. The date is September 27th. Lunch is served at 1pm and the meeting starts at 2pm. Please bring a gift for the blind pig and also a dessert. Our district president this year is Jan Blackwell Robinson.

Our fall conference will be held on October 9, 10, 11. The conference will be held at Bernard L. Tobin Post 128 in Aberdeen, MD.

At our August meeting we went over our standing rules and budget. We also donated \$5,000 to United Reading, and \$5,000 to the USO. We need chairman's for the following committees.

- 1 – Americanism
- 2 – Juniors
- 3 – Girls State
- 4 – Legislative & Community

Our unit came in third place for Poppy and Community Service. Good job ladies.

Our next meeting is September 8th at 6pm.

For Service not Self,

Lesley Radcliff
Auxiliary Unit 82 President

Thursday Bingo Needs You!

Auxiliary Unit 82's Thursday Night Bingo is much more than a weekly fundraiser—it helps make possible the work our Auxiliary does for **veterans, military families, youth, and our community**.

That support makes a real difference. In 2025 alone, Unit 82 donated **\$5,000 to the VA Maryland Health Care System** to help send senior veterans to the National Golden Age Games. Unit 82 has also joined with our Legion Family in supporting Special Olympics Maryland and numerous other veteran and community programs.

But none of it happens without volunteers.

We need members each Thursday to help with **Bingo and the kitchen**. Whether you can volunteer regularly or just give us an occasional Thursday, every shift helps keep this important fundraiser strong.

Positions and times are listed on SignUpGenius: [**SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER**](#)

Come spend a few hours with your Legion Family, enjoy some fellowship, and know that your time is helping Unit 82 continue doing good throughout our veteran and local community.

Questions? Contact Darlene Willett, Vice President, at [**dmwillett@yahoo.com**](mailto:dmwillett@yahoo.com).

We have the mission. We have the opportunity. We just need a few more helping hands on Thursday nights.

Thank you!

Darlene Willett
Vice President
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 82



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

The Squadron's Blood Drive chairman Gale Willett received the following very nice email from the American Red Cross concerning the Squadron's most recent blood drive.

"Congratulations on an outstanding blood drive on Monday, July 27, 2026, at American Legion Post 82! **Your mobile team achieved 59 on a goal of 35—a perfect 134% Operating Efficiency** (which is the percentage of units collected to the goal)!"

Highlights from your drive:

- Total Whole Blood Units: 47
- Power Red Procedures: 12

This success is a direct result of your dedication and partnership with the American Red Cross. Your efforts play a critical role in ensuring local hospitals have the lifesaving blood they need. We truly value the work you do—it makes a real difference in the lives of patients and their families."

The next SAL Squadron 82 hosted blood drive is September 28th. Register early for an appointment at redcrossblood.org

The Squadron held the regular monthly meeting on August 4. The members voted to donate \$375 to Jack Compton's Eagle Scout project which is to purchase and install a mailbox for the Post.

Gale Willett, Gary Shupe and I worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home on August 17.

Forty-nine residents participated with \$400 in prizes handled directly to the winners.

Thanks to Gale Willett, Gary Shupe, David Quade, Alana Lentz, Lennie Lentz, Roy Yanosh, Harry Lehman, Cindy Moruzzi, Carol Karpiak, and Cathy Bryant for volunteering at the Baby Back rib dinner on August 21. The dinner sold out quickly. Thanks to everyone who came out. It is always hard to tell how much to prepare. The ribs are not like hamburgers or hot dogs where you can pull another pack out of the refrigerator and heat them up quickly. The ribs cook for 5 hours. We will prepare more at our next rib dinner which will be on October 16. I hope those who had to be turned away will give us another try.

The 2027 membership cards are available. Your 2026 cards are good until December 31 but why not get your 2027 card now. As of the August 21 report, the Squadron has 26 members who have gotten their 2027 cards. This represents 11.87% of our goal of 219. Membership can be paid on-line, by mail, or dropped off at the Post.

Yours in Service,

Dave Tatman

Commander, Squadron 82
tatman_david@comcast.net



Patriots on the Post 82 Memorials



S.A.L 1st Vice Commander Gale Willett continues to research and acknowledge the La Plata and Charles County heroes on the Post memorials. The following are five more individuals identified on the World War II memorial.

Louis De Sales Cargill

Louis De Sales Cargill, the son of Earl and Etta Cargill, was born on July 24, 1918. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on July 21, 1941. He served as a Private First Class, 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division during World War II. On September 17, 1944, he was Killed-in-Action near Saarlouis, Germany. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He was originally interred overseas but was later repatriated and buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Suitland on April 12, 1949.

William Woodrow Cary

William Woodrow Cary, the son of Francis and Jessie Cary, was born on May 13, 1918. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on September 11, 1941. He served as a Private First Class with the 109th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division, during World War II. On December 18, 1944, he died of wounds received in the battle at Luxemburg and was awarded the Purple Heart. He is buried in Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, Liege, Belgium.



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

The latest scoop from the Steel Pony Corral:

On Tuesday August 18, Jamie Z and 10 other American Legion Riders from chapters across MD set out for Lincoln, NE as part of the advance team for the National Legacy Ride. On Friday August 21, they were briefed on the logistics and coordination of all fuel and food stops along the ride, which began on August 23 from Lincoln NE to Fort Knox KY. Post 82 Rider Scuba Steve joined them on Sunday August 23-27. Ask them about the ride, weather and how much money was donated to the Veterans & Children's Fund.

Our end of July Spaghetti dinner was a big hit with 124 dinners sold. We also fed 10 veterans from Charlotte Hall who were very gracious and thankful just as much as we were to be able to serve them. A Riders salute to all who bought meals and many hugs for the Riders and their spouses who helped to put on this successful endeavor.

On Sunday August 2, Momma G and Hot Rod put together a nice Sunday stroll down to Reedville VA and they were joined by three other Riders. They had great riding weather and a decent lunch at Leadbelly's before heading back home. Momma G and Hot Rod are also planning a Labor Day weekend ride to Mount Joy PA. If interested, please contact Momma G or Hot Rod.

On Saturday August 15 Director Coombs and his wife participated in The Healing Heroes ride for Boulder Crest Foundation. The ride started in Fairfax VA with stops in 3 counties and ended at Boulder Crest Retreat Bluemont VA. Director Coombs presented a donation check to the foundation in support of their veterans' programs.

Director Coombs is looking for Riders to man The Legion booth at the Charles County Fair on Friday Sept. 18th. Please sign up online or contact Director Coombs if you can be of service to this endeavor.

Saturday, Sept. 26 at Post 60 Laurel MD is the fall MD State Riders meeting. Starts at 1200 with lunch being served with the meeting starting at 1300. All Riders are welcome to attend. Look for details about the departure location and times after September's monthly meeting.

Hello Riders, it is that time of year for membership renewals. Riders, please renew your current memberships in the Legion, SAL, and The Auxiliary because this is mandatory for membership in the Riders. The goal is 100% before Nov. 15 so please help us to help you by renewing today.

Riders, if you have any submissions of rides or events, please email k_bryant@comcast.net

Upcoming Rides and Events:

Sept. 5-7- Mount Joy PA Ride (Momma G & Hot Rod)
Sept. 10- ALR Meeting at Post 82 @ 1800 (Still looking for 1 volunteer to help with Bingo also)
Sept.12-13- Scenic Train Ride MD & WV Pending
Sept. 12-13- Sandwich Sales Post 221 Avenue for anyone interested
Sept. 18- Charles County Fair Support
Sept. 19- Last Patrol Honor Ride (RED)
Sept. 26- Riders Fall Meeting Laurel Post 60
Oct. 3- Cruising Southern Maryland Ride with Lunch

On behalf of Director **Jeff Coombs**, (Animal) Kevin (BIG SEXY) Bryant

"We ride In HONOR of those who have served"

A Reminder When Visiting Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery

Please advise all members to lock their vehicles\secure valuables while at Cheltenham Cemetery!!

Many members of our Post 82 Family regularly visit **Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery** to attend funerals, participate in ceremonies, place wreaths, or pay respects to our fallen veterans. A recent incident is an important reminder to take a few simple precautions when we visit.

FOX 5 DC reported that six vehicles were entered during a funeral service at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery on August 7. According to police, the vehicles were unlocked, and purses, wallets and other personal belongings were taken while family members were inside the chapel attending a 30-minute service.

When visiting Cheltenham, please **leave valuables at home whenever possible**. If you must bring them, don't leave purses, wallets, electronics or other valuables visible or unattended in your vehicle. **Always lock your vehicle and keep your keys with you**, even when you'll only be away for a short time.

We visit Cheltenham to honor veterans, support grieving families and remember those who have gone before us. A few simple precautions can help ensure those visits remain focused on what brought us there.

Information courtesy of Henry Thompson, FOX 5 DC and Prince George's County Police.

Read the full FOX 5 DC report:
[Vehicles broken into during funeral at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery](#)

Help Make Christmas at Post 82 Special

The Christmas season is one of the best times of the year at Post 82—and we're looking for volunteers from across our entire Legion Family to help make it memorable.

This year, we're forming two ad hoc committees:

△ Children's Christmas Party Committee
Help plan a fun-filled afternoon for the children of our Post Family and the local community. Traditionally held on a weekend afternoon, the committee will work with the Post Commander to select the date and create a festive event that brings smiles to children of all ages.

△ Post Christmas Party Committee
Plan an evening of fellowship for our adult members. Traditionally held in the Lounge with heavy hors d'oeuvres and door prizes, this year's committee has the opportunity to build on that tradition—or create something entirely new.

We're hoping to have volunteers from The American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Riders serving on both committees. Great events happen when our Legion Family comes together, bringing different ideas, talents, and perspectives to the table.

If you'd like to chair a committee or simply lend a hand, please contact Commander John Flatley for more information or to volunteer.

Johnflatleyjr@gmail.com 301.848.7664

Many hands make light work. Better Together.
Legion Family Strong.

Post 82 Legion Baseball: A Summer to Be Proud Of

The 2026 American Legion Baseball season gave the Post 82 family plenty to cheer about. Across our three teams, young athletes from throughout Southern Maryland represented Post 82 with talent, determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship while competing against some of the best American Legion Baseball programs in Maryland.

From strong regular-season records to postseason success and two trips to state tournament competition, 2026 was another successful chapter for **Post 82 Legion Baseball**.

Junior-Gill Makes a Run at the State Championship

Post 82 Junior-Gill capped off an impressive season with a **10-5 record and a memorable run all the way to the Maryland State Junior Legion Championship Game**.

Although the team finished just one victory short of bringing home the state title, its postseason run demonstrated the resilience, talent, and growth of this young group.

Offensively, Junior-Gill was consistent throughout the season, finishing with an impressive **.333 team batting average**. Timely hitting throughout the lineup provided the spark for much of the team's success and proved especially important during its postseason run.

When the state playoffs arrived, the pitching staff also stepped up. Post 82 pitchers combined for **15 strikeouts while posting an outstanding 3.66 ERA**, helping propel the team through the tournament and into the championship game.

As impressive as this year's accomplishments were, there is plenty of reason to be excited about what comes next. **All but two players are eligible to return to the Junior Division next season**. Those returning players will bring with

them something that can't be taught in practice—the experience of competing for a state championship.

A young roster, strong offensive production, developing pitching talent, and postseason experience give Junior-Gill an outstanding foundation to build upon in 2027.

Junior-Fawcett Posts a Winning Season

Post 82's second Junior team, **Post 82-Fawcett**, put together a strong summer of its own, finishing the season with an impressive **7-4 overall record**.

Led by Coach **Thomas Fawcett**, the team brought together a 17-player roster drawn primarily from **Lackey, McDonough, and La Plata High Schools**. The roster included Aiden Fawcett, Peyton Sellers, Warren Hayes, William Kwisnek, William Wolf, and a talented group of young players who gained valuable experience competing under the Post 82 banner.

A 7-4 finish represents a successful season by any measure and adds to the strength of Post 82's Junior Legion Baseball program. Together, Junior-Fawcett's winning season and Junior-Gill's run to the state championship game demonstrate both the depth of young baseball talent in our area and the strength of the foundation being built for the future.

That development is an important part of the American Legion Baseball mission. The Junior program gives younger players an opportunity to compete at a high level, develop their skills, and prepare for the next level of Legion Baseball. With two successful Junior teams in 2026, Post 82 is developing a strong pool of experienced players who can help sustain our Senior program in the years ahead.

We congratulate the Fawcett players and coaches on a winning season and thank the families and supporters who were there throughout the summer.

Sanders Earns No. 1 Seed and Advances to State Tournament



Post 82-Sanders entered the 2026 season with a new look, combining players from the two Post 82 senior teams that competed in 2025—Post 82-Sanders and Post 82-Cooke.

The combined roster quickly proved to be a formidable one.

Post 82-Sanders finished the regular season with an outstanding **10-1 record**, earning the **No. 1 seed in the Frank Riley League Tournament**. During the season, the team competed against Post 255-Bean and Post 255-Bruno and played interleague contests against Annapolis Heroes Legion Post 7 and the Glen Burnie Post 40 Wolves.

Sanders went 1-2 in the district tournament but had done enough throughout the season to earn a berth in the **2026 Maryland American Legion State Tournament** at Joe Cannon Stadium in Hanover.

The state tournament was played July 24-28 and hosted by Post 255-Bean, which also qualified for the tournament. Post 82-Sanders battled its way to a **2-2 record at States**, with its tournament run ultimately ending against the team that would go on to capture the 2026 Maryland championship—Funkstown Post 211.

The Sanders roster brought together an impressive collection of Southern Maryland

baseball talent. Players represented **La Plata High School, McDonough High School, North Point High School, and St. Mary's Ryken**, along with college players from **St. Mary's College of Maryland, Coastal Carolina, and the College of Southern Maryland**.

Guiding the team were coaches **Clint Sanders, Matt Cooke, Mike Gordon, Tom Bowling, and Justin Barrett**, whose commitment of time and leadership helped make another successful Post 82 Legion Baseball season possible.

Three Teams, One Post 82 Legion Baseball Program

Taken together, the accomplishments of our three teams made 2026 an exceptional summer for **Post 82 Legion Baseball**.

Junior-Gill finished 10-5 and played for a Maryland State Championship. Junior-Fawcett posted a 7-4 winning season. Senior-Sanders went 10-1 during the regular season, earned the league's No. 1 seed, and advanced to the Maryland State Tournament.

Across the three teams, that's a **combined 27 regular and postseason wins** and two deep runs on the state tournament stage—a lot for Post 82 to be proud of.

But American Legion Baseball has always been about more than wins and losses. The program gives young athletes an opportunity to develop through competition, teamwork, discipline, sportsmanship, and commitment while representing an organization built upon service to our nation and our communities.

Perhaps just as important is the progression being built within our own program. With two Junior teams developing young players and a Senior team competing among Maryland's best, Post 82 Legion Baseball provides an opportunity for local athletes to grow, gain experience, and continue competing as they advance through the program.

We are proud of every young man who wore **Post 82** across his uniform this summer. We are equally grateful to the coaches who gave their time and leadership, the families who traveled to games and supported their players, and everyone behind the scenes who helped make three Post 82 Legion Baseball teams possible.

Congratulations to **Post 82 Junior-Gill, Post 82 Junior-Fawcett, and Post 82 Senior-Sanders** on a terrific 2026 season.

The future of Post 82 Legion Baseball looks bright.

