



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

December 2024

www.Alpost82.org

301-934-8221

Commander's Message



Raymond "Buddy" Hindle

I hope this message finds everyone in good health and spirits. As we all know, this time of the year can be trying and, in some cases, depressing for individuals. If you are around someone like that, check in with them and offer support and a listening ear.

Post 82 has planned several events for our members and their families. I hope you will make plans to attend and enjoy them along with the other members of the Post 82 Family. On December 14th at 2:00pm, we will hold the Children's Christmas Party. Bring the kids and grandkids. Santa will arrive at 3:00pm.

December 21st is the Members Christmas Party. Tickets are \$10.00 each and include two coupons for free drinks and lite snacks are on the house. The party starts at 5:00pm. Come out and enjoy

the fun. Remember, it won't be a party without you.

We will not have an executive Board meeting in December. Our membership meeting will be held at 6:00pm on December 10th. Make plans to attend. There will be a potluck dinner after the meeting with the Auxiliary, Sons and Riders.

The Post will be closed on Christmas Day and New Years Day. Enjoy your family and friends!

Our membership committee has been working hard to reach our goal of 100% by the end of 2024, December 31st. We need about 240 renewals to reach that 100% mark. You, the members, hold the key to us reaching our goal. If you have 2024 on your present card, you will be past due on January 1, 2025. If, for some reason, financial trouble is holding you back from renewing, call me and we will get things taken care of for you. The Post is here to help its members.

The Officers of Post 82 and I want to wish each and everyone of our members and their family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

During the Holidays, please keep our men and women serving in harms way in your thoughts and prayers. They are the reason we can celebrate the holidays and enjoy the freedoms we have in this great country we call The United States of America. God Bless our country and all its citizens.

For God and Country, Buddy



Membership Report



Hello Legionnaires of Post 82!

As Commander Hindle mentioned above, our membership committee is working hard to close the year out strong. As of November 29, 599 members have renewed their investment in the American Legion. That's 72% of our membership goal of 831 paid members. We need 234 more renewals to hit the 100% goal.

Those are the numbers. However, what we really need is just one person to renew. That person might be you or it might be the person next to you. If you've already renewed for 2025, I'd like to recruit you onto our membership committee. Would you take a moment in the next 10 days to reach out to another member, check in with them to make sure they are well, and ask if they've renewed their investment in our American Legion? If you have yet to renew your membership investment, I'd like to challenge you do take care of it in the next ten days. You can renew online at www.mylegion.org, mail your check or bring cash/check to the lounge anytime the Post is open. Thank you for your support!

Still serving.

David D. Abildgaard, 1st Vice Commander
Membership Chair



Chaplains Corner

Happy Thanksgiving! I hope you were able to enjoy this annual holiday with friends, family, good health, and peace. This widely celebrated holidays developments and traditions in the US have parallels to our nation's history of which some are better known than others. The first celebration of it is the widely known one that the Pilgrims celebrated in November 1621 when Governor William Bradford organized a feast celebrating the colony's first successful corn harvest and to which he invited a group of local Native Americans, including the Wampanoag tribe. Eventually, this celebration became common practice in other New England settlements as well.

The next significant related event would occur during the American Revolutionary War when the Continental Congress designated one or more days of thanksgiving a year. This was followed by George Washington issuing the first Thanksgiving proclamation by the national government of the United States, in 1789.

In 1863 Abraham Lincoln scheduled the annual celebration of Thanksgiving for the final Thursday in November in a proclamation requesting all Americans to ask God to "commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife" and to "heal the wounds of the nation." This date for celebrating Thanksgiving Day was eventually signed into law by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, it is vital to recall what the Bible teaches about thankfulness, gratitude, and thanksgiving and make them a part of our daily lives, not just one day out of the calendar year. By doing so, we can deepen our relationship with God and be transformed by the power of gratitude in all aspects of our lives.

The word “thanksgiving” isn’t found in all English translations of the Bible, though it is found 25 times in the New International Version (NIV). Related concepts like praise, gratitude, and giving thanks occur over 250 times in most translations. I offer the following Scripture verses as illustrations of how “thanksgiving” is used.

Psalms 100:4 (NIV) – “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.”

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV) – “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 4:4-5 (NIV) – “For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.”

The use of “thanksgiving” in the Bible, as indicated in these verses, does not refer to a single annual holiday but to an attitude of thankfulness to God, expressed continually through our daily lives by acknowledging God’s blessings, His faithfulness, and the abundance of goodness He provides.

The Bible doesn’t just encourage us to give praise and thanksgiving for the good things we have received and the pleasant seasons of our lives we have enjoyed. In **1 Thessalonians 5:16 (NIV)** we are told to “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

This can be challenging to do when you lose a loved one, have been diagnosed with a debilitating or terminal illness, lose a job, are dealing with a significantly broken relationship, and so forth. Challenges such as these can be especially troubling during holiday seasons, yet we are reminded in **Romans 8:28 (NIV)** “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Being an imperfect human, I have, at times, found it difficult to feel God’s presence and perfect peace, but by His grace, mercy, and love, I know He will see me and others through such things and for that I am also thankful.

With the coming holidays, I encourage Legionnaires to be sensitive to their own negative moods as well as those of the folks in their family and social circles who may be struggling with anxiety or depression, as the holidays can worsen such conditions. For information on how we can assist ourselves and others experiencing suicidal ideation, please visit the American Legion’s “Be the One” webpage <https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one>.

On a cheerier note, I’ll close by wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

As always, I am available to all of our Legion Family. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can do for you or your family.

Yours in Christ,
Paul Stockman Chaplain
301.768.2514
papastockman@yahoo.com

Wreaths Across America



December 3 is the order deadline to support the Wreaths Across America wreath laying at Cheltenham Maryland Veterans Cemetery on December 14, 2024. As we have for many years, volunteers from Post 82 will once again participate in laying wreaths for Post 82 members who have gone before us. 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.wreathscrossamerica.org/MD0136

Linda

Linda Rollins

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

Hello Horses!

Finally, we are getting some cool weather! I hope everybody is doing well.

Our meatloaf dinner went well, we sold 59 meals. I would like to thank my workers that helped. I would like to give a big thank you to Chris LaQuay for replacing the lights in the hall.

After our December meeting we will have a potluck get together in the hall. Please bring your favorite dish to share with everyone. Our next meeting is December 10th at 6pm.

At our November 12th meeting we presented checks to Spring Dell, Catholic Charities, 4-H, and Children's Aid Society. We will be presenting checks to Charles County Sheriff's Office, Shop with a Cop and ALR 82/Toys for Tots Charles County on Thursday November 14th. The Auxiliary will be purchasing items for the Charlotte Hall Veterans that were on their Christmas list. The Auxiliary received 8 tickets from Spring Dell to attend their annual auction on November 22nd.

Next week I will be passing out information on our Americanism Essay contests to schools. Last year we had 121 essays submitted.

I hope to see everybody at our December 10th meeting at 6pm.

For God and Country
Lesley Radcliff

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

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

On October 24, Gary Shupe, David Quade, and I attended the opening ceremony for Boy Scout Troop 1321 Court of Honor at the United Methodist Church in La Plata to present the Troop a donation of \$500. Pictured below, Gary (l) and David present the \$500 check to Scout Master Ron Lile and the members of Troop 1321. We spoke with several of the Troop members before the ceremony and they are an impressive group of young men.



At the Squadron meeting on November 6, Squadron members discussed plans for the upcoming S.A.L. dinner and the bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. In addition, the members voted to donate \$1,000 to the American Legion National Emergency Fund (NEF), \$1,000 to the Fisher House Foundation, \$250 to Operation Comfort Warrior, and \$100 each to the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and

Training (MCVET), Baltimore VAMC, Loch Raven VAMC, Perry Point VAMC, Cambridge VA Outpatient Clinic, Pocomoke VA Outpatient Clinic, Charlotte Hall VA Clinic, the Children's Organ Transplant Association, the American Legion Veterans and Children's Foundation, Ronald McDonald House, Homeless Veterans, and Troop and Family Support. A donation of \$50 was also approved for the Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School Thanksgiving Dinner. The donation to the NEF is particularly timely considering the damage done by hurricanes Hellene and Milton in several southern states.

During the Maryland State Dart Championship held at the Post on November 9 and 10, Squadron members, assisted by several Post 82 family members, operated the kitchen. A couple of long days but it was fun. A lot of hamburgers, hot dogs, fries, sodas, etc., went through the window.

Thanks to Gale Willett, Gary Shupe, David Quade, Kathleen Quade, Roy Yanosh, Lennie Lentz, Carol Karpiak, and Cindy Moruzzi who volunteered their time at the baby back rib dinner on November 15. As always, thanks to those who turned out to support the dinner. Your support enables us to do the kinds of things we do and the donations we make like those mentioned in the previous paragraph. Our next baby back rib dinner will be on December 20. Check the flier on the website www.alpost82.org.

On November 16, I attended the S.A.L. Detachment of Maryland meeting at Francis Scott Key Post 11 in Frederick. At the meeting, the 2024-25 Detachment Directories were handed out. In addition, the 52nd Annual Convention packages were handed out. The Convention will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in White Marsh on June 20-22, 2025. It was my pleasure to present the donations approved at the Squadron meeting earlier in the month. Including the \$3,450 from Squadron 82, the total donations collected at the meeting was \$23,890. As Detachment

Commander Mike Obremski's slogan says, "Sons Having Fun Getting Things Done."

I attended the Southern Maryland Region meeting at Henderson-Smith-Edmonds Post 86 in Rockville on November 17. Most of the meeting was devoted to discussion of the two annual SMR fundraisers, the Drawdown and the Bull and Shrimp Feast.

Gary Shupe and I worked the floor at the SMR bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home on November 18. Forty-one residents participated and \$200 in prizes were handed out. It's always great to interact with the residents and staff.

Thanks to Gale Willett and Gary Shupe for handling the registration and refreshment tables at the Squadron sponsored Red Cross Blood Drive on November 25. Thirty-three units of life saving blood were collected. Great job guys.

As of the November 15 membership report 121 members have paid their 2025 dues. This number represents just over 56% of our goal of 215. Dues are still just \$20 for members 21 or over and \$15 for dual members and those under 21. 2024 membership cards will expire on December 31. If we reach 75% by the December 27 membership report, the Squadron will be entered into a raffle to win a 55" television. If you plan to renew, why not do it before the end of the year?

Members can now easily and quickly renew utilizing their last name, member ID and a credit card by visiting legion.org/sal-renew. Membership dues can also be paid at the Post or by mail to the Post. Because on-line renewal is only set up for the \$20 rate, it should not be used by dual or under 21-year-old members.

Yours in Service, Dave

David Tatman
Commander, Squadron 82
tatman_david@comcast.net

Dear Department of Maryland Legion Family,

As we gather with our loved ones this Thanksgiving, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your dedication, service, and unwavering commitment to our shared mission.

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the blessings in our lives. As members of The American Legion Family, we are called to give thanks not only for what we have but for the opportunity to serve others. Our mission—to honor and support veterans, military members, and their families—embodies the true spirit of Thanksgiving: generosity, compassion, and community.

This holiday, let us remember the men and women who cannot be home, those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and the countless veterans and families who rely on our support. By living our values of service and gratitude, we demonstrate the enduring strength of our Legion Family and the hope we bring to those we serve.



On behalf of Debbie and myself, we wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving filled with warmth, love, and reflection. Together, we are better, and together, we are the champions of hope for our veterans and their families. God Bless, and Happy Thanksgiving!

David Heredia Jr.

Commander, Department of Maryland



**ALR Meetings are held the
Second Thursday of Each Month at 1800hrs**
Good Afternoon, Riders, and Legion Family,

The latest scoop from the Steel Pony Corral:

The Riders would like to wish our post family a Merry Christmas and a safe Happy New Year. We also would like to thank all of you for your continued support of our fund-raising efforts throughout this past year. We are truly grateful for this support which helps continue to make us one of the top and most recognizable ALR chapters in the state. God Bless and Merry Christmas to all.

Hello Riders, it is that time of year for membership renewals. Please renew your current memberships in the Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary. This is mandatory for membership in the Riders. So far less than 50% of our members have renewed their membership for 2025. At our November meeting it was unanimously approved your dues will stay \$15 but if not renewed by 12/31/24 they will go up to \$20. So, save yourself some money and renew today.

On Sunday Nov. 3 the Riders had a strong turnout of 12 bikes for The Town of La Plata, Salute to Veterans Parade. The weather was fantastic and there was a good size crowd along the parade route, which clearly showed the gratitude and appreciation of our veterans.

On Saturday November 30, the Riders and La Plata Town Police are gearing up for our 4th Annual Toys for Tots Ride, in conjunction with Small Business Saturday. Registration is from 9-10am at the Post with KSU at 10:15am. Cages (cars) are welcome and encouraged to participate. Registration fee is \$10 and a new unwrapped toy. I'm told from a good source that Santa has once again signed on to make an

appearance. Also, the Grinch might show up. But the Riders will soften his heart for Christmas.

At our November meeting, the Riders were honored to host our MD State Commander David Heredia for the evening. The Riders were thankful to Commander Heredia for taking time away from his busy schedule to pay us a visit. Commander Heredia is also a Legion Rider and the Assistant Chief Road Captain for the American Legion National Legacy Run. Commander Heredia explained to our members about his focus and commitment to Veterans Assistance and Rehabilitation of Maryland Veterans with the upcoming A Celebration of Champions Inaugural Gala fundraiser on April 19, 2025. More information to follow.

On Saturday December 14, The Riders will be participating in Wreaths Across America at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery. We will be placing all dedicated wreaths purchased by our Legion family members on the graves of our loved ones and heroes. Weather permitting, we will be on motorcycles. Cages are welcome to follow. Meet at Wawa in Brandywine at 9:30 am, KSU at 10:00am. We will ride to Napoli's in Waldorf for lunch after the Official Ceremony.

I would like to welcome our newest members Russell Putney, Joe Manocchio, Nathaniel Wooddell and Patrick Hillman. Welcome and Ride Safe Brothers.

Upcoming Rides:

Dec. 14 - Wreaths Across America

Jan. 1 - New Years Polar Bear Ride

Next ALR meeting is Thursday Dec. 12, 2024 @ 1800 Up

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin "Big Sexy" Bryant
Director
ALR Chapter 82, MD

What's Going on at Post 82 in December?

No Steak & Fried Shrimp Dinner this month

The membership voted at our November meeting to skip December and January due to all the other holiday events this period.

Tuesday, Dec 3

Last day to order Wreaths Across America for Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery
Order online using this link to take advantage of the 3 for 2 wreath offer_

<http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/MD0136>

Tuesday, December 3

S.A.L. Meeting – 6 PM

Legion Exec Mtg – No Meeting in December

Tuesday, December 10

Legion Membership Meeting – 6 PM

Auxiliary Meeting – 6 PM

Thursday, December 12

American Legion Riders Meeting – 6 PM

Saturday, Dec 14

Wreaths Across America, Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery - All Post 82 family are welcome to participate.

Meet at Brandywine Wawa at 9:30am

Depart for Cheltenham at 10:00am

Lay wreaths on named Post 82 graves 10:15 - 11:30am

WAA official ceremony 12:00pm

Depart for lunch at Napoli Pizza, Waldorf after ceremony

Saturday, Dec 14

Post 82 "Kids Jingle & Bingo Christmas Party" 2:00PM - Open to the public.

RSVP by Dec 9 at

https://www.bit.ly/Kids_XMas_Party_Signup

Friday, December 20

S.A.L. Baby Back Rib Dinner 5 – 7 PM

Open to the Public

Saturday December 21

Post 82 Adult Christmas Party 5:00PM

Tickets are just \$10 per person and **must be purchased in advance** from the bartenders in the Lounge.

The ticket price includes lite fare and 2 drink tickets.

Friday, December 27

Members Shrimp in the Bar 6 – 7 PM

Members Only

S.A.L. Queen of Hearts every Wednesday

Drawing in the Lounge at 6:45pm

Auxiliary BINGO every Thursday.

Doors open at 4:30 PM



Legion Family,

My son William participated in the American Legion's Boys State last summer. He loved it. He learned about government, civics, democracy and leadership. He made some friends, had some fun, and earned a few college credits too. Girls State is a similar experience, but I understand they get to sleep in later.

It's only for boys and girls completing their 11th grade year. And it's free to participants, sponsored by local American Legion Posts. If you want more information or have questions, check out this [link](#) or email me at zabriskie@gmail.com.

Chris Zabriske

Member Post 82



AMERICAN LEGION POST 82

KIDS' JINGLE & BINGO

CHRISTMAS PARTY



DECEMBER
14TH



2:00
PM

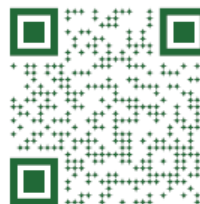


6330 N. CRAIN HWY
LA PLATA, MD

Get ready for BINGO, prizes, and holiday cheer for the kids, all topped off with a special visit from Santa himself.

Light refreshments will be served.

If interested in attending use the QR code to RSVP.
Please RSVP by December 9th.



THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC





Every year the Department Commander selects a key project to support. On behalf of the Department of Maryland, I'm excited to announce that this year's project focuses on supporting Maryland's Veterans Assistance and Rehabilitation Program, with the theme **"Veterans Strengthening America: We are the Champions of Hope!"**

This initiative aims to provide essential resources and support to veterans in Maryland, helping them thrive and build a hopeful future. It's a commitment to enhancing the lives of those who have served and their families.

Our goal this year is to raise \$250,000. I am asking for your support to make this project a success.

Sincerely,

David Heredia Jr.

Commander, Department of Maryland
2024 - 2025

Your Gift Makes a Difference in the Lives of Men and Women Who Have Sworn to Protect Our Nation.

Safe, secure, tax-deductible contributions can be made by check using the form on the back of this brochure.

For military and veteran families in urgent need

For disabled veterans and their loved ones

**The American Legion
Department of Maryland
Veterans Assistance & Rehabilitation
Program is**

**WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS
OF
HOPE**



About The American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) in Maryland

The Departments of Maryland's charitable contributions to needy families, churches, and government programs that support VA&R, as well as a host of other State recognized not-for profit charitable organizations, exceeded \$2 million. These donations and grants continue year after year.

In addition, our members make cash and in-kind donations and contribute tens of thousands of volunteer hours each year to many worthy charitable causes, including Special Olympics, VA Medical Centers and Clinics, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, other Maryland Military Treatment Facilities and Out-Patient Clinics, Fisher Houses, Johns Hopkins Hospital's Children's Miracle Network, Maryland State Veterans Cemeteries and the Charlotte Hall Maryland State Veterans Home.

Your contribution will greatly enhance the support and resources available to those veterans living in Maryland who have served our country. By investing in these areas, you help ensure that veterans receive the assistance to thrive and lead fulfilling lives after their service.

The Department of Maryland American Legion is committed to fulfill the words of its official motto:

In Maryland the Department Veterans Service Officers (VSO) assists over 1,000 veterans annually with their VA benefit's paperwork and manage nearly \$18,000,000 in awards each year.

Thanks to the efforts of our Department Service Officers and Post Resource Officers, many veterans have received retroactive compensation.



Under the Departments of Maryland's Family Support Network provided over 13,000 hours of labor and more than \$40,000 in financial support to families and spouses of deployed service members. This support included addressing emergency financial hardships and various family needs.

The American Legion is the nation's largest veterans service organization.

Founded by World War I veterans in 1919, it has grown to include all who have honorably served in the U.S. Armed Forces since Dec. 7, 1941. This includes veterans and active-duty men and women in The American Legion Department of Maryland.

The American Legion Department of Maryland works every day on behalf of veterans, U.S. military personnel, young people and patriotic communities.

Through "individual obligation to community, state and nation," the Department of Maryland strives to create positive impacts at every level of society.



VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA