



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

September 2025

www.Alpost82.org

301-934-8221

Commander's Corner

Hello Legion Family,

By John Flatley, Commander, Post 82

As summer winds down, our first administrative quarter is nearly complete. I'm pleased to report strong membership renewals—63% as of August 22. Thank you to the 506 members who have already reinvested in Post 82. Your commitment makes a real difference for veterans, active-duty families, and our community.

It's been a busy summer. In July, we attended the Department Convention in Ocean City and held our local officer installations. In August, five of our members joined the Virginia American Legion Riders for the kickoff of the National Legacy Ride. Over 300 motorcycles rode to Tampa, where funds raised will be presented to the Veterans and Children Foundation. The Department of Maryland ALR set a record this year with \$235,000 raised, bringing Maryland's 10-year total to \$1 million. Post 82 has led the way with the largest donations in four of the past six years. Beyond the numbers, these dollars save lives by supporting veterans and military families in crisis. Thank you, Post 82, for your generosity and hard work.

At our Installation Banquet, I set a goal for 20 Post 82 members to complete the ***Be The One*** online training by Memorial Day 2026. This Columbia University program equips us to

recognize warning signs, assess suicide risk, and respond effectively to veterans in crisis. So far, two members have committed—I need 18 more. To register, visit <https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-training> and let me know once you're signed up. Together, we can make a real impact.

Post 82 has a proud reputation in La Plata and Charles County. Let's build on that legacy and continue serving veterans, service members, and our country—united as one Legion Family.

Honored to serve,

John Flatley Jr
johnflatleyjr@gmail.com
301.848.7664

What's Going on at Post 82?

Friday, September 19

S.A.L. Baby Back Rib Dinner 5 – 7 PM
Open to the Public

Friday, September 26

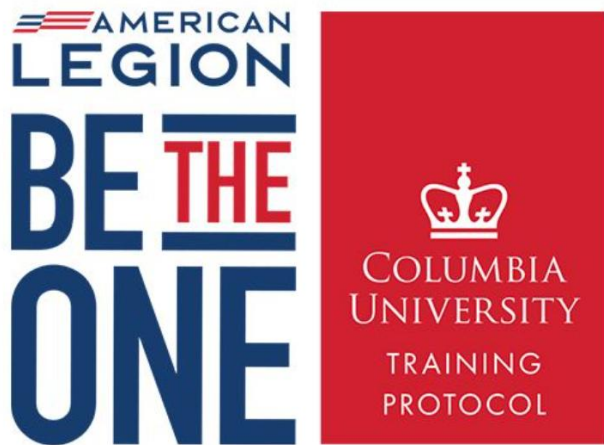
Member & Guests Steamed Shrimp at the Bar
5:30 – 6:30 PM

Every Wednesday S.A.L. Queen of Hearts

Drawing in the Lounge at 6:45pm

Every Thursday Auxiliary BINGO

Doors open at 4:30 PM



As part of The American Legion ***Be the One*** mission to end veteran suicide, we have joined forces with Columbia University to develop training for those who want to learn more about interacting and responding with veterans who may be in crisis.

After the training, participants will be able to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to determine at-risk individuals.
- Identify risk factors and warning signs
- Outline the types of suicidal ideation and four behaviors that indicate imminent risk.
- Communicate effectively with an individual who may be at risk of hurting themselves.

Members of The Post 82 American Legion Family are encouraged to take part in this training and share the training with their communities. Check out the Be The One Training Page at <https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-training> or subscribe to [The American Legion Online Update newsletter](#) to receive information about new training opportunities as they become available.

1st Vice Commander's Corner

Alright Post 82 Legionnaires!

We are currently sitting at #1 for Posts with membership at 751 - 1000 with 63.01%. However, we have 3 Posts hot on our heels; so let us keep the pedal to the metal. If you have a legion card that does not have 2026 on it, you need to renew now to keep us in first place.

We are also sitting in 11th place for the state for membership overall and we are only just starting. For those that took advantage of the 3-year renewal, thank you, for those that did not, this renewal option is still available online at www.MyLegion.org. Trust me, it is so much easier not to have to worry about paying your dues for 3 years, if the cost of dues is holding you back, please reach out, we are here to help.

Our goals for this year are 100% membership with a 95% renewal rate, we are currently sitting at 63.01% and 63.14%, respectively. Please help us to reach our goals by renewing your membership ASAP. We are also building a 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.

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

Legionnaires, Sons, Auxiliary.

I want to share some upcoming events and opportunities to get involved.

County Fair

The Charles County Fair is coming up **September 11th through 14th**, and we want to have members volunteer to work at the Legion booth. Shifts are three hours, and you'll be given a ticket/wristband for free access to the fair. It's a great opportunity to meet new people. Use this link,



[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054BADAB2CABF9C52-58139392-legion#/,](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054BADAB2CABF9C52-58139392-legion#/) or scan the QR code with your phone. Thank you to The Riders for covering all shifts on Saturday.

Shrimp in the Bar

We're shifting our "Shrimp in the Bar" event from 6-7 to **5:30-6:30 pm**. Look out for the next Shrimp in the Bar on **September 26th**. This is a member and guests event, so bring a friend or two.

Monthly Membership Meeting

Our membership meetings are on the second Tuesday of every month. It's a great way to stay up to date on what's going on and to get more involved. It's also a great opportunity to connect with your fellow Legionnaires before or after for some social time in the lounge.

That's all for now.

Respectfully in Service,

Chris Zabriskie
Post Adjutant



Chaplain's Corner

Well, here we are a few weeks away from another change in season. Meteorological fall begins on September 1, while astronomical fall starts on September 22 at 2:19 PM ET. Meteorological seasons are based on temperature, while astronomical seasons are based on the Earth's position relative to the sun.

While we all experience changes in meteorological and astronomical seasons, we can also experience different personal seasons, seasons that, while not experienced by everyone, do occur in many lives. Seasons of good health and prosperous livelihoods, those of regret, loss, anxiety, depression, changes in employment, marital status, family additions, and so on.

When we experience these personal seasons and the uncertainty of many of them, we can find solace in Scripture. We can find assurance that we are not alone in our challenging seasons. I offer the following Scripture verses for your consideration and encouragement.

Ecclesiastes 3 - A Time for Everything

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to cast away stones, and a time

to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Psalm 42:11

Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Deuteronomy 31:8

The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Psalm 30:11

You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing. You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy

Psalm 34:17,18

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

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



At our August meeting we had the honor of our District 6 President Carmin Sheffy and her membership officer Barbara Smith. We went over our new standing rules and budget. We also made contributions to different veteran's organizations.

Please pay your dues. We did not make goal last year and we would like to make it this year. If you know of a member that is in the hospital or sick, please let Chaplain Mary Shaffer know. Her phone number is (301) 934-4372. We do not know when someone is sick or in the hospital unless you let us know.

If you wish to help out with BINGO or work in the kitchen during BINGO, please contact me at (301) 934-3512 or show up to help out.

Department President Kyrese Johnson's project this year is Girls State. This is an important program for young ladies to learn how our government works.

The first **District 6 meeting is September 28th at Chesapeake Beach Post 206**. Lunch is served at 1pm and the meeting starts at 2pm.

The fall conference this year is **October 31, November 1 & 2**. This will be held at the Grand Hotel. I had information regarding the information on making reservations at the August meeting. If you need this information please contact me. The fall conference is a good learning experience with information on how different programs work.

Our next meeting is September 9th at 6pm.

For Service not Self,

Lesley Radcliff, Unit 82 President

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

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

I attended the Southern Maryland Region (SMR) Organizational meeting at Greenbelt Post 136 on July 27. In addition to discussing SMR Commander Jerry Darnell's plans for the year, a motion was made, seconded and passed to increase the monthly payouts at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) from \$200 to \$400. This is a great way to support our veterans because the prize money is handed right to the CHVH residents.

Thirty eight units of blood were collected at the Squadron sponsored American Red Cross Blood Drive July 28. Thanks to Gale Willett and Gary Shupe for handling the registration and refreshment tables. The next Squadron sponsored blood drive will be **September 29**.

I attended the Detachment of Maryland Detachment Executive Committeemen meeting at Laurel Post 60 on August 2. Detachment Commander Jason Miller's motto for the year is *"Sons Honoring Veterans Everyday."* During the meeting, I presented the Squadron's donations of \$1,000 each to Child Well-Being Foundation, the Children's Miracle Network, the Casey Cares Foundation, and Commander Miller's Project, Patriot Point. Patriot Point is a veterans' retreat facility near Cambridge, Maryland. The project will consist of building an upgraded fire pit area along with a handicap walkway from the main building to the fire pit area.

At the regular monthly Squadron meeting on August 5, the members voted to donate \$600 to Wreaths Across America, \$1,000 to Toys for Tots of Charles County, \$1,000 to Boy Scout Troop 1321, \$1,000 to Special Olympics of

Charles County, and \$1,000 to the SMR bingos at the CHVH.

I volunteered at the CHVH gift shop on August 8. As I have mentioned before, many of the residents I see at the gift shop are the ones who play at the Southern Maryland Region 3rd Monday bingos.

One hundred twenty dinners were prepared for the Squadron's baby back rib dinner on August 15 and all were served. Thanks to Gale Willett, Gary Shupe, Roy Yanosh, Alana Lentz, Lennie Lentz, Cindy Moruzzi, Don Wamsley, Carol Karpiak, and Cathy Bryant who volunteered their time. Our next dinner will be a baby back rib dinner on **September 19**. Check the flier on the website www.alpost82.org.

Gale Willett, Gary Shupe and I worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the CHVH on August 18. Only 26 residents from the Assisted Living side were able to attend. Because there were three winners on the final game, and prize money is not split, \$490 in prizes were handed out. It's always great to interact with the residents and staff.

The 2026 membership cards are available. Renew early and let's achieve another Four Star award at next year's convention



Yours in Service,

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

New Flag Retirement Box

As many of you have noticed, there is a really nice U.S. Flag Retirement Box at the members' entrance to the lounge. The box is the product of Lucas Alerie's Boy Scout Troop 1321 Eagle Scout project. Pictured below with the box are Troop 1321 Scoutmaster Ron Lile, Lucas Alerie, and Troop 1321 Eagle Advisor John Wilkinson.



In addition to the box at the Post, Lucas has placed a box at the Charles County Sheriff's Office and another at the La Plata Town Hall. The members of Troop 1321 will monitor the boxes and, when necessary, bring the flags to the Post for storage until they are retired at a United States Flag Retirement Ceremony. Squadron 82 members held a Flag Retirement Ceremony on June 14. Because of the large volume of flags to be retired there will be a second retirement ceremony this year in October with participation from Troop 1321.

Details will be published once they are finalized. Lucas is to be congratulated for his project honoring the Flag of our Country.



The Sons of The American Legion, which already set a new membership record this year, hit another milestone over the weekend by surpassing 400,000 members.

"Reaching this milestone is a cause for celebration not only for the Sons of The American Legion, but the entire American Legion Family," said SAL National Commander Joseph Navarreté. "Surpassing 400,000 members shows how much our generations, from our oldest member to our youngest, value the service and sacrifice our veterans have made so that we all can live free in the greatest nation in the world. This reflects the phrase I have strived to share throughout my year as SAL national commander: 'Todo es Posible con Dios y Familia - Everything is possible with God and family.'

SAL PASSES 400,000 MEMBERS





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

A big round of applause for Rider John(Flatrock) Flatley being named Legionnaire of the Year and assuming the duties of Post Commander for 2025-2026. John has always put God and Country first and he can always be counted on to step up and help. He is very selfless and always wants to see the Post and Post family succeed. John will need some help attaining his goals for Post 82 so don't be a stranger when asked to help and be like John.

The newly elected Post 82 ALR Director, Jeff(Animal) Coombs, just wanted to say Thank You to all those who have supported the Riders over the last year. He was a charter member of Post 82 riders and has served as the Assistant Director for the last couple of years and is looking forward to working with our new leadership teams and every organization and member of the Post.

Road Captain Fred(Snake) Heppner and crew returned safe and sound from their 32-day cross country journey. There will be lots of stories to be told from their adventure and their trials and tribulations with weather and road conditions. Great job to all four for your completion of your journey and posting some locations on Facebook for us all to follow.

On August 9th past Road Captain Vivian(Momma G) Gideon planned a day ride to Yorktown VA to tour the Yorktown Revolutionary Museum and Battlefield, which was pivotal in the birth of our nation. Leaving out of La Plata at 0630 with 10 bikes and 12 Riders they enjoyed a great ride with camaraderie and fellowship. All arrived home safe at 1800.

On Saturday August 16, The Riders divided into two groups. Fred(Snake) Heppner led one group

of 3 bikes on The Boulder Crest Healing Heroes Ride which started in Fairfax VA meandering through the countryside to Bluemont VA and the gorgeous campus of Boulder Crest.

The second group led by Director Jeff (Animal) Coombs ventured over to Post 176 Springfield VA to ride the Virginia Fun Run to South Boston VA for the start of the National Legacy Run 2025. All total 3 bikes and a chase vehicle with trailer participated along with almost 100 bikes from various VA ALR Chapters. On Sunday August 17 those 3 bikes started the first leg of The National Legacy Run from South Boston VA to Sanford NC before turning for home. The trio made it home safely on Sunday evening just before the bad thunderstorms erupted.

The Riders are seeking volunteers to staff the Post 82 booth at the County Fair on Saturday **September 13**. Staffers are needed for 4-hour blocks starting at 9am with the last block ending at 9 pm. You can sign up from a link on our private FB page hosted by Sign Up Genius. The Riders have been providing coverage at the County Fair for 10 years now and we need a total of 6-8 volunteers.

Also on Saturday **September 13** we have an opportunity to represent Post 82 at the Blue Crabs stadium for Military Appreciation Night hosted by Blue Star Families. The Riders gave a donation to this organization for this event, and we will need 3 volunteers to man a table providing information about Post 82 and membership from 1630-1830 with set up at 1600. Please reach out to Randy(Gray Dog) Markley to sign up. You also get to stay and enjoy the game if you choose. This is a busy Saturday but with 67 members we should have no problems with staffing shortages.

A welcome to our newest member Retired Air Force Chuck Marsh. Chuck is in need of a road name, please make suggestions to Chuck once you have ridden with him.

We would like to encourage all our members as well as our Post Families (Legion, SAL & Auxiliary) to please volunteer some time to help with events, fundraisers & dinners as promoted by our Post. These events are vital to the livelihood

and strength of our Post within the community. You can volunteer at what works best with your schedule and it can be as short as an hour or two. Thank you to all who have been stepping up to help, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Rides and Events:

Saturday, Sept 20 - Last Patrol Honor Ride-TBD

Saturday, Sept 27 - Crusin Southern MD-TBD

Next ALR Meeting **Thursday, Sept 11** @ 1800

Respectfully Submitted,
Kevin (BIG SEXY) Bryant
Director



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



VETERAN

**& FAMILY MEMBERS/SURVIVING SPOUSES
CLAIM CLINIC**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

“COMMUNITY WELCOME TO OBTAIN RESOURCES”

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

9:30 AM – 2:30 PM



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
GEORGE HAWLEY | 240-367-6489 | GHAWLEY83@GMAIL.COM**

CALVARY GOSPEL CHURCH | 11150 BERRY ROAD WALDORF, MD 20695