



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

August 2025

www.Alpost82.org

301-934-8221

Commander's Corner

A New Chapter Begins

By John Flatley, Commander, Post 82

It is with deep pride and great enthusiasm that I begin my term as Commander of the Harry White Wilmer American Legion Post 82. As we look ahead to 2025–2026, I am both humbled by our history and energized by the opportunities before us.

Post 82 has long stood as a beacon in La Plata — a strong and active Legion Family of Veterans, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders. We have a proud tradition of supporting veterans and their families, speaking up for veteran causes, serving on local veteran-related boards and committees, and giving back through countless community efforts.

But I often ask myself a question I now share with you: *If Post 82 were to shutter its doors tomorrow, would our community feel the loss?* I think the answer is yes, La Plata and Charles County would miss Post 82. However, the answer to that question must always be a resounding yes — and that takes all of us working together.

This year, our goals are clear and achievable:

- Increase member retention from 91% to 95%
- Grow membership from 795 to 835
- Have 50 Legionnaires complete *Legion 101* online training
- Have 40 Post 82 Family members complete *Columbia Protocol* online training

These targets are more than just numbers — they represent our commitment to strengthening our foundation, deepening our knowledge, and increasing our impact in the lives of veterans and our community.

Let's be proud not just to *belong* to Post 82, but to *participate*. Let's be visible, vocal, and valuable — in our meetings, at community events, and in every place where our mission can make a difference.

Tell your friends, your neighbors, and your fellow veterans: *"I am a proud member of Post 82 in La Plata."* and be prepared to tell them *why you joined*.

Here's to a year of action, pride, and purpose. I look forward to serving alongside each of you.

Ready to Serve



John

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301.848.7664



1st Vice Commander's Corner

Hello, my fellow Legionnaires! I am so excited to start the Legion year off as the Post 82 1st Vice Commander.

As you know, the Legion year runs from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, so it is time to renew your membership if you have not already done so. For those that took advantage of the 3-year renewal, thank you, if you did not this renewal option is still available online at www.legion.org. Trust me, it is so much easier not 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. Last year we missed our goal of 100% membership by just thirty-eight renewals so I have decided to come out with a full court press from day one! Our goals for this year are 100% membership with a 95% renewal rate. This should not be hard to achieve if we all work together.

First, I would like to build 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. Our first quick meeting will be on August 12th at 5pm prior to the general membership meeting. I look forward to reaching our goals as quickly as possible so we can move this team onto other events within the Post.

Jamie Zayas *Always Serving*

The Green & Gold Congressional Aide Program

Provides two-year employment opportunities for [Veterans, Gold Star Family Members, and Active-Duty Spouses](#) to work for the U.S. House of Representatives nationwide.

Anyone interested should begin the process at the following link: <https://greenandgoldprogram.house.gov/>

Joseph D. Pruden, Jr.
Military and Veterans Affairs Liaison
Office: (240)-906-6262
Work Cell: (202)-984-3866



Chaplains Corner

The Maryland Gold Star Legacy Run is a charity ride to raise money originally for Gold Star Families and now for the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation. This fund provides grants to needy veterans and their families. The fund also provides training to Service Officers that help veterans get the VA benefits to which they are entitled.

While taking care of our veterans and their families is an important function of the American Legion what you may not know is it is that seeing to the needs of orphans and widows is a Biblically endorsed activity as well. While the orphans and widows/widowers are not specified as being related to military veterans in the Bible, the importance of their care to God is significant. I offer the following Scripture verses as a few examples that support this:

Psalms 68:4-5 "Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him—his name is the Lord. A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling."

Isaiah 1:17 "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow."

James 1:27 "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

As always, if you or your family and friends have any needs with which I may be able to assist, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Christ,

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



Auxiliary Meetings are held the Second Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm

Hello Twizzlers:

I am back from the Legion convention in Ocean City and this year's theme is "Sweet on our Veterans". Each District is a different candy and we are Twizzlers.

Our fall conference is at Ocean City in the Grand Hotel. There are special rates for Auxiliary members. The date is October 31, November 1, 2. We will leave on the second after the meeting. I will have more information at our August 12th meeting.

I hope everybody is keeping cool from this hot weather.

Our next auxiliary meeting is August 12th at 6pm.

For service not self,

Lesley Radcliff
Unit 82 President



WREATHS
across
AMERICA

★ **KEEP MOVING FORWARD** ★

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





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

The best news first:

On Weds July 16 Post 82 for the 4th year in the last 6 years has been #1 in MD for top fundraiser on the Gold Star Legacy Ride. The plaque was presented to The Riders at The Department Convention in Ocean City MD. The 8 Riders and Commander Hindle accepted this award for Post 82 acknowledging that this goal could not have been achieved without the entire Post 82 family. The Riders are forever grateful for the love and support shown by the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL and their willingness to give mutual helpfulness to each other within the Post. Our goal for this year's GSLR was 235K which would make our 10 year total 1 million dollars in total donations to the Legacy Scholarship and the Veterans & Children Fund. We fell just short raising a whopping 219K, however after the ceremony the Ride Directors were approached by someone from Post 278 Kent Island who pledged over 15K to help us reach the goal of 235K. The MD GSLR Directors will be presenting a check for over 235K to the National Commander on Sat Aug 16 at Post 8 South Boston VA the night before the start of the National Legacy Run which concludes at The National Convention in Tampa FL on Aug 21.

On Sat July 12, 6 bikes 1 passenger led by Road Captain Vivian (Momma G) Gedeon participated in the 12 Annual Hero Dogs Ride out of Post 22 Towson MD. The Riders donated over 600 dollars to provide trained service dogs to our veterans in need. All total over 10K was raised during this event. The ride was through scenic north central MD and ended at Post 22 for a grilled lunch and some interaction with the staff and dogs from Hero Dogs.

On July 7 at 0730 incoming Road Captain Fred (Snake) Heppner and 3 other bikes start off their 30 day ride around the 48 states. As of July 19, Fred posted to our FB page they were at the Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River in Washington State. He has posted stops at Mt Rushmore, Geographic Center of US in Lebanon KS, Fargo ND and 25 miles of dirt road to the Northern Most Point of US in Minnesota. Ride Safe Fred and crew you're in our prayers.

Congratulations to Rider CMSgt Richard P. Daniels (Joker) who is retiring from The Air Force on Friday Aug 8 after a 37-year career. You all are invited to his ceremony on Friday August 8 at 1430. It will take place at The Air National Guard Readiness Center (Ted Jackson Conference Room) 3500 Fetchet Ave. Joint Base Andrews, MD. Thank you Joker for a job well done and a much-deserved retirement.

Please come out and support the Riders on our last Spaghetti Dinner of the summer. Friday night August 29 at 5-7pm.

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:

Sat Aug 9 Yorktown VA ride KSU-TBD (Momma G to lead)

Healing Heroes Ride from Patriot Harley Davidson Fairfax VA Registration @ 0800-0930
Sat August 16

The Ride to the Ride Post 176 Springfield VA Sat August 16- KSU @ 0800

National Legacy Ride Post 8 South Boston VA
Registration & Dinner Sat Aug 16
Ride starts at 7am on Sun Aug 17

Spaghetti Dinner Fri August 29 @ 1700-1900

Next ALR Meeting August 14 @ 1800

Respectfully Submitted,
Kevin (BIG SEXY) Bryant
Director



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

The 19th Annual Joe Williams Memorial Golf Tournament was one of the best yet. Thirty six teams competed. Thanks to the 1st Place Simpson's Olde Towne Insurance team of Greg Winkler, Tyler Wood, Dave Wood, and Ryan Bowling who donated the 1st Place prize money back. Over \$10,400 was raised for a variety of American Legion and community programs. I think Joe would be very proud. Additional details are available below.

The Squadron held its regular monthly meeting on July 1. The main topic of discussion was the upcoming baby back rib dinner and how many dinners to plan for.

I volunteered at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home gift shop on July 11. It is really nice to interact with the residents, staff and visitors. I frequently see some of the residents who play bingo at the Southern Maryland Region 3rd Monday bingos. The money they win at the bingos is greatly appreciated.

The Squadron's baby back rib dinner July 18 went well. One hundred and six dinners were served. Thanks to Gale Willett, Gary Shupe, David Quade, Roy Yanosh, Alana Lentz, Kathleen Quade, Lennie Lentz, Cindy Moruzzi, and Carol Karpiak who volunteered their time.

Our next dinner will be a baby back rib dinner on August 15. 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 Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) on July 21. Forty five residents participated and \$380 in prizes was handed out. It's always great to interact with the residents and staff.

The 2026 membership cards were handed out at the Convention in June and are now 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

JOE WILLIAMS MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thanks to everyone who participated in, and supported, the 19th Annual Joe Williams Memorial Golf Tournament, sponsored by the Harry White Wilmer American Legion Post 82 and the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 82. In addition to being a past Commander of

Squadron 82, Joe was a long time educator and football coach in the Charles County school system and a friend to all he met. The tournament was held on June 27, at White Plains Golf Course with 36 teams comprised of 143 golfers participating. There was brief period of rain but not enough to spoil the fun.

The team of Greg Winkler, Tyler Wood, Dave Wood, and Ryan Bowling took first place honors with a score of 54. The team of Erik Koch, Jack Koch, Tom Fawcett, and Matt Martin and the team of Keith Wood, Pat Hoover, Billy Wade, and Dave Krex tied for second with a score of 56.

Winners of the men's and women's longest drive were Greg Winkler and Gabby Cuellar, respectively. Closest to the pin winners were Jordan Twiford and Gabby Cuellar.

Gold sponsors included Jill and Brad Williams, Tony, Bob, Jane, and Tim Williams, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 82, United Metro Golf Carts, Middleton Heating & Air Conditioning, Flagsin Group LLC, Sergeant Major Robert V. Sluss Memorial Hall, Jeff Suttan Century 21, Hunan Star Restaurant, Simpson's Olde Towne Insurance, Dennis Burks Century 21, All Season Aire, Colonial Liquors, Chick-fil-A of La Plata, Trusted Title Services LLC, and Dulaney Title and Escrow LLC. Joson Fine Jewelry & Home Boutique Inc. was a Silver Sponsor. Bronze sponsors included Southern Maryland Title LLC, Newburg Service Center, La Plata Pediatrics & Family Health, Frank Arrington, and La Plata Pharmacy.

In addition to the Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors, the following individuals and organizations made donations of products or services, some of which were given as door prizes during the dinner at the Post following the tournament: All Season Aire, Joanie Roberts, Chick-fil-A of La Plata, Rucci's Italian Kitchen and Grille, Jeff Suttan, Dennis Burks, Green Turtle Sports Bar and Grill, Martin's Service Station, Katie Jackson, Foster's Grill of La Plata, Bozick Distributors Inc., Texas Ribs & BBQ, the Blue Dog Saloon, Apehangers Bar & Grill, White

Plains Golf Course, Fizzie's Marina & Pub, David and Kathleen Quade.

Over \$10,400 was raised for American Legion and community programs, including the \$3,000 Sons of The American Legion Squadron 82 Veterans Memorial Scholarships which are awarded annually to graduating seniors of La Plata High School. Congratulations to Jolie Willett and Benjamin Wilson, the 2025 scholarship winners. Since its beginning in 2005, the tournament has raised over \$148,400 for a variety of American Legion and community programs, including \$49,000 in scholarships.

Thanks to Kevin Miga, Superintendent Jefre Tschudi and staff at the White Plains Golf Course for all their help. The golf course was very well maintained. Thanks to the sponsors, the many volunteers, and everyone who participated, for making the 19th Annual Joe Williams Memorial Golf Tournament one of the best ever.

What's Going on at Post 82?

Friday, August 15

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

Friday, August 29

Riders – Spaghetti Dinner 5 – 7 PM

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

New Post U.S. Flag Retirement Box

Thanks to [BSA Troup 1321](#)

