



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

January 2025

www.Alpost82.org

301-934-8221

Commander's Message



Raymond "Buddy" Hindle

Happy New Year 2025!

With the holidays mostly over and individuals setting and trying to keep their New Year's resolutions; let all of us work to make 2025 a year of High Achievements for Post 82.

We are making plans to excel at several programs we support every year. Please take time to come to the membership meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and be part of your Post's planning and offer new ideas for programs and activities supporting our community. We are always open for new ways to help our Veterans, Children & Youth and our local community programs.

I would not be doing my job if I didn't remind our members with "2024" on their membership card that your card has expired. Please check your card and renew your membership today.

I thank you in advance for your renewal. When you renew, a portion of your dues goes to support National Legion lobbying efforts in Washington D.C. for improved benefits for you, the Veteran and your family members. It also pays for two full-time Veteran Service Officers (VSO) with offices in Baltimore. Their contact information is listed in the Free State Warrior newsletter emailed to each member. As you can see, paying our dues is an investment in the Legion.

The next steak night will be on Friday, February 7, 5:00 – 6:30PM. Bring the family and enjoy the evening with your Legion family and friends. Also, we are happy to have new volunteer help. [Click this link to sign up.](#)

We hope everyone is keeping our active-duty military in your prayers. Remember, they are working in a very crazy world with terrorists killing anyone standing in their way. Our military is the only group keeping WWII from erupting. Thank them when you see them at the supermarket, or anywhere you see them.

Come out and support your Post.

For God and Country,

Raymond "Buddy" Hindle

Commander



Membership Report

Hello Legionnaires of Post 82!

Thank you to all who have renewed your membership in the American Legion for 2025 (654 of us as of Dec 27). Your investment in the Legion goes beyond the financial expense of \$45. Your membership allows you to be counted among the more than 1.6 million members who strengthen the nation through programs, services and advocacy for those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, youth and communities. In other words, **Your Membership Matters.**

For the 177 members who have not yet renewed, the Legion is currently sending reminder notices. Please take this opportunity to renew your membership investment in Harry White Wilmer Post 82. Our community is watching and responding to the great work we are doing for our active-duty military, students, veterans and first responders. We need you, each of you, to remain the strong voice in La Plata, Charles County, Maryland and the USA.

Do you know an active-duty member or veteran who is not a member of the Legion? Invite them to join you at one of our weekly dinners or other Legion Family events and put an application in their hands. Together, we can do and are doing great things!

Still serving.

David D. Abildgaard, 1st Vice Commander
Membership Chair

How the 'Brush-Off Club' helped jilted WWII troops cope with Jody

by CLAIRE BARRETT

Jody. The mere mention of the name is enough to send shivers down the spine of any service member. For G.I.'s based in India during World War II, the threat of a Jody was omnipresent. Yet in a real band of brother's moment, the jilted men turned their heartbreak into something meaningful; enter The Brush-Off Club.

According to the January 24, 1943, issue of Yank, The Army Weekly, mournful hearts organized for the first time in military history to join forces in mutual sympathy. The rules to join the club were fairly straightforward — if you were in possession of a broken heart “or a reasonable facsimile,” you were in.

The elite “club ha[d] a ‘chief crier’ a ‘chief sweater’ and a ‘chief consoler,’” wrote Sgt. Ed Cunningham, field correspondent for Yank. All members were “required to give each other the needle; i.e., full sympathy for all active members... By-laws state: As we are all in the ‘same transport,’ we must provide willing shoulders to cry upon, and join fervently in all wailing and weeping.”

For those nursing a heartbreak there was a small consolation, namely the more serious the offense — say one's fiancée marrying another, and to a sailor no less — the more quickly one could rise through the ranks. The more magnanimously scorned, the clearer the path for Brush-Off presidency.

Members were encouraged to turn the frown upside down, perhaps take a sip of beer, wail at the moon for a brief period, and then eventually move on.

Take that, Jody.

This story was originally published on [HistoryNet.com](https://www.historynet.com).



Chaplains Corner

At this time of year, many people will find cause to reflect on the events of the past year and give thought to what the new year might bring. This is not a new process. In the Bible's Book of Ecclesiastes, one finds a book of perspective, the authorship of which is often attributed King Solomon and believed to have been written around 935 B.C. This book addresses the sense of depression that people often experience as the result of seeking happiness in the temporary things of the world. Explored by the book's author are a wide variety of worldly pleasures, none of which gives him a sense of lasting meaning.

In the end, the author comes to accept that faith in God is the only way to find lasting personal meaning in one's life. He accepts the fact that life is brief and ultimately worthless without God. In the end he advises the reader to focus on an eternal God instead of worldly temporary pleasures. This I also encourage you to do. I offer the likely familiar verses from the Book of Ecclesiastes for your consideration:

Ecclesiastes 3 (New Living Translation)

"A Time for Everything"

"For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.

A time to be born and a time to die.

A time to plant and a time to harvest.

A time to kill and a time to heal.

A time to tear down and a time to build up.

A time to cry and a time to laugh.

A time to grieve and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones.

A time to embrace and a time to turn away.

A time to search and a time to quit searching.

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

A time to tear and a time to mend.

A time to be quiet and a time to speak.

A time to love and a time to hate.

A time for war and a time for peace.

What do people really get for all their hard work?

I have seen the burden God has placed on us all.

Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end. So, I concluded there is nothing better than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we can. And people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor, for these are gifts from God."

I'll close by wishing you and yours a happy and meaningful New Year in which you draw closer to God through his Son Christ Jesus.

As always, I am available to all 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

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

Hello Horses!

Christmas is just right around the corner; I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I would like to thank Ann Taylor, Darlene Willett, and Cathy Grimm for purchasing the Christmas items for the Charlotte Hall Veterans home. They did a great job. I would also like to thank Miss Amelia for doing all the Christmas cards that were taken to Charlotte Hall. Great job ladies!

We will hopefully be having our District meeting in January to replace our November one that had to be canceled due to a water main break in La Plata. I will keep you posted for the date.

Our next meeting is on January 14th at 6pm. Hope to see you there!

For God and Country
Lesley Radcliff

The American Legion Works for Every Veteran

Many of my veteran friends have not joined the American Legion. When asked "why not", their responses center around lack of time to be involved or lack of interest in, "sitting in the bar telling war stories". My response is always, from day one, the American Legion has been working for us. Our membership brings our voices together in one loud and strong voice of advocacy for every veteran and active-duty member. Check out this article in [Task and Purpose](#) for one example of your Legion at work for you.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

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

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas. Best wishes for a happy and safe NewYear.

The Squadron held its regular monthly meeting on December 3. During the meeting, Adjutant Gary Shupe read a letter from Jon and Carolyn Compton thanking the Squadron for our donation in support of Lauren and Jack Compton's participation with their Civil Air Patrol Squadron in the 80th D-Day commemoration events in Normandy, France. The letter detailed some of what they experienced. Sounded like quite a trip. The picture below of Lauren (l) and Jack was included with the letter. Impressive young people.



Thanks to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 82 members who put together the annual Christmas potluck dinner on December 10. The food was great and the socializing was even better. Great job.

Gail Willett, Gary Shupe, Lennie Hansen, and I worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) on December 16. Thirty-nine residents participated and \$200 in prizes was handed out. It's always great to interact with the residents and staff.

Thanks to Gale Willett, Gary Shupe, David Quade, Kathleen Quade, Roy Yanosh, Alana Lentz, Lennie Lentz, and Carol Karpiak who volunteered their time at the baby back rib dinner on December 20. As always, thanks to those who turned out to support the dinner. It was great to have seven residents and two staff members from the CHVH as guests of the Post 82 family, "Serving Those Who Served." Our next baby back rib dinner will be on January 17. Check the flier on the website www.alpost82.org.

The Squadron will sponsor an American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Post on January 27 from 12:30 pm to 6:00 pm. See the flyer on the drop-down menu on the website, alpost82.org. First Vice Commander Gale Willett, our blood drive chairman, received an email from the American Red Cross that showed the impact of the Squadron sponsored American Red Cross Blood Drives. Since 2010, the Squadron has sponsored 79 blood drives collecting 2,792 units from a total of 2,904 donors. Those are impressive numbers. Thanks to Gale Willett and Gary Shupe for handling the registration and refreshment tables at most of the 79 blood drives. A special thanks to all those who donated to this life saving cause.

As of the December 20 membership report 149 members have paid their 2025 dues. This number represents almost 69% of our goal of 215. Dues are still just \$20 for members 21 or over and \$15 for dual members and those under

21. If your membership card doesn't have 2025 at the top, you are delinquent. Please don't delay, renew your membership now. Our numbers are added to the American Legion numbers when they go before Congress and advocate for our military members and our veterans. 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,



David Tatman
Commander, Squadron 82
tatman_david@comcast.net

Dear Post 82,

Thank you for supporting my mission. When we step outside our comfort zones, we discover that we're capable of more than we ever imagined. I know this from experience. I wasn't seeking a new destination—I was just trying to leave behind the person I had become. After nearly a decade of chronic back pain and pain medication, I found myself depressed, out of shape, and distanced from loved ones. In 2014, I told my spouse I was done. I no longer wanted to be that person.

Getting off pain meds cold turkey was difficult, but I wanted to move forward. Most people give up on their dreams before they even start. But dreams come when they're ready, and the only thing we can control is how much work and determination we put into them.

In 2014, I began my recovery, choosing a holistic approach of diet and exercise. Running helped clear my mind, and I gradually overcame the remnants of pain. In 2015, I ran my first 50k. My dream has always been to raise awareness about veterans' struggles, so in 2017, I ran a 50-mile race for the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Warrior Foundation (EODWF). Over the years, I completed several more races, including a 100-mile race in 2022, raising over \$40k for EODWF along the way. Giving back has been a powerful motivator.

In 2023, I faced more health challenges with shoulder surgery and back issues from service-related disabilities. But I was determined to push forward. I set my sights on completing an Ironman, thinking

swimming and biking would aid my recovery.

Despite a bike crash in July 2024 that left me with a fractured elbow and bruised ribs, I kept healing and training. In early November 2024, I completed the Florida Ironman, my final challenge. Along the way, I reached out to Post 82 to see if you wanted to contribute to EODWF as part of my goal to raise awareness for veterans. The race itself was grueling. After a 2.4-mile swim, I struggled through 112 miles of biking, setting personal records for speed and heart rate. The final marathon was the toughest—blisters, back pain, and exhaustion. But with encouragement from my wife, I pushed through, finishing in 16 hours and 31 minutes, ringing the bell as a first-time Ironman finisher.

This journey has been transformative, and your support helped make it possible. We all have more strength within us than we realize. Your encouragement has been invaluable.



With gratitude,
Jim and Kelly Ryan

1152 Jason ORTIZ 16:53:37
 1416 Laura Drake COLE 16:34:34
 608 Amanda MASSOPUST 16:30:40
 1387 Yoona KOH

Mission accomplished! All told our Ironman-4 EODWF go fund me raised \$2222, plus American Legion Post 82 \$500, polar plunge \$346, private donation of \$1000 . \$4,068.

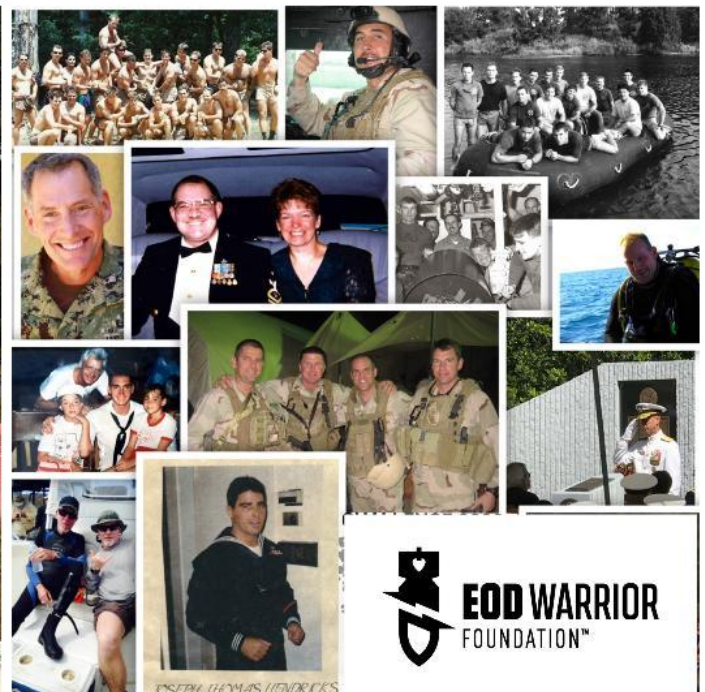
2024 \$5,753

Florida Hurricane Milton.
 Family and friend Hurricane Relief via EODWF & Team Rubicon totaling \$1,685

Ironman FLORIDA
 VINFAST
 NOVEMBER 2ND 2024
 James Ryan



SWIM	01:44:56	FINISH 16:31:44
BIKE	07:15:31	
RUN	07:06:23	





**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:

I trust that we all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As we move into 2025, I cannot thank Commander Hindle and the Post family enough for all the love and support given to the Riders in 2024. As we continue to support veterans' causes and the community throughout the upcoming year it is your support once again that will make us successful in our charitable endeavors. To all my Riders a huge heartfelt Thank You for allowing me to be your Director, and always stepping up to help enhance our reputation within the community and amongst the other MD State Rider Chapters. It is an honor to be associated with the best group of women and men on the East coast. Lastly, I cannot forget all your spouses who also participate and support us during our dinners and riding events.

Riders, it is time for membership renewals. Please renew your current memberships in the Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary; this is mandatory for membership in the Riders. So far, just over 50% of our members have renewed their membership for 2025. At our November meeting it was unanimously approved for dues to remain \$15 but if not renewed by 12/31/24 they will go up to \$20. Save yourself some money and renew today so our Treasurer will have one less item on her to do list.

Our 5th Annual Toys for Tots ride was a huge success with over \$450 raised through bike registrations and a generous donation from The Keepers MC. Combined with a very large donation from The Auxiliary, we were able to purchase 23 bicycles and safety helmets to add

to a pickup truck full of presents collected on the ride.

We were also featured in a [Southern Maryland News article](#) written by Madison Bateman with a front-page picture of Jim (Blu)Smith and his elf road-partner.

On Saturday December 14, 22 of us participated in Wreaths Across America events at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery and St. Joseph's Cemetery. We laid dedicated wreaths on the graves of 65 loved ones at Cheltenham and approximately 80 veterans interned at St. Josephs. The Riders also stood the flag line while John (Flatrock)Flatley was the guiding voice behind the ceremony honoring our Veterans at Cheltenham. We had a great meal together afterwards at Napoli's Restaurant who has graciously hosted us every year.

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:

Jan. 1- Polar Bear Ride to Capt. John's.
Meet 1100 at La Plata Wawa
KSU 1130

The next ALR meeting is Thursday Jan. 9, 2025
@ 1800

Respectfully Submitted,

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

What's Going on at Post 82 In January?

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.

Our next Steak Night is February 7, 5:00 – 6:30PM. Sign up [here](#) to help prep, cook or serve.

Tuesday, January 7

S.A.L. Meeting – 6 PM

Legion Exec Mtg – 7 PM

Thursday, January 9

American Legion Riders Meeting – 6 PM

Tuesday, January 14

Legion Membership Meeting – 6 PM

Auxiliary Meeting – 6 PM

Friday, January 17

S.A.L. Baby Back Rib Dinner 5 – 7 PM

Open to the Public

Friday, January 24

Members Shrimp in the Bar 6 – 7 PM

Members Only

Friday, January 30

American Legion Riders Spaghetti Dinner

5:00 – 6:30 PM

Open to the public

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

Please share information about our fantastic 2025 Legion events for students with your family, friends and neighbors. [Oratorical Contest for 9-12 grade students](#), [Boys State](#), [Girls State](#), [Auxiliary Americanism Essay Contest](#).

A Note of Thanks

In 1957 my husband Ralph and my brother-in-law, Anthony stopped at your Post broke and trying to get back to New York because Ralph had been drafted Your Post gave them gas money and the tolls to get back to New York. They have never forgotten what was done for them.

My husband is a veteran now (Army 1957 – 1963) and is a member of American Legion Post 347 in Larchmont New York

Thank you, Marie Greco Lucarelli



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