



# THE AMERICAN LEGION



## Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

June 2025

[www.Alpost82.org](http://www.Alpost82.org)

301-934-8221

### Commander's Message



### Legion Monthly Meetings are held the Second Tuesday of Each Month at 1800hrs

As this will be my last message for our Post Newsletter, let me say it has been a pleasure and honor to have served as Commander of the Harry White Wilmer American Legion Post 82. I want to thank all of our officers for the help you have given me this year. Not one has ever said they could not do what was asked of them. Each one has stepped up to make this a great year for our Legion Family.

We will be holding Post Elections on Tuesday, June 10 at 6:00pm during our monthly membership meeting. Many have volunteered to serve in our various elected officer positions. However, nominations remain open and will be accepted from the floor. I am asking everyone to attend and vote for our new leadership. As we know, the leadership can make or break a Post.

We are once again hosting the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Bass Masters Fishing Tournament on Friday and Saturday, June 13-14. We need volunteers for set-up, prep and dinner service for both days. Be The One to step up. [Sign up here](#) and join me in providing first-class support for PVA fisherman.

On July 26, 2025 we will hold our annual Members Appreciation and Installation of Officers banquet. Social hour from 5-6pm, dinner by Rita B's from 6-7pm, Installation and Awards at 7pm. Tickets are just \$10 per person and include two free drinks. Tickets are available in the Lounge. I hope we will have a great turnout for your banquet. Come out and enjoy the camaraderie with fellow veterans and friends...be part of what's happening.

In closing, I thank you for this year and years past. It has been my pleasure to have served this great Post.

Remember to keep our military members and especially those serving in harm's way in your prayers. May the good Lord protect them and bring them all home safe and sound. God bless them, and the United States of America.

I'll see YOU at the Post!

*For God and Country,  
Raymond "Buddy" Hindle  
Commander*

# AMERICAN LEGION

## Membership Report

We are getting closer to our goal of 831 members, which will be a 10% increase over last year.

With 793 active members, Post 82 currently sits at 95.50% of our 2025 goal. Our membership renewal rate is 90.%. Our renewal goal is 95% so we've got a way to go to hit it. If you have not renewed yet and your card doesn't say 2025, your account is in delinquent status. The 2026 Legion year begins on July 1. Renewal notices for 2026 will begin arriving in your mailbox mid-July.

The three-year renewal option is available online at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org). Please renew at your earliest convenience to help keep our American Legion strong. If the cost of dues is holding you back, please reach out. We have some funds available. Contact Commander Buddy Hindle at 301-399-1240, Jamie Zayas at 301-751-2822 or via email, [American.legion4@verizon.net](mailto:American.legion4@verizon.net).



## Chaplains Corner

On Memorial Day this year, many Americans probably enjoyed it as a long weekend holiday over which we gathered with family and friends for cookouts, visits to our favorite beaches, celebrating our graduates, and similar activities. In retrospect, we probably gave little thought to its intended function - to mourn and honor those service men and women who died serving in the United States military.

In reality, something of this significance should be given our consideration on a more frequent basis. To that end, I offer the following quotes for your reflection:

"This is the day we pay homage to all those who didn't come home. This is not Veterans Day, it's not a celebration, it is a day of solemn contemplation over the cost of freedom."

Tamra Bolton

"For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue."

James A. Garfield

"I believe our flag is more than just cloth and ink. It is a universally recognized symbol that stands for liberty, and freedom. It is the history of our nation, and it's marked by the blood of those who died defending it."

John Thune

"The legacy of brave men and women who have fought and died for their country is the freedom we enjoy as Americans."

Lucian Adams

"It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech."

Charles M. Province

"Never was so much owed by so many to so few."

Winston Churchill

I thank God for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice and offer prayers of comfort and strength for their family, friends and comrades who carry the burden of their loss.

As always, I am available to all our Legion Family members. 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](mailto:papastockman@yahoo.com)

## **Harry White Wilmer American Legion Post 82 2026 Proposed Officers**

Commander – John Flatley

1<sup>st</sup> Vice – Jamie Zayas

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice – Chris LaQuay

Finance Officer – Charles Marsh

Adjutant – Chris Zabriskie

Judge Advocate – Bob Striegel

Sgt at Arms – Ron Ansell

Elections will be held at our June 10 Membership meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.



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

Hello Horses! Well, the 2024-2025 Legion year is just about up!

We had our elections at our May meeting and here are the officers for 2025-2026 – President – Lesley Radcliff, Vice President – Cathy Grimm, Treasurer – Ann Taylor, Secretary – Linda Rollins, Sgt. At Arms – Linda Gimmel, Historian – Kathie Flanagan, Chaplain – Mary Shaffer. The Executive Committee members are Angel Hindle, Edna Caywood, and Maggie Larrick. Congratulations to all the winners!

Cathy Grimm had her surgery, and she is getting along. She is sorely missed at BINGO. Send Cathy get well cards at 7645 Annapolis Woods Road, Welcome, Maryland 20693.

We did not have a lot of people at our shrimp dinner. The ones that attended said the shrimp was excellent. I would like to give a big thank you to Chris LaQuay and Lee Hammond for all of their hard work helping the auxiliary out. I would also like to thank Mary Shaffer, Becky LaQuay, Janet Fogle, Rita Sexton, Amelia Leukhardt, Maggie Larrick, Edna Caywood, Linda Gimmel, for their help.

I would like to give a big thank you to Joanie Roberts for all the help she has given to the Auxiliary! She will be retiring at the end of June. Happy Retirement you will be sorely missed!

Our June meeting is on the 10th at 6pm.  
For Service not Self,

Lesley Radcliff  
Unit 82 President



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

**Hello Riders, and Legion Family,  
The latest scoop from the Steel Pony Corral:**

With our Rider election on June 12, I will be stepping down as your ALR Director. These past two years have been the most rewarding and gratifying experiences in all my years being involved in The American Legion. It has been an honor, privilege to work with, ride with and break bread with the most incredible people of my lifetime. I have been blessed to have the most hardworking fellow board members where everyone has the same mission, goals, love of motorcycles and supporting our veterans and their families. My plans are to stay on and help the next director as he or she assumes their new role within the ALR. So, this is a heartfelt Thank You but not a Goodbye.

There are other positions still to be filled so I urge you to please step up and be an active part of the most active and prominent ALR Chapter in the state. You will be working with the most giving and respectful people you will ever have the chance to work alongside of.

On Sat. May 24th we kicked off our 4th Annual SoMD Gold Star Legacy Ride with approx. 104 motorcycles including 10 different ALR chapters and 8 local MC's. The weather was perfect. The Riders were treated to Chick-fil-A breakfast and Mission Barbeque for lunch at Post 82 were the ride started and ended after stops at 4 So. MD American Legions. I cannot thank Randy Markley, Anita Santoyo and their teams for another hugely successful event where a good time was had by all.

A special thank you to Craig Meinhardt for planning and leading a safe ride. There were a lot of compliments on the ride and the stops with promises to be participate next year. Also, thanks to John Flatley for his part in planning and pre-ride to

foresee and iron out any potential problems or safety issues well in advance to make necessary corrections to the route.

Finally, thank you to the staffs of Chick-fil-A and Mission Barbeque for great food and fantastic service.

On Sat. May 24, after almost 4 months of selling raffle tickets, our mission was highly successful in selling all 500 tickets. The winner, Eric Wilhem, Post 18 ALR Director without hesitation selected the Henry 45-70 rifle. I want to thank all who sold and/or purchased tickets for this event, your help in making this a very successful fundraiser is very appreciated.

Some of the proceeds from the above events will be presented to The Keepers Charlotte Hall Ride, Faces of Valor Ride and sponsorship of the Boulder Crest Healing Hero's ride and of course the Maryland Gold Star Legacy Ride this month. We have donated to these organizations in the past and are honored to continue our support again this year.

**Upcoming Rides and Events:**

- MD GSLR June 5-8 @ 0730 Post 130 Overlea Perry Hall
- Next ALR Meeting June 12 @ 1800
- PVA Fishing Tournament Need Volunteer's June 13-15
- Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Ice Cream Social June 21 @ 1400
- Faces of Valor Ride & Car Show June 22 @ 0930 Outback Steak House Annapolis MD

Respectfully Submitted,

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



# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

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

First Vice Commander Gale Willett and I had the pleasure of representing the Squadron at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on April 25. In addition to the presentation of awards, a very nice lunch was served.



Gale received the "Groups Above and Beyond" certificate on behalf of the Squadron members. The award is "In appreciation of their valuable contribution of 75 hours or more at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home." The award is for the hours spent during the Southern Maryland Region bingos at the CHVH on the third Monday of each month and the dinners on the third Friday of the month when CHVH residents are guests of the Post 82 family. Pictured above are Administrator Sonia Bailey-Gibson, State Program Director John Lombardi, Gale, and Deputy Secretary of the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs Ross Cohen.

At the regular monthly meeting on May 6, the members voted to donate \$1,000 to the Maryland

Gold Star Legacy run which this year will benefit the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation.



I was pleased to receive a Certificate of Appreciation for volunteering in the CHVH Gift Shop. Pictured above are Administrator Sonia Bailey-Gibson, State Program Director John Lombardi, me, and Deputy Secretary of the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs Ross Cohen.

On May 1, Adjutant Gary Shupe and I visited La Plata High School (LPHS) to present a \$300 donation to the LPHS Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) Air Rifle team and a \$200 donation to the LPHS NJROTC Color Guard. Pictured below are LPHS Naval Science Instructor Gunnery Sergeant Clive Bailey, Cadet Lieutenant Commander Vivian Lloyd, Adjutant Shupe, and NJROTC Area 4 Manager Kevin Wilson.



The following were elected officers for the 2025-26 Administrative year. David Tatman Commander, Gale Willett 1st Vice Commander, Kevin Bryant 2nd Vice Commander, Kevin Earle Finance Officer, Roy Yanosh Chaplain, Lennie Hansen Historian, and Ed Tatman Sergeant at Arms. Gary Shupe was appointed Adjutant and Dave Quade agreed to continue as the Squadron Advisor. If the names sound familiar, they should. They are the same as last year. The Squadron has done great things in the past and we can continue to do great things but we need more members to become more involved. Our meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 6 PM. They only last 40 to 45 minutes. Come out. Find out what we do and bring some new ideas. You'll find there is a great deal of satisfaction in working together to support our veterans and local community programs.

Thirty-nine productive units of blood were collected at the Squadron sponsored American Red Cross Blood Drive. Thanks to Gale Willett and Gary Shupe for handling the registration and refreshment tables. Our next blood drive will be July 28.

Lennie Hansen and I worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) on May 19. Forty residents participated and \$380 in prizes was handed out. It's always great to interact with the residents and staff. The residents were very happy with the extra money that was made available from the SMR.

The Squadron's baby back rib dinner went well. We sold 102 dinners. Thanks to Gale Willett, Gary Shupe, Roy Yanosh, Alana Lentz, Lennie Lentz, Cathy Bryant, and Kevin Bryant who volunteered their time. Our next dinner will be a baby back rib dinner on June 20. Check the flier on the website [www.alpost82.org](http://www.alpost82.org).

Following the May meeting, the scholarship committee met to select the 2025 recipients of the \$3,000 Squadron 82 Veterans Memorial

Scholarships. We had 14 great applicants but could only pick two. The two winners are Katelyn Willett and Ben Wilson.



Pictured above are Roy Yanosh, the 2025 Scholarship Committee Chairman, Katelyn Willett, Ben Wilson, and myself. Katelyn will be attending Shepherd University in the fall. Ben will be attending the University of Maryland

On June 14, the Squadron will hold a Flag Retirement Ceremony by the Post Memorial at 12 noon.

As of the May 16 report, Squadron 82 reached 100% of our 2025 goal with 216 members paid and a 91.16% retention rate. Outstanding job guys. Squadron 82 has met or exceeded our goal and achieved 4-Star status for the 27th consecutive year.

Members who have not renewed can still do so easily and quickly renew utilizing their last name, member ID and a credit card by visiting [www.legion.org/sal-renew](http://www.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](mailto:tatman_david@comcast.net)

#### **Annual Internal Financial Audit.**

Ron Ansell reported to the executive committee that the financial audit has been completed and that everything is as it should be. He further added that the methods and procedures Joanie has in place make conducting an audit very easy. He recommends that in the future we include the Sons and Riders accounts as part of the audit.

## **What's Going on at Post 82?**

### **Tuesday, June 3**

S.A.L. Meeting – 6 PM

Legion Exec Mtg – 6 PM

### **Thursday, June 5**

American Legion Riders Meeting – 6 PM

### **Tuesday, June 10**

Legion Membership Meeting – 6 PM

Auxiliary Meeting – 6 PM

### **Friday, June 13 – Saturday, June 14**

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)

Capital Bass Clash Fishing Tournament

### **Saturday, June 14**

SAL Flag Retirement – 12pm

### **Friday, June 20**

S.A.L. Baby Back Rib Dinner 5 – 7 PM

Open to the Public

### **Friday, June 27**

Joe Williams memorial Golf Tournament

### **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

*From the desk of the  
Veteran Resource Officer*

### **The VA Ignores the Fact that a Medical Condition was not “Noted” on Your Enlistment Physical.**

All Veterans, both enlisted and officers, go through the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) to make sure we are fit for service. Military recruiters send *several hundred* recruits through MEPS. The recruit is at the MEPS all day (if not multiple days) going through the medical process — usually including being examined by the world's oldest doctors!



Two categories of medical information is recorded on your enlistment physical: Medical history and the actual Medical Examination.

**Medical “history”** is provided by the recruit. The recruit fills out multiple pages of documents checking boxes and making notes about any medical conditions – diagnosed or not. The recruit is constantly reminded by MEPS personnel that they had better tell the truth. If the MEPS doctor has additional questions about the recruit’s medical history, he will usually ask the recruit to explain and make notes based on the recruit’s information.

The second category – the **Medical “Examination”** – is conducted by the MEPS staff. Eye exam, flat feet exam, hernia exam, etc. Sometimes, the MEPS will send the recruit for an external consult if there is a question about a condition. Either way, the examination results are “NOTED” by the MEPS doctor.

*Did you catch the difference?*

The doctor *makes notes* about the recruit’s history. The doctor “*NOTES*” results of the assorted physical examinations conducted at the MEPS. Two distinct notes with legal differences. The examination notes are the condition(s) that are “noted” officially.

### ***The Law Requires the VA to Presume You Were in “Sound Condition”***

If your condition was not “NOTED” on your MEPS entrance physical, you are entitled to the Presumption of Sound Condition in your VA Claim – sometimes called the Presumption of Soundness. Again, the “noted” condition must be the result of the MEPS doctor’s personal examination — not based on his notes from your regurgitation of your medical history. So if the VA denies your claim because your condition existed prior to service, the VA **MUST** rebut the presumption of sound condition with “clear and unmistakable evidence” that demonstrates that the condition existed prior to service.

In other words, the VA can’t just claim it existed prior to service, nor can the VA just point to ambiguous evidence that only suggests the condition may have existed prior to service.

The VA must find clear and unmistakable evidence that the very condition did indeed exist prior to service. To me, that should leave no doubt. But it gets better...

### ***Extra Benefit – Proof of non-Aggravation***

If the VA claims that your condition existed prior to service, there are actually TWO hurdles that the VA must overcome. Not only does the VA have to rebut the presumption of sound condition with “clear and unmistakable evidence” that demonstrates that the condition existed prior to service, but the VA also has to demonstrate that your condition was not aggravated by your military service as well. The VA can’t just jump one hurdle or the other. The VA **MUST** rebut BOTH elements of the presumption.

Let’s say the VA proves with clear and unmistakable evidence that your condition existed prior to your military service. They might be able to do this through medical records from your childhood or because your MEPS physical detected that very same condition at enlistment. Well, the VA still has more work to do before they can deny your claim. The VA must then find clear and unmistakable evidence that your military service did not aggravate that same pre-existing condition.

Here’s how the Presumption of Soundness Works in a Real Situation.

We have a client right now that was denied service-connection for “bipolar disorder.” The VA claims his “bipolar disorder” existed prior to service. (The condition was not “noted” on the MEPS exam so the VA must prove that it existed prior to service.) To do this, the VA points to a pre-service diagnosis for “explosive disorder.” Our argument is that they did not prove “Bipolar Condition” existed prior to service so the VA did not clear the first hurdle. But let’s say the BVA screws up the analysis and agrees that “Bipolar disorder” and “Explosive disorder” are the same mental condition (a proof that would not happen, because they are distinct and separate mental health conditions). We would, in that hypothetical situation, say: “Okay VA – you proved his mental condition existed prior to service – but – you failed to prove with clear and unmistakable evidence that his military service did not aggravate his



mental condition (whether it was Bipolar Disorder or Explosive Disorder).

Don't Let the VA Win By Going Around the Hurdles. It's easy to win a Hurdles Race if you don't go over the hurdles. It's called cheating. Don't let the VA cheat you in your claim.

Do you have questions about service-related disability certification through the VA? Reach out to our Resource Officer.

George Hawley  
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Email: ghawley83@gmail.com