



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

October 2024

www.Alpost82.org

301-934-8221

Commander's Message



Here we are entering November, looking at our fall colors and getting ready for the frightful sights we will have knocking on our doors on Halloween. And yes, we are making plans for our upcoming holiday season.

Our post will be taking part in the Town of La Plata's Salute to Veterans Parade on Sunday November 3rd. Individuals wanting to be in the parade will need to be in the parking lot behind the County Courthouse by 12:00pm. Please come join me in walking or riding in the parade. We will have refreshments at the Post after the parade.

The monthly membership meeting will be held on Nov 12 at 6:00pm. All members are welcome. Come and join in discussions on activities and programs the membership is participating in, or should be participating in.

Our Steak and Fried Shrimp dinner is Friday, Nov 1st from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Come out and enjoy a great meal and the fellowship with other members and friends. We also need help with prep in the morning and serving and cleanup in the evening. Sign up to help using this link https://bit.ly/Nov2024_SteakandShrimp or let Chris LaQuay or myself know you plan to help. For members who've renewed their 2025 membership, show your card at the door and receive \$5.00 off the price of your meal. Also, if you have not yet renewed, renew at the dinner and receive \$5.00 off your dinner.

Since I mentioned membership, I am asking everyone who has not renewed to do so ASAP; it would be outstanding if Post 82 could be 100% by Dec 30th, 2024. Let's pull together to reach this goal. "Let's Get'er Done" Post 82!

We will be having our annual kids Christmas party on Dec 14th at 2:00pm with Santa. Check the flyer in this newsletter for more details.

Our Members Christmas Party will be on Dec 21st at 5:00pm. Cost is just \$10 per person and includes dinner and 2 free drinks from the bar. Ticket sales will be used to get a head count for planning. Tickets are on sale in the Lounge now. No tickets/admission will be sold at the door so get yours today!

We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season. May all of our military serving at home and abroad be kept safe and sound. May the Good Lord watch over all of them and ourselves.

For God and Country, Buddy

Do you know a veteran who is food insecure?

Post 82 member, Cassandra Mims, shared the following information from Disabled Veterans National Foundation. She has confirmed that this program is available in Charles County. Applications must be filled out on-line by the veteran at <https://www.grantinterface.com/sl/dl4NjA>. Please share this information with others

DVNF **DISABLED VETERANS NATIONAL FOUNDATION**

Veterans Food Assistance Program

What?
Starting October 1st DVNF will be offering a one-time grant per veteran household to support their nutritional needs.

How to Apply
We have an online application that will need to be completed by the Veteran. The application can be found at <https://www.grantinterface.com/sl/dl4NjA>. The link will be open starting October 1st, 2024.

Veteran Qualifications

- Must have a DD214 or Veteran ID
- Was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable
- A letter of reference from a case worker or advocate may make the application more favorable.

Other Details

- This is not a monthly grant.
- The groceries will be delivered directly to the Veteran using Walmart or grocery store delivery service.
- Veterans can receive up to \$450 worth of groceries

For more information, please contact us: (202) 737-0522 - info@dvnf.org
www.dvnf.org

family and loved ones during the holiday seasons, please keep others in your prayers who may be struggling. Last year, my brother was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer and spent the holidays in the hospital and passed away in January. Although I was able to deal with it, my family members from Post 82 were there if I needed them. That's who we are!

Not only do we share a love for each other, our country, and our post, we care about doing what's right even when no one is looking. In the military we call that integrity, which is synonymous with trust. Most of those I've met or spent time with as an American Legion member exhibit these characteristics. Good people doing great things for awesome causes within the community. Moving forward, we should all strive to welcome like-minded people into our family.

I need to tell you that we are exceeding National goals, but December 31st will be here before you know it. That means some of your 2024 memberships will expire at the end of the year. I encourage you to jump on the wagon and help keep Post 82 in the lead. Renew your membership today at www.mylegion.org



Membership Report

Hello Legionnaires of Post 82!

As the holidays quickly approach, I want to personally wish you and your loved ones the best of all times. While many of us enjoy time with our



Still serving.

David D. Abildgaard, 1st Vice Commander
Membership Chair



Chaplains Corner

I offer the following dialog found here and there on the internet for your consideration.

"Does evil exist?"

The university professor challenged his students with this question. Did God create everything that exists? A student bravely replied, "Yes, he did!" "God created everything?" The professor asked. "Yes sir", the student replied. The professor answered, "If God created everything, then God created evil since evil exists, and according to the principal that our works define who we are then God is evil". The student became quiet before such an answer. The professor was quite pleased with himself and boasted to the students that he had proven once more that the Christian faith was a myth.

Another student raised his hand and said, "Can I ask you a question professor?" "Of course", replied the professor. The student stood up and asked, "Professor, does cold exist?" "What kind of question is this? Of course it exists. Have you never been cold?" The students snickered at the young man's question. The young man replied, "In fact sir, cold does not exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is in reality the absence of heat. Every body or object is susceptible to study when it has or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body or matter

have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (-460 degrees F) is the total absence of heat; all matter becomes inert and incapable of reaction at that temperature. Cold does not exist. We have created this word to describe how we feel if we have no heat."

The student continued, "Professor, does darkness exist?" The professor responded, "Of course it does." The student replied, "Once again you are wrong sir, darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality the absence of light. Light we can study, but not darkness. In fact, we can use Newton's prism to break white light into many colors and study the various wavelengths of each color. You cannot measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into a world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you know how dark a certain space is? You measure the amount of light present. Isn't this correct? Darkness is a term used by man to describe what happens when there is no light present."

Finally, the young man asked the professor, "Sir, does evil exist?" Now uncertain, the professor responded, "Of course as I have already said. We see it every day. It is in the daily example of man's inhumanity to man. It is in the multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. These manifestations are nothing else but evil."

To this the student replied, "Evil does not exist sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is not like faith, or love that exists just as does light and heat. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat or the darkness that comes when there is no light." The professor sat down.

Ultimately, the characters in this fictional anecdote serve to present the Biblically supported truth that God is good, and evil is the

absence of God. I offer the following few of so many verses that support this concept.

Genesis 1:31 ESV

"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day."

Psalms 5:4 ESV

"For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you."

Psalms 100:5 ESV

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalms 107:1 ESV

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!"

Romans 12:2 ESV

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Yours in Christ,

Paul Stockman Chaplain

301.768.2514

papastockman@yahoo.com

"At Your Service"

Post 82 Resource Officer

If you know someone in need of assistance from the VA or other support, please don't hesitate to send them my way. As your Post Resource Officer, I am here to offer resources and support to all veterans and their families. Please contact me at 240-267-6489 or ghawley83@gmail.com.

George Hawley

Wreaths Across America



Orders are now being taken for the Wreaths Across America wreath laying at Cheltenham Maryland Veterans Cemetery on December 14, 2024. 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.wreathscrossamerica.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

Linda Rollins



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

Hello Horses!

First, I would like to start off by thanking everyone who sent get well wishes to my husband Donnie who had unexpected open-heart surgery. It really meant a lot to us. He is doing good and getting around.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our October dinner due to not having enough help. We will have a meatloaf dinner on November 8, 2024. The menu is the same, meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas with pearl onions, stewed tomatoes, rolls. We will also have a dessert table available. If you wish to help, please call me at (301) 934-3512. As always this is open to the public. The cost is \$12.00 and it's from 5-7pm.

The American Legion Auxiliary fall conference is October 25, 26, 27th, in Ocean City, Maryland. The members that are attending are myself, Mary Shaffer, Cathy Grimm, Kathy Flanaghn, Angel Hindle, Rita Sexton, Amelia Leukhardt, Anna Sexton and Janet Fogle.

At our October meeting the Auxiliary presented a check to Post 82 Commander Buddy Hindle to help pay for the recent parking lot seal and restripe. Also, a donation was made and presented to the War Fighters.

Remember Veterans Day is November 11th. The post will be having a program at 11:00am.

I hope everybody has a safe and happy Halloween.

For God and Country
Lesley Radcliff

What's Going on at Post 82 in November?

Friday, November 1

Steak & Fried Shrimp Dinner 5 – 7pm

Public Invited

Signup to volunteer

https://bit.ly/Nov2024_SteakandShrimp

Sunday, November 3

Town of La Plata Salute to Veterans Parade

Meet behind Charles County Courthouse

11:00am

Parade starts at 1:00PM

Tuesday, November 5

S.A.L. Meeting – 6 PM

Legion Exec Mtg – 7 PM

Friday, November 8

Auxiliary Meatloaf Dinner 5 – 7 PM

Open to the Public

Tuesday, November 12

Legion Membership Meeting – 6 PM

Auxiliary Meeting – 6 PM

Thursday, November 14

American Legion Riders Meeting – 6 PM

Friday, November 15

S.A.L. BBQ Rib Dinner 5 – 7 PM

Open to the Public

Friday, November 22

Members Shrimp in the Bar 6 – 7 PM

Members Only

Saturday, November 30

ALR 82 Toys for Tots Ride 10:00AM

S.A.L. Queen of Hearts every Wednesday

Drawing in the Lounge at 7pm

Auxiliary BINGO every Thursday.

Doors open at 4:30 PM



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

At the Squadron meeting on October 1, squadron members voted to purchase four tickets to the Southern Maryland Region (SMR) Drawdown on November 23.

Thanks to Gale Willett, Gary Shupe, Alana Lentz, David Quade, Kathleen Quade, Roy Yanosh, Lennie Lentz, and Cindy Moruzzi who volunteered their time at the baby back rib dinner on October 18. It was our pleasure to serve ten residents and two staff members from the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home as guests of the Post 82 family. As always, thanks to those who turned out to support the dinner. Our 3rd Friday dinners are our largest fundraisers and allow us to continue support of American Legion and community programs. Our next baby back rib dinner will be on November 15. Check the flier on the website www.alpost82.org.

Gary Shupe, Lennie Hanson, and I worked the floor at the SMR bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home on October 21. Forty-one residents participated and \$210 in prizes was handed out.

The next Squadron sponsored American Red Cross Blood drive will be on November 25. Sign up early.

As of the October 18 report 93 members have paid their 2025 dues. This number represents 43% of our goal of 216. 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.

Members can now easily and quickly renew utilizing their last name, member ID and a credit card by visiting 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.



During the dinner on October 18, Rebecca Elliott, Charles County Toys for Tots Coordinator, was presented with a \$500 donation. Pictured above are: Lennie Lentz, Rebecca Elliott, and Squadron Chaplain Roy Yanosh. That's our 2023-24 National Community Scrapbook Award just above Rebecca's head.

Yours in Service, Dave

David Tatman
Commander, Squadron 82
tatman_david@comcast.net



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

The Riders along with The La Plata Police will be putting out the Toys for Tots toy bin to collect new, unwrapped toys to coincide with our Toys for Tots Ride on Saturday Nov. 30 (see flyer). I want to thank the Post families for always providing plenty of toys that will go to deserving children in Charles County.

Thanks to all the Riders who manned the Post 82 booth on Sat. Sept. 14 from 8am – close. Just so happens that 3 of our Riders were there to accept the award for 2024 Charles County Fair Best Non-Commercial Inside Exhibit. Great job representing the Post with a classy and eye-catching exhibit.

On Sat. Sept. 28, Post 82 Riders participated in Cruisin' Southern. Maryland bike ride and car show benefiting SoMD veteran support agencies including the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. The Riders joined over 170 cars for the car show and another 10 bikes joined us to complete the 100-mile loop ride around Southern Maryland. The event raised over 40K with a whopping 25K presented to the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. A special thanks to Gray Dog and Animal who attended the State ALR meeting at Post 60 Laurel MD on this same day.

On Weds. Oct. 2 Post 82 and the community welcomed the first Honor Flight for Charles County Veterans. See the article below for a detailed description of the day. The Rider were honored to ride escort and lead the bus to the amazing welcome home celebration.

On Saturday Oct. 5, the Riders rented and escorted a Circus Ice Cream truck into Charlotte Hall Veterans Home for some tasty treats with our hero veterans. This event, organized by Jamie Z

re-establishes our annual event. We had a fantastic time of camaraderie and fellowship with a great bunch of patriots and staff of CHVH. We even gained a new post member, Gary Kelberer, a CHVH resident who has been riding motorcycles his whole life.



I want to thank Rider Bruce Gentile and Post member, Charlie Smith for the remembrance of Oct. 10, 1918, the day that our Post namesake Harry White Wilmer went on to Post Everlasting.

Harry was a First Lieutenant U.S. Army 20th Aero Squadron. He is interred in the American Cemetery in Suresnes, France. We will never forget you Harry White Wilmer.

On Sat. Oct.12, we rode to Colonial Beach Bike Week for some fun in the sun at the beach.

On Sat. Oct 19, the Riders participated in an escort ride for WW II Veteran, Chief Petty Officer (Ret) Clayton Bump from CHVH to All America Harley Davidson in Hughesville MD. It was Clayton's birthday wish to ride on a motorcycle. While there the Riders led the way with their rendition of the Happy Birthday song to CPO Bump, who had just turned 98 years old that week



Riders, please come out to support Post 82 by riding lead in the Town of La Plata "Salute to The Veterans Parade". The parade starts at 1300. If you wish to ride in the parade meet behind the Charles County Courthouse at 1130am.

Riders, Summer is winding down and it is membership renewal time for 2025. Please renew your current memberships in the Legion, SAL and The Auxiliary because this is mandatory for membership in the Riders. So, with that out of the way it is also time to renew your Riders membership for a very reasonable \$15 before 12/31.

Upcoming Rides:

Nov. 3 Town of La Plata "Salute to Veterans Parade" @1300

Nov. 30 Toys for Tots Ride @ 1330

Next ALR meeting is Thursday Nov. 14, 2024 @ 1800

Respectfully Submitted,

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



Charles County Honor Flight

On October 2nd Post 82 members, Buddy Hindle, Ron Ansell, George Hawley, Harry Tafe, Roy Hale, and Tom Hinman were treated to a day none will soon forget. At 0600 they, along with 19 other WWII, Korea, and Vietnam era veterans checked in at Post 82 for the first Honor Flight from Charles County. At check in they were treated to coffee, donuts and fresh fruit served by the Post 82 Auxiliary as they met their volunteer escort, "Guardians" and were issued branded polos and ball caps from Capital Region Honor Flight. The room held a quiet buzz of conversation, possibly caused by the early morning but more likely by the participants' desire to remain in the crowd and not stand out too much. This trip would be an attempt at helping the veterans know their individual service was valuable and valued by our country.

Honor Flight was created with a simple, yet powerful, mission – honoring our nation's veterans by bringing them to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials built to commemorate their service and sacrifice. The intention is to make each memorial personal to each participating veteran; to help them understand that "This memorial was built to honor you and your comrades."

Being just 35 miles from The Mall and its surrounding memorials, Charles County was not previously offered Honor Flight trips. That changed this year when the Capital Region Honor Flight team who normally support visiting veterans from around the U.S., began planning the first of hopefully many "flights" from Charles County. "While some Veterans in the region may have independently visited the memorials built to commemorate their service, participating in an Honor Flight trip with other Veterans brings an entirely new element to that experience. The shared camaraderie among Veterans on an Honor Flight trip – combined with the outpouring of gratitude from the community – truly takes this experience to the next level." Meredith Rosenbeck, CEO of Honor Flight Network. The trip is only one day, but the experience is life-changing.

After breakfast and a quick briefing by trip leader, Mark Brickell, the veterans and their guardians loaded up for a coach bus ride to DC fully escorted by La Plata PD, Charles County Sheriffs, Prince Georges County and U.S. Park Police. Sincere apologies if you were commuting to work on Indian Head Highway or 295 that morning as video footage showed the lanes of traffic parting for the VIPs onboard the Honor Flight bus running down the center lane of 210. It was quite a sight.

Throughout the day, the veterans were taken to each of the memorials representing their service, Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, WWII, Korea and Vietnam. The group also visited Arlington National Cemetery where they were honored to lay a wreath of remembrance at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. Throughout the day they were encouraged by their guardians to share stories of their service and remember the comrades who served with them.

At the conclusion of the tour, the bus was once again escorted from the DC Line back to Charles County. The first stop on the way was dinner provided by Mission BBQ at the First Baptist Church of Waldorf. The members of FBCW were gracious hosts, assisting the visitors from the buffet table to their seats, refreshing beverages, and clearing the tables so that every participant was able to relax. A major highlight at dinner was the introduction of SGM Troy McCay a member of FBCW and Charles County resident. SGM McCay, serving in the U.S. Army Band, "Pershing's Own" was the bugler who played Taps at the wreath laying at Arlington that day.

The second highlight of this stop was "Mail Call". Prior to the trip, Honor flight reached out to family members of the veterans and asked them to solicit and provide letters of thanks and appreciation addressed to their loved one. The letters were presented in a mail call fashion with each veteran called on by last name to retrieve their "mail". As the vets opened and read their letters, the room was mostly quiet and yes, a few faces were dampened by leaking eyes. With Mail Call completed and after a stop at the "head", the entourage loaded back onto the bus to what they

thought was a ride back to their vehicles. But the day was not over quite yet...

Joined by the American Legion Riders of Post 82, the police escort led the way from FBCW to New Life Church in White Plains where family, friends and county citizens were waiting their arrival to welcome them "home" from their trip. As the procession entered the property, the veterans were greeted by nearly two hundred men, women and children lining the drive, cheering, clapping and waving flags! Supported by Charles County Fire and EMS the parking lot was illuminated with spotlights with a massive U.S. Flag draped between the extended ladders of two ladder trucks.

The veterans were escorted off the bus and seated below the flag, center stage to the cheering crowd. Backing the "stage" area was a flag line presented by the dedicated men and women of Patriot Guard. A local JROTC honor guard presented arms followed by the playing of the National Anthem. Once again, there were many faces dampened by leaking tears. The pride in the air was a palpable force connecting everyone in attendance.

After a few speeches and presentations, the audience was invited to "come up and share a handshake or a hug and personally welcome our veterans home." An offer that was quickly taken up by most as the vets were surrounded by well-wishers. It was both moving and a bit comical as many vets struggled to enjoy the attention. To a man, our participating members have said this day was a highlight and not one they will soon forget. I've had the opportunity to run into several of them multiple times this month and it hasn't taken long for our conversations to go to October 2, 2024.

I'm pleased to say that Post 82 played a major part in organizing and supporting this Honor Flight mission. From the introduction of Honor Flight to our Post in joint meeting by Auxiliary member Maggie Larrick, to the use of our facility, decorating both Post 82 and FBC Waldorf, serving breakfast, riding escort and volunteering as guardians, Post 82 was involved from the beginning to the end. Thanks to all who took time

to support and honor the veterans who participated. We are already looking forward to next year's Honor Flight from Charles County!







J Flat Jr



J Flat Jr



J Flat Jr



Use the QR Code below or click [here](#)



AMERICAN LEGION POST 82

KIDS' JINGLE & BINGO

CHRISTMAS PARTY



DECEMBER
14TH



2:00
PM

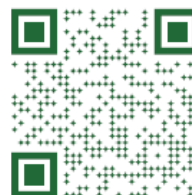


6330 N. CRAIN HWY
LA PLATA, MD

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

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 82

6330 N. CRAIN HWY, LA PLATA, MARYLAND



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2024

REGISTRATION @ 9-10 am

KICK STANDS UP @ 10:15 am

\$10 PER VEHICLE AND 1 UNWRAPPED TOY

PUBLIC INVITED

ALL VEHICLES WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE



All donations go to Charles County Toys for Tots