



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

March 2025

www.Alpost82.org

301-934-8221

Commander's Message



Raymond "Buddy" Hindle

The officers of your Post 82 want to thank every member who has paid their dues for 2025. We were close to making 100% this month, however, there are about 100 out of 880 members that have not renewed. I ask those who do not have a 2025 card to get their dues sent to the post, pay on online or drop their payment off at the post. We want Post 82 to be 100% for 2025. The Legion year ends on June 30th, 2025.

We invite all members to attend the Post membership meeting on March 11th, at 6:00 PM. Your ideas for fundraising and events for family and community are more than welcome. The Board of Directors meeting will be March 4th, at 7:00 pm.

The Post will be having its steak & shrimp dinner on March 7th, from 5 PM to 6:30 PM. Come out and enjoy dinner with the commander, other veterans and friends. Thank you to those of you that came to our dinner in February. You helped to make it a success.

If any of our members have children in their senior year of high school and are looking for scholarship money, the American Legion Department of Maryland have funds available. Go online at Md.Legion.org and click programs and follow the instructions. Plus, our Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 82 offers scholarship to seniors at LaPlata High School.

I have mentioned in the past about Boys and Girls State. The enrollment cutoff date is May 1. Applications can be completed through the Department website at <https://www.mdlegion.org/boysstate>.

We were informed at our last DEC meeting that there is a scam going on now. Veterans are being contacted about benefits. The caller is saying they can help you get these benefits. You have to sign a contract, and, in that contract, you agree to pay a percentage of the money you receive. That's even if they did nothing to help you. Beware, the crooks and vultures are out there.

Sign-up to help with the steak & shrimp dinner here. If you can help, it will be greatly appreciated.

When you come into the lounge, remember to sign the daily and weekly drawing books, the winning amounts are getting large. When you

bring friends with you into the lounge, please sign them in on the guest sign-in book located to the left of the entrance door.

We are looking for some of our members to step up to become officers of this outstanding post for 2025/26. Currently we are looking for candidates for Post Commander, First Vice Commander and Finance Officer. All these individuals that are stepping down have done a number of years in these positions and are wanting to retire. Training for all officer positions will be provided by the Post and the Department of Maryland. If you have any questions, contact me at 301-399-1240 and I will answer your questions.

As I close out this message, keep your country and those who defend it and those who have defended it in your prayers. Please pray that our leaders in Washington and across our great United States of America receive the wisdom to make the best decisions for our country.

May God bless everyone and our great country and its people.

"See you at the Post"

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

American Legion 2025 Legislative Priorities

We often say that the American Legion needs us all and the United States active military and veterans need the American Legion. In March, our National Commander and our National Legion officers will be in D.C meeting with our elected representatives to ensure that veteran causes are at the top of their agendas. Last year, two of our members had privilege to join in a joint Armed Services session. It was clear that our the Senators and Representatives present were listening and engaged with our national leadership. Check out the [American Legion 2025 Legislative Priorities](#) Booklet.



Membership Report

We are closing in on our 2025 goal of 831 active members with 727 paid memberships so far. Yes, your math is correct, we only need 104 of our remaining members to renew their investment in the American Legion to hit our goal. If you've already renewed your membership, THANK YOU!

For those who have not renewed yet, National will be sending out reminder notices in the first two weeks of March. If you are among the 137 members who have not renewed yet, please stop reading and renew now at Legion.org. You can also opt for automatic renewal or choose to renew for the next three years at the current rate of \$45.

If computers aren't your thing, you can mail or drop off your dues to the Post. Be sure to include your membership number in the memo section of your check. If you have any questions or need assistance with your renewal, feel free to reach out to Buddy Hindle or Jamie Zayas.

Support Request From Our Post 82 Historian

Please share details and photos of Post 82 Legion Family events with me at htafe@comcast.net. The information you provide will be added to our annual Post History file and sent to the Dept of Maryland. Please help me capture it all so we can celebrate our accomplishments now and encourage and challenge future generations to continue our strong history of community and veteran support activities.

Thanks in advance,

Harry Tafe



Chaplains Corner

With absolutely no political agenda intended, I share that I have observed that the month following inauguration day this year has, for many friends and associates who are Federal government employees and government contractors, been a time of heightened personal turmoil as their jobs have been eliminated, relocated, bought out, and so on. Many of these people have enjoyed the comfort of trusting in the job security that comes with tenure in most Federal civil service positions and now have had that sense of security lost in a blink of an eye.

Questions like the following come immediately to mind. What do I do now? Is there any way to retain my position? Where can I find a comparable job? Will I need to relocate to find a job that provides my needed income? What impact will this have on my family? What does this mean for my retirement plans? And so on.

Such concerns and questions are readily understandable and the stress and anxiety they produce are only natural. It is at times like this that we often realize how much we need to seek God's supernatural help, comfort, direction, and perfect peace. To this end I provide the following Scripture verses for your consideration and Spiritual comfort:

Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God,

which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

John 16:33 "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

And now I close with **Numbers 6:24-26** "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."

Post Everlasting

Vernon Benson, USMC, an active member of Post 82 since 1972 (53 years), reported to Post Everlasting on Monday, February 10, 2025 at the age of 74.

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

Retreat for Veterans and their immediate Family

[Project Sanctuary](#) has unexpected openings for their upcoming Family Therapy retreat at Sandy Cove in North East, MD March 7-12. Check out their website for more information.



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

Hello Horses!

Goodness the weather has been quite cold and snowy. Hopefully soon we will have some nice weather!

I would like to thank the ladies that helped out with the District meeting last month. We had 11 ladies from our Unit attend this meeting. The next meeting will be at Post 274 Lusby on March 23rd. The time is 1pm for lunch and 2pm for the meeting. This meeting will be for the essay winners in our district. I collected over 100 essays from ANS they always do a great job on the essays.

Rita Sexton and Becky LaQuay have been working with some of our juniors on steak night doing crafts. They are delivered to different nursing homes etc. Thank you, Rita and Becky!

If you have any ideas for fundraising, please let us know at our monthly meetings. We are always looking for projects to do to help our Veterans. This is what the organization is all about helping the Veterans.

Our next meeting is March 11th at 6pm. Hope to see you there.

For God and Country
Lesley Radcliff



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

Forty-two units of blood were collected at the Squadron sponsored American Red Cross Blood Drive on January 27. Thanks to Gale Willett and Gary Shupe for handling the registration and refreshment tables. Thanks to all those who donated. For each unit of blood collected, three lives can potentially be saved. Through the support of our donors, 126 lives could be positively affected. The next blood drive will be held on March 24.

I attended the Detachment of Maryland Mid-Winter Conference in Ocean City January 31-February 2. S.A.L. National Commander Joseph Navarrete and Trailing Candidate for S.A.L. National Commander Thom Skelley were special guests for the weekend's events which started with the Maryland American Legion Family participating in the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Maryland.

Collectively the American Legion Family participants raised over \$41,000. Additionally, the Detachment made a donation in the amount of \$15,000 supporting the Special Olympics Maryland Bowling Tournament. Once again, I did not plunge.

Saturday evening our annual Raymond Edwards Memorial Children & Youth Draw Down was held. The weekend concluded on Sunday with our Winter DEC meeting. Over \$66,000 was raised and/or donated at the drawdown and Winter DEC meeting.

At the regular monthly meeting on February 4, the members voted to donate \$425 to Boys State and

\$250 to the Eagle Scout project of Lucas Alerie of Boy Scout Troop 1321 in La Plata. More information to follow.

The members also selected the Squadron First Responder of the 2024 Year, Pfc. Ryan Beach of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. *"On February 23, 2024, officers were dispatched to the Newburg area for the report of shots fired from a moving vehicle. Information was obtained that a potential victim was following the suspect vehicle and indicated it was on Rt. 234 and headed towards St Mary's County. Officer Beach had just arrived at his residence, off duty, when he heard the call go out. Officer Beach got back into his agency vehicle and headed out to locate the suspect. Officer Beach located and followed the vehicle for a short time before it made a U-turn and began heading back toward him. Despite being alone, Officer Beach initiated a felony stop on the vehicle and was able to hold the suspect at bay until on-duty units arrived. The driver was secured, and a firearm was located in the vehicle. Due to Officer Beach's work and dedication a violent criminal was taken into custody. For his efforts that day, Pfc Ryan Beach was awarded a Meritorious Service Award".*

Arrangements will be made to present Pfc Beach with a plaque and to make a donation to the CCSO Special Events Fund in his name.

Gail Willett, Gary Shupe, and I worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) on February 17. Twenty-two 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 Cindy Moruzzi who volunteered their time at the baby back rib dinner on February 21. It was great to see eight residents and two staff members from the Charlotte Hall Veterans Hall in attendance as guests of the Post 82 family. As always, thanks to those who turned out to support our dinner. Our

next two dinners will be fish fries on March 21 and April 18, Check the flier on the website www.alpost82.org.

As of the February 21 membership report 192 Squadron 82 members have paid their 2025 dues. This number represents almost 89% of our goal of 215. Kudos to Adjutant Gary Shupe for his hard work in getting us to this point. 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.

Day Light Saving Time begins on March 9. I can't wait.

Yours in Service,



David Tatman
Commander, Squadron 82
tatman_david@comcast.net



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

Good afternoon, Riders, and Legion Family,
The latest scoop from the Steel Pony Corral:

The Riders and I want to wish Dave (Fix) Abildgaard a wonderful long and relaxing retirement. Dave is retiring after many years in the Air Force, Civil service and Homeland Security. He will be moving back to his home in Colorado at the end of this month. Fix has been maintaining two homes and marriage to his very loving and unselfish bride, Angel and it is now time to consolidate and enjoy life together. Fix your always willing to help attitude, infectious smile and laugh as well as your fix it knowledge will be long remembered and not easily forgotten. Live Long and Ride Safe My Brother.

Momma G and Shotgun decorated and planned a fantastic Sweetheart Dinner for 46 Riders on Saturday Feb. 15. It was great to see all of you with your spouses and significant others dressed in red and white. Great food and service was provided by Chef Gary and his staff at Blue Dog Saloon in Welcome. Beautiful fellowship and conversation were enjoyed by The Riders with all attendees thoroughly enjoying the evening.

Riders, it is that time of year for membership renewals. Please renew your current membership in the Legion, SAL, and The Auxiliary because this is mandatory for membership in the Riders. So far, just over 85% of our members have renewed their membership for 2025. Your 2025 dues are now \$20 since it is after January 1. So, help us to help you by renewing today.

We have kicked off our 3rd Annual Gun Raffle. We will still be selling only 500 tickets for \$20 each with the winner receiving their choice of \$1000 cash or a Henry 45-70 Big Boy Brass Lever Action Rifle Wildlife Edition. The raffle drawing will be May 24,

2025, at the completion of our Gold Star Legacy Ride. If you wish to purchase tickets please see any Rider at one of the Post events or contact me. Also if you're a Rider who wants to sell tickets please get in touch with me.

Randy Markley and the committee have started soliciting sponsors for Our 4th Annual Gold Star Legacy Ride. The ride will be held on May 24. This ride will raise funds for the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation and local veterans and community causes throughout 2025. If you want to support either financially or by volunteering to help with the event, please see Randy Markley or myself. You can also register to ride the event online at our American Legion Riders Post 82 Public Facebook page. All bikes and cages are encouraged and welcome to ride.

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.

Please welcome our newest member Frank Nuhfer who joined our Post and the Riders in February. If you happened to see or meet Frank welcome him and go easy on him. I forgot to mention to him the new guy buys the drinks.

Upcoming Rides and Events:

1st Annual Department Commander's Poker Run
March 29, 2025 Post 60 Laurel, MD

Next ALR meeting is Thursday March 13, 2025 @
1800

Respectfully Submitted,

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

What's Going on at Post 82 In February?

Tuesday, March 4

S.A.L. Meeting – 6 PM

Legion Exec Mtg – 7 PM

Friday, March 7

Steak & Fried Shrimp Dinner 5:00 – 6:30PM

Open to the Public

[Sign up here to serve](#)

Tuesday, March 11

Legion Membership Meeting – 6 PM

Auxiliary Meeting – 6 PM

Thursday, March 13

American Legion Riders Meeting – 6 PM

Friday, March 21

S.A.L. Fish Fry Dinner 5 – 7 PM

Open to the Public

Friday, March 28

Members Shrimp in the Bar 6 – 7 PM

Members Only

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

3rd Annual

GUN RAFFLE



American Legion Riders Post 82

La Plata, MD

\$20⁰⁰ PER TICKET

Only 500 to be sold

Drawing to be held May 24, 2025

Proceeds to benefit

**Veterans & Children Foundation, Warfighter Advance
Veterans Assistance & Rehabilitation**

Winner gets choice of one (1)

Subject to manufacturers availability and lead times

Henry Lever Action Brass (Wildlife Engraved)

45-70 Model # H010BGWL

or

\$1000.00 Cash

- Get raffle tickets from any Rider or from the bartenders in the Lounge.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 82 LA PLATA, MD

THE 4TH ANNUAL

SOUTHERN MARYLAND GOLD STAR LEGACY RIDE

MEMORIAL WEEKEND

MAY 24, 2025

Raffles



\$250
Best Hand

ALL VEHICLES ARE WELCOME	EARLY BIRD SPECIAL	MEETING POINT
	\$25/POKER HAND	Harry White Wilmer American Legion Post 82
	DAY OF PRICING	6330 Crain Highway, La Plata, MD
	\$30/POKER HAND	REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 9:30AM
		KICKSTANDS UP AT 10:30AM

MORE INFORMATION <https://linktr.ee/alrpost82> anita@evokepurpose.org @ALRPOST82



Best of all, attendance is completely free! The tuition for Boys State is covered by the American Legion, while the Auxiliary covers the tuition for Girls State.

Applications are now open. For more information and to apply, please visit the official website: <https://mdboysgirlsstate.org/>

Let's ensure that more young people have the chance to experience the life-changing opportunities that Maryland Boys and Girls State offers.

Please share information about all our fantastic 2025 student-focused Legion Family events with your family, friends and neighbors.

[Oratorical Contest](#)

[Boys State](#)

[Girls State](#)

[Auxiliary Americanism Essay Contest](#)

Help Spread the Word: The Value of the Maryland Boys and Girls State Programs

The Maryland Boys and Girls State programs offer an incredible opportunity for young students to develop leadership skills, deepen their understanding of government, and create lasting memories. As part of the American Legion's commitment to fostering leadership in the next generation, these programs serve as a valuable experience for high school juniors, giving them a unique chance to participate in mock government activities while building personal character.

We ask our Post members to help share the word about these fantastic programs with local schools, community organizations, and families. Encouraging young people to apply to either Maryland Boys State or Maryland Girls State is one of the best ways to invest in their future.

Maryland Boys State

Dates: June 21–27, 2025

Location: McDaniel College, Westminster, MD

Tuition: Free (Paid for by the American Legion)

Maryland Girls State

Dates: June 22–27, 2025

Location: Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD

Tuition: Free (Paid for by the American Legion Auxiliary)

Both programs offer a week-long immersive experience where participants run for office, create mock governments, and work in a hands-on environment to understand the political process. These programs are open to rising high school seniors who are highly motivated, involved in school and community activities, and eager to learn more about leadership and citizenship.