Christmas at the Front

By Doran Cart
NOV 20, 2017

Once the United States entered World War I in 1917, names in the newspapers and on the moving picture rolls became part of the American lexicon: the Western Front, Prussia, Alsace-Lorraine and Flanders, among others. Battlefields like the Somme, Verdun and Ypres stirred the imagination and stoked the fears of many. Australians, New Zealanders and Serbs traveled across the country training the rookies. Doughboys would be transported to Brest, France, reviewed by King George V of England, discover the Meuse River and die as far away as Murmansk, Russia.

The Navy patrolled the East Coast for German submarines, called U-boats, and protected the waters around Gibraltar and Corfu. Atlantic convoy duty shepherded merchant and transport ships across enemy-infested waters. The Navy sank a German submarine, U-58, off what is now Cobb, Ireland. Floating explosive mines were placed in the North Sea.

(Continued on page 5)
Happy Holidays from the Department of Nevada and I wish all of you, Peace on Earth. December is a time for everyone to reflect on their relationships with their families, their friends, and their community. Please take the time to share the holiday spirit with those who are less fortunate. Find it in your heart to reach out to a veteran who is in need of assistance. Also, please be aware that the holiday season can be a time of sadness if someone has lost someone recently. If you notice someone becoming withdrawn and quiet, reach out to them and involve them in your activities.

November was very busy for me. Besides the Department Executive meeting at the beginning of November, we had all of the Veteran’s Day activities. First, I traveled to Elko on November 9th to attend the Reed Gregory Post 7 Veteran’s Day Dinner at the Stockman’s Casino, who provided a wonderful dinner. During the event, Post 7 and Squadron 7 held a fundraiser that raised moneys for my favorite charity. Since Squadron 7 matched the collected amount to make it over $1,300.00, I selected the Child Welfare Fund as the charity. Everyone had a great time!

On Veteran’s Day, I attended the City of Reno’s Annual Veteran’s Day Parade. Darrel Dunkle Post 1 Commander, Brian Johnson, invited my wife and me to ride on their float and Duby Reid Post 30 Commander, Rick Wilson, and the American Legion Riders from Post 1 followed the float in the parade. The American Legion was well represented!

(continued on page 4)
By Richard Eberly

As we step into the midst of the festivities of the holiday season, every December thousands of volunteers gather together to honor those in America who made their religious freedom possible.

The event, “Wreaths Across America, takes place each year on the third Saturday of December, it was a tribute that started small and now spans the nation. This is where thousands of volunteer’s place holiday wreaths on the graves of America’s veterans as reminder of all their service means to the country.

The goal of this event is to remember and honor fallen veterans and teach the younger generation about the value of their freedom. Each donation that is collection through the program goes towards the creation of a handcrafted wreath complete with a hand-tied velvet bow. The wreaths are then shipped nationwide for placement.

The program was started in 1992 by Morrill Worcester, who owned a Wreath Company in Harrington, Maine, because he had a surplus of wreaths. Remembering his journey to Washington D.C. and his visit to Arlington National Cemetery, he realized he had an opportunity to honor those fallen heroes. Not wanting the decorations to go to waste, he enlisted the help of the Senator of Maine, Snowe, and various volunteers the wreaths were placed on a section in Arlington that had few visitors.

In 2005 when a picture of the cemetery, covered in snow, and each of the tombstones covered with a wreath, the event started to receive national attention. The small local organization started to receive thousands of requests wanting to either help Arlington or do something similar at their National and State cemeteries. Since he couldn’t send thousands of wreaths to every state, he sent 7 wreaths to each state one for each branch of military and for the POW/MIAs. With the project getting so much attention Worchester, Veterans and several other volunteers formed the nonprofit organization.

In 2014 the organizations goal of covering Arlington was realized with the placement of 226,525 wreaths. With the help of the Civil Air Patrol and other organizations in 2016, over 150 simultaneous wreath laying ceremonies happened across the Nation. The Patriot Guard Riders volunteers and escorts wreaths as they make their way to Arlington and this is known as the tradition of “Veterans Honor Parade”.

The motivation of the non-profit organization is quite simply to:

“Remember the fallen. Honor those who served and their families. Teach our children the value of freedom.”
On November 13th, Duby Reid Post 30 held their Veteran’s Day Dinner at their Post. To change things up, the Post decided to have a chili potluck. Post members brought their favorite chili recipes and the Post provided the dessert. What a great way to finish the Veteran’s Day celebrations!

On Sunday, November 17th, District 3 held their District meeting at Vernon Robbins Post 5 in Winnemucca. This District meeting was different and interesting. District 3 Commander Brenda Horton used this meeting for officer trainings. District 3 Adjutant Paul Schlehr held the Adjutants training, District 3 Commander Horton held the Commanders training, and PNVC Jeanette Evans held the Parliamentary Procedures training. I also had the opportunity to present Paul Schlehr with his Adjutant of the Year plaque from the Department. Congratulations Paul!

On December 6th, High Desert Post 56 help their Post Christmas Party at the Carson City Gold Dust West Casino, in conjunction with the Fleet Reserve Holiday Party. Gold Dust West did a great job and the dinner was awesome. Besides the gift basket raffles and a 50/50 raffle, the group did an interesting rendition of the Muppets 12 Days of Christmas. What a wonderful time!

The very next day on December 7th, I flew down to Las Vegas to attend the District 2 meeting held at Peter Gunn Post 10. District 2 Commander Fred Doten did a great job in keeping things interesting and had the Posts engaged during the meeting. Additionally, I was very pleased to recognize Post 10 and their Post Commander Grady Hayes for all of their hard work, in particular for reaching 145% of their membership goal, which is the highest percentage for the entire Department. Congratulations Commander!

That’s it for now and Happy Holidays everyone! Until next time, remember: “Our Legion Youth is Our Legion’s Future!”

Always in Service,
Jim Stewart
Commander

(Continued from page 2) (Photos courtesy of Jim Stewart)
In 1917, the world map got a lot bigger for Americans. But those who served overseas took their family and cultural traditions with them, including their celebration of Christmas.

The first mention of the holiday by an American “over there” came from Frederic Coleman, a volunteer serving with the 2nd Cavalry Brigade Headquarters, British Expeditionary Force.

“A couple of Somerset (infantry) bandsmen told me a day or so after Christmas (1914) what occurred at Ploegsteert on Christmas Day,” he wrote. “A German bloke had a cornet, and he could play it grand. He just made it talk. The songs and the tunes the cornet feller played seemed more and more like ones we knew. At last came that cornet with ‘Home, Sweet Home’ and nobody could keep still, we all sang – Huns, English and all. As day broke the Somersets saw the Saxons on top of their trenches. Soon they called out, ‘Come over and visit us, we are Saxons.’ No shots were fired. Some of our chaps changed cigars and cigarettes with them Huns and had talks of all sorts of things.”

Two and a half years later, the United States joined the fight, and many thought the war would be over by Christmas. That didn’t happen, though, and doughboys made the most of the holiday wherever they were at. In a letter from France, one soldier described that first Christmas overseas: “Like every other outfit that was well quartered, we had a tree up in the square and presents for all the French youngsters .... Three of my Christmas packages came on Christmas Eve ... smokes and eats and socks and all the things I had been hankering for ever since my arrival.”

Folks at home could send packages to troops overseas as long as they were 3 pounds or less and no larger than 9 inches by 4 inches by 3 inches. Packages were sent free of charge from Hoboken, N.J. Perishable items were discouraged; the most requested items were cigarettes, tobacco, warm clothing items, soap and anti-flea (cooties) powder.

Santa Claus even made appearances among American troops, delivering treats of the season. One YMCA volunteer, Don R. Guthrie, arrived in a full red outfit, complete with a wispy cotton beard and a papier-mâché mask, ironically made in Germany in 1912. His outfit is in the collection of the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Mo.

On Dec. 20, 1918, Stars and Stripes reported that “the Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the United States (President Woodrow Wilson) will be with his troops on Christmas Day. He will take his Christmas dinner in the A.E.F. training area. He will tell them something of his future plans for their welfare and that of the country which they have so well served.”

Army nurse Florence Edith Hemphill, serving with a British hospital, wrote her sister on Dec. 17, 1918, that she bought 12 pounds of chocolate from the American commissary in Paris for her patients for Christmas. “I don’t have any idea when I will be coming home,” she wrote. “Think there will be a change the first of the year, but whether I am sent home or not I don’t know. Would rather like to go on into Germany (with the occupation forces).”

The 1918 Christmas dinner menu for Base Hospital 202, American Expeditionary Forces in Orléans, France, included “roast young turkey, sage dressing, mashed potatoes, creamed carrots, lettuce salad, fruit cake, chocolates, English walnuts and coffee.” This was a far cry from the doughboy’s normal fare of hard tack and coffee or slum (a stew of beef, potatoes, onions and carrots) and dessert of a spoonful of Karo syrup.

During the Allied occupation of Germany following the armistice, American troops in Coblenz raised a Christmas tree in front of the government building. Covered in long strands of lights, it brightened the area after dusk. As live music entertained the large crowd of soldiers and German civilians, local children received paper trumpets and other goodies pulled from soldiers’ pockets. For the first time in years, the windows were lit, and a lighted cross was placed on top of the building.

In a letter dated Dec. 24, 1918, Sgt. 1st Class Charles Stevenson of Company A, 314th Engineers, 89th Division, wrote, “Just a few feet from me are members of a typical German family, throwing up a tiny Christmas tree, decorating it thoroughly in accordance with all respect due to the famed Christmas tree.”

For American servicemen and women in World War I, far from home and hearth, Christmas still managed to bring some joy and peace.

Doran Cart is senior curator at the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Mo.
Veterans need VHIC for in-person Commissary, Military Exchange, MWR access

Expansion to start Jan. 1, 2020

Adam Stump

The Defense Department has announced expanded Commissary, Military Service Exchange and MWR access Jan. 1 and established a standard for physical access to military installations.

Veterans who are eligible and want to take advantage of in-person benefits must have a Veterans Health Identification Card, or VHIC. Primary Family Caregivers must have an eligibility letter from VA’s Office of Community Care.

Veterans use VHICs for identification and check-in at VA appointments, but will also use them for base access under the new program.

Veterans eligible solely under this act who are eligible to obtain a Veteran Health Identification Card must use this credential for in-person installation and privilege access. The card must display the Veteran’s eligibility status (i.e., PURPLE HEART, FORMER POW or SERVICE CONNECTED).

Veterans eligible solely under this act who are not enrolled in or are not eligible to enroll in VA health care, or who are enrolled in VA health care, but do not possess a Veteran Health Identification Card will not have access to DoD and Coast Guard installations for in-person commissary, exchange, and MWR retail privileges, but will have full access to online exchanges and American Forces Travel. Medal of Honor recipients and Veterans with 100% service-connected disability ratings are eligible for DoD credentials under DoD policy.

HOW TO ENROLL
CALL 1-877-222-VETS (8387)
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
8 A.M. UNTIL 8 P.M. EASTERN

APPLY ONLINE AT
WWW.VA.GOV/HEALTHBENEFITS/ENROLL
VISIT YOUR LOCAL VA MEDICAL FACILITY

HOW TO GET A VHIC
VISIT YOUR LOCAL VA MEDICAL FACILITY

Veterans must be enrolled in the VA health care system to receive a VHIC. To enroll, you can complete an application for enrollment in VA health care by telephone without the need for a signed paper application. Just call 1-877-222-VETS (8387) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Eastern. You can also apply for VA healthcare benefits online at www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll, or in person at your local VA medical facility. Once your enrollment is verified, you can have your picture taken at your local VA medical center, and VA will mail you a VHIC.

For installation access, entry to some commissary stores and at point of sale at commissaries, exchanges, and MWR retail facilities, eligible caregivers will need to show an acceptable credential along with their eligibility letter.
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- Topricin Pain Relief Cream: A natural pain relief product that has brought millions unprecedented, safe relief.
- Contour Cool Air Pillow: Provides constant air circulation, leaving users cool and dry all night long.
- Signature Life Assurance Car Handle: Easily stand from your car without falling.
- EZ Roacher Deluxe: Strong sensitive fingers for extra wide grasp. Lift objects up to 5 lbs and up to 45° wide, yet as small as a dime.
- Signatere Life Sure Stand Pole: Provides the support you need to stand safely without changing the look and feel of your home.
- Handi Products People Tread for Tile: Slip solution for slippery tile. These traction enhancing strips work well with bare feet, socks, slippers, shoes and paws.
- Contour Freedom Back: This full-length back support features 10 zones for proper alignment & superior comfort in any chair or car seat.
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T’is THE SEASON!!

At this time of the year we are all involved getting ready for the holidays. We are writing Christmas cards, buying gifts, putting up lights, and doing a multitude of other holiday tasks. And, as usual, we are making up our New Year’s Resolutions. Now with that in mind, I would like to challenge all to a new type of Resolution. I would like to challenge all to “Get to Know your Posts”.

It has become apparent to me during my first six months as District 2 Commander that I don’t know the Posts within the district. Yes, I can tell you who the commander is, who their Adjutant is, but I don’t know the makeup of the Posts. I don’t know who has Auxiliary, SAL or Rider groups, I don’t know what their primary Legion functions are, nor what they are extremely good at. I am assuming most of us are in the same position.

Now, besides that, I have been involved with the Legion for going on 47 years. Everyday, I learn something new about the Legion. For example, today I learned something about wearing the Legion hat; and that was the protocol when attending a funeral of a comrade.

At our district meeting on the 7th, the Post Commanders and I discussed training as there is an effort on-going to start a District Legion College. The discussion revolved around the type of training to conduct. As a start, the vision was to have two training courses. The first would be just prior to the Department Convention. This training would be for the new incoming officers within the District. Hopefully, those attending would learn the tools essential to doing their assigned tasks. The second would be mid-Legion year and be geared toward Legion knowledge. This information provided would be an expansion of the on-line training presently available to all members via Legion.org. What was interesting was the fact that the majority felt that on-line training available as a learning tool and as a refresher tool would be very beneficial. Based on the desire, an effort will be made to check on the feasibility of having training available online in the District’s webpage.

During the discussion on training I brought up the training programs being generated by Mike Rohan (husband of PNC Denise Rohan). Mike is a part of the Wisconsin Department and over time he has generated over 50 training programs and is working on more. These programs were discussed at the Western Caucus meeting held during the February 2019 NEC meeting and we were told they would be made available to anyone interested. A copy of these programs has been given to Nevada. A copy resides with the Department’s Adjutant and there are two copies available in the district. There will be an effort made to upload these to District 2’s webpage. In the meantime, anyone wanting specific training modules can contact me for a copy. Attached is a copy of the titles of the available training.

As a last point, Past Department Commander Weigold spoke often about the “Why” question. For example, why you joined the Legion, or why you became an officer. She continually noted that if you could not answer the question for yourself, how could you convince someone else to join. Training in the ideals for the Legion will help you answer the “Why” question, because the more knowledge you have the better prepared you will be to answer when a new guy asks.

And, as a last point, I would be remiss if I did not wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you and yours be happy and healthy as you start the journey of another year.

Remember, we are what we do, so let’s make an effort during the upcoming year to make ourselves and the American Legion a force within our community, State, and Nation.
099 American Legion Extension Institute
100 Basic American Legion History
101 Consolidated Post Report (CPR)
102 Blueprint of the 21st Century
103 Managing Team Personalities
104 Wearing The American Legion Cap, Uniform...
105 Manual of Ceremonies
106 Core Sales Tactics
107 Leadership
106 Membership I
109 Preamble to the Constitution
110 How to Make A Motion
111 Intro To Public Speaking
112 Parliamentary Procedures
113 How to Develop Your Own Legion College
114 Communication
120 Post Adjutant
201 Membership II
202 Conducting Elections
203 Post House Committee
204 Flag Education
205 County District Organization
206 Post Fundraising
207 Post Finance
208 Resolutions
209 Post Historian
210 Post Management
211 Public Relations
212 Legislative Priorities
213 Post Chaplain
214 Pledge of Allegiance
215 How to Conduct a Post Meeting
217 Installation of Officers
218 Hosting Conference Convention
300 National Organization
301 Sons of The American Legion
302 National Organization
303 Oratorical
304 American Legion Auxiliary
305 American Legion Protocol
306 POWMIA
307 National Emblem Sales
308 Funeral Honors
309 Discipline of Post Members
310 Parliamentary Procedures and Roberts Rule...
313 Children and Youth
314 Sergeant at Arms
315 Oratorical
316 Post Service Officer
317 Badger Boys State
318 Advance Finance
319 Americanism
320 Blue Star Salute
321 M1 Grand Maintenance
322 Starting a New Post
323 Reactivating Struggling Posts
324 Starting a New Post
325 Oratorical
326 Post Commanders
327 Badger Boys State
328 Lyman trophy
329 American Legion Protocol
330 Reconnect
331 Another Post
332 District Conference
333 National Adjutant
334 Women Veterans
335 Women Veterans
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397 National Adjutant
398 National Adjutant
399 National Adjutant
400 District and County Commander
401 Women Veterans
402 American Legion Protocol
403 A New District Commander
404 Evaluating Post Programs
405 Reconnecting
406 Selection and Use of Committees
407 Motions and Resolutions
408 District and County Commander
409 Conducting a Department Meeting
410 Evaluating Post Programs
411 Women Veterans
412 American Legion Protocol
413 American Legion Auxiliary
414 District and County Commander
415 How to Develop Your Own Legion College
416 Pledge of Allegiance
417 Post Operations
418 Saluting
419 Women Veterans
420 Post Commanders
421 District and County Commander
422 How to Develop Your Own Legion College
423 Pledge of Allegiance
424 Post Operations
425 Saluting
426 American Legion College Lesson Plan Summary
Greetings Comrades,

Life gets hard sometimes, that's a fact. Sometimes you find yourself in the midst of the outcome of your own decisions and there are times in life you just end up with the shortest straw. Regardless of how and regardless of the type of pain there are those who don't believe in the notion of giving up and giving in. They pull it together and push through day after day. Whether the challenges are big or small, push through. Find your moments to heal but always press forward.

While many enjoy the holidays, it may not be happy times for all. If you’re having a rough time, please talk to someone about it. If you’re not comfortable discussing it with someone you know, there are many useful resources out there.

One such resource is veteranscrisisline.net
They offer 24/7/365 service.
Their phone # is 1-800-273-8255 press 1
Or text to 838255

A note from their site — “Responders will work with you to help you get through any personal crisis, even if that crisis does not involve thoughts of suicide.”

Trevor McCall
ALR Program Liaison, Department of Nevada
(402) 740-2794
blackjackmac68@yahoo.com

The American Legion Riders today are important part of the Legion family in support of virtually all programs of The American Legion.
First of all, Merry Christmas and a Very Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year to All!!

I want to share a very informative “APP” with you if you have a phone or I pad that is capable of that. It is called Exposure Ed. Go to your play store and download this APP. It gives you information on all of the exposures that you, as a veteran, could have been exposed to. You would have to put in date and location along with what conflict. It will also provide VA locations, war related illness, health coordinators and much more. It is very helpful in finding things that you never knew were available to you.

Ron Michalski

Www.facebook.com/TALDONV
Season’s greetings everyone! I trust all of you enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday. I took part of November off for a much-needed rest. We all need some time to take care of ourselves and our families. Please take some time during December to enjoy family and friends.

Emails were sent out by Lionel about the Department membership showing Department is at 68.411% membership and we placed number 40 instead of number 44 on the chart for National. We need 523 members to meet our 75% target. However, we are 193 members ahead of where we were last year! This is fantastic!

Kudos to these Posts who have hit 75% and beyond!
Post 10 is at 145.31%
Post 14 is at 92.05%
Post 24 is at 121.28%
Post 51 is at 81.15%
Post 60 is at 98.32%
Post 76 is at 133.08%
Post 5 is at 96.15%
Post 7 is at 102.30%
Post 32 is at 83.87%
Post 4 is at 95.40%
Post 9 is at 77.59%
Post 16 is at 86.70%
Post 37 is at 100%
Post 45 is at 93.10%

There are 731 members in Post 100. Please ask your District Commanders for these members in your area.

Districts 3 challenged District 4 for a race to 100% membership. District 3 is at 83.25% and District 4 is at 83.88%. Very close!

Post Adjutants please keep track of membership retention. Posts with 100% retention will receive a plaque. Post with 95% retention will receive a ribbon. Posts with 90% retention will receive a certificate.

All of you are working hard as we can all see! Email/call Post members to renew for 2020. If you have 2019 Post 100 members that have transferred, fill out the member data form and get that sent into Department. Every little bit helps!

Happy Holidays!

Feel free to call/email me for any questions.

Brenda Horton
Department Membership Chair
BAnnHorton3@aol.com
720-394-5969

"Battle Born, Battle Tested, Battle for Membership"
DATE: December 10, 2019
TO: American Legion Leadership
FROM: Daniel S. Wheeler, National Adjutant
RE: National Press Association – Past, Present & Future

MEMORANDUM

It is critical for The American Legion to effectively communicate its messaging, priorities and other relevant information to our nearly 2 million members. As a grassroots organization, we count on our members to not only shape The American Legion but to promote the amazing community service activities they perform in their communities across this great nation of ours.

For many years, the National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) has been a group that has attempted to provide the resources and support of its members who are American Legion Family members charged with promoting their post at the local level.

However, last summer it was discovered that NALPA had been operating without proper financial accountability. There were issues with their State of New York based bank that NALPA had been using as NALPA did not have an EIN on file, nor was there any method to add or remove signatories on their banking account.

Following this year’s National Convention, additional research determined that there was no resolution binding The American Legion to NALPA nor any other similar press association. A National Executive Committee resolution, No. 44, dated May 3-4, 1961, rescinded a prior relationship with NALPA and no additional resolution was ever pursued seeking to overturn this resolution.

Due to this banking situation, no supporting resolution and the subsequent trademark issues The American Legion immediately ceased involvement with NALPA.

As NALPA was being shuttered, a new organization arose named the National American Legion Media Association (NALMA), which purported to be a replacement for NALPA, but with new leadership.

After a brief NALMA operating period it was determined that it was in the best interest of all parties involved that The American Legion is not going to pursue a relationship with any current or former organizations along these lines. Instead, The American Legion is going to lead these efforts.

After studying the issue carefully, I have asked Media & Communications Chairman Walter Irvie for his commission to work with the Media & Communications Division on creating a modern approach that would enable American Legion Family members to effectively promote their posts. Chairman Irvie will be coordinating these efforts promptly and will be communicating next steps with American Legion leadership, former NALPA members, department press associations and others. The new approach will also be open for and communicated with American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion members, who were eligible under the NALPA guidelines.

Details are still being worked out, but all Legion Family members will be eligible to join the new group. They will continue to receive membership benefits including a press card, a reformatted annual contest, training, resources and more.

Thank you for your continued patience, understanding and support of American Legion programs.
What is the Million Veteran Program?

The goal of the Million Veteran Program (MVP) is to learn more about how genes affect health, in order to improve health for Veterans, and ultimately, everyone. MVP uses genetic, military exposure, lifestyle, and health information from MVP Veteran partners to better understand the role of genes and health. With more than 775,000 partners as of August 2019, MVP is the largest database of its kind in the world—an integrated health and genomic database tied to a health care system. It is also the world’s largest genomic cohort of Veterans with the largest representation of minorities in the U.S.

MVP research is already leading to new ways of preventing and treating illnesses in Veterans and others. Questions that may be answered from MVP findings include “Why does a treatment work well for some people but not for others?”; “Why are some people at greater risk for developing certain diseases?”; and “How can we prevent certain illnesses in the first place?”

Why is it important to study genes?
Genes carry instructions for building and maintaining our bodies. They determine the color of our eyes and hair, our height, and other personal features. Small differences in our genes may also explain why some people get diseases and others do not. In addition, genes interact with our lifestyle factors and environment to influence our risk for common illnesses, such as heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. Genes may also affect how people respond to certain medications and treatments. Having a better understanding of how genes work may help to prevent and improve treatment of disease.

How does this research help Veterans?
Veterans—and in fact everyone—stand to benefit greatly as MVP researchers learn more about the effects of genes on health. Screening, diagnosis, and treatment for some illnesses—such as some forms of cancer—have already been improved through knowledge about the effects of certain genes. MVP is helping lead to new knowledge about which genes put people at risk for certain diseases, and which ones affect how people respond to treatment. This knowledge may eventually lead to better treatments and preventive measures for many common diseases. Projects using MVP data are also looking at illnesses especially common among combat Veterans, such as PTSD and TBI.
What has MVP accomplished so far?
Projects using MVP data are already underway in VA, on topics ranging from mental health to heart disease. The program has developed an impressive informatics infrastructure to ensure secure, efficient access to data for authorized researchers. MVP leaders are working with the Department of Defense, the National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Energy to further expand the program and optimize its impact.

Joining MVP
What does joining MVP involve?
MVP has partnered with Veterans who volunteer to share their health information, as well as genetic material. Veterans are able to join MVP in-person at participating MVP locations across the country or online at mvp.va.gov.

Joining MVP involves:
• Filling out surveys through the mail or online about health and lifestyle.
• Providing a blood sample for genetic analysis at participating MVP locations.
• Permitting MVP access to information from health records on an ongoing basis.
• Agreeing to future contact by MVP for additional research opportunities.

Why is it important that so many Veterans join MVP?
In order to best learn about the role of genes, health researchers compare genetic and health information from hundreds of thousands of people. The more Veteran partners MVP has, the better researchers can understand the wide, diverse spectrum of human demographic and health traits and gain valuable knowledge to improve health care.

MVP research will help answer questions such as:
Why does a treatment work well for some people but not others?
Why are some people at greater risk for certain diseases?

Confidentiality and Data Security
What happens to the health information and blood samples that are collected?
Samples and health information collected as part of MVP are available to approved researchers for projects approved by appropriate VA oversight committees. Researchers who are approved access to analyze MVP samples and data do not receive names, addresses, dates of birth, or social security numbers of Veteran partners. Also, researchers can access MVP data only through a secure portal in a VA-approved environment.

How are health records accessed?
If consent is given to join, MVP accesses health information from health records as needed and adds that information to the VA Central Research Database so that partners’ health status and health care can be followed over time. All information is labeled with a code that does not identify MVP partners directly.

How are confidentiality and privacy protected?
The security and confidentiality of data are MVP’s top priorities. Confidentiality is protected through a variety of methods. DNA samples and health information are stored without name, address, date of birth, or social security number. Rather, samples and data are labeled with a code. Only limited MVP staff have access to the key for the code. It is necessary to keep the key for the code to connect partners with their information and samples in order to track medical records, contact partners again, or destroy the samples if a partner withdraws.

For more information or to join online, please go to mvp.va.gov. Call the MVP Info Center toll-free at 866-441-6075 with any questions or to schedule an MVP visit.
The mission of Nevada’s Legionnaires is to provide services to fellow veterans, their families and their communities.

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Dear Member of the American Legion Family,

ANNOUNCEMENT

The 73rd Annual Session of Nevada Girls State will take place June 21-27, 2020 at the UNR 4-H Facility in Stateline, Nevada (Lake Tahoe).

As you all know Nevada Girls State is a fast-paced, academic program presented by the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA). This week-long program teaches young women about state and local government through hands-on experience. Delegates participate in mock elections to become city, county, and state government, write legislation about topics important to them, and act as a state legislature at the end of the week to debate and vote on their legislation.

Each summer, approximately 20,000 young women participate in American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs across the country. One of the most respected and coveted experiential learning programs in the United States, every ALA Girls State program operates with the same patriotic values through a non-partisan curriculum. The program epitomizes the ALA’s mission to honor those who have brought us our freedom through its enduring commitment to developing young women as future leaders grounded in patriotism and Americanism.

Nevada Girls State is open to all young women in the summer before their Senior year in high school. The cost for a student to attend is $250 plus a $40 materials fee and a $75 transportation fee for anyone taking our buses from points south of Silver Springs (including the greater Las Vegas area).

For more information, please visit our website: www.NevadaGirlsState.net

If you’d like to help us recruit, if you would like to sponsor a delegate, or if you have any questions or concerns, please call us at (775) 513-4681.

Best,

Courtenay

Courtenay Burns, Ph.D.
President
ALA Department of Nevada

Best,
Courtenay
Emergency Assistance Plus (EA+)

Get the 24-hour emergency protection you and your loved ones deserve.

If you fall ill or become injured while traveling on the road or abroad, we understand that you’ll want help right away. *Emergency Assistance Plus* gives you and your family the medical and emergency assistance you need when a crisis strikes. Here are some of the important services and features this protection has to offer Legionnaires:

**Medical Evacuation**

- **Emergency Medical Monitoring** by an EA+ medical expert to make sure you get the best care in a medical emergency.
- **Air Ambulance or Emergency Medical Evacuation** if deemed medically necessary to get you to a more appropriate medical facility quickly if your current facility can’t properly treat your medical condition.
- **Medical Specialist** sent to you if your condition can’t be evaluated by phone and you cannot be moved and local treatment is unavailable.
- **Continuous Updates** to a designated family member and/or a physician to keep them informed during your medical emergency.

**Medical Assistance**

- **Transfer of Insurance Information to Medical Providers** to assist with admission and to ensure your medical care is not delayed or denied.
- **Cash Advance for Medical Payments** paid directly to the hospital or physician against your valid credit card to keep your medical care going.
- **Prescription Replacement Assistance** if your medications are lost or stolen.
- **24-Hour Doctor/ER/Dentist/Attorney Locator Assistance** to help you quickly find a professional no matter where you are in the world.

**Assistance For Companions**

- **One Round-Trip Economy-Class Airline Ticket** to bring a loved one to your bedside if you’re traveling alone and become hospitalized.
- **Airfare Home for Dependent Children or Grandchildren** who are left unattended if you’re unable to care for them due to your hospitalization.
- **Emergency Message Forwarding Assistance** if you are unable to reach a family member or traveling companion during an emergency.
- **Pet Care and Return Home Assistance** if you’re traveling with a pet and cannot care for them due to an accident or illness.
- **Ticket Home for a Traveling Companion** if you are evacuated, transported home or pass away while away from home. country and require translation assistance for medical emergencies.
- **Assistance Making Flight Arrangements**, securing visas, and with other logistics if you decide to leave a threatening situation.
Transportation Home

Transportation Home after hospitalization via a one-way airline ticket, coordinated and provided by EA+.

Nurse Escort provided if deemed medically necessary to help ensure you get proper medical care during your trip home.

Return of Deceased Remains service to bring your body home if you pass away while traveling.

Vehicle Return if you can’t drive your vehicle back home because your medical condition prohibits it AND your companion can’t drive it either.

Other Vital Travel Assistance Available to EA+ Members Includes:

Destination Intelligence regarding weather, travel, health, inoculations, travel restrictions, and special events.

Real-time Security Intelligence in the event you feel threatened by political unrest, social instability, weather conditions, or health hazards.

No-Limit Emergency Cash Transfer Assistance (against your valid credit card) if cash, credit cards, or traveler’s checks are lost or stolen.

Lost Luggage Assistance helps you track down any lost luggage, personal items or documents.

Document Replacement Assistance if important documents like your passport, driver’s license, or birth certificate are lost or stolen during your trip.

Language Interpretation Assistance to connect you with an interpreter over the phone if you’re traveling in a foreign

**This is only an outline of the plan’s features. Please read your EA+ Member Guide carefully to understand all the services available to you, as well as any rules and regulations. Washington state residents must be traveling more than 100 miles away from home to be eligible for EA+ services.**
Legionnaire Benefits
As a Member of the Legion Family, You Know How Important It Is to Help Protect Those in Need...

Now We Can Help

The LIT Plans can help with

- Hospital HELP Plan
- Cancer Care
- Accidental Death Protection
- On-The-Move Travel Accident
- Emergency Assistance Plus
- Medicare Supplement Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Long-Term Care
- Lifeline Medical Alert Service

To Learn More and Enroll, Visit www.TheLIT.com
For Questions Call 1-800-235-6943

*The Accidental Death, Cancer Care, Hospital HELP Plan, and On-The-Move Accident Insurance Plans are underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company, St. Paul, MN. Plans may not be available in all states. These policies contain limitations and exclusions. Please visit www.TheLIT.com to www.plan details.
Congratulations!!!!!

We have met our December 11, 2019 membership target of 45% - Thank You for this milestone.

Membership Notes:
- As of December 5, 2019, the Detachment is ranked #12 in the Nation.
- Membership 207 or 57.8% of last year
- 2020 Membership needed for Goal is 460 total members
- Please ensure that your membership renewals are processed in a timely manner
We are so close to our goal. Continue the great work

Regardless of where SAL members live or how active their squadron is, they can demonstrate being good citizens and promote Americanism in their communities in schools. Ideas on promoting Americanism and helping our community can be as easy as:

- Participate in the Wreaths Across America in your community on December 14, 2019 - find local locations and contacts https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/pages/search?searchType=location
  - Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery - Fernley Nevada
  - Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery - Boulder City Nevada
  - Churchill County Cemetery - Fallon Nevada
  - East Side Memorial Park - Minden Nevada
  - Garden Cemetery - Gardnerville Nevada
  - Lone Mountain Cemetery - Carson City Nevada

All of these are just suggestions for you SAL to better serve and honor our patriotism. Remember we are all a family and working together with our legion and auxiliary partners to strive for the best.

Please take time to honor all veterans and thank them for their service.

Wishing you and your family a Wonderful Holiday Season and a Peaceful New Year!
Since our charter, our American Legion Department of Nevada has been welcoming VETERANS from all branches of our Armed Forces. Today, we continue to welcome all military personnel serving our country. Joining a Post in our State enables you to continue serving your God, Country and Community. Our mission is to implement the goals, aspirations, dreams, peace and blessings for our country, friends and families embodied in our preamble.

The mission of Nevada's Legionnaires is to provide services to fellow Veterans, their Families and their communities.

RED Friday

Started in 2005. Beginning in 2005, military supporters across America started wearing red on Fridays to show support for the service members who protect our freedoms and way of life around the world. More specifically, it is for service members deployed as RED stands for "Remember Everyone Deployed".