Hall of Fame coach Lou Holtz receives Legion ‘Good Guy’ award

By John Raughter

SEP 03, 2019

Praised for his strong support for U.S. military veterans, his inspirational leadership and his dedication to charity, college football coaching legend Lou Holtz was presented The American Legion’s James V. Day “Good Guy” Award during the organization’s 101st annual National Convention in Indianapolis Aug. 26.

“For many years this coach and great American has contributed time and resources to charitable endeavors, including the Lou’s Lads Foundation, the Holtz Charitable Foundation and numerous other great causes,” American Legion Past National Commander Daniel M. Dellinger said while presenting the award. The award is presented annually by The American Legion Past Department (state) Commanders’ Club (PDCC). Recent recipients include former heavyweight boxing champion George Foreman, performer Dolly Parton, MLB Hall of Famer Joe Morgan, MLB Hall of Famer Johnny Bench and Vietnam War veteran Theodore Roosevelt IV.

“I used to say to my football teams, ‘if you didn’t show up, who would miss you and why? If you didn’t go home, would anybody miss you and why? And, if you didn’t go to work, would anybody miss you and why?’” Holtz said during his acceptance remarks.

“You think of all that people would have missed had The American Legion not showed up for the past 100 years. All the 22 different worthwhile programs that you have. American Legion Baseball which crowned a new champion on ESPN. You think about Boys State. Think about the Boy Scouts. I congratulate you on your tremendous accomplishment and I come to you very humbly because I appreciate the sacrifices that you have made.”

Holtz, an Army veteran, is a new member of The American Legion Department of Indiana. In recent years, he has visited U.S. military troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea and other locations.

The PDCC donated $2,000 to Lou’s Lads, a nonprofit foundation that dedicates itself to Holtz’s legacy by providing financial and educational assistance to underprivileged students. Not to be outdone, Holtz donated $5,000 to The American Legion.
It has been another busy month. At the beginning of August, I was asked to install the Darrel Dunkle Post 1 Officers in Reno. I was happy to oblige and what a turn out they had. The new Post Commander, Brian Johnson, had his entire family attending to congratulate him on his new position.

The very next morning, I flew to Indianapolis to attend the National Membership Conference with District 3 Commander and Department Membership Chair, Brenda Horton. We each attend different breakout sessions to learn more about membership growth and recruitment.

Two weeks later, I was back in Indianapolis for the Sons of The American Legion National Convention, which is just before The American Legion National Convention. It made my stay in Indy a very long one! The Department proudly marched in the convention parade on Sunday and as you can see, we had a lot of Nevadans marching. It was too bad that there were not that many spectators on the parade route, but that didn’t dampen our spirits and we all had a great time.
1st Vice Commander Richard Eberly

This month I would like to take the time to talk about an event that occurred on September 3, 1777, it was the first time that the American Flag was flown in battle for the first time. The American Flag was ordered to be raised during a Revolutionary War skirmish at Cooch’s Bridge, Delaware by Patriot General William Maxwell. The General ordered the flag be raised as his detachment of infantry and cavalry met an advance guard of British and Hessian troops.

Three months before, on June 14, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution stating that “the flag of the United States be thirteen alternate stripes red and white” and that “the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.” The national flag, which became known as the “Stars and Stripes,” was based on the “Grand Union” flag, a banner carried by the Continental Army in 1776 that also consisted of 13 red and white stripes. As new states joined the Union, more stars were added to the flag to represent them.

On June 14, 1877, the first Flag Day observance was held on the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the Stars and Stripes. Congress has instructed that the U.S. flag be flown from all public buildings across the country. In the years after the first Flag Day, several states continued to observe the anniversary, and in 1949 Congress officially designated June 14 as Flag Day, a national day of observance.

The American flag has a meaning that goes beyond words. It has been carried into battles that have shaped our future and rests over the graves of the individuals who have given us our freedom. For the sake of our heroes, we must always cherish and respect it. Millions of names will live on forever through the Stars and Stripes. Teaching flag advocacy is another way to engage our youth. The American Legion is a great resource for flag etiquette and display questions.
Greetings everyone,

I recently attended the 101st National American Legion Convention in Indianapolis, IN. As a Delegate on the Veterans Benefits Convention Subcommittee (VA&R), a few Resolutions effecting benefits were discussed. The Subcommittee approved six to be presented to the NEC’s for their review. You should consider attending at least one of the National Conventions. The Committees have great information to pass on as well as being interesting to attend.

I have a few events in Southern and Northern Nevada to share that you might want to check out.

Veterans Town Hall
Sept. 18, 2019 1 - 2 pm
Bob Ruud Community Center 150 N. Hwy. 160
Pahrump

The Armed Forces Chamber Health Fair
Sept. 21, 2019 1 - 4 pm Glow Zone
6330 Arroyo Springs St., Ste. 1200
Las Vegas

2nd Annual “I Got Your 6” Foundation BBQ
Sept. 28, 2019 8 am - 4 pm Sparks Marina
300 Howard Dr.
Sparks

Any other events can be checked out at veterans.nv.gov. Until next month be healthy and safe.

For God and Country

Department 2nd Vice Commander
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Less than 300 Legion anniversary three coin sets remain

BY: The American Legion  Sep 5, 2019

When The American Legion's 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin series went on sale March 14 by the U.S. Mint, 7,500 of the three coin proof set were available. As of now, less than 300 sets remain.

The three coin proof set includes all three coins – $5 gold coin, silver dollar and clad half dollar.

U.S. Mint Director David Ryder addressed delegates at the Legion's 101st National Convention in Indianapolis Aug. 27 about the coin series.

“The Mint is proud to have been a part of the Legion’s commemorative coin program that celebrates such an important milestone. You can be sure that veterans were involved in every step of the way with the development of this important program,” said Ryder, who said that the U.S. Mint has nearly 1,700 employees and veterans make up 35 percent of that workforce.

After Dec. 31, the U.S. Mint will no longer sell the Legion's commemorative coin series.

To make a purchase or for more information about the centennial coins, go to www.legion.org/coin or call 800-872-6468.
During the convention, I invited the entire Department to a wonderful dinner at Buca di Beppos Restaurant. Buca is a great place which serves their dishes family style, where a small dish will feed three people... seriously. Everyone ordered different dishes for people to try and we still had leftovers. We had a great time and we were rather loud. We were so loud, I was apologizing to everyone in the same room with us and giving them my Commander’s pin.

At the Past Department Commander’s Club Luncheon, the Club honored Coach Lou Holtz with the 2019 James V. Day “Good Guy” Award. Coach gave a great inspirational speech full of humor and insight. After the luncheon, Coach stayed for a few autographs. My special note: I was at the University of Notre Dame when Coach first arrived at the university to be the new head football coach and he gave a speech to my class. We didn’t know who he really was at the time, but the rest is history and he is now my favorite football coach of all time. What an honor it is to get his autograph and picture.

During the National Convention, The Department of Nevada was honored to receive awards in recognition of our contributions toward the Child Welfare Foundation. We received the “Meritorious Service Award” and the “Excellence Award” for both the Highest Per Capita Donations and the Highest Per Capita Gain for a Department. We received these awards because of the hard work of our SAL Detachment of Nevada. The Child Welfare Fund has always been a special project of the Sons of The American Legion.

Until next time, remember, “Our Legion Youth is Our Legion’s Future!”

Always in Service,
Jim Stewart
Commander
Greetings Comrades,

This year’s total donations for the Legacy Run was $975,208. The final Legacy Scholarship Fund numbers for the year will be posted after 30 September. While the actual total was higher for the 5 previous years, we had USAA sponsorship which ended in 2018. Great job by all who participated.

Hurricane season is upon us, and Dorian is starting with a bang! Please consider passing the hat an extra time as you carry out your fundraising efforts this year. Our NEF and AEF programs will need our assistance. For more information on these programs & how you can help, check the following links: https://www.legion.org/emergency and https://www.alafortveterans.org/Donate/

The biggest new in the American Legion right now is the LEGION Act! It’s opening a long-since needed opportunity for new membership. Basically, The LEGION Act offers American Legion membership eligibility to any U.S. military veteran who served at least one day of active military duty since Dec. 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or is serving now. Learn more at https://www.legion.org/dispatch/246641/11-key-things-know-about-legion-act

If you have an event you’d like to share, please let us know.

Ride Safe,

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

The American Legion Riders today are an important part of the Legion family in support of virtually all programs of The American Legion.
Well the 101st National Convention is over and our new National Commander is James W. “Bill” Oxford from North Carolina. His Vice Commanders for the year are as follows: Francis MacDonald Jr, David King, Robert Liebenow (Western Region), Bruce Feuerbach and Richard Heigert.

His other National officers are, Daniel Wheeler, Adjutant, Kevin Bartlett, Judge Advocate, James “Jim” Mariner Historian and David Shore as Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Sons of the American Legion elected Clint Bolt as National Commander and the Auxiliary elected Nicole Clapp as National President.

Commander’s theme for this year, up to December 31st, is the Legion coins as the Silver dollar and the bronze coins make great gifts and incentives for membership.

Starting January 1, 2020 the theme will be Veterans and Children’s Foundation with a goal of 25 million dollars. He realizes that this is a huge amount but it is obtainable if is spread out over a period of 4 years.

One other big change is with the Auxiliary that the word “Wives” is now changed to “Spouses”. This means that husbands can now join the Auxiliary.

With the Legion Act now in place there are 4.2 million veterans that are now eligible to join the American Legion. Each post should have their own goal to see how many they can obtain from this list.

Baseball,

Our team from Nevada, The Southern Nevada Tribe won the first two games at the Regional in Fairfield California but then lost the next two and therefore eliminated from the tournament. Congratulations to the Southern Nevada Tribe from Basic High School on a Great season.
Hello everyone! I want to say congratulations to the Posts who made 50% membership for the Early Bird/NEF Kickoff by September 11!! I know how hard all of you worked to achieve this. This is worth 5,000 points. The next target date is October 9 and Posts need to have 55% membership not including DMS transfers. This is worth 5,500 points.

The month of September has been busy with membership drives. I recruited a member outside the Elko VA clinic for Post 32. Wow! On September 7, I attended a local Rides & Rods car show and Gary Mann recruited three members for Post 7. He earned his gold star that day! On September 11, I attended a membership drive in Carlin. Lastly, I attended a membership drive with Post 7 at the Veterans Outreach Fair on September 13. On September 14, I will be attending the District 4 meeting in Fallon to talk about membership and to distribute membership material. The new membership brochures will not be ready til the first of the year, until then continue using the brochures that you have. Please call me when you have a membership drive, I would love to come and help. My number is 720-394-5969.

"Battle Born, Battle Tested, Battle for Membership"
300 Club

300 Club information not available at time of publication.

THERE ARE STILL 10 MONTHS OF DRAWING LEFT

American Legion Day
-Sept 16 -

Www.facebook.com/TALDONV
The mission of Nevada’s Legionnaires is to provide services to fellow veterans, their families and their communities.

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American Legion Auxiliary President Courtenay Burns

Dear Members of the ALA Department of Nevada,

Thank you all for your support of Nevada Girls State! We wanted to take this opportunity to update you about the 2019 Session of Nevada Girls State.

In 2019, we welcomed 82 outstanding young women from 38 high schools around the state. Eight (8) ALA units acted as sponsors for delegates, as well as two (2) American Legion Posts, one (1) Sons of the American Legion Squadron, and one (1) American Legion Riders Chapter. In all, the American Legion Family sponsored 28 delegates.

By the end of the week, our delegates had participated in City, County, and State elections and had written 86 pieces of legislation, 31 of which made it through committee and to the floor of the legislature. You can read the final legislation at www.NevadaGirlsState.net.

Cambrie Arboreen from Bishop Gorman High School was elected Governor.
Madison Julien from Virgin Valley High School was elected Lt. Governor.
Ruth Daniel from SW Career & Technical Academy served as Senate Majority Leader.
Myah Thompson from Beatty High School served as Senate Minority Leader.

Emma Kate Ross served from Nevada State High School as Speaker of the Assembly.
Angel Card served from Centennial High School as Assembly Majority Leader.
Desiree Desembly from Spring Valley High School served as Assembly Minority Leader.

Madison Julien from Virgin Valley High School and Ruth Daniel from SW Career & Technical Academy were selected to represent Nevada at ALA Girls Nation.

For more information about Nevada Girls State, please feel free to call or email any time or to visit our website, www.NevadaGirlsState.net.

Sincerely,

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The American Legion
August 2019 - July 2020
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- September 20: National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition day -
  Theme: Never Forgotten “Their Sacrifice - Our Mission” Ever Onward

- September 29: Gold Star Family Day -
  **The History of Gold Star Family Day**
  Shortly after World War I, the Gold Star Mothers Club was formed in the United States to provide support for mothers who lost sons or daughters in the war. The name came from the custom of families of servicemen hanging a Service Flag in their windows. A Service Flag would have a star for each family member in the military embroidered on it. Living servicemen were represented by a blue star and those who were killed in action were represented by a gold star. American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. was founded in 1929, after receiving a charter from Congress. It was founded by 25 mothers living in the Washington, D.C. area and soon expanded to include affiliated groups across the nation. On June 23, 1936, a joint Congressional resolution designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day. Gold Star Mother's Day has been observed each year since 1936 by presidential proclamation—beginning with Franklin D. Roosevelt and continuing through to the present day. Beginning in 2009, the last Sunday in September—originally designated as "Gold Star Mother's Day"—is now designated as "Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day" by an annual presidential proclamation.

As a new membership opportunity is upon us I ask each of you to talk with your American Legion Posts in assisting in growing our membership. We are a family and what is the best way to have our family together working on the same goals for our organizations.

A Reminder for Sons Membership:

All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I or since December 7, 1941, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership. Only males are eligible to join the Sons. Women who are veterans and are eligible to join The American Legion are welcome and encouraged to do so.

The American Legion Auxiliary was established to provide Legion Family membership for female relatives of Legionnaires and has recently changed their wording to state “SPOUSES" versus "WIVES", meaning that males (husbands) can now join the Auxiliary!

Remember we are strong together and it’s our growth this year and beyond to help our Post and Auxiliaries be successful.

David Sousa
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NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2019
WWW.DPAA.MIL
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.