



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

December 2022

Alpost82.org

American.Legion4@verizon.net

301-934-8221



Commander's Message

First and foremost, may the American Legion Family of Post 82 be thankful for all their blessings.

I want to personally thank Director Jamie Zayas and the Legion Riders for hosting and putting on this year's Toys for Tots Ride on November 26, 2022. This community event made it possible for the children of Charles County to have a Christmas this year.

The American Legion Family at Post 82 has provided a lot of community support this year. Project Opportunity for Fall of 2022 held their graduation ceremony on November 30, 2022, for six students at Post 82. These six graduates will develop their new businesses in Southern Maryland.

The Executive Board and the Leadership of the American Legion Post 82 has made the decision to postpone the "Steak and Shrimp Night Dinners" until February of 2023, due to the increased cost of items for the dinner.

Please join us for the Kid's Christmas Party that will be held on December 4, 2022 at 2:00 PM.

The Post-Christmas Party will be held on December 17, 2022.

Debbie and I want to wish all the American Legion Families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Honor to Serve,

George Hawley
Commander

Legion Membership Report

I must thank all of you who responded to our membership renewal requests. Response was quite good, and we had several members who paid up for 2023. We still have several members who haven't renewed for this year. During the month of November Post 82 in conjunction with efforts of the District 6 Commander, spend a whole day calling and emailing members who have not yet paid for this year. The response was not all that good. Not many people answered their phones, and this is understandable due to the amount of robo-calls. However, messages were left on voicemails. If you got such a message, please try to get your dues in. Also, several emails were sent out as well.

Remember, if you are having difficulties with finances and can't pay your dues, contact the Post Commander who will make efforts to get your dues paid.

Welcome to our newest members to the post:

Susan Fritz, Veteran, USN

James Williams, Veteran, USA

When you see any of these new members at the Post, please introduce yourself and make them feel welcome.

Harry Tafe

1st Vice, Membership Chair

Post Everlasting

Thankful we have no Post Everlasting news to report this month

Sons of The American Legion

S.A.L. Monthly Meetings are held

The First Tuesday of Each Month at 1800hrs



The Squadron held its regular monthly meeting on November 1. The members approved a donation of \$200 to Toys for Tots of Charles County and \$500 for Boy Scouts of America Troop 1321. The members also approved the purchase of 54 Department of Maryland American Legion Family Cash Raffle tickets for \$45 and the purchase of a mailbox to be mounted on the S.A.L. room. A revised S.A.L. Veterans Memorial Scholarship application was reviewed and finalized. A copy of the Application will be posted on the website, alpost.org.

Several members of the Squadron participated in the La Plata Veterans Day Parade on November 6. Thanks to Troy Greathouse for proudly carrying the Squadron 82 Flag.

The weather wasn't perfect but the Veterans Day program at the Post on November 11 was. From Commander Hawley's Call to Order and Piccowaxen Middle School's Jack Compton's playing of the National Anthem, through the guest

speaker James E. Goldsmith, Capt. USN Ret., to the Benediction by Squadron Chaplain Roy Yanosh, it was an inspirational day.

Thanks to Alana Lentz, Gary Shupe, Gale Willett, Roy Yanosh, David Quade, Carol Karpiak, Lenny Lentz, and Buddy Hindle for volunteering their time at our baby back rib dinner on November 18. Additional volunteers are always welcome.

First Vice Commander Gale Willett and Adjutant Gary Shupe worked the Southern Maryland Region (SMR) bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home on November 21. As usual, \$200 in prizes were handed out to the winners.

As of the November 18 membership report, the Squadron is at 60.664% of its goal for the 2023 year. If you have paid your 2023 dues, thank you. If not, please pay as soon as possible. If your card has 2022 at the top, you will be delinquent after December 31, 2022. Don't let that happen. Dues may be mailed in or dropped by the Post.

I hope to see you at the Post.

Yours in Service,

Dave Tatman

Commander, Squadron 82

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American Legion Auxiliary
Auxiliary Monthly Meetings are the Second
Tuesday of Each Month at 1800hrs



Hello Emeralds:

We have had a busy month. The Auxiliary craft fair turned out nicely. It started off slow but began to pick up around 10am. I want to thank the Auxiliary members and Post member that helped out. Of course, let's give Carolyn Shelton and her husband Norman a big shout out for all the work they did to get this craft fair going. I would also like to thank Mary Shaffer, Rita Sexton, Linda Rollins, Janet Fogle, Cindy Moruzzi, Carol Karpiak, Kathleen Quade, Becky LaQuay, Edna Caywood, and Darlene Willett who also helped.

Bingo has been doing well and I want to thank everyone from the Auxiliary and the Post, and Riders that have helped out.

The Veterans Day Parade was a success as usual. I would like to thank Auxiliary member Fred Wedding for taking us to the parade and participating in the parade with his tractor and cart. Also I would like to thank Mary Shaffer, Rita Sexton Cheryl Wedding, Debbie Wedding and Jill Hudnell also for participating in the parade.

We will be having a potluck dinner after our December meeting. Please bring a dish for this event.

The Auxiliary will be having New Year's Eve BINGO and dinner. We will have more information once final arrangements have been made.

Linda Rollins is selling assorted nuts for a fund raiser for the Auxiliary. Please see Linda if you wish to purchase any nuts for your Christmas cookies or cakes.

Email: American.legion4@verizon.net

We are coming to the end of the year and I hope everyone has a safe and a happy holiday and a happy new year!

For Service not Self,

Lesley Radcliff
Auxiliary President

**POST 82 FAMILY – NEED ASSISTANCE?
CONTACT**

**POST COMMANDER/SERVICE OFFICER
GEORGE HAWLEY**

Email: 82Postlaplata@gmail.com

Email: ghawley83@gmail.com

Mobile Phone: 240-367-6489

CHAPLAIN

JOHN FLATLEY

Email: johnflatleyjr@gmail.com

Mobile Phone: 301-848-76642

American Legion Riders
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:

On Saturday October 29, the Riders led by Randy (Graydog) Markley completed a successful clean up at Lions Camp Merrick in Nanjemoy MD. A total of 9 Riders participated in this heartfelt endeavor and ended up with their picture and a very nice article in the MD Independent detailing how veteran's continue to serve the community after protecting our freedoms. Riders Director Jamie (Jamie Z) Zayas was contacted by The National Headquarters who saw the MD Independent article online and they did a follow up article online at American Legion. Org (See article included below)

The Annual Town of LaPlata Veteran's Parade was a great turnout of Riders, Post family and county residents. The Riders were led by Vice Director Jeff Coombs with a total of 15 riders and 3 passengers. After the parade, Vice Director Coombs led us for a nice lunch at Scuttlebutts on Cobb Island where good food and even better fellowship was had by all.

The Riders would like to wish all members a safe and glorious Christmas celebration with your families and friends. If you will be traveling, we hope the highways and bi-ways are open and safe so that you get home just the way you left except returning with lots of gifts.

On Friday Dec. 9 from 5-7pm your Riders will be serving up some delicious Holiday Macaroni (Spaghetti) with traditional red and meat sauce to supplement your carbs to maintain maximum shopping energy. This will be our last meal for 2022 please come out and help us make it a huge

success just like you have done throughout the year.

Thanks to everyone for their support of our 3rd Annual Toys for Tots Ride on Saturday Nov. 26. It was a success with close to \$1,000.00 of toys collected and delivered to Charles County Toys for Tots.

We will be Santa's helpers along with Toys for Tots at Regency Stadium on Dec. 9 & 10 to hand out toys to needy families in Charles County. If you would like to help please contact a Rider for details pertaining to this mission.

The Riders will be laying designated Post 82 wreaths on veterans graves Sat. Dec. 17 at Cheltenham Veteran's Memorial Cemetery in conjunction with the Unit 82 Auxiliary and Wreaths Across America. Please view the pictures we will be posting of your loved ones grave site wreath on our Public Facebook page [American Legion Riders Post 82 LaPlata, MD \(Public\)](#)

We would like to encourage all of our members as well as our Post Families (Legion, SAL & Auxiliary) to 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.

Please keep Rider Rick Maron in your prayers. Rick is currently in Ukraine providing humanitarian aid and other vital services within this war-torn country. We are very proud of Rick and are eager for his safe return home. (See full article below)

Upcoming Rides:

Wreaths Across America Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery Sat. Dec. 17

Next ALR meeting is Thursday December 8, at 1800

Presented On behalf of Director, James (Jamie Z) Zayas,

Submitted by Kevin (Big Sexy) Bryant,

"We ride In HONOR of those who have served"

What's Going on at the Post This Month?

Sunday, Dec 4

Children's Christmas Party

2pm This event is open to the public!

Friday, Dec 9th

Riders Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

5-7pm See you there!

Saturday, December 17

Post 82 Christmas Party

5-8pm Music, Door Prizes and Lite Food provided. We look forward to seeing all of our Legionnaires, S.A.L. and Auxiliary members for this festive event! Ugly Sweaters Welcomed!

Friday, Dec 16

S.A.L. Baby Back Rib Dinner

5-8pm Bring a friend!

Saturday, Dec 31

New Years Eve Bingo & Dinner

Details TBA



Board of Directors & Executive Officers Meeting is held the Second Tuesday of Each Month at 1830 hrs.

General Membership Meeting is held the Second Tuesday of Each Month at 1900 hrs.

Post 82 Executive Committee Elected Officers

Commander - George Hawley
1st Vice Commander - Harry Tafe
2nd Vice Commander - Chris Laquay
Judge Advocate - Bob Striegel
Adjutant - Dave Black
Finance Officer - Bill Rees
Sergeant-At-Arms - Jerry Higdon

At Large Elected Officers

Buddy Hindle
Norm Shelton
David Quade
Donna Baker

Appointed Officers

Service Officer - George Hawley
Chaplain - John Flatley
Historian - Cheryl Wedding

Still Serving...

U.S. Army veteran and American Legion Post 82 member Rick Maron, along with his wife Carolyn, have been avid volunteers for many years by serving with the Honor Flight Network, Patriot Guard Riders and working with many of the DC area homeless shelters. Rick is an active member of Team Rubicon, a group that responds to worldwide natural disasters and also serves on the Charles County Public School's Safety and Security Advisory Committee.

In late March Rick traveled to Medyka, Poland, once a quiet and idyllic farming village near the southeastern border with Ukraine. The border crossing at Medyka quickly became the busiest crossing point for Ukrainian refugees since the war with Russia began in late February 2022. It's estimated that more than 7.5 million refugees from Ukraine have crossed Polish borders, with the largest number during the month of March at Medyka.



Legion Member Rick Maron at Chicago O'Hare airport boarding a flight to Krakow Poland.

Rick initially volunteered to provide advance logistic support for a UK humanitarian aid nonprofit group that was transporting medical supplies, food, and clothing from the UK to the
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Polish-Ukraine border, help with delivery of supplies into Ukraine and assist refugees getting out and resettled in nearby countries. It was an international partnership with volunteers from many countries. Rick served in the area through April.

Compelled by compassion for the people he served in the spring, Rick decided to return to Eastern Europe in September to volunteer with three US nonprofits; Renegade Relief Foundation, Kidsave Supports Ukraine and Transform a Street Dog.

Rick's work with Renegade Relief Foundation was to deliver critical medical supplies bound for Ukraine front lines, VCU Health in Richmond VA donated medical supplies which Rick carried with him on the first leg of his trip and flight into Krakow, Poland.

Rick also volunteered for Kidsave Supports Ukraine. Since the war began Kidsave has rescued over 27,000 people and delivered over 642 tons of humanitarian aid into Ukraine. Rick coordinated with Pavlo Shulha, one of Kidsaves true heroes, and was welcomed with a large gathering and meal at the family's home in the Ukraine mountains. Rick carried with him award medals from the Kidsave organization for more than 60 Ukrainian volunteers who had rescued countless refugees fleeing the war zone.



Rick is proud to support Kidsave

Rick later joined a third nonprofit group Transform A Street Dog (TFASD) to work at their Ukraine kennels, transport supplies and conduct rescue missions throughout Ukraine. He is currently committed to TFASDs mission and plans to return to Ukraine on their behalf soon.

Rick has self-funded his volunteer travel expenses in addition to making personal donations to the nonprofits he's worked for. He states, "I am extremely grateful for the unwavering support of my wife Carolyn, my family, friends, and most recently for the donations to TFASD from individual ALR 82 members, the Unit 82 Auxiliary and La Plata Chick-fil-A franchise owner, John Flatley. It's heartwarming and encouraging, especially when facing tough times in Ukraine, to know you all have my back."



Delivering two USA bound war dogs to a British partner just over the Polish Border

The future of these animals is extremely sad and uncertain, as many have only experienced the streets or shelters their entire life and on a rare chance an animal may be saved. Rick plans to bring home two of these rescued war dogs, that both he and Post 82 ALR member, Randy Markley, will adopt to give them a forever home here in America.

There are many, many more animals that may never get a second chance. With the harsh Ukraine winter ahead and lack of electrical power due to continuous Russian missile attacks help and support is desperately needed.

[Learn more about Transform a Street Dog here.](#)

You can foster or adopt a dog, volunteer your time, or donate to help fund this effort.

Tax-deductible donations may be made directly to [Donate - Transform A Street Dog](#). No donations are too small, you can join Rick to make a difference and save the life of an animal.

Email: American.legion4@verizon.net



The flyer features a dark blue background with white stars on the left side. On the right, there is a white box containing the event details. At the top right is the American Legion logo, a circular emblem with 'AMERICAN LEGION' and 'U.S.' inside. Below it, the text 'AMERICAN LEGION POST 82' is written. The main title 'CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY' is in a large, red, serif font. Below the title, there are two columns of information: 'DECEMBER 4TH' and '2:00 PM'. A location pin icon is followed by '6330 N. CRAIN HWY LA PLATA, MD'. Below this, it says 'THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.' and 'Bring one wrapped gift (under \$20.00) with your child's name on it. Santa will be stopping by for a visit. Light refreshments will be served.' There is a link 'CLICK HERE' and 'or use the QR code to RSVP.' followed by 'Please RSVP by December 1st.' and a QR code. On the left side of the flyer, there is a cartoon illustration of a reindeer and Santa Claus peeking over a green Christmas tree.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



MARYLAND GIRLS STATE
JUNE 18-23, 2023
Salisbury University

It is once again the time for the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) to focus its attention on our Girls State Program. As in the past, we are asking for our Post 82 family's assistance in the selection of girls to attend 2023 ALA Maryland Girls State.

Girls State 2023 is a training program for high school juniors and seniors. The objective is to provide "firsthand" training in the management of a democratic government at city, county, and state levels. It helps develop civic leadership and pride in American citizenship. It arouses a keen interest in the detailed study of our government. It develops in the participants a determination to maintain our form of government, primarily by bringing them to the realization of how great it is to be and American.

This Unit 82 will be sponsoring girls with good scholastic ability and leadership qualities. The candidates must now be in the 11th or 12th grade. Those that are interested will go to www.facebook.com/alamdgs and fill out an Interest Form and an Application. (As they fill out the Interest Form and the Application, they will be asked about the American Legion Auxiliary Unit. Our Unit is 82.)

Candidates will print their application and *contact me for an interview*. At this interview, they will need to bring their application and pay a \$45.00 application fee (cash or check). The American Legion Auxiliary will pay the remaining \$290 registration.

Please have potential candidates watch [this](#) YouTube Video by Rana Holmes. Rana attended LaPlata High School and was a Girls State Citizen in 2020.

When the Mandatory Orientation Schedule is finalized, I will send you the information.

The Interest Form, Application, and interview must be completed before March 15, 2023. The applicants are not to send their applications directly to the department office. It must have a sponsoring unit cover sheet, which I will add to the application after I have done the interview.

Sincerely,

Rita Sexton
Girls State Chairman
7400 Retreat Place
Port Tobacco, MD 20677
301-934-8616
ritasexton20677@yahoo.com

Maryland Riders Chapter Continues To Serve Its Community



American Legion Riders from Harry White Wilmer Post 82, La Plata, MD

The American Legion
NOV 09, 2022

In 2015, Jamie Zayas and fellow veteran Kevin Kling were looking for a motorcycle riding group to join in Waldorf, Md., but were unsuccessful in finding one that fit them. So the pair reached out to then American Legion Harry White Wilmer Post 82 Commander Buddy Hindle in nearby La Plata about forming an American Legion Riders chapter at the post.

Just seven years later, Chapter 82 is thriving, involved in numerous projects benefiting its community and fundraising to the tune of more than \$20,000 last summer for the Department of Maryland's annual Gold Star Legacy Run. That effort, along with assistance from Post 82's other Legion Family members, allowed the post to donate \$34,000 for the ride, which statewide generated \$137,000.

The chapter worked with the Maryland Blue Crabs minor league baseball team, which had worn camouflage jerseys during a military and veteran tribute night and then donated them to the chapter to auction off. The Riders also had a fundraising poker run among other activities.

"We worked really hard at it," said Zayas, Chapter 82's director and a 30-plus-year veteran of the Air Force and D.C. Air National Guard. "We really pounded the streets, and it all came together. And all of the legs of the (post's Legion Family) do a really good job of supporting each other."

In addition to fundraising, Chapter 82 stages a Toys for Tots ride in late November; provides support for the Ddamien Project, which provides homes to former service dogs; and hires an ice cream truck in the spring to drive to the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home to provide cool treats to residents, staff and anyone else visiting the home that day.

The latter is particularly memorable to Zayas. "When you see the ice cream truck pull up, and you see these 80- and 90-year-old veterans line up – I remember being a kid and the ice cream truck would come and all the kids would line up. (The veterans) are doing the same thing. That really warms my heart. It's a fun thing that we do. It's pretty special for us."

Recently, members of Chapter 82 were donating their time in Nanjemoy at Lions Camp Merrick, which provides residential camping experiences for children ages 6-16 who are diagnosed diabetic type 1, and children that are hearing or visually impaired. Veterans also occasionally use the camp. The Riders were cleaning up the camp's large administrative cabin, which Chapter 82 took over sponsorship of after the chapter previously sponsoring it had closed.

"We usually put aside \$300 to \$500 a year for it," Zayas said. "It's minor maintenance. We'll do some spring cleaning, and in the fall we knock down the vegetation around it. We've rebuilt the whole deck. We do some landscaping. We've bought a new washer for the cabin. And we'll do more than just that cabin."

"Warfighter Retreat has a week-long retreat (for veterans). They invite us to the beginning of the week for the welcoming of the veterans. And they'll have a dinner at the end of the week, and we have actually come out and played the waiters and waitresses for them."

Zayas said he has no problem finding volunteers for any of the projects taken on by the chapter. "I bring something up, and I get 20 volunteers just like that. Everybody wants to participate and be a part of it," he said. "The vast majority of us our veterans. Some are still serving in some capacities. I served for 37 years. It's in our blood. We see somebody that needs help ... and we want to jump in. And we jump in with both feet. It's really special."