



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

August 2023

Alpost82.org

American.Legion4@verizon.net

301-934-8221



Commander's Corner

Hello, my Post 82 Family. It is with great honor I assume the duties as your Post Commander. I was both honored and humbled to have been both nominated and elected to this position, I promise to do my best for Post 82 and its members. Let me begin by introducing myself to those that may not know me. I am a retired Chief Master Sergeant from the United States Air Force after 37 years of service. My wife Christine and I have been married for 38 years and have two grown children, a son Robby and daughter Alina. Both of my children live in Charles County, and we celebrated our first grandchild, Marren, last July.

As we start this new Legion year, I would like to begin by thanking our elected and appointed officers for 2022-2023. It was an extremely successful year for Post 82, and we have these men and women to thank for leading us. Commander George Hawley, thank you for your tireless efforts and all the updates you completed. 1st Vice Commander Harry Tafe, thank you for leading our membership committee and getting us to 92.7% in a very difficult membership year. 2nd Vice Commander Chris Laquay, thank you for always being there when needed and taking a lead position with our Auxiliary bingo program.

I look forward to working with you this year. Judge Advocate Bob Striegel, thank you for providing the legal advice when needed and thanks for staying on this year, hopefully we won't cause you too much work. Adjutant Dave Black, what you have done for our post through the years cannot be measured, thank you for all the hard work and paving the way for the future. I know we have much to learn but we are comforted knowing you are here to help. Finance Officer Bill Rees, another officer that has been holding down the fort for many years, thank you for all you do and especially for staying on as our finance officer. Sergeant at Arms Jerry Higdon, thank you for keeping order within the post and for staying on for this new year. Our at Large Elected Officers Buddy Hindle, Norm Shelton, David Quade and Donna Baker, a huge thank you for all you have done this year for our post. Our Service Officer George Hawley, pulling double duty for the post, thank you. Chaplain John Flatley, thank you for helping us stay in God's good graces. And our historian Cheryl Wedding, thank you for volunteering again this year, we have a great story to tell about Post 82.

Post 82 has a long history of great leadership, dating back to 1920 when Samuel J. Fort was elected as our first Post CMDR. As your new Post Commander, I vow to continue this legacy that has placed Post 82 as one of the leading Posts in not only the Southern Maryland region but in the State of Maryland.

BE THE ONE

How do we get there?

1st, by working together. Our Post Family, Legion, Auxiliary, S.A.L, and ALR do a good job at working together. Commander Hawley worked on that this past year, and I want to keep our momentum going.

We were asked a question at the MD Convention that really made me think about our membership and why we're here, *"If our Post closed today, would our community miss it?"*

Think of all the organizations our Family has built relationships with: Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Lion's Camp Merrick, Maryland Veterans Museum, La Plata Senior Center, Charles County Schools, Wreaths Across America, Legion Baseball, Toys 4 Tots, Red Cross Blood Drives and many more. *Would they miss us?*

My 2nd goal is to work on membership, both new and renewals. Our Past Southern MD Region CMDR John Countryman Jr. talked to us about the member that never came back. We have all heard of members that joined but then never renewed and when asked, *"Why?"* you hear stories like *"no one paid any attention to me or thanked me for my efforts when I volunteered"*.

I have tasked our new 1st Vice Commander, Dave Abildgaard to create a membership committee and establish a program. Not a campaign, because this isn't something we're going to do for a specific timeframe but something we are going to do all the time with a focus on retention and recruitment. This will take time and people to activate. So, if you would like to help and join that committee, please reach out to our new 1st Vice.

**Who's responsible for membership?
Everyone!**

Last year our National CMDR started the American Legion Be the One movement to help end veteran suicide. Across the country we have seen Legion members reaching out to one another as comrades. This effort has not only helped reduce suicide but connected veterans to an organization made up of people who care for each other and together, work to serve their community. So, I ask each member of our Post to Be the ONE. We want to contact all our Post 82 Legion members and see how they are doing, invite them to a Post event if they haven't been in for a while, get them involved in ongoing and new activities and ask them to renew their membership so we can work together to ensure veterans rights and benefits are kept top of mind in the Statehouse and on Capitol Hill.

I will continue this year to clean up our post and give us some more storage area. I want to work with the S.A.L. to give them a place where the public can drop off American Flags and storage space to hold them for proper disposal.

Lastly, I want to continue to work on the 4 Pillars of the American Legion, Veterans, Defense, Youth, and Americanism. There are several programs under each of these pillars. Let's look at all our Pillars and evaluate where we are. We will celebrate those where we excel and work to improve those that need strengthening.

Post 82 has always done a great JOB with this and with your help we will keep moving into the future so that we never have to think about a time where there would not be a Post 82 or an American Legion.

God Bless Post 82 and God Bless America.

**Jamie Zayas
Commander**

Legion Membership Report

It's a new year and membership renewals are rolling in! Thank you to those who have taken the time to renew on-line, by mail or dropping your renewal off at the Post. I highly encourage all that can to renew on-line this year. The process is easy for you, gives you an opportunity to update your address and contact info ensuring all your information is correct. You can print out a membership card immediately after submitting your renewal. We will continue to mail out membership cards even for on-line renewals.

Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth. Most recently the Legion has received credit for passage of the PACT Act providing medical coverage for a whole new generation of veterans. Where can you get a better return on your investment of \$35 than the American Legion?

As the Commander stated, I'm looking for folks who are ready to help strengthen our membership in 2023/24. If you are interested in joining the committee or helping contact and connect with members, please contact me at beensolob4@yahoo.com.

David Abildgaard
1st Vice, Membership Chair



Contact:
Service Officer George Hawley
240-367-6498
Chaplain Paul Stockman
301-768-2514

Email: American.legion4@verizon.net

American Legion Auxiliary

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



Hello Snap Dragons!

Back from the Ocean City Convention and our theme this year is Mission Beelieve! Each District is a different flower, and we are Snap Dragons!

I am looking forward this year to doing different fund raisers to help our Veterans. Please remember that your dues are due now and the cost is now \$35. Let's get your dues in as last year we made Goal Plus!

If anybody would like to volunteer one Thursday a month to help the BINGO kitchen, please contact me at (301) 934-3512. This will give our workers that have been doing this all year, a break.

Our next Auxiliary meeting is August 8th at 6pm. Hope to see you there!
For Service not Self,

Lesley Radcliff
Auxiliary President

Sons of The American Legion
S.A.L. Monthly Meetings are held
The First Tuesday of Each Month at 1800hrs



Because the first Tuesday of July was the 4th, the Squadron held its meeting on July 3. Among the items discussed were the July dinner and the installation.

The Squadron served 113 dinners at the Baby Back Rib dinner on July 21. Thanks to Gary Shupe, Gale Willett, Alana Lentz, David Quade, Kathleen Quade, Carol Karpiak, and Lenny Lentz for volunteering their time and effort.

On July 17, Gale Willett and Gary Shupe worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Thirty-six residents attended and \$200 in prizes were given out directly to the winners.

The 2024 membership cards are available and the first batch of 18 renewals and 3 new members was recently processed. Please give a big welcome to our new members Dennis Fitzpatrick, Patrick Wackerle, and Brent Wilson.

The installation dinner on June 22 was a nice evening. I want to thank Detachment 1st Vice Commander Mike Obremski for taking the time to attend. A special thanks to our installing officer Buddy Mastin and his wife Fran for attending. In addition to the installation, Gale Willett was singled out as the Squadron 82 Member of the Year. I look forward to working with Post Commander Jamie Zayas, Unit President Lesley Radcliff, and Riders Director Kevin Bryant this year. It should be another banner year for the Post 82 family.

Thanks to Gale Willett and Gary Shupe for handling the registration and refreshment tables at the Squadron sponsored American Red Cross

Blood Drive on July 24. Thirty-nine units of blood were collected. Great job guys.

Dues may be mailed in or dropped by the Post. Applications for membership are available at the Post or from any of the Squadron officers.

I hope to see you at the Post.

Yours in Service,
Dave Tatman
Commander, Squadron 82
301-645-1537 (h)
301-752-8273 (c)
tatman_david@comcast.net

Escape the Fireworks

On July 4th the Legion, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. joined forces to host our first ever "Escape the Fireworks" event designed to be a quiet alternative celebration of our Country's freedom. The first Escape the Fireworks event was started by a post in Florida after one of their younger veterans committed suicide on his way home from a fireworks demonstration. The bangs and flashes were more than he could handle.

Legion member Frank Fruh read about the event in the Legion Magazine and approached others in Post 82 suggesting we could offer a similar event here. At Franks nudging, we also extended an invitation to others in the Legion family who struggle with loud noises and bright lights such as Autism. The planning committee consisted of Dave Tatman and Kevin Bryant from the S.A.L., Leslie Radcliff and Mary Shaffer from the Auxiliary and Frank Fruh and John Flatley representing the Legion.

The event ran from 6:00 – 10:00PM and included traditional picnic fair; hot dogs, hamburgers, Dave T's cole slaw, baked beans, potato salad, and Mac-n-Cheese from Chick-fil-A. We had board games, Cornhole, a photo booth and a DJ. We played several group games and gave away a cornhole set valued at \$350.00. While the turnout wasn't large, those in attendance had a great time and appreciated the effort by all.

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:

As I step into my new role as Director of the Riders, I want to thank Past Director James (Jamie Z) Zayas with all my being. It was your vision and leadership that took a small group of Post members and made us a very recognizable force within the State ranks of the ALR. Now this small group is over 50 strong; men and women who wear the vest with pride, honor, and commitment. These are just a few of the many qualities that came from your leadership and dedication to Post 82 and the Riders. My goal for the Riders is to preserve, grow and strengthen the foundation you are passing on to the current officers. If I can be just half of what Past Director Zayas was to the Riders, we will continue to prosper and flourish as his vision marches on. I'm proud to lead such a great group of men and women whose commitment is evident in all their endeavors. Your volunteerism never ceases to amaze me, you all are the salt of the earth. New Commander Zayas, I wish you the best as you lead Post 82 and The Riders will always have your six.

On Tuesday July 4, the Riders joined the rest of the Post Family hosting a special event called "Escape the Fireworks" for veterans who deal with PTS and other post family members who struggle with fireworks. The night started off with usual 4th of July food and finished off with interactive games, music provided by DJ Dennis, a food eating contest and essay contest with the winner getting a custom-made set of cornhole boards valued at \$350 donated by Kyle Dudley of Dudley Wood Shop Nanjemoy, MD. (240) 682-0788

Email: American.legion4@verizon.net

On Saturday July 8, The Riders with 6 motorcycles participated in ride hosted by Post 22 Towson, MD benefiting Hero Dogs. The ride raised over \$10K to train service dogs to help veterans deal with PTS and other debilitating diseases. The ride was about 76 miles round trip with one stop at Post 200 Hampstead, MD. On return to Post 22 the Riders were treated to a delicious lunch and camaraderie with other Legion Riders from across MD.

On Wednesday July 12, 7 Riders and 1 cage took a very nice early morning ride to Ocean City, MD for The MD State Convention. On this day GSLR Chairman Joe Gladden presented a check to the Department for \$210,000 raised from the MDGSLR back in June. Joe also gave out 10 awards to the top donors in the State. Our Post 82 Family donated a whopping \$50,680 which was only out done by Laurel Post 60 which garnered top honors with \$51,800. The Riders had a late donation of \$2,430 which was earmarked for the GSLR but was not received before the cut-off date. Our total contribution was \$53,110! If on your travels, you see anyone from Laurel Post 60 please congratulate them on an outstanding job.

On Saturday July 15, 16 Riders and 2 passengers participated in a Poker Run to raise money for cancer research for Finn's Fierce Fight against DIPG. Finn is an 8-year-old boy suffering from a very rare form of brain cancer that has no treatment available. To the best of my knowledge over \$4,000 was raised on this day. Please keep Finn and his family in your prayers.

On July 26 we partnered with the Patriot Guard Riders to escort Post 82 member MSgt Clemen Noland (USAF) to his final rest in Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery. Commander Zayas and Past Chaplain Flatley presented the American Legion Funeral Service at Cheltenham.

On Saturday July 29, the Riders along with the Patriot Guard escorted Marine Cpl. Khachadurian to the Community Kick-Off spearheaded by Homes for Our Troops. This Kick-Off signifies the start of the Smart Home that will be built for Cpl. Khachadurian who lost both legs, several fingers on his left hand and

also severe damage to his left forearm after stepping on an IED during a patrol in Afghanistan. The welcome to the community took place at Gracie's Event Center (Middleton Hall) in Waldorf. There will be a future escort and open house once Cpl. Khachadurian new home is completed.

The Riders are making plans to ride The National Gold Star Legacy Ride 2023 which starts in Kokomo IN on August 20 traveling through Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee before the final stop at Hendrick Motorsports campus in Concord, NC. close by The AL National Convention in Charlotte NC on August 24.

We would like to encourage all our members as well as our Post Families (Legion, S.A.L. & 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.

No meeting was held in July.

Upcoming Rides:

August 19- Boulder Crest Healing Heroes Ride
Register in advance
<https://support.bouldercrest.org/2023healingheroesrideeast>

August 19-27- National GSLR Kokomo IN to Charlotte NC

Next ALR meeting is Thursday August 10, 2023

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kevin (BIG SEXY) Bryant
Director

"We ride In HONOR of those who have served"

Post 82 Family Installation Banquet

July 22, 2023

We had a full house in attendance for our annual Post Installation Banquet this year. The evening included dinner, prepared, and served by Rita B's Catering followed by celebration of accomplishments in 2023 and the installation of officers for the Legion, Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Riders.

See below or click here for some of the many fantastic photos provided by Legionnaire and Active-Duty Navy Corpsman, Nathan Ko.

It was a great time of fellowship and celebration as we welcomed in the new officers including our newest Commander, Jamie Zayas. Jamie challenged us with a question, "If Post 82 closed tomorrow, would our community notice". Mayor James responded in her comments that La Plata would most definitely miss Post 82. Both Jamie and the Mayor listed several community activities we have been recognized for supporting the past year including Red Cross Blood Drives, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Toys for Tots collection and distribution, Salute to Veterans Parade, Wreaths Across America and many others.

We can hold our heads high and be proud of our Post. However, there is much more work to be done as we continue to build on our legacy of service to veterans, the Town of La Plata and Charles County. Post 82 is known throughout the Department of Maryland as having high standards and active members. Let's be sure this year is our best year ever. Show up and show out!

What's Going on at the Post This Month?

Bingo

Every Thursday

First game begins at 7:00pm Open to the public.

Tuesday August 1

S.A.L. Meeting – 6:00PM

Tuesday, August 8

Legion Meeting – 7:00PM

Auxiliary Meeting – 6:00PM

Wednesday, August 9

Carl “Mike” Schroeder Celebration of Life
11:30AM

Thursday, August 10

Legion Riders Meeting – 6:00PM

Friday, August 11

Auxiliary Dinner

5-7 PM Open to the Public

Sunday, August 13

Department of Maryland Executive Committee
MTG

10AM – 3PM

Friday, August 18

S.A.L. Baby Back Rib Dinner

5 – 7 PM Open to the public.

Friday, August 25

Members Shrimp in the Bar from 6 – 7 PM
Members & Family only



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 – Jamie Zayas

1st Vice Commander – David Abildgaard

2nd Vice Commander - Chris Laquay

Judge Advocate - Bob Striegel

Adjutant – John Flatley

Finance Officer - Bill Rees

Sergeant-At-Arms - Jerry Higdon

At Large Elected Officers

Buddy Hindle

Norm Shelton

David Quade

Harry Tafe

Appointed Officers

Service Officer - George Hawley

Chaplain – Paul Stockman

Historian - Cheryl Wedding

Post Everlasting



Cleman J. Noland

June 9, 1945 - July 3, 2023

Cleman J. Noland, 78, of Waldorf, Maryland, passed away on Monday, July 3, 2023 at his home surrounded by his loving family.

Born on June 9, 1945, he was the son of the late Reverend Calvin Noland and Mabel P. Noland. Mr. Noland served in the U. S. Air Force for 28 years until he retired at the rank of Master Sergeant. He then worked for the U. S. Government as a Civil Servant. Mr. Noland was a member of the American Legion Post 82 in La Plata. He also attended Calvary Grace Assembly of God Church in La Plata and served as a Deacon. Mr. Noland had many hobbies to include Fishing, Hunting and bowling to name a few.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Noland was preceded in death by his son Norman Joffe and his grandson Travis Joffe.

He is survived by his wife Elaine Fay Noland; sons Scott (Lori) Noland, Michael (Rita) Joffe, Shawn Joffe; daughters Shelley (Dean) Agnes, Sharron (Duane) Bjeland, Nancy Joffe, and Rachel Williams; siblings Margaret Schroder, Timothy (Raydeen) Noland; 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Interment at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery, 11301 Crain Highway, Cheltenham, Maryland 20623.



Carl Schroeder, "Mike"

May 17, 1947- July 13, 2023

Carl "Mike" Schroeder 76 of LaPlata, MD passed away on Thursday July 13, 2023.

Mike was born on May 17, 1947 in Washington, DC to the late Fredrick and Charlotte Schroeder. He is also predeceased by his sisters, Judy LoBianco and Ruth Fantozzi.

He is survived by his loving wife, Judy Schroeder; daughter, Melissa Miller (Clinton); grandson, Trent Miller; sisters, Kara Mayhew (George), Tina Foreman and Lori Allen (Ben) and many nieces and nephews.

Mike spent his career as an Ironworker for Local # 5. He served his country proudly in the United States Navy and was a member of the American Legion Post 82. Mike enjoyed golfing, fishing and all things outdoors.

Mike will have a Celebration of his life on Wednesday August 9, 2023 at 11:30am until 3 PM at the American Legion Post 82 (6330 Crain Hwy. LaPlata, MD 20646).

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the CSM Foundation, The Josephine S. Williams Memorial Scholarship (P.O. Box 910 LaPlata, MD 20646)

Harry White Wilmer

American Legion Post 82

Post Installation Banquet 2023



See more images at
<https://bit.ly/AL82BANQUET2023>

Email: American.legion4@verizon.net

Harry White Wilmer Post 82

Post Installation Banquet 2023

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 82

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Harry White Wilmer Post 82

Post Installation Banquet 2023

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 82



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Harry White Wilmer Post 82

Post Installation Banquet 2023

American Legion Riders Chapter 82

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Escape the Fireworks

July 4th 2023

