



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

February 2023

Alpost82.org

American.Legion4@verizon.net

301-934-8221



Commander's Message

I want to wish everyone a Happy Valentines Day!

As you may be aware, the freezer broke down last month. All the contents had to be disposed of and will have to be replaced over time.

The District Six Quarterly meeting was held at Post 82 on January 29, 2023. A recap of the information discussed will be provided at our next monthly meeting, February 14, 2023.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome all members of the former Waldorf American Legion Post to Post 82. We are so very glad to have you as part of the Post 82 family. Please visit us not only in the lounge but also at our monthly meetings and scheduled activities. Participation is highly encouraged.

Board of Directors and Executive Officers meeting is held the second Tuesday of each month at 1830 hrs.

Regular monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 1900 hrs.

Honor to Serve,

**George Hawley
Commander**

Legion Membership Report

Happy 2023 to all our membership. Annual renewals are doing well, we are at 80% of our members who have renewed their dues. Thank you for that. However, we still have approximately 150 members who have not renewed their dues for 2023. As part of your New Year's resolution, please consider getting your dues paid up. Remember not paying your dues will result in the loss of your Legion benefits including the Legion magazine and your access to Legion clubs everywhere.

I have received several requests for duplicate membership cards. When I do get such a request, I make out a hand-written temporary card and send it to the requestor. This is certainly an official membership card however, if you go into MyLegion.org you can print an original card. It just looks better than the temporary card and frankly, saves both of us time and effort. Thank you for considering this method of getting a duplicate membership card.

Welcome our newest members to the post:

Susan Fritz, Veteran, USN

James Williams, Veteran, USA

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

Harry Tafe

1st Vice, Membership Chair

**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 January 3. The members approved donations of \$600 for the Southern Maryland Region (SMR) monthly bingos at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH), \$350 for Boys State, \$290 for Girls State, and \$50 each for the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET), the Baltimore Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC), the Lock Raven VAMC, the Perry Point VAMC, the Cambridge VA Outpatient Clinic, and the Pocomoke VA Outpatient Clinic.

Thanks to Alana Lentz, Gary Shupe, Gale Willett, Roy Yanosh, David Quade, Kathleen Quade, Cindy Moruzzi, Carol Karpiak, and Lenny Lentz for volunteering their time at our baby back rib dinner on January 20. The next rib dinner will be on February 17 from 5 -7 PM. Since we sold the last two dinners, we will have more dinners available in February. Unfortunately, due to the rise in the cost of the dinner supplies the cost of the rib dinner in February will be \$16. The February rib dinner will be the last rib dinner until May 19. The Squadron will be hosting two fish fries this year. The first fish fry will be on March 17 and the second will be on April 21. The cost will be \$16. Dinner will consist of 2 whiting filets, green beans, coleslaw, hush puppies, coffee, and tea.

Thanks to everyone who continues to support our dinners. Additional volunteers are always welcome.

First Vice Commander Gale Willett, Adjutant Shupe, and I worked the SMR bingo at the CHVH on January 16. As usual, \$200 in prizes were handed out to the winners.

As of January 20, the Squadron is at 75.83% of its goal for the 2023 year. We still need 51 to reach our goal of 211. 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 are delinquent. 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
301-645-1537 (h)
301-752-8273 (c)
tatman_david@comcast.net**

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



Hello Emeralds:

I hope everybody had a great time ringing in the new year! We had our New Year's Eve Bingo and we did not have a lot of people more than likely due to the weather. The ones that were there had a good time.

Our first of the year dinner went great! We sold 57 dinners and the people asked when our next dinner would be. Our next dinner will be on February 10th. We are having Tacos (3) refried beans, Mexican corn, and rice. The cost will be \$10. So, come on out for Taco Friday.

I would like to thank all the Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, Riders and Post members that have helped out at all of our functions. Without your help we would never get things done. I really appreciate all you do.

Remember to turn your dues in. Our membership chairman Rita Sexton would really appreciate it along with our unit reaching goal this year!

We still have assorted nuts left to sell so if you would like to purchase a bag or two contact Linda Rollins at (301) 934-2648. Or you can purchase them at BINGO or one of our dinners. Let's support our veterans as this money goes towards them for their needs.

Our February meeting is on the 14th Valentine's Day at 6pm. We would love to see new faces there. Remember to be kind to others and they will be kind to you!

For Service not Self,

Lesley Radcliff
Auxiliary President

American Legion Riders
ALR Meetings are held the Second Thursday
of Each Month at 1800hrs



Good afternoon, Riders and Legion Family, here's the latest scoop from the Steel Pony Corral.

On Sunday Jan. 1, 16 bikes, 1 trike and a total of 20 people led by John (Flatrock) Flatley set out on our annual Polar Bear Ride or, with temps in the mid 50's and sunny skies, a "Not so Polar" Bear Ride. We meandered through the back roads of Charles, Calvert and Anne Arundel counties with a lunch stop at Happy Harbor in Deale, MD. It was a great way to start 2023, riding with family and friends.

The Riders convened on Saturday Jan. 17 to plan our ride schedule for calendar year 2023. The one big ride, which will have a stopover in LaPlata, will be the MD Gold Star Legacy
Email: American.legion4@verizon.net

Scholarship Ride June 9-11. The Riders will host the GSLR for dinner in La Plata on Saturday, June 10. More details to come.

At our Jan. 12 meeting the Riders were honored to be presented certificates of merit from Becky Elliott Chairwoman of Charles County Toys for Tots (CCTfT). She gave out certificates to the eight Riders who worked the toy distribution at Regency Stadium on Dec. 8-10. 1,906 needy children received toys. CCTFT also shared toys with Lifestyles, Children's Aid and Calvert County Toys for Tots.

The Riders helped clean up the wreaths at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery on Saturday Jan. 28 We had a great turnout and cleaned all Wreaths across America wreaths in about an hour!

Update: Rider Rick Moran is home safe from his animal rescue in Ukraine. That did not last long because Rick headed back out to help Team Rubicon with Disaster Relief in California.

We would like to encourage all our Riders as well as our Post Family members (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. With a variety of events available, you can volunteer at what works best with your schedule.

Upcoming Rides/Events:

Annual Bowling Night

Saturday Feb. 19 from 1730 – 1930.

Riders, Email alrpost82md@gmail.com, ATTN: Secretary with your full name ASAP if you plan to attend.

Next ALR meeting is Thursday February 9, at 1800

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

Submitted by Kevin (Big Sexy) Bryant,
"We ride In HONOR of those who served."

Post Everlasting



Charles Richard Frere, Sr.
December 10, 1925 – December 13, 2022

On Tuesday, December 13, 2022, Charles R. Frere, Sr. of Bel Alton, MD, passed away after a brief illness. Born on December 10, 1925, in Tompkinsville, MD, he was the son of the late John E. Frere and the late Phyllis Mudd Frere. He was also predeceased by his beloved wife Charlotte Spalding Frere; his son-in-law William A. Toombs, DDS; his brothers John E. Frere, Jr., William J. Frere, S. Phillip Frere, Robert Frere, and James M. Frere; and his sister Marion Frere.

He is survived by his children Charles R. Frere, Jr. (Diane), Mary Kaye Frere Toombs, Joseph Larry Frere, Thomas Keith Frere (Tae), and Pamela A. Frere; one granddaughter and five grandsons; seven great granddaughters; his sister Marie Martin; brothers Barry Frere and Edward Frere; and several in-laws, nieces, and nephews.

Richard graduated from Glasva High School. Upon graduation, he moved to Washington, D.C., landing a position at the Government Printing Office. In December 1943 Richard enlisted in the Merchant Marines, U.S. Coast Guard, and served in WWII North Atlantic Theatre, until his Honorable Discharge in July 1945. For his WWII service Richard received the Merchant Marine Congressional Gold Medal. At the time of his death, he was a 35-year member of the American Legion, Maryland Post 82. He held various positions after his discharge from the service, his

last being Deputy Chief of Operations for Civil Engineering, Andrews AFB, retiring in 1981.

After retirement, Richard enjoyed spending time with Charlotte travelling (to various east coast beaches, Hawaii, cruises to Bermuda and Alaska, England (with a day trip to France via the Chunnel train), Canada, and Fort Jefferson, FL, where his great-grandfather Dr. Samuel Mudd was imprisoned. They also enjoyed camping; spending time with children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren; and helping his children, brothers, and various other relatives with their projects. He was involved in several efforts around St. Ignatius, most notably developing the plans of the church cemetery. This included many hours of surveying and identifying gravesites and owners, identifying empty sites, and producing blueprints of the cemetery still in use today by the parish and by Catholic Cemeteries.

Richard authored 2 books during his retirement: "The Frere Family, 1673 – 1998" (published 1998) and "The Life and Times of Charles Richard Frere, Sr. 1925 – Present" (published 2016).

Burial mass was celebrated on Thursday, December 22 at 11:00 am, St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Chapel Point. Interment is in the church graveyard. Donations may be made to Carmel of Port Tobacco or a charity of your choice.

Post Everlasting

Arthur Knowles Jr



A letter from the National Commander...



Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

The American Legion's impact and influence on communities, states and nation is difficult to completely assess. Across the nation, American Legion members are making a difference in their communities, often one veteran or family member at a time.

One area of particular importance is the support of children through our youth programs and scholarships. The groundwork for these programs is under way now. Registration for American Legion Baseball will begin soon. Posts, districts and departments will soon be preparing for their oratorical contests, Boys State sessions, air rifle competitions, Junior Law Cadet programs and many others.

The new year also is the harbinger of the start of scholarship season.

[The American Legion's Legacy Scholarship](#) provides college funding to children of post-9/11 veterans who died on active duty, or those who have a combined VA disability rating of 50% or greater. The application period opened Jan. 1 and will close on April 1.

Since the needs-based scholarship was created in 2004, it has helped children of our nation's heroes afford college. It would not be possible without the dedication of our American Legion Riders or the kindness of our donors.

Simply put: The American Legion Legacy Scholarship changes lives.

For example, [Nate Smith is pursuing an engineering degree](#) at Virginia Tech. The 2021 recipient is the son of Shaun Smith, who served in the Navy for 24 years. He suffered back injuries and has post-traumatic stress disorder from his service.

"Veterans have already done so much for our country," Nate said. "The fact they're even providing for me further into college is amazing to me because I feel they've done enough for me, but they've continued to want to serve people. And that's amazing."

Reese Reiling, who is pursuing a master's at UMass-Boston, qualified for the scholarship due to her dad's 80% VA disability rating. She is grateful for the donors.

"I would have to give the biggest thank you from the bottom of my heart," [she said late last year](#). "Without the scholarship, I'm not sure how I would be able to achieve a work-life balance. Having a full-time job on top of this would make it really hard to not only finish on time but also finish the research I'm wanting to do. It's a big weight off my back."

Let's continue on this important legacy in support of our veterans and their children.

National Commander

Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola

Consider a donation through the Maryland Gold Star Legacy Ride by contacting an American Legion Rider from Post 82 and be sure to encourage young people in our community to apply ([details here](#)) so they have an opportunity to receive this benefit.

What's Going on at the Post This Month?

Bingo

Every Thursday from 6 – 8:pm
Open to the public.

Friday, February 3

Legion Steak & Shrimp Dinner from 5 – 7:pm
Open to the public

Friday, February 10

Auxiliary Taco Dinner from 5 – 7:pm
Open to the public

Friday, February 17

S.A.L Baby Back Rib Dinner from 5 – 7:pm
Open to the public.

Free Hearing Tests for Veterans 9:am – 1:pm

Open to the public

Friday, February 24

Members Shrimp in the Bar from 6 – 7:pm
Members only



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

Are you a current 2023 Charles County HS Junior
interested in Leadership, Government, Politics?

Maryland Boys State

June 18-24, 2023, at McDaniel College



Sponsored and conducted by The American Legion,
Department of Maryland, Inc. Veteran led, and Government
Leader taught for the future generation of leaders.

Application Deadline May 1, 2023

Apply Online Today at mdlegion.org/boysstate

For local questions, help, or sponsorship, contact:
Harry White Wilmer American Legion Post 82, La Plata, MD
82postlaplata@gmail.com

Tuition is free to the student and family.
American Legion Post 82 will sponsor your
application.

If you are interested in Government, Politics,
Leadership, attendance at a Military Academy,
College ROTC, or just a challenging **Academic
program** this is the experience for you!



MD Boys State is a week-long practical exercise in Government
that will have a positive influence on your life!