



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

December 2025

www.Alpost82.org

301-934-8221

Commander's Corner

Commander's Message: You Rock!

By John Flatley, Commander, Post 82

Thank you Post 82 Family, for all you do in our community. Whether supporting Charlotte Hall Veterans, Running Blood Drives, donating funds to local organizations and events, marching/riding in parades, or serving in the kitchen for fundraisers and internal events like Buddy Hindle's Repass; our Post 82 Family are making a difference and having a positive impact in La Plata and beyond. I can't stop telling folks that I am proud to be a member of Harry White Wilmer American Legion Post 82 and I won't stop anytime soon. Thank you!

November was a very busy month for our Post Family. I won't list everything we accomplished as I'm sure others will mention most in their articles below. However, I want to express my appreciation for all who made Veterans Day weekend special. We had a strong showing for the Salute to Veterans Parade on Sunday, Nov 9 and quickly pivoted to support Angel and Buddy's family at his viewing, Post Everlasting and memorial service that afternoon. Our Veterans Day ceremony was first class as always. Special thanks to Chris Zabriskie for coordinating all the personnel and moving pieces. Great job, Chris!

In the middle of all of that, Dr Jill and Anthony Hudnell were organizing and coordinating the Shutdown Relief Food Program including soliciting food and financial donations, coordinating with local agencies such as

Catholic Charities, LifeStyles of Maryland, Maryland State Police and Wal-Mart La Plata to collect enough food for at least 150 families. The distribution was completed Nov 23. I've already felt the impact as folks stop me in the store and at the restaurant to thank me/us for caring enough to act. One veteran/federal employee at the food collection drive told Jill, "Honey, the shutdown may be over, but the need is still there."

What's Going on at Post 82?

Friday, Dec 5 Steamed Shrimp Dinner

Members & Guests 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Volunteer Sign Up - <https://bit.ly/3MlovZc>

Sunday, December 7th

Pearl Harbor Remembrance

Tuesday, Dec 9 Family Pot-Luck ~ 7:00 PM

Saturday, Dec 13 Wreaths Across America –

Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery 12:00 PM

10:00 Bus Transport - <https://bit.ly/4riMMPK>

Friday, Dec 19 S.A.L. Baby Back Rib Dinner

5 – 6:30 PM

Thursday, Dec 25 Closed - Merry Christmas

EVERY WEDNESDAY S.A.L. Queen of Hearts

Drawing in the Lounge at 6:45 PM

EVERY THURSDAY Auxiliary BINGO

Thursday, Dec 18 HOLIDAY BINGO NIGHT

Doors open at 4:00 PM (not on Christmas)

December looks to be another busy month. However, it is important that we take a little time to stop and relax a bit. While we don't have an official Post 82 Christmas Party scheduled this year, we will be breaking bread together at our annual Pot-Luck dinner in the hall right after our Legion and Auxiliary membership meetings on Tuesday, Dec 9. Don't worry S.A.L. members, you are invited as well. Please bring your favorite dish to share. This is true potluck. Whatever we bring is what we will eat. No need to sign up, just come.

The Department Christmas Party will be held at Francis Scott Key Post 11 in Frederick, MD from 1:00-5:00pm on December 14. Michelle and I are planning to attend and welcome all interested to join us. **RSVP by Dec 5th** to Keith Clevenger, 301.514.6641 or wmcommander@mdlegion.org

2025–26 Goals Update

• Increase retention from 91% to 95%

As of November 21, we had 603 members—75.1% of our 2026 goal of 803. Retention is strong at 73.96%, placing us number 9 in the Southern Maryland Region.

• Grow membership from 795 to 835

Thanks to you and the activities we are involved in, new members are joining almost weekly. People want to be a part of a winning organization and you all are showcasing an organization worth joining.

• Legion 101 Training: 50 Legionnaires

One member has completed this basic training. Will you take the step to learn more about your Legion? <https://register.legion.org/alei>

• Be The One Training: 40 Post 82 Family members

[Advocacy | The American Legion](#)

Five members have completed this 60-minute Zoom. This training will equip you to help a friend, co-worker or family member who is contemplating suicide with a simple series of questions. It's quick and easy but so valuable. Please consider registering for a session. Let me know when you complete it and I'll present

you with a certificate of training, Coin and Be The One decal to display on your vehicle window.

Volunteer Opportunities:

• Boys State Recruitment (2026).

Please spread the word that registration is open for Boys State at www.mdlegion.org/boysstate. Contact Adjutant Chris Zabriskie for more information.

• Membership Team.

1st Vice Commander Jamie Zayas is still seeking 2–3 members to join his retention and recruitment team. Plans include a family event and other activities to add to member value. Email Jamie at nepatsfannmd@gmail.com if you're interested.

• Oratorical Contest.

Chris Zabriskie is bringing back this national program for grades 9–12. Contest winners advance through District, Department, and possibly Nationals, with scholarship money at stake. We'll need judges, tabulators, and a timekeeper for our late-February event. Signup to help here or contact Chris at zabriskiect@gmail.com to get involved.

• Calling All Painters

The Hall needs some touch up. If you have some skills and/or enjoy painting, please let me know. We will coordinate a date in January to clean, plaster and paint.

Thank you again for the privilege of serving as your Commander this year. Post 82 has a proud legacy and a bright future—we are truly better together.

Ready to Serve.



johnflatleyjr@gmail.com

301.848.7664

Southern Maryland Region District Six

Doublegood Popcorn fundraiser Dec 7th - 11th
<https://popup.doublegood.com/s/I03v7lf7>

1st Vice Commander's Corner

Hello, my fellow legionnaires!

Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and is gearing up for the Christmas season.

Our current membership status is 603 members renewed for a 75% membership rate, thank you to all that have renewed. For those that still have a 2025 membership card I am asking for your assistance to renew as soon as possible to help us reach our 100% goal with 95% renewal rate. We are currently sitting in 2nd place in the Department for our category by only .20%, please help us take back our 1st Place position by renewing now.

With your help we can easily reach our goals by the end of the year and move our committee to other activities within the Post. You can renew online at www.mylegion.org or you can stop by Post 82 and drop off your renewal fee of \$45. We encourage you to complete this as soon as possible to keep your membership in good standing and maintain your active years of membership. You can also mail in your renewal to Post 82 PO Box 441, 6330 N. Crain Hwy, La Plata MD 20646.

We are also completing a Buddy Check on our members, if there is anything you need, please always remember your American Legion Family is here to help.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me and leave a message. I look forward to seeing you at our next dinner or function. If you have any changes or updates to your address, phone, email or if you need assistance in renewing, please let us know.

Thank you,

Your 1st Vice Commander
Jamie Zayas -- Always Serving
82postlaplata@gmail.com
301-751-2822

The Shrimp Dinner team is looking for a few more people who like to have fun working together. Our next Shrimp Dinner will be served in the Lounge and the Hall on Friday, December 5. We have openings in the kitchen, dining room, ticket sales, food runners, 50/50 sales and the ever popular dishwasher. Please use <https://bit.ly/3MlovZc> to get more information and sign up.

Adjutant's Corner

Boys State (and Girls State, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary) is a wonderful week-long experiential growth opportunity. It's said to have the same effect on a college application as being an Eagle Scout. It's open to students in their 11th grade year.

Share this information with young people you know. The Oratorical Contest is open to High School students in the 9th through 12th grade.
<https://forms.gle/B9PApUi51WT7RGyn8>



Consider Volunteering to help. We need timers and escorts on the day of the event (Feb 28th).
bit.ly/3WnSd1L



Tell any young high school junior to look into applying for Boys State (or Girls State).
<https://mdboysgirlsstate.org/>



Chris Zabriskie
Adjutant, AL Post 82
240-320-6694
zabriskiect@gmail.com



Chaplain's Corner

Well, here we are again on the verge of a new year. After what many people experienced with Federal jobs, the loss of loved ones, and the myriads of other trials that we have faced, we're likely to want to put this past one behind us and hope for a considerably better new one.

It's probably a bit of a challenge to count one's blessings of this past year, but giving some time to thought, we should be able to come up with a surplus of them. How about the kids' performance in school? The blessings enjoyed in your marriage, good health enjoyed, your different sports teams' win/loss ratio? Even if these were additional sore spots in your past year, there is the new year coming with its blessings. The challenge is in recognizing them for what they are and taking the time to contemplate them as they are received.

Another common challenge is to avoid dwelling on the past and instead embracing the future with its blessings to be received. I offer the following previously shared quotes for your consideration:

"What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven't even happened yet." — Anne Frank

"Life's not about expecting, hoping and wishing; it's about doing, being and becoming."
— Mike Dooley

"I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past." — Thomas Jefferson

"You know how I always dread the whole year? Well, this time I'm only going to dread one day at a time." — Charlie Brown

And now I leave you with the following Scripture verse:

Philippians 4:5-7 (New International Version)

"Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

May you enjoy the richness of God's blessings in this new year. Know that He is with you wherever you go and whatever your circumstances.

As always, if you or your family have any needs with which I may be able to assist, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Christ,
Paul Stockman, Chaplain
301-768-2514
papastockman@yahoo.com



Hello Twizzlers:

The holidays are upon us and if your membership card does not have 2026 on it you need to pay your dues. The dues are \$35 for seniors and \$7 for juniors. You can send your payment to the membership chairman Anna Sexton at 5470 Dickinson Farm Place, Welcome, Maryland 20693.

At our November meeting we voted on 2 ladies to be members of the auxiliary they are Katina Madenly and Laura Carter. They were approved.

We gave donations to Shop with a Cop \$10,000, Dr. Jill Hudnell \$3,000 for the Life Styles food bank. Wreaths Across America we have 656 wreaths purchased and our total is \$9,000. We donated \$3,000 for CBIRC which is located on the base in Indian Head. This will help out the women soldiers for diapers, formulas and other needs.

One December 18th there is going to be a Holiday Bingo. There will be a flyer in the bulletin.

There will be a pot luck dinner after our December 9th meeting. Please bring in your favorite dish.

I hope everybody has a safe and health holiday.

For God and Country,
Lesley Radcliff
Auxiliary President



S.A.L. Monthly Meetings are held the First Tuesday of Each Month at 1800hrs

At the regular monthly Squadron meeting on November 4, the members discussed plans for donations for the remainder of the year. The Squadron members approved a donation of \$250 toward the American Legion Post 82 Oratorical Contest.

I attended the Detachment of Executive Committee meeting on November 8 at Towson Post 22. I had the pleasure of presenting a number of donations approved at the Squadron meeting in October.

There was an overwhelming turn out for long time Past Post 82 Commander Raymond "Buddy" Hindle's viewing and repast on November 9, as well as, his funeral on November 25. Buddy was a great friend who did many wonderful things for Post 82 and he will be missed. Our condolences go out the Buddy's wife Angel.

Several Squadron members participated in the La Plata Veterans Day Parade. Squadron member Troy Greathouse carried the Squadron flag. Thanks Troy. It was great to see so many turn out to pay tribute to our Veterans.

There was a good turnout for the Veterans Day Program at the Post. As usual, Squadron Chaplin Roy Yanosh gave the benediction.

There was a light turnout for the baby back rib dinner on November 21 but those who attended had a great meal. Thanks to Gale Willett, Roy Yanosh, Alana Lentz, Lennie Lentz, David Quade, Cindy Moruzzi, and Don Wamsley who

volunteered their time. If you have a few hours on the 3rd Friday, come on out and lend a hand. It's not hard work and we have a little fun too. Our next dinner will be a baby back rib dinner on December 19. Check the flier on the website, www.alpost82.org.

Gale Willett and Gary Shupe worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the CHVH on November 17. Only twenty residents from the Assisted Living side attended because of the outbreak status in the facility. During an outbreak status, the skilled Nursing side and the Assisted Living side functions are kept separate. Three hundred fifty dollars were handed out in prizes. It's always great to interact with the residents and staff.

On November 23, I attended the Southern Maryland Region (SMR) meeting at Colmar Manor Post 131. I gave a short update on the SMR bingos at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home and received a check for \$1,200 to cover the bingos for January, February, and March 2026.

Gale Willett and Gary Shupe handled the registration and refreshment tables at the American Red Cross (ARC) Blood Drive on November 24. The original schedule included 49 donors with a goal of 34 pints. However, because of issues with the ARC driver, the start was delayed 2 hours until 3 PM and only 29 units were collected. Not bad considering a 2 hour delay. Every drop counts. Thanks to all who donated and apologies to those who were unable to donate because of the delay.

As of the November 21 report, the Squadron 2026 membership is 148 which is 67.89% of our goal of 218. Well done. We are ahead of schedule. If you plan to renew your membership, why wait, do it now. Dues can be paid on-line at www.legion.org/sal-renew, by mail to PO Box 441, La Plata MD 20646, or in person by dropping it off at the Post. Please note, the on-line process is set up for renewals

at the \$20 rate. Dual members and those under 21 should only use the mail or in person options.



Yours in Service,

Dave Tatman -- Commander, Squadron 82
tatman_david@comcast.net 301-752-8273



**ALR Meetings are held the
Second Thursday of Each Month at 1800hrs**

The Riders would like to thank everyone who came out on Halloween to enjoy our last spaghetti dinner for 2025. Competing with Halloween we were still able to sell 97 dinners, and if you went home with sauce on your shirt you could explain as dried blood from all the Halloween festivities. Also, thanks to all of the Riders who chose to work the dinner instead of going trick or treating.

On Sunday Nov. 9 The Riders along with the Post 82 family participated in The Salute to The Veterans Parade in La Plata. The Riders had 20 bikes, some with passengers and two cages that represented the Post very well and complimented the float and walking members of each family. Great job well done to all who participated and showed their spirit of patriotism.

On that same day, The Riders turned out strong to pay their last respects to Commander Buddy Hindle. The Riders will always owe a debt of gratitude to the 18 term Commander who embraced, supported and permitted The Riders chapter at Post 82. It was Commander Hindle who welcomed the upstart chapter when first approached by Jamie Z and Keven Kling. For those of you who do not know The Riders serve on behest of the Post Commander and with his acceptance into the Post family. Rest in Peace Commander Hindle you are gone but always remembered in our hearts and prayers.

Upcoming Rides and Events:

Thursday, Dec 11 - Next ALR Meeting @ 1800

Saturday, Dec. 13- Wreaths Across America @ 1000

Thursday, Jan 1- Polar Bear Ride@TBD

On behalf of Director Jeff Coombs, (Animal) Kevin (BIG SEXY) Bryant

“We ride In HONOR of those who have served”

**DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

Applications are due **April 15, 2026**

Scholarship Winners notified in **August 2026**

To be considered for a scholarship, the applicant must: be a **child or a grandchild** of a veteran and be a Maryland resident.

- Not attained their 20th birthday by Jan1, 2026
- Be a full-time student when he/she enters college (at least 12 credits per semester)
- Applicants may complete the online version of the application at

<https://mdlegion.org/formspage.htm>



Orders are now being taken for the Wreaths Across America wreath laying at Cheltenham Maryland Veterans Cemetery on December 13, 2025. Volunteers from Post 82 will once again participate in laying wreaths for those Post 82 members who have gone before us, as we have done for many years. Auxiliary Unit 82 is once again leading our Post efforts and participating in the "3 for 2" program. For every two wreaths purchased using our account, a third wreath will be donated by WAA. Our goal is to place a wreath on all our Post Everlasting interred at Cheltenham (over 100 at last count). The wreaths are available for a 100% tax deductible donation of just \$17 each (2 for \$34).

Order online at
www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org/MD0136
 or by check made out to
Wreaths Across America and mailed to:
 WAA, L. Rollins, Group Leader
 114 Dulles St
 La Plata, MD 20646

Thank you in advance for supporting our efforts to be sure all our Post Everlasting members are remembered and recognized this year.

Linda Rollins
 WAA Group Leader Auxiliary Unit 82



WILL YOU BE THE ONE?

One of my top goals this year is for **40 members of our Legion Family** to step up and complete the *American Legion Be The One* training webinar. This isn't just another class—it's a powerful, 60-minute Zoom session that could help save a life.

Through this training you will learn how to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to recognize those at risk.
- Spot key risk factors and warning signs.
- Understand the types of suicidal ideation and four urgent behaviors that indicate imminent danger.
- Communicate with compassion and confidence when someone may be in crisis.

This opportunity is open to **everyone in the Legion Family—Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders. Get more information and register for a session here**

<https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-training>

But wait, there's more: in addition to your official certificate of completion, I will also award you a **Be The One coin and Decal** as a personal reminder of your commitment.



Don't wait. Be the one who makes a difference. E-Mail me at johnflatleyjr@gmail.com and claim your place among the 40 who step up this year.

American Legion Family Department Christmas Party



December 14, 2025 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Francis Scott Key Post 11

Enjoy an afternoon with your Legion family enjoying activities,
appetizers, desserts and cash bar.

Please RSVP/pay NLT December 5
\$15 per person or Table of 8 for \$110
Dress: Holiday Attire/Ugly Sweater Contest

**Send payment to FSK Post 11 c/o Department Christmas Party, 1450 Taney
Avenue, Frederick, MD 21702**

**For any Questions contact Keith Clevenger, 301-514-6641 or
wmrcommander@mdlegion.org**

Bring a canned or dry good for the local food bank for their Christmas Dinner and receive a door
prize ticket.

Secret Santa & Ornament Exchange, 50/50's and Door Prizes

RSVP By: December 5, 2025

Make Checks Payable to:

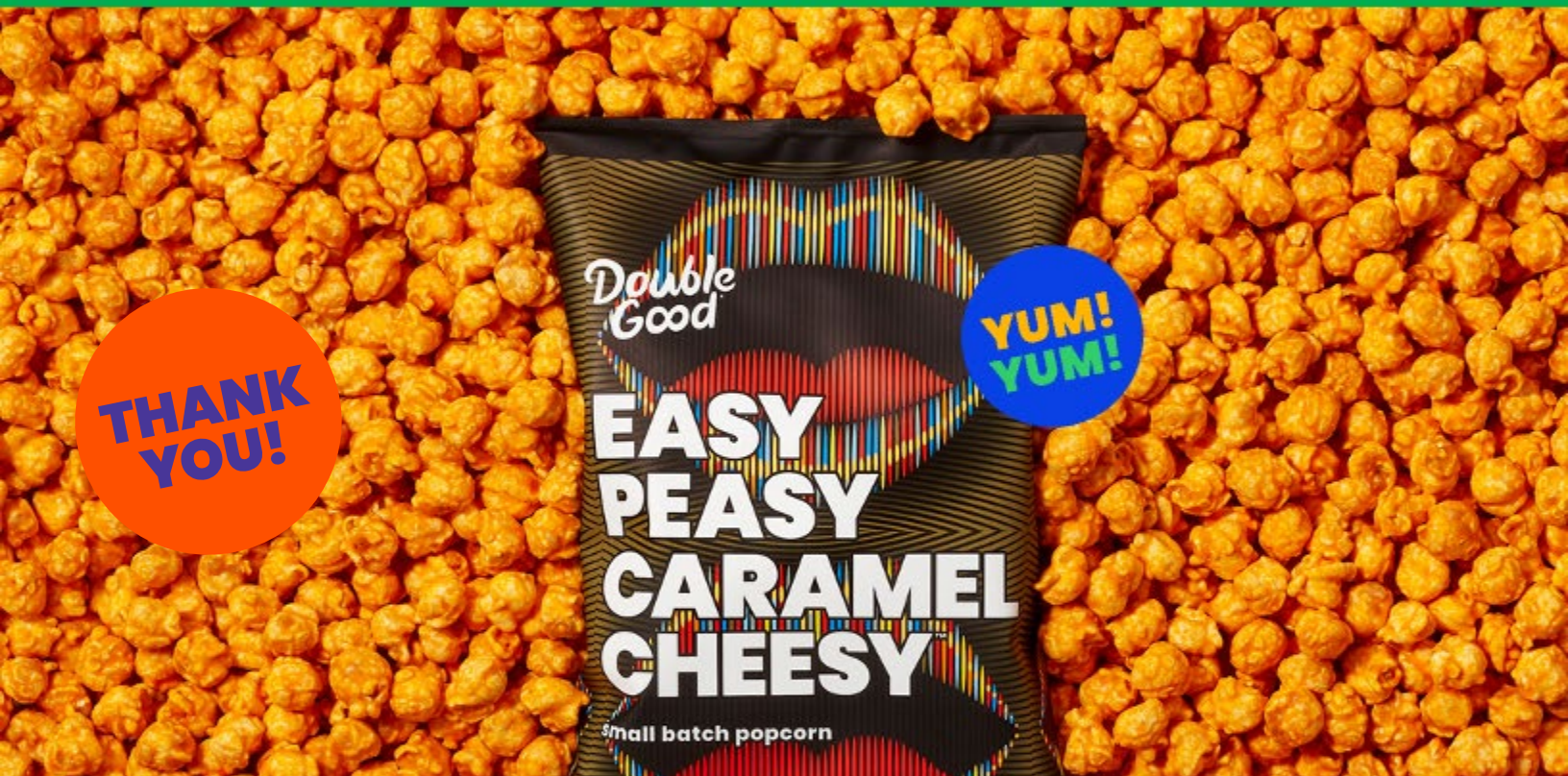
**FSK Post 11, 1450 Taney Avenue, Frederick, MD 21702 c/o Department
Christmas Party**

I Will Attend _____ How Many People _____ Amount Paid \$ _____

Please provide a list of Names who will be attending on the RSVP



Supporting our team is
easy peasy caramel cheesy!



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**12-7-2025-
12-11-2025**

**District 6
Fundraiser.**