



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

July 2026

www.Alpost82.org

301-934-8221

Commander's Corner

Commander's Message:

By John Flatley, Commander, Post 82

As we start looking toward America's 250th birthday, I find myself reflecting on just how incredible our story really is. For nearly two and a half centuries, this country has stood and grown—not because it's easy, but because generations of men and women stepped forward to serve. And just as important, the families who stood behind them, carried the load at home, and made that service possible.

That sacrifice is the reason our democracy didn't just survive—it flourished. And not just here at home, but in the way it has influenced and inspired freedom around the world.

That same spirit is alive right here at Post 82.

What makes this Post special isn't just our history—it's our people. Day in and day out, you continue to show up for each other, for our veterans, and for this community. Whether it's supporting a fellow veteran, mentoring our youth, or stepping up for a community event, you are living out what it means to serve. That's what makes this Post a true pillar in our community, and I couldn't be more proud to be part of it.

That kind of strength doesn't happen by accident—it comes from leaders who are willing to step up and serve. I'm grateful for the team that has answered that call this year:

What's Going on at the Post?

Saturday, July 4th 250th Independence Day
12:00 PM – 4:00 PM Lounge Open

July 14 – 17 Department Convention
Ocean City, MD

Friday, July 24 Chef Sean's Wings in the Bar
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM or until sold out

Saturday, July 25 Annual Members Banquet (Veterans, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders)
Installation of Officers 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Monday, July 27 Red Cross Blood Drive
S.A.L. Squadron 82 Hosted 12:30 PM

Friday, July 31 AL Riders Spaghetti Dinner
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM or until sold out

EVERY WEDNESDAY S.A.L. Queen of Hearts
Drawing in the Lounge at 6:45 PM

EVERY THURSDAY Auxiliary BINGO
Doors open at 4:00 PM

 **NFL Sign-Up** 

in the Lounge

NFL Washington Commanders
Season Square – Different Numbers Weekly

Super Bowl LXI Square for Game Prize
Executive Committee

Jamie Zayas – 1st Vice Commander
Chris LaQuay – 2nd Vice Commander
Anthony Hudnell – Adjutant
Chuck Marsh – Finance Officer
Ron Ansell – Sergeant-at-Arms
Bob Striegel – Judge Advocate

At-Large Members

Norman Shelton
Harry Tafe
David Quade
Ann Chess

Appointed Positions

Paul Stockman – Chaplain
George Hawley – Resource Officer

I hope you'll join me on Saturday, July 25 for our Annual Members Banquet and Installation of Officers. It's one of those nights that reminds you exactly what this Post is all about—coming together, celebrating our shared mission, and supporting the leaders who will carry it forward. Tickets are just \$10 and are available in the Lounge through July 19.

Post 82 remains active and engaged. There are many ways to get involved, and every bit of participation strengthens what we do together. I look forward to seeing you at the Post soon.

John



johnflatleyjr@gmail.com



1st Vice Commander's Corner

Hello Legionnaires and All our Post Members! Hope this newsletter finds you well as we get ready to start our 2027 Legion Year. Our membership committee is looking to start the year at a fast pace; we finished 2026 with 810 members for a 100.50% membership rate. We are asking all our current members to renew during the month of July so we can reach our 100% goal by the end of the Year or sooner! For our PUFL and members that are pre-paid for 2027, we will be sending out your cards within the next few weeks. I would also like to remind members that they can renew online at www.mylegion.org and pay for up to 3 years in advance, I like this option, so I do not have to worry about it each year. You can also stop by Post 82 and drop off your renewal fee of \$45 or mail it to Post 82 PO Box 441, 6330 N. Crain Hwy, La Plata MD 20646.

Our next American Legion 101/ New Member Orientation will be at the beginning of our next Legion Year. We will share information about the American Legion, Post 82, and the great programs we have going on and benefits we offer. This is open to all Post, Auxiliary, Son's, and anyone interested in joining the Post along with their families. Keep an eye on the August newsletter for dates and times for our next event.

I have started to recruit for our Membership Committee, if you are interested and would like to play a key role in membership activities please contact me via email below. Our next meeting will be July 22nd at 6pm, if you are interested and available please come and join us.

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.

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

Carolyn Maron had surgery on her knee and is at home. You can send get well cards to her at 1388 Redwood Circle, La Plata, MD 301-751-1086.

For Service not Self,
Lesley Radcliff
Auxiliary Unit 82 President

SONS OF THE

AMERICAN LEGION

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

The Squadron held the regular monthly meeting on June 2. Preparations for the baby back rib dinner on June 19 and the 20th Annual Joe Williams Memorial Golf Tournament were discussed. With the new officers for the 2026-27 in place, plans and scheduling for the new year were discussed. The Squadron will only host 6 dinners this year. Baby back rib dinners are scheduled for the 3rd Friday in June, August, October, December, and April with a fish fry in February 2027.

On June 14, the Squadron held a Flag Retirement Ceremony. Five hundred thirty eight flags of our Country were honorably retired. Members of Boy Scout Troop 1321 and Cub Scout Pack 423 led by Scout Master Ryan Alarie were on hand to provide assistance. The young men were a great help. Following the ceremony, we all enjoyed hot dogs and a cold beverage.

U.S. Flag Retirement Ceremony



Pictured above with the Scouts are Commander Tatman, 1st Vice Commander Gale Willett, Adjutant Gary Shupe, Sergeant at Arms Harry Lehman, and Chaplain Roy Yanosh.



Pictured above are Assistant Scout Master Mike Scout, Star Scout Jason Faulkner, Scout Theodore Alarie, Star Scout Nathan Alarie, Tiger Scout Henry Alarie, Life Scout Solomon Scott, Life Scout Dylan Johnson, and Scout Master Ryan Alarie.

Thanks to Gale Willett, Gary Shupe, David Quade, Alana Lentz, Lennie Lentz, Harry Lehman, Roy Yanosh, Carol Karpiak, Kathleen Quade, and Cathy Bryant for volunteering their time for the Squadron's baby back rib dinner on June 19. The next baby back rib dinner will be on August 21. Check out the flyer on the website site, alpost82.org

Thanks to Gale Willett and Gary Shupe for working the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home on June 15. Forty two residents participated with \$400 in prizes handled directly to the winners.

I attended the 53rd Detachment of Maryland Convention in White Marsh on June 19-21. During the business session on June 20, Squadron 82 received a number of awards including the Robert Trueblood Community Affairs Award, "Presented to the Squadron with the Most Outstanding Achievements and Participation in the Community Affairs Program of the Sons of The American Legion", the Commander's Award for "Your outstanding efforts and support of the Americanism Commission", and the Top Donor Award for "Your Outstanding efforts and support of the American Legion National Emergency Fund." In addition, the Squadron received Certificates of Appreciation for "outstanding efforts and support of" the VAVS Commission, the Commander's Project, the Casey Cares Foundation, Toys for Tots, Boys State, Laps of Love, the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, and the VAVS Commission. The Squadron also received a Four Star Membership Award "for achieving Four Star status on or before May 30, 2026." This is the 28th consecutive year the Squadron has met our member goal and received a 4 Star award. The Squadron also received a Certificate of Completion "in recognition of successfully completing the 2025-2026 Commander's Challenge. On Sunday morning at the Squadron Everlasting ceremony one of our own members, Jeff Kiessling, was recognized. Also recognized was Squadron 206 member Roscoe Alexander. Roscoe was a friend and the brother of Squadron 82 Honorary Life Member Ronnie Alexander.

We are saddened to say farewell to another Squadron 82 member. Dave Hall transferred to Squadron Everlasting on June 15. Dave was a 16 year member of the Sons of The

American Legion. We extend our condolences to Dave's wife Joy and family members.

Yours in Service,

Dave Tatman
Commander, Squadron 82



Patriots on the Post 82 Memorials



S.A.L First Vice Commander Gale Willett continues to research and acknowledge the names on the Post memorials. The following are three more individuals identified on the World War I memorial.

Francis Hilary Barnes

Francis Hilary Barnes, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Barnes, was born in McConchie, Maryland on August 25, 1920. He enlisted in the Army at Fort George G. Meade on April 11, 1942. He served as a Private in the 366th Infantry Regiment, U.S. Army during World War II. Pfc. Barnes was killed in action in Italy on February 8, 1945. He is buried in St. Catherine of Alexandria Cemetery in McConchie.

Robert Leroy Austin

Robert Leroy Austin, the son of Everett and Carrie nAustin, was born in Ryceville, Maryland, on July 12, 1920. He enlisted in the Army on August 19, 1942 in Baltimore. He served as a Staff Sergeant & Engineer/Top Turret Gunner on a B-17, 410th Bomber Squadron, 94th Bomber Group, Heavy, U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II. On October 14, 1943 he was killed in action on a mission over Germany. He was the only crewman on this B-17 to perish during the war. He was awarded the Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and the Purple Heart. He is buried at the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial in Coton, South Cambridgeshire, England.



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

The latest scoop from the Steel Pony Corral:

The Riders are saddened to hear of the passing of Alicia Morrison. She helped serve at many spaghetti dinners and rode on many rides alongside her husband and Rider Lloyd. Always friendly with a beautiful smile and a delightful personality. The Riders send our deepest sympathies and condolences to Lloyd and family. There will be a Memorial Service on 22 July 2026 at 10am at St. Joseph's Church in Pomfret MD, a Funeral Mass at 11am with a repast to follow. RIP Alicia.

The Riders also want to wish Rider Gibby Moran a fast and speedy recovery from a recent surgery.

Our May Spaghetti dinner was great success with 131 dinners being sold and the presence of 8 veterans from The Charlotte Hall Veterans

Home. Thanks to all the patrons for their continued support and all The Riders who worked to make this a very enjoyable event.

On June 4-7, The Riders along with most of the MD Chapters participated in the 11th Annual MD Gold Star Legacy Ride. Almost 600 miles across MD raising money for The Veteran's and Children's Fund. Over \$190K was raised for the cause with the Post 82 family raising a combined \$16K. Great job to all who gave and attended the events during that 4-day span.

Also, on Saturday June 6 a strong contingent of Riders attending the Vacations 4 Vets Poker Run at the VFW in California MD. Although none of the Riders had a winning poker hand, a lot of money was raised, and a good time was had by all.

On Saturday June 13, some Riders visited the Chancellorsville Battlefield below Fredericksburg VA. A great ride with lots of history with breakfast at Uncle Dave's and lunch at The Battlefield Country Store.

On Saturday June 20 4 Riders and 2 guest assisted the V4V with loading and unloading Veterans and their families from Camp Maria for a charter boat ride before joining the rest of the Riders on their Annual Ice Cream Social for the veterans at Charlotte Hall. After 7 bikes escorted the John Goldsmith and his ice cream truck into Charlotte Hall, 12 Riders along with spouses and family members served some cold and delicious ice cream to the residents and staff. A very nice fellowship lunch was enjoyed at Mission BBQ, California by The Riders before serving the veterans. In all The Riders spent 2 hours serving and enjoying the residents of Charlotte Hall. I can't forget the weather was just perfect for the day's events and very comfortable for the residents to enjoy their ice cream outdoors.

Riders, if you have any submissions of rides or events, please email to k_bryant@care.saddomcast.net so they can be included in the upcoming newsletters.

Upcoming Rides and Events:

July 4- Sojourn 250 Pittsburgh PA to Wash.
DC @ 0600

July 9- ALR Meeting at Post 82 @ 1800

July 11 & 12- Post 221 Avenue Sandwich
Sales @ 01100-1600

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

**“We ride In HONOR of those who have
served”**

Serving Those Who Will Serve: Post 82 in Action

Our Legion Family continues to demonstrate what it means to serve with purpose, pride, and a deep commitment to our community's future leaders. A key part of that mission is recognizing excellence through the American Legion JROTC Awards for **Military Excellence**—awarded to the cadet who best exemplifies leadership, discipline, character, and commitment to the ideals of the program—and **Scholastic Excellence**—presented to the cadet who demonstrates outstanding academic achievement, citizenship, and well-rounded participation.