



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

June 2026

www.Alpost82.org

301-934-8221

Commander's Corner

Commander's Message:

By John Flatley, Commander, Post 82

Welcome to summer. The weeks ahead are shaping up to be busy and, more importantly, meaningful for our Post family. We begin June with two strong examples of service in action:

PVA Capital Clash & MD Gold Star Legacy Ride – June 5–7

We will be hosting The *Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)* Capital Clash bass fishing tournament here at Post 82, while at the same time our Riders will be traveling across Maryland on the *MD Gold Star Legacy Ride*, raising funds for the Legion Veterans and Children Foundation. Both efforts reflect the heart of who we are.

[Signup Genius – PVA Dinners](#)

Officer Elections – June 9 | 1800

Our Legion officers elections will take place during the membership meeting. This is an important opportunity for you to have a voice in the leadership and direction of our Post for the coming year. I encourage you to participate.

Post 233 Renaming Ceremony – June 12 | 1400

American Legion So MD Youth Camp
9201 Surratts Rd, Cheltenham, MD 20623

If your schedule allows, your presence would be a meaningful show of support for our comrades in Indian Head.

What's Going on at the Post?

D-Day June 6th 1944 - Operation Neptune Allied Invasion of Normandy France

Friday, June 19 S.A.L. Rib Dinner
5:00 PM – Until sold out

Monday, June 22 Red Cross Blood Drive
UM Charles Regional MC Hosted 12:30 PM
Appointments @ www.redcrossblood.org

Friday, June 26 Post 82 Golf Tournament
20th Annual Joe Williams Golf Tournament – White Plains GC

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

Washington Commanders Weekly Games
One Square – Different Numbers Every Game

Super Bowl LXI Opens June 8th
Squares for Prize, Tailgate and Watch Party
February 14, 2027

Boys State – June 21–27

McDaniel College, Westminster

Post 82 is sponsoring four outstanding young men this year. After meeting them during our May orientation, I am confident they will represent us well. One of our own, Jack Compton, will attend and plans to compete for a “senator” position, with the goal of advancing to Boys Nation. We wish all of our delegates the best.

America250 / Sojourn 250 – July 4

ALR 82 will escort the Sojourn 250 flag from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C. as part of a nationwide journey carrying one American flag to every state, territory, and U.S. military cemetery overseas.

More information, registration, and donations:

[Legion Sojourn 250 Information Page](#)

Participation in the escort is limited to members of the American Legion family.

Follow the flag’s journey:

[Follow the Flag – Sojourn 250](#)

Department Convention – July 14–17

Ocean City, MD

Several members of our executive committee and I will attend, joining representatives from across the state to help shape the direction of the organization for the coming year.

Membership Banquet – July 25

Please join us for our annual Membership Banquet. This is a great opportunity to come together as a Post family, recognizing the past year’s accomplishments and installing our new leadership across the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders.

Tickets: \$10 (available in the Lounge later this month)

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, my fellow legionnaires!

Hope this newsletter finds you well as we start our summer and finish the 2026 Legion Year. Our current membership status is 807 members for a 100.50% membership rate, which means we have reached our membership goal for 2026. Now we still have members that have not renewed for 2026 yet and we certainly do not want to leave you behind. We value you as members of our Post and do not wish to move forward without you. I have personally reached out via phone and sent emails to complete buddy checks and to see if there are any needs the Post can assist with, if there is anything we can do to help please do not hesitate to reach out to me. 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. Our renewal rate is currently at 93.21% and with your help we can easily reach our 95% goal.

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 newsletter for dates and times for our next event.

I am starting early to recruit for our Membership Committee for next year, if you are interested and would like to play a key role in membership activities please contact me via email below.

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



Chaplain's Corner

My role in the Post's Memorial Day service was to present the benediction for it, which I provide below. Often the significance of this date is confused with Veterans Day, by nonveterans and veterans alike. I believe this benediction, in its simple presentation, provides clarity of the significance of Memorial Day.

"Heavenly Father,
We thank You for having brought us together to pay tribute to those who lost their lives defending our nation. May their souls live on in Your gracious presence, and may they experience the full measure of Your love and mercy. We also ask that You guide us and make us worthy of the sacrifices from which we have benefited. We pray we never forget how blessed we truly are as a nation, as a people, and as Your children.

Let us go in peace. Amen."

Paul Stockman
Chaplain

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any concerns with which I may assist you.
301 768 2514 papastockman@yahoo.com

Post Everlasting



William Daniel (Danny) Mayer, US Army
Reserve October 30, 1941 – May 3, 2026
Vietnam War veteran and longtime member of
Post 82



Dexter "Kim" (KD) Elwood Dickerson Jr.,
Sons of the American Legion Squadron 82
February 14, 1956 – May 3, 2026
His father Woody was US Air Force



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

We had our elections at our May meeting and here are the results: Congratulations Ladies!!!!

President – Lesley Radcliff
Vice President – Darlene Willett
Treasurer – Kathie Flanagan
Secretary – Becky Ammar
Chaplain – Mary Shaffer
Sgt. At Arms – Linda Gimmel
Historian – vacant
Executive Committee – Maggie Larrick, Janet Fogle, Barbara Vaughan

MD Girls State - A week that shapes a lifetime! Representative Rita Sexton informed us that we are sending 10 girls to Girls State this year.

At BINGO on May 14th we presented a \$5,000 check to Warfighters. We made a \$5,000 contribution to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation.

Angel Hindle informed us that Charlotte Hall is talking about bringing back the carnival that has been cancelled due to COVID. Angel also informed us that the Fall Conference will be October 9, 10, 11 at Post 128 in Aberdeen, Maryland.

The **Ocean City Convention** will be **July 15, 16, 17**. If you are going to stay at the Grand Hotel please mention the American Legion Auxiliary and you will get a discount.

I hope everybody stays safe and cool as summer is right around the corner.

Our next meeting is June 9th at 6pm.

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

Before I get into June news, here's an item I forgot to include in last month's Newsletter.

On April 6, 1st Vice Commander Gale Willett, Adjutant Gary Shupe, and I attended the Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) meeting to present Pfc. Brian Moore with an award as the 2025 Squadron 82 First Responder of the Year. In addition to the plaque given to Pfc. Moore, the Squadron made a \$200 donation to the CCSO Special Events Fund. Pictured below are Adjutant Shupe, 1st Vice Commander Willett, Commander Tatman, Pfc. Brian Moore, Captain Harry Ivers, and Sheriff Troy Berry.



I worked at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home gift shop on April 25. Residents, staff, and visitors stop by the gift shop to buy snacks, small gifts, and sometimes just to talk.

On April 30, 1st Vice Commander Gale Willett and I attended the 2026 American Red Cross (ARC) Southern Maryland Chapter Appreciation Event held in Bowie. During the awards presentation Gale and I accepted the Southern Maryland Chapter Blood Donor Sponsor Award. This award is a credit to the Post 82 family. Gale has tirelessly led this effort at Post 82 for more than 20 years. Squadron 82 Adjutant Gary Shupe has also been a volunteer for much of that time. Thanks to all Post 82 family members who have donated blood over the years. Special thanks to Gale, Gary, and the Post 82 Legionnaires who make the Post available for the blood drives six times each year.



The Squadron held the regular monthly meeting on May 5. Officers elected for the 2026-27 administrative year are Commander Dave Tatman, 1st Vice Commander Gale Willett, 2nd Vice Commander Kevin Bryant, Adjutant Gary Shupe, Finance Officer Dave Tatman, Chaplain Roy Yanosh, and Sergeant-at-Arms Harry Lehman. The Historian position is vacant.

The Squadron catered the La Plata High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NJROTC) awards banquet on May 6. One hundred five dinners were served to an impressive group of cadets, proud parents, school personnel, and presenters, including our own Post 82 Commander John Flatley. After the banquet, I presented Gunnery Sergeant Clive Bailey with two donations from the Squadron. One for \$300 for the LPHS NJROTC Air Rifle team and the other for \$200

for the LPHS NJROTC Color Guard. The banquet will be the last for Gunny who will be retiring at the end of the school year. Gunny has been with the La Plata High School NJROTC program for 26 years. Fair winds and following seas Gunny.



On May 13, the 2026 Squadron 82 Veterans Memorial Scholarship winners, Neala Rooney and Evelyn Michael, stopped by the Post to accept their awards. Scholarships in the amount of \$3,000 were sent to the La Plata High School in each girl's name. Pictured below are Evelyn Michael (I), Roy Yanosh, the Scholarship Committee Chairman, and Neals Rooney.



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 May 15. Turnout was light but all indications were that those who came had a great meal. The next baby back rib dinner will be on June 19. Check out the flyer on the website site, alpost82.org.

Thanks to 1st Vice Commander Gale Willett and Adjutant Gary Shupe for working the registration and refreshment tables at the ARC blood drive on May 18. Forty units of life saving blood were collected. Thanks to all who donated. The next Squadron 82 sponsored blood drive will be on July 27.

I worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home on May 18. Thirty four residents participated with \$400 in prizes handled directly to the winners.

The Squadron will have a Flag retirement ceremony on Flag Day, June 14 at 1 PM. We hope to have Boy Scout Troop 1321 in La Plata join us on that day. If you get a chance, please stop by.

On a sad note, Squadron 82 member Dexter "Kim" "KD" Elwood Dickerson transferred to Squadron Everlasting on May 3. If you knew Kim, you know he was always the first person with a big smile and a hand shake. Our condolences to Kim's children, Cas and Nikki. Kim will certainly be missed.

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.

Samuel Posey

Samuel Posey, the son of Harrison Posey and Marion Jane Rye Posey, was born on February 8, 1897, in Nanjemoy, Maryland. He joined the Army in 1917 and was assigned to the 154th Depot Brigade based at Camp Meade (later Fort Meade) in Maryland. In the fall of 1918, Camp Meade became a focal point of the Spanish flu pandemic. The first reported cases of influenza among soldiers occurred on September 24, 1918. Private Posey died of broncho pneumonia on October 11, 1918. He is buried in the Nanjemoy Baptist Church Cemetery.

Guy Earl Willett

Guy Earl Willett, the son of Alfred Willett and Madora Wright Willett, was born on July 17, 1892. Mr. Willett joined the United States Marine Corps on June 5, 1917. Sergeant Willett died of broncho pneumonia at the Marine Barracks in Quantico, Virginia, on September 27, 1918. He is buried in the Shiloh Cemetery in Bryans Roads.

James Arthur Oliver

James Arthur Oliver, the son of George Cornelius Oliver and Mary Thomas Oliver, was born in Dentsville on November 16, 1888. Mr. Oliver joined the Army on June 6, 1917 and served in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Corporal Oliver died of an accidental gunshot wound on May 9, 1918 in Calexico, California. He is buried at Trinity Episcopal Church Cemetery in Newport, Maryland.



John Addison Willard

John Addison Willard, the son of Everett Edward Millard and Annie Laura Millard, was born on September 22, 1894 in Charles County. Mr. Millard joined the Army in 1917 and served in the 315th Regiment 87th Infantry Division American Expeditionary Forces. Pfc. Millard was killed in action on September 1918 in Departement de la Meuse, Lorraine, France. He is buried in Newton Hamilton Memorial Cemetery, in Newton Hamilton, Pennsylvania.



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

The latest scoop from the Steel Pony Corral:

The Riders will be conducting our annual election of officers at our June 11 meeting. If you are a member and interested in holding an office, all positions are open for you to run. Please send nominations to Karen (Red) Himmelheber as soon as possible, prior to the election. Also if nominating someone please make sure you have their approval prior to their nomination.

On Saturday May 16, 3 Riders spent the day assisting veterans from CHVH at an event sponsored by So. MD Vacations 4 Vets. The event was hosted by Suttler Post Farm in Mechanicsville, MD. It was a day spent doing crafts, games and great fellowship with the men and women of CHVH. The day ended with wagon rides pulled by Clydesdale Horses which are owned by Suttler Post Farm.

The next few months should be great for riding and we have lots of events planned. Please review the calendar and plan on attending one or more rides!

Please send well wishes to Rider Jimmy (Silent Jim) Therres who is recovering from heart surgery.

Please welcome new members Shaun & Tina Kroeger to the ALR.

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

Upcoming Rides and Events:

- 4-7 June MD GSLR Post 128 Aberdeen 0600**
- 5-7 June PVA Capital Clash @ Post 82**
- 11 June Next ALR Meeting @ 1800**
- 13 June ALR Post 11 Spring Get Together @ 1200-1700 Thurmont MD**
- 20 June ALR Post 82 Annual Ice Cream Social CHVH @ 1300**

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.

On April 29, Chuck Marsh represented Post 82 at Thomas Stone High School, while Anthony Hudnell presented these awards at Westlake High School. Their presence ensured that our Legion's support was felt across multiple schools, honoring cadets who truly embody these high standards.

That spirit of service continued on May 6, when SAL Squadron 82 hosted the La Plata High School JROTC Awards ceremony here at our Post. The evening was a true reflection of our hospitality and appreciation, as the SAL provided a generous buffet dinner for cadets, families, and guests, featuring roast beef, green beans, succotash, and mashed potatoes with gravy. It was more than a meal—it was a statement of gratitude.



During the ceremony, Post 82 Commander John Flatley presented the American Legion **Military Excellence Award** to Cadet Ensign Mikayla McGuigan and the **Scholastic Excellence Award** to Cadet LT Maximus Meiser. Cadet

Meiser was sponsored by Post 82 for Maryland Boys State last year and credits that experience with helping him earn his appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, where he will begin this fall.



The evening was further strengthened by the support of Post member and retired JROTC instructor Patrick Malherek, who stepped in to present awards on behalf of organizations unable to attend. His continued dedication to these young leaders is a testament to the lasting impact of mentorship.

A particularly meaningful moment came as cadets and families recognized the upcoming retirement of Gunnery Sergeant (Ret.) Clive Bailey. After 23 years of dedicated service to the La Plata High School JROTC program, his influence has shaped countless young men and women. His legacy will endure through the lives he has impacted.

These events are a powerful reminder that our mission extends beyond our membership—we are actively shaping the future by encouraging, recognizing, and supporting those who will one day serve their communities and our nation.

Thank you to every member who stepped up to make these moments possible. This is what it looks like when the Legion Family leads with purpose.



We also coordinated with Randolph Furey Post 170 to ensure all of our high schools that requested support were covered. Post 170 Commander Calvin Whitfield worked with Lackey, North Point and McDonough High Schools.