



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

October 2026

www.Alpost82.org

301-934-8221

Commander's Corner

Bring Someone Alongside You

Over the past two months, we've talked about why someone should join the American Legion and what it means to invest in our membership. This month, I'd like to take one more step.

Every successful organization eventually reaches a point where its future depends less on what its leaders accomplish and more on what its members choose to build together.

I believe Post 82 is at that point.

One of the greatest strengths of our Post is the experience found within our membership. Every one of us has learned something along the way. Some have organized events. Some have led committees. Some have built programs. Others have quietly served behind the scenes for decades, solving problems, encouraging others, and helping this Post become what it is today.

Experience is one of the greatest resources our Post possesses—but it only benefits others when it's shared.

Think back to when you first joined the Legion. Most of us didn't learn by reading a handbook. We learned by serving alongside someone who had been there before us. Someone answered our questions. Someone explained why we do things the way we do. Someone invited us to help and, in doing so, helped us find our place.

That's how strong Posts are built.

What's Going on at the Post?

Friday, Oct 2th Steamed Shrimp Dinner

5:00 – 6:30 PM or until sold out

Sunday Oct 11th, NFL Giants v Commanders

1:00 PM

Monday Oct 12th, Members Appreciation Day

1:00 PM

Friday, Oct 16th Sons of the American Legion Baby Back Rib Dinner

5:00 – 6:30 PM or until sold out

Saturday Oct 17th, Quilts of Valor

11:00 AM in the bar

Monday, Oct 24th Red Cross Blood Drive

CRMC Hosted 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Friday, Oct 30th AL Riders Spaghetti Dinner

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM or until sold out

Saturday, Oct 31st HALLOWEEN

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



As we move through life, our contribution naturally changes. We begin by learning. Then we begin serving. Over time, experience becomes wisdom, and wisdom gives us something even more valuable to offer.

Perspective. Encouragement. Leadership.

The next time you're helping with a Fish Fry, placing flags on veterans' graves, preparing for a ceremony, working an event, or serving on a committee, don't just complete the task.

Bring someone alongside you.

Share the story behind the tradition. Explain why it matters. Answer a question. Listen to a new idea. Help someone discover that they're not just joining an organization—they're becoming part of a Legion Family.

Leadership isn't about doing everything yourself. It's about helping someone else become confident enough to do it with you...and one day after you.

At the same time, leadership isn't limited to those who've been here the longest. Some of the best ideas come from members willing to look at a challenge with fresh eyes.

Last year, our Post brought back the American Legion Oratorical Contest because one member saw an opportunity and was willing to step forward. That single idea didn't just revive an outstanding youth program—it created opportunities for other members to become involved as well.

That's how progress happens. One person sees a need. One person is willing to lead. Others join them.

If you have an idea that would strengthen Post 82 or better serve our veterans, our youth, or our community, let's talk about it.

You don't have to do it alone. In fact, chances are there are other members just waiting for someone to say, "Would you help me?"

So let me leave you with one challenge.

Show up. Reach out. Look for opportunities to serve. Bring someone alongside you.

If you've gained experience, share it.

If you have an idea, pursue it.

If you see a need, don't assume someone else will take care of it.

Together, let's continue building a Post where members don't simply attend—they belong. Where they don't simply volunteer—they lead. Where they don't simply inherit a strong Post—

Because that's what Legionnaires do. We show up for one another.

John

John Flatley Jr
Commander
301.848.7664
johnflatleyjr@gmail.com

Members Appreciation Day

I encourage all our Post family to come to the Members Appreciation Day, October 12. This will be a great time to spend time with your family and introduce them to our "family". I look forward to sharing the day with each of you.



1st Vice Commander's Corner

Hello Legionnaires and All our Post Members!

Thank you to everyone who came out and participated September 17th–20th for the Charles County Fair, we had multiple community members stop by and thank us for being there. Always a fantastic way to connect and recruit new members. Special Thank You to the Legion Riders for covering all shifts for Friday, these men and women are members of all parts of our family and never fail to represent!

Our next big event is Membership Appreciation Day, Monday October 12th starting at 1PM. Show your 2027 membership card and receive a hot dog, chips, and non-alcoholic drink. This is open to all Post, Auxiliary and Son's members. Bring your family, friends, neighbors and that Veteran looking to join our community. Nonmembers pay just \$5.

Mark your calendars for Military Appreciation Day at Post 82 sponsored by Chick-fil-A La Plata! On Saturday, November 7th we will have family friendly games, entertainment, Veteran resources and of course Chick-fil-A! This event is open to all active military, Veterans, and their family members. If you have ever attended Military Appreciation Night at Chick-fil-A La Plata, you know it is always a fun time for everyone. I am happy to have our Membership Committee partnering with Chick-fil-A La Plata to bring this FREE event to Post 82. Stay tuned, we will have more details coming soon!

Membership renewals have reached 63.61%, thank you for your investment in the American Legion. We are asking all our current members to renew as soon as possible so we can reach our 100% goal by the end of 2026 or sooner! We have mailed out all 2027 membership cards if you have not received yours please email me ASAP so I can send out a replacement card. I like this option, so you do not have to worry about remembering to renew 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.

If you would like to join our Membership Committee and play a key role in our activities, please contact me via email below. I look forward to seeing you at our next dinner or function, next Legion Shrimp Dinner is October 2nd, volunteers needed, sign up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805044AAEA-C2AA6FF2-61637244-legion>

If you have any changes or updates to your address, phone, email or if you need assistance in renewing, please let me know.

Jamie Zayas

1st Vice Commander
Always Serving
301-751-2822 (call or text)
82postlaplata@gmail.com



Hello Auxiliary:

My goodness fall is in the air, and we are going to start another year of helping our veterans!

The fall conference is October 9,10,11. The ladies that are going are myself, Mary Shaffer, Janet Fogle, Barbara Vaughan, Kathie Flanagan, Darlene Willett, Edna Caywood. Barbara Vaughan has made a wreath for the fall conference and will be collecting donations. I will be bringing back information on this year's projects. I did inquire about the new Auxiliary handbook, but the office said that they have not been able to receive any as of yet. Once they do come in our Unit will be purchasing 30 copies.

At our last meeting we were trying to approve our standing rules for this year. The subject of the year end date came up. We normally used July

1st to June 30th. Questions were asked was this correct. The Department and National use the date of August 1st to July 31st. We will be discussing this issue at our October 13th meeting.

The unit donated \$500 to 4-H.

If you know a unit member that is in the hospital, ill, or someone has passed away please contact our chaplain Mary Shaffer at (301) 934-4372.

As always, we can use help with BINGO. You can work in the kitchen or sell pull tabs or be a walker. Volunteers are always welcome.

Remember Quilts of Valor program will be on October 17th at 11am in the bar.

As always check with your neighbors or a veteran to see if they are in need of help. You can pick up prescriptions, pick up groceries or take them to a doctor's office.

Our next meeting is October 13th at 6pm.

For Service not Self,

Lesley Radcliff
Auxiliary Unit 82 President



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

The Squadron held the regular monthly meeting on September 1st. The members voted to buy a \$50 ticket to the Sons of The American Legion Southern Maryland Region (SMR) Greg Taylor Memorial Draw Down on Saturday, October 24. The drawdown will be held at Laurel Post 60. Each ticket admits 2 people. Dinner will be from 4 to 6 PM. Anyone

interested in buying a ticket, let Gary Shupe or I know. You do not have to be present to win.

Gary Shupe, Harry Lehman and I worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home on September 21. Fifty residents participated with \$400 in prizes handled directly to the winners.

Gary Shupe and I attended the SMR meeting at the Cheltenham Youth Camp on September 19.

The Squadron will host a baby back rib dinner on October 16.

As of the September 25 report, the Squadron has 60 members who have gotten their 2027 cards. This represents 26.86% our goal of 219. Membership can be paid on-line, by mail, or dropped off at the Post.

Yours in Service,

Dave Tatman
Commander, Squadron 82
tatman_david@comcast.net





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

The latest scoop from the Steel Pony Corral:

Once again, back by popular demand, the ALR Spaghetti Dinner. Friday night October 30 from 5-6:30pm. This will be our last spaghetti dinner for the year 2026. Please attend and load up on those carbs until the new year. This dinner is open to all so by all means bring out your family and friends for a night of good food and great fellowship.

Thanks to all the ALR who came out in support of the American Legion Post 82 booth at the Charles County Fair. Though it is prime riding season, the Riders have lots of activities that we are planning to support this month as well, including the Post 82 Shrimp dinner, Member Appreciation night and Sgt Bob's Arlington internment along with as many rides as we can get in.

For the Riders, it is that time of year for membership renewals. Please Riders renew your current memberships in the Legion, SAL, and The Auxiliary because this is mandatory for membership in the Riders. The goal is 100% before Nov. 15 so please help us to help you by renewing today. We also need to update insurance and driver license info for the new year!!

We are starting the planning for the 2027 Maryland Legacy Ride in May 2027 and we need everyone to be a part of the planning process to ensure a successful fundraiser. Please look for the upcoming meetings and volunteer to help out where you can.

Riders, if you have any submissions of rides or events, please email k_bryant@comcast.net

by the 20th of the month so they can be included in the upcoming newsletters.

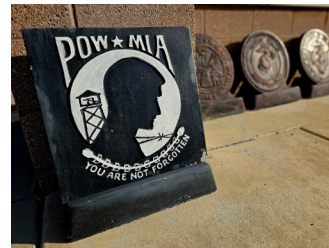
Upcoming Rides and Events:

Oct. 3- Cruising So. MD Ride@ Meet at La Plata WaWa 0800 with KSU at 0830
Oct. 8- ALR Meeting at Post 82 @ 1800
Oct.17- Shenandoah VA Leaf Ride @ TBD
Oct.17- Ride to Culpeper VA with Mama G. Museum, Lunch and Battlefield tour.
Oct. 24-25- Cape May Ride @ 0530 La Plata WaWa (Need to commit by 8 Oct for Ferry & Room reservations.)
Oct. 30- Spaghetti Dinner @ 1700 Post 82
Oct. 31- Capture the Flag Ride @ TBD

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

“We ride In HONOR of those who have served”

Post 82 Remembers *You Are Not Forgotten*



Harry White Wilmer American Legion Post 82 observed National POW/MIA Recognition Day on September 19, 2026, with a Missing Man Table displayed in our lounge September 19–20. The table offered members and guests a place to pause, reflect, and honor Americans held as prisoners of war and those still missing in action.



The empty chair spoke of those unable to join us. The single red rose honored their lives and the loved ones who continue seeking answers. A slice of lemon represented their bitter fate, the inverted glass, their inability to share a toast, and the glowing candle our enduring hope for their return.

Approximately 1,260 Marylanders remain unaccounted for from conflicts spanning World War I through the Vietnam War. Behind that number are individual lives, families, and generations still awaiting answers.

Post 82 joined many businesses and state and local government offices across Maryland in setting up displays of remembrance, supporting efforts such as "From the Mountains to the Sea – Maryland Remembers" and the Legacy of Honor Project.

Our thanks to Legion members Kelly Phipps for bringing this opportunity to our attention and Lori Coleman-Peck for setting the table for us.

For our Post family, this observance renews a lasting commitment: to remember their service, honor their sacrifice, and stand with the families who still wait.

You are not forgotten.

Boys State 2026

By Jonathan (Jack) Compton, sponsored by Post 82 to attend Maryland Boys State 2026

This June, thanks to the sponsorship of American Legion Post 82, I got to spend a week at Maryland Boys State, and it's an experience I don't think I'll forget.

Boys State throws a lot at you fast. Within the first few days I was sitting in mock committee meetings, debating bills and amendments with delegates who took the process as seriously as any state legislature would. Bills that made it through committee got presented to the full body, hundreds of us acting as one Congress, arguing and voting on legislation we'd written ourselves. I ran for Attorney General as the

Federalist Party candidate and won the primary, which meant getting up in front of the whole party to make my case and then living with the results.

The days had a rhythm to them. After dinner it was mandatory PT, circuit training and dodgeball, followed by rehearsal for the Talent Show, where I played clarinet. Every night ended with Taps. It's a small thing, a couple minutes of quiet before lights out, but it stuck with me more than almost anything else that week.

The week left me with more than a list of activities to talk about. I got a real sense of how government actually works, the debate, the compromise, the process behind every bill and vote, in a way that's hard to get from a textbook.

None of it happens without sponsors like Post 82 covering the cost for guys like me to go. I'm grateful for the opportunity, and I hope to keep playing clarinet for the Legion for a long time to come.

VA Claims Clinic

As reported at our last membership meeting, New Hope Church in White Plains held a VA Claims Clinic on Saturday, September 19. Legion members from Post 82 provided great support for the event, and several of our members took advantage of the opportunity by making appointments to start new claims or request assistance with existing ones.

Reverend Bill Jones served in the planning and execution of the event, and Post Resource Officer George Hawley represented our Post with a vendor table, sharing membership and service opportunities with attendees. Additionally, Post Adjutant Anthony Hudnell referred one of our longtime members as well as a visitor he met at our Fair Booth; both were seen and assisted by VA claims representatives from the Baltimore Region VA support center.

The event included briefings on local electric costs, VA benefits, mental health support, and other helpful information for Veterans and their families. Overall, 53 Veterans were seen and

received direct assistance with their VA claims.

Due to the strong impact of this event, plans are currently being made to host a similar claims clinic at Post 82 in January. If you are interested in helping plan or execute the upcoming event, please contact Chuck Marsh, our Post Finance Officer, for more information:

-Phone:240.210.0398

- Email: charles_marsh1@comcast.net

Charles County Fair

Post 82 had a very successful weekend at the Charles County Fair from September 17–20, 2026. We were fortunate to be offered space in Commercial Building A, one of the busiest locations on the fairgrounds, and we are grateful to the Fairboard for once again generously donating the \$500 space.

Our 24 Post Family volunteers spoke with well over 100 visitors, collected Legion and Auxiliary membership applications, and handed out U.S. flags, candy, and information on Boys State, Girls State, the Oratorical Contest, and all four Post Family organizations.

What impressed and excited me most were reports of visitors actively seeking us out to learn about membership and our programs. We also received numerous compliments on our community involvement and our advocacy for Veterans and their families. In my five-plus years volunteering at the Fair, we have rarely seen such positive recognition.

Thank you to everyone for your support and encouragement. I have often said that Post 82 is one of the best-kept secrets in La Plata. Thanks to those who dedicate their time to sharing our mission, I believe that is quickly changing.

John



Double Good Popcorn

🏠 POST 82—LET'S SHOW THEM WHO'S THE BEST POST IN SOUTHERN MARYLAND!

The District 6 Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser is coming, and I'm challenging our entire Post 82 family—Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders—to help us finish as the top fundraiser in the district!

Our goal: \$2,000 in popcorn sales, raising \$1,000 for District 6. Let's make that our starting point and see how far past we can go!

Funds raised will support District 6 Commander Roy Brown and his leadership team as they serve our local Posts and the Department of Maryland. Fifty percent of every purchase supports the cause—and you get delicious popcorn in return.

🕒 Opens: October 20 at 2 p.m.

⌘ Closes: October 27 at 5 p.m.

When the sale opens, order through the **"Post 82 Commander's Pop-Up Store"** (<https://popup.doublegood.com/s/l03v7lf7>), then share our link with friends, family and coworkers. Every order through our store helps Post 82 climb to the top!

Let's put our Post pride into action—and give the rest of District 6 something to chase!



Supporting our team is
easy peasy caramel cheesy!



When you buy Double Good's award-winning, ultra-premium popcorn, 50% of your purchase goes to supporting our cause and you receive a delicious reward!

Shop now to help!
<https://popup.doublegood.com/s/l03v7lf7>

**10-20-2026–
10-27-2026**
**District 6
Fundraiser.**

