



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

November 2025

www.Alpost82.org

301-934-8221

Commander's Corner

Commander's Message: Welcome, Fall

By John Flatley, Commander, Post 82

Well, summer is gone and, with cooler temps and earlier sunsets, fall is in full swing. I am thankful to be a part of the Post 82 Family. We've had a full summer of activities and service, and our fall calendar is loaded with even more activities and opportunities to serve.

I'll start by saying that I already miss Buddy Hindle. I am thankful that we were able to sit and talk for a spell at the last Members Shrimp at the Bar dinner. He looked and sounded good but admitted that it was hard getting around. He sounded hopeful and strong. So the phone call came as a bit of a shock. Buddy was always supportive and kind to me. I learned much about the Legion and post 82 through his mentorship over the years. As I said, I already miss him. I hope you will join me in offering prayers and support to Angel.

As I mentioned above our calendar for the rest of this year is filling in quite nicely. November is full of opportunities such as the Salute to Veterans Parade on Sunday, November 9. Come out and walk or ride and let the town salute you and yours for your service. Meet at the Post at 1030 or behind the courthouse at 1100. The parade starts at 1300. We will have a potluck luncheon after the parade so bring your favorite dish to share.

What's Going on at Post 82?

Toys for Tots Collection November 1 – 29

Friday, Nov 7 Steamed Shrimp Dinner
Public & Members 5 – 6:30 PM

Sunday, Nov 9 La Plata Parade
Salute to Veterans 1 PM

Tuesday, Nov 11 Post 82 Veterans Day Service
11 AM

Friday, Nov 21 S.A.L. Baby Back Rib Dinner
5 – 6:30 PM

Thursday, Nov 27 Closed Thanksgiving

Friday, Nov 31 Legion Riders Spaghetti Dinner
5 – 6:30 PM

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

EVERY THURSDAY Auxiliary BINGO
Doors open at 4:30 PM

On November 11 we will hold our annual Veterans Day ceremony here at the Post. As per our usual, the ceremony will start promptly at 1100. Weather permitting, we will be outside by the flag poles. Jack Compton returns to play the National Anthem, and other selections and our guest speaker is Command Master Chief Jeremy Williams from Expeditionary Exploitation Unit ONE, NSWC Indian Head.

Backing up a bit, on Friday, November 7 we will hold a bonus Shrimp in the Lounge AND a Steamed Shrimp fundraiser open to the public in the Hall. Choose your dining location. Regardless of where you order/eat your dinner, members will pay the standard \$10 for ½ pound and \$17 for a full pound of steamed shrimp with cole slaw and French fries. Pricing for the public will be \$12 and \$19 respectively. Be sure to bring your 2026 membership card to receive the member's rate. To volunteer to cook/serve, please sign up @ <http://bit.ly/47pkQ3C>.

Starting next week and through November 29, we will have Toys for Tots collection boxes in the Lounge and the Hall. Please bring new, unwrapped toys (no stuffed animals please) and place them in the boxes. We will deliver all collected toys on November 29 for distribution in Charles County in December.

Speaking of November 29th, the Legion Riders will hold their annual Toy Run starting here at the Post and ending at Town Hall in front of the Christmas Tree. The ride route will take us West, South and back to town on the back roads. Cars are welcome to join the ride. Registration begins at 0930 with Kickstands Up at 1000. Cost is \$10 per vehicle and one toy per person.

December is likewise busy, and we'll send out information in the December newsletter. However, there are two items I'd like to give attention to. Our annual holiday Post Family pot-luck will be held right after the December 9 membership meeting. Bring a side dish to share. December 13 is Wreaths Across America. We will once again support WAA at Cheltenham Veterans cemetery. All Post 82 Legion Family members and their families are invited to help lay wreaths on the graves of our fallen members. If you've never attended the ceremony and wreath laying, I encourage you to do so this year. More details will be provided as we get closer to the event. The Auxiliary is sponsoring WAA. Sign up at the end of this newsletter.

Thank you all for your commitment to our veterans and active-duty military. Together we

can continue to accomplish great things and have a lasting impact for the future.

As Buddy often said, "I'll see you at the Post!."

Ready to Serve.



johnflatleyjr@gmail.com

301.848.7664

1st Vice Commander's Corner

Hello, my fellow legionnaires!

I am reaching out to ask for your assistance with our membership renewal drive. As you know, the Legion year runs from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 and as part of our membership committee we are working extremely hard to reach our goals of 100% membership with a 95% renewal rate.

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.

Your 1st Vice Commander
Jamie Zayas -- Always Serving

Adjutant's Corner

As the Adjutant (fancy word for club secretary) I'm charged with helping keep records, meeting minutes, and other duties as assigned. A few other duties that I've been assigned are championing the Post 82 Oratorical Contest, and leading the way with Boy's State. My son William attended Maryland Boy's State in 2024, and wanted to participate in the Oratorical Contest last year. But alas, our post didn't host one. Now we will.

As a member of Toastmasters, and a long-time organizer of Rotary's Speech Contest, I am a staunch advocate for improving young people's ability to speak in front of audiences. Warren Buffett famously said that improving public speaking skills can raise your value by 50% and called effective communication the number one skill to have. I agree it's the #1 way to improve a young person's chances of success in life.

Likewise, Boy's State (and Girls State, which is 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.

Here's what I am asking for you to do:

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/>



Thank you for your help and support.

Chris Zabriskie

Adjutant, AL Post 82, La Plata, MD

240-320-6694

zabriskiect@gmail.com



Chaplain's Corner

The frost warning for tonight pretty much indicates another seasonal change. Any thoughts on how the past season could have been better spent? More time with the family and less at work. Attendance at more of the grandkids' sporting events? Did you get any fishing or hunting in?

One of the things I pray for daily is the benefit of the wisdom of God's guidance in all my decisions, big and small, from financial dealings of consequence to my choice of words in everyday conversations. I just don't want to acquire any additional avoidable regrets. Did I really need to trim the shrubs in the front yard after work when I could have attended the granddaughter's soccer game? The shrubs will be there, but the kids' games are part of a passing season in life. Did I really need to spend all those overtime hours at work when I

could have been spending them with my spouse? And then there's the texting at the dinner table during the "date-night" dinner out. Nope, not the best of my decisions.

Receiving the wisdom of God's guidance is one thing but recognizing it for what it is and responding accordingly is another. Wisdom is addressed throughout the Bible but if it isn't heeded, it is of no real value. I offer a few verses for your consideration.

Proverbs 16:16: "How much better to get wisdom than gold, and to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver!".

James 1:5: "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you".

James 3:17: "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere".

Proverbs 2:10-11: "For wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; discretion will watch over you; understanding will guard you".

James 3:13: "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom".

Colossians 3:16: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

With all this said, in this new season, I encourage all to seek and practice God's wisdom and minimize regrettable decisions going forward.

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

Post Everlasting

Gayanne Graham, US Marine Corps, Vietnam War veteran and longtime member of Post 82. September 28, 1952 – October 22, 2025.

Thomas E. Bastain, US Army, Korean War veteran and 7 year member of Post 82. August 17, 1930 – October 25, 2025. Please keep Auxiliary member daughter Darlene Willett and her family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Raymond "Buddy" Hindle Jr., US Air Force, Vietnam War Veteran, 36 year member, long-time former and most recent Past Commander of Post 82. October 6, 1940 - October 26, 2025. Please keep Buddy's wife, Angel, as well as his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. We will provide more information about the services once we receive it from the family.



Hello Twizzlers:

Well, we are just about out of October and the weather has finally felt like fall. Please remember to send your membership to Anna Sexton, as we want to make goal this year.

Our auxiliary meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6pm and we try to be out by 7pm. You are welcome and encourage to attend. If you plan to attend the meeting, you will need to enter the building via the door facing the parking lot. There is a doorbell that you can use to access and then go through the lounge to the meeting room.

The auxiliary sponsors bingo every Thursday night. The door open at 4pm and early birds

start at 7pm. It is usually over around 10pm. We are always looking for volunteers to help with bingo. Most of our volunteers usually volunteer on one Thursday night a month. Help is always needed in the kitchen.

Fall Conference is October 31st and I will be coming back with information on different programs and information on the Veterans.

Please remember Angel Hindle's in your prayers, as her husband Buddy past commander, passed away on October 26th. Auxiliary member Darlene Willett's father passed away. Please keep Darlene and her family in your prayers.

For God and Country,

For Service not Self,
Lesley Radcliff
Unit 82 President

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

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

At the regular monthly Squadron meeting on October 7th, the members voted to donate \$1,000 to the American Legion National Emergency Fund, \$1,000 to the Fisher House Foundation, \$75 to the Mt. Hope Nanjemoy Elementary School Thanksgiving Dinner, and \$100 each to the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training, Baltimore Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC), Loch Raven VAMC, Perry Point VAMC, Cambridge VA Outpatient Clinic, Pocomoke VA outpatient Clinic, Charlotte Hall VA Outpatient Clinic, the Children's Organ Transplant Association, the American Legion Veterans and Children's Foundation, Homeless Veterans, Troop and Family Support, and Ronald McDonald House.

In addition, the members voted to donate \$250 each to Operation Comfort Warrior, Be The One, Laps of Love, Heroes Haven, the American Legion Auxiliary President's Project (Girls State), and the American Legion Depart of Maryland Commander's Project.

Rebecca Elliot stopped by the Post to pick up a \$1,000 donation for Toys for Tots of Charles County. Pictured below, Lee Hammonds presents the donation to Rebecca Elliot.



Ninety four dinners were served at the Squadron's baby back rib dinner on October 17. Thanks to Gale Willett, Gary Shupe, Roy Yanosh, Alana Lentz, Lennie Lentz, Cathy Bryant, Kathleen Quade, David Quade, Cindy Moruzzi, Don Wamsley, and Crissie and Jamie Zayas who volunteered their time. If you have a few hours on the 3rd Friday, come on out and lend a hand. Our next dinner will be a baby back rib dinner on November 21. Check the flier on the website, www.alpost82.org.

Gale Willett, Gary Shupe and I worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) on October 20. Twenty two residents from the Assisted Living side attended. Three hundred seventy dollars were handed out in prizes. It's always great to interact with the residents and staff.

I volunteered at the CHVH gift shop on October 24. As usual I saw a number of the residents who play bingo at the Southern Maryland Region monthly bingos.

Master Chief Petty Officer Niecey Demontagna, Special Olympics Maryland Charles County, stopped by the Post to pick up the Squadron \$1,000 donation for Special Olympics of Charles County. Pictured below is Niecey receiving the check from Squadron 82 Chaplain Roy Yanosh.



Congratulations to McDonough High School senior and long-time Squadron 82 member Landon Newsome who captured the Charles County Golf Championship and the Southern Maryland Athletic Conference (SMAC) individual title on back-to-back weeks this October. At the Charles County Golf Tournament on October 7 at White Plains Golf Course, Landon posted a 73, earning low medalist honors. Landon carried that momentum into the SMAC Championships held October 14 at Chesapeake Hills Golf Course in Calvert County, where he fired a 75 to claim the individual conference title. Best of luck to Landon as he moves on to the Maryland State Golf Championships at the University of Maryland. Landon is the grandson of Linda Newsome, Past National President of the American Legion Auxiliary.

The 2026 membership cards are available. The Squadron 2026 membership is currently 111 which is 50.917% of our goal of 218. Well done. We are ahead of schedule. If you plan to renew your membership, why wait, do it now.



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**

On Friday Oct 10 the ALR along with the La Plata Police Dept. made a special visit to honor U.S. Marine Corp veteran Gayanne Graham who served in Vietnam. Marine Graham was also a Legion member and in hospice care. In all 9 riders quickly got together on short notice to show love and support for a Marine and also a 40 year civilian career with the Dept of The Navy. The ride was also attended by La Plata Mayor James who also provide a police escort for The Riders. Thank you Marine Graham for your service and sacrifice you will not be forgotten.

On Sun Sept 28 a few of The Riders ventured up To Post 11 Frederick MD to participate in the First Annual Peter Twenty Memorial Poker Run. The Run meandered through the Catocin Mountains of western MD with the last stop at Post 11 to join in with their Octoberfest Sunday Funday event. A good time was had by all with safe travels and good weather for the ride back to Southern MD.

On Saturday November 29, the Riders and La Plata Town Police are gearing up for our 5th Annual Toys for Tots Ride, in conjunction with Small Business Saturday in La Plata. Registration starts 9-10am at the Post with KSU at 10:15am. Cages are welcome and encouraged to participate. Registration fee is \$10 and a new unwrapped toy. If you can't participate, please put a new unwrapped toy in the Toys for Tots collection box in the lounge. I'm told from a good source that Santa has once again signed on to make an appearance once again. Also, the Grinch might show up, but the Riders will soften his heart for Christmas.

The Riders want to wish each and every one a very safe and Happy Thanksgiving with your friends and families. And from this day there are only 27 more days of shopping until Christmas.

Upcoming Rides and Events:

Sunday, Nov 9 – Town of La Plata Salute to Veterans Parade @1300

Saturday, Nov 29 – ALR 82 Toys for Tots Run@0830

Thursday, Nov 13 - Next ALR Meeting @ 1800

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

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.wreathsasscrossamerica.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



Shutdown Food Relief Drive: A Legion-Led Mission of Service

As our community continues to face uncertainty during the ongoing government shutdown, American Legion Post 82 is stepping up once again to serve those who have served us. We are proud to announce the Shutdown Food Relief Drive, a community partnership created and led by Army veteran and Post 82 Legionnaire Anthony Hudnell and Dr. Jill Hudnell, DNP — a dedicated member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 82.

The goal of this initiative is simple but powerful: to ensure that no veteran, military family, or federal or local government employee in our community goes hungry during these difficult times. The program was born out of compassion, unity, and the Legion spirit of “Veterans Strengthening America.”

How You Can Help

We are inviting all members of Post 82 Family, the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders — as well as our local community — to participate by donating nonperishable and canned food items. Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a meaningful impact for families in need.

Donation Details

 Starting: November 1, 2025

 Drop-off Location: AL Post 82, La Plata, MD

 Accepted Items: Canned meats, vegetables, soups, pasta, rice, boxed meals, and other shelf-stable goods

All collected items will go directly toward supporting veterans, active-duty families, and federal employees affected by the shutdown. Together, we can help keep food on the tables of those who have sacrificed so much for our nation.

Contact

For questions or to learn how you can volunteer or contribute, please contact:

 Dr. Jill A. Hudnell — American Legion Auxiliary Member

 301-456-9810

 drjhudnell@gmail.com

Let's continue to show what it means to be part of The American Legion Family — united in service, compassion, and community.

Additional resources are identified on our homepage <https://alpost82.org/government-shutdown-resources>