



# THE AMERICAN LEGION



## Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

April 2024

[www.Alpost82.org](http://www.Alpost82.org)

[American.Legion4@verizon.net](mailto:American.Legion4@verizon.net)

301-934-8221



### Commander's Message

Hello, Post 82 Family,

Well, Spring has sprung, and the trees and flowers are starting to bloom. I am hoping this newsletter finds everyone safe and happy.

I would like to remind everyone of our Post steak and fried shrimp dinner on Friday April 5<sup>th</sup>, from 5-7pm. Thank you to all that have volunteered so far. The more help we have the easier it is for all involved. If you would like to help, please sign up here [https://bit.ly/Post82SteakNShrimp\\_4\\_2024](https://bit.ly/Post82SteakNShrimp_4_2024)

I would also like to remind all legionnaires that have paid their 2024 dues to take advantage of the multi-year membership option and renew at the current rate of \$35. This limited time offer is only available on-line at [www.Legion.org/renew](http://www.Legion.org/renew) until June 30, 2024. We are not able to offer this through the Post.

Post 82 hosted a Tri-County Veterans Resource Day on March 20<sup>th</sup> which brought together over

20 exhibitors, providing services for our veterans. These are the types of events I am proud our Post is providing to our veterans in need. I would like to personally thank our Auxiliary (Snapdragons!) for providing lunch for all our exhibitors, especially Lesley Radcliff and Mary Shaffer for being there. I would also like to personally thank Dave Tatman, Jeff Coombs and Randy Markley for setting up and manning our Post 82 table providing information about the American Legion and the value of membership.

Coming up on April 6<sup>th</sup> we have the Southern Maryland Region Oyster Bowl hosted by Post 238 in Hughesville Maryland. At this event, Posts are recognized for their outstanding membership accomplishments and Post 82 is currently sitting in first place for membership and retention in category IV with 104.59% of membership! Great job to our membership team led by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander David Abildgaard.

Speaking of help, your Post can use some, if you can help with some handyman jobs such as tile work, painting, stucco repairs or light electrical please let me know.

Together we do remarkable things for our Veterans.

Your Commander

Jamie Zayas

# BE THE ONE

AMERICAN  
LEGION

Commander Jamie Zayas and Adjutant John Flatley represented Post 82 at a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs on March 13.

American Legion National Commander Daniel Seehafer delivered the Legion's areas of focus for this legislative session. He focused his opening comments on the American Legion **Be The One** mission to reduce veteran suicide, "It's a mission, our mission, to change lives and save lives. There is no single deed that The American Legion can accomplish that outweighs the prevention of a veteran from taking their own life. Nothing." Watch his full testimony [here](#). Learn more about [Be the One](#).



Pictured L-R Commander Jamie Zayas, Department of Maryland Commander Ruth Higgins, Adjutant John Flatley Jr



Legionnaires from across the country packed the hearing room to support AL National Commander Daniel Seehafer



AL Post 82 Commander Jamie Zayas looks on as AL National Commander Daniel Seehafer charges the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees to "Be The One this session of Congress."

# Legion Membership Report



**David Abildgaard**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice, Membership Chair**

Fellow Legionnaires,

It appears March Madness is in the rear-view mirror and Spring has officially sprung (sort of).

It's been a busy month for the membership team as we continue to reach unprecedented milestones. To bring you all up to speed, the national membership goal set for April 10th, 2024 was 95%. Post 82 has far exceeded that amount and is currently at 104.5%. Based on those numbers, Post 82 remains in the Number 1 spot for Category 4 in the Southern Maryland Region. With the current membership count, we will be moving into Category 5 in 2025. Much of our success is attributed to my membership team, John Flatley, Jeff Coombs, and Mike Hanks reaching out to individuals stuck in the purgatory of the Department holding post, Post 297 and offering them a physical place to call home. I expect a few more transfers in the coming days. Therefore, if you see anyone at the post you don't recognize, please introduce yourself and extend some pleasantries. They could be one of these recent transfers:

Carnel McClary  
James Stubbs  
Preston Lee  
David Jenkins  
Hubert Ellerbe  
Ronald Fisher  
Carl Glover  
Elizabeth Kelleher  
Daniel Whisenhunt

Chandler Love  
Russell Melvin  
Michael Mildenstein  
Wayne Blagmon  
Anna Ervin  
Bobby Glenn  
Charles Howard  
Darren Rogers  
Latina Wilson

Bernard Brown  
Vonetta Allen  
Samuel Hoover  
Kenneth Paulsen  
John Sullivan  
Robert Wells  
Louis Ortega  
Michael Deters  
Holley "Dan" Boone

Nelson Barbour  
William Frye  
John Keane  
Joseph Winbush  
Joseph Stonestreet  
Wyatt Jones-Coleman  
Lynn Davis  
David Christner

Respectfully,

David D. Abildgaard, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander  
Membership Chair



**Veterans Strengthening America**

## Three-Year Membership Renewal

Legionnaires are now eligible to renew membership for three years at the current rate of \$35 for a limited time. This on-time offer is valid until June 30, 2024.

With the slated membership dues increasing to \$45 beginning July 1, 2024, this is an excellent opportunity to save \$30 (\$10 per year) AND ensure your membership dues are paid with no additional action on your part.

If you already paid your 2024 dues, you can renew for 2025, 2026, & 2027. If you have not yet renewed, the three-year option will cover 2024, 2025, & 2026.

The three-year renewal option is only available through MyLegion at [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew). Take advantage of this amazing offer and share it with your friends today!

Don't have a MyLegion account? Not computer savvy? If you need assistance or have any questions, reach out to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice, David Abildgaard [david\\_angelabildgaard@yahoo.com](mailto:david_angelabildgaard@yahoo.com)

## Post 82 Members Recognized by Quilts of Valor Foundation

David Quade (Legion and S.A.L) and Chris LaQuay (Legion) were recently recognized by the Quilts for Valor organization for their service to our country. Several members of the Post 82 Family attended the presentations.



David served in the Army from 1970 - 72 including a tour in Vietnam.



Chris (right) retired from the Air Force with 24 years of service.

## Opportunity for Service from Post 82 Member, Don Everitt

The leadership of Boy Scout Troop 1321 La Plata would like to extend an opportunity to Post 82 members to serve as a merit badge counselor. The great thing about merit badge work is it can be as easy or "hard" as you the volunteer wants. You can take on one badge or multiple. Ranging in various areas and levels of "difficulty", some are Eagle Scout rank required such as camping and others are electives and as simple as reading, coin collecting, etc.

There are some that require the counselor to have a connection to topic such as trade badges like electrician etc. I personally do first aid, fire safety, emergency preparedness, wilderness survival, crime prevention, law, fingerprinting and reading. Many of the badges can be done over zoom or emails if the counselors can't be there in person. Others require in-person contact. If you are interested in helping a Scout succeed, please email me at [donald\\_everitt@yahoo.com](mailto:donald_everitt@yahoo.com) or call/text me at 304.629.6681.



## Resources Corner

So far, this Legion year I've been able to assist 40 veterans with various concerns. As the Post Service Officer, I am here to offer resources to all veterans and their families. Please contact me at 240-267-6489 or [ghawley83@gmail.com](mailto:ghawley83@gmail.com).

At you service,

George Hawley  
Service Officer



## Chaplains Corner

"He is risen!" "He is risen, indeed!"

So how was your "March Madness" experience, aside from the NCAA basketball tournaments? Between college kids being home for spring break, younger ones being out of school as well, perhaps a family trip to a warmer climate, sport practices and games for the kids and grandkids, and some crazy weather events, March can be a pretty maddening month for many of us. So very maddening that we almost forget to shop for Easter baskets and flowers for our loved ones, and sad to say, that many of us will spend little time considering the ultimate reason behind these purchases – recognizing the end of Lent and the celebrations of Good Friday and Resurrection (Easter) Sunday.

The good news is, first and foremost, that through Christ's death and resurrection we have been redeemed.

*1 Peter 1:3 (NIV)*

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"*

*Luke 24:6 – 7 (NIV)*

*"He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'"*

*Romans 6:9 – 10 (NIV)*

*"For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died*

*to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God."*

And for those of us who got caught up in the madness of this past March and didn't give as much thought to the 'reason for this season' as we would have liked to, there is the additional good news that we don't have to wait for that one weekend a year to celebrate Christ's resurrection from death to life for our redemption but can and should do so on a daily basis, wherever we are and whatever our circumstances.

How might that celebration of Christ's resurrection for our redemption play out in our daily lives? The answer to that question can be found throughout the Bible but I offer the following verses from Galatians Chapter 5 for your consideration.

*Galatians 5:13 – 14, 22 - 23 (NIV)*

*"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."*

So, by humbly serving one another in love, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and displaying the fruit of the Spirit in our daily lives, we can celebrate Christ's resurrection from death to life for our redemption 365 days a year and not just one weekend in March. "He is risen!" "He is risen, indeed!"

Yours in Christ,  
Paul Stockman  
Chaplain

### **Sick Call:**

Harry Tafe, recovering from surgery.

### **Post Everlasting:**

John (JT) Hindle, USA, 12-year Legion member

# SONS OF THE

# AMERICAN LEGION

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

During the Squadron meeting on March 5, the members voted to donate \$1,000 to the Post 82 American Legion baseball team, \$300 to the La Plata High School (LPHS) Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NJROTC) air rifle team, and \$200 to the LPHS NJROTC color guard. We also selected a member of the Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) as the Squadron's First Responder of the Year. Arrangements will be made to present the winner with a plaque and a donation of \$100 will be made in his name to the CCSO Special Events Fund.

We served over 198 dinners at the Fish Fry March 15. Due to the success of the first two fish fries, the Squadron has decided to have one more on April 19. The fish fry will consist of two whiting fillets, green beans, cole slaw, hush puppies, fries, tea, and coffee. The cost is \$15. Because both fish fries sold out, we will be preparing for a larger crowd in April so, hopefully, no one will go away hungry. Check the flier on the website, [www.alpost82.org](http://www.alpost82.org).

Gale Willett, Gary Shupe, and I worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home on March 18. Thirty-four residents participated. Because there were six winners in the final \$20 game, and we don't split the prize money, \$300 in prizes were handed out instead of the usual \$200.

The Squadron members will host a free lunch for our Veterans, their families and friends (I think that means everyone) on National

Veterans Assistance Day, May 18. Lunch will be served from 12 to 2 PM and will consist of hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, and cole slaw. Come out and enjoy the fellowship.

As of the March 15 Detachment of Maryland membership report, the Squadron has 201 paid members, which is 93.953% of our 2024 goal of 215. Congratulations and thanks to all those who have paid their 2024 membership dues. We still need to get those last 13. Adjutant Gary Shupe has sent emails and letters and made phone calls to those who have not paid their 2024 dues. Let's make Gary's hard work pay off. Dues are still just \$20 for members 21 or over and \$15 for dual members and those under 21.

On March 25, Gale Willett and Gary Shupe worked the registration refreshment table at the Squadron sponsored American Red Cross Blood Drive. Thirty-two units of blood were collected. Thanks to all who donated.

I hope to see more of you at the Post.

Yours in Service, Dave



**David Tatman**  
**Commander, Squadron 82**  
[tatman\\_david@comcast.net](mailto:tatman_david@comcast.net)

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Auxiliary Monthly Meetings are held the  
Second Tuesday of Each Month at 1800hrs.

Hello Snapdragons:

Spring is in the air, and we have been busy bees. At our last meeting we discussed having a scholarship fund for seniors in each of the 7 high schools in Charles County. The committee of myself, Ann Taylor, and Linda Rollins got together, filled out the paperwork and sent it in.

If you wish to run for an office for the 2024-2025 year, please contact Darlene Willett at 301-848-8219, Carol Karpiak at 301-509-1909, or Becky LaQuay at 301-542-0595. We will not be taking nominations from the floor once our May 14, 2024 meeting starts. The Auxiliary offices are President, Chaplain, Sgt. At Arms, Treasurer, Vice President, Historian, and the Executive Committee consisting of three people. The secretary will be appointed by the President.

BINGO is outstanding! We are averaging 70 people per week. The kitchen is doing a great job also. As always, we can use help in the kitchen. The same people are working on it every week and it gets to the point where we all get burned out. So, if you can spare one Thursday a month to help out in the kitchen, please contact me at (301) 934-3512.

We will be sending 5 girls to Girls State this year! Thank you, Rita, for all your help with the Girls State program.

With regards to Americanism, we had 111 essays turned in. The essays all came from Archbishop Neale School. We will hold our essay program and announce our winners on April 14th at 3pm in the American Legion Hall. Please try to attend as the children do a great job.

Linda Rollins has already sold 18 wreaths for Wreaths Across America. Way to go Linda!

Our next meeting will Be April 9th at 6pm.

For Service not Self, Lesley



**Lesley Radcliff**  
**President, Unit 82**



## **The Post 82**

### **Super Bowl Pool is Open!**

Squares are \$50 each and filling fast! Participation includes a Pre-Super Bowl Party at the Post on February 9 and a chance to win up to \$1,000.00. This pool usually fills up very quickly so stop by the Lounge soon and ask Joanie to sign you up (Payment in cash only).



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

Good afternoon, Riders, and Legion Family,

The Riders are seeking sponsors for our Annual Southern Maryland Gold Star Legacy Ride which takes place on May 25, 2024. Please see the article below and with your favorite businesses.

On Saturday February 9, a group of Riders joined John (Flatrock) Flatley to be escorts and chaperones for The Annual Night to Shine Prom for special needs individuals at the Waldorf Jaycees. This group had an outstanding time as they touched the lives of so many young county residents. Thank you, John, and Riders, for your very heartfelt endeavors within our community you all touched a lot of lives on their special night.

On Saturday February 17, Ride Captain Vivian (Momma G) Gedeon planned a very lovely Sweetheart dinner at the Blue Dog Saloon. This event was attended by 32 Rider and their sweethearts. A great time was had by all, and love was in the air.

On Saturday March 9, 7 Riders attended the Spring meeting of The MD American Legion Riders at Post 96 Brunswick MD. The meeting was attended by 70 Riders representing approximately 18 chapters across the state.

The Riders are selling gun raffle tickets. We will sell only 500 tickets at \$20 each with the winner getting their choice of a Henry Big Boy Rifle .44mag/.44spl, a Savage 308 WinMag or \$750 cash. This year's benefiting charities will be the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation and Warfighter Advance.

I would like to encourage all Riders and all members of our Post Families (Legion, SAL & Auxiliary) to please volunteer some time to help with events, fundraisers & dinners as promoted by our Post. These events are vital to the livelihood and strength of our Post within the community. You can volunteer at what works best with your schedule and it can be as short as an hour or two. Thank you to all who have been stepping up to help, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Please keep Brian (Gadget) & Diane (Sarge) Miller in your prayers. Diane is battling cancer with vengeance and Brian is holding the fort down. This is a great couple who can use all our prayers in this battle. Also pray for Richard Kimble as he battles an undiagnosed illness that seriously affects his mobility.

Upcoming Rides:

April 13 & 14- Ride to Antietam/Harpers Ferry WV

Respectfully Submitted,

**Kevin "Big Sexy" Bryant**  
**Director**  
**ALR Chapter 82, MD**

## **Southern Maryland Gold Star Legacy Ride 2024**

Registration is open for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual SoMD Gold Star Legacy Ride. The approximately 100-mile route will remain the same as last year taking participants to various SoMD American Legion Posts. Starting at Post 82 the ride will roll from Charles to Calvert and St Mary's Counties and end with food, music (Girl Crush), vendors and more at the Maryland Veterans Museum at Patriots Park in Newburg.

We are also seeking sponsors for the event. If you have a business and would like to be highlighted for your support of veterans in our community, or if you know of a business you'd like to see as a sponsor, please contact Randy Markley at [rmarkley@gmail.com](mailto:rmarkley@gmail.com).

Register to participate on two wheels or four [here](#). Sponsorship information is available [here](#).





Do you know a high school Junior who is interested in government, politics, leadership, attendance at Military Academy, College ROTC, or just a challenging academic program? The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary have two very worthwhile programs at the Department (State), Boys State and Girls State with an opportunity to be elected/selected to participate in Boys or Girls Nation programs. Boys State and Girls State are considered among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high-school students. Attendance at Boys/Girls State carries the same weight on a résumé as earning the distinction of Eagle Scout, especially when applying to US military schools and academies.

The tuition costs for Boys State are 100% covered by the local Legion Post or Department. Likewise, Girls State tuition is 100% covered by the local Auxiliary Unit with a registration fee of just \$40. Both programs are available to any 2023-2024 High School Junior (no Legion affiliation/membership is required) with at least 1 semester remaining in their senior year and have not participated or are planning to participate in any other Boys/Girls State Program

In the past, Post 82 and Unit 82 have each sent upwards of 15 students per year. This year we'd like to ramp back up and send at least 10 juniors to each program. (Students should apply to the Post/Unit closest to their residence.)

Boys State Maryland will be held June 16-22, 2024, at McDaniel College in Westminster, MD

Girls State Maryland will be held June 16-21, 2024, at Salisbury College in Salisbury, MD.

The application portals for both programs are open now through May 1, 2024.

More information can be found here:

Boys: <http://www.mdlegion.org/boysstate/>

Girls: <https://app.campdoc.com/!/dn/login?r=mbsmgs%20mgsparticipant> OR

<https://www.facebook.com/ALAMDGS/>

## **What's Going at Post 82?**

**Friday, March 29** – Riders Spaghetti Dinner  
5-7 PM Open to the Public  
Volunteer Signup <https://bit.ly/alrspaghetti324>

**Friday, Apr 5** – Steak & Fried Shrimp Dinner  
5-7 PM Open to the Public  
Volunteer Signup  
[https://bit.ly/Post82SteakNShrimp\\_4\\_2024](https://bit.ly/Post82SteakNShrimp_4_2024)

**Tuesday, Apr 2**  
S.A.L. Meeting – 6 PM  
Legion Exec Mtg – 7 PM

**Tuesday, Apr 9**  
Legion Membership Meeting – 6 PM  
Auxiliary Meeting – 6 pm

**Friday, Apr 19** – S.A.L. Fish Fry Dinner (Last one of the year)  
5-7 PM Open to the Public

**Friday, Mar 22** – Members Shrimp in the Bar  
6-7 PM Members Only

**BINGO every Thursday.**  
Doors open at 4:30 PM

# American Legion, Department of Maryland 2024 General Scholarship Application

Eligibility:

1. Be a child or grandchild of a veteran (must show proof of veteran status, military discharge, or DD-214).
2. Be a Maryland resident.
3. Not have attained your 20th birthday by January 1, 2024.
4. Be a full-time student when he/she enters college (at least 12 credit hours per semester).
5. Complete and submit application with all supporting documents. The application form must be submitted with three reference letters, a short essay on why you think you deserve the scholarship, copies of your high school transcripts and SAT Score results. Applications are due to the Department by mail or online submission on or before April 15, 2024.

Winners will be announced in August 2024.

Applications can be completed online using this link [https://bit.ly/MD\\_LEGION\\_SCHOLARSHIP\\_2024](https://bit.ly/MD_LEGION_SCHOLARSHIP_2024).

For questions, please contact Department HQ at [steve@mdlegion.org](mailto:steve@mdlegion.org) or 410-752-1405.

# ***Fish Fry***

***Hosted by***

***Sons of The American Legion  
Squadron 82***

***at Post 82 in La Plata***

***April 19***

***5 – 7 PM***

***2 Whiting Fillets, Green Beans,  
Cole Slaw, Hush Puppies, Fries,***

***Tea, and Coffee***

***\$15***

***Public welcome***