



# THE AMERICAN LEGION



## Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

December 2023

[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, I am hoping this newsletter finds everyone safe and happy after enjoying a festive Thanksgiving celebration with your loved ones. I want to say thank you to all our military members deployed or on duty during this holiday season, we are all thinking of you and your safe return home.

This past month has been busy for Post 82 as we started off with our Post "Steak and Fried Shrimp" dinner on the 3rd, thank you to all that worked this dinner and those that attended. We then participated in the Town of La Plata Salute to Veterans Parade on the 5th, I could not have been prouder of our Post Family! Every part of our Post Family was well represented, and it turned out to be a beautiful day in Southern Maryland. I will tell you we made such an impression that we had veteran spectators

showing up at the post afterwards to join such a professional organization. When you do great things, people want to be a part of your organization, let's keep this momentum going everyone!



Our veteran's day ceremony on November 11th was very touching and moving, the video we showed was powerful and to the point. I want to thank everyone that attended and those that made it possible. Welcome home to our Vietnam Brothers and Sisters, you and your Families are forever in our hearts.



I would like to recognize our membership committee, led by our 1st Vice Commander David Abildgaard, for receiving an award at the Southern Maryland Regional meeting on November 12th. Post 82 was recognized for achieving 50% membership for the 2024 year by September 15th, 2023. This is a team effort, and I presented the Southern Maryland Regional Commander's Coin to our 1st Vice at the general membership meeting on the 14th. Thank you to all that helped achieve this goal and I will tell you now that as of this newsletter we are now over 75%! So, if your membership card does not have 2024 on it, please renew your membership and help us continue to move forward. I would also like to recognize Harry Tafe, our 1st Vice Commander for 2023, for an outstanding membership effort for last year. Post 82 was awarded a Race to the Top banner for our Post flag at the same regional meeting and this was also presented at our November general membership meeting. Which goes to show you Legionnaires, if you are not attending the monthly meetings, you are missing out.

As we go into December, we have some great events planned such as our Steak and Fried Shrimp dinner on the 1st, Legion Riders Spaghetti dinner on the 8th, S.A.L. Baby Back Rib dinner on the 15th and our members only Holiday Celebration on the 23rd (tickets are just \$10 and can be purchased in the lounge). Looking forward to seeing you all at the Post.

**Your Commander**  
**Always Serving**  
**Jamie Zayas**

## Legion Membership Report

Greetings Legionnaires!

The end of November shows Post 82 membership in great position! We have gained nearly 20 new members and renewals are going very well. With just over a month left in the year, we have hit 79.4% of our 719 paid membership

Email: [American.legion4@verizon.net](mailto:American.legion4@verizon.net)

goal for 2024! There are about 145 or so members who have not yet renewed their investment in the American Legion. If your member card doesn't say 2024, your renewal payment is due. What a gift it would be if we could have all members renewed before Dec 31! Please take a moment this week to ensure your membership continues uninterrupted.

Membership renewal is currently \$35 per year and can be paid in various ways:

1. On-line at <https://legion.org/renew>
2. By mailing a check to:  
American Legion Post 82  
PO Box 441  
La Plata, MD 20646
3. Bring a check or cash to the Post and give it to the bartender. Note: If paying by check or cash, please provide your membership number with payment.

Thank you for all you do, the sacrifices you have made as a member of the military and for your service to our community and the American Legion.

Respectfully,  
David D. Abildgaard, 1st Vice Commander



**David Abildgaard**  
**1st Vice, Membership Chair**



Website: <https://www.alpost82.org/>

## Post Service Officer Resources Corner

As the Posts Service Officer, I am here to offer resources to our members and their families. I am also here to offer the same resources to veterans that are not members of our post. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 240-267-6489 or [ghawley83@gmail.com](mailto:ghawley83@gmail.com).

Did you know that Veterans and Gold Star Families are eligible for a free lifetime pass to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, including national parks, wildlife refuges and forests. Get more information here <https://bit.ly/VeteransNationalParksPass>

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home has put together a 2023 Resident Holiday Gift List that is now available on Amazon:

<https://tinyurl.com/2023CHVHHolidayWishList>

(Please be sure to include your return address in the Notes Section). Women residents at CHVH are often overlooked when gifts are given. Please consider a gift that one of our Lady Vets will enjoy and appreciate.

Would you take a moment and send a gift for a resident or two today?

George Hawley  
Post 82 Service Officer

## Chaplains Corner

Thanksgiving Day is often the one day of the year that Americans across the country are relatively united in offering prayers of thanksgiving. These prayers are for a variety of things such as our families and their health, our general welfare and quality of life, our homes and jobs, the meals we are about to eat, and our football team's success on the field that day.

It is easy enough to get caught up in the activities of our Thanksgiving Day celebrations and our Black Friday shopping sprees that it would escape our minds to remember and thank God for our military veterans and active-duty

Email: [American.legion4@verizon.net](mailto:American.legion4@verizon.net)

personnel who make possible the very things for which we gave thanks.

Many of you who will read this are familiar with R.E.D (Remember Everyone Deployed) Friday, the weekly tradition for many American and Canadian citizens to wear on Fridays, an article of red clothing to display their support of their troops that are deployed abroad. It is a terrific concept and while support of it is strongly encouraged, I suggest that we take it a step further and make it a point on Fridays to not just remember everyone deployed but to pray for them and their families.

If you are at a loss for how to pray for our active-duty personnel, veterans, and their families, I provide the following examples of prayers I found online, and tailored to some degree, to serve as examples of how we might pray for them.

### Bless Our Veterans

Mighty God, hear our prayers of thanksgiving for our veterans and the sacrifices they made on our behalf. We ask that you bless them and meet their needs. We pray you will heal them and grant them a sense of peace and comfort when they suffer from past physical, mental, and emotional trauma. We acknowledge the debt of gratitude that we owe them for the freedoms our country enjoys. Lord, bless them and keep them, make your face shine upon them. Turn your face towards them and give them peace. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

### Bless Our Active-duty Personnel

Dear Lord, our hearts are filled with gratitude and thanksgiving for our military members who presently serve our country and for the sacrifices they and their families make so that we can enjoy the blessings of freedom. We are thankful for them answering your call to protect us, and for you giving them the courage and abilities to do so. Surround them with your hedge of protection and cover them with your grace. Guard their hearts while they are far from loved ones and hold their families close. May they look to you for the

Website: <https://www.alpost82.org/>

strength and peace that only you can provide. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### **Bless Our Military Families**

Dear Heavenly Father, we ask you to bless the families and loved ones of those who are serving in our Armed Forces. Bless them with your provision for their physical and emotional needs. May they seek and receive your comfort when they experience fear and loneliness for their deployed loved ones. In the trials of their periods of separation, we ask that you strengthen their bonds of family. Help the children of deployed parents to feel your love, to know your comfort, and to learn to trust in you. In Jesus' name, Amen

I leave you with the following Scripture verses:  
Psalm 56:3-4 "When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?"

Yours in Christ,

Paul Stockman  
Chaplain

## **Sons of The American Legion**

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



The holiday season is here. I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving.

On Saturday, October 28, Kevin and Cathy Bryant, Gary and Pam Shupe, Lennie and Alana Lentz, and I attended the S.A.L. Southern Maryland Region (SMR) Drawdown at Laurel Post 60. The Drawdown is one of the two major annual fundraisers for the SMR.

It was a wonderful day for the La Plata Veterans Day parade on November 5. It was good to see so many parade watchers turn out to honor our Veterans. The Post 82 family was well represented. Thanks to Troy Greathouse for once again carrying the Squadron flag.



At the Squadron meeting on November 7, the members voted to donate \$600 for the SMR bingos held at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) on the 3rd Monday of each month. In addition, the members voted to donate \$500 to Toys for Tots of Charles County, \$100 to the Children's Organ Transplant Association, \$1,000 to the Children's Miracle Network (CMN), \$1,000 to the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF), and \$1,000 to the Casey Cares Foundation. Additional changes to the Squadron 82 Veterans Memorial Scholarship for the coming year were also discussed.

Members of the Squadron were among the large audience to attend the Post's Veterans Day Program on November 11. The video included in this year's program was particularly moving.

On November 12, Gary Shupe and I attended the SMR Fall Meeting at Brandywine Post 227. The Squadron's check for the CHVH bingos was presented. SMR 2nd Vice Commander Buddy Mastin gave his report on the results of the Drawdown. Over \$10,000 was raised. Buddy made a motion, which passed, to donate \$6,000 of the profits to Detachment Commander Joe Lohman's Project, the American Legion SMR Youth Camp in Cheltenham.

Thanks to Gary Shupe, Gale Willett, Alana Lentz, David Quade, Roy Yanosh, Carol Karpiak, Cindy Moruzzi, and Lennie Lentz for their help at the baby back rib dinner on November 17. The next baby back rib dinner will be on December 15.

Gary Shupe and I attended the S.A.L. Detachment of Maryland Executive Committeemen (DEC) meeting at Gold Star Post 191 in Mt. Airy on November 18. Following each committee report, donations were presented. The Squadron's \$1,000 donations to the CMN, CWF, and Casey Cares Foundation were among the \$24,910 in donations presented.

On November 20, Gale Willett and Gary Shupe the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Two hundred dollars in prizes were handed out to the residents.

Your 2023 membership card is good until December 31, 2023. If you do not renew by December 31, you will be delinquent. I am sure most of us are too old to be delinquent, so make sure to get your dues in before January 1. Dues are still just \$20 for members 21 or over and \$15 for dual members and those under 21. I hope to see you at the Post.

Yours in Service,  
Dave



**Dave Tatman**  
**Commander, Squadron 82**  
**301-645-1537 (h)**  
**301-752-8273 (c)**  
[tatman\\_david@comcast.net](mailto:tatman_david@comcast.net)

Email: [American.legion4@verizon.net](mailto:American.legion4@verizon.net)

## How can I serve you?

### Post 82 Service Officer

George Hawley  
240-367-6489

[ghawley83@gmail.com](mailto:ghawley83@gmail.com)

### Post 82 Chaplain

Paul Stockman  
301-768-2514

[papastockman@yahoo.com](mailto:papastockman@yahoo.com)

## American Legion Auxiliary

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



Hello Snapdragons!

Goodness time is flying by! We had a very moving Veteran's Day program with a short film regarding the Vietnam War. Thank you to our Commander Jamie for getting this film to show.

We had a good turnout for our meatloaf dinner. I would like to thank all the ladies that helped out with the cooking and the cleanup. We will NOT have a dinner in December. Our next dinner will be Tacos on January 12, 2024.

Our craft fair was a success thanks to everyone and especially Carolyn and Norman Shelton. Hopefully we can have another great one next year.

Website: <https://www.alpost82.org/>

We had a great time learning new things at the fall conference, especially on the President's "Project Believe". I would like to thank Rita Sexton, Mary Shaffer, Janet Fogle, Angel Hindle, and Kathy Flanagan for attending the conference.

After our December 12th meeting, we will have a potluck dinner. If you would like to bring a dish it will be most welcome.

For Service, not self,

Lesley



**Lesley Radcliff  
President**

## **American Legion Riders**

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



The Riders would like to wish all our post families a Merry Christmas and a safe, Happy New Year. We also would like to thank all of you for your help and continued support of our fund-raising efforts throughout this past year. We are truly grateful for your support which helps continue to make us

one of the most recognized ALR chapters in the state.

A friendly reminder to renew your memberships for 2024 as soon as possible. This helps the Post to meet membership goals and recognition within our District and State. Your ALR membership is also to be renewed at this time at a cost of \$15 for the upcoming year.

On Sunday Nov. 5 the Riders had a strong turnout of 14 bikes for The Annual La Plata Veterans Day Parade. The weather was fantastic and there was a good-sized crowd along the parade route. Afterwards The Riders enjoyed a great lunch at Texas Roadhouse in La Plata to patronize and thank them for their gracious support of past Riders events. If you're thinking of dinner out please patronize Texas Roadhouse, La Plata.



On Saturday Nov. 25 The Riders hosted our 3rd Toy Run for Toys for Tots, partnering with La Plata Police Department to bring joy to young children in Charles County. It was a strong turnout and lots of toys were collected. The Riders would like to thank Rider Jimmy Therres and The Hughesville VFD for the use of their fully restored 1946 Fire Truck to escort the motorcycles and deliver Santa to Town Hall.



Want to load up on a few carbs before you head out to Christmas shop? On Friday Dec. 8 The Riders will be hosting their famous Spaghetti Dinner from 5 - 7pm. It will be our last dinner for 2023 so please come out and get your fill of our "to die for" secret sauce. (Hint- there is nothing to do with motorcycles in our sauce)

On Saturday Dec. 16 The Riders will once again be placing wreaths on specific graves at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery on behalf of Unit 82 Auxiliary.



We would like to encourage all our members as well as 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

Email: [American.legion4@verizon.net](mailto:American.legion4@verizon.net)

hour or two. Thank you to all who have been stepping up to help, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Rides:

December 16 – Wreaths Across America at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery

January 1 – Polar Bear Run

Check the Riders Public Facebook Group for details

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/alr82mdpublic>

Respectfully Submitted,  
Big Sexy



**Kevin Bryant**  
**Director**

"We ride In HONOR of those who have served."

## POST 82 MEETINGS

The Legion Executive Committee Meets on the First Tuesday of Each Month at 7:00pm in the Hindle Meeting Room

The General Membership Meeting will be held the Second Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm in the Hindle Meeting Room

Website: <https://www.alpost82.org/>

## What's Going at Post 82?

### **Queen of Hearts Every Wednesday**

A winner is drawn every Wednesday at 6:45pm  
Hosted by Sons of the American Legion

### **Bingo Every Thursday**

First game begins at 7:00pm  
Open to the public.

### **Friday, Dec 1**

#### **Legion Steak and Fried Shrimp Dinner**

from 5 – 7:pm

Open to the Public

### **Friday, Dec 8**

#### **Riders Spaghetti Dinner**

from 5 – 7:pm  
Open to the public

### **Friday, Dec 15**

#### **S.A.L Baby Back Rib Dinner**

from 5 – 7:pm  
Open to the public.

### **Saturday, Dec 23**

#### **Post 82 Holiday Party in the Lounge**

Open to Members and immediate family  
Tickets \$10.00 (includes 2 drink tickets) available  
from the bartenders in the lounge.

### **Legion Steak and Fried Shrimp Dinner**

**Friday, Dec 1, 5-7:PM**



Our next Legion Steak and Fried Shrimp dinner will be Friday, Dec 1 from 5-7pm. Register at the link below to help prep, cook or serve. This is a great opportunity to serve beside your fellow Legion members. Are you unable to serve, but like a good steak and/or shrimp dinner? Gather your friends and family and come on!

I recommend you get here before 6:30 to ensure you get a plate before we sell out!

Volunteer Registration:

<https://bit.ly/SteakandShrimp12-1-23>

## **Post 82 Executive Committee**



**Board of Directors & Executive Officers Meeting is held the First Tuesday of Each Month at 1900 hrs in the Hindle Meeting Room**

**General Membership Meeting is held the Second Tuesday of Each Month at 1800 hrs in the Hindle Meeting Room.**

### **Elected Officers**

Commander – Jamie Zayas  
1st Vice Commander – David Abildgaard  
2nd Vice Commander – Chris Laquay  
Judge Advocate – Bob Striegel  
Adjutant – John Flatley  
Finance Officer – Bill Rees  
Sergeant-At-Arms – Jerry Higdon

### **At Large Elected Officers**

Buddy Hindle  
Norm Shelton  
David Quade  
Harry Tafe

### **Appointed Officers**

Service Officer – George Hawley  
Chaplain – Paul Stockman  
Historian – Cheryl Wedding