



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

January 2023

Alpost82.org

American.Legion4@verizon.net

301-934-8221



Commander's Message

Hoping the American Legion Family has a very happy holiday.

Thank you to all who attended our December Post meeting. We had 20 members in attendance. Please put our next meeting, January 10, 2023 on your calendar. The Executive Committee meets at 6:30 with the general membership meeting at 7:00. Come let your voice be heard.

Please take a moment to check out and share the flyer below for Boys State, Maryland.

The Boys State program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. Post 82 is proud to sponsor local Charles County high school juniors who attend Boys State, MD at McDaniel College. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a similar program for young ladies called Girls State (<https://www.facebook.com/ALAMDGS/>). Please share both opportunities with your family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors.

There has been a request for American Legion Post 82 to endorse, **John R. Countryman** for the position of **Senior Vice Commander, for the Department of Maryland**. We have also received a request to support **Billy Hill** for the position of **Southern Maryland Regional Commander**. I have submitted my name to the Southern Maryland Regional Commander to be considered for the appointed position of **Southern Maryland Region Service Officer**. Please think about these requests as they will be an action item at our January 10 Post meeting.

Thanks to all who organized and coordinated the Children's and Post Christmas Parties! Both events were well done, and a good time was had by all who attended!

Post 82 will be hosting the next District 6 Meeting on January 29, 2023.

The next large event is the Oyster Bowl, will be hosted by Post 82 on April 8, 2023.

Please consider volunteering for all events, as I cannot do it alone. I will be asking for volunteers from the Sons of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and the American Legion Riders to make these "Post Family" events.

Honor to Serve,

**George Hawley
Commander**

Are you a current 2023 Charles County HS Junior
interested in Leadership, Government, Politics?

Maryland Boys State

June 18-24, 2023, at McDaniel College



Sponsored and conducted by The American Legion,
Department of Maryland, Inc. Veteran led, and Government
Leader taught for the future generation of leaders.

Application Deadline May 1, 2023

Apply Online Today at mdlegion.org/boysstate

For local questions, help, or sponsorship, contact:
Harry White Wilmer American Legion Post 82, La Plata, MD
82postlaplata@gmail.com

Tuition is free to the student and family.
American Legion Post 82 will sponsor your
application.

If you are interested in Government, Politics,
Leadership, attendance at a Military Academy,
College ROTC, or just a challenging **Academic
program** this is the experience for you!



MD Boys State is a week-long practical exercise in Government
that will have a positive influence on your life!

Legion Membership Report

I must thank all of you who responded to our membership renewal requests. Response was quite good, and we had several members who paid up for 2023. We still have several members who haven't renewed for this year. During the month of November Post 82 in conjunction with efforts of the District 6 Commander, spend a whole day calling and emailing members who have not yet paid for this year. The response was not all that good. Not many people answered their phones, and this is understandable due to the amount of robo-calls. However, messages were left on voicemails. If you got such a message, please try to get your dues in. Also, several emails were sent out as well.

Remember, if you are having difficulties with finances and can't pay your dues, contact the Post Commander who will make efforts to get your dues paid.

Welcome our newest members to the post:

Susan Fritz, Veteran, USN

James Williams, Veteran, USA

When you see these new members at the Post, please introduce yourself and make them feel welcome.

Harry Tafe

1st Vice, Membership Chair

MARYLAND



BOYS STATE

Sons of The American Legion S.A.L. Monthly Meetings are held The First Tuesday of Each Month at 1800hrs



I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and enjoys a Safe and Happy New Year.

The Squadron held its regular monthly meeting on December 6. The members approved a donation of \$75 toward a handicap ramp for Cheri Tatro. The Southern Maryland Region is leading the effort to help pay for the ramp. Cheri and her husband Steve are very active members in the American Legion family and good friends of the Sons of The American Legion.

Thanks to Alana Lentz, Gary Shupe, Gale Willett, Roy Yanosh, David Quade, Kathleen Quade, Cindy Moruzzi, Carol Karpiak, Lenny Lentz, and Kathy and Kevin Bryant for volunteering their time at our baby back rib dinner on December 16. We had our first sell out in a while. The next rib dinner will be on January 20 from 5 -7 PM, or when ever sold out. Additional volunteers are always welcome.

The Post Christmas party on December 17 was great fun. It was good to see so many members turn out.

First Vice Commander Gale Willett and I worked the Southern Maryland Region (SMR) bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home on December 19. The bingo was again held in the Assisted Living dining room but for the first time since before Covid they had residents from both the Assisted Living side and the Skilled Nursing side together. As usual, \$200 in prizes were handed out to the winners.

As of the December 16 membership report, the Squadron is at 72.038% of its goal for the 2023 year. We still need 59 to reach our goal of 211. If you have paid your 2023 dues, thank you. If not, please pay as soon as possible. If your card has 2022 at the top, you are delinquent. Dues may be mailed in or dropped by the Post. Thanks to Adjutant Gary Shupe for the wonderful job he does with membership.

I hope to see you at the Post.

Yours in Service,
Dave Tatman
Commander, Squadron 82
301-645-1537 (h)
301-752-8273 (c)
tatman_david@comcast.net



MDVA Special Announcement: Veterans Service Animal Program



The Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program is open for FY23 grant applications. The notice of funding availability, application, and associated materials are available on the MDVA website. For more information visit:
[Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program](#)

FY23 NOFA Information and Instructions

Grant Application

American Legion Auxiliary **Auxiliary Monthly Meetings are the Second** **Tuesday of Each Month at 1800hrs**



Hello Emeralds, happy holidays to all!

At our last meeting we had a special guest, District 6 President Barbara Vaughan. Barbara also joined us at our potluck meal after our December meeting.

Thank you to Vice President Kathleen Quade who ordered and delivered our Christmas gifts to Charlotte Hall. As always Linda Rollins did a great job with Wreath Across America. The wreaths were laid on the graves by the Riders.

Please remember to pay your dues! 2023 Dues are \$28.00. Next year dues will be \$35 due to National requesting more money to be sent to them for membership.

You can send your check to the membership chair:

Rita Sexton
7400 Retreat Place
Port Tobacco, MD 20677.

As always, I would like to thank the Auxiliary, Post, Sons of the American Legion, and the Riders for their help with BINGO. We have such a wonderful crew. We can always use more help and would welcome any time you can offer. If you would like to help out with BINGO please let me know.

For Service not Self,

Lesley Radcliff
Auxiliary President

Post Everlasting



Ernest Leopold Irish
May 8, 1929 – March 15, 2022

Ernest Leopold “Ernie” Irish, 92, passed away peacefully at his home in LaPlata, MD on Tuesday, March 15. He was born in Standish, Maine on May 8, 1929 to Ernest A. and Leona M. Paquette Irish. He is predeceased by his two older brothers, Calvin and Eugene and a younger sister, Esther, all of Standish, ME.

Ernie graduated from Standish High School in May of 1947 and enlisted in the United States Air Force into the Institute of Technology program. He graduated from the University of Colorado with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in 1964.

In August of 1975, Ernie retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel after serving for twenty-eight years and three months. Following his retirement from the U.S. Air Force, he was employed for nine years at MILCOM Systems Corp supporting the Naval Electronics Systems Command engineering and development of new communications systems. As well as one year at JAYCOR supporting the planning of a new computerized communications system for the U.S. Army Computer Systems Command, and five years at TRACOR providing external communications systems engineering and maintenance support to the Naval Engineering System Engineering Activity’s AEGIS missile cruiser/destroyer program.

His interests included hunting, fishing, historical genealogy society, boating, and flying as he had his pilots license. He was a life member of the Solomon’s Island Yacht Club, serving on the board of Directors for several years and was
Email: American.legion4@verizon.net

Commodore in 1984. From 1997-2000, he served on the Board of Directors of the St. Mary’s County Chapter of the American Red Cross and two years as Chairman of the Financial Development Committee. He also was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution since 1997, serving in many capacities including the local Chapter President for three years, President of the Maryland Society SAR in 2007, and a National Trustee in 2009. He was also a life member of the Military Officers Association of America, a member of the Mayflower Society as a descendant of Henry Samson, and a member of the Historical and Genealogical Societies of Charles County, MD.

Ernie was interred at Arlington National Cemetery on July 13, 2022.

Ernie’s first marriage was to Audry L. Sease of Bellingham, WA from March 2, 1951 to June 15, 1972. He is survived by two sons: Michael A. and Roberta Irish of Ocean City, MD and Ernest E. and Myoung-ja Irish of Walnut Creek CA, and is predeceased by daughter Patti L. Rolfe. Also surviving him are five grandchildren.

Ernie’s second marriage was to Margaret “Peggy” Jones Lawrence of Washington Daviess, IN from August 21, 1973 until her death on December 28, 2001. He survived by four stepsons: Blake and Mary Lawrence of Rocky Mount, NC, Warren and Barbara Lawrence of Fredericksburg, VA, Paul and Anne Lawrence of Alexandria, VA and Dana and Lucy Lawrence of Ashland, VA. Also surviving him are sixteen grandchildren and twenty-three great grandchildren.

Ernie’s third marriage was to Madelyn P. Griffith of White Plains, MD from April 26, 2003 until her death on January 23, 2018. Madelyn had two children by a previous marriage: John Griffith of Bethesda, MD and Sarah Kurtz of Lancaster, PA.

Please make any memorial donations to The Wounded Warriors Project or an organization of your choice.

Post Everlasting



Maurice Henry Rackey

July 22, 1930 – October 24, 2022

Maurice Henry Rackey, 92, of Waldorf, Maryland went to heaven to be with his bride on October 24, 2022.

Maurice spent his last days doing what he loved most; being surrounded by his loving family and friends.

Maurice was born July 22, 1930 in Washington, DC to Maurice F. and Irene (Cady) Rackey. Maurice spent his younger years on the farm with his siblings, Henry, and Evelyn. Maurice also enjoyed the sport of boxing, in which he participated with his brother; earning the Golden Glove award in 1950.

Maurice joined the United States Army in 1951, receiving awards for exemplary behavior. In 1957, after being Honorably Discharged from the military, Maurice became employed; and spent the next 40 years; as a carpenter for GSA and eventually the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

After retiring, Maurice spent his time volunteering with the many organizations he was involved with to include: American Legion (Post 82), the Moose Lodge, the American Red Cross, and his beloved Masonic Lodges. Maurice was a member of the Camp Springs Lodge (No. 227) since September 26, 1967; where he was an Honorary Past Master. He was also a member of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. Maurice was also an Honorary Member of the following: Centennial Lodge (No. 174), St. Columba Lodge (No. 66), Oxon Hill Lodge (No. 231), and Seat Pleasant Lodge (No. 218).

While Maurice enjoyed volunteering, his main love was his family. Maurice married the love of his life, Joan (Peterson), on December 16, 1961 at Mount Calvary Church in Forestville, Maryland and remained devoted to her until his last day on earth. Together Maurice and Joan created a beautiful family to include: two children Michael and Kathleen; four granddaughters Shelby, Danyeale, Amanda, and Caitlyn; one great granddaughter Reece with another great granddaughter on the way.

Maurice is preceded in death by his parents, Maurice and Irene; his wife Joan; and sister Evelyn Milligan.

Maurice is survived by his son Michael Rackey (Regan); his daughter Kathleen Rackey; his granddaughters Shelby Rackey Pegg (Joey), Danyeale Rackey Doughty, Amanda Caparaz (Jeremy), and Caitlyn Rackey; great granddaughter Reece Doughty; his brother Henry Rackey.

A visitation was held on Friday, November 18, 2022 at Raymond Funeral Service, P.A., Washington Avenue, La Plata, Maryland.

Interment is at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery.

Please consider memorial contributions in Maurice's honor to the Shriners Hospitals for Children at <https://donate.lovetotherescue.org>.



Post Everlasting



Ellsworth Kevin Thompson
September 5, 1951 – October 27, 2022

Ellsworth K. "Kevin" Thompson, 71, of Charlotte Hall, was born in Cumberland, Maryland, and grew up in the Bowling Green neighborhood of Cumberland. He attended school at St. Patrick's School and Bishop Walsh School in Cumberland, until the family moved to La Plata while Kevin was in high school. Kevin graduated from La Plata High School in 1969. After graduating high school, Kevin drove a truck for Ray Tilghman's Esso Distributors. In 1974, Kevin was hired by the Charles County Sheriff's Office. He began his career in the Patrol Division, but spent most of his career in the Traffic Safety Unit, where he was promoted to the rank of Corporal. He was known for being an excellent investigator of complicated fatal accidents and large or complex commercial vehicle accidents. He was injured in the line of duty and retired from the Charles County Sheriff's Office in 1995, after 21 years of dedicated service. Kevin was proud of his service to his community with the Sheriff's Office. He helped people, friends, and neighbors, in many special ways, and liked to work behind the scenes to make a positive difference in everyone's life. Kevin continued to support the community through the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #24, the Charles County Sheriff's Office Retired Officers' Association, American Legion Post #82, Moose Lodge White Plains, and the Police Emerald Society, Baltimore. Kevin met his wife, Judy, also a Deputy Sheriff with the Charles County Sheriff's Office in June 1991. He was a loving and devoted companion. Together, they enjoyed quiet evenings on the back porch of their home, watching the wildlife

dance across the farm fields. Kevin loved listening to many kinds of music on those peaceful evenings, especially blues music. Kevin and Judy spent their early years traveling throughout Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. They enjoyed going to wineries, shopping for antiques, spending time near the water, and relaxing with close friends. After being a loving and devoted couple for 21 years, they finally tied the knot in 2012. In their later years they spent time playing with their dog Muffin (who they lovingly called their "four-legged daughter") and enjoying life together in general. Kevin loved his wife Judy, and he was eternally and passionately devoted to her. Kevin battled several serious medical challenges in his later life, including back and brain surgery, and pancreatic cancer. Kevin is preceded in death by his parents, Ellsworth S. "Pete" Thompson and Roselene "Rosie" C. Thompson, and his beloved grandmother Rose S. "Nan Nan" Dowling. He is survived by his loving wife, Judith S. Thompson; stepchildren Cheryl (David) Yancey and Charles (Cherie) Harman; step-grandchildren Sarah Harman, Benjamin Harman, and Ethan Harman; cousins Charles J. (Carol) Dowling, Karen (Terry) Tavnner, and Donna Jean "DJ" Chism; his faithful dog Muffin; family and friends. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Ignatius Church – Chapel Point on Thursday, November 3. Internment is at Hillcrest Burial Park in Cumberland, Maryland.



Project Graduation Southern Maryland Fall Session Graduates

American Legion Riders
ALR Meetings are held the Second Thursday
of Each Month at 1800hrs



Good afternoon, Riders and Legion Family, here's the latest scoop from the Steel Pony Corral:

Wreaths Across America

On Saturday Dec. 17, our members laid 53 wreaths on designated graves on behalf of our Post 82 Family at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery in Cheltenham MD. It is a honor to help our Post members with these designated wreaths on the graves of their loved ones. We also joined the Patriot Guard Riders with our brother Bruce Gentile commanding the Flag line for the opening ceremony honoring all branches of service. We ended the day with a very nice lunch at Napoli's restaurant in Waldorf. You can view the pictures we have posted of your loved one's grave site wreath on our Public Facebook page "American Legion Riders Post 82 LaPlata, MD (Public)"

On Friday Dec. 9 the Riders serve up our last Spaghetti dinner for 2022. We served 105 meals with lots of help from the Riders Membership who always turn out bigtime to complete the mission. We are so very grateful for the continued support our macaroni fan base who always show up to make this dinner a success. I would like to also thank our Chief Chef Jamie Z's taste for great sauce and fine ingredients keep the fan base coming back for more.

The Riders would like to thank everyone their support of our 3rd Annual Toys for Tots Ride, Saturday Nov. 26. With a total of 22 bikes and 3 cages (cars) and help from Santa and the Grinch we rolled into LaPlata with over \$1000 dollars' worth of toys for the children of Charles County. A special thanks to Artie Viering for use of his beautiful red 1940 Ford Pick-up and the Marines

from HQ in Baltimore for their support showing up in The Marine Corp Toys for Tots pick-up.

On Dec. 8, 9 & 10 the Riders led by Director Zayas help the local Toys for Tots collect, sort & distribute toys to the children of Charles County. This mission was accomplished with the help of 6-8 Riders who unselfishly gave of their time during this busy Christmas season for that we say Thank You and Job Well Done.

A huge Riders "Thank You" to Director Zayas and wife Chrissy for planning and organizing the Annual Post Christmas Party on Saturday evening Dec. 17. A very fun and jolly time was had by all with lots of food and great fellowship. Special thanks to Joanie for putting together some amazing gift baskets and to Maureen for manning the bar on a busy night!

We would like to encourage all ALR members as well as our Post Family (Legion, SAL & Auxiliary) to 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. It can be as short as an hour or two.

Please keep Rider Rick Maron in your prayers. Rick is currently in Ukraine providing humanitarian aid and other vital services.

The Riders would like to welcome new members Bob (Sgt. Bob) Bradford Lowell (Lam) Lamoreau.

Upcoming Rides:

Annual News Years Day Ride January 1, 2023

Our next ALR meeting is Thursday January 12, at 1800

Presented On behalf of Director, James (Jamie Z) Zayas

Submitted by Kevin (Big Sexy) Bryant,
"We ride In HONOR of those who served"

What's Going on at the Post This Month?

Saturday, Dec 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE BINGO!

Open to the public.

\$50 entry for single book of six cards for all games; extra books \$10 each. Guaranteed \$1000 final jackpot game. **Baked chicken dinner** available for purchase at \$7.00 - **must call to pre-order** - LESLEY 301-934-3512 or MARY 301-934-4372.

Doors open at 6:30pm; games start at 9:00pm.

Hosted by the Auxiliary

Bingo

Thursdays from 6 – 8:pm

Open to the public.

Friday, January 13

Auxiliary Fundraising Dinner from 5 to 7pm.

Open to the public.

Ham, Parsley Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls and Butter. For just \$15.

Friday, January 20

S.A.L Baby Back Rib Dinner from 5 to 7:pm

Open to the public.

Last month's dinner sold out so get here early!

Friday, January 27

Members Shrimp in the Bar from 6 to 7:pm

Sunday, January 29

District 6 Meeting

Monday, Jan 30

S.A.L. Blood Drive



Board of Directors & Executive Officers Meeting is held the Second Tuesday of Each Month at 1830 hrs.

General Membership Meeting is held the Second Tuesday of Each Month at 1900 hrs.

Post 82 Executive Committee

Elected Officers

Commander - George Hawley

1st Vice Commander - Harry Tafe

2nd Vice Commander - Chris Laquay

Judge Advocate - Bob Striegel

Adjutant - Dave Black

Finance Officer - Bill Rees

Sergeant-At-Arms - Jerry Higdon

At Large Elected Officers

Buddy Hindle

Norm Shelton

David Quade

Donna Baker

Appointed Officers

Service Officer - George Hawley

Chaplain - John Flatley

Historian - Cheryl Wedding