



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

January 2024

www.Alpost82.org

American.Legion4@verizon.net

301-934-8221



Commander's Message

Happy Holidays to our Post 82 Legion Family! I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season with friends and family. As I write this, I cannot help but to reflect on 2023 and all the amazing things our Post has accomplished and all the veterans and their families that we were able to assist. From Charlotte Hall Bingo and Christmas gifts, Wreaths Across America, Town of La Plata Veterans Parade, Memorial and Veterans Day Ceremonies, Toys-4-Tots, Legacy Scholarship fund, County Fair, S.A.L. Golf Tournament to countless other things we do in our community you are all utterly amazing.

This year we have had an aggressive membership campaign, and I would like to again welcome all the new members to our Post and let them know they have joined the #1 Post in the State of Maryland. As of December 23rd, Post 82 was in 1st Place in our category for membership between 501-750 Members. Special thanks to our Membership committee led by 1st Vice Commander David Abildgaard and all of our members that have reinvested in the American Legion.

I am so grateful for our senior Post members that have helped me, and our new Post leadership team, to learn the ins and outs of managing a Post and ensuring we take care of our members. I must also give a special thanks to my go to person and your Post Adjutant, John Flatley, the behind the scenes work he does keeps us all straight and things moving forward. Thanks!

By the time you read this we will have had our Post Holiday Party, this is an event I look forward to every year because it is one of the few times, we close the Post and just get together as a family to spend quality time together. Of course, just like all family gatherings, we have our crazy family members, and it sometimes gets a little stressful but, in the end, it is always worth it. I have to say a special Thank You to Chrissy Zayas, Auxiliary member, and my beautiful wife for organizing this event and putting up with me.

Looking forward to the New Year, I see our Post building on the momentum we have and reaching new goals as we work together. I ask all new members, and our seasoned veterans, to find ways to volunteer at the Post so that we can continue to get better and help our fellow veterans.

May the New Year bring prosperity to all members of the Post and their families.

Your Commander
Always Serving

Jamie Zayas

Legion Membership Report



David Abildgaard
1st Vice, Membership Chair

Greetings Legionnaires!

As we move into the holidays, I want to personally thank you and your families for all you have done and the sacrifices you continue to make. As the First Vice, I have been amazed at the level of commitment you continue to show to Post 82 as well as the surrounding communities. I've had the pleasure of getting to know some of you better through personal conversations and the Post 82 events we have attended.

As you know, most of my responsibility rests with American Legion membership. Since assuming this role, we have had several people join Post 82 as new Legion members or transfers from other locations. We have also had some people with previously expired accounts renew and become active members once again. There are several reasons for this positive trend, but much of it is attributed to you, our members under the guidance of our Post Commander.

For those of you who don't know, we have exceeded National membership goals for the past several months and were recently ranked NUMBER 1 for the entire State of Maryland against similar sized Posts. We are approximately 3 months ahead of our scheduled renewal/recruitment goals for as we approach the 90% target.

My membership team will continue to reach out to those we have not heard from and offer any assistance that might be needed. I would also Email: American.legion4@verizon.net

appreciate it if you could do the same as there are some, we have no contact information for. Without an accurate email, phone number, or mailing address, we are unable to send them vital updates on events and activities they may benefit from participating in. More importantly, we want to be sure they're okay.

Thanks again for all you do, I hope to see you after the holidays.

Respectfully,
David D. Abildgaard, 1st Vice Commander



Thank you Post 82 for your generous support of Auxiliary Unit 82 and Wreaths Across America (WAA) in 2023. Together we raised \$7,103 for a total of 645 sponsored wreaths for Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery. Our Post 82 family of Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion was well represented on Dec 16 as our Riders laid 65 wreaths on the name specific graves of our Post Everlasting, Post members, family, and friends. On top of that, three members of Post 82, 2-Legion and 1-S.A.L. picked up an additional 500+ wreaths at Crownsville, delivered, and laid them at Cheltenham. Thank you, Jim Smith, Karen Himmelheber and Brian Miller, all members of ALR 82 for going above and beyond to remember and recognize our veterans and family laid to rest at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery.

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

In total, three million sponsored veterans' wreaths were delivered and more than three million volunteers – a third of whom were children – placed those wreaths and read out loud the names of the men and women who fought for our freedom. I truly hope you swell with pride knowing that you played an integral part in making this all possible. I know I do.

I hope you can enjoy the remainder of the holiday season with gratitude in your hearts.

With gratitude, Linda Rollins
WAA Fundraising Coordinator
Auxiliary Unit 82

Post Service Officer Resources Corner

As the Posts Service Officer, I am here to offer resources to veterans and their families. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 240-267-6489 or ghawley83@gmail.com.

Do you know a veteran who is looking for a career change? The Accelerated Training in Defense Manufacturing program (ATDM) in Danville, Virginia, provides training in high-demand skills that lead to well-paying jobs with military suppliers. Housing and training are free for qualifying veterans. Read [this article](#) for more information.

The American Legion Riders have accepted the challenge to fully fund the [Veterans and Childrens Foundation](#) through the annual Legion Legacy Ride. The Foundation covers the cost of training for Service Officers and provides Temporary Financial Assistance Grants to active-duty military and Legion members with children in their household. If you know of a family in need, contact me and I'll assist in getting the application process started.

George Hawley

Email: American.legion4@verizon.net

Chaplains Corner

Happy New Year!

With the past year's major holidays recently behind us, the Christmas decorations headed back to the attic, kids back to school, and in-laws back to their own homes, I have found myself spending more time ruminating over the past year with its wins and losses, good times and bad, blessings and curses, joys and sorrows, and everything in between, than I have spent thinking about the new year. I'm not sure why.

Perhaps the things of the past don't require me to imagine them, as most of them have already pretty much played themselves out. That's not to say that there aren't benefits to be found in a review of things past, such as counting blessings received, learning from good and bad decisions made, recognition of shortcomings revealed, counting the battles won, shedding a few tears in remembrance of those whom we have lost, rejoicing in new lives brought into our world, and reliving the laughs and good times we shared with family and friends.

On the other hand, the new year is shrouded in the unknown, at least to us. We may feel overwhelmed by the uncertainties of it, as it comes with its own fears to face, challenges to meet, decisions to make, and hurdles to overcome. However, it also brings with it the potential for hopes met, joys experienced, accomplishments attained, victories achieved, and most importantly, God's certain and enumerable blessings.

It seems to me that the key to benefiting from this review of things past and consideration of things to come, is to resist the temptations of living in the past and dwelling among the negative aspects of it, and instead, embracing the new year and its yet un-lived joys and positive experiences. Some other folks have more eloquently and succinctly provided their thoughts on embracing the new year and its related issues. I provide them here for your consideration:

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

"Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each year find you a better man" — Benjamin Franklin

"I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past." — Thomas Jefferson

"It is never too late to be what you might have been." — George Eliot

"Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone." — Pablo Picasso

"What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven't even happened yet." — Anne Frank

And now I leave you with the following encouragement from Scripture, Philippians 4:5-7

5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

(New International Version)

May you enjoy the richness of God's blessings in this new year. Know that He is with you wherever you go and whatever your circumstances.

Post Everlasting - I was recently made aware of the passing of a member of our Post, David Lee Wedding on October 24, 2023.

As always, if you or your family have any needs with which I may be able to assist, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Christ,

Paul Stockman
Chaplain

How can I serve you?

Post 82 Service Officer

George Hawley

240-367-6489

ghawley83@gmail.com

Post 82 Chaplain

Paul Stockman

301-768-2514

papastockman@yahoo.com

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. It's great to see those extra minutes of daylight. Looking forward to March 10, 2024, and Daylight-Saving Time.

Thirty-eight units of blood were collected at the Squadron sponsored American Red Cross Blood Drive on November 27. Thanks to Gale Willett and Gary Shupe who handled the registration and refreshment tables. Thanks to the five Post 82 family members who donated. The next blood drive will be on January 22.

At the Squadron meeting on December 5, the members voted to donate \$500 to Boy Scout Troop 1321 and \$500 to the Special Olympics of Charles County. Changes to the Squadron 82 Veterans Memorial Scholarship were finalized; two \$3,000 scholarships will be awarded in 2024. The scholarship information is available on the Post website, www.alpost82.org

Thanks to Gale Willett, Alana Lentz, Roy Yanosh, Carol Karpiak, Kathleen Quade, and Lennie Lentz for their help at the baby back rib dinner on December 15. The turnout was light, but we were glad to have nine residents and two staff members from the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home as guests of the Post 82 family. The next baby back rib dinner will be on January 19.

Thanks to Gale Willett who volunteered at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home December 18.

As of the December 15 membership report, the Squadron has 144 paid members. If your membership card does not have 2024 at the top you will be delinquent on January 1. If you are delinquent, you will lose the privileges of membership. This includes access to the Post. Dues are still just \$20 for members 21 or over and \$15 for dual members and those under 21. Please don't hesitate to renew your membership!

Yours in Service,
Dave



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

American Legion Auxiliary

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



Hello Snapdragons:

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas! We delivered 240 fleece blankets to Charlotte Hall for the Veterans, enough that every resident could have one. I would like to give a special thank you to Kathy Flanagan and Barbara Endicott for ordering and delivering them to the Post.

Our potluck dinner turned out nicely after our December 12th meeting. Thank you to everyone who brought a dish in.

In my last newsletter regarding our Fall Conference attendees, I left out Miss Amelia Leukhardt. I am so sorry Amelia.

BINGO is going great. However, it would be nice to see some new faces helping. It seems the same people are always there, and we do not want to burn them out for helping every Thursday. As of January 1, 2024, There are a number of opportunities to help. If you would like to help with BINGO, please contact me at (301) 934-3512.

Sending get-well wishes to Mike Grimm, Cathy Grimm's husband who is still in the hospital, and Linda Rollins husband Roger, who is under the weather. I hope everyone gets healthy for the new year.

The Auxiliary will have their monthly fundraising dinner on January 12, 2024, from 5-7pm. We will be serving hard or soft tacos (3), refried beans, and Mexican rice. The cost is \$15. Hope to see you there.

Our next Auxiliary meeting will be on January 9, 2024, at 6pm.

For Service not Self,

Lesley Radcliff
Unit 82 President



Lesley Radcliff
President

Auxiliary Sponsoring Student Essay Contest

Each year the American Legion Auxiliary has an Americanism essay contest for students in grades 3-12 including a category for special-need students. The title of this year's essay is, "*What Does Freedom Mean to Me.*"

The contest is open now and the deadline for submissions is January 31, 2024. The essays will be judged by a committee of three and the first, second, and third place winners will be invited to participate in an award ceremony that will be held at the Post on Sunday, April 14, 2024. Winners will read their essays to the attendees and receive a monetary award. The local first place winning essays will be forwarded to the Auxiliary District Americanism Chairman for further judging with essays from other Auxiliary Units.

It is evident that writing about this topic will help young people realize their appreciation for their country, while also enhancing their critical thinking and writing skills.

A cover sheet must accompany the essay and the student **MUST** sign the essay. To receive a copy of the required cover sheet or get more information email me at ritasexton20677@yahoo.com

The essays can be dropped off at the Post any day after 2:00 pm or they can be mailed to:

Rita Sexton
7400 Retreat Place, Port Tobacco, MD 20677

Rita Sexton
Americanism Chairman
Auxiliary Unit 82

A Promise Fulfilled

Article from Legion magazine November 2023

The American Legion Riders smashed their record in fundraising for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship, one last time. This year's Legacy Run brought in a record \$1,551,631, for a total of nearly \$20 million raised since 2006. More than \$667,000 was raised during and prior to the ride, and \$884,000 in donations were presented on the convention floor. "Thanks to your generosity, we're making dreams come true and fulfilling the promise we made back in 2001 to never forget the children of the fallen and those who have come home carrying both the visible and invisible scars of war," said Legacy Run Chief Road Captain Mark Clark, chairman of the Riders National Advisory Committee. "None of this would have been possible without the entire American Legion Family."

Starting next year, the Legacy Run will raise funds for the **American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation**, which funds the **Temporary Financial Assistance** program and training and **accreditation costs for American Legion service officers**. "With the passage of the PACT Act, there's never been a time we needed more trained and certified service officers, and the Legion is rising to meet that challenge," Clark said. "The American Legion Riders will assist in that effort, stick with us and help us make this transition a successful one."

Steven B. Brooks

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:

I want to personally thank all my Riders for another year of outstanding service to our veterans and the communities in which we live and work. Our fundraising efforts and selfless giving could not have been achieved without all of you and your endeavors to succeed. I'm so proud to lead such an awesome assembly of women and men. My hopes and prayers are for health and happiness for all and that what we accomplished in 2023 is the level that we strive to exceed in 2024.

Now, I want to thank our Post 82 family for their support and belief in The Riders program. You are a huge part of our success. Knowing you all have our six is an incredible feeling as we work to serve our community. I'm honored and humbled to associate myself with all of you at Post 82. I cannot praise you all enough for the fine examples that I have to model my life after and become a better man.

I would also like to thank Sid Marcus for bringing his awesome brother Mike to our Spaghetti Dinner on Dec. 8 for Mike's birthday. Mike won the 50/50 drawing for \$150, of which he graciously donated \$140 of his winnings back to the Riders. Mike, you are a true gentleman! On Saturday Dec. 16, sixteen Riders and spouses laid 65 dedicated wreaths supplied by The Auxiliary through Wreaths Across America. Thanks to Auxiliary member, Linda Rollins for maintaining the list of Post Everlasting members buried at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery. The

Post and Riders were also represented by Commander Zayas at St. Joseph's Catholic Church Cemetery in Pomfret. This was the first year of what I hope will become part of our annual tradition. Afterward the ceremonies concluded the Riders enjoyed a delicious lunch and great fellowship with each other at Napoli's before heading home.

A heartfelt thanks to Jim (Blu) Smith for answering the call to pick up over 500 extra wreaths from the Crownsville Veterans Cemetery and deliver them to the Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery on Tuesday, December 19. At Cheltenham he was met by Karen (R.E.D.) Himmelheber and Brian (Gadget) Miller and together they laid the additional wreaths.

Upcoming Rides/Events:

January 1- Polar Bear Run to Chesapeake Beach

The next ALR meeting is Thursday January 11, 2024 @ 1800

Check the Riders public Facebook group for ride and event details:

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Big Sexy



Kevin Bryant
Director

What's Going at Post 82?

Check the monitor in the Lounge for information and events at the Post. One note, there will not be a Legion Steak and Shrimp Dinner in January.



The application portals for both programs are open now through May 1, 2024. More information can be found here: <http://www.mdlegion.org/boysstate/> or <https://www.facebook.com/ALAMDGS/> Candidates can also contact:

Rita Sexton

Girls State Coordinator, Auxiliary Unit 82
301-934-8616 and leave a message or ritasexton20677@yahoo.com

John Flatley / Karen Himmelheber

Boys State Coordinators, Post 82
John – 301.848.7664 / johnflatleyjr@gmail.com
Karen – 240.708.3725 / khimmelheber@ccboe.com

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.

