



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

September 2023

Alpost82.org

American.Legion4@verizon.net

301-934-8221



Commander's Message

And just like that, we are at the tail end of summer; kids are back to school and Post 82 has hit the ground running for Legion year 2023-2024.

We started the year with Legion, Auxiliary, S.A.L. and Rider members from our post attending the 105th Annual Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City Maryland. It was a huge success. Our Post took home multiple awards in each category of our family. Please see our awards board in the foyer and take pride in what we have accomplished together.

This summer we also had the privilege of hosting the 2nd Department of Maryland Executive Council (DEC) meeting with representation from every Post in the state of Maryland. All our visitors

had nothing but great things to say about the Post with more than a few telling me they wish they had a Post as nice as ours.

Hopefully everyone has received their membership renewal notices in the mail, I would like to thank all those that have already sent theirs in and encourage everyone else to do so as soon as possible. I don't want to steal all the thunder from our 1st Vice and our membership committee, but I will say we are aggressively working this to invest in the American Legion, our Post and Community. We are looking to host a membership event in the Fall so you will want to have "Early Bird" stamped on your card, early bird ends on September 30th.

Post 82 will once again have a booth in building "A" at the Charles County Fair, 14-17 September. If you would like to help by sharing your experience as a member of Post 82, please contact any of our Post officers. The Legion Riders will be manning the booth on Friday with the Auxiliary and S.A.L. sharing time on Saturday. So, we could use some help on Thursday evening and Sunday morning/afternoon. This is a great opportunity to showcase our Post to the local community and invite new members, so please come out and join us.

On Sunday August 27th each part of our Post family (Legion, Auxiliary, S.A.L. and Riders) was represented at the Maryland Veterans Museum at Patriot Park and the Washington Rochambeau National Historic Trail Association (W3R). Our Post donated to support the efforts of the Washington Rochambeau National Historic Trail Association (W3R) to place four wayside signs that mark the trail through Southern Maryland,

sponsored by The Maryland Veterans Museum at Patriot Park. At the event we were among the first to see the unveiling of the Washington Rochambeau Signs and meet General Rochambeau (historic re-enactor) at the museum.

There will be a second event at the museum, "American Revolution-French Alliance Day", on September 23rd from 10:00am – 4:00pm with food, drinks, artisan vendors, a live DJ, and performances. The cost is \$10.00 per person, children 12 and under enter for free, "Vive la French Connection!" All of our Post family will be represented at this event, so come out and join us!

I would like to close with a thought about one of our Post S.A.L./A.L. Riders and my friend, Kevin "Big Sexy" Bryant. If you have not heard, Kevin was involved in a motorcycle accident on Saturday August 19th and spent several days in the hospital. I am happy to say he is home recuperating with his personal nurse Cathy by his side. We are blessed that he was not hurt more seriously and look forward to welcoming him back to the Post soon.

Your Commander,

Jamie Zayas



AMERICAN REVOLUTION-FRENCH ALLIANCE DAY
Maryland Veterans Museum at Patriot Park
11000 Crain HWY /Newburg, MD 20664
September 23, 2023 Ticket Price - \$10.00
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Children 12 & Under are Free)

Join us for a celebration of the French Alliance in Southern Maryland with food, drinks and artisan vendors. Live DJ and performances.

Vive la French Connection

Logos: Maryland Veterans Museum, American Legion, DAR



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Legion Membership Report



Greetings Legionnaires!

While this is my second edition to the newsletter, I wanted to formally introduce myself. Like all of you, I proudly served in the military and have an extensive career in uniform of nearly three decades. While in high school at the age of 17, I joined the Army Reserve as a supply clerk and crossed over into the blue in 1984.

In the Air Force I started out as a Security Police member where I provided armed security response to military aircraft and nuclear missiles. Later, I became an Air Force Emergency Manager and did that through retirement in July 2010. I'm a veteran of foreign wars. I deployed to Kuwait, Qatar, Pakistan, and United Arab Emirates during Operations Noble Eagle and Iraqi Freedom. In my civilian capacity, I'm the Division Chief for Current Operations at the Air National Guard Readiness Center where I oversee crisis response activities such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and wildfires for 90 Air National Guard Wings across the United States and its territories. I also monitor criminal activity, aircraft mishaps, and emergency rescue operations involving Air National Guard personnel.

The main reason I joined American Legion Post 82 was to ride motorcycles with a group of great people. As an ALR member, I feel like family. I often help where I can whether that involves cooking steak, spaghetti, oysters, or providing music at Post events. Over the past 5 years, I've never felt more welcomed to any other organization outside of the military than I do now. In fact, I think my feelings of belonging are

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attributed to a commonality we all share from wearing a military uniform, regardless of which branch and era we served in. It's for those reasons that I accepted the nomination to serve as 1st Vice at Post 82. While I'm not fully familiar with all the American Legion positions or entities, I'm learning something new every visit I make.

Since I've assumed this position, I have been working with our Post Commander "Jamie Z" and Adjutant John Flatley on membership additions and renewals for 2024. Honestly speaking, I thought all members (TAL, SAL, AUX & ALR) of Post 82 fell into this category. I quickly found out that Legionnaire members are only those who served in uniform. Additionally, the renewal period was a bit confusing at first because it doesn't follow a calendar or fiscal year. It begins 1 July and concludes on 30 June. I guess it's more like a Legion-Year (pun intended). Anyhow, under this renewal process, National sets membership goals that each post strives to achieve. Our first metric was to get at least 50% of our established annual goal completed by Sep 13th and we have already exceeded it. The next metric is to achieve 55% by Oct 18th and we're almost there now. So, a special thanks to all you "Early Birds" who made this happen.

The Commander and I share a common competitive drive. Not only do we intend on exceeding membership goals, but we are also driven to be the Post who outshines all others. This includes being #1 for District 6, and helping Southern Maryland become the leading region in the state. To do that I encourage all of our Legionnaires to renew as early possible. To continually exceed established membership renewal goals for 2024, I have assembled a committee of dedicated Legionnaires to lend a hand. They include John Flatley (USAF), Jeff Combs (USAF), Mike Hanks (USA), and Victor Guillot (USMC).

Having said that, the Commander has been very clear, and I completely agree that it's not just about the numbers. As I mentioned above, I have not found this level of camaraderie,

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accountability, and overall sense of belonging since I retired from active service as I have here at American Legion Post 82. I hope that you feel that way too. I have found that being actively engaged with Post events has increased my circle of friends and brought an added purpose to my days. I'd like to encourage all of you, my fellow Legionnaires, to be active here at the Post. Together, we are better. The committee listed above has plans to reach out to every current member of Post 82 this year. We will focus on "Buddy Checks" to ensure your needs and expectations are being met. If you have any questions regarding membership or other concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me or one of the committee members.

David Abildgaard
1st Vice, Membership Chair



Post Family Leadership with General Rochambeau
At the Maryland Veterans Museum at Patriot Park

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



why wait, renew now. Dues may be mailed in or dropped by the Post. Applications for membership are available at the Post or from any of the Squadron officers. Please invite your qualifying friends and co-workers to join us.

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

Chaplain's Corner



At the Squadron meeting on August 1, we discussed the donations that will be made this year.

I want to thank all the volunteers who helped at the baby back rib dinner on August 18. It was great to have six 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 September 15.

On August 20, Gary Shupe and I attended the Southern Maryland Region meeting at Severna Park Post 175. Commander Mike Anderson discussed his goals for the year. Mike's Commander's Project is the same as Detachment Commander Joe Lohman's, The American Legion Southern Maryland Region Youth Camp in Cheltenham. The camp is need of some upgrades.

On August 21, Gale Willett and Gary Shupe worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Two hundred and ten dollars in prizes were handed out to the residents. Unfortunately, they are currently under a mask mandate. Hopefully it's a short-term requirement.

The 2024 membership cards are available. Your 2023 card is good until December 31, 2023, but Email: American.legion4@verizon.net



Meet your new Chaplain, Paul Stockman! Paul has been an active Legion member for the past 6 years. He is a retired Navy Master Chief, volunteer EMT and serves in a variety of jobs at Real Life Church in Waldorf.

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Paul is ready, willing, and qualified to serve our Post family. Please let him know if you or your family are hospitalized or homebound and would like a visit or if there is any other way Paul can support you. He can be reached at papastockman@yahoo.com

American Legion Auxiliary

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



Hello Snapdragons!

We are starting a new year and we need you to send in your membership. Remember Seniors are now \$35 and Juniors are \$7.

The Auxiliary will be having our first dinner for this year on September 8, 2023. The menu is meatloaf, gravy, mashed potatoes, peas with pearl onions, stewed tomatoes, a roll, iced tea, and water. The cost is \$15. The time is 5-7pm. Hope to see you there.

Our craft fair will be October 28th. If you wish to rent a table, please contact Carolyn Shelton at (301) 934-0095.

One of our Auxiliary members Amelia Leukhardt turned 100 on August 17th. Happy Birthday Miss Amelia.

There will be a district meeting at the Clinton Post on September 17th. Lunch is provided at 1pm and the meeting starts at 2pm.

Bingo is going great thanks to everyone who has been helping. If you could spare one Thursday a month to help in the kitchen it would be appreciated. Please contact me at (301) 934-3512.

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Remember school is starting again, please stop for the school buses and watch out for the children as they are our future.

For Service not Self,

Lesley Radcliff
President

American Legion Riders

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



It has been another busy month for the members of ALR 82! With several rides and a bunch of new members, I'd say we are kicking off the 23-24 year with a bang!

On Sunday, August 6, ALR 82 had the great honor of meeting a veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam, Sargeant Major Albert Willis, USMC (ret), 101 years old. SgtMaj Willis is a [Montford Point Marine](#), among the first Black Americans to join the U.S Marine Corp AND a former District Commander in the American Legion.

Albert is in hospice care and was honored by ALR 82 in conjunction with [Veteran's Last Patrol](#).

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ALR 82 and Post 82 leadership presented Albert with a Certificate of Appreciation, an ALR 82 chip and a Post 82 100th anniversary challenge coin. Semper Fi, SgtMaj Willis!

On Sat August 13, 9 bikes with 4 passengers rode the back roads to Post 175 Severna Park MD to show our support at their “End of Summer Bash”. We were treated to summertime food and music by “Fess Up”, a local rock cover band. A great time was had by all and we returned home by 1700.



On Saturday, August 19 the Riders had a strong turnout to support [Boulder Crest](#) in their 10th annual Healing Heroes Ride. This is our third year of participation in the ride from Patriot Harley Davidson, Fairfax, Va to Boulder Crest’s East Coast retreat in Blue Mont, Va. The ride raised over \$45,000 to support BC’s mission supporting post 9-11 combat veterans and first responders. If you know a combat vet or first responder who’s fighting PTS, look at BC’s “[Posttraumatic Growth](#)” program, [Warrior PATHH](#).

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Post 82 was represented very well at The [ALR National Legacy Run](#) by Bernie(BJ)Fitzpatrick and Steve(Scuba Steve) Meade who successfully completed their 2nd consecutive NLR. This year’s Run was highlighted by MD ALR’s presentation to the National AL Commander of 211K which should make MD tops or right at the top in donations.

Please welcome these new members to the Post and your ALR.

Verdis Jones - Retired USAF
Colonel Cassandra Mills - Active Duty USA
Sgt. Bautista Martinez - Active Duty USA
Craig Meinhart - Retired US ANG
Dan Stanback. – Legion Auxiliary

Kevin Bryant
Director

POSTSCRIPT: Saturday, August 26, 2023

On Saturday Aug 19 while leading 8 Riders home from a great poker run at Boulder Crest Retreat in Bluemont VA, I was in an accident. My evasive action was not evasive enough, but I did manage to stay alive and conscious through that scary ordeal.

I do not remember much but I do remember those 8 Riders jumping into action to triage me and secure the scene until First Responders got there. I spent 3 nights in a Trauma Center in Leesburg VA with a broken rib on my left side and a very serious gash on my right shin requiring 20+ stitches & staples. I’m black and blue from head to toe and my body aches in places I never knew of. However, I am celebrating each day as a great day. I’m thankful, blessed, and humbled to watch the sunrise.

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Last night Commander Zayas joined me for "Members Shrimp at My Table" which he graciously provided. He then gave me a potted plant, some balloons, get well cards and an envelope with cash and a very generous Visa gift card to help with some of the medical equipment expenses.

The love, support and outpouring of prayers from the Post family and the support of the Riders has been way beyond anything I could have imagined. My eyes are filled with tears of joy and my heart is burdened with love and thanks for all Post 82 family members. Thank you.

I will be back.

Down But Not Out,

Kevin BIG SEXY Bryant

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

MARYLAND

Department of Veterans Affairs

MDVA Programs

[About Us](#)

[VA Benefits Help](#)

[Charlotte Hall Veterans Home](#)

[Cemetery and Memorials](#)

[Communications and Outreach](#)

[Veterans Trust Fund](#)

[Women Veterans/Inclusion Program](#)

Resource Links

[MDVA Information Sheet](#)

[Community Partner Toolkit](#)

[2021 Federal Benefits for Veterans,](#)

[Dependents, and Survivors](#)

[Get Started with the VA Here.](#)

[Veterans ID Card](#)

[Legal Resource Guide](#)

[State Agency Veteran Liaisons](#)

[Maryland 211](#)

[Network of Care Directory](#)

[Veteran-Owned Small Business](#)

[Enterprise \(VSBE\) Program](#)

[Facility Accessibility Survey](#)

[OLA Fraud Hotline](#)

[FAQ's](#)

News & Announcements

[Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Update](#)

[2023 Legislative Session Concludes](#)

[Archived Newsletters](#)

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What's Going on at the Post This Month?

No Legion dinner in September

Queen of Hearts Every Wednesday

Tickets are available at the bar.

A winner is drawn every Wednesday at 6:45pm

Come on out and join in the fun!

Hosted by Sons of the American Legion

Bingo Every Thursday

First game begins at 7:00pm

Open to the public.

Friday, Sep 8

Auxiliary Meat Loaf Dinner from 5 – 7:pm

Open to the public

Thursday, Sep 14 – Sunday, Sep 17

Charles County Fair AL Post 82 Booth

Contact any officer to volunteer a couple of hours sharing the value of Legion, SAL, Auxiliary and Rider membership.

Friday, Sep 15

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

Open to the public.

Friday, Sep 22

Members Shrimp in the Bar from 6 – 7:pm

Members only

Friday, Sep 29

ALR Spaghetti Dinner from 5 – 7:pm

Open to the Public

Post 82 Executive Committee



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

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

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