TO MY LEGION FAMILY:

Hello Legionnaires and Veteran advocates, today is Thursday, March 1, 2018 which is National Horse Protection Day, National Peanut Butter Lover’s Day, Plan a Solo Vacation Day and World Compliment Day. It is also Purim to those of the Jewish Faith.

SOME HISTORY

• On this day in 1781, the Articles of Confederation are finally ratified. The Articles were signed by Congress and sent to the individual states for ratification on November 15, 1777, after 16 months of debate. Bickering over land claims between Virginia and Maryland delayed final ratification for almost four more years. Maryland finally approved the Articles on March 1, 1781, affirming the Articles as the outline of the official government of the United States. The nation was guided by the Articles of Confederation until the implementation of the current U.S. Constitution in 1789.

• 1961: Newly elected President John F. Kennedy issues an executive order establishing the Peace Corps. It proved to be one of the most innovative and highly publicized Cold War programs set up by the United States.

• 1872: President Grant signs the bill creating the nation’s first national park at Yellowstone. Native Americans had lived and hunted in the region that would become Yellowstone for hundreds of years before the first Anglo explorers arrived. Abundant game and mountain streams teaming with fish attracted the Indians to the region, though the awe-inspiring geysers, canyons, and gurgling mud pots also fascinated them.

• On this day in 1917, the text of the so-called Zimmermann Telegram, a message from the German foreign secretary, Arthur Zimmermann, to the German ambassador to Mexico proposing a Mexican-German alliance in the case of war between the United States and Germany, is published on the front pages of newspapers across America.
DEPARTMENT HISTORY

Going into the Centennial year, I figured it was time to start breaking out the pictures of years gone by in this department, featuring those that stepped up and led this department since its beginning and those that are still leading after so many years of dedication and hard work. I am in the process of rearranging our offices and while doing so I came across numerous pictures taken over the years by different people of different Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL. Some will put a smile on your face and some may not. But it is important to remember those that have worked hard at making this department what it is today.

So, I am including a couple pictures in this newsletter going back to our 2008 Department Convention and National Commander visit. I am also going to be displaying pictures on the front page of the website on a weekly basis. Some you may recognize people in these pictures and some you may not, but everyone will know who this first and second picture are of.

Newly elected Department Commander George McCall giving Past Department Commander Chuck Lewis his blue cap. Not sure if Commander McCall is using Commander Lewis head to hold himself up or not!!
Commander McCall is getting directions from the Army during a briefing with National Commander David Rehbein of Illinois. Commander McCall still does not know which way to go!!!
Previous picture of Department Leaders past and present. I think there was a contest going on to see could hold the longest frown! Thinking of those not with us anymore and are smiling in a better place.

Centennial News

"American Legion National Commander Denise Rohan paid a 2017 visit to the New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon, the Granite State's giant NASCAR track. NHMS is planning special American Legion Centennial recognition before the nationally-televised NASCAR race there on Sunday, July 22. Pictured here are Loudon Legionnaire and N.H. State Representative Mike Moffett, N.H. Department Commander Dave Meaney, Commander Rohan, and National Executive Committeeman Bill Roy."

Greetings Comrades:

Some Centennial updates from the Wilds of Loudon ...

1) We're moving forward with that special NASCAR Legion Recognition at N.H. Motor Speedway at the big race on Sunday, July 22. We're looking to have a special section in the stands for Legionnaires and
discounted tickets for the Legionnaires and guests. There will be a governor's proclamation and pre-race recognition and interviews with Legionnaires that will be shown on the giant screen. More details to follow.

2) There are plans to have a possible big Centennial American Legion Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 22 at the Loudon Country Club.

We are going to be looking for our department Championship Color guard for this year and next to get involved in pre-race activities to include the posting of colors. If I cannot get either color guard to post colors I may be asking for legion members of different color guards around the state to make up an all Post color guard led by yours truly if need be. Post 6 and 7 color guards have posted colors at these races and we are looking for our Post color guards to get more involved in our centennial activities this year and next to include competition at department convention and the posting of colors for the winning team at convention at Fisher Cat Stadium right after competition for the Legion recognized game, on Friday night of the convention.

I want to see those Posts that have very good color and honor guards to get involved this year. I know we have teams out there that have pride in what they do so show it off, if for nothing else but bragging rights and to recognize the 100th birthday of the American Legion.

Department Events Recognized

PAST & PRESENT MILITARY BENEFITS
EXPO AT NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE

Our Service Officers are doing a ng out there at several events over the last few months. The above event was captured by Post 78 in their monthly newsletter.
The American Legion presented Deanna Sicard of Nashua with a Blue Star Banner in recognition of her sons’ service and her sacrifices as a Blue Star Mother. A Blue Star Mother is a mother who has a child serving in the military. Each star on Sicard’s banner represents one of her sons. The banner was presented while several of her sons were home, on Dec. 28, at Catholic Medical Center in Manchester, where Sicard works at the New England Heart & Vascular Institute. Sicard, center, is flanked by American Legion Department of New Hampshire Commander Dave Meaney, front left, and American Legion Family Support Network Chairman Bill Hooley, front right. In back from left to right are Sicard’s husband, Ken Sicard, and her sons Lance Cpl. Kenneth Chase Sicard, U.S. Marines; Pvt. Zachary Ward Sicard, U.S. Army; and Lance Cpl. Phillip Bergeron, U.S. Marines. Not pictured is her son Sgt. Joseph Blake Freydenfeldt, U.S. Army. (Courtesy of Lauren Collins-Cline, CMC)
American Legion Department of New Hampshire Commander Dave Meaney presents a plaque to New Hampshire Union Leader Publisher Joseph W. McQuaid for the paper’s commitment to veterans on Friday at the New Hampshire Union Leader offices in Manchester. The award reads: “In recognition of outstanding service to New Hampshire veterans by the weekly publication of a veteran’s page in the Union Leader. And in keeping with the tradition established by the American Legion Department of New Hampshire founder and first commander and the Union Leader’s first publisher, Frank Knox.” [DAVID LANE/UNION LEADER]

ITEMS OF INTEREST

There will be Department Executive Board meeting held on Saturday, March 31, starting at 10:00 am. Place is still TBD. Focus on upcoming FY19 Budgets.
Renew – Recruit - Reconnect

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