TO MY LEGION FAMILY:

101ST NATIONAL CONVENTION

It is that time of the year again where we need to start looking at the 101st National Convention being held in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 22-30, 2019. As many of you know this is the Centennial year for the American Legion. Because of this celebration we are expected to have more people attend from around the country, so it is important to start making your travel arrangements. I increased the block of rooms for this department this year, so I am hoping that we fill them all. If I need to get more, I can do that, but I would like to know before July 1, 2019, which is the date for having housing forms back to me with your one-night deposit. Rooms this year are $159.00 a night, which includes the 17.0% tax. I know this was a problem last year and I double checked the price to make sure this is the correct amount.

There will be a very large parade this year as you can imagine so hopefully the weather holds out on that day and it is not to hot. As usual I will be posting information on the national Convention tab of our Department website, so please take a look at it as time goes on and we get closer to convention.

I am attaching a copy of the 2019 Housing request form that needs to be filled out and turned into me with a one-night deposit of $159.00. It would help me tremendously if the sooner you get your housing forms into me the better and I can have a better idea of where we stand with rooms this year. I believe the Keene Band is joining us this year so I will need more rooms just for them.

As with anything else the cost of the National Commanders banquet also increased in price per meal. This year it is $50.00 a plate. I requested 6 extra tickets this year or 3 extra couples. I would also like to get an idea if I am going to need more tickets before all of the tickets are gone this year. Right now, I have 36.
DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THIS FORM IN DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS 4 PM
FRIDAY JULY 1, 2019.

I hereby make application for housing at the 100th National Convention of The American Legion to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana from August 22 – August 29, 2019.

The New Hampshire Headquarters will be the Embassy Suites by Hilton Indianapolis Downtown, 110 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, In 46204

Accommodations $136.00, Tax on room is 17.0%   King beds, (1-2 persons) – 136.00
Additional Occupants in Room is $20.00, 3 – 4 persons. Doubles, (1-2 Persons) - $136.00
Rollaway per day – not available   Parking per day- $28.00 per day, no Valet

Housing Deposits: A deposit of $159.00, which includes tax, is required for each room plus additional fees. Non-Delegate or Alternates Registration Fee: $25.00 registration fee before room assignments are made. All housing is assigned on a basis of three night’s minimum occupancy. On Check-out make sure your deposit is credited to your account.

Room to be occupied by: (List full name, address of each occupant)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address and Phone Number</th>
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Circle: 2 Doubles or 1 King/ADA (King requests are very limited, No Guarantee, but we will try to accommodate all requests)

Email Address (if available): __________________________

Arrival Date: _______________________

Departure Date: _______________________

This is a non-smoking hotel. There is a $200.00 fee if caught smoking in the room. The Department will not be responsible for any smoking related fees.

If you plan to attend the convention, but have other housing arrangements, Please check and RETURN TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTER ( )
Department Caucus:

Appropriate attire required: Location: (TBA), Saturday, August 24, 2019 at 4:00 PM

New Hampshire Night:

Because of budgetary constraints, there will be no New Hampshire Night.

Important Notice: No telephone reservations will be accepted by the Department or the Hotel.

Enclose a check payable to: The American Legion, Department of New Hampshire

Circle one: 2 Doubles or 1 King (King beds are limited, first come first serve)

Housing Deposit ($159.00 Minimum, includes 17.0% tax) _________
Registration Fee ($25.00) (Non Delegate/Guest) _________
Additional Occupant - $20.00 _________
Rollaway Bed – not available – (limited) _________

TOTAL: _________

Name: ________________  Tel. Number: __________  Post# ______
Address: ___________________  City __________________________
Email Address: ___________________  Cell # ________________

Please ensure all items are answered in full.
I look forward to having a good size delegation this year. Let’s show them how proud we are of our Department in this Centennial year.

Additionally, I wanted to provide a quick update on what we are working on for our attendees’ enjoyment at the 2019 National Convention. All are in the very early stages but wanted to provide for your information and planning as necessary. We are excited about the below opportunities so stay tuned as we progress to hosting in our backyard the 101st National Convention, August 23-29, 2019, Indianapolis, IN.

The JW Marriott will serve as The American Legion Headquarters Hotel. The Marriott Indianapolis will serve as the Sons of The American Legion Headquarters Hotel. The Westin will serve as The American Legion Auxiliary Headquarters hotel.

1. Friday, August 23, 2019 – Color Guard Competition at 4:00PM in Hall A.
2. Saturday, August 24, 2019 – Competitive Concert Band Contest and Exhibition Concert Band performance in Hall A. Contests will start at 1:00PM.
3. Saturday, August 24, 2019 – Competitive Concert Band Contest and Exhibition Concert Band performance in Hall A. Contests will start at 1:00PM.
4. Sunday, August 25, 2019 – Patriotic Memorial Service starting at 11:00AM in Halls A&B.
5. Sunday, August 25, 2019 – National Convention Parade. The parade route will be similar to 2012 starting south of The American Legion HQ’s at North and Pennsylvania Streets and will likely end at St. Clair & Meridian Streets. The Department of Indiana is working on a Post Parade Party to be held on The American Legion Mall. More information to come.
6. Tuesday, August 27, 2019 – National Commander’s Banquet. Your National Commander has selected Fab Four (Beatles Tribute Band) as the Banquet Entertainment. Tickets are $50.00 per person and each table is a **round for TEN (10) people**. Departments may send their checks to the Convention & Meetings Office of The American Legion on or after January 1, 2019.
7. Please check the website often for updated information regarding notable items, events, etc. for Indianapolis at [www.legion.org/convention](http://www.legion.org/convention). Currently provided: the hotel listing by Department, alternative parking options, airport shuttle options, RV parks, Posts that desire to host functions listing, and Uniformed Groups information. Also, with the Indianapolis Indians Minor League Baseball being in town, American Legion Family Night at Victory Field will be Saturday, August 24 where the National Commander will throw out the first pitch. Discounted tickets and more information will be forthcoming. Game is at 7:05PM.

We are confident our American Legion Family members will enjoy the events we have planned thus far as well as the business sessions of The American Legion and other aspects of our 101st National Convention and the culmination of our Centennial Celebration.
TODAY IN HISTORY

Good morning Legionnaires and veterans advocates, today is Friday, March 8, 2019 which is Middle Name Pride Day, National Peanut Cluster Day, National Tartar Sauce Day, and National Proofreading Day.

This Weekend in Legion History:


• March 10, 1933: American Legion members in southern California spring into action following a deadly earthquake in Long Beach. Legionnaires provide food, water, emergency law enforcement, first aid and shelter. An American Legion building is used as a field mortuary for 47 dead.

This Day in History:

• The USS Henrico, Union, and Vancouver, carrying the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade under Brig. Gen. Frederick J. Karch, take up stations 4,000 yards off Red Beach Two, north of Da Nang. First ashore was the Battalion Landing Team 3/9, which arrived on the beach at 8:15 a.m. Wearing full battle gear and carrying M-14s, the Marines were met by sightseers, South Vietnamese officers, Vietnamese girls with leis, and four American soldiers with a large sign stating: “Welcome, Gallant Marines.” Gen. William Westmoreland, senior U.S. military commander in Saigon, was reportedly “appalled” at the spectacle because he had hoped that the Marines could land without any fanfare. Within two hours, Battalion Landing Team 1/3 began landing at Da Nang air base.

• Speaking to a convention of the National Association of Evangelicals in Florida on this day in 1983, President Ronald Reagan publicly refers to the Soviet Union as an evil empire for the second time in his career. He had first used the phrase in a 1982 speech at the British House of Commons. Some considered Reagan’s use of the Star Wars film-inspired terminology to be brilliant democratic rhetoric. Others, including many within the international diplomatic community, denounced it as irresponsible bombast.

Bankrupt vets can lose their disability benefits. This new effort would protect them.

Two senators just introduced a bill designed to shield veterans’ disability benefits from debt collectors.

When a disabled vet declares bankruptcy currently, the law allows debtors to count a veteran’s disability benefits as disposable income, allowing them to seize the benefits.
Yet Social Security disability benefits are exempted by law from being lumped into a person’s disposable income in bankruptcy filings, and disability benefits in any form aren’t taxable and therefore generally not considered disposable income.

The Honoring American Veterans in Extreme Need (HAVEN) Act seeks to create the same immunity in bankruptcy cases for benefits provided by the VA and Department of Defense to disabled veterans and their surviving spouses.

Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, introduced the bill, which has already been endorsed by 10 Republican and 10 Democratic senators. It has also earned the support of organizations like the American Legion, Disabled Veterans of America and the American Bankruptcy Institute, among others.

“Right now, veterans and their families are forced to dip into their disability-related benefits to pay off bankruptcy creditors,” said Baldwin during an unveiling event for HAVEN in her Senate office.

“And that’s not right. This reform will protect veterans’ disability benefits when they fall on hard times.”

Supporters of the legislation say it’s unfair that veterans may be forced to give up their disability benefits when declaring bankruptcy, while the general population receiving similar benefits through Social Security does not.

“The effect is to shove veterans out of the protections that every other disabled American gets,” said Holly Petraeus, a HAVEN supporter and former assistant director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. “We knew that was not right and were sure that was not intended with the original legislation, but that was the effect that it had.”

Matthew Shuman, the American Legion’s national legislative director, felt similarly.

“So often we find that veterans and service members and their families are exempted because they do great things,” he said. “It’s not often that we find the other way around.”

Baldwin and others involved with HAVEN say the bill could also help veterans’ mental-health issues by easing their financial burdens. John Thompson, a veteran and bankruptcy lawyer with the ABI, brought up “startling statistics” surrounding veteran suicides.

“We know that one of the single greatest contributing factors to that is financial distress,” he said.

“And this is going to go a long way to easing that financial distress for many American veterans.” A few of the bill’s supporters made the point that bankruptcy isn’t inherently a bad thing and, in fact, can allow a veteran to start over financially.

Jay Bender, an Alabama lawyer and ABI member, said that the fear of losing their disability benefits to creditors might deter veterans from filing for bankruptcy.

“There’s benefits to going through bankruptcy, to get the fresh start,” he said. “We should remove the impediment that currently exists that restricts this access for disabled vets.”

Baldwin agreed, adding that fewer barriers for veterans to file for bankruptcy creates more opportunities for them to turn their lives around and resume their contributions to the economy.
“When somebody has financial woes that are so significant that they have to declare bankruptcy, if given a second chance they have a much more promising path to becoming taxpayers again,” she said. “If not given that chance, people are not necessarily going to resume a productive job. We like to create new taxpayers.”

Shane Liermann, Disabled American Veterans’ assistant national legislative director, highlighted what’s truly at stake for veterans who face the prospect of having their disability benefits snatched away by debtors in a bankruptcy scenario.

“Disability compensation for many of our veterans is the difference between being able to provide the necessities for their family and not,” he said. “The notion that disability compensation can be considered disposable income is outrageous.” (Joshua Axelrod, 2019, Reboot Camp)
The United States Mint will begin accepting orders for the 2019 American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Program on March 14 at 12 pm EST. Product options and pricing are below while images are attached.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRODUCT CODE</th>
<th>PRODUCT OPTION</th>
<th>INTRO PRICE</th>
<th>REGULAR PRICE</th>
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<tr>
<td>19CJ</td>
<td>Gold Proof Coin</td>
<td>Per Grid Less $5</td>
<td>Per Grid Less $5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19CK</td>
<td>Gold Uncirculated Coin</td>
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<td>Three-Coin Proof Set</td>
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The US Mint is pricing the gold coins according to its “Pricing of Numismatic Gold, Commemorative Gold, and Platinum Products” table at https://catalog.usmint.gov/coins/gold-coins/. Introductory prices are in effect until April 15, 2019 at 3: P.M EST, after which regular pricing will take effect. Orders for the gold coins will be limited to two per household for the first 24-hours of sales.

Later this year, the Mint will offer a limited edition American Legion Silver Dollar and American Veterans Medal Set (product code 19CQ) consisting of one American Legion Proof Silver Dollar and one 99.9% American Veterans silver medal. This set is limited to 10,000 units. The medal in this set will be struck in silver only for this set and will not be struck in silver again. A bronze version of the medal will be available in the future. More information regarding the Veterans Medal set will be sent out later this year.

The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act (Public Law 115–65) authorizes the United States Mint to strike and issue up to 50,000 $5 Gold Coins, 400,000 Silver Dollar Coins, and 750,000 Clad Half Dollar Coins. Coin prices include surcharges of $35 for each gold coin, $10 for each $1 silver coin and $5 for each half-dollar coin. The law requires the Mint to pay the surcharges collected from sales to The American Legion to support the Legion’s programs for veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and other purposes specified by the authorizing legislation.

Starting on March 14 at 12 pm EST, please visit www.legion.org/coin or call 1-800-USA-MINT (872-6468) to order your coins. I have also attached a fact sheet that provides additional details for each coin. If you have additional questions, please contact Scott Miller, Marketing Director, at smiller@legion.org.
Events Recognized

Mohegan Sun Casino Bus Trip

Saturday, April 27, 2019
Bus leaves Post at 7:00am
Returns to Post at 7:00pm
Sweeney Post 2
251 Maple St, Manchester NH 03103

$35.00 per person
Deadline April 1, 2019
Includes:...
• $10 voucher for lunch or
• Merchandise
• 50/50 on the way down
• Light snacks on the bus
• Tickets can be purchased
  with credit card at 603-623-9145

Tickets on Sale Now
See Bartender

In honor of National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, The New Hampshire Veterans of Foreign Wars would like to announce and welcome all to attend its annual Former Prisoner of War Memorial Ceremony being held at the NH State Veterans Cemetery Chapel in Boscawen, NH on April 6th @ 10:00. All are invited to come, recognize and support those of NH who were former POW's. Please forward/pass this announcement along.

The announcement has also been sent to the Union Leader.

Very Respectfully,

Mark T. McCabe
2018/2019 Chairman
MESSAGE FROM OUR NATIONAL COMMANDER

To my fellow Legionnaires in New Hampshire,

Through your help and the nearly 20 million living American veterans, our voice is being heard in Washington. In 2018, the VA Mission Act was signed into law. It was the most significant veterans’ legislation in many years. But reforming the Department of Veterans Affairs health care infrastructure by streamlining community care and expanding benefits is not an easy task. It will require comprehensive input from The American Legion in order to do it well. On a national level, your American Legion counts on you to visit your local VA and provide advocacy to benefit veterans in your area. Be sure and share any positive or negative experiences that you may observe at your VA with our national headquarters in Washington.

I am deeply appreciative of the support individuals, posts, squadrons, Riders chapters and units in your department have been giving to our Veterans and Children Foundation. This great program proved its worth by providing more than one million dollars of temporary financial assistance to needy Coast Guard families during the recent government shutdown. This presented an enormous challenge to this great program since we had only budgeted $280,000 to the fund. It is so important for us to continue giving to our great American Legion charities so we can continue to serve those who have served our country so well.

Most veterans do not get to see our testimony before Congress, our visits to the White House and our meetings with VA, but they are aware of their neighborhood American Legion post.

It is the posts that are sponsoring Scouting units, conducting blood drives, reconnecting with local troops, supporting homeless shelters and many other activities that improve the quality of life for others. The American Legion has a great story and it is up to all of us to tell it.

I thank you for your service as military veterans, as Legionnaires and as members of the Legion Family. Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable conference.

Celebrate Our Legacy,

Brett P. Reistad
National Commander

Renew – Recruit - Reconnect

Please Post