



The Bulletin

The American Legion
Washington Post 2
Forest Grove



Jan 2026

Greetings, Fellow Legionnaires;

Welcome! To our two newest members: Leo Gonzalez, USMC, Global War on Terrorism; and Todd Verboort, USA, Lebanon/Grenada. Glad to have you aboard.

It's that time of year again. My, Time does fly when you're not paying attention. We will be taking our first round of officer nominations at our March general membership meeting. All officer positions will be available: Commander, Vice Commander, Adjutant, Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms, Finance Officer, Post Historian, and Member-at-Large Position 1. As with all organizations which have a three-member director or member-at-large position, these positions rotate every three years. Member-at-Large Position 1's three-year position has rotated around and Positions 2 and 3 now have 1 and 2 years left, respectively. If any of these officer positions are something you may be interested in, don't hesitate to step up.

You will note that on the Calendar of Events there is a mention of "The Four Chaplains Remembrance Day" on February 3rd. While our Post does not have a dedicated observance of the day, some Posts do – Albany Post 10 will have their observance on February 1st. (See <https://www.albanypost10.org/commander-s-announcements/4-chaplains-2026>.) The **Four Chaplains** were four chaplains who died rescuing civilian and military personnel as the American troop ship SS *Dorchester* sank on February 3, 1943, in what has been referred to as one of the worst sea disasters of World War II. The relatively new chaplains all held the rank of first lieutenant. They included Methodist minister the Reverend George L. Fox, Reform Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, PhD, Catholic priest Father John P. Washington, and Reformed Church in America minister the Reverend Clark V. Poling.

The *Dorchester*, a civilian liner, had been converted for military service in World War II as a troop transport of the War Shipping Administration. The ship left New York on January 23, 1943, en route to Greenland, carrying approximately 900 as part of a convoy of three ships escorted by Coast Guard Cutters *Tampa*, *Escanaba*, and *Comanche*. During the early morning hours of February 3, the vessel was torpedoed by the German submarine U-223 off Newfoundland in the North Atlantic. The torpedo knocked out the *Dorchester's* electrical system, leaving the ship dark. Panic set in among the men on board, many of them trapped below decks. The chaplains sought to calm the men and organize an orderly evacuation of the ship and helped guide wounded men to safety. As life jackets were passed out to the men, the supply ran out before each man had one. The chaplains removed their own life jackets and gave them to others. They helped as many men as they could into lifeboats, and then linked arms and, saying prayers and singing hymns, went down with the ship.

"As I swam away from the ship, I looked back. The flares had lighted everything. The bow came up high and she slid under. The last thing I saw, the Four Chaplains were up there praying for the safety of the men. They had done everything they could. I did not see them again. They themselves did not have a chance without their life jackets." —Grady Clark, survivor

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Commander's Thoughts

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HAPPY NEW YEAR LEGIONNAIRES



I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable holiday season giving yourselves a chance to rejuvenate your battery and get ready to face a brand new 2026. Our general meeting this month will include our annual Post Everlasting Ceremony and approval of our 2026 proposed budget. Thanks to our renters, we are in good shape and can afford some expanse of our outreach. In that budget is a proposal to change our current "Scholarship Fund" to a "Youth Programs Fund" where annual budget payments for all youth programs will be deposited and payments will be made out of that fund vs the general fund. This will allow us to better plan for and accommodate fluctuations in our programs such as the number of Boys State citizens we sponsor.



In that regard, as your Commander, I want this new year to have a focus on increasing participation in our Legion youth programs. Though we should be addressing these year-round, this time of year is an opportune time to target potential participants. Let's make a concerted effort to disseminate information and educate potential participants of the following youth programs available.

1) American Legion Baseball - Even though we do not have a team at our post, there are teams at Hillsboro Post 6 and Tigard Post 158. Last year one of Tigard's teams went to the national finals, falling to the Championship Team. For questions about American Legion Baseball, contact Mike Sowles at 503-769-4599.

2) Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career Camp - The camp is a week-long residential program where youth experience all aspects of Law Enforcement held at Camp Rilea. It is open to students aged 15 to 17 with recommendations from a teacher or other adult and an American Legion Post sponsor. A \$50 fee is required by the student, but the rest is covered by the sponsoring Post. This camp provides a well-rounded exposure to the many opportunities in the field of Law Enforcement. The Department Chair is Ed Owens, phone 360-991-9665.

3) Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts) - Our Post sponsors Troop 2060 who meet in the basement of our Post. They assist us in several of our functions such as the Flag Retirement Ceremony, placing 9/11 flags, Memorial Day grave flags, parades and the Elks Veterans Dinner. For questions, contact Mike Standing at 971-732-4619.

4) American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Competition - Top three scholarships at National range from \$20,000 to \$25,000. An admirable goal, but scholarship opportunities are available at Post, District, Department and National levels for all four years of high school. Top three at the Department are \$3,000-\$5,000; a significant sum can be earned over multiple years. What it takes is a willingness to speak 8-10 minutes on an aspect of the Constitution of their choosing and then a 3-5 minute speech on one of four pre-selected topics chosen each year. We are holding the 2026 District Competition on Saturday January 31st at noon in our Post. Come and see what this program is all about. I am the primary contact at 503-333-2340. I could use another judge or two if you are interested.

5) Boys State/Girls State - This program is a week-long mock government exercise held on a college/university campus. Local and state positions are filled by election or appointment amongst "citizens" from all over the state. A school representative generally forwards potential candidates, but many schools do not place emphasis on it. Posts, auxiliaries or other sponsors cover the cost of attendance. It equates to college credit, an excellent resume entry, and 10 points toward an academy appointment. The Legion runs Boys State and the Auxiliary does Girls State. Attendance can only be at the end of their junior year of High School; a one-time shot. The Programs will run concurrently at Oregon State University from June 21 (20th for Girls State) thru June 27. Boys State Contact - Fred Broadwater at 503-686-4193; Girls State Contact - Karla Thaler at 503-319-5818.

All of these programs are bundled under the Americanism Pillar with Mike Speer being the Americanism Chair and the Department Second Vice Commander. His phone number is 503-703-2757.

As always, my last paragraph is MEMBERSHIP. For those who have renewed, Thank You! If not, Cinderella, your coach has turned back to a pumpkin. Grab your glass slipper (or combat boot), head to your phone or computer and contact your Fairy God Adjutant Wendy and get yourself back in good standing. You have just lost some of your benefits and will have to restart your complimentary life insurance when you renew. Ask her how you can become a Prince or Princess, ensure this does not happen again, and live Happily Ever After

Chaplain's Corner



Jim Clute
(503) 953-4171
James_clute@yahoo.com



Resilience

The ability to bounce back from adversity, stress, or trauma. On a human level we may be able to pull up the old boot straps or some psychology, but if we are talking about spiritual attacks, there is only one way to take on those who wish to harm (us) humanity. We cannot try to appease them nor appeal to their sense of dignity and self-worth, because they have buried it so deep within that they have trouble dealing with it themselves anymore. The only tool available comes from God Himself. Calling on the name of Jesus is the only sure-fire way to deal with the spiritual realm, but! There is a caveat to that ability. We must have a personal relationship with Jesus to have that authority. There is a story in the bible where some people listening to Jesus teach went out later and tried to exercise some of the local seers, Replied Jesus we know and Paul we know, but who are you? Then proceeded to tear their clothing from them leaving them naked while a different group after being sent out by Jesus, came back exclaiming how even demons were subject to them. Therefore; we need to be careful what we are requiring of whom. I encourage you to be careful, be respectful, yet bold as lions as you go about your daily lives.

Heavenly Father: We thank You for this time we have together here on earth and ask that You give us wisdom and guidance as Legion members in encouraging our youth as they build upon understanding of government around this world and the roll it has in our future. Instill into young Americans a love for You and their country, a spirit of unselfish service, and a sense of loyalty, self-reliance and responsibility. Guide us and direct our efforts as we in faith train our youth for tomorrow's responsibilities and leadership. Amen

Yes, Legionaries; we still have a responsibility. We have defended our nation in military service and we remember those who served with us, especially those who paid the ultimate price. Yet we still have one last responsibility. That is to train up the youth of our nation in patriotism and honor.

The Charter has been draped:

Raymond E. "Gene" Hill b. 4 Dec 1938 d: Unknown USMC Lebanon/Grenada

Let us sincerely say, "May their souls rest in peace".

Auxiliary News

We are taking a much-needed break after making 251 stockings, hosting 40+ children at the Open House, participating in the light parade and assorted other activities supporting our veterans. But we will have our first meeting on Feb. 5th where we will induct our new member, Chris, plan the Family Fun Day and vote on a budget. I hope to see you all there. In the meantime, happy New Year!



Respectfully, Juanita Lint, Unit 2 President

Have you signed up for your free Accidental Death & Dismemberment policy? It's a benefit to you for being a member of The American Legion. ➡ Go to: www.theLIT.com for more information.



Note: A couple of months ago, I posted some information about the President of the Oregon American Legion Auxiliary's project being P.A.V.E – Paws Assisting Veterans. I am attaching this copy of a flyer with information about a raffle being held to raise money for that cause. This will also be included in full, living color at the end of the online newsletter for those that want to circulate the flyer. Thank you for supporting this very worthy cause.



**ALA - PRESIDENTS
PROJECT**

**GUN
RAFFLE**

WIN A 9MM PISTOL!

Stoeger STR-9

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

TICKETS AT \$10 EACH 500 sold
Contact Lori Vallery 971-241-1073

**PAWS ASSISTING
VETERANS**

**SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE WHILE
HAVING A CHANCE TO WIN BIG!**

If you move, change your phone number or email address, please let us know at:

forestgrovepost2@gmail.com 503-389-5927

Post 2, 2003 21st Ave., Forest Grove, OR 97116

Calendar of Events

Saturday/Sunday, Jan 17th/18th – Dept's Mid-Winter DEC Training/Meeting (Virtual)

Monday, Jan 19th – Martin Luther King Holiday

Tuesday, Jan 20th – Post 2 General Membership Meeting – 7 pm (6 pm Social Hour)

Meeting will begin with our yearly Post Everlasting ceremony

Saturday, Jan 31st – District Oratorical Contest – 12 pm @ Post 2

Monday, Feb 2nd – Post 2 Executive Committee Meeting – 6 pm

Tuesday, Feb 3rd – Four Chaplains Remembrance Day

Thursday, Feb 5th – Unit 2 ALA Meeting – 6 pm

Tuesday, Feb 17th – Post 2 General Membership Meeting – 7 pm (6 pm Social Hour)

Saturday, Feb 21st – District 1 Meeting – 1 pm @ Hillsboro Post 6

W/Th/F/S Jun 24-27 – American Legion Convention – Chinook Winds Casino



Check out this month's Oregon Legionnaire @

No link this month. Not loaded to Department website. I will post with next month's link.



LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS:

Public Law No. 119-42

An Act: To increase, effective as of December 1, 2025, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

Nov. 25, 2025:

[S. 2392]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2025".

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to increase the amounts payable for wartime disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children. Specifically, the VA must increase the amounts by the same percentage as the cost-of-living increase in benefits for Social Security recipients that is effective on December 1, 2025.

SIGNED INTO PUBLIC LAW BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ON NOVEMBER 25, 2025.

Help Stop Veteran Suicides. Go to:

<https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-training>

Members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to take part in this training

This Month in Military History:

On January 11, 1917, a fire started in Building 30 of the Canadian Car and Foundry Company at Kingsland in New Jersey. In four hours, probably 500,000 pieces of 3-inch (76 mm) explosive shells were discharged. The entire plant was destroyed. From office buildings and tall apartments, people in New York City watched with amazement.

Although the U.S. was neutral to the War in Europe at that time, the country was selling war supplies to the Allied powers due to the British blockade of Germany -- meaning that the Allies were the only potential customers. Munitions, including shells, shell cases, shrapnel, and powder were shipped to Kingsland from over 100 different factories. At the foundry they were assembled for shipment to Russia. Producing three million shells per month, the factory was a worthy objective for German saboteurs.

Building 30 was used exclusively for cleaning out shells; it contained 48 workbenches. On the bench in front of each employee was a pan of gasoline and a small rotating machine operated by a belt. The cleaning process included several steps: The shells were dusted with a brush; a cloth, moistened in the pan of gasoline, was wrapped around a foot-long piece of wood; the shell was placed in the rotating machine and the wood was inserted into the shell as it turned; a dry cloth was wrapped around the stick and the shell was dried in a similar manner.

Rumor had it that a group of saboteurs operated under the direction of Frederick Hinsch. He recruited a German national, Curt Thummel, who changed his name to Charles Thorne. Hinsch instructed Thorne to obtain employment at the factory. Thorne was hired as assistant employment manager. In this position he facilitated the hiring of several operatives sent by Hinsch to infiltrate the factory. One of those employees supposedly was Theodore Wozniak. After the Kingsland plant was completely destroyed, police and federal investigators uncovered the source of the fire. It started at Wozniak's workbench in Building 30. Other workmen alleged that the fire began in front of Wozniak's wooden roller. One of the company directors, Mr. Cahan, remarked about Wozniak's nervous behavior and contradictions during an interview about the incident. Wozniak, who admitted that he had served time as a draftee in the Austrian Army, was told by Mr. Cahan that he would be needed in New York as part of the investigation into the fire. Wozniak, who lived at the Russian Immigrant House on Third Street in New York City, eluded the detectives who were watching him and disappeared.

Kingsland resident Theresa Louise "Tessie" McNamara, who operated the company switchboard, was credited with saving 1,400 lives; despite the fire McNamara stayed at the switchboard. She plugged in each of the buildings and shouted the warning, "Get out or go up!"^[3] No one was killed in the fire as a result of her announcements. Fleeing workers were able to cross the frozen Hackensack River or run up Valley Brook Avenue to safety. The National Special Aid Society later presented McNamara with a check to honor her for her bravery.

"Whatever happened, the building was in flames in an instant. Ten minutes passed before the first and mightiest explosion. In those ten minutes panic broke loose in the plant. It is believed that there were 1,400 men working in the factory. "They started to get out. The entrance to the building was by a narrow gate, guarded by 12-foot walls. In a moment this was jammed by workers, mostly Italians and negroes, who fought desperately to get away. Guards were forced at last to drive back the mob with pistols and rifles." "They broke and scattered. Many of them run to the rear of the plant, which is separated from the swampy meadow by a high barbed-wire fence. They went through this like a drove of cattle. Frantic with terror, they paid no attention to the wire, which cut some of them cruelly, but went ploughing, the whole terror-struck crowd, through the mud and thin ice of the marsh."

"Then came the first great roar. It is said that a building in which the loaded shells were stored was the first to go." "The terrific blast spread the panic, which had hitherto been confined to the factory yard, to Kingsland and the adjoining village of Lyndhurst. After the first detonation came the steady roll of bursting shrapnel and high explosive shells. In a minute the little Jersey towns were transformed into villages upon the European battle front. Shells that had been intended for the armies of the Czar burst in terrific salvos over the roofs of the houses, shattered chimneys, riddled the car repair barns of the Lackawanna Railway, and set two dwellings on fire."

Read more at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingsland_explosion

Field Trip Day for students from the Community School

Our WWII member Francis Mullally speaking with the students



Banks Post 90 and Forest Grove Post 2 Oratorical Contest

December 19, 2025

Lillian on the left
&
Malia on the right

Please join us and these two girls
as they go up against each other
at our District 1 contest at Post 2 on
January 31st, 2026

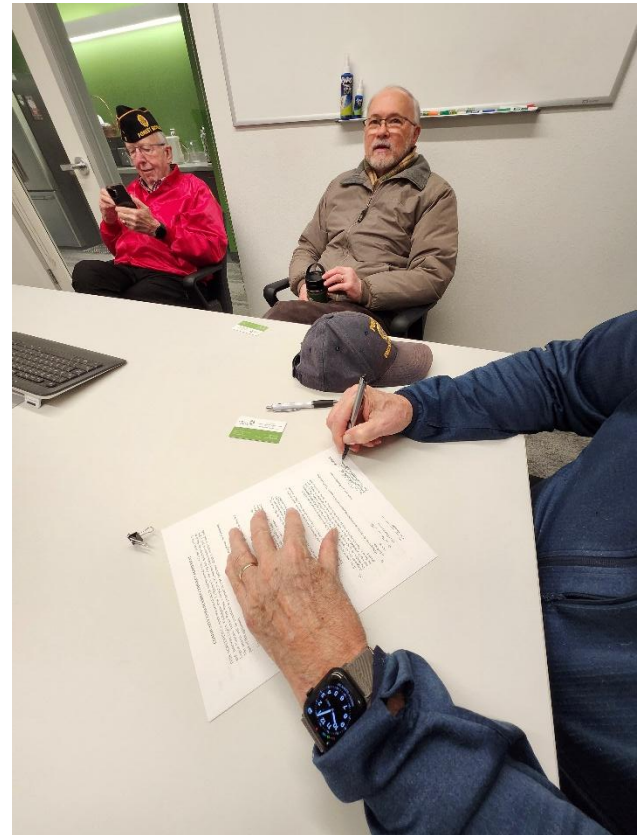
The winner at District will then go to
Department and face off with the
winners from the other 9 Districts.





The first gathering of the 6-week Wellness Club program. The attendance was so successful that the classes had to be moved from the meeting room to the main floor studio. It's not too late to join in. Hope to see you there. M/W/F @ 12 noon.

Dale signing the contract for the Community Enhancement Program grant. Mike and Tim are looking on. This grant will go towards a plan to create a Veteran's Tribute Park to be located somewhere within city limits.



Dale and Wendy presenting safety vests to the Forest Grove Police Department. Chief Reimann and Officer Jacobs were on to accept the Post's Community Safety Program donation.



If anyone is interested, contact Wendy before or at the upcoming meeting. After the meeting the tickets will be purchased and passed out prior to the deadline: The 14th or 15th...

ALA - PRESIDENTS PROJECT



GUN RAFFLE



WIN A 9MM PISTOL!



Stoen STR-9

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

TICKETS AT \$10 EACH 500 sold
Contact Lori Vallery 971-241-1073

PAWS ASSISTING VETERANS

**SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE WHILE
HAVING A CHANCE TO WIN BIG!**

Annual

**HILLSBORO POST 6
THE AMERICAN LEGION**

CRAB FEED



TICKETS

\$25 Whole CRAB

\$15 Half Crab

\$15 Shrimp Louie

**Tickets on sale until
February 11th**

Call 503-407-3112 or

503-648-7191

to order and send

in money.

Pick up tickets

at the door.

Saturday,

February 14, 2026

TAKE-OUT / DINE IN

5pm – 6:30pm

Meals are Crab

Dinner or Shrimp

Louie, salad (potato

salad or coleslaw)

and dinner rolls.

**Hillsboro Post 6
285 W. Main St.,
Hillsboro, OR 97123**

