

**WORLD'S LARGEST VETERANS ORGANIZATION**



# New Jersey LEGIONNAIRE



VOLUME 38, NO. 4

Official Publication of THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY  
TRENTON, NJ

Winter 2026

**Come out Feb. 1 to Honor  
the Four Chaplains**

**CDC Recognizes Gulf War Illness**

**Follow the Chain of Command**

**Affordable Housing Update**

**Scholarship Deadline**

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

### The Department of New Jersey's Legion Family is the Real Deal



I hope everyone enjoyed a peaceful and joyous holiday season and the new year is beginning filled with promise, prosperity and hope for a brighter future for us all.

Although the past year was challenging, we made meaningful strides forward. We experienced some intense growing pains over the last few months, but I believe we emerged stronger, more resilient and standing a little taller because of them. As always, there is still much more work to be done.

When we work together, we don't just "get it" done—we build something stronger. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your contributions to making our dept. better. Let's continue to build on everything we've achieved together and stay focused on the purpose that drives us forward.

Our greatest impact and influence happen at the local level, through our posts and counties. As you may or may not know, we are facing aging membership in NJ, and the continuity of our organization is being challenged. How do we ensure our future? By focusing on the work we do for our veterans, for our children and youth, and within our communities—advocating patriotism and honor and promoting continued devotion to servicemembers and veterans. These are powerful talking points when asking a member to renew or when engaging a potential new member. We must continue to champion The Legion's mission with urgency and compassion. Know the purpose of The American Legion.

I believe in the work we are doing for our veterans as an American Legion Family. The Be the One campaign and our suicide prevention efforts are now part of who we are. Let's make our Buddy Checks more than a Facebook post of someone who attended a meeting. Let's call or visit a veteran or Legion Family member who did not. Use and promote our website, stay connected through our social channels and be an informed member.

In closing, I want to thank the Auxiliary, the Sons and the Riders for their continued support in making the Dept. of NJ's Legion Family the Real Deal.

## For God & Country Service Honors the Four Chaplains

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, a prayer book, containing scriptures, readings and prayers for a full year, was distributed to service members. *Strength for Service to God and Country* was distributed through 1950 to help service members keep their faith and that through their faith they would have the strength to face all challenges. On a cold winter night, Sunday, Feb. 3, 1943, the men of the United States Army Transport Dorchester had to face that challenge, and saw first-hand the strength of faith and service to others, as four military chaplains gave their lives so others might live.

Every member of The American Legion should know the story of the Four Chaplains, so I will not retell it here. Instead, I will call attention to the service honoring those four men held yearly by The American Legion, Dept. of NJ, at the Cathedral of the Air, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Just south of the entrance to Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station (NAES), the Cathedral of the Air sits stately amongst the pines. It was conceived by Reverend Gill Robb Wilson, former National Chaplain of The American Legion, and is intended to serve the military personnel serving at the joint base. This cathedral was built by The American Legion in 1933 to honor those who made history. The gray stones of the cathedral sit beautifully against the pines, which have grown in over the years. Eighteen stained-glass windows depict the history of flight in fact and in myth -- from the mighty horse Pegasus and the wax wings of Icarus, to Dr. Hugo Eckener, the German pioneer of lighter-than-air aviation.

Under the direction of the dept.'s chaplain, the ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. at the chapel, 264 Hope Chapel Road, Lakehurst, NJ 08733.

## Adjutant's Column

John D. Baker  
Department Adjutant  
Tel. 609-695-5418



I hope everyone had a merry Christmas and a happy new year. The 2025 portion of the 2025/2026 Legion year is over. The commander has done many things and is flying high with eyes set on June. Keep in mind the Feb. Dept. Executive Committee (DEC) meeting will take place Feb. 7 at Post 414, Lawrenceville, and the "For God and Country" Four Chaplains Service on Feb. 1.

Between now and June there are many things for you to look at and get ready for. The Boys State program is in full swing. Get your

**Cover photo taken at the Cathedral of the Air, Lakehurst, at the 2025 service honoring the Four Chaplains. From left: Adjutant John Baker, vice commanders Michael Smith, Hector A. Quiñones, Auxiliary President Charline Gladden, Vice Commander Thomas Dresdner, Commander Charles "Andy" Jackson, Vice Commander David Snody.**

### New Jersey Legionnaire

The American Legion, Department of New Jersey  
171 Jersey Street, Building #5, Second Floor, Trenton, NJ 08611  
Phone: 609-695-5418 FAX: 609-394-1532  
WEBSITE: [www.NJAmericanLegion.org](http://www.NJAmericanLegion.org)

New Jersey Legionnaire is an official publication of The American Legion, Department of New Jersey. It is published quarterly and has a circulation of 35,000.

Managing Editor: Gary Cooper (Post 401, South Brunswick)

SEND ALL NEWS ARTICLES in Word Format & DIGITAL PHOTOS TO:  
[g.cooper@njamericanlegion.org](mailto:g.cooper@njamericanlegion.org), include phone number.

**\*\*Do not send anything in pdf format\*\***

Statements contributed by individual writers may not agree with the endorsed position of the department or editor and will reflect the opinion of the contributor only.

Articles submitted may be edited for space and/or clarity.

**Deadline for the spring issue is April 1, 2026**



sponsorship cards in. I know there is room for 1,000 boys, so let's get out and give the Boys State director a surprise by filling all 1,000 slots. Baseball is also in "full swing" way before you actually have a ball batted. As with each year, the rules are being reviewed and rosters are being submitted for review and approval. The leagues are being organized, and it won't be long before you start seeing those balls flying.

The Oratorical Contest is upcoming, also. Good luck to all the participants. The posts and counties should be working on their Americanism contests (coloring, XXX of the Year, etc.), along with their Publicity & Public Relations contests (history/scrapbooks). This is a busy time of year for all levels of our organization. Besides all the contests to run and judge, posts and counties will be getting ready for their annual elections. Good luck to all.

The Washington Conference will be from Sunday, March 1 through Wednesday, March 4.

I know many of you look forward to going on the "hill" to expound on our legislative priorities. Additionally, the meetings are always interesting and educational. The Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington Cemetery is something to behold.

After the Feb. DEC meeting, we will have one more DEC meeting in April, prior to going to Wildwood. Please, come and see your leadership at work. We all were, are and will be, again, Blue-cap Legionnaires. Speaking of leadership and Blue-caps, our American Legion Leadership College will be held the last weekend in April at the National Guard Training Facility, Sea Girt. I have been receiving applications already. Get yours in since there are limited slots.

The last event before Wildwood is the Locustwood Memorial Service. If you have never been, you will find it a worthwhile event. Our last DEC meeting for the 2025/2026 Legion year will be held on Wed., June 10 in Wildwood, with our dept. convention following, June 11 – 13.

However, before convention happens, we have a lot of things to do in the next six months. Refocus and "Channel Our Energies to Helping Veterans".



## Revised Legion

NEC Eugene O'Grady, Chair



Our committee hopes all had a happy holiday season and we wish all Legionnaires a healthy and prosperous new year.

The mission of the Revised Committee truly has one mission and that is to make our Legion better, to serve the "Good of The American Legion." To provide advice, consultation and recommendations to the Dept. Executive Committee. Address any unforeseen matters affecting operations at dept., and give guidance and discipline any member of the dept., if necessary.

We have been working hard on several items and have been meeting monthly to address. We are seeing progress on most issues and will continue until it's a success.

If there are any suggestions or concerns, feel free to submit using the proper chain of command (see below). To be clear, submit it through your post commander who will forward to your county commander. The county will submit it via the Dept. Executive Committee person (DEC). We are all in this together and are better together.

There are a few very good things that are coming soon for NJ. It really is an exciting time to hold this position and I'm grateful to have the position as chair. Thank you all for your service and what you do for The American Legion!

## Chain of Command Policy & Procedure

We have all served in the military, so we all should know what the "chain of command" is and means, especially with regard to solving an issue or complaint. To provide guidance to post members on how to delineate authority and reporting relationships and to ensure that all members adhere to the established chain of command when performing their assigned duties this guide was established.

### APPLICABILITY

These procedures shall apply to all post, county and dept. members, volunteers, office staff and interns, and any others who provide and conduct business on behalf of The American Legion, Dept. of NJ.

For the purpose of this procedure, the following definitions apply:

**CHAIN OF COMMAND:** An official hierarchy of authority that dictates who is in charge of whom and whose permission must be sought for official actions to be taken. The line of succession, authority and reporting obligation, which all post members regardless of position within the dept. must follow.

A chain of command is an aspect of organizational structure that is meant to show a clear line of responsibility from the top position to the bottom. A chain of command is established so that all post, county and dept. members know whom they should report to and what responsibilities are expected at that level.

### Organizational Charts

An organizational chart is a visual communication tool that starts at the post level and follows through the chain of command to the dept. level. The organizational chart of The American Legion, Dept. of NJ is:

### LEVELS OF AUTHORITY

- ⇒ Post Commander
- ⇒ Post Adjutant
- ⇒ Post Judge Advocate
- ⇒ County Commander
- ⇒ County Adjutant
- ⇒ County Judge Advocate
- ⇒ Department Adjutant
- ⇒ Department JA
- ⇒ Department DEC

### PROCEDURES

1. All issues at the Post level will stay within the post, there are procedures in our constitution and bylaws as well as the *Officer Manual*, which is online and available for download, of the procedures to bring members up on charges or to suspend the charter of a post. **AT NO TIME IS ANY MEMBER ALLOWED TO CONTACT THE NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE; THEY MUST REACH OUT TO THE COUNTY OR DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE.** The post commander or post adjutant is expected to provide each member with clear lines of responsibility and maintain communication at all levels.
2. All post, county members shall adhere to the chain of command and attempt to resolve issues at the dept. level.
3. All posts and counties are to adhere to these procedures when reporting incidents and concerns to their respective post commander, post adjutant, post judge advocate or county commander, county adjutant or county judge advocate within the chain

of command of each post or county, as set out in the organizational chart.

4. Members shall adhere to verbal and written directions communicated through their designated chain of command in the performance of their duties.

5. All members must understand, recognize and determine when official communications and transactions must be cleared through the proper chain of command. When in doubt regarding this requirement, the member shall consult with their post commander, post adjutant or post judge advocate as indicated on the organizational chart.

6. Employees seeking to file a complaint against an immediate member or member of the post command shall submit their complaint to the next supervisor in their chain of command as indicated on the organizational chart.

7. Delegation of authority: If the post commander is absent from duty or is otherwise unable to carry out their duties and responsibilities, then the post vice commander shall be the appropriate designee. The delegated designee shall not have the authority to make decisions regarding personnel or major program changes.

8. For complaints involving sexual harassment, employees shall follow the Sexual Harassment Procedures available on dept.'s website or in the officers manual in charges against an individual member or members.

9. Failure of an employee to follow these procedures may result in further disciplinary action such as "unbecoming a member of The American Legion".

## Our Connectiveness Mission Advances and with Continuous Improvement!

PDC Bob Looby, National Honorary Member of Employment & Homeless Commission



Again, we have had an incredibly positive and educational period since the last issue of this newsletter, for the benefit of our military, veterans and their families! Atlantic County DEC Pat Tatum conducted an additional and last of this series of the SBA's

Boots To Business Workshop at the New Hope Baptist Church, Atlantic City. We have now conducted 33

workshops, the most in The Legion! She, also, managed our most recent Mobile Stand Down in Millville, attracting 79 veterans and providers. Commander Ezel Jackson, Jr. of Post 336, Burlington, hosted the inaugural NJ session for the new Dept. of Labor (DOL) Off Base Transition Training (OBTT). OBTT extends the Dept.'s Transition Assistance Program (TAP) to veterans, National Guard, Reserve and their spouses, at locations other than active military installations. OBTT consists of a series of modular, employment-focused workshops tailored to allow attendees to take control of their careers, meet their employment goals, maximize their career potential and increase the health of the national economy. These workshops are offered in-person or virtually.

I facilitated the NJ Dept. of Corrections' Fourth Annual Veterans Day ceremony recognizing those returned deployed Army Guard soldiers; and enabled a Resource Fair in Hamilton Twp., with 75+ veterans and family members attending with hourly door prizes and bikes for the kids. Our support and efforts of incarcerated and homeless veterans (13 directly supported this period) continue throughout the state.

Now, for ongoing planning: as a member of the NJDOC Military Services Liaison Committee, we will conduct a repeat of our Benefit Fairs for Correction Officers and civilian staff (400+) employed by the DOC at all their nine prisons. Planning is also proceeding to take our incarcerated veterans mentoring services to the federal prison at Ft. Dix. This is being facilitated by Rich Liebler, Legion member and recipient of our second National Employer of the Year with Sansone Auto Mall.

Our previously announced partnership and planning with the Philadelphia 76er's is continuing for the March 15 Portland Trailblazers games. Bernie Kofoet, chair of all veterans organization County Advisory Board, is assisting, as is George Bethel, VFW district commander, as they will be our partner to ensure widespread success. The theme, cause and beneficiary for this partnership are NJ veteran homelessness and suicide prevention.

We will, again, meet with and present resources to soldiers on hold for a medical discharge for the fourth session on Jan. 24 in Sea Girt. We, including the VA's from Wilmington, Philly, and NJ, and other providers, have now met with about 250 Guard members offering all earned benefits, mental health, including housing and employment support. This initiative is spearheaded by Pat Carney, VA Wilming-

ton Peer Mentoring, Camaraderie and Support Program. We will also continue our Keep Our Veterans Alive/Be The One (KOVA/BTO) events with the three VA Medical Centers' Community Engagement, Partnership and Suicide Teams, including monthly meetings, incorporating the national Governor Challenge initiative to prevent veteran suicides.

Admittedly, there are now \$10MM's available in NJ to assist our homeless. But, you also can be part of the solution. Ending veteran homelessness is a community effort. Every person has the power to help dismantle stigma and create pathways to stability. Start with understanding. Challenge misconceptions when you hear them. Remind others that veteran homelessness is not a choice, but often the result of community factors and personal hardships. Changing the narrative begins with conversations that replace judgment with empathy. You can help by sharing information about local resources, volunteering with housing programs or advocating for policies that expand affordable housing and mental health services. Build trust through action: if you encounter a veteran experiencing homelessness, approach with respect and dignity. Sometimes the most impactful thing you can offer is a moment of humanity—a kind word, listening to their needs or pointing them toward help. These small acts can restore hope and open the door to engagement. Use your voice: whether on social media, in your workplace or among friends, speak up about the realities of veteran homelessness and the progress being made. When communities understand the complexity behind homelessness, stigma loses its grip. Ending veteran homelessness happens one interaction at a time. Every conversation, every act of understanding and every resource shared brings us one step closer to a future where every homeless veteran has a safe and stable place to call home.

Watch and remedy the suicide causations such as homelessness, unemployment, mental health issues, criminal justice involvement and food insecurity. BEING CONNECTED IS NOT A SLOGAN, BUT AN INITIATIVE-TAKING "MOVEMENT" AS WITH KOVA/BTO!

### Important Phone Numbers

Menlo Park Veterans Home	732-452-4100
Paramus Veterans Home	201-634-8200
Vineland Veterans Home	856-405-4200
Doyle Veterans Cemetery	609-738-2400

## Chief Information Officer

PDC Steven Fisher



My fellow Legionnaires and Legion Family members, I hope you had an amazing holiday season and are looking forward to an incredible 2026. I want to give everyone a breakdown of the reach and impact our messaging and social media has made during 2025. The following information is as of Dec. 24.

Our dept. commanders Charles "Andy" Jackson and Dan Channel wished a happy birthday to over 18,500 of our members via email! Another 250,500 + emails were sent for other significant events, such as 106th Legion birthday, Veterans Day, and the *New Jersey Legionnaire* editions, as they became available.

Did you receive any of those messages? If not, I would recommend letting our staff know what your correct email address is so that records can be updated. Anytime you want to update your contact information all you need to do is send an email to [adjutant@njamericanlegion.org](mailto:adjutant@njamericanlegion.org) with your name, address, phone number(s), email address and, of course, your membership number.

Your Dept. Public Relations, Publicity, Media and Communications Committee continues to work on getting our commander's message out and being a consistent presence across social media channels.

The Dept. of NJ's official Facebook pages have over 1,500 followers!

- Over 5,200 posts.
- Over 477,300 views while reaching over 510,300!
- Over 141,200 reactions, comments, and shares!
- Over 155 hours of video watched.

The Dept. of NJ's official Instagram pages have over 230 followers!

- Over 4,400 posts.
- Over 293,800 views while reaching over 408,600!
- Over 153,600 reactions, comments, and shares!
- Over 27 hours of video watched.

The dept.'s X pages have over 15,500 posts with over 33,000 impressions. Our dept. YouTube

has over 127,600 views with over 1,000 videos and shorts watched over 608 hours! Flickr is where you can find many pictures from various events and, currently, has over 25,600 photos and over 311,600 views! Our dept. website had over 29,300 visits and over 57,800 page views in 2025! You can find more information by visiting, liking and following us at:

- <https://www.njamericanlegion.org>
- <https://facebook.com/LegionDeptNJ>
- <https://twitter.com/LegionDeptNJ>
- <https://youtube.com/@LEGIONDEPTNJ>
- <https://instagram.com/legiondeptnj/>
- <https://linkedin.com/company/the-american-legion-department-of-new-jersey>
- <https://www.flickr.com/photos/legiondeptnj/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/SonsDetNJ>
- <https://www.facebook.com/RidersDeptNJ>
- <https://x.com/SonsDetNj>
- <https://x.com/RidersDeptNJ>
- <https://www.instagram.com/sonsdetnj>
- <https://www.instagram.com/ridersdeptnj>

We want to share your content and spread the great work that our American Legion Family does every day in NJ. You never know, your event might be featured as a BLOG post on our website. Speaking of BLOG posts, our committee would love to have Legion Family stories to promote. Feel free to contact us at [social@njamericanlegion.org](mailto:social@njamericanlegion.org).

We continue to move forward and promote all the great works that our American Legion Family does everyday throughout this Great State of NJ.

## Membership

Sophia Dmoch, Chair



Fellow Legionnaires, I hope you and your family had a great holiday season and a happy new year.

As of Dec. 31, our dept. reported 23,022 members, representing 77% of the 2026 goal of 29,900. Our retention rate is 71.98%. We are ranked 43rd nationally among 55 depts. and 11th in the northeast. We could reach our five-target goal by Jan. 14 if we take a proactive approach by making those phone calls to see whether our members may require assistance with their dues. DEC's, please communicate with your

county commanders to ensure they relay information down to the post level.

Our fourth membership workshop was held on Sat., Dec. 6, but attendance was low. Dept. vice commanders are working hard to spread the word, but the message isn't reaching the posts. Communication is essential, and we need leaders to share information. Support our vice commanders; they are dedicating significant time and effort to membership. They take their duties seriously and want the Dept. of NJ to succeed.

We have been focusing on outreach during these membership workshops and are available to assist with myLegion.org upon request. Ensure the national form for *Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutants* has been submitted so that new post/squadron leadership can access myLegion.org. There are upcoming changes to the system, and we will keep everyone informed as we receive updates.

At the Oct. 18 DEC meeting, we approved and voted to increase dept. membership dues, effective July 1, 2026. The dept. membership per capita will increase by \$5 for the 2027 membership year. What does that mean? This means you will need to send \$40 per member starting on July 1 to dept. The breakdown will be \$23.50 for national and \$16.50 for dept. The Dept. of NJ has one of the lowest per capita rates in the nation. This has negatively impacted the dept. over the years. We have not met our overall membership goal for many years. Every year, we lose members and struggle to recruit replacements. Currently, the dept. is in a difficult position, having to reduce programs. We hope this increase will help balance the budget and allow us to move forward. I am asking for your help. We need everyone to do outreach. Ask the SAL and the Auxiliary for assistance with your recruitment efforts. They can staff tables and recruit at community events on your behalf. It's a team effort, and everyone needs to be involved to continue our mission. Also, remember that when the *Post Data Form* is sent out, you must ensure your dues are at least \$40 on the form. We will no longer have "upside-down" posts in the dept. An upside-down post is a post in which the published dues are below the combined national and department per capita. If you submit your form below the current per capita, it will be corrected for a minimum of \$40. This was approved at our Dec. 13, DEC meeting.



Conduct Buddy Checks to see how your members are doing; this will assist you with both current and expired members. I am here to help if you need assistance or have additional questions. Ensure this information gets down to the post level. Membership is the bloodline of our organization; without members, we can't survive

As stated in my last report, the CPR & CSR would be online for submission by Nov. The reports are now active on myLegion.org. Please make sure your posts and squadrons are aware. Should a post/squadron choose to submit their consolidated report using this method, it is recommended that they continue to work in "draft mode" until they get closer to the submission window (April through June). The fillable PDFs for this year's CPR & CSR have been posted to legion.org and are now available for download.

You can check the updated forms on the following pages:

CPR: <https://www.legion.org/information-center/in-the-media/publications/organization-membership-awards>

CSR: <https://www.legion.org/information-center/in-the-media/publications/sons-of-the-american-legion>

Still holds true, Former Coca-Cola CEO Brian Dyson said: "Value has a value only if its value is valued."

Let's value what we've built. Let's grow it. Let's protect it. Be the foundation — renew, recruit, and stay engaged:

<https://legion.org/renew#inspire#engage#>

For further assistance or training needs, don't hesitate to contact the Channel Membership Team. Upon request, we will come to you. We are making a collaborative effort to support every post through additional workshops and district revitalizations. Additional resources are available on mylegion.org, and materials obtained from emblemsales.org.

In closing, remember: BE THE ONE to break the chain of veteran suicide:

- To ask a veteran in your life how they are doing.
- To listen when a veteran needs to talk.
- To reach out when a veteran is struggling.

It takes just one person to help save a veteran's life. You can be the one. To learn more, go to [www.betheone.org](http://www.betheone.org).

## Affordable Housing for At-risk/Homeless Veterans

Jim Scanlon, Chair

### Update on Funding Applications



On Nov. 26, we were advised that \$3 million in funding has been re-stored to the Hoboken project. Leaders of the Westfield project were encouraged to reapply in 2026.

We continue to engage with national nonprofit fundraising organizations and other potential partners.

Our goal is to reduce reliance on government grants by broadening our funding base.

### Post Development Updates

We are pleased to report that we have completed the full vetting process with Gloucester City American Legion Post 135. All required components have been successfully verified, including:

- \* Support from local elected officials,
- \* Formation of the appropriate American Legion committees,
- \* Preliminary architectural plans,
- \* Additional due diligence items as required.

We have invited Post 135 leadership to join us as our sixth American Legion post participating in our initiative to build veteran housing on post-owned property. The Camden County DEC has agreed to assume oversight responsibility.

NJVAA has been awarded grant funding designated specifically to support our six post projects. Our committee has created guidelines and a scoring methodology to determine the equitable distribution of these funds. Philanthropy contribution in recent weeks was \$32,025.

Also, we are in conversations with both the NJ Dept. of Military & Veterans Affairs and NJ Dept. of Community Affairs to see how best we can leverage the three brands to move our agendas forward.

## CDC Formally Recognizes Gulf War Illness

Nearly 700,000 men and women served in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm (Aug, 1990 – Feb. 1991). A prominent condition affecting Gulf War veterans is a cluster of medically unexplained chronic symp-

toms that can include: fatigue, headaches, joint pain, indigestion, insomnia, dizziness, respiratory disorders, skin problems and memory impairment. VA refers to these symptoms as chronic multi-symptom illness, medically unexplained illnesses, and Gulf War veterans' illnesses—all commonly known as Gulf War Illness (GWI).

According to a 2020 Dept. of Defense report, GWI is estimated to affect 175,000 to 250,000 veterans who were deployed to the Gulf War theater of operations. GWI affects veterans who served in the Army and Marine Corps at higher rates than those who served in the Navy and Air Force, and enlisted personnel are affected more than others. GWI rates also differ by where veterans were located during deployment, with the highest rates among troops who served in areas that were close to combat.

On Oct. 1, 2025, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced a medical diagnostic code for Gulf War Illness. This code will finally allow doctors and scientists to more effectively track, document and treat a cluster of chronic symptoms that affect approximately 25-32% of Gulf War veterans. Symptoms of GWI can include fatigue, fibromyalgia (widespread muscle pain), gastrointestinal disorders, respiratory disorders, skin rashes, as well as memory and concentration difficulties.

While this code streamlines things, the VA already provided care for symptoms and had presumptive conditions, but this formal code validates the illness and improves future support. Discuss the new code with your VA healthcare provider for accurate documentation.

**Contact the VA:** Enroll in the Gulf War Registry and seek assistance for claims.

## Scholarships

The dept. offers scholarships of \$1000 to \$4000 to natural or adopted descendants of an American Legion member, and deceased members who were in good standing.

Go to:

<https://www.njamericanlegion.org/education-and-scholarships> for more information or contact your post commander/adjutant for the forms.

Deadline for submission is March 16.



New Jersey

LEGIONNAIRE



BE THE ONE

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Permit No. 631

Trenton, NJ

What's Inside

	Page
Commander's Message	2
For God & Country Service	2
Adjutant's Report	2
Revised Legion	3
Chain of Command	3
Connectiveness Mission	4
CIO Report	5
Membership	5
Affordable Housing Report	6
Gulf War Illness	6
Scholarships	6

Deadline for spring issue is April 1, 2026

Being the Ones to Parade in NYC



From left: Just before boarding the bus for the Big Apple Veterans Day Parade, PVC Francis Carrasco, PVC Anthony Gladden, SAL ANEC Henry Hasselhan, PDC Daniel Dunn, PVC Jack Dunne and Union County DEC Randy Grizzard remind everyone to Be the One.