

# El Dorado American Legion Family

El Dorado Post 119

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
FOR GOD, COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY

April 2021

Visit our Website at <http://www.legionpost119.org/>



## Adjutant Corner

To my fellow Legionnaires,

Again this month we are doing the same as last month, except that we are holding business meetings for post business ONLY on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month starting at 1800 or 6pm. At the March membership meeting we had only 10 members in attendance. Pretty sad if you ask me when we use to see at least 20 or 25 people at the membership meeting. Come on out for all of our meetings in April.

**Still NO Bar, NO Dinners and NO Happy Hour on Fridays until the county is in the YELLOW Tier, according to the Bar Manager and Finance Officer.** They are talking to the powers that be weekly, and are keeping us in strict compliance with several mandates from the State and County Board of Health.

## Membership Corner

Again, for the month of April 2021, congratulations to all who have paid to maintain your membership during this time of post closure. Here is the monthly tally for April we have had 592 renewals. This includes PUFL's, HLM's, Annual mail-ins and ONL Memberships. We have 623 assigned and 131 of our membership are late by six months as of December 31, 2020. They are delinquent, as of March and they are suspended, but they can still pay their dues before being dropped on June 30, 2021.

Sorry folks we tried to make at least 100% renewals for FY2020/2021. Percentage wise we are at 90%.

On the positive side we have one new member that was transferred in for March from Post 1000. Our new member is **Justin Campbell, Welcome to your new Post 119.** We don't have an address for you, please contact the post.

## American Legion Riders (ALR) Corner

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of March we scheduled a ride to Grass Valley for the Vietnam Vets Day that was SOLD OUT so the ride was redirected to **Jamestown for Lunch**, we had 9 members participating for the monthly ride. The food and fellowship was outstanding!!

Also on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March we had a Vietnam Veterans Day Ride to the Capitol joined by several other chapters in Area 1 all meeting at the Sacramento Harley Davidson Dealer.

In the month of May on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>, our scheduled ride will be the **"Charter anniversary Ride and Lunch"** Destination to be Announced for the Anniversary of our Chapter's Charter, members in good standing are urged to participate.

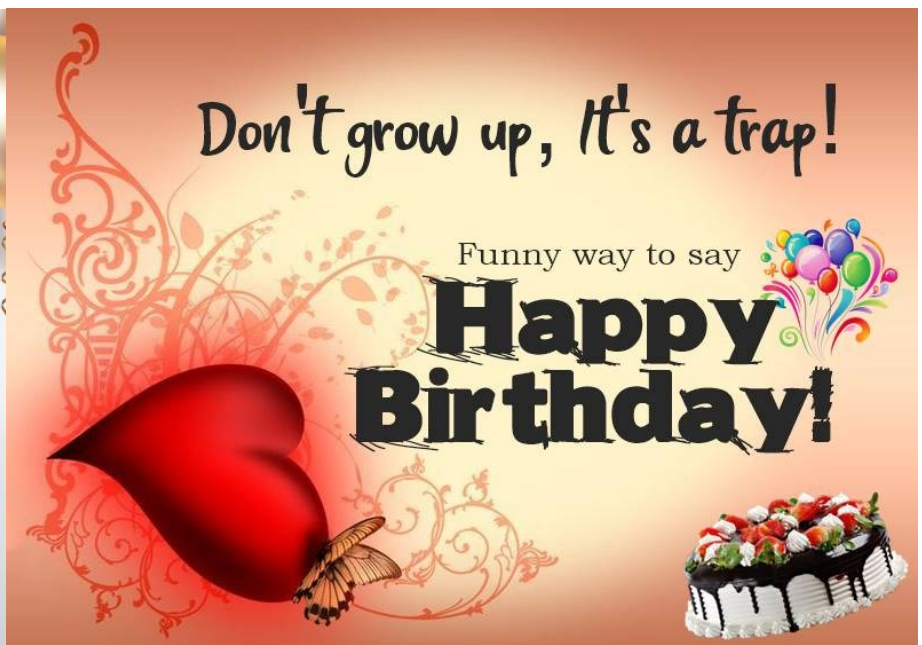
I also want to add that this will be my last year as your Chapter President (No Applause) so come together to elect your Chairperson/Director for FY2021/2022. Elections for Chapter Officers will be held at the April / May Business Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in April / May.

One last word to all of you riders, get out and ride, and stay safe. **Your health and life is in your hands. Also get vaccinated when your number is called, the COVID-19 is no joke...**

- What kind of bunny can't hop? A chocolate one!
- What's the Easter Bunny's favorite way to travel? By hare-plane.
- What's a bunny's favorite type of book? One with a hoppy ending.
- What do you call the Easter Bunny the day after Easter? Eggs-hausted.

# April Birthdays

<u>Name</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Era</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Era</u>
Phillip Miller	USA	Vietnam	Nonnie Cullen	USAF	Vietnam
John Dellinges	USCG	Vietnam	Edgar Brown	USA	Vietnam
Michael Rupley	USA	Vietnam	Davis Shell	USN	Korea
Larry Vittitow	USMC	Vietnam	Walter Driggs	USA	WWII
James Donahue	USA	Vietnam	Johan Goudberg	USA	Vietnam
Mark Steiner	USA	Vietnam	James Strauss	USN	Vietnam
Tom Golden	USA	Lebanon/Granada	Terrence Bridges	USA	Vietnam
Edward Akin	USA	Vietnam	Roderick MacNeil	USN	Vietnam
James Ramos	USA	Vietnam	John Rouleau	USAF	Korea
Ian Pierce	USAF	Persian Gulf / GWOT	Clarence Meyer	USA	WWII
John Gothard	USA	Vietnam	Daniel Mainwaring	USN	Korea
John Boehm	USA	Vietnam	Stephen Tapson	USA	Vietnam
Gregory Brown	USMC	Lebanon/Granada	Jack Fields	USAF	Vietnam
Kenneth Howard	USN	Korea	Richard Whelan	USN	Vietnam
Paul Baldy	USAF	Vietnam	Thomas Kolsky	USA	Vietnam
Charles Ferris	USA	Vietnam	Larry Fisher	USN	Vietnam
Timothy Smith	USA	Vietnam	Mathew Warden	USN	Persian Gulf
Phillip Ide	USA	Persian Gulf	Bert Sousa	USMC	Vietnam
John Krahn	USA	Vietnam	Anthony Carter	USA	Vietnam
Art Galley	USA	Vietnam	Dale Shetley	USAF	Vietnam



May you be in heaven a half an hour, Before the devil knows you're dead.

## Service Officer Corner

Jail:

### **Veteran one.**

Fortunately, the Veteran Justice Outreach Specialist set everything in motion, and he now has a fiduciary. Otherwise, it would be just that much more for drugs or money stolen from him.

Unfortunately, he is refusing all services, and wants to hit the street homeless. He could be in a residential program, but no thank you.

Maybe next time, his public defender will use Penal Code 1368, and have him declared incompetent to stand trial. Placement in an institution might save his life.

For now, he hits the street in less than a week. Not good.

### **Veteran two:**

Great meeting. Gave the county Veteran Service Rep amazingly detailed information on two separate traumatic occasions. Should make a good claim.

Catch them when they are sober, focused and grateful.

### **Veteran three:**

Just the nicest person. Reservist, but county Veteran Service Rep is working on getting her a service connected disability rating, and once that goes through, she will be treated like a real Veteran.

Been working for a long time to get her released from custody, and being placed in a program. The stars may finally be aligning.

There could have been a fourth one, but she refused. Paranoia, or fear of the unknown, can stop someone from grabbing the outreached hand.

### **Transport.**

Miracles keep happening. I have taken on ride coordination for El Dorado Veterans Resource Center. So far, all ride requests have been met, including several Veteran Commissioners stepping up to the plate. Even one last minute fiasco got solved.

Still, just two days away for another ride, and no takers yet.

May have to work the phone.

### **Memorials.**

Past Commander of American Legion Post 119, Bud Brown, is taking the lead on pulling together two that just came up this week.

Dick Akin of Marine Corps League Detachment 697 has just passed the reins over to Jim Goodspeed of VFW 10165 for some of the broader West Slope coordination.

Shout out to Mike Berkery of VFW 2680 for taking the lead on another Memorial.

It takes a village.

David Zelinsky  
Service Officer

- What do you call a rabbit with fleas? Bugs Bunny!
- Why did the Easter Bunny cross the road? Because the chicken stole his Easter eggs!
- What's a forgetful bunny called? Hare-brained.

# Post 119 Leadership

<p><b><u>Post 119 Officers</u></b>  <i>Commander, Sam Bradley 530/626-3956</i>  Adjutant, Joe Rendon 530/672-1161  1st Vice - Michael Raffety 530/626-8020  2nd Vice -James Leadbetter 916/ 254-7529  Finance - Mike Schiavone 530/409-2710  Sgt. At Arms, Milt Bandera 530/677-4423  Chaplain, Edgar “Bud” Brown 530/677-4135  Judge Advocate — OPEN  Veterans Services, David Zelinsky 530/919-8488  Membership, Joe Rendon 530-672-1161  Historian — OPEN</p> <p>Bar Manager, Barbara Schiavone 530/409-7746  Building Manager, James Leadbetter  916/ 254-7529</p>	<p><b><u>Chapter 119 American Legion Riders</u></b>  <i>President, Joe Rendon 530-672-1161</i>  Vice President, Carlos Navarette 916/204-6038  Secretary, Gary Coverdale 707/339-2362  Treasurer, Jane Fergason 530/409-7487  Acting Sgt. At Arms, James Leadbetter  Membership, Critter Springer-Maxey 530/622-1961  Chaplain, Robert Flowers 530/417-5802  Run Coordinator, Sam Fergason 530/409-7489  Safety Officer - Jim Ayers  Historian — Bob Russell</p> <p><b>Legion Riders meet the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.</b></p>
<p><b><u>Executive Committee</u></b>  (1) Jim Ayers 916/739-9421  (2) Bud Brown 530/677-4135  (3) John Krahn 530/677-6356  (4) Bob Russell 530/626-5533  (5) Lauralee Flannery 530/903-1965  (6) OPEN</p> <p><b><u>Unit 119 American Legion Auxiliary</u></b>  <i>President, Janie Bandera 530/677-4423</i>  1st Vice, Rebecca Marty 530/677-4423  2nd Vice, Carol McLaughlin 530/642-2153  Secretary, Carol Mueller 530/622-0674  Treasurer — OPEN  Chaplain, Dolores Wadsworth 530/677-1255  Sgt. At Arms, Joy Krahn 530/677-6356  Marshall, Joyce Reynolds 530/350-7740</p> <p><b>Auxiliary meets the first Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Unit 119 Sons of the American Legion</u></b>  <i>Commander, Robert Flowers 530/417-5802</i>  1st Vice, Bill Bryant 530/409-8414  Adjutant, Bill Bryant  Treasurer, Bill Bryant  Membership, Bill Bryant  Sgt. At Arms — OPEN  Historian — OPEN  Chaplain, Robert Flowers 530/417-5802</p> <p><b>Squadron meets the second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.</b></p> <p><b><u>40 &amp; 8</u></b>  Chef de Gare, John Krahn 530/677-6356  Commissaire Intendant, Al Rawlin 530/903-6768  Correspondent, Bud Brown 530/677-4135  Conducteur, Bob Russell 530/676-5533  Garde de LaPorte, Leo Cooper 530/306-3969  Chef de Train, Milt Banders 530/677-4423  Lampiste - Open</p> <p><b>40 &amp; 8 meets the first Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m.</b></p>
<p><b>American Legion Post 119 meets the first Wednesday of each month.</b></p> <p><b>Meetings: 6:00 p.m</b></p>	<p><b>Website: <a href="http://www.legionpost119.org/">http://www.legionpost119.org/</a></b></p> <p><b>Email: <a href="mailto:eldoradopost119@att.net">eldoradopost119@att.net</a></b>  <b>Telephone: 530/626-3956</b></p> <p><b>Newsletter Editor: Dick Bergin</b>  <b>Email: <a href="mailto:alpost119@mrj3s.com">alpost119@mrj3s.com</a></b></p>

## Veteran caregivers fulfill Lincoln's 'borne the battle' charge, says SecVA

“One of the most important things we can do for caregivers is to help them take care of themselves as they so selflessly take care of others.”

Denis McDonough  
U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs



Veteran caregivers completely fulfill President Abraham Lincoln's charge to care for those who have borne the battle, VA Secretary Denis McDonough said Feb. 24 at an online forum.

Speaking at an [Elizabeth Dole Foundation event](#), McDonough said he will fight for both Veterans and families.

“A key priority of the president's guidance is to keep faith with families and caregivers,” he said.

Caregivers have seen increasing support through VA. However, more needs to be done.

“We now have a caregiver support program that offers a full menu of services for those caring for Veterans,” he said. He then cited items such as [home care](#) and telehealth, with those appointments [increasing more than 1,000%](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He emphasized that family caregivers who are enrolled in VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, or PCAFC, are [now eligible for COVID-19 vaccination](#) when the Veteran they care for becomes eligible. VA will tell the family caregiver if they can get a vaccine when VA invites the Veteran to get one.

“One of the most important things we can do for caregivers is to help them take care of themselves as they so selflessly take care of others,” he added. “Now, there's more to do.”

McDonough [cited the example](#) of Jack and Jean King. Jack, a Vietnam Veteran, recently received a non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma Stage 4 diagnosis. Jean left her medical career to support and care for her husband as his caregiver. She had to learn quickly about VA's programs. Receiving help from Tiffany Pundai, a VA Caregiver Support Program social worker, Jean praised VA for the assistance.

“We are just so grateful for VA,” she said. “Without them, I don't know what we would have done.”

After citing the example for the audience, McDonough acknowledged that caregivers need VA just as much as VA needs caregivers. “What would we do without you?” he asked, before noting that that level of support for caregivers should be the standard.

“That's the kind of expert, compassionate support we owe caregivers and Veterans,” he said. “It's the kind of positive experiences we owe Veterans and caregivers across the country. The president has demanded that we hear, improve and expand VA support to better meet all caregivers' needs.”

McDonough pledged to continue implementing programs to support caregivers. These include the [Campaign for Inclusive Care](#), which seeks to include caregivers into Veterans' medical teams, and fully expanding Mission Act eligibility to all generations.

Next up, McDonough supports better understanding the impact of care on Veterans' children and how to better serve them. He said the [Veterans' Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory Committee](#) advises VA on programs to better help provide benefits.

VA will work on changing policies and finding areas of opportunity to improve caregiver support, said Meg Kabat, senior advisor to the secretary for families, caregivers, and survivors.

“We can actually do quite a bit to support families,” Kabat said. “We could be doing more.”

She also said VA will work on expanding Veterans' experience to include Veterans, families and caregivers.

“Veterans experience means the experience of all those who support the Veteran as well,” Kabat said.

Kabat echoed that VA will continue to collaborate with partners, highlighting past successes as expanding [telehealth through free cellular data](#), providing [technology](#) for Veterans, and [Project Atlas](#), which gives Veterans access to telehealth.

## Free tax prep help to Veterans, military and families



AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide is among the programs aimed at helping the military community and others file their state and federal tax returns. Tax-Aide is free and available (appointment only) to all Veterans, military personnel and their families regardless of age or whether they are AARP members.

As we inch closer to the April 15 tax deadline, AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide is among the programs aimed at helping the military community and others file their state and federal tax returns. Tax-Aide is free and available (appointment only) to all Veterans, military personnel and their families regardless of age or whether they are AARP members.

“In this new environment of COVID, Tax-Aide has instituted a range of tax preparation assistance models that can help Veterans, those currently in the military and others,” said Lynnette Lee-Villanueva, vice president and national director of AARP Foundation Tax-Aide. “From safely delivered in-person service, virtual assistance and hybrid options – we are here to help.” The nationwide tax help program is geared toward people 50 and older or those who have low to moderate incomes, but Tax-Aide is open to anyone free of charge. AARP membership isn't required to take advantage of Tax-Aide's knowledgeable volunteers, nor will there be any sales pitch for other services.

If you'd like to look for an appointment to receive tax filing assistance from AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide, [click here to get started](#).

Due to the pandemic, Tax-Aide availability is limited this year. Other programs offering [free tax help](#) include Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE), Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), IRS Free File and MiITax.

In addition, here is some helpful information specifically for military Veterans from CPA and tax expert Lisa Greene-Lewis of TurboTax. [See the rest of her tax advice for military Veterans on aarp.org here.](#)

### VA payments exempt from federal taxes:

- VA education benefit payments.
- VA disability payments.
- Interest from VA life insurance policies.
- Benefits under a dependent-care assistance program.
- Money paid to a survivor of a member of the armed forces who died after Sept. 10, 2001.
- Payments made under the compensated work therapy program.

**Any bonus pay from a state, county, city or town because of service in a combat zone.**

### Fast facts on state taxes:

- States typically offer tax benefits only to Veterans who were honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active duty.
- State benefits usually include some form of exemptions on property taxes, according to value.
- Benefits are often transferred over to a spouse or surviving spouse of honorably discharged Veterans.
- Many states include additional benefits for Veterans who are disabled.
- Every state's revenue website outlines state benefits for Veterans and how to apply for them.

- How do you know carrots are good for your eyes? You've never seen a bunny who needs glasses!
- When does a bunny throw a tantum? When they get hopping mad!
- Why would a bunny wear a hat? When it's having a bad hare day.
- Why couldn't the duck work for the Easter Bunny? He kept quacking the eggs.

## How to plan your legacy with the VA Survivors and Burial Benefits kit



After the passing of a loved one who has served this country, many survivors do not know what to do or where to begin to obtain VA assistance. VA has prepared a Survivors and Burial Benefits kit to help guide Veterans, service members and their families after the loss of a loved one.

The VA Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit gives a description of each burial benefit, instructions on how to apply, and where to go to get assistance.

The [Planning Your Legacy: VA Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit](#) covers:

- Pre-need eligibility for National Cemetery burial or memorialization
- Memorial or burial flags
- Government headstones or markers
- Medallions
- Presidential Memorial Certificates (PMC)
- Burial benefits and burial automatic payments
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA)
- Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship
- Survivors pension
- Special monthly pension benefits
- The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMP-VA)
- Home loan guaranty
- Veterans Month of Death benefits
- VA life insurance

Other features include tips on how to fill out applications with examples of completed forms. These tips examples give applicants a better understanding of how to properly fill out applications.

VA encourages Veterans and service members to discuss their military service with their dependents, as well as planning their legacy. Families and survivors should know where to locate service medical records, discharge documents, VA disability ratings, and other information. These details will be beneficial to survivors as they prepare to apply for VA benefits. Families and survivors should keep this kit in storage so that it will be available when needed.

- Christmas comes before Easter in one place only—where is it? The dictionary!
- What happens if you fall in love on Easter? You live hoppily ever after.
- How can you get ready to eat Easter candy? Lots of eggs-ercise!
- How does Easter end? With an "R"!
- Where should you look for treasure on Easter? Wherever eggs marks the spot!
- What's the best type of jewelry to gift on Easter? A 14-carrot gold necklace.
- What kind of beans can't you grow in a garden? Jelly beans!
- Why don't you see dinosaurs at Easter time? Because they're eggs-tinct.
- How should you wish Easter greetings to a rabbit? Tell them Hoppy Easter!
- What's one way to make Easter easier? Put an "i" where the "t" is.
- How can you speed up buying Easter dinner groceries? Use the eggs-press lane!
- When does Valentine's Day come after Easter? In the dictionary!
- How do you send an Easter letter? By hare mail!
- Why are people tired in April? Because they just finished a March.
- What music does the Easter Bunny dance to? Hip-hop.
- How does the Easter Bunny stay active? Eggs-ercise.
- What's the Easter Bunny's favorite restaurant? IHOP.

## Celebrating Women's History Month and Women Veterans



Women are the fastest growing demographic in the U.S. military and Veteran populations, and VA stands ready to provide resources.

There are currently more than 2 million women Veterans—and that number continues to rise, according to the [National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics](#). In fact, women are expected to make up more than 16% of the U.S. Veteran population by 2043.

Women have served the country in many capacities throughout history. However, they did not receive VA benefits until Congress passed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in 1948. That act granted them permanent presence in the military, entitling them to VA benefits.

VA benefits are a vital part of economic stability. In fiscal year 2020, more than 4,900 women Veterans learned about benefits at nationwide woman-focused outreach events. More than 196,000 women Veterans used education benefits and more than 555,000 women Veterans received \$10.7 billion in disability compensation. Hundreds of thousands also engaged VA with pension, home loans, insurance, employment and memorial benefits.

### Support available

In FY 2020, more than 23,500 transitioning service women, including members of the Reserve component, learned about VA benefits as part of the [VA Transition Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#). The program's VA Benefits and Services course, led by VA Benefits Advisors, helps transitioning service members navigate VA and its benefits. Transitioning service women have an array of gender-focused services.

In addition to TAP, both transitioning service women and women Veterans can take the online, self-paced Women's Health Transition Training anytime, anywhere at [TAPevents.org/courses](https://TAPevents.org/courses). This course educates transitioning service women about VA women's health care services, benefits, eligibility requirements and VA's organization and culture. It also helps connect them with other women Veterans and networks. All women Veterans should use VA transition services and take the Women's Health Transition Training to learn more about benefits.

Learn more about the training at <https://www.va.gov/womenvet/whtt/>.

### Additional resources

[Women Veteran Coordinators](#) (WVCs) are located at every VA regional office. WVCs provide specific information and comprehensive assistance to women Veterans, their dependents and beneficiaries concerning both VA benefits and related non-VA benefits.

To learn more about the programs, resources and benefits available, visit <https://www.va.gov/womenvet/index.asp>.

Call or [chat](#) with the Women Veterans Call Center at 1-855-VA-WOMEN (1-855-829-6636).

- What did the rabbit say to the carrot? It's been nice gnawing you.
- What do you get when you cross a bumblebee with a rabbit? A honey bunny.
- Why did the Easter Bunny go to bed early? He was eggs-hausted!
- What do you call a bunny that tells a good joke? A funny bunny.
- What keeps the Easter Bunny's fur in shape? Hare spray!



## South Dakota Riders chapter has big plans for 100 Miles for Hope

The Black Hills Chapter of American Legion Post 164 in Spearfish, S.D., involved the community during the first 100 Miles for Hope in 2020. The highlight was a 100-mile American Legion Riders journey on Patriots Day from Spearfish to the Black Hills National Cemetery.

Along the way, Riders stopped at the VA Black Hills Health Care System in Fort Meade.

“We scheduled a visit to the Fort Meade VA so that we could honor the residents and medical teams,” said Micheline Nelson, a member of the post’s Riders chapter and the Auxiliary unit. “We were able to wave and say thank you to the nurses and doctors who came out.”

After they reached the national cemetery, the Riders paused to remember the fallen. “We honored one of the Riders who is buried there,” she said. “And we also laid roses and erected the flags at the gravesites of friends and family.”

Post 164 held another event for the 100 Miles campaign in October. Micheline says that they invited church groups and other community members to participate in an hour-long walk in the city park. “We recorded the miles and as a group, we were able to accomplish the 100 miles, with a cumulative 380 miles.”

Not only that, the event raised about \$750 for the Veterans & Children Foundation (V&CF), including proceeds from the registrations and T-shirt sales.

Registration is now open for this year’s [100 Miles for Hope](#), which gets under way on April 1. There are two options to register and you can [learn about both of them here](#).

This year the 100 Miles for Hope is a little different, asking participants to complete 100 activities within a 160-day period. This is to encourage regular physical activity to promote wellness and fitness. At the same time, proceeds will once again benefit the V&CF, which provides necessary funding for accredited American Legion service officers and military families.

Supporting the V&CF is important to Fred Nelson, the department commander for South Dakota.

“That’s our mission — veterans and children,” says Fred, a member of Post 164 who is also a member of the Legion Riders and Sons of The American Legion. “We’re looking to help.”

Participants also can support the foundation in another way. There are a number of commemorative items available for purchase with all proceeds going to V&CF. Among them is a patch created specifically for American Legion Riders. ([Visit the special Emblem Sales page](#) to view the patch and other items.)

“I like it and it’s affordable,” Micheline says of the patch.

The Nelsons say the post will be active once again and is planning on involving Riders chapters and the community.

For example, Fred says they are looking at putting together a wreath-laying event at the state Capitol in Pierre. Micheline is planning a new idea to involve the community that ties in to the activity goal in this year’s 100 Miles for Hope challenge.

“I am thinking of something completely out of the box — 100 Miles of Thread,” she says. “That would be quilters, knitters and others who would have to record the time they spend creating items for the VA and homeless veterans. It would involve Auxiliary members and others who may not be able to get out of their homes but can help veterans who are in VA hospitals or homebound.”

That’s part of the beauty of this year’s 100 Miles campaign. For those who register via the Kilter app, they can track their activities. With more than 40 activities available on the app, it allows anyone to participate. For example, the quilters and knitters can choose the “volunteer” activity to count toward their 100 activities. American Legion Riders can also choose “volunteer,” “advocacy” or “other” to log their activities. Learn how to track activities and see a list of all of them [on this web page](#).

Micheline envisions having multiple events to encourage community participation.

“We serve children and youth, our community, veterans and families, so it is important to get our mission out so they understand the mission of the Legion,” she says.

## American Legion posts 'saving lives' through vaccine efforts

American Legion Herman Kent Post 777 in Jamestown, N.Y., already had a strong relationship with the VA Western New York Healthcare System (VAWNYHS) prior to the coronavirus pandemic. But both entities recently expanded that relationship in an effort to get as many COVID-19 vaccines out to area veterans.

The VAWNYHS has been administering vaccines since January and in March embarked on what is being called possibly one of VA's largest rural outreach efforts ever by coordinating vaccine sites throughout the area.

When VA officials reached out to Post 777, they quickly found another site willing to host a vaccine clinic. "They called us up ... and asked if they could use the (post) as a vaccine clinic, and I said 'sure, why not? We're here to help the veterans anyway,'" Post 777 Commander Neville Messenger said. "We've got probably the biggest post here in Chautauqua County than anybody else. We've got approximately 17,000 square feet.

"(VA officials) set it up for a Sunday. They set up appointments for everybody. We ended up doing 720 vets in one day."

Sean Lindstrom, VAWNYHS' COVID-19 vaccine coordinator, [told The Post-Journal](#) the Post 777 vaccine clinic was a "pretty well-oiled machine where they are only on site for 20 minutes, 25 minutes tops. We are able to flip these veterans through very quickly and receive a high number of patients through. What we heard on Friday was that this was going to be the largest rural outreach that the VA has ever done. Not VA Western New York, but the VA in general, which we are tremendously proud of. So thankful to be partnering with the folks here at the American Legion post to help us pull this off."

A second vaccine clinic will take place March 21 at the post to provide those veterans with their second shot, while another 200 first shots also will be made available to veterans who haven't had a vaccination yet. And another clinic will take place in April.

"I've always believed The American Legion is supposed to be there to help the veterans," Messenger said. "I think that it's great we were able to help them. It saved a lot of the elderly veterans ... to not have to have them drive clear to Buffalo to get a shot, which is an 80-mile drive each way."

**Montana Post 1 Providing 100s of Vaccines.** In Butte, Mont., more than 200 veterans received their first dose of the Moderna vaccine in February, thanks to a collaboration between the Montana VA Health Care System and American Legion Post 1. The Montana VA is conducting vaccination clinics throughout the state, and Post 1 was an ideal spot to set up one.

"It's community support, and also outreach for our elderly veterans," Post 1 Commander Dave Haulman said.

"Montana has the second-highest per capita for veterans, and in Butte we have a lot of geriatric veterans. Butte's kind of a central point ... for the surrounding areas, and so they can come here (and get vaccinated). And we have an expanded facility that can handle that type of influx of people."

A similar effort is planned for March 25. So far, around 400 veterans have been processed. Those who already have gotten vaccinated "have been happy about it, especially a lot of our elderly veterans," Haulman said. "It's been a real positive response."

**Providing Both Information and Vaccinations.** In Fort Myers, Fla., American Legion Post 38 wanted to clear up any misinformation veterans may have about the COVID-19 vaccination, so the post hosted a question-and-answer session March 10 that featured information provided by Joseph Scotchlas, the associate director for the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System.

Veterans were told how to enroll in the VA health-care system, and provided information about the availability of vaccines and any future vaccination dates. Post 38 will host a vaccine clinic April 3 for 50-100 veterans.

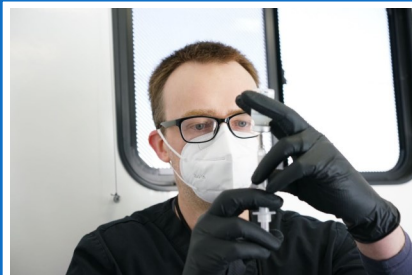
"This is the mission of The American Legion: taking care of our military, taking care of our veterans and taking care of our community," Post 38 Commander Kevin Boyd said. "In the military we learn to take care of each other. We're doing that with this, and we're working at saving lives."

Boyd said the post has been working with local officials to identify homeless veterans in the area. A portion of the April 3 vaccines will be set aside for those veterans.

"It's not their fault they're homeless," Boyd said. "We need to do something to get them the vaccine as well."

The post's vaccination effort is a continuation of its work during the pandemic. Since last March, Boyd said the post has collected around 500,000 pounds of food that was distributed to the community. "That's why we're here," he said. "It's what The American Legion is supposed to be doing."

## ***SAVE LIVES Act allows VA to soon provide COVID-19 vaccinations to all Veterans, their spouses and caregivers***



All Veterans, their spouses and caregivers can soon get COVID-19 vaccinations from VA under the SAVE LIVES Act [signed into law March 24](#).

For the latest information, [Stay Informed here](#).

Covered individuals can receive a vaccine from VA due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. Under the bill, covered individuals are:

- Veterans who are not eligible to enroll in the VA health care system;
- specified Veterans who are eligible for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care abroad;
- family caregivers approved as providers of personal care services for Veterans under the VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers;
- caregivers of Veterans participating in the VA's Program of General Caregiver Support Services; and
- caregivers of Veterans participating in the VA's Medical Foster Home Program, Bowel and Bladder Program, Home Based Primary Care Program, or Veteran Directed Care Program.

[Civilian Health and Medical Programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs](#) recipients.

- Veteran spouses.

VA must prioritize the vaccination of (1) Veterans enrolled in the VA health care system, (2) Veterans who fail to enroll but receive hospital care and medical services for specified disabilities in their first 12 months of separation from service, and (3) caregivers accompanying such prioritized Veterans. Additionally, vaccines furnished abroad are authorized to be furnished in a geographic location other than a state regardless of whether vaccines are needed for the treatment of Veterans with a service-connected disability. This includes those participating in a VA rehabilitation program.

### **More information**

To learn how to get COVID-19 vaccine from VA, visit <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/84404/veterans-designated-caregivers-can-get-covid-19-vaccine-va/>.

Find answers to general VA COVID-19 vaccine questions at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>.

To receive ongoing updates about VA's COVID-19 vaccine efforts and to indicate your interest in getting the vaccine once you're eligible, visit <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/stay-informed>.

Read the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet at <https://www.fda.gov/media/144638/download>.

View the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet at <https://www.fda.gov/media/144413/download>.

Read the Janssen COVID-19 fact sheet at <https://www.fda.gov/media/146305/download>.

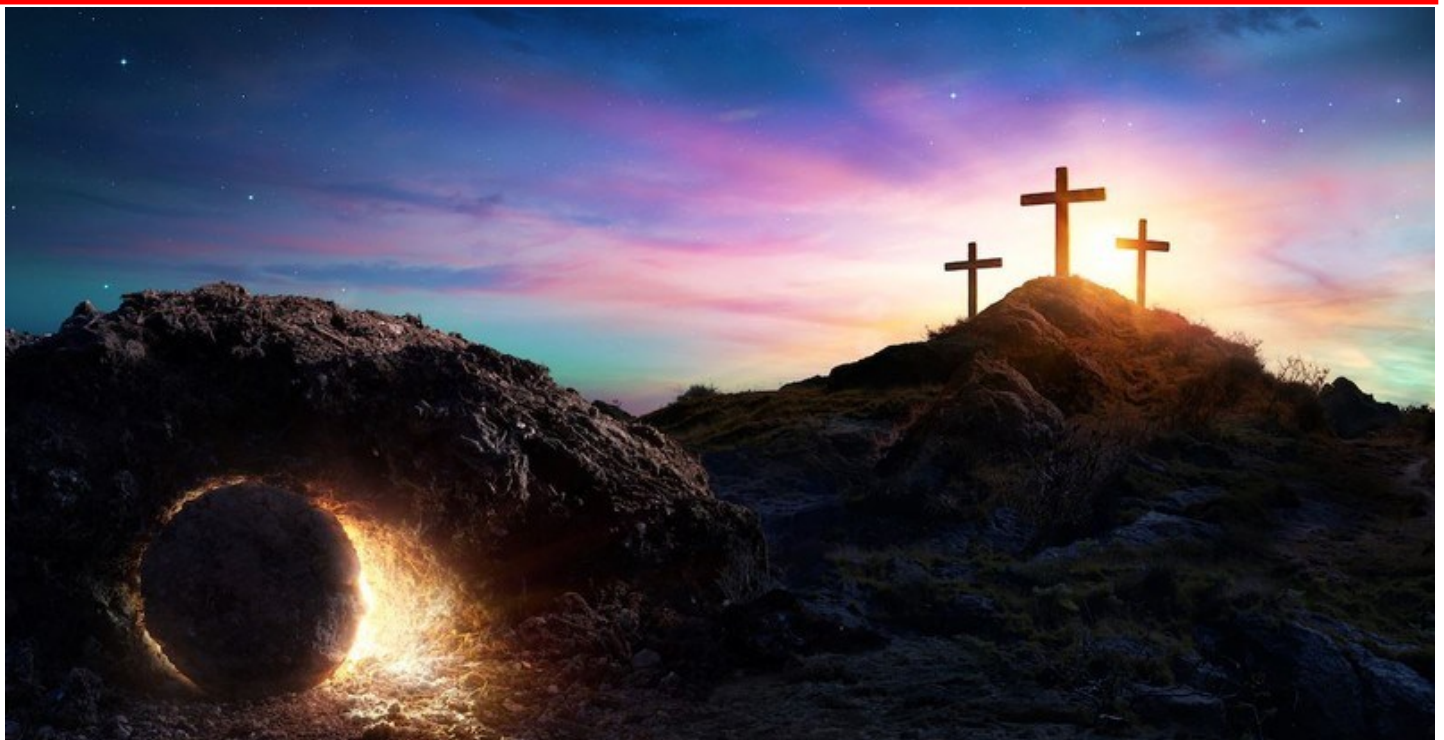
- What did one Easter egg say to the other? Heard any good yolks lately?
- Why did the Easter egg hide? It was a little chicken.
- What happens when you tell an egg a joke? They crack up.
- Why do eggs go to school? To get egg-ducated.

# April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Post, Aux Unit Meet 6pm	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Sons, Legion Riders 6pm	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Bartenders, E- board 6pm	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

**NO Bar, NO Dinners and NO Happy Hour on Fridays.**

That is in strict accordance with the County Board of Health



**All Meetings At:**  
**American Legion El Dorado Post 119**  
 4561 Greenstone Rd, Placerville CA 95667  
 (530) 626-3956  
 MEMBERS' SPOUSES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT  
 OUR DINNERS ON MEETING NIGHT.

The office at the Post will have someone present between 9am and 11am, Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. (Closed on Monday Holidays).