



# The Legion Bulletin



Happy Birthday



American Legion

March 2017

Hours - 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Monday – Friday

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## Post Data Forms

Post Data Forms will be mailed first class to Post Adjutants this month. Please look them over carefully. Make any changes to mailing addresses or dues structure, sign and return to Department Headquarters by April 1, 2017. This is the way National gets any changes for the direct mail renewal notices that will go out in July, including any changes in dues. **If we do not have them back by April 1, the first renewal notices will not reflect any changes to your post dues.**

## 98<sup>th</sup> American Legion Birthday

March 15-17 will mark the 98<sup>th</sup> Birthday of The American Legion, the nation's largest veterans' organization. This momentous occasion gives us a great opportunity to tell our story.

## 2017 Consolidated Post Report

It is important for every post to complete this new report because it shows individual post activity, but when it is combined with the efforts of all posts reporting, it makes our impact, on behalf of veterans, in the halls of Congress, a voice to be taken serious. The Consolidated Post Report forms will be mailed directly to the Post Adjutants. Please fill them out and return to Department Headquarters as early as possible. Remember, in order for your Post to be considered for any awards presented by Community Service, Children and Youth or Americanism Commission at the Convention, this form must be completed and returned to Department Headquarters by the end of May.

## Help for Posts

Please don't hesitate to contact your District and Division Commanders for assistance with post or member challenges. They are willing to assist you! As always, your Department Staff is available and willing to assist you also.

## National Commander's Honor Ribbon

This special ribbon is for The American Legion family that achieves 100% membership by May 30, 2017 American Legion Post & Auxiliary or Sons or Legion Riders [www.legion.org/commander/ribbon](http://www.legion.org/commander/ribbon). (A form is included)

## ROTC Medals Available

Requests for ROTC medals for deserving cadets will be coming in from schools across the state. Department Headquarters will provide medals for colleges and universities. It is customary for the Posts to supply the medals for the local high schools. You may order direct from Emblem Sales, 2017 Catalog, page 128, for purchase of these medals. Department Headquarters inventory goes directly for colleges and universities. It might be more timesaving to order direct from Emblem Sales at 1-888-453-4466 or online at <http://emblem.legion.org>.

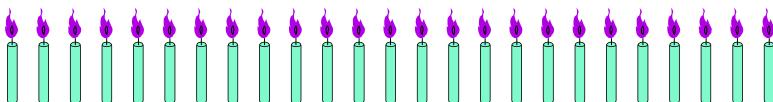
## Obtaining Records

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the nation's memory and record keeper. Part of NARA is the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis MO. They store federal military and civilian personnel records. The Civilian Personnel Records Center is at 9700 Page Avenue. They have a website at <http://www.nara.gov>. Their website will provide information on how to obtain records or one can call (314) 538-4261 and get a recorded message on how to obtain records on how to request copies of personnel files. NPRC does not provide a telephone number, which can be used to request records due to the privacy act, which requires a signature of the veteran, next of kin, or authorized representative and staffing limitations at NPRC.

## Veterans' Day in Raleigh

Please make plans to attend Veterans' Day at the Legislative Building sponsored by the N.C. Veterans Council set for April 26, 2017, will assemble in 1300 Court starting around 8:00 AM supplying coffee and donuts to everyone. Each veteran's organization will have a display table along with visits to our respective representatives to talk about issues and pending bills involving military personnel, veterans and their families.

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## Post Meetings

Have you considered the following: 1. Two year term limit on Post Commanders. 2. Post planning committee consists of Legion, Auxiliary and SAL, working as a team, programs reflect the family mix. 3. Community involvement, most meetings have a short family oriented opening, usually children's group, church choir, children's dance studio presentation, Scouts skit, JROTC, etc. 4. Concentrated effort to attract, recruit and retain younger members. 5. Adapting Post to interests of younger members without losing older members, re; music rotation or activities changing. 6. Veteran of the month/year recognition. Special table for honoree and family. Reminder: A Post that is doing nothing, will surely fade away. Please get involved with at least one project and there are many that will not cost your post anything but time and effort. Your American Legion and your Community need for you to be involved. You have a lot more to offer that you might think.

## 2017 Student Trooper Program

The program will be held at the NC Highway Patrol Training Academy, June 25-30, 2017. **There will be a lot of physical activity during this week, so please advise your attendees ahead of time in order for them to get prepared.** This will be an active, event filled week under the guidance of The Highway Patrol and The American Legion Counselors. Legionnaires are requested to contact their local Police Departments and Sheriff's Offices, local High School JROTC programs to find candidates that have a law enforcement or military career in their future. The applicants must have just completed their 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade of High School this year (2017). The tuition fee is still \$200.00 per student and each applicant must be sponsored by an American Legion Post. The Highway Patrol has room for up to 40 students this year, so please send in your applications as soon as possible. All applications will be numbered when received and all applications received past number 40 will be on a standby list. We encourage you to take advantage of the special youth program and to provide a once in a lifetime opportunity to some well deserving young men and women. The American Legion and The North Carolina Highway Patrol are eager to provide a challenging and meaningful week for The Student Troopers. The success of this program is up to "YOU".

## Boys' State Selection Process Important!

Ronald A. Engel, Deputy Director for Americanism/Children & Youth Division in Indianapolis, has issued this word of caution: ***Do not let the schools make the delegate selection.*** That is the responsibility of the sponsoring American Legion Post. To involve the schools in the selection process sends a message to the Courts that Boys State is a "school activity." When this occurs, Title IX

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exemptions for Boys State could be eliminated and our programs thrown open to anyone wishing to attend who are willing to pay the delegate fee.

This is an American Legion Program. Please be active in the process. This year's session will be June 18-24, 2017. The fee will be \$350 per delegate. If you have an interest in serving as a counselor for Boys' State, please contact Chief Counselor Terry Pressley at 828-452-4232. Counselors receive travel expense, food and lodging for the week. You have a chance to work with and see some of the finest young men in government action.

## Post Yearbook Award

The Department of North Carolina will hold a contest for One-Year Post Scrapbook/Yearbooks for the 2016-2017 Legion year. The scrapbooks will be judged at the Department Convention held in June by the Public Relations Committee appointed by the Department Commander. Awards will be presented for the top three scrapbooks.

National Headquarters will also be conducting a 2016-17 One-Year Post Scrapbook/Yearbook. Since National Headquarters does have specific guidelines which must be followed in preparing your yearbook. **These guidelines are located on Pages 152-156 of The Officer's Guide.** If you cannot locate your Officer's Guide, please contact Department Headquarters, we will send you the guidelines. The winner of the Department Contest will be entered in the National Competition.

## Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT)

Do your post members a favor and make sure you provide them with the LIT Insurance card so they can sign up for the FREE \$1000.00/\$5000.00 AD&D Insurance. Please do not deny them this opportunity. You will be doing their families an injustice if you do not. It is just the price of a stamp. This is available to Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion members (over 18), in good standing.

## Spring Fundraising Program

Please encourage your members to support the Department Spring Label Program and thank them for all of us. This program affects all of the members, and the programs of The American Legion in our Department, so all of your support is much appreciated.

## The American Legion Youth Programs

A **Big Thank You**, to all of the posts that sponsor any or all of the youth programs. You are providing an opportunity for the youth to expand their knowledge and skills that will impact their lives forever. These are some of the best youth programs in the world available to all. If you don't promote and work with these programs, who will? **THANKS!!!**