

Twenty and Four

The Honor Society of Women Legionnaires



THE NATIONAL JEEP

**The Official Publication of The National Twenty and Four
Honor Society of Women Legionnaires**

July 2025

Editor: Diane Schmidt, PND

Ethel Matuschka, Editor Emeritus

69th Annual Bivouac

August 21-22, 2025

Tampa, Florida

PURPOSE

- *To elect National Officers
- *To amend the National Constitution and Bylaws if necessary
- *To transact such business as necessary
- *To meet and enjoy one another's company

REPRESENTATION

The Bivouac shall be composed of delegates from all Echelons. Each Echelon shall be entitled to five (5) delegates and five alternates, plus one additional delegate and alternate for each fifty (50) paid members. All Echelons that are in good standing by July 15, 2025, will be entitled to representation at the Bivouac. Members of the National Cadre from each Echelon shall be delegates to the National Bivouac with the right of the vote. This vote shall be exercised with their respective Echelons.

Echelons (all) 5 delegates and 5 alternates

50 + members 1 additional delegate and alternate

76 thru 125 members 2 additional delegates and alternates

DELEGATES

Only paid-up members for the year 2025 are entitled to be a member of the Cadre, a Delegate or Alternate Delegate to the Bivouac. A member is paid up when \$13.00 per capita for the current year has been received by the National Aide 40 days (July 15, 2025) prior to the National Bivouac. No per capita will be accepted for Bivouac count after that date nor will any Jeepette be listed on the Bivouac registry or receive a Bivouac badge.

CREDENTIALS

Blank forms will be furnished to all Echelon Aides. The credentials form (Delegate/Alternate Registration Form) must be returned to the National Aide by August 6, 2025. Accompanying the Credential form shall be a check in payment as per this schedule: \$10.00 for the Echelon and \$5.00 for each Jeepette listed on the form. If a Jeepette is deemed to be filling more than one position, do not list her twice. She is to be listed ONLY IN THE HIGHEST POSITION. That is: Past National Director, Current National Officer, National Cadre Member, Echelon Delegate and finally, Alternate Delegate. ALL positions require \$5.00 for each Jeepette listed.

Delegate/Alternate Delegate badges will be issued at the Bivouac for all Jeepettes registered. In extenuating circumstances, registration corrections may be made by the National Aide and Echelon Officers must be present. The Echelon must have been registered and fees paid PRIOR to their arrival at Bivouac.

“2025 NATIONAL BIVOUAC and BANQUET”

This year, our **Bivouac** will be held at the Barrymore Hotel, 111 W Fortune Street in Tampa, Florida on **August 21-22, 2025**. You are responsible for making your own hotel arrangements. The rooms are selling out quickly so make your reservation now.

The Bivouac Banquet will be memorable. This year’s Bivouac theme will be “Floridian Tropical Paradise”. It is your choice to attend in theme attire or not. What is important is that you have a great time. Tickets are \$75.00 per person and must be paid in advance. The deadline is August 1, 2025. Tickets will NOT be sold at the door. When you send in your banquet reservation, please list NAME of the attendees and how to acknowledge your reservation. Once banquet RSVP with payment is received, you will receive a text or email indicating that “Your banquet reservation has been received.” NOTE: If you do not send an email or phone number, a response cannot be provided. If you have not received confirmation within 3-5 days, contact Bobbi Kimelton, at 623- 738 9755 or by email at roberta1552 @msn.com to confirm the status of your payment, if you choose.

Remit reservation (on reservation form, your name and name of guest if applicable)
and include payment made out to “National Twenty and Four.”

Send to:
Bobbie J Kimelton
1708 Sailing Hawks Drive
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404

(For your convenience, you can remit payment via ZELLE to 623- 738 9755. Indicate name or names for reservation.)

Note: Any response for the Banquet will now be sent to Bobbie Kimelton. If you have already sent your response, “Thank you.”

Note: Response for the Banquet will now be sent to Bobbie Kimelton.

1708 Sailing Hawks Drive
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404

(For your convenience, you can remit payment via ZELLE to 623- 738 9755. Indicate name or names for reservation.) Check should be made out to: National 20&4. If you have already sent your response, "Thank you."



Dine in a Tropical Paradise Setting

With

The Honor Society of Women Legionnaires - 20&4

22 August 2025



Social: 5pm to 6pm (No Host Bar)

Dinner: 6pm to 8pm



Barrymore Hotel

111 W Fortune St, Tampa, FL 33602

Menu

Roasted Herb Pork

Beef Medallions with Demi Glaze

Seasonal Fish Fillet Chef-Choice-Salsa

Green Vegetable

Roasted Garlic & Herb Potatoes Mashed Potatoes

Tiramisu

Cheesecakes

Dinner Cost: \$75.00

Name _____

No. Tickets _____ *Entre(s)* _____

Payment Method

Check or Zelle to: rideaux1953@gmail.com

Make checks payable to: National 20 & 4

Mail to: Marilyn Rideaux,

2143 W 134th Place, Gardena, CA 90249

TWENTY & FOUR AGENDA 2024-2025

BIVOUAC – Thursday, August 21, 2025

Committee Reports

0800
 Registration & Credentials Janet Wilson
 Emblem Sales Beverly Fitch
 Ways & Means Millie Hampton
 Echelon Logbook Display

(Each committee report will be given up to 3 minutes only)

**NMI furnish written report to Aide.
 Must be readable. NO pencil**

0815
 Corporation Meeting Diane Schmidt, PND

Credentials Janet Wilson
 Audit Cheri Stanton, PND

0830
 Marketing Committee Roberta Kimelton
 Audit Committee Cheri Stanton, PND

Bivouac Marilyn Rideaux
 Constitution & Bylaws Rita Chandler
 Corporation Diane Schmidt, PND

0900
 Service Commission Rita Chandler
 Nominating Committee Patricia Jackson-Kelley, PND
 Awards Committee Lisa Dayhoff

Emblem Sales Beverly Fitch
 Finance & Budget Judi Beischel, PND
 Internal Affairs Patricia Jackson-Kelley, PND
 Log Director Lisa Mc Phee
 National JEEP Diane Schmidt, PND

0915
 Resolutions Committee Marilyn Rideaux
 Constitution & Bylaws Rita Chandler

Resolutions Marilyn Rideaux
 Scholarship Cheri Stanton, PND
 Service Commission Rita Chandler

0930
 Membership Colleen Heck
 Echelon Development Georgiann Callaway, PND
 Logbook Judging

Service Director Rita Chandler
 Echelon Development Georgiann Callaway, PND
 CQ Beverly Fitch

1000
 Internal Affairs Patricia Jackson-Kelly, PND
 All Cadre members

Judge Advocate Patricia Jackson-Kelley, PND
 Sky Pilot Tweila Rochelle Cauthen
 Disbursing Director Judi Beischel, PND
 National Aide Lisa Dayhoff

1200 LUNCH
1300 RETURN TO MEETING

Ways & Means Millie Hampton
 Membership Colleen Heck
 Immediate Past National Director Georgiann Callaway PND
 National Director VIP Mildred S Wright-Pearson

Registration & Credentials continue
 Emblem Sales continue
 Ways & Means continue
 Finance & Budget Judi Beischel, PND
 Scholarship Cheri Stanton, PND

Unfinished Business
Final Report of Credentials
New Business
Election of Officers
For the Good of The Order
Bivouac Adjourn

1500
 Pre-Bivouac Cadre Meeting Mildred Wright-Pearso, ND
 All Cadre members

15 MINUTE RECESS

1800 OPEN HOUSE – Hotel Lounge

BIVOUAC – Friday, August 22, 2025

0800
 Registration & Credentials continue
 Emblem Sales continue
 Ways & Means continue

Installation of Officers
 Post Bivouac Cadre Meeting Colleen Heck
 Roll call of Officers 2025/2026
 Roll call of Cadre 2025/2026

0815
 Memorial Service Tweila Rochelle Cauthen, Sky Pilot

Call for Roster of
 National Director appointees 2025/2026

0830
 Opening Ceremony Mildred Wright-Pearson, ND
 Advance the Colors Beverly Finch, CQ
 Roll Call Officers & Cadre Lisa Dayhoff, Aide
 Minutes Pre-Bivouac Cadre Lisa Dayhoff, Aide

1700 Friendship hour / Cocktail Reception
1800 Dinner & Program



Mildred S. Wright-Pearson, National Director VIP

Greetings, Jeepettes. This will be my farewell article to all of you. My year is coming to an end. It has been a pleasure working, talking, and planning with all of you during my year. I have come to know you more in depth. Because of this, I have grown and now know myself and my capabilities a great deal better.

As we look to the future, I hope that we will continue to grow as an organization. Not only in numbers, but in fellowship and willingness to step up and help to lead this organization into a better tomorrow full of potential.

Over the past year, I have contacted many of you. Unfortunately, there have been a lot of illness with you or in your family. I prayed that things would improve and return to normal for you during periods of poor health and family crises.

We will be selecting new leadership in the next few months. I am quite sure Colleen Heck will be a wonderful National Director, VIP. If you are asked to perform a duty, remember it is not only for the individual asking, but also for the good and welfare of the Society. Accept that position and perform it to your best ability. There is always someone who is there to assist you when needed.

In this issue of the JEEP, you will find the Call to Bivouac and the Agenda. Please make a copy for yourself. Bring them with you to Bivouac. We don't know if there will be printing capability at the Hotel Barrymore at a reasonable cost. Don't forget your red jacket!

As you know, my Bivouac dinner is on the 22nd of August. The theme is Floridian Tropical Paradise. The flyer should be included in this edition of the JEEP. I hope you are planning to be there. It is not a dressy affair – tropical casual dress attire. We plan to have a lot of fun. This is also the transition of leadership and the “coming out” of the new leadership and her team.

I wanted to express the wonderful time I had in Arlington, VA. As you know a wreath was presented in the WMSA Memorial Museum Building. Present, besides myself, were Gigi Callaway, PND, and Tweila Cauthen, Sky Pilot. We met a lot of people from different veteran organizations. There was much collaboration and many stories that were shared. If you have not been, I recommend you go next year. The museum is an eye-opener.

See you in August at the Bivouac

Mildred S. Wright-Pearson
MILDRED S. WRIGHT-PEARSON
National Director, VIP
Honor Society of Women Legionnaires
(559) 250-8247 (txt or v-msg)

Title: “Dear Friend”

Dear friend, bidding farewell is hard,
Expressing the depth, no simple regard.
In parting words, the ties we sever,
In this goodbye, a bond we treasure.

Thy gentle grace, we'll dearly miss,
A willing hand, a face that brings bliss.
No other friend can fill your space,
Though absent, your presence we embrace.

God bless the work you've undertaken,
Guard you in the years yet to awaken.
When weariness or solitude you face,
Know you're not alone in life's vast space.

May your journey be filled with grace,
As you step into a new time and place.
Farewell, dear friend, until we meet again,
Our hearts connected, a timeless chain.

RESOLUTION OF CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT

RESOLUTION OF CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT for National Sr. Vice Director

WHEREAS, Illinois Echelon 8 hereby nominates **Dakota Tolbert** for the office of **National Sr. Vice Director** of the Honor Society for Women Legionnaires 20&4. The members of Echelon 8 unanimously voted for this nomination on 11 July 2025; and

WHEREAS, Dakota Tolbert proudly served in the United State Marine Corps, and her memberships also include The Marine Corps League, the 9Th Infantry Division Mobile Riverine Force, Patriot Guard Veteran Motorcycle Association; and

WHEREAS, Dakota Tolbert is a member the Carterville American Legion Post 347 Honor Guard that has provided an average of 75 funeral military rights and community outreach details a year within The American Legion, she is also member of the Black Tiger Honor Guard that perform a silent ceremony set only to music to honor all veterans past and present, her passion was continued with her volunteerism as she assisted with the Veterans Honor Flight and Quilts of Valor programs; and

WHEREAS, Dakota Tolbert has attended both The American Legion, Department of Illinois and at National Conventions attending The Department of Veteran Affairs, Resolutions, and Bylaw's meetings and committees; and

WHEREAS, Dakota Tolbert has been a member of The Honor Society of Women Legionnaires and serving as Illinois Echelon 8 Director, she currently serving a second term as Post 347 Jr. Vice Post Commander and one of the first and youngest women to hold an office position within her post; and

WHEREAS, Dakota Tolbert has also attended Honor Society for Women Legionnaires Bivouacs, served as Assisted Sgt-At-Arms, and has assisted in representing of the Honor Society for Women Legionnaires, as the Director of Echelon 8 at The Annual Lincoln Pilgrimage; and

WHEREAS, the members of Echelon 8 have affirmatively voted to support Dakota’s candidacy for Sr. Vice of the Honor Society for Women Legionnaires 20 & 4 in belief that she will continue to provide guidance to veterans, women veterans and members of the 20 & 4 as well as communities in need of assistance within her purview; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution will be distributed to all Echelons by way of the JEEP requesting their support and vote for this outstanding candidate, Dakota Tolbert for the position of Sr. Vice Director of the Honor Society for Women Legionnaires 20&4.

Respectfully submitted,
Dakota Tolbert
Director Echelon 8
Georgiann Callaway, PND
Aide Echelon 8

RESOLUTION OF CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT for National Jr. Vice Director

WHEREAS, Virginia Echelon 24 hereby nominate **Rita Brock Chandler** for the office of **National Jr. Vice Director**. The members of Echelon 24 unanimously voted for this nomination on 10 July 2025; and

WHEREAS, Rita Brock Chandler proudly served in the United State Marine Corps 1967-1968, Army National Guard (Idaho, Connecticut, Virginia 1971-1980 and Active National Guard & Reserve 1980-1986; and

WHEREAS, Rita holds a Master of Business Administration Degree earned 14 February 2003. She retired from the Virginia Department of Transportation in December 2003 serving as the Assistant Resident Engineer for Construction, Fredericksburg Residency and was a certified Contract Administrator for Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Rita has been a member of The American Legion for 28 years. Currently serving as Post Commander, she serves as Post Service Officer 2010- Present, District Adjutant, District Service Officer currently, District Vice Commander, District Commander, Department Vice Commander, Eastern Region. Women Veterans Outreach Coordinator for 5 years; and

WHEREAS, Rita served on several Department of Virginia American Legion Committees to include VA&R, VAVS, Children & Youth, Homeless Veterans and POW/MIA committees; and

WHEREAS, she has attended The American Legion College and participated in the Leadership program at all levels. Utilizing the leadership skills, she has taught several Veterans Claims Classes, Women Veterans Benefits, Military Sexual Trauma, and Diversity in the Workplace at Legion College. She is an Accredited Service Officer, renewing her credentials every 3 years. She serves as the Post Finance Officer- filing Taxes and Financial Statements each year; and

WHEREAS, Rita Brock Chandler has been a member of Twenty and Four Echelon 24 Virginia since 2007. She is the current Director for Echelon 24 and has served in the positions of Aide. She has attended 3 Bivouacs since becoming an officer with the Echelon; and

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL Echelons by way of the JEEP requesting their support and vote for this outstanding candidate, Rita Brock Chandler for the position of National Jr. Vice Director.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Brock Chandler
Director Echelon 24
Karen LeMaster Krizov
Aide Echelon 24

RESOLUTION OF CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT for CQ

WHEREAS, Illinois Echelon 8 hereby nominates **Beverly A. Fitch** for the office of **National CQ**. The members of Echelon 8 unanimously voted for this nomination on 11 July 2025.

WHEREAS, Echelon 8 have a resolution on file from this highly qualified and dedicated candidate who has shown her integrity, loyalty and commitment by virtue of her past and present service; and

WHEREAS, Beverly A. Fitch earned her eligibility for membership in The American Legion by serving honorably on active duty while in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve; and

WHEREAS, Beverly A. Fitch is a 8-year member of the American Legion, a Paid Up For Life member and has served as Junior Vice Commander at the Division level; Commander and Senior Vice Commander at the District level; Commander at Post level

WHEREAS, Beverly A. Fitch has set the record as the first female Commander of the Third District, taking them to number one in the Department membership year 2024

WHEREAS, Beverly A. Fitch is a member in good standing with Echelon 8, located in Illinois and has served as the CQ for both Echelon 8 and Honor Society for Women Legionnaires 20&4 and is currently serving as National CQ; and, therefore, be it

WHEREAS, the members of Echelon 8 have affirmatively voted to support Beverly’s candidacy for CQ of the Honor Society for Women Legionnaires 20 &4; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution will be distributed to all Echelons by way of the JEEP requesting their support and vote for this outstanding candidate, Beverly A. Fitch for the position of National CQ of the Honor Society for Women Legionnaires 20&4.

Respectfully submitted,
Dakota Tolbert
Director Echelon 8
Georgiann Callaway, PND
Aide Echelon 8

Echelon 30 Florida

Provided by Diane Schmidt, PND

Echelon Florida #30 is Proud of Marina Perez-79 Years Young and 65 Medals Later.

(Picture of Marina Perez and interview with Marina and VA about the Golden Games and the 65 pieces of Gold she won.)



From Veteran Marina Perez beginning her roots in Trinidad to age not defining her limits as a competitor for the National Veterans Golden Age Games, she is what many call “unstoppable”.

Her story spans continents, challenges, and victories, offering a beacon of hope and determination for all who face adversity.

At 79 years young, Marina combines willpower and a zest for life as she embraces encounters which would challenge most.

It all started at the age of 33, when she competed in the New York City Marathon herself, completing the run in just over five hours.

This set the tone for a transformative moment that fueled her confidence and commitment to pushing herself to the limit.

This portion of her life’s journey began with a bold decision to join the U.S. Army at the vibrant age of 35, and despite some obstacles and overcoming initial setbacks one faces when coming from abroad, she enlisted and never looked back.

Marina’s military career spanned 25 years, culminating in her retirement as a Sergeant First Class (SFC). Her service included deployments to the Gulf War and Bosnia, where she served with distinction and received the prestigious Bronze Star Medal.

Reflecting on her service, she says, “The military opened my mind to how others live and survive. It made me grateful and taught me resilience.”

After retiring from service at the age 60, Marina transitioned to working at the West Palm Beach Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center. It was here that she found a new community of women Veterans who introduced her to the National Veterans Golden Age Games.

Marina did not just compete in the Games; she took home some weight hanging from her neck of three gold medals in her first competition.

Over the course of 12 years, she has set her name for the record with an incredible 65 medals in cycling, bowling, javelin, long jump, and many other track and field events. Staying active has been crucial for Marina’s health and vitality. She says, “The games keep me young. At my age, it’s easy to get lazy, but the camaraderie and competition motivates me to keep going. Running and staying active has been my therapy through life’s toughest moments.”

The Golden Age Games are more than just a competition for Marina; they’re a celebration of life and a testament

to the enduring spirit of Veterans. She emphasizes, “The VA created this opportunity to keep us in shape and connected, and it’s made a huge difference in my life.” Looking back on her incredible journey, from emigrating to the United States, running a marathon, serving in two war zones, retiring from the military, and to becoming a Golden Age Games champion, Marina Perez’s life is a testament to living life fully and embracing every opportunity.

Her journey proves that age is no barrier to greatness, and life’s golden years can truly shine. Marina’s advice to fellow Veterans is simple yet profound: “Stay active. Exercise is the best medicine for the body and mind. It’s never too late to start, and it’s always worth it.”

The National Veterans Golden Age Games is open to VA enrolled U.S. military Veterans who are 55 years old or beyond by December 31, 2025.

Echelon 8 Illinois

Submitted by Georgiann Callaway, PND

Jeepette featured at 37TH Annual Vietnam Veterans Vigil

The 2025 Guest Speaker for the 37TH Annual Vietnam Veterans Vigil at the Oakridge Cemetery was our own Dakota Tolbert. The Abraham Lincoln Tomb, the 16th president of the United States; his wife Mary Todd Lincoln; and three of their four sons is located in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois. The Vietnam Memorial, one of many memorials, located at the entrance opposite side of the cemetery from Lincoln’s tomb.

The purpose of this event was to honor and remember the ultimate sacrifice of Gold Star families, to honor and hope for return of Missing in Action and Prisoners of War, and to honor and welcome home Vietnam Veterans.

She presented the award winning, heartfelt, and moving story “The Legacy of Honor”. A true story of a highly decorated Vietnam Veteran, his service, Agent Orange, and a surprising legacy that continues through generations.

Additionally, she served in other roles during the two-day event that included, The Department of Illinois Marine Corps League and Auxiliary presentation of The Missing Man’s Table as well as The Black Tiger Honor Guard that presented and posted The Colors, Memorial, Wreath Laying, and Passing of the Torch. She is a member of both Marine Corps League and the Black Tiger Honor Guard.

The event days was filled with heavy hearts and at the same time proud Americans that were remembering those that served.

Pictured center: Dakota, as child with her grandfather. Left photo: Her at the event delivering her speech. Right photo of her greeting attendees at event.



PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN



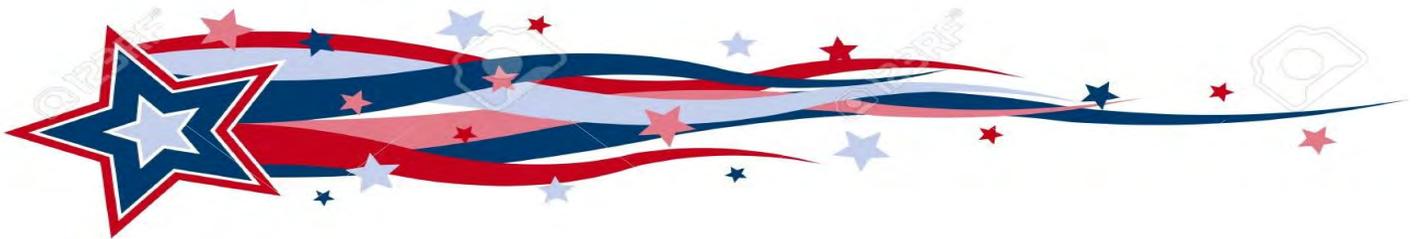
Greetings from the Jeepettes of Echelon 35, who are definitely "Proud to be American!" We take pride in knowing we are among an elite group of women veterans who have had the honor of serving our Country and we reach out to thank each of you for your service!

Greetings from Echelon 35

Marge Aherns
Judi Beischel
Gerry Berger
Eszter Blair
Nancy Brown
Gilian (Gigi) Burns
Patricia (Trish) Carlisle-Thompson
Twila-Rochelle Cauthen
Sanid Deatherage
Rosa Del Rosario
Lis DeLeclerc
Lisette Eckman
Eldor Engebreston
Rebecca Faris
Patricia Fite

Mary Freeman
Jessica Garcia
Julia Gusse
Donna Harwood
Colleen Heck
Barbara Hobbs
Dee Hoisington
Dale Hutchcraft
Brenda Johnson
Georgie Jones
Jennie Jordan
Roberta "Bobbie" Kimelton
Jennifer Kritzer
Jaclyn Kulfan
Malina Lopez

Cheryl Mothershed
Anna Nemecek
Doranetta Parker
Charee Reckner
Nancy Ruiz
Cheryl Shannon
Joan Sisco
Carol Stensby
Jerilyn Strande
Janet Stripe
Ellen Tredell
Cheryl Wentz
Felice Wimibsh-Tribue
Karen Young



Celebrate the spirit of freedom and your patriotism of our Independence. May July's holiday and events be bright with fireworks, warm with friends, and filled with the love of your country.

Echelon 8

Angela R, Baskin
Georgiann Callaway
Sonja Creekmore
Detrall "Dee" Dearborn
Natalie Dragovich
Beverly Fitch
Sandra Harke

Christine Hildebrandt
Helen Hull
Iris I.M. Kirschner
Mary E. Kulavic
Patricia Maher
Deanne "Dee" Nighsonger
Lisabetha Risley

Cynthia Robbins
Nickola Rogers
Cheri Stanton
Edna Taylor
Annette Tincher
Beverly Walker
Cheryl Walker



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Central: Earnestine Doubek, Angela Baskin, and Dakota Tolbert.
Mountain: Bobbie Kimelton, Jennifer Kriyzer, and Colleen Heck.
Pacific: Elezanderia Carr and Roxanne Jones.

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Georgiann Callaway, PND
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The 69th ANNUAL BIVOUAC—August 21-22, 2025, and American Legion National Convention will be in Tampa, Florida on August 23 - 28, 2025. This year's Bivouac theme will be the "Floridian Tropical Paradise"

Travel Dates: See you in August 21st-and 22nd! Tampa, Florida

Echelon Directors and Aides 2024-2025

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