

# Twenty and Four

The Honor Society of Women Legionnaires



## THE NATIONAL JEEP

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

December 2025



Angela R. Baskin, Editor

Ethel Matuschka, Editor Emeritus

### Colleen Heck, National Director VIP



#### 🎄 Honoring Women Veterans This Holiday Season

As the holidays approach, it's a time for joy, family, and reflection. Amid the celebrations, let's pause to honor a remarkable group often overlooked—our women veterans.

#### The Challenges They Face

Many of these heroes are spending the season in hospitals or struggling with homelessness. Their sacrifices deserve not only our gratitude but also our support. Thankfully, new opportunities are opening in Phoenix: **U.S. Vets – Ashley's Place** will soon unveil a new facility with an entire wing dedicated to women veterans, including safe housing for those with families who have endured military sexual trauma (MST). (U.S. Vets is a national organization.) I encourage all echelon to reach out and share actives and/or organizations in their locations.

#### Stories of Resilience

Recently, while decorating for Veterans Day, I met a 96-year-old woman veteran at the VA Community Living Center. Her resilience is inspiring, and in January, members of Arizona Echelon 35 will return to interview her—capturing her story for future generations. Please take opportunity to highlight these women in your echelon JEEP article.

#### Upcoming Event

Looking ahead, we'll gather for a **hybrid meeting on February 11th** in Springfield, Illinois. With the help of our National Senior Vice Director, Dakota Tolbert, as well as Echelon Eight officers, and local partners, details will be finalized soon. If you can join us, your presence will make the occasion even more meaningful.

#### In the spirit of the season

This season, while sharing laughter and love with family and friends, let's also extend that spirit to women veterans. Their courage has shaped our nation, and together we can ensure they are never forgotten.

**And remember:** The holidays are the perfect time for buddy checks. A simple call or visit can remind our female veterans that they are valued, remembered, and never alone.



**Dakota Tolbert**  
Senior Vice National Director

To all the inspirational women and all members of The National Honor Society of Women Legionaries, I hope you had a wonderful Veterans Day and thank you for your service!

As National Sr. Vice Director, I am here to aid in any way that I can. Remember that there is great helpful information available on our website, [twentyandfour.org](http://twentyandfour.org). My email is [legiontolbert@gmail.com](mailto:legiontolbert@gmail.com) for any questions or discussion.

I also want to wish you all a wonderful Happy Holidays! I am incredibly thankful for your friendship.

The 92nd Annual National Pilgrimage of The American Legion and its Auxiliary Organizations to The Tomb of Abraham Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois is coming soon in February. This is an event over a couple days. There is a Luncheon and a wreath laying at President Lincoln's Tomb by The National Honor Society of Women Legionnaires and multiple American Legion Departments and other organizations. The National Director, Colleen Heck, Honor Society of Women Legionnaires will hold our mid-year meeting. There will be more details that can be found in this newsletter. (It will be in person as well as on zoom, information on the zoon connections will be sent when available.)

Lastly, for those echelons that have yet to their submit a membership report; know that I am here to assist you. Communications directly to those echelons will be forthcoming in the new year.

Once again, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**Rita Brock Chandler**  
Junior Vice National Director

Christmas time fundraisers include events like bake sales, craft fairs, and holiday concerts, services such as gift wrapping and photos with Santa, and product sales like Christmas trees and

wreaths. Other ideas involve physical activities like "Jingle Bell" runs or walks, and online options like virtual concerts, e-card campaigns, or online auctions.

**Event-based fundraisers**

- \* **Bake sale:** Sell festive cookies, cakes, and other holiday treats.
- \* **Holiday fun day or movie night:** Host a festive gathering with seasonal activities or a Christmas movie screening.
- \* **"Ugly Sweater" party:** Charge an entrance fee for a fun-filled party with a competition for the ugliest holiday sweater. Coordinate this with your post.
- \* **Gingerbread house decorating contest:** Have participants pay an entry fee to compete by decorating gingerbread houses.

**Service-based fundraisers**

- \* **Gift wrapping:** Offer a gift wrapping service for people who dread doing it themselves. Considering doing this for donations.
- \* **Christmas caroling:** Go caroling around neighborhoods and ask for donations.
- \* **Holiday decorating:** Offer to help decorate homes or businesses with holiday lights and decor.

**Sales-based fundraisers**

- \* **Christmas tree and wreath sales:** Sell Christmas trees and wreaths, often in partnership with a local farm.
- \* **Holiday ornament sales:** Sell or have a day for people to decorate and buy their own ornaments.
- \* **Holiday gift catalog:** Partner with a company to sell goods through a holiday catalog.

**Activity-based fundraisers**

- \* **Jingle Bell Run or Walkathon:** Organize a festive race or walk where participants collect pledges.
- \* **Holiday-themed 5K:** Host a 5K race that encourages participation and donations.
- \* **Christmas Light Tour:** Charge a fee for a guided tour of a neighborhood with impressive Christmas light displays.

**Online and creative fundraisers**

- \* **Holiday e-cards:** Sell unique e-cards as a greener and cheaper alternative to traditional cards.
- \* **Online auction:** Host an online auction for holiday gifts and experiences to reach a wider audience.
- \* **Online crowdfunding/storytelling campaign:** Share compelling stories with photos and videos on platforms like GoFundMe to encourage online donations.
- \* **Matching gift drive:** Encourage donors to find out if their employers match holiday donations.

If this is too late for Christmas planning, consider making it a New Year's Celebration.

Coordinate with Posts for places to hold and share the funds.

Consider contacting local clubs and organizations to donate items.

**Let's make this a banner year for 20 & 4 National Honor Society of Women Legionnaires**





**Tweila-Rochelle Cauthen  
Sky Pilot**

**REACH OUT AND TOUCH**

Recently a hurricane whipped through the Caribbean, and caused devastating injury and damages. Sometimes, we think, " let us pray

for them," but rarely do we consider that it is possible that American veterans might reside in these regions.

I come from a global community family, and my relatives are on every continent except Antarctica. While preparing to fly into Norman Manley International Airport , I received a call on my WhatsApp. It was from a female Marine veteran friend that I speak to about four times a year. Since our last call, she had relocated to Jamaica to care for her ailing parents.

The flight was laborious as delays were unending. All I could think about was, "how many other women other veterans are living in Jamaica, and how many are totally detached from many services and opportunities?"

It made me pause. A few days after landing, we started cleaning up and attempted to salvage. Many animals died, and farmers lost their entire livelihoods. Hospitals were destroyed. The relocation efforts were disruptive and somewhat unorganized.

As we work on Echelon development this year, perhaps we can also incorporate ways to be more proactive to identify and reach out to our sister veterans that reside outside CONUS. That is in-keeping with our mission.

In the words of Jackie DeShannon, "Reach out and touch, somebody's hand. Make this world a better place -- if you can."

234-788-1928  
Yes.tweila@gmail.com

**Scholarship Team**

Ladies, we have a \$1,000 scholarship to give away to a deserving student. Get an application go to our website and apply.

<https://twentyandfour.org/blog/http://www.twentyandfour.org/images/2020/02/2020-Scholarship.pdf>

Use only the first page. (Also, see next page) All the details are on the website. **Email the application to Cheri Stanton.**

cstanton1441@gmail.com

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Cheri Stanton, PND, (NMI)

309-734-7843 cstanton1441@gmail.com

Following page pertains.



**Georgiann Callaway, PND  
National Aide**

Happy Christmas, Merry New Year and Seasons greetings to you all!

This is the time to ensure buddy checks are done. Reach out to a fellow Jeepettes and fellow veterans.

Also, after the holidays one may find some free time to complete a few tasks. If your echelon has yet to submit membership it would be a delight to see that transmission. Furthermore, as the New year begins , it a good time to send a reminder to renew your membership with the Honor Society of Women Legionnaires. If you have already remitted that to your echelon, we "thank you". If you have any questions about the renewal process, please don't hesitate to contact your Echelon Aide. There are a few echelons that need to submit their Echelon Officer Roster, and it is requested that be completed soon.

This year, we hope to accomplish even more, including the Honor Society of Women Legion marketing and echelon development plans. Regarding establishing new echelons, please reach out to me directly.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the mid-year meeting in February which will be during the Lincoln Pilgrimage. (This is normally held in person or on zoom. The agenda for those attending in person the event flier can be found herein. Ensure to make reservations.)

The best to you and yours this season.

Warm Regards,  
Semper Fortis. For God, Family, Country.

callgeorgi@yahoo.com  
(630) 708-0624  
20847 W. Brockton Court, Plainfield, IL 60544

Or you may use:  
Honor Society for Women Legionnaires,  
Attn: G. Callaway,  
P.O Box 2004, Hines, IL 60141



Sending wishes for a speedy recovery to both Rita Brock Chandler, National Junior Vice Director and Disbursing Director Judi Beischel, PND.



**THE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION  
OF THE NATIONAL TWENTY AND FOUR**

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Date of Birth

2. Permanent Home address: \_\_\_\_\_  
# and street City State Zip

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

3. School now attending & graduation date \_\_\_\_\_  
City and state: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Eligibility for application: (item A of fact sheet)  
Name of Mother/grandmother/great living/deceased American Legion Post# Echelon # State  
I I I I

5. Required attachments:
- a) Personnel Recommendations:
    - 1. Teacher or Coach (must be current and dated)
    - 2. Character-Community representative-non relative (must be current and dated)
  - b) Transcript of scholastic record to date
  - c) A letter in your own words explaining why you feel you should qualify for assistance.
  - d) A Photo (current within last 12 months)

6. Complete this application, attach all of items in number 5. Mail to: **Scholarship NMI** (chairman).  
**THIS application must be RECEIVED BY MAY 1ST**

7. **Family Data (complete and check as appropriate, member need not complete #7)**

Applicant	Occupation	<10,000	10,000-14,999	15,000-20,000	> 20,000
Father					
Mother					
Spouse					

This information MUST be as accurate as possible.

8. How much money have you saved for your education? \_\_\_\_\_

9. If you have worked part time, describe the kind of work you have done. \_\_\_\_\_

10. What other sources of income/scholarships do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

11. List school offices, activities, sports, in which you have participated: \_\_\_\_\_

12. List community/church/club activities in which you have participated: \_\_\_\_\_

13. List colleges, universities, and/or vocational schools that have accepted you as an applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name of applicant \_\_\_\_\_

signature applicant \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by NMI and Committee Members:

\_\_\_\_\_ NMI and Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Committee Member Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Committee Member Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Committee Member Date

## Echelon 9 - Montana By Chaya "Hiya" Semple Echelon 9 Aide



Echelon 9 Jeepette Sue Davidson presents a Quilt of Valor and certificate to 102 yr old WWII Veteran Leonard Dahl. Sue has been working with the organization many years and is an official Quilts of Valor



*Commander Linda Cousineau gives Jennifer Dalrymple a 15-year service award  
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson*

Past Echelon Director Linda Cousineau and Jeepette Jennifer Dalrymple were featured in their local paper wearing their honor guard uniforms. As Post No 42 Commander, Linda presented a 15 year service pin to Jennifer.



New Echelon 9 Jeepette Leslie Slocum helped fill plates for just under 150 breakfasts at the annual Post No. 2 Veterans Day Breakfast. Jeepettes Duzzie Stolp and Chaya Semple with Top Hat Bill Rich served the breakfasts to the guests.



Echelon 9 Director VIP Janice Dobb (L) and Top Hat Larry Dobb (R) joined other Department of Montana Legionnaires for breakfast with National American Legion Commander Dan Wiley during his visit to Montana in early November. The Commander spoke about his visits with many different posts and how he was looking forward to laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Veterans Day.

Jeepettes Linda Cousineau and Jennifer Dalrymple assisted a woman veteran caregiver (caring for disabled veteran spouse) to stack firewood for the winter. Jeepette Rachel Weidner joined them part-way through the second day to complete the task before snow arrived.



Well done, Ladies!!!



## Promoting Veterans in the "Trades"

By Gigi Callaway, PND  
National and Echelon Eight Aide

A deeper understanding of what the Union Trades are offering to veterans and women veterans. Several years ago, the American Legion leadership reached out to the Department of Illinois for a VA&R speaker at their launch of the Elevator Union's VAP (Veteran Assistance Program). It went beyond veterans claims. The program included recruiting veterans for employment as well as providing a myriad of resources for their veteran employees. The relationship continued quarterly from that initial meeting until present day. In September, we again were invited to an event requesting Department of Illinois VA&R team provide VSOs (Veteran Services Officers) to a Trades conference. It was at this conference that relations between trades enhanced. The name of the event breakout session, "From Service to Strength: Empowering Women Veterans in the Union Trades". (Photo: Gigi Callaway and Suzanne Matusiewicz of Echelon 8)



This event was followed by an invitation in November to be on a panel that invited the Trades to showcase the Elevator Union's VAP to many other Unions in the Trades. There were conversations regarding the relationship with

The Honor Society of Women Legionnaires. Sandra Davis, Judge Advocate, and I had dinner there in Rhodes Island and discussed The Honor Society of

Women Legionnaires and relationship with the Trades. (Photo: Sandra Davis Massachusetts Echelon 2 and Gigi Callaway, Illinois Echelon 8)



IUEC-VAP 2025 Guardian of Veterans Award Presentation given to James LaCoursiere, American Legion National Past Commander.



There were a multitude of speakers and panels amongst were Steven Betsch, American Legion, Policy Associate for Education and Employment and Claims and Disabilities Panel that included Georgiann Callaway, American Legion Department of Illinois VA&R Director. (Photo: Trade Attendees left to right: Steve Simpson, Jason Cheney, and Gigi Callaway)



*See "Hiring notice for Veteran's only" by one of the trades herein this newsletter. Pass the word.*

*Speical "Thank you" to Elizabeth Belcaster, Ben Valinsky, and Jason Gray*

# *Christmas Greetings from Echelon Fifty - Alabama*

*All the best to all this Season!*



*Gloria J. Prince*

*Ginger Branson*

*Jean Downs*

*Earnestine Doubek*

*Elizabeth Tumbleson*

*Nancy J. Waller*

*Sherrie L. Rogers*

*Cynthia D Pierre*

*Andrea B. Boyer*

*Glayds Leonard*

*Patricia A. Douglas*

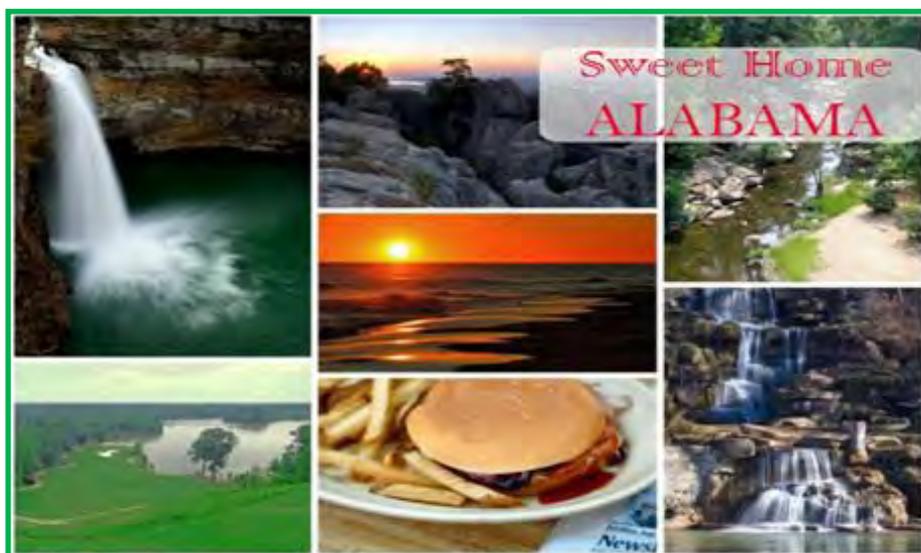
*Cassandra Igou*

*Donna K. Stacey*

*Robin Phillips*

*Casey Nash*

*Pinkie A. White*



# Happy Holidays from Echelon Nine - Montana



## Big Sky Country



Joyce Babcock, PND  
Margaret Barrett  
Cynthia Boyd  
Lacey Bray  
Clancee Collins  
Denise Cook  
Elizabeth Cook  
Linda Cousineau  
Jen Dalrymple  
Sue Davidson  
Irene Dickerson  
Janice Dobb  
Rosie Garcia

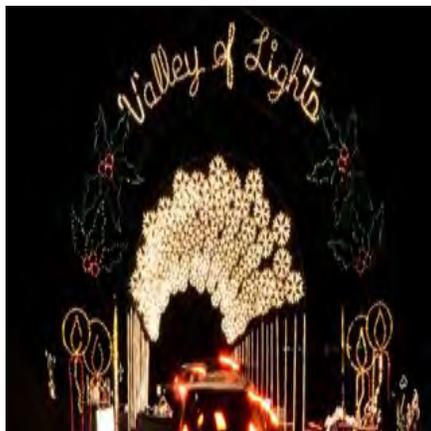
Melanie Gold  
Dorothy Goodwin  
Eileen Greb  
Carol Gruwell  
Kate Hahn  
Deborah Hancock  
Cory Hartman  
Susan Hocker  
Katy Jones  
Sylvia Machler  
Kim Kay McCarty- Martin  
Rhonda McDowell

Lisa Milner  
Jennifer Oates  
Carol Prahf  
Chris Rangitsch  
Clara Santopietro  
Chaya Semple  
Leslie Slocum  
Ruth E. Smith  
Duzzie Stolp  
Phyllis Viccione  
Rachel Weidner  
Julie Witt  
Kate Youngs



May the Holiday season fill your home with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter. To a joyful present and a well-remembered past. Season's Greetings to you and your family, and very best wishes for the New Year. May the Holiday Season bring only happiness and joy to you and your loved ones.

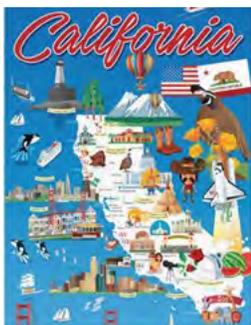
*Wishing you Season's Greetings from members of Echelon 35 - Arizona!*



Marge Ahrens  
Dana Allmond  
Judi Beischel  
Gerry Berger  
Emily Blaine  
Eszter Blair  
Nancy Browne  
Gilian Burns  
Patricia Carlisle-Thompson  
Tweila-Rochelle Cauthen  
Detashia Coleman  
Theresa Collins  
Lorri Conley  
Sandi Deatherage  
Rebecca DeFeo  
Kathy De Los Reyes  
Rosa DelRosario  
Lisa DeLeclerc  
Lisette Eckman  
Eldora Engebreston  
Rebecca Farison  
Bettu Fishy -Ferguson  
Patricia Fite  
Mary Freeman  
Laura Friedlander

Jessica Garcia  
Tabith Govita  
Jackie Graves  
Valerie Goodwin  
Julia Gusse  
Daphne Hagen  
Lynette halbert  
Jennifer Harman  
Donna Harwood  
Jeri Harwood  
Christina Hasher  
Colleen Heck  
Kris Hinson  
Barbara Hobbs  
Dee Hoisington  
Lisa Howard  
Dale Hutchcraft  
Brenda Johnson  
Georgie Jones  
Jennie Jordan  
Ann Joy  
Charleen Kelly  
Zoreda Kennon  
Bobbie Kimelton  
Jennifer Kritzer

Jaclyn Kulfan  
Victoria Laria  
Tanya Launsby  
Sheila Laws  
Malina Lopez  
Patricia Mathes Kerr  
Cheryl Mothershed  
Sheila Overhots  
Doranetta Porter  
Katherine Pascoe  
Charee Reckner  
Della Reddick  
Cheryl Shannon  
Joan Sisco  
Kristi Smith  
Brenda Smull  
Jacqueline Solis  
Jeri Strande  
Janet Stripe  
Andrea Strong  
Jonelle Sullivan  
Sarah Tobin  
Ellen Truesdell  
Cheryl Wentte  
Karen Young



## *Season's Greetings – 2025/2026*

### *Echelon 1 - California*

Charlotte Baber  
Ethel Butler  
Karen Caddel  
Kathy Cash  
Genoveva Cervantez  
Debra Coleman \*  
Irene Cruz  
Cathy Diaz \*  
DanaRae Doub-Reed  
Diane Drake  
Lois Flint  
Cynthia Gaffey  
Magdalena Gradkowska  
Kristy Grayson  
Annette Grimsley  
Marj Goosey  
Michelle Heaton \*  
Kathleen Heeren  
Christina Hickey  
Hattie Hicks  
Martha Huff  
Patricia Jackson-Kelley PND

Susan Johnson  
Roxanne Jones  
Xiomara Jovel \*  
Barbara Jung Lowe  
Andrea Kline \*  
Barbara Lombrano  
Teresa Moore  
Lucia M. Morales \*  
Lillian Moss  
Maggie Mudd  
Tamara Pohl  
Janice Price  
Marilyn Rideaux  
Bonnie Rodriguez  
Danielle Romero  
Delores Shick  
Janice Somers, Dir VIP  
Josie Thomas  
Dora Waight  
Lisa Wiebe  
Janet Wilson  
Mildred Wright-Pearson

*\*New Members*

#### Top Hats

Robert C. Bown  
Hugh Crooks  
Albert Dabney  
David Fuller  
Art Guerrero  
Paul Rodriguez

Milton Russ  
Scott Sinclair  
Greg Somers  
Greg Taylor  
James Wilson



# *Greetings from Echelon Eight - Illinois*



*Wishing you all a cheerful holiday season!*

*May the New Year bring you strength, happiness, and joy!*

*Angela Baskin*

*Beverly Walker*

*Angie G. Lightly*

*Gigi Callaway, PND*

*Tonya Wisley*

*Paul Hines*

*Beverly Fitch*

*Melanie Willstead*

*Wade Hudson*

*Barabra Fletcher*

*Chevonne Woodard*

*A. J. Matusiewicz*

*Mary Johnson*

*Frank Matusiewicz*

*Iris J. M. Kirschner*

*Top Hats*

*Joseph Matusiewicz*

*Mary E. Kulavic*

*Kendal Bishop*

*Katrina Matusiewicz*

*Suzanne Matusiewicz*

*Delmar Buske*

*Joseph Matusiewicz, Jr.*

*Nickola Rogers*

*Jon Callaway*

*Larry Miller*

*Cheri Stanton, PND*

*Mike Callaway*

*Timothy Pusley*

*Edna L. Taylor*

*Art Chavez*

*Gene Schaefer*

*Annette Fincher*

*Marty Conatser*

*Sara Tolbert*

*Dakota Tolbert*

*Tyler Dufresne*

*Mike Walton*



**The American Legion  
Springfield Post 32  
Home of & Originator of the  
National American  
Legion Pilgrimage  
to the  
Tomb of Abraham Lincoln**

**Wednesday,  
February 11, 2026**

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM:  
American Legion Family  
Leadership Reception at  
The Headquarters Hotel.  
Keynote Speaker:  
The Sons of The American Legion  
National Commander,  
William Clancy III

4:00 PM – 1:00 AM:  
FREE shuttle service to Post 32.

4:00 PM – 9:00 PM:  
Dinner at Post 32

4:00 PM – 1:00 AM:  
Open House at Post 32

**92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pilgrimage  
Headquarters**

Located at 7<sup>th</sup> and Adams Streets  
in Springfield, Illinois,  
**The President Abraham Lincoln  
Doubletree Hotel**  
is the 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pilgrimage  
Headquarters Hotel.

**Pilgrimage Program  
Thursday, February 12, 2026**

(Breakfast and Luncheon at  
Headquarters Hotel)

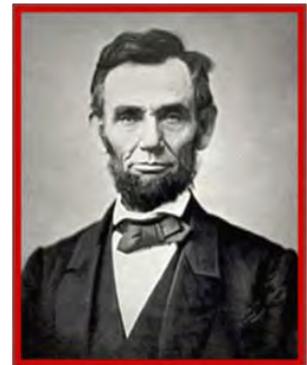
8:00 AM: American Legion Family  
Breakfast featuring Keynote  
Address by National President  
Pam Ray  
The American Legion Auxilliary

10:00 AM Pilgrimage to the Tomb

10:30 AM: Placing of Wreaths and  
Tomb Ceremony,  
Mr. Lincoln's Tomb,  
Oak Ridge Cemetery

12:30 PM:  
Lincoln Commemoration  
Luncheon featuring Keynote  
Address by The American Legion  
National Commander,  
Dan K. Wiley

**February 11 & 12, 2026  
92<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
National American Legion  
Pilgrimage to the Tomb of  
President Abraham Lincoln**



**February 11 – 12, 2026  
President Abraham Lincoln  
Doubletree Hotel**

**701 East Adams Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62701  
217-544-8800**

Continued to next  
page

Continued from previous page

**POST 32 OPEN HOUSE**

**4:00 PM – 1:00 AM**

**Wednesday, February 11, 2026**

**4:00 PM – 1:00 AM**

**Continuous FREE shuttle service**  
between the  
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel  
and American Legion Post 32

**4:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Our Mess Hall Restaurant pre-  
sents**

**Dinner Service Featuring  
the Following Menu**

**All You Can Eat Spaghetti or  
Chilli Mac**

**You May Also Include**

**Chicken Parmesan**

**Available Salads**

**Special Italian Dinner Salad**

**Chicken Strip Salad**

**w/choice of dressing**

**Taco Salad**

**Chef Salad w/choice of dressing**

**8:00 PM – Midnight - Free Juke  
Box**

**Suggest You Make Reservations  
Call 217-523-3415 or**

**Email us at**

**[spfldpost32@outlook.com](mailto:spfldpost32@outlook.com) or**

**Breakfast & Luncheon Reservation**

Reservations for Breakfast and the Luncheon must be received or canceled by **Friday, January 30, 2026**, or we are unable to guarantee seating or refunds. No tickets will be mailed. Please specify how many tickets you require for both breakfast and luncheon.

\*\*\*\*\*

**American Legion Family Breakfast  
Keynote Speaker**

**National President Pam Ray  
The American Legion Auxiliary**

**\_\_\_\_\_ # of Tickets at \$35 each =  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon  
Keynote Speaker**

**National Commander Dan K. Wiley  
The American Legion**

**\_\_\_\_\_ # of Tickets at \$40 each =  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_**

\*\*\*\*\*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to  
American Legion Post 32  
Mail this form and your check to:  
American Legion Springfield Post 32  
Attn: Ticket Chair, Barb Lush  
1120 Sangamon Avenue,  
Springfield, IL, 62702**

**Registering Rooms at the  
Headquarters Hotel**

Room rates are \$116.00 + tax per night, single or double rooms including parking. Call 217-544-8800 to reserve rooms (press 0 when prompted) or register online (preferred):

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-eventamericanlegionpilgrimage/>

This is a conference rate negotiated with the Headquarters Hotel by Post 32. To get this rate, you must do two things:

1. If you register by telephone, you must say that you are part of The American Legion Lincoln Pilgrimage; and,
2. You must register for your room by **Monday, January 20, 2024**. After that, we can no longer guarantee that a room will be available.

If you register online at the link above, your room will automatically be linked with The Pilgrimage.

**A Final Note:**

If you have any questions about the Post 32 Open House, or The American Legion Family Breakfast, or The Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon, please contact Pilgrimage General Chair, James Peters at  
Phone: 217-416-1533 or  
Email: [jpeters.ilsal@yahoo.com](mailto:jpeters.ilsal@yahoo.com)



February 11 & 12, 2026

92nd Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of President Abraham Lincoln.

70th Annual Bivouac and Banquet National Honor Society of Women Legionnaires

February 11 hybrid meeting on February 11th in Springfield, Illinois. (Zoom meeting details to follow. In Person details published on previous pages.)

August 27 & 28, 2026, Louisville, Kentucky

This year's [2026] theme will be the Kentucky Derby.



May is a busy month for all of us: Mother's Day, Armed Forces Day, and Memorial Day to name a few events.

Women's Military Memorial (WMSA) event in the afternoon of Monday May 25, 2026. Join our National Director at Arlington National Cemetery.



6 Month ***NO COST*** Training to Placement

**2026** **UTILITY WORKERS**  
 **MILITARY**  
 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**®

**UMAP is actively recruiting military service members and Veterans for a 6-month Utility Workers Training Program**

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- Active service personnel, Reservist, National Guard, Veteran Status
- Honorable/Under Honorable Discharge
- Current and Valid Driver's License
- Pass Drug-Screen
- Pass Background Check



Contact Brian Murray  
[bmurray@power4america.org](mailto:bmurray@power4america.org)  
312-735-2934



PEOPLES GAS



# 2025-2026 NATIONAL OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

## NATIONAL DIRECTOR VIP

Colleen Heck  
21128 E. Roundup Way  
Queen Creek, AZ 85142  
602 290-5568  
check@ionet.net

## SR VICE DIRECTOR

Dakota Tolbert  
605 North 12th Street  
Herrin, IL 62948  
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January 20, 2026, for February's issue. March 20, 2026, for April's issue. May 20, 2026, for June's issue "Proud to be an American". June 20, 2026 for July's Bivouac issue.

The 70h ANNUAL BIVOUAC will be August 27 – 28, 2026 and the American Legion National Convention will be August 28 – September 3, 2026 in Louisville, Kentucky. This year's Bivouac theme will be the "Kentucky Derby".

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We are in need of your assistance.

Please read the Echelon Directors and Aides 2025-2026 listing herein. Review the Echelon information in its' entirety.

Is the information correct for both the director and aide?

If not please submit your Echelon OFFICER ROSTER

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