



Up To Now!

C.P. Van Delist – Department Adjutant
www.sdlegion.org – Email: adjutant@sdlegion.org

Issued Monthly from State Headquarters at Watertown, S.D. 57201-0067

Phone (605) 886-3604

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September 8, 2023

- Sep 4-Labor Day, **HQ Closed**
- Sep 9-10 Legion Golf Tournament hosted by Hermosa Post 303
- Sep 13-16 Black Hills Veterans March and Marathon
- Sep 16 Dist 2 Fall Meeting– Hermosa Post 303, 11:00am Social, 12:00pm Meal, 1:00pm Meeting
- Sep 16 SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication, LT Peter H. Monfore, Community Hall, 605 8th St, Springfield, 2:00 pm
- Sep 17 Dist 1 Fall Meeting– Piedmont Post 311, 10:30am Social, 12:00pm Meal, 1:00pm Meeting
- Sep 23 Dist 4 Fall Meeting– Roscoe Post 259, 3:30pm Social, 4:00pm Meeting, Meal to follow
- Sep 24 Dist 5 Fall Meeting– Watertown Post 17, 1pm Meeting (only)
- Sep 26 Midwest Honor Flight, Mission 16
- Oct 7 SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication- WO1 Roger S. Cameron– Community Building, 311 W. Main, Pierpont, 2:30 pm (CT)
- Oct 9-12 National Fall Meetings
- Oct 9 Native American Day, **HQ Closed**
- Oct 10 Midwest Honor Flight, Mission 17
- Oct 14 SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication- 1LT Thomas M. Martin, Military Heritage Alliance, 1600 W. Russell St, Sioux Falls, 10am
- Oct 18 Membership Target Date- Fall Meetings 55%
- Oct 21 Dist 7 Fall Meeting– Tea Post 266, Details TBD
- Oct 21 Elvis Night/50’s Dance Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser, SD Military Heritage Alliance Center, Sioux Falls
- Oct 22 Dist 8 Fall Meeting– Springfield Post 132, 12pm social, 1pm meeting
- Oct 28 Dist 6 Fall Meeting– Wessington Springs Post 14, 11:00am Social, 12:00pm Meal, 1:00pm Meeting
- Oct 29 District 3 Fall Meeting– Fort Pierre Post 20
- Nov 10 Veterans Day Observance, **HQ Closed**
- Nov 3 SDDVA What’s Brewing Coffee and Conversation with Vets, Black Hills State Univ, Joy Center, 1351 St. Joe St, Spearfish, 1 pm
- Nov 4-Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair, Sturgis Community Center, 11:00am-2:00pm
- Nov 15-SD Veterans Council Meeting, DAV Headquarters, 1519 W. 51st Street, Sioux Falls, 9:00am
- Nov 15-SD Vets Council Legislative Round Tbl, Sioux Falls Post 15
- Nov 15- Employment Award Nomination Forms due to Dept HQ
- Nov 16-SD Vets Council Legislative Round Tbl, Watertown Post 17
- Nov 17-Veterans Council Legislative Round Table, Pierre Post 8
- Nov 17-MINGO (Music Bingo) Fundraiser for Midwest Honor Flight, Severance Brewing Co., Sioux Falls, 6:00–9:00 pm
- Nov 18-SD Vets Council Legislative Round Tbl-Rapid City Post 22
- Nov 23-24– Thanksgiving Holiday, **HQ Closed**

Do you have an event that you would like to share with the Department or push out to the Press? Please send requests to Department HQ and we can get it in the next Up-to-Now or push to more than 150 media outlets around the state. Please submit an Up-to-Now request no later than Monday before the first Friday of the month. For Press Releases, please allow 5 business days before the event. All requests should be sent to the adjutant@sdlegion.org.

Greetings Legion Family!

As we come up into September, I want to encourage you to attend your local Fall District Meeting. Networking, after all, is one of the greatest attributes of our organization, in my humble opinion. Sharing ideas, meeting fellow Veterans, and enjoying each other's company is always a good time. The thing about networking though? Gotta get out to do it. Come out, meet up. There are Legionnaires of every walk in our organization. We are teachers, lawyers, farmers, doctors, mechanics, businessmen and women. We are leaders in our local businesses and communities. These connections will prove to be valuable. Build them, foster them. Not only for your Legion Post, but for you--build your own networks. The South Dakota American Legion is the largest non-profit in South Dakota by membership numbers. Nationally, we are the largest congressionally chartered Veterans Service Organization. Our world is a big one--it goes beyond the borders of these blue caps. Come to the meetings, get to know us.



--Courtney Steffen, Department Commander

“Pursue Purpose.”

BE THE ONE TO SAVE ONE LIFE

The American Legion is leading a nationwide effort — “**Be the One**”— to eliminate the stigma related to mental health treatment, and in turn, lower the number of veterans who die by suicide every day. The number of veterans who die by suicide every day is estimated at between 17 and 22. The American Legion has elevated **Be the One** to be its top priority, empowering veterans, servicemembers, their family members and civilians to act appropriately when a veteran may be at risk. This campaign intends to bring more awareness to the problem while providing resources to those who may be able to help save the life of a veteran. If you are a Veteran in crisis or know one that is, resources are available 24 /7: Call 988 and press 1, Text 838255 or visit the VA Crisis Line website <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

BE THE ONE



CONTINUED ON BACK

!!!!!!LEGISLATIVE ACTION NEEDED!!!!!!

At special meeting of the South Dakota Veterans Council a resolution was passed in support of the Major Richard Starr Act. This Act is on The American Legion National Priority list.

Currently, 42,000 military retirees with combat-related injuries qualify for DoD retirement pay as well as VA disability compensation. However, for retired veterans with disability ratings less than 50%, the VA compensation is deducted from their DoD retirement pay. The American Legion strongly supports ending this unfair policy. The Major Richard Star Act would repeal this draconian offset, allowing disabled veterans to concurrently receive their retirement pay and disability compensation.

Senator John Thune office 866-850-3855

Senator Mike Rounds office 605-224-1450

Representative Dusty Johnson office 202-225-2801

104TH NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION DELEGATES AND ALTER-NATE DELEGATES

The following were the department Delegates to the National Convention in Charlette, NC August 25-31:

NEC Denny Brenden of Watertown (National Call In)

PDC Paul Evenson of Garretson (National Call In)

PDC Terry Hanson of Arlington (National Call In)

PDC Hugh Holmes of Mitchell (National Call In)

PDC Fred Nelson of Spearfish (National Call In)

PDC Tim Jergens of Milbank (National Call In)

PDC Jim Huls of Madison (National Call In)

PDC Larry Price of Redfield (National Call In)

Warren Aas of Watertown (National Call In)

Doug Harris of Rapid City (National Call In)

Kevin Morello of Piedmont (National Call In)

PDC Doug Feltman of Chamberlain

PDC Rick McDonald of Hermosa

Noel Cummins of Milbank

Annette Dunham of Iroquois

Jeff Hrabanek of Winner

Brian Dean of Spearfish

Leroy Madsen of Pierre

Linda Hessaa of Canton

Andy Lyngen of Garretson

Department Commander Courtney Steffen of Chester

Department Adjutant C.P. Van Delist of Rapid City

Alternate Delegates were:

PDC Charemon Dunham of Iroquois

Dale Hill of Sioux Falls

Kevin Hempel of Chester

Rod Smith of Chester

Mike Pauling of Piedmont

John Bachmeier of Sioux Falls

Bill Peters of Sioux Falls

Dupree Chavez of Sioux Falls

Ward Chapman of Milbank

NEW AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL COMMANDER-DANIEL J. SEEHAFFER

During the final hour of the American Legion 104th national convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, Daniel J. Seehafer of Wisconsin was elected and sworn in as the new leader of the organization.

2023 STATE LEGION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Hosted by American Legion Battle Creek Post 303

For play info contact Larry Schulte, 605-593-2525 / schulte5@mt-rushmore.net For donations, please contact Bob King (605-440-2464 / bbking09@icloud.com)

Saturday, Sept 9

Meadowbrook Golf Course, 3625 Jackson Blvd, Rapid City. Tee time: 12:00PM. Evening meal after the round and prize drawing.

Sunday, Sept 10

Prairie Ridge Golf Course, Ellsworth Air Force Base. Tee time 9:00 AM. Free Coffee and Donuts prior to round.

Entry Fees

\$125 per person or \$500 per team. Teams need to prepay. Checks can be sent to Battle Creek Post 303, PO Box 64, Hermosa SD 57744 or be paid on line at battlecreekpost303.com.

Format

4-man Scramble. Gross team scores not handicapped.

Trophies for 1st and 2nd place. Maximum of 18 teams for the tournament. Pin Prizes on every hole.

Sponsorships Available

Hole sponsor is \$100 per hole.

Base Housing- There may be lodging on Ellsworth AFB. check availability call 605-385-2844 and base access at 605-385-2895

APPROVAL TO CONDUCT RAFFLE

“Any individual or group who wishes to conduct a raffle needs to provide written notice to the SD Secretary of State before selling any tickets for a raffle. They must also give thirty days written notice of the time and place thereof to the governing body or designated administrative official of the county or municipality in which it intends to conduct the raffle. SDCL 22-25-25(6).” For additional guidance, please refer to the Secretary of State’s website.

FALLEN HERO BRIDGE DEDICATIONS

South Dakota started a program in 2019 to honor Veterans killed in the line of duty by naming bridges in their honor. Following is a list of upcoming dedications. It would be great if Legionnaires in the area would attend to honor those who have fallen.

Sep 16- LT Peter H. Monfore, Community Hall, 605 8th St, Springfield, 2:00 pm

Oct 7- WO1 Roger S. Cameron- Community Building, 311 W. Main, Pierpont, 2:30 pm (CT)

Oct 14- 1LT Thomas M. Martin, Military Heritage Alliance, 1600 W. Russell St, Sioux Falls, 10am

2028 DEPT CONVENTION & MIDWINTER

Bids for the 2028 MidWinter are being accepted, at this time only one bid has been submitted from Chamberlin Post 3. Posts and Convention Centers who desire to submit bids to host the midwinter should send that information to the Dept Adjutant. Application forms are available from Dept HQ.

Bids for the 2029 MidWinter and Department Convention are being accepted at this time as well.

FUTURE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AND MIDWINTER DATES AND LOCATIONS

2024 Mid-Winter	Deadwood	Feb 16-18
2024 Convention	Pierre	June 20-23
2025 MidWinter	Oacoma	Feb 14-16
2025 Convention	Huron	June 19-22
2026 MidWinter	Oacoma	Feb 20-22
2026 Convention	Aberdeen	June 18-21
2027 MidWinter	Oacoma	Feb 19-21
2027 Convention	Sioux Falls	June 16-19
2028 MidWinter	TBD	Feb 18-20
2028 Convention	Huron	June 15-18
2029 Mid-Winter	TBD	Feb 16-18

NFL, NCAA TICKET DISCOUNTS

Veterans can access discounted NFL & NCAA tickets on ShopVCS.com. Not a member? Sign up for ShopVCS.com to verify your Veteran status and unlock deals on live sports. Plus, enjoy savings on theme parks, hotels, rental cars and more. This is an official Veteran Affairs Canteen Service program.

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2024 MID-WINTER INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mid-winter Conference is being hosted by District 1, and will be held at the Deadwood Lodge, in Deadwood, SD., Friday, 16 February through Sunday, 18 February 2024. A block of rooms has been set aside beginning with 20 rooms for early arrivals on Thursday, 15 February, and another 80 rooms for arrivals on Friday, 17 February. Anyone requiring a Hospitality Suite or room larger than the standard king or double queen, please contact David Booze at 605-484-5328 for reservation arrangements. All who require just the **Standard King or Standard Double Queen room, reservations can be made by calling the Deadwood Lodge, phone number 605-584-4800.** The rate for the Standard King or Double Queen room is **\$95 plus applicable taxes.** Be sure to **mention** you will be **attending the American Legion Mid-winter conference.** The Deadwood Lodge is a 100% smoke free facility. The Deadwood Lodge allows dogs; however, all dogs must be declared at the time of making the reservation or upon check-in. Other details such as the Joint Banquet, Go-Getters, and training sessions will be coming soon.

BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS WINNERS

The for The American Legion 2023 baseball state tournaments are:
State "A" Senior- Harrisburg Gold Post 45
State "A" Junior- Sioux Falls East Post 15
State "B" Senior- Dell Rapids Post 65
State "B" Junior- Lennox Post 174
Central Plains Tournament Region 6- Lincoln, NE Post 3
World Series-League City, TX Post 554

POST CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS

Request for digital versions of your Constitution and By Laws went out in September. HQ is working to ensure they have a current version of your Constitution and By Laws. If you can not email a copy to the Adjutant please send a paper copy to:
American Legion Department of South Dakota
Attn: Adjutant
PO Box 67
Watertown, SD 57201
This should be done annually to make sure everything is up to date. Additionally, please ensure Department Headquarters has a copy of your updated Constitution and By Laws. Thanks for your help with this important process.

EMERGENCY CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

If you are eligible for VA Health Care it is important to know that you can use your local emergency room during a medical emergency. The VA states "A medical emergency is an injury, illness or symptom so severe that a delay in seeking immediate medical attention would be reasonably expected to be hazardous to life or health. If you believe your life or health is in danger, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away."
Ensure you check with your VA Provider to see if you qualify. When you seek care inform the emergency care provider to report your emergency treatment to the VA Centralized Emergency Care Reporting Center as soon as possible after your treatment starts by using the VA Emergency Care Reporting portal or calling the VA 72-Hour Notification Hotline. You or someone on your behalf can also report the care to the VA 72-Hour Notification Hotline: 844-72HRVHA (844-724-7842) or online at <https://emergencycarereporting.communitycare.va.gov/#/request>

FOUNDATION UPDATE

The South Dakota American Legion Foundation is conducting a Beef Raffle. Tickets are \$10 each and can be obtained from any of the board members, Paul Evenson, Jim Huls, Denny Brenden, Doug Feltman or Jim Kurtz. The drawing will be on Feb 16th at the Mid-Winter Conference. 1st Prize is \$500 in Beef Certificates, 2nd

Prize is \$300 in Beef Certificates, and 3rd \$200 in Beef Certificates. Get your tickets TODAY!

DEPARTMENT FLOAT

Have an event coming up and want to stand out? Get the department float. A donation is asked for to use the float of \$20 and should be sent to HQ after reserving the float. It is the responsibility of the organization that wants to use the float to arrange with the current holder of the float where and when to pick up the float. Call Dept HQ 605-866-3604 or Membership Chair Bill Peters 605-360-6547

NEW PACT ACT DEADLINE

Until 11:59 p.m. local time Sept. 30, 2023, Veterans who deployed to a combat zone, never enrolled in VA health care, and left active duty between Sept. 11, 2001 and Oct. 1, 2013 are eligible to enroll directly in VA health care. This special enrollment period gives Veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other combat zones an opportunity to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits.

VA encourages all of these Veterans to visit VA.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MYVA411 to learn more and sign up for VA health care before the deadline. Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care are proven to have better health outcomes than non-enrolled Veterans, and VA hospitals have dramatically outperformed non-VA hospitals in overall quality ratings and patient satisfaction ratings. Additionally, VA health care is often more affordable than non-VA health care for Veterans.

This special enrollment period is a part of the PACT Act, the largest expansion of VA health care and benefits in generations. Since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law on Aug. 10, 2022, more than 344,000 Veterans have enrolled in VA health care and more than 4.2 million enrolled Veterans have been screened for toxic exposures.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS (CPR)

The dead line has passed and we closed out this year at 52.3%, 36th in the nation as a Department. It is not too late to get credit for all your Post's hard work. Please fill out the form or go online to mylegion.org and completing it there. Our goal this year is 100% Post reporting for CPRs. Thank you in advance for assisting in this matter. *When calculating volunteer hours it is important to remember to multiply the hours of the event by the number of volunteers.*

AMERICAN LEGION BASIC TRAINING COURSE

Have you completed the Basic Training Course? It is a great way to better understand your American Legion. The course covers five topics: history and organization; Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation; National Security; Americanism; and Children & Youth. Each topic offers ways in which American Legion Family members can advance the organization's values and services in their local communities. Following the Course Conclusion, a 40-question exam is provided. Graduates can download and print a certificate of completion and order a Basic Training Graduate pin from Emblem Sales. Take the Basic Training course online at www.legion.org/training.

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DISTRICT ORATORICAL CONTESTS

District American Legion Oratorical Contest information is as follows:

DIST. 1- Chair: Michael Pauling, (michaelpauling@ymail.com), 13318 Sunshine Valley Rd., Piedmont, SD 57769. District Contest to be held at Spearfish American Legion Post 164, 3102 E. Fairgrounds Loop, Spearfish, January 21, 2024, 2:00pm. Storm date, January 28th, same time and place.

DIST. 2- Chair: Doug Harris (doughnut@gmail.com), 4913 Charmwood Dr., Rapid City, SD 57701. District Contest to be held at SDSM&T Classroom Bldg., 501 E. Saint Joseph St., January 7, 2024, 10:00 a.m. Storm date, January 14th, same time and place.

DIST. 3- Chair: Larry Madsen, (larry_madsen@hotmail.com), 906 E. Commercial Ave., Gettysburg, SD 57442. District Contest to be held at the Faith Lutheran Church Christian Living Center, 714 N. Grand Ave., Pierre, SD. January 14, 2024, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, January 21st, same time and place.

DIST. 4- Chair: Dale Strom, (dale_strom@yahoo.com), 115 N. Kline St., Aberdeen, SD 57401. District Contest to be held at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 431 W. Melgaard Rd., Aberdeen, SD, January 7, 2024, 1:00 p.m. Storm date, January 14th, same time and place.

DIST. 5- Chair: Clayton Nei, (pandnei@gmail.com), 18257 465th Ave., Castlewood, SD 57223. District Contest to be held at Castlewood Lutheran Church, January 6, 2024, 1:00 p.m. Storm date, January 13th, same time and place.

DIST. 6- Chair: Tim Thomas, (photostoday@midstatesd.net), 112 S. Merrill St., Chamberlain SD 57325. District Contest to be held at the Kimball Legion Post, 232 S. Main, Kimball, SD, January 7, 2024, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, January 14th, same time and place.

DIST. 7- Chair: Linda Liddell, (Lliddell08@gmail.com), 1016 NW 5th St., Madison, SD 57042. District Contest to be held at the Humboldt Community Center, January 21st, 2:00 p.m..

DIST. 8- Contact: Joseph Knoer, (josephknoer24@gmail.com), 1215 Lincoln St. #101, Vermillion, SD 57069. District Contest to be held at the Al Neuharth Media Center, 555 N. Dakota St., Vermillion, January 20, 2024, 2:00 p.m. Storm date January 27th, same time and place.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Headquarters has received the 2024 membership cards. *Posts who have submitted their officer certifications will be eligible to receive their cards.* Certify your officers NOW. The form for certifying officers is found in the Department's 2022-2023 Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual online at the Department website.

POSTS WHO HAVE NOT CERTIFIED THEIR OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023

The following posts need to contact Judy at headquarters to find out about certifying their officers and membership cards

Dist 1: Bullhead #82
Timber Lake #83
Eagle Butte #308
Dupree #124
Little Eagle #239
Bull Head #324

Dist 2: Rosebud #125
Belvidere #144
Oelrichs #238
Pine Ridge #251
New Underwood #256
Kyle #265
Batesland #281
Porcupine #294
Parmelee #295
St. Francis #297
Manderson #302

Norris #310
Dist 3 Blunt #77
Dist 4 Rockham #57
Dist 5 Astoria #103
Sinai #133
Dist 7 Egan #97
Dist 8 Lake Andes #10
Parker #30
Davis #176
Delmont #249

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN MESSAGE

Greetings from the National Convention. I hope everyone survived the hot August and is ready for September and the beginning of a new season.

September 13 will be our first step towards getting to the 16,261 number we are pursuing and with everyone's help we will make it. In South Dakota, 240 Posts make up our team. This year and into the future it is about reaching the 16,261 number. As of August 28 we are at **9,021**. As of August 28, 2023 we have 7 Posts that have reached the number they were given for this year, great job. That being said, can I ask you to help the team reach the team number of 16,261.

Membership is like picking apples; the lower apples are easy to harvest. The higher in the tree the more challenging it becomes. The best apples are sometimes higher in the tree. That being said, let's get out the ladder and reach for those members that we haven't heard from for awhile and see how they are doing (Buddy Checks), chances are they just need to know they are important and not just a number, and those veterans that could help us with our purpose if they were only asked. I would encourage all to scan this QR code and take a minute to listen to it.

Please do your Legion a big favor, invite someone to your next meeting, make that extra effort to introduce him or her and make them welcome. That effort will go a long way in upholding our vision this year "Pursue Purpose". Until next time.



Thank you
God Bless you and your families
God Bless the United States of America
God Bless the American Legion

Bill

Employment Awards

Employment Award forms will not be mailed out this year. They, along with all pertinent information, can be found on the Department website at <https://www.sdlegion.org/employment-award-forms/>. Here, we have included the Employment Awards that are offered and a short description of each. Please search your communities for those employers that deserve to be recognized.

All Employment Award Nomination Forms are due on **November 15th to Department HQ in Watertown**. The January 15th date listed on each form is when they are due from our Department Employment Chairman to National Headquarters.

Employer of Veterans Award

History: The Veterans Employment and Education (VE&E) Commission expanded its Employer Awards Program in 1969 when it created an award category for employers of veterans. Originally, departments were permitted to submit one nomination each for a large and a small employer of veterans. In 1992, the number of awards for employers of veterans was increased to include:

- One nomination for a small company with 50 or fewer employees
- One nomination for a medium sized company with workforces of 51 to 200
- One nomination for a large company with 201 or more employees

In order to be eligible for the National Employer of Veterans Awards, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- 1) At least 10 percent of the nominee's workforce must be veterans.
- 2) The nominee must have been in business for at least five years.
- 3) The nominee cannot restrict employment to veterans only.
- 4) The nominee must be a private sector employer - the nominee cannot be a city, state or federal employer.

The purpose of Award: To confer recognition on one small, one medium and one large employer in each state for outstanding records in the hiring and retention of veterans.

Employer of Older Workers Award

History: In 1958, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission expanded its Employer Awards Program by creating an award for employers of older workers. Because the commission saw older workers as a valuable economic resource of proven skills, stability, and experience, it wanted to encourage employers to hire and retain older workers in the work force. National "Employ the Older Worker Week" was established by The American Legion and is observed during the last full week of each September.

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission believes that this particular award category will become increasingly important over the next few years. Several major studies have concluded that as we move through the twenty-first century there will be fewer young people entering the labor market. As a result, it will be necessary for employers to encourage older workers to stay in the labor force.

Purpose of Award: To confer recognition on one employer in each state for an outstanding record in the hiring and retention of older workers.

Award to Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons

History: Since 1987, American Legion posts have competed for prizes through the awards program. NOD will continue to award certificates to the winners, and all nominees and their departments will receive American Legion citations of appreciation.

Purpose: The purpose of the National Organization on Disability (NOD) Awards competition is to confer national recognition on organizations, such as The American Legion, for their involvement in enhancing the lives of disabled persons by providing opportunities for their participation in community activities. Any Legion project or program that improves the quality of life for disabled persons will be considered.

Employment Service Awards

History: In 1990, a resolution established a national awards program to recognize outstanding Employment Service (ES) offices and employees. Both the National Veterans Employment & Education (VE&E) Commission and the Internal Affairs Commission's Trophies and Awards Subcommittee conducted extensive studies and both recommended approval and referred the resolution to the National Executive Committee for final approval. The NEC unanimously approved the resolution at its spring 1992 meeting.

Purpose: The purpose of the ES awards program is to confer national recognition annually on one outstanding Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER), one Disabled Veterans Outreach Program specialist (DVOP), and one local ES office. LVERs, DVOPs, and the ES office provide job counseling, testing, and placement assistance to unemployed and underemployed veterans.

Michael Guty Homeless Veterans Outreach Award

History: In January of 2003, the Veterans Employment & Education (VE&E) Commission requested that each department appoint a Homeless Veterans Task Force chairman, who should coordinate the department's activities and report on them to the department adjutant and to the VE&E Division at least once a year. The Homeless Veterans Outreach Award, instituted in 2005, recognizes departments for their activities toward eliminating homelessness among veterans and prevention of future homeless veterans

Criteria: This award will be given to The American Legion department that demonstrates American Legion family involvement in homeless veteran initiatives that show outstanding support for activity in any or all of these areas: volunteerism, prevention, supportive housing, advocacy and fundraising.