

COMMANDER'S REVIEW - WILLIAM C. ANDERSON, STATE COMMANDER



Another American Legion year has come and a new one begins Today. Believe me when I say that I have gained a new perspective on The

American Legion while campaigning this past year, and most definitely the members who work so hard for it.

Stand up for Bill and I will stand up for our veterans has been my campaign slogan since we started this campaign one year ago. It means as much to me right now as it did the first time I spoke it.

I pledged that if elected I would go to our legislators and demand the rights promised to all veterans. I would see that our Veterans Service Officers have all the tools they need to fight for our rights as veterans. I said I would work to increase our membership with ideas that would reach out and touch those veterans leaving and returning from active duty. And, with the Grace of God, and your help, I will.

We will continue to expand on the programs and ideas of some of the past State Commanders and, I believe I have appointed Legionnaires to the various committees who will take the job and run with it. I have appointed some new chairmen and have retained a few others, who have shown they are able and willing to take the helm and lead with some new ideas and strengths, and I am challenging them to do just that.

We have the largest and needless

LET'S ALL STAND UP FOR OUR VETERANS

to say, best, veterans' organization in the world but sometimes the only ones who know that are you and me.

I want to change that! I am going to ask the chairmen and members of each committee to send the information they receive and what they will learn from department and national, to each and every district, and to attend any functions at the district level that relate to their committees. That will be especially true of Heroes to Hometown, Reconnect, Boys State, Student Trooper, Public Relations and any other relevant committee. I want us to be there when the troops leave and when they return (with our caps on) to tell them what a great organization we have and how we can help them while they are gone and when they return home.

I want to work with the various committees including those mentioned above and our Veterans Service Officers, to see that they don't duplicate and overlap each other and that we get the most for our time, effort and money.

I have noticed during my campaign something that probably isn't new to a lot of you. We have some really energetic young Legionnaires who are doing a fantastic job in the post and at the district level, but are getting burned out so fast that rather

than stay and contribute to our goals and aims, they are running out of enthusiasm after a year or two. Some

of them are actually dropping out because they feel they can't continue to work in The American Legion, raise a family, and contribute anymore at this time in their life.

We can't afford to lose these veterans! They are our most valuable com-

modity. We need our older Legionnaires to stand up and give them a helping hand, and a pat on

the shoulder. Offer to take some of the work off their hands. Show them how and why they may of erred and then, more importantly, offer them in an understanding way the way to rectify it.

I ask you right now to help me see that we get everything we were promised and that we receive the dignity due us as those who fought the battle for our freedoms and the way of life for our families. I will work as hard for you as I possibly can and all I ask of you is to do the same. Let's all STAND UP FOR OUR VETERANS. God bless you, God Bless the United States of America, God Bless our Troops and God Bless The American Legion.

Thank you.

