



# Good of the Legion

Items to share with your post members at your next post meeting or to display on the bulletin board.

## **DON'T FORGET!!! Detroit Veterans Day Parade November 10, 2019**

Join Veterans from all over the State of Michigan in Detroit for the 14th Annual Veterans Day Parade, where Department Commander Barry Wood will be the grand marshal. They will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of The American Legion, the 244th Birthday of the Marine Corps, and the lives of several Veterans.

To register your post to participate in the parade visit <https://www.detroitveteransdayparade.org/> or contact Past Department Commander Dick Chatman at 313-204-7227 or dickc1948@ameritech.net.

## **Do you know a high school student who could use \$20,000 for college?**

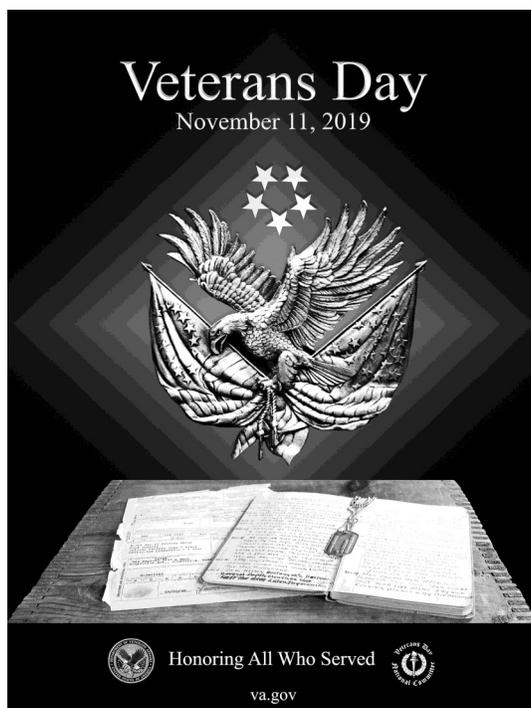
The American Legion National Oratorical Contest is now better. At the National Fall Meetings the National Executive Committee approved the prizes for the 2020 U.S. Constitutional Speech Contest. Now the top three prizes are \$20,000, \$17,000, and \$15,000, they also increased the amount contestant will receive for advancing to each national round to \$2,000. Further increases will be coming in 2021. **The high school students must register their intent to compete by November 19, 2019 at [www.michiganlegion.org/oratorical](http://www.michiganlegion.org/oratorical).**

## **Check on your Buddy's!**

During the month of March in concert with the American Legion's 100th birthday, Past National Commander Brett Reistad wanted everyone to do a buddy check. Call your fellow Legionnaires and see how they are doing. In the spirit of Veterans Day National Commander Bill Oxford is asking all of us to check on our buddies. In this day, of up to 22 suicides a day, buddy check's are important. It is not about membership, its about connections and literally checking on our buddies.

Who haven't you seen in a while. Check on them. What members need a call... ALL of them. Say HI!! Ask how they are doing and if they need anything. Easy, be a friend, be a battle buddy.

Be prepared with answers like help with VA benefits, temporary financial assistance, or just to stop in for coffee.



## **Important numbers:**

Don't Face the VA Alone! Use an American Legion accredited Veteran Service Officer. Find one near you by calling 313-964-6641.

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency: 800- mich-vet (642-4883)

Veteran Suicide Hotline—800- 273-8255 press 1

VA Veteran Homeless resources—877-424-3838

Department of Michigan Headquarters: 517-371-4720

## **Important dates for 2019-2020 American Legion Programs**

### **November 2019**

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019-Oratorical Registration deadline

### **January 2020**

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020- Baseball registration opens on [baseball.legion.org](http://baseball.legion.org)

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020-Law Officer of the Year submission deadline

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020-Firefighter of the Year submission deadline

January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020-Brewer Scholarship Application submission deadline

January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020-Wilson Scholarship Application submission deadline

### **February 2020**

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020-All Zone Oratorical Contests must be completed before this date.

### **March 2020**

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020-Eagle Scout of the Year Award submission deadline (applications available from National Oct. 2019)

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020-Oratorical State Contest at Gerald R. Ford Museum in Grand Rapids, MI.

### **April 2020**

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020- Teacher of the Year Submission deadline

April 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2020-National Oratorical Contest

### **May 2020**

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020- Baseball insurance purchase deadline

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020-Student Trooper Application Submission deadline

May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020-Boys State Application Submission deadline

### **June 2020**

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020- Final day for Baseball teams to register

June 14-20<sup>th</sup>, 2020-Boys State Program at Grand Valley University- Allendale Campus

### **July 2020**

July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020-Robert Turner Baseball Scholarship Submission deadline

July 12-17<sup>th</sup>, 2020-Student Trooper Program

July 22<sup>nd</sup> – July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020- Class AA Baseball State Tournament in Midland, MI

July 26<sup>th</sup>-August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020- Class A Baseball State Tournament in Marquette, MI.

## **National Commander's Pin Incentive Program**

American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford will award his national commander "A Foundation for the Future" membership excellence pin to any Legionnaire who obtains three new members into The American Legion.

A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2020 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2019 membership year.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

Only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it.

More information can be found at [www.legion.org/commander/pin](http://www.legion.org/commander/pin)

### **How you can help a veteran who may be homeless.**

Veterans are proven leaders. But we're human. We may face money problems and mental health challenges, or retreat from family and friends as we try to adjust to civilian life. Don't ignore the hardships that could jeopardize your health, your livelihood, or your home. VA has allocated unprecedented resources for ending Veteran homelessness. For Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, VA is here to help. ***Make the Call to 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838) or chat online at [va.gov/homeless](http://va.gov/homeless)*** to access the services our Veterans have earned.

There is no "typical" Veteran. Your oldest buddy, the store clerk, the woman playing with her children at the park— they all may be Veterans at risk of homelessness. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to ending Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. VA is able to do this because it provides a wide range of services to eligible Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless, including:

- Health care
- Safe housing and temporary rental assistance
- Job training and financial counseling
- Help paying for child care or moving expenses
- Foreclosure avoidance through guaranteed loans

These resources—and others provided by local agencies and Veterans service organizations—have already helped thousands of Veterans. We are here to make sure that those who served our country get the help they need. But no one can end homelessness alone.

Support your fellow Veterans. Make the Call to **877-4AID-VET** or visit [va.gov/homeless](http://va.gov/homeless) to learn more about VA's campaign to end Veteran homelessness, and how you can help.

### **The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency is holding listening sessions.**

*Find one near you*

"We are embarking on an aggressive outreach campaign designed to reach every veteran in the state and get them familiar with who we are and what we can do for them," said Adams, a disabled Army veteran and attorney who has spent much of her professional career fighting for veterans' rights. "Through our 'no wrong door' customer service model, we will identify and break down barriers veterans face in employment, education, health care and quality of life, and ultimately make Michigan the place veterans choose to live, raise a family, work and retire."

Here is the schedule for the listening sessions, with locations if available. For updates, visit [MichiganVeterans.com](http://MichiganVeterans.com) or call Andy Henion, MVAA PR Manager, at (517) 284-5228:

Wednesday, Nov. 6

American Legion Post 153, E. 110 Walker St., St. Johns at 2 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 8

Detroit – Time and location to be determined.

Tuesday, Nov. 12

Greater Muskegon Woman's Club, 280 W. Webster Ave., Muskegon at 10 a.m.

Thursday, Nov. 14

American Legion Post 200, 11800 Michael St., Taylor at 10:30 a.m.

Village Stinson VFW Post 9021, 32100 Ryan Road, Warren at 2:30 p.m.

Bloomfield Township Library, 1099 Lone Park Road, Bloomfield Township at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 19

Ypsilanti – Time and location to be determined.

Flint Public Library, 1026 E. Kearsley St., Flint at 2 p.m.

Saginaw – Time and location to be determined.