



**Legion Family,**

**Another wonderful year ending, 2023 is all but done, the leaves on the ground and chill is in the air, just a few days ago we were complaining how hot it was. Thank you for a wonderful fulfilling year.**

**We had an outstanding Veterans Day with a few extra's, the breakfast was great as always and then there were several members that were honored with a Quilt of Valor: Ron Naber, Jack "Ugly" Littlepage, Robert "BOB" Hanson, Ted "Turtle" Cone, Jim Morton, Harold Waisner, John Seward, Mike Koenigsman, and Ray LaCroix. Thank you, gentleman, for keeping us free. Thank you, Patriotic Peacemakers of Springfield, for the hours of work that went into making and presenting these cozy quilts. They truly wrap us in love. The Veterans Day ceremony went great, thank you to all who attended including the fire departments that flew the flag so proudly! Truly inspirational!**

**Thanksgiving Dinner, wow! A HUGE round of applause to Jessica Simpson and the Auxiliary kitchen team for an outstanding Job! The meal was wonderful and very well executed. Thank you!**

**We were also able to congratulate and say Happy Retirement to a friend and comrade that has been a life member for over 26 years, and a faithful member of the Honor Guard for 19 years. That equates to somewhere around 750 funerals. Job well done Bernie Davenport! We will never be able to repay your years of dedication, but we will pay it forward.**

**Into December we go! We will be having Christmas Dinner and the last few nights of entertainment for the year, please come join us. Things will be slowing down a bit from the calendar side, but believe me, there is plenty going on behind the scenes. We will be visiting Veterans at the Lauri Care Center as well as a few other places and we are going to make another push to make more improvement to the post for a great new year. In the Newsletter there will be a new "Get Involved" page to show where we need help. An hour here or there when you can, would be great, no full-time commitment. There are many more opportunities, but these are the priority needs of the post.**

**As it is the holiday season, "Be the One" is the big push. Over 30 Vets a day commit suicide. Look for vets as you are doing your daily business. When you see one, acknowledge them, let them know they are seen and valued. You may "Be the One" that stops them from downing those pills or pulling that trigger. It doesn't take much, just a bit of reassurance that they are not alone, they are valued. If you can, join me for Buddy Checks on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 2 hours of your time could change a life, or save a life.**

**Thank you for all you do for the American Legion, you are truly an inspiration.**

**Austin Teel,**

**Commander Post 624**



A message from our President, Lisa Seward

### **November Highlights**

Veterans Day Breakfast - Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> Thank you to everyone for participating and helping with our Veterans Day activities. It was a wonderful day as we recognized and honored those who served our beautiful country. A special thank you to Jessica, Betty and Anita who worked all morning in the kitchen, serving our veterans.

Thanksgiving Dinner – Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> Thank you to everyone for participating and helping with our Thanksgiving Dinner. It's always so nice to bring everyone together and be grateful for our many blessings.

Family Night - Always on Burger Night Two of our four pillars of the American Legion are Americanism and Children & Youth. Offering family night catering to children will meet these pillars as well as encourage the younger generation adults to potentially join the American Legion. Family night will always take place on Burger Night. Our first Family Night is Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to promote this event to encourage participation.

### **December Highlights**

December meeting- Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00 Please join us for our annual Christmas Party and gift exchange. Bring a wrapped gift valued at 25 dollars and an appetizer and join in the fun! I, personally, am looking forward to stealing or opening an interesting present!

Christmas Dinner – Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm-6:30pm Please join us for our annual Christmas Dinner. The Legion will be all festive with holiday cheer as you meet with old and new friends to celebrate the meaning of Christmas.

New Years Eve Party – Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> Ring in the New Year at the Legion!!! Bring an appetizer to share and have fun as we celebrate 2024!!!!

New Years Day - Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> – 3:25pm Chiefs Game. Bring a covered dish and enjoy some “Good Luck” Black Eyed Peas and Ham as we celebrate the first day of the new year!!

Auxiliary Star...a spotlight of information Did you know that the Latin source of auxiliary is auxiliium, meaning “help”. Our role as members of the Auxiliary is to help. Everyone helps in their own way and all ways are welcomed. What is your way??? Thank you to those that give so much to our Auxiliary and our post.



To all sons and their family, I hope this finds everyone in great health. This was a great year with the SAL. We got a lot done and everyone worked well together.

It is hard to believe it already has been 50 years since the US Military left Nam. I guess I am older than I think. As I look back and remember it and the Soldiers that never made it back home to have a life, I realize I was very lucky. Freedom is great but not free. Here is a reminder of what happened 50 years ago. On January 27<sup>th</sup>, 1973 the United States and the other three official combatants of the Vietnam War signed the Paris Peace Accord, providing for the withdrawal of U.S. forces within 60 days, and the implementation of a ceasefire with South Vietnam. On March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1973 United States Combat Forces ceased operations and left Vietnam, coinciding with the release of all remaining POWs from North Vietnamese prison camps. The Ceasefire would not hold, and Saigon ultimately fell to the People's Army of Vietnam and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1975.

In 2008, President George W. Bush signed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, of which Section 598 provided that the Department of Defense conduct a program to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War. Subsequently, President Obama, President Trump, and President Biden have all reinforced the commitment of our nation to pay tribute to and honor the memory of all who served during the Vietnam era.

I Hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Years

Commander Tom Honecker



Monthly Meeting first Wednesday of each month

Dinner night prepped by SAL second Wednesday of each month 5-630pm

sal@lakelegion.com



Home of the  
Lake Thunder Riders

**It's Christmas season! It's time for family both near and far! It's time for Santa and his elves to do their thing!**

**Come out and see YOUR riders participating in the Laurie Christmas Parade which starts at 6p, 25 November.**

**Riders, please remember that OUR Christmas gathering is 9 December @ 630p. Please contact Chris for your RSVP ASAP.**

**December 12 @ 130pm. The riders will be presenting gifts to our veterans who reside at the Laurie Care Center. Come and see the smiles!**

**Come and help place wreaths sponsored by Wreaths Across America at Dale Blair Cemetery, December 16 @ 10am. Come and honor and remember those we have lost.**

**At the end of the day, we wish all a beautiful holiday! Be safe, be merry and love your neighbor! Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.**



**Monthly Meeting will commence  
Wed April 10<sup>th</sup> 2024 630pm**

**ALR Dinner night will start up again  
April 17<sup>th</sup> 5-630pm**



# American Legion Post 624 - GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Activity/Event	Date(s)	Who We Need	What <u>YOU</u> will be doing	Special Skills Needed	Point(s) of Contact
<b>Laurie Enchanted Village of Lights</b>	19 November 11 December 1700-2100	Both nights need at least one member of each Legion Unit TAL, ALA, SAL, ALR	Representing the Legion and supporting our community. Meet at the Laurie Park/Fairgrounds hospitality booth and accept donations from park visitors.	Holiday spirit, warm clothes, your Legion/patriotic gear.	Rich Fischer (573) 505-3055
<b>Local Veteran Visits</b> They are <u>NOT</u> forgotten	17 November 12 December 1300 Meet at Post	All Legion Units TAL, ALA, SAL, ALR	Making in-person visits to veterans in our local hospitals, retirement and nursing homes	Time and Compassion	Jamie Slinkard (573) 578-6481
<b>Commander Day Post Revitalization</b>	21 November 0900-1200 Check Calendar	All Legion Units TAL, ALA, SAL, ALR	Construction, Cleaning, Painting, Landscaping, Organizing, Administrative	Show up at the American Legion post ready to work	Austin Teel (573) 280-7585
<b>November Family Night</b>	29-November 1700-1900 (Coincides with Burger Night)	All Legion Units TAL, ALA, SAL, ALR	Cooking burgers and fries, serving, clean-up. Assisting with kids activities such as flag folding, crafts, patriotic presentations. Serve as Legion ambassadors.	Patience. Flag folding and flag etiquette knowledge. Enjoy working with kids. (Wear your legion gear!)	Christy Fischer (913) 708-1760 Rich Fischer (573) 505-3055
<b>Wreaths Across America</b>	16-December 0900-1200	All Legion Units TAL, ALA, SAL, ALR	Laying wreaths on veteran graves at <b>Dale Blair Memorial Cemetery</b> in Camdenton	Warm clothing and shoes.	Karen Wendell (904) 364-8863 TAL Historian
<b>American Legion Buddy Checks</b> <u>Be The ONE</u>  22 Veterans across the country take their lives every day. A simple call can make a difference.	On or about the 22nd of EVERY month. Check calendar to verify day and times each month.	All Legion Units TAL, ALA, SAL, ALR	Checking on fellow Legionaires with a phone call in-person at the post. A contact information list and a discussion topic card will be provided.	Communication Skills, Listening, Answering Questions. (Bring your charged phone).	John Seward (573) 480-0329 Rich Fischer (573) 505-3055

TAL=The American Legion  
ALA=American Legion Auxillary  
SAL=Sons of The American Legion  
ALR=American Legion Riders

Updated 14 November, 2023  
For additions or changes contact: Rich Fischer  
(573) 505-3055

# American Legion Post 624 - GET INVOLVED TODAY!

<b>Post 624 House Committee</b>	Every Monday 0900	All Legion Units TAL, ALA, SAL, ALR	Maintaining our awesome American Legion post as a member of the House Committee Team. Fixing, maintaining, upgrading, constructing, improving.	Bring your unique skills including (but not limited to): Carpentry, Electrical, Electronics, Plumbing, HVAC, Interior Decorating, Landscaping, Organizing, Cleaning	Rich Fischer (573) 505-3055
<b>Kitchen Help SAL Night</b>	Second Wednesday of every month	SAL	Cooking, Cleaning, Taking and fulfilling food orders	Food preparation, cooking, serving, taking orders, money handling	Tom Honecker (913) 488-4580
<b>Honor Guard</b>	Ongoing	TAL	Honoring fallen veterans at funerals and celebration of life ceremonies. Performing patriotic ceremonies at the post and other venues.	Military manual of arms (Don't worry, it will come back to you)	Keith Moss (816) 809-6789 Honor Guard Captain
<b>Turkey Shoot</b>	Every Saturday at 1100 through Fall and Winter	SAL	Assisting with setting up the shoot, posting and retrieving targets, scoring targets, assisting with range and gun safety, assisting guests.	Marksman or Sharpshooter qualified with a <u>Staple</u> Gun.	Matt Laughlin (573) 746-0131
<b>Vets Helping Vets</b>	Ongoing, As-requested	All Legion Units TAL, ALA, SAL, ALR	Assisting fellow veterans and spouses of veterans with general household maintenance and repairs that they may no longer be able to do.	All skillsets needed. Contact the POC and let them know what you can do and you will be added to the on-call list.	Jim Morton (573) 374-3013 Ron Spry (402) 699-6852
<b>Americanism Committee</b> One of the 4 pillars of the American Legion. It is our duty to show and promote Americanism.	5 January 1830	All Legion Units TAL, ALA, SAL, ALR	Join the committee to share your ideas on promoting Americanism in our lake community	Communication Skills, Creativity, Patriotism, Teamwork.	Rich Fischer (573) 505-3055

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### **Attack on Pearl Harbor**

On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service attacked the neutral United States at Naval Station Pearl Harbor near Honolulu, Hawaii, killing 2,403 Americans and injuring 1,178 others. The attack sank four U.S. Navy battleships and damaged four others. It also damaged three cruisers, three destroyers, and one minelayer. Aircraft losses were 188 destroyed and 159 damaged.

### **Aftermath**

Canada declared war on Japan within hours of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the first Western nation to do so. On December 8, the United States declared war on Japan and entered World War II on the side of the Allies. In a speech to Congress, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called the bombing of Pearl Harbor "a date which will live in infamy."

### **Pearl Harbor Tributes**

In 1990, leading up to the 50th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Congress established the Pearl Harbor Commemorative Medal. This is also known as the Pearl Harbor Survivor's medal and was awarded to anyone who was in the U.S. Armed Forces and who was present in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, and participated in combat operations that day against the attack. The medal was also awarded to civilians who were killed or injured in the attack. A few years later, Congress amended the law to allow any person who was present in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, and was involved in combat operations against Japanese military forces attacking Hawaii, to receive the award. In both instances, there was a limited time period to apply for the award, and it is no longer issued.

*...we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain...*

In Memoriam



Loyd Wiseman

WWII

US Airforce

10-year Legion Member



Robert Forrest

1931 - 2022

Korea

US Navy

10-year Legion Member



**VA**



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration  
VA Long Beach Healthcare System

# RESOURCES



VA Welcome Kit



VA Benefits  
Participant Guide



Veterans Benefits  
Administration  
Handbook



CalVet Resource  
Book



10-10EZ



VA.gov  
Application for VA



My HealtheVet



eBenefits



Urgent Care



VBA  
Appointment  
Scheduler



VA Long Beach  
Website



Center for  
Minority Veterans



#theSITREP  
YouTube Videos



National Guard  
and Reserve  
VA Site



Combat Vet  
Enhanced  
Eligibility



PACT Act

# DECEMBER 2023

*Guests are always welcome*

## Entertainment :

12/1/23 Fender Benders 4-7pm

12/8/23 Candy&The Cowboy 6-9pm

12/15/23 Mitch Shields 6-9pm

12/31/23 Mitch Shields 5-8pm or Fender Benders

12/27/23 Family Night 5-7pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Chiefs Game 3:25pm Bring a covered Dish	27 Shuffle Board 3pm	28	29 Aux Hamburger Dinner 5-630pm OK Shuffle Board 5pm	30	1 <b>Spaghetti Dinner or Fried Fish 5pm-630pm</b>	2 <b>Turkey Shoot 11am Kitchen open 11am-2pm</b>
3 <b>Chiefs Game 720pm Kickoff Bring a Covered Dish to share</b>	4 <b>Shuffle Board 3pm</b>	5 <b>E-Board Meeting 615PM General Meeting 7PM Auxiliary Meeting 7PM</b>	6 <b>Wing Night 5pm-630pm SAL Meeting 630pm ALR Meeting 630pm TBD OK Shuffelboard 5pm</b>	7 <b>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</b>	8 <b>Open faced Roast Beef or Fried Fish 5pm-630pm</b>	9 <b>Turkey Shoot 11am Kitchen open 11am-2pm Army / Navy Game 2pm</b>
10 <b>Chiefs Game 325pm Kickoff Bring a Covered Dish to share Fish Fry 2pm</b>	11 <b>Shuffle Board 3pm Laurie Lights 5- 9pm</b>	12 <b>ALR Santa visiting Laurie Care Center 130pm</b>	13 <b>X-MAS DINNER 5pm-630 OK Shuffelboard 5pm</b>	14 Kitchen Meeting 2pm Calendar Meeting 3pm	15 <b>Commanders Day 9-12 Volunteers needed Shrimp Boil, Corn on the Cob, Potatoes, Salad or Fried Fish 5-630pm</b>	16 <b>Turkey Shoot 11am Kitchen open 11am-2pm Wreath across America 10am Blair Cemetary Camdenton</b>
17	18 <b>Shuffle Board 3pm Chiefs Game 715pm Bring a Covered Dish to share</b>	19	20 <b>Buddy Checks 3-5pm OK Shuffleboard 5pm SAL Tenderloin, corn,mashed taters 5-630pm Youngsters Meeting 630pm</b>	21 <b>Kitchen Clean up 230pm</b>	22 <b>Kitchen Closed for the Holidays</b>	23 <b>NO Turkey Shoot</b>
24	25 Closed Merry Christmas Enjoy Your time with Family	26	27 <b>Dinner Hamburger/ Cheeseburger, Fries or Onion Rings 5pm - 630pm Shuffleboard 5pm</b>	28 <b>Commanders Day 9-12 Volunteers needed</b>	29 <b>Kitchen Closed for the Holidays</b>	30 <b>Turkey Shoot 11am Kitchen open 11am- 2pm</b>
31 <b>New Years Party Bring a Appetizer to share</b>	1 <b>Happy New Year Chief's Game 325pm Bring a covered Dish Black Eyed Peas &amp; Ham Shuffle Board 3pm</b>	Notes Every 2nd Friday Tabletop Bingo at 1 pm in the LakeView Bar Every 3rd Fridy Bunco at 1pm in the Lake View Bar We are a Non-Smoking Facility				



The American Legion Zack Wheat Post 624  
 P.O. Box 61, 852 American Legion Road  
 Sunrise Beach Missouri 65079  
 Phone # 573-374-6091 email: lakelegion.com

<b>LEGION OFFICERS</b>					
			Judge Advocate	Mike Koenigsman	402-740-7649
Commander	Austin Teel	573-280-7585	Chaplain	Ted Cone	573-480-2854
1st Vice	John Seward	573-480-0329	Historian	Karen Wendell	904-364-8863
2nd Vice	Karl Wendell	904-263-0501	Service Officer	George Wallace	573-374-2691
3rd Vice	Stefanie Lowes	254-228-3617	Sgt-at Arms	Rebecca Deuel	254-702-2370
Adjutant	Chris Meenan	573-999-3281	Asst. Sgt-at Arms	Tom Boyce	573-723-0222
Finance Officer	Ron Naber	309-363-8696	Public Relation	Mike Koenigsman	402-740-7649

<b>LEGION EXECUTIVE BOARD</b>					
Jim Morton		573-374-3013	Tom Hohnecker		913-488-4580
Dale Hanke		402-660-0025	John Seward		573-480-0329
Bill Meenan		417-350-3792			

<b>SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION OFFICERS</b>					
Commander	Tom Honecker	913-488-4580	Chaplain	Matt Laughlin	573-746-0131
1st Vice	Paul Hendersen	618-514-8202	Finance Officer	Tony Lombardo	816-806-1103
2nd Vice	Dave Young	816-668-6137	Sgt-at Arms	Rich Fischer	573-505-3055
Adjutant	John Seward	573-480-0329			

<b>LEGION AUXILIARY OFFICERS</b>					
President	Lisa Seward	573-480-6656	Chaplain	Shirley Dull	573-374-1912
1st Vice	Betty Hovey	573-216-2305	Historian	Linda Albin	573-789-0118
2nd Vice	Jessica Simpson	573-692-0052	Sgt-at Arms	Tiffany Fox	417-531-2181
Secretary	Cathy Blamy	314-307-0465	Asst. Sgt-at Arms	Jane Boyce	573-286-8507
Treasurer	Deborah Schnoebelen	573-216-1294			

<b>AUXILIARY EXECUTIVE BOARD</b>			<b>COMMITTEE CHAIRS</b>		
Michelle Koenigsman		402-657-6005	Membership	Michelle Koenigsman	402-657-6005
Donna Engelbert		573-216-4230	Fundraising	Christy Fischer	913-708-1760
Sheila Spry		573-410-2775			

<b>AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS OFFICERS</b>					
Director	Bill Meenan	417-350-3792	Sgt.-at Arms	Jack Littlepage	314-873-1430
Asst. Director	John Seward	573-480-0329	Chaplain	Ted Cone	573-480-2854
Secretary	Chris Meenan	573-999-3281	Judge Advocate	Mike Koenigsman	402-740-7649
Treasurer	Clara Clarke	573-480-2587	Road Captain	Brian Fox	417-719-0570
Historian	Tiffany Fox	417-531-2181	Safety	Ron Rice	573-502-9053



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