



#### LEGION WEBSITES:

POST 10  
Post10.weebly.com

20<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT  
Aldistrict20.weebly.com

3<sup>rd</sup> DIVISION  
TxLegionDiv3.org

DEPT. OF TEXAS  
TxLegion.org

NATIONAL  
Legion.org

#### POST 10 OFFICERS:

COMMANDER:  
*Burt Quintanilla*

VICE COMMANDER:  
*Nick Benedetto*

ADJUTANT:  
*Eric Mayer*

JUDGE ADVOCATE:  
*Nathan Hastings*

SERVICE OFFICER:

FINANCE OFFICER:  
*Hector Cavazos*

AMERICANISM:  
*Eric Mayer*

SGT-AT-ARMS:  
*Ralph Celento*

WEBMASTER:  
*Eric Mayer*

CHAPLAIN  
*James M Noel*

IMMEDIATE PAST  
POST COMMANDER:  
*Sharlene McCuan*

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

*Bob Masten  
Rick Trent  
Dan Martin  
Richard Lee  
Richard Bowser  
Rocky Whitt  
Post 10 Officers*

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
**POST 10 Business & Professional**  
P.O. Box 591046, San Antonio, TX 78259-1046  
Post 10 Website: [post10.weebly.com](http://post10.weebly.com)



## Feb 2024 NEWSLETTER

### *Commander's Comments:*

Commander: *Burt Quintanilla*

Our next meeting will be **Saturday, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, 0900**, at **Lupe Tortilla Mexican Restaurant** located in Stone Ridge Market at 21003 US 281 North, San Antonio, TX 78258. The restaurant opens at 0900, and meal and drink orders are taken at that time, before the membership meeting begins. **Dress:** *Saturday casual. Legion cap.* **Menu:** Order breakfast from group menu. Receive military discount at the register. **Masks are recommended, however, not mandatory.**

## Commander's Column

Comrades,

I hope that all continues to go well for you as the new 2024 calendar year ramps up! Many thanks to Adjutant Eric Mayer (and others) for initiating our Post 10 "Mid-month Information Digest". Here are some items of interest and tracking that I wanted to spotlight:

**ORATORICAL:** congratulations again to Ms. Sophia Logsdon (Reagan HS – Post 10 Champion) in her winning the 20th District Oratorical Contest held on 6 January 2024. Good luck in Brenham! 3rd Division Oratorical Contest will be held in Brenham, TX on 27 January 2024.

**VETERAN-TO-VETERAN:** At our January 2024 monthly meeting, Dale Couffer (H: 210-655-0375 / C: 210-846-4603) mentioned that he is in contact with a veteran who wants to specifically donate an upright style walker to another in-need veteran. Please contact Dale for further information, if this offer is still available.

**VOTING:** just a reminder, we have upcoming elections in the next 3+ months:

Texas Primary Election: Tue 5 March 2024 (early voting: 20 Feb to 1 Mar 24)

Texas Uniform Election Day: Sat 4 May 2024 (early voting: 22 to 30 Apr 24)

Texas Primary Runoff Election: Tue 28 May 2024

TEXAS ELECTION CALENDAR

[Important Election Dates 2023-2024 \(state.tx.us\)](http://state.tx.us)

\*NOTE: Please make your preferences known at our February & March meetings about changing the date of our 4 May 2024 meeting day to Saturday 11 May to deconflict with Election Day (and our policy of having American Legion Comrades work the polls in non-partisan positions.

If we are amenable, then I will work the date change with Lupe Tortilla Mex. Rest.

**20<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT CONVENTION:** I am exploring the estimated timetable of this upcoming Saturday 6 April 2024 convention to advise our members of the best plan for Post 10 group attendance. We have a Post 10 Comrade (Adjutant Eric Mayer) as a candidate for the 20<sup>th</sup> District Commander posting. The convention will be hosted at Post 593 in Converse, TX. Awaiting further details.

# ***Commander's Comments:***

**Commander:** *Burt Quintanilla*

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** (partial list):

\* USO "Military City USA": 210-564-9240

[USO San Antonio "Military City USA" • USO San Antonio](#)

\* South Texas Veterans Health Care System: 210-617-5107

[Volunteer Or Donate | VA South Texas Health Care | Veterans Affairs](#)

\* Soldier's Angels: 210-629-0024

[San Antonio, TX - Soldiers' Angels \(soldiersangels.org\)](#)

**BOYS STATE:** The dates of the 2024 Texas American Legion Boys State have been announced: 9-14 June 2024. More details from all sources in the future dealing with the selection process and milestone dates.

**PILLARS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION:** I will be recapping the 4 Pillars of the American Legion in the next 4 months to re-acquaint ourselves with the foundations of the American Legion. I am starting out with Americanism as we rev-up for the 2024 Boys State campaign and celebrate Black History Month.

\* Americanism (February – Black History Month)

\* National Security (March - Women's History Month)

\* Youth & Children (April – National Child Abuse Prevention Month)

\* Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (May – Memorial Day)

## **The definition of Americanism**

Author: Jeff Stoffer – American Legion – 22 January 2019

[The definition of Americanism | The American Legion](#)

**Historical context is vital** to understand how Americanism urgently arose as a pillar of what would become the nation's largest veterans organization. American Legion founders, the core of whom were front-line officers in World War I, had emerged from the all-volunteer prewar Preparedness Movement with firsthand concern about the prospect of combat with limited resources, weapons, training and supplies. After the armistice, they added another ingredient to their concerns: public understanding and appreciation of the American identity.

Only about half of America's teenagers attended high school regularly at the time. A large percentage of World War I troops were conscripted immigrants, some of whom had barely begun to learn English as a second language, which caused communications breakdowns in the service. Most were under-educated in U.S. government, law and history. Few understood what the U.S. flag represents or how American "justice, freedom and democracy" are defined when compared to other nations.

And, to the disgust of those who marched off to the Great War in Europe, thousands of otherwise military-eligible adult immigrants had used their foreign citizenship to avoid service, no matter how long they had lived in the United States. The early Legionnaires had a term for them: "alien slackers." To address this issue, the early American Legion set U.S. citizenship among immigrants as a top priority.

The American Legion's founders were deeply concerned how the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia might spill over into the United States. Communist recruiters were already pitching their thinking to young Americans, including troops still stationed in Europe after the armistice. Fascism and Nazism later appeared on the global landscape and recruited in the United States at a time before media or policymakers fully understood the intentions of Benito Mussolini or Adolf Hitler. The American Legion was early and firm in its opposition to anti-democracy ideologies; they had fought "to make the world safe for democracy." To the founders of the Legion, the best kind of "ism" was Americanism.

## ***Commander's Comments:***

**Commander:** *Burt Quintanilla*

Racism was specifically denounced by the early Legion, which passed a resolution in 1923 that remains on the books and condemns any individual, group or organization that “creates or fosters racial, religious or class strife among our people, or which takes into their own hands the enforcement of law, determination of guilt, or infliction of punishment, to be un-American, a menace to our liberties and destructive to our fundamental law.”

The Veterans Day parade massacre of 1919 in Centralia, Wash., which took the lives of four Legionnaires and a deputy sheriff and led to the mob lynching of one suspected killer – a member of the radical Industrial Workers of the World (or “wobblies”) – galvanized the newly founded veterans organization, then meeting at its first national convention in Minneapolis. The massacre showed that the conflict between Americanism and other “isms” could turn deadly. The American Legion would take a proactive approach to Americanism, forming a committee that would become a national commission to advance the concept through programs and services. By January 1920, citizenship and naturalization programs were forming at local posts, and the Legion offered its services before Congress to provide such education.

In 1921, The American Legion formed an alliance with the National Education Association, which accepted the Legion’s offer “to cooperate with the NEA in securing for America a program of education adequate to meet the needs of the 20th century ... and which will make all, whether native or foreign-born, good American citizens.” The alliance led to National Education Week and the 1926 publication of a two-textbook set, “The Story of Our People,” written by historians under American Legion direction.

The Legion’s Americanism Commission led the first of two national flag conferences in 1923, bringing together representatives of 68 other interests – military, education, government, civic and business – to establish what in 1942 became U.S. Flag Code. By that time, most states were requiring the Legion rules. The organization would ultimately become known as a national ambassador of flag respect and protection.

The American Legion founders believed veterans should be catalysts in local unity and assistance, strengthening communities and building pride through individual obligation. “We must continue to serve the country in the same spirit we had in war, and we can do that only if we have every post doing something for its community,” American Legion Past National Commander Hanford MacNider said when introducing what was called the “Iowa Idea” in 1923. The Americanism Commission led the movement and launched a nationwide Community and Civic Betterment Bureau that brought hundreds of parks, pools, theaters, clinics, bands, sports programs and forums into existence, led by American Legion posts.

Pennsylvania American Legion posts began presenting school awards as early as 1921 to students who were evaluated on five points: honor, courage, scholarship, leadership and service. The school awards program, which continues today, was adopted nationally in 1926, inspiring generations of young people to serve proudly in their communities.

When the Great Depression struck, American Legion posts fed the poor and unemployed in their communities. When natural disasters hit, the Legion rescued victims, provided security, built refugee camps, fed the stranded and helped communities rebuild. All such activities, though some were overseen by different commissions of the organization, were considered expressions of Americanism.

## ***Commander's Comments:***

**Commander:** *Burt Quintanilla*

Throughout the decades, American Legion youth programs were established and operated to do more, for instance, than teach young people to hit baseballs and bullseyes. American Legion Baseball, which traces its roots to the Department of South Dakota convention of 1925, originated when Maj. John Griffith, commissioner of the Big 10 Conference, told delegates that sports could do more than serve as “an amusement feature for ourselves in the post ... but as a matter of citizenship training.”

American Legion Boys State, which began in Illinois in 1935, was a direct response to the communist-inspired Young Pioneer Camps attempting to lure U.S. youth. Boys State took off across the country and established itself as a program like none other to teach young people how government functions in a successful democracy. Through the years, Boys State inspired thousands of future leaders, including President Bill Clinton, Vice President Dick Cheney, NASA astronaut Neil Armstrong, CNN co-founder Lou Dobbs, Purdue University President Mitch Daniels and college football coach Nick Saban.

Following the same reasoning, the American Legion Oratorical Contest, which had its first national competition in 1938 and now awards more than \$138,000 in scholarships annually to top finishers, is not all about rhetoric. It is a constitutional speech contest; competitors must study and know the Constitution to succeed, preparing orations they have researched, written and rehearsed as well as impromptu speaking on randomly assigned constitutional topics.

The American Legion's relationship with Boy Scouts of America – the first youth program singled out by national resolution (at the first national convention, 1919) – grew to include numerous Americanism activities for Scouts, including ceremonies to respectfully retire worn-out U.S. flags.

American Legion National Commander James E. Powers wrote in the May 1963 *American Legion Magazine* that he had been challenged to define the term “Americanism” for a new era. He wrote that of the 10 lines in the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution, seven refer to principles of Americanism.

“My real definition of Legion Americanism in 1963,” Powers explained, “would be the living record of what Legionnaires do this year to improve community, state and nation in thousands of projects ... what they do to give backbone to law and order ... what they do to oppose militantly the endless drive to supplant our American way with dictatorship ... what they do to transmit American principles through our Boys States and Girls States... through teaching thousands of youngsters the rules of fair play on the baseball diamond ... what they do to make the Constitution of the United States a familiar text to hundreds of thousands of boys and girls in our oratorical contest ... A full account of these deeds would be a definition of Americanism so huge it would fill an unabridged dictionary all by itself. It is a definition that is modern, progressive and alive.”

Rich Anderson, the current American Legion Americanism Commission chairman, echoes that time-tested definition.

“True Americanism is an ideology that is continually nurtured within one's soul through individual daily actions, thoughts and beliefs in what their responsibilities are to be, blessed to live in one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all.”

*Jeff Stoffer is editor of The American Legion Magazine.*

Serving Post 10 Comrades,

Take care.

Humberto L. Quintanilla II (Burt)

Commander, American Legion Post 10

Cell: 401-683-8554

# GUEST SPEAKER

## For February Meeting



**Molly Vogt** currently serves on the Board, chairs the Presentation Committee, and conducts recorded interviews of survivors for Life Restored SA, an organization that exists to restore hope and purpose to sexually exploited youth and their families.

Molly's formal career includes consulting in the areas of the 2 biggest investments of their lives: retirement plans and real estate. She also enjoyed 5 years behind the microphone as a radio host, covering 2 main topics: Current events, and The Greatest Generation, our WW11 veterans!

One of the most shocking topics she said she uncovered while on the radio was the depravity and extent of child sex trafficking in America. She is now on a mission to stop this hideous activity by raising awareness and sharing tricks and technologies that the perpetrators are using to reach our youth.



## **FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES**

- February      Black History Month
- Feb 01      National Freedom Day
- Feb 02      Groundhog Day
- Feb 03      Four Chaplains Day
- Feb 04      USO Day
- Feb 12      Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb 14      Valentine's Day
- Feb 17      Presidents Day
- Feb 22      Washington's Birthday
- Feb 29      Leap Day



# MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

By Larry Lamborn, Election Judge

Post 10 Legionnaires should be aware that, leading up to the National election in November, there will be a series of elections during 2024. Each is important.

Of immediate importance is the Joint Republican – Democratic Primary to be held Tuesday, 5 March, to choose political party candidates for the general elections in May and November. Early voting will begin on Tuesday, 20 February, and conclude Friday, 1 March. The last day to register to vote in the Primary will be Monday, 5 February. If you require an Absentee (by-mail) Ballot, you must apply no later than Friday, 23 February, to Bexar County Elections, 1103 South Frio; San Antonio, TX 78207. Under current state law, voters desiring AB's must apply prior to each election.

Upon arriving at the polls, be sure to have your photo ID ready for inspection at the Qualification Desk. Do not bring electronic or photographic devices with you. You may bring a yellow sample ballot or a written note into the polling station as an aide memoire but remember to take it with you when you depart. If you are wearing partisan clothing or badges, you are asked to cover them while inside the polling station and within the 100 foot "no electioneering" exclusion area posted on the grounds.

Texas does not register voters by political party, so you must tell the election officer which of the two parties' ballots you desire. The election officer will call up that ballot on the Express Votes machine. After marking your ballot, an officer will direct you to a large black machine called a DS-200 to cast your ballot. The Express Votes machine is merely a printer; it records nothing and remembers nothing. Only the DS-200 counts ballots. It also retains all paper ballots to form a paper trail should that be needed.

Voters needing special assistance have priority. Persons using walkers or wheelchairs will be escorted to the front of the line. Those who are physically unable to exit their car may park in specially designated spaces and signal with their headlights the need for curbside voting. An election official will bring an Express Touch machine to the vehicle after first verifying the voter's identity.

As U.S. military veterans, all Legionnaires have a special duty to safeguard our democratic system. Americanism is one of our central pillars. Post 10, like every American Legion Post, must encourage our members to serve as election officers if they are physically able to do so. It is not enough to stand by and let others do the work. Democracy is not a spectator sport; it requires active participation.

To find a polling station near you, consult <https://www.bexar.org/1568/Elections-Department>



**Donate to our Boys State Fund!**

Each year, we send more than 20 young men to Austin for a life-changing experience. Tuition for this program is \$330 per delegate, and it is money very well spent.

We rely on member donations to make this happen. The more we receive, the more boys we can send to this leadership academy.

Any amount is welcomed. All are tax-deductible. All of the net funds we receive goes to our Boys State fund.

Checks may be mailed to the post, or you can pay via credit card at our online portal:  
<https://alpost10.square.site/>



## National Legislative Division Weekly

### GRASSROOTS ACTION UPDATES

The American Legion is urging Congress to include vital language in the Defense Supplemental to support our Afghan allies. To support the Legion's efforts and protect the brave men and women who fought by our sides, please click [here](#).

Last session, three critical bills passed the House of Representatives: The *Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act of 2023* (H.R. 542), the *HOME Act of 2023* (H.R. 3848), and the *COPE Act* (H.R. 3581) bill. If the Senate agrees to pass this Legion-backed legislation, Congress has an opportunity to provide indispensable support for our Nation's veterans and their family caregivers. If you would like to contact your representatives in support of H.R. 542, H.R. 3848, or H.R. 3581, you can visit our [grassroots actions center](#) to identify and email your elected official.

**The American Legion supports the Pay our Troops Act and encourages all Legionnaires to contact their members of Congress and ask them to support the legislation. Click [here](#) to reach out today.**

### THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AT VA



The role of artificial intelligence (AI) in both the public and private sector has been one of the defining debates of this decade. From customer service to defense and security, the applications of AI seem endless. As a result, it has been virtually impossible for the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) to ignore its potential uses.

Although VA established the National Artificial Intelligence Institute in 2019, its exploration of AI really took off in 2021. In the fall of that year, [VA implemented a new strategy](#) for the ethical use of AI across its operations. The department aimed to improve its efficiency, increase its intelligence capacity, and enhance research initiatives.

Since VA launched its AI initiative, the department has developed [over 300 projects](#). With the help of the

Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center (VAMC), the Department created an AI product to predict the severity of the Covid-19 virus. This model has been piloted at 12 other VAMCs. VA is also working with researchers at Stanford University to develop wearable technology that can continuously monitor vital signs and detect potential health issues.

## National Legislative Division Weekly

The innovation of VA's AI pilot projects has been nothing short of incredible, and Congress has encouraged continued development every step of the way. As 2024 began, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC) put AI development and implementation at the forefront of its business.

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, Chairman Jon Tester (D-MT) hosted a roundtable to discuss the Department's advancements with the technology. While Tester continually encouraged and applauded VA's efforts, he warned of risks to "veteran data and patient safety." As they discussed potential future projects, Tester suggested new areas for research, including potential uses in rural America. Because veterans in rural areas do not always have easy access to VA medical care, the potential of AI to expand treatment options for these veterans could be critical. Moreover, Tester asked VA to explore how AI could help minimize burnout for its employees.

On Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) will build on the work of its peers in the Senate. The Subcommittee on Technology Modernization will hold a hearing titled "The Future of Data Privacy and Artificial Intelligence at VA." Congressmen will discuss the technology's potential and drawbacks with VA officials and receive expert insight for American Enterprise Institute Senior Fellow Shane Tews.

### SENATE DEBATES SECURITY AND BORDER ISSUES

In the Senate this week, lawmakers continued the months-long debate over security spending. With President Biden's \$100 billion request for Ukraine and Israel pitted against homeland security and border control, attempts to find compromise have not been successful.

The primary negotiators, Senator James Lankford (R-OK), Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT), and Senator Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ) spent the week discussing a new deal. The proposal would create a more stringent asylum process and impose a ceiling for migrants allowed at the southern border. Asylum screenings would also be more difficult to pass under the proposed deal, and surveillance on asylum seekers would be increased. Finally, border agents would be given the ability to expel migrants when illegal crossings are on the rise. With these conditions, the negotiators hope their peers will approve more economic and humanitarian aid for our allies at war.

However, some lawmakers are unwilling to concede funding for Ukraine and Israel, even with these tougher border policies, unless humanitarian parole is restricted. Humanitarian parole is a policy which grants temporary status to specific populations, generally from war-torn or underdeveloped nations. Each parolee is considered on a case-by-case basis, must have a financial sponsor, and is allowed to stay in the United States for up to 2 years. The Biden administration has expanded this policy to increase legal immigration to the dismay of some Senators.

While senatorial infighting about parole policy stalls negotiation, our allies across the world are left without critical support. In Ukraine, the counteroffensive effort has been a grinding, uphill struggle. With no significant changes to the frontline in 2023 (depicted below) and Russian making historically aggressive

## National Legislative Division Weekly

drone attacks, Ukraine is urgently pleading with the United States and other NATO allies for increased economic aid.

While the Senate debated funds for Ukraine in the previous session, Hamas militants launched attacks on Israel in October of 2023. As a longstanding ally, the United States quickly vowed support for Israel and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). As countries across the world have become increasingly in favor of a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas militants in Gaza, and warier about the implications of the war, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reiterated Israel's "commitment to defend [their] country" as a "fundamental right".

While Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III has stressed that American support for the Israeli counteroffensive will not waver in the face of international apprehension, Senate negotiations have held the requested \$14 billion for Israel at an impasse.



Source: ISW (21:00 GMT, 19 December)

BBC

As international conflicts compound and our border policy is increasingly uncertain, the current stalemate could ironically escalate the risks being debated. National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer implored Congress to act, saying, "Congress must keep America safe and get to work."

## LEGIONNAIRE OF THE WEEK

In an effort to recognize the weekly accomplishments of our Legionnaires, we will spotlight an individual every week. These individuals demonstrate exceptional grassroots activism by meeting with/contacting their Congressional Representative/Senator to advocate for veterans. Efforts like these truly make a difference and give veterans a voice in Congress.

### Charles Young, Wisconsin

We would like to recognize Charles Young, Department of Wisconsin as the Legionnaire of the week.

Mr. Young spent time with Congressman Scott Fitzgerald (R-WI-5). The gentlemen met to interview the Congressman's candidates for service academies. Mr. Young took this opportunity to speak with Congressman Fitzgerald about The American Legion's priorities and the importance of legislation that benefits veterans.

## National Legislative Division Weekly

If you have made a grassroots effort and would like to be considered for next week's "Legionnaire of the Week," please fill out the Congressional Contact Report Form [here](#). You can also email me at [kryan@legion.org](mailto:kryan@legion.org).

### LEGISLATIVE DIVISION UPDATES

We are very focused on finalizing the agenda for Washington Conference and producing the updated Legislative Agenda and proposed National Commander's Written Testimony documents. We have been working closely with the Divisions on their priorities and positions in order to establish the legislative plan for the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress and are confirming the attendees for Commander's Call and our Legislative Commission meeting.

The Legislative Division continues to develop relationships on Capitol Hill and work with staffers to identify and lobby key legislation. Specifically, we have spoken with HVAC and SVAC staff this week about maximizing the amount of viable legislation for veterans and military families that is signed into law.

As part of our ongoing grassroots efforts, NLD staff will be traveling to posts around the country to provide **grassroots training** tailored to the hosting department's needs. If you are interested in hosting a grassroots training event, please contact [grassroots@legion.org](mailto:grassroots@legion.org) or [ejohnson@legion.org](mailto:ejohnson@legion.org).

### UPCOMING CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

On Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm ET, the HVAC Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity will hold a hearing titled "The Future of Data Privacy and Artificial Intelligence." A link to livestream for this hearing has not been posted.

On Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am ET: HVAC will hold a hearing titled "The One Percent: Supporting America's Surviving Military Family Community." A link to livestream for this hearing has not been posted.

Wednesday, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> at 3:30pm ET: SVAC will hold a hearing to examine Vet Centers, focusing on supporting the mental health needs of service members, veterans, and their families. A link to livestream for this hearing has not been posted.



**VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA  
NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT**

Mario Marquez, Director

[MMarquez@legion.org](mailto:MMarquez@legion.org)

**Jan 20 – Jan 26, 2024**

**STAFF ACTIVITY**

- NS Staff actively continues the planning process for the annual Washington Conference. This ongoing effort focuses on detailing and organizing various aspects of the conference.
- NS Staff continues planning for the Annual ANAVICUS Breakfast, focusing on finalizing arrangements and details.
- NS Staff continues to receive and process Law Enforcement and Fire Fighter of the year award packets in preparation for Washington Conference
- NS Staff met with veteran program coordinators from Arizona State University (ASU) to discuss military quality of life and the recent BASE Program visit to MCAS Yuma.
- NS Staff continues to edit and finalize the BASE Report visit for MCAS Yuma.
- NS Staff began reviewing Resolutions ahead of Washington Conference and preparing slides for the Resolution Screening Committee Meeting.
- NS Staff met with Ethan Brown, a senior fellow at the Center for the Study of the Presidency & Congress, regarding the current military recruiting crisis

**POW/MIA**

**Jan 23, 2024**

- Soldier Accounted for from Korean War (Crayton, T.)

DPAA has identified/repatriated **6** service members this year.

**PROGRAMS (The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment)**

- Processed request: Ammo – 3,720; Rifles – 8; Clips – 0; Static Displays – 0
- Participants: Posts – 3; Departments – 3

**TIP OF THE WEEK**

\*\*\* Attention\*\*\*

NS Staff needs assistance from all Legionnaires regarding the following matter: Recently, several departments have brought to our attention issues regarding TACOM equipment. Some posts are failing to abide by the terms of their Conditional Deed of Gift (CDG). Specifically, some posts are not completing their triennial inventory and reporting requirement. Others are failing to sign their CDG upon initial receipt of the TACOM equipment. The Army Donation Program Office (ADPO) finally contacted the NS Staff this week regarding these issues. It is imperative that we as an organization represent our community well by adhering to the terms of our agreement. The CDG is a non-negotiable requirement to participate in the TACOM program. Failure to comply with the CDG will require posts to relinquish control of said equipment. This will certainly impact our ability to serve our veteran community to the degree that they deserve. Imbedded (for reference only) you will find a generic copy of a CDG that TACOM has sent to all posts participating in the TACOM program.

Next week, the Congressional Quality of Life Panel chaired by Rep. Don Bacon (NE-3) will host a hearing with the service Senior Enlisted Leaders to discuss various quality of life issues with a focus on barracks housing. The witnesses include:

**Sergeant Major Troy E. Black**

Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

**Sergeant Major Michael R. Weimer**

Sergeant Major of the Army

**Master Chief Petty Officer James M. Honea**

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy

**Sergeant Major Carlos A. Ruiz**

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps

**Chief Master Sergeant Joanne S. Bass**

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

**Chief Master Sergeant John F. Bentivegna**

Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force

The hearing will be livestreamed [here](#) on Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 EST.



Albers Rifle Deed  
blank.pdf