THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Squadron 124

38 Broad Street

Westfield, Massachusetts 01085

S.A.L. Squadron124 Meetings – Second Monday of every month at 7:00 P.M.

WE HONOR THOSE WHO SERVE

Westfield Post 124

Volume 2, Issue 1

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2016-2017 Officers

Left to right: Darrell R. Myco, Senior Vice Commander, William "Mo" Spradlin, Junior Vice, Gene H. Theroux, Commander, Todd Gannon, Adjutant & Finance Officer and Paul W. Nimchick Jr.. Sergeant-at-Arms & Chaplain

New S.A.L. National Commander, Jeff Frain

Jeff Frain was elected national commander of the Sons of The American Legion on Aug. 28, 2016, in Cincinnati during the 45th national convention of the Sons of The American Legion.

Frain is a 33-year member of the Sons of The American Legion and is eligible for membership through his father's service in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and his stepfather's service in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. Frain's father, William Robert Frain, passed away in 1973. Frain was raised in Michigan by his mother and stepfather Earnest Pierson, a member of American Legion Post 27 in Apache Junction, Ariz., where Frain is a member of Squadron 27.

Frain has served in every capacity at the squadron level and numerous positions within the Detachment of Arizona: National Executive Committeeman, alternate National Executive Committeeman, detachment commander, finance chairman, adjutant, Children &Youth chairman, public relations chairman, POW-MIA Committee, Detachment Executive Board and Convention Committee.

Commander Frain's theme for the year 2016-2017 is: "Knowledge is Power"

His Membership theme: "Be a Superhero and signup 3 American Hero's."

His two main programs for the year: Child Welfare Foundation and American Legion Baseball.

Commander's Message:

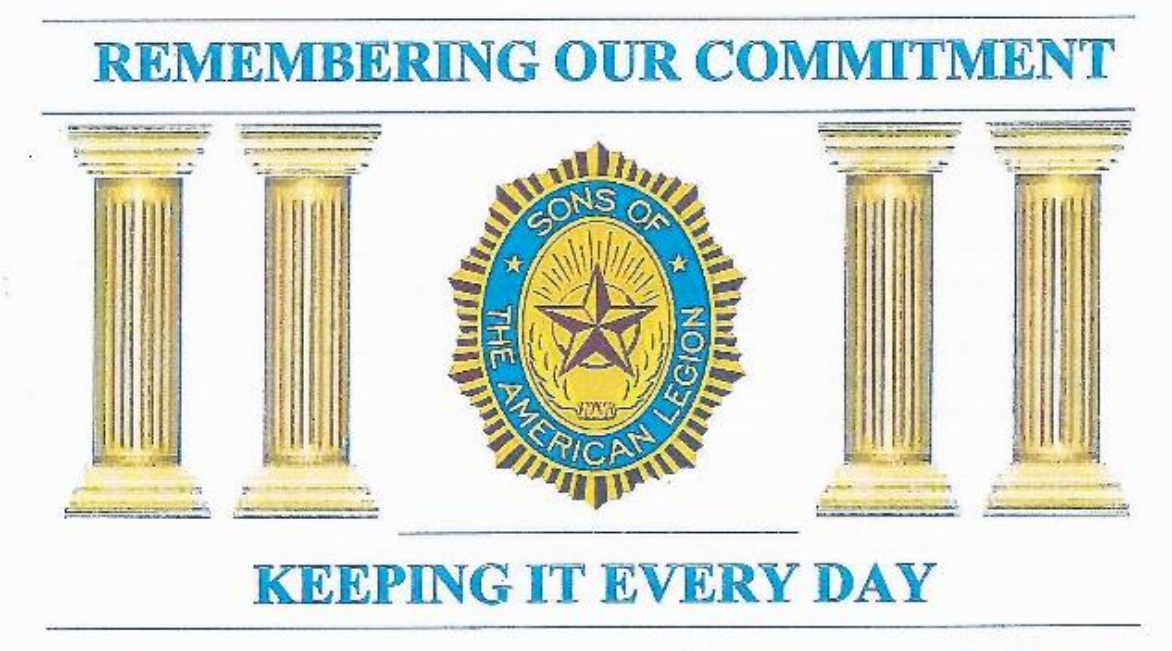
The summer vacation is behind us. I trust and hope that everyone had a rewarding summer with friends and family. There have many pleasant events since the last Squadron 124 newsletter that was published in March 2016 (it was a combined American Legion Post 124 and Sons of the American Legion Newsletter). Therefore, due to the volume of activity of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 124 had been involved in the community – it's appropriate for the publication of a S.A.L. Squadron 124 newsletter to bring our members up to date of past activities to inform our members of future events and opportunities. It's our goal to provide a quality newsletter not only to inform our squadron members but also to use as a recruiting and retention tool.

The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 124 is entering its fourth year since the re-activation of its charter during the 2013-2014 membership year. The S.A.L. Squadron 124 surrendered its charter in 1943 due to lack of members due to the country being fully engulfed by the second Great War (World War II). The squadron ended the 2013-2014 membership year with 20 members and has grown to 183 members at the close of the 2015-2016 membership year. The S.A.L. Squadron124 is now the fifth largest squadron in the Detachment of Massachusetts. The 2016-2017 membership year began July 1st, 2016 and many of you will receive post cards in the mail with the notice to renew your dues. It's important for you to renew your membership and to pay your dues as soon as you can, so that we can retain our numbers and our goal is to grow in membership. We're looking to expand our presence and do more in the community while supporting the American Legion's Four Pillars of service. Each year, the squadron submits a Consolidated Squadron Report which is a detailed report of funds and hours expended supporting the many programs contained within the American Legion's Four Pillars. The American Legion Post 124 family of the Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and The Sons of The American Legion has come a long way in the last two years in supporting the American Legion's Four Pillars of Service and I'm proud of the Legion's family's efforts and of their achievements. For example, during the Memorial Day ceremony at the Post, there were six $ 500 scholarships awarded. In addition, the Post 124 funds two $ 500 scholarships at the Community Scholarship Fund, "CSF Westfield Dollars for Scholars". The Post 124 family supports the Boys and Girls Club of Westfield and all three organizations sponsor youth for summer camp and annual memberships. Congratulations to The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Westfield on the Club's 25th anniversary and to Director of Operations Kellie Brown, who was named a 2016 Maytag Dependable Leader award recipient. The Post 124 family will be visiting our heroes who are residents at the Soldiers Home in Holyoke at Post 124 sponsored "*Casino Night*" on Tuesday evening, October 18th, 2016 beginning at 6:30 P.M.

At the 2016 Convention of The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Massachusetts, the squadron was the recipient of the first annual Thomas W. "Wiggy" Wigmore Four Pillars of Service Consolidated Squadron Report Memorial Award. This coveted award is an award that we would like to earn and to win each year. Information on the four pillars and the Thomas W. Wigmore Four Pillars of Service award is on page 3 in this newsletter (next page). The squadron was recognized and received a number of awards at the Detachment Convention including certificates recognizing 2016 Consolidated Squadron Report, attainment of 100% membership, a certificate from the Sons of The American Legion national headquarters for accomplishments of membership strength and the Dream Maker 2016 award for donations to the Baystate Children's Hospital. Squadron members Todd Gannon and Gene Theroux received the Blue Brigade Award for 2015-2016 membership year for recruiting 30 or more new members into The Sons of The American Legion. Lastly, Gene Theroux was nominated to be a Vice Commander in the Detachment and accepted the position. Detachment of Massachusetts Vice Commander Theroux was later appointed to serve as the S.A.L. representative to the American Legion Department of Massachusetts Community Service Committee.

The Squadron held an election of Officers for 2016-2017 and the installation of squadron officers was completed on September 12, 2016. Detachment Vice Commanders Ernie Laberge and Marvin Nay completed the installation of the squadron officers. Post 124 Commander Cindy Lacoste was in attendance to witness and express support and good luck from the Legion. I'd like to thank both Ernie Laberge and Marvin Nay for their dedication to The Sons of The American Legion and for their guidance and support over the last few years. Paul W. Nimchick Jr., who serves as the Chaplain for both the Legion and for the squadron encourages squadron members to become more involved and to seek becoming an officer in the squadron. The squadron is very fortunate to have a cadre of dedicated officers who are dual-members and have held officer positions in the American Legion. Senior Vice Commander Darrell R. Myco who is not a veteran and not a member of the American Legion. However, Darrell has been instrumental in many of the squadron's successes from his many contributions and we're lucky to have him on the team. There is a picture and description of the 2016-2017 squadron officers on the front page of this newsletter. Simply, we're very fortunate to have them on our team and I'm proud of each them. They are contributors and will help mentor future leaders of the squadron.

I hope that you have a opportunity to read this newsletter and to review all the remarkable events that the squadron has contributed or participated in over the last six months. I'd like to thank the Westfield News Group for their excellent coverage of the Youth Alumni event held on June 29th, 2016 and of the Westfield Post 124 American Legion baseball home game against Greenfield Post 81 at Bullens Field. The 2017 Westfield Post 124 team should be stronger and the entire coaching staff of Don Irzyk, John Blake and Gary StPeter will be returning along with scorekeeper Bob Blake Jr. The American Legion Baseball regional tournament bid submitted by Shrewsbury American Legion Post 238 for 2017 & 2018 was approved. The regional tournament games will be played at Holy Cross, Fitton Baseball Field (Worcester).



The Pillars of the American Legion

Americanism

Baseball
Boys State / Nation Citizenship
Flag Advocacy
Flag Etiquette
Get Out the Vote
Junior Shooting Sports
Oratorical Contest
Scholarships
Scouting
Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program, "Student Trooper"
Youth Program Alumni

Children & Youth

Child Welfare Foundation
Family Assistance
Scholarships
Youth Support

National Security & Foreign Relations

Junior ROTC
National Security & Foreign Relations
Operation Comfort Warriors
POW/MIA
Troop Support

Veterans & Rehabilitation

Benefits Center
Career Center
Education Center
Health Center
Homelessness
Service Officers
Suicide Prevention
System Worth Saving
Veteran Services
Women Veterans

S.A.L. Squadron 124 Wins Past Detachment Commander Wigmore Four Pillars Award

The Westfield Squadron 124 received the Thomas W. "Wiggy" Wigmore Four Pillars of Service Consolidated Squadron Report Memorial Award at the Sons of The American Legion Detachment Convention held in Plymouth, Massachusetts on June 4, 2016.

The narrative on the citations, reads, "For submitting the best Consolidated Squadron Report detailing your outstanding efforts to Promote the ideals of the Four Pillars of The American Legion as mentioned in the Preamble of the Sons of The American Legion. You are to be commended for your Service to the Community, State and Nation.

The Squadron 124 is both honored and humbled to receive the first annual Thomas Wigmore Four Pillars of Service Consolidated Squadron Rreport in memory of Past Detachment Commander Thomas W. "Wiggy Wigmore.

Pictured left to right: Stephen F. Wigmore, father of the Late Tom Wiigmore and Past Commander, American Legion Post 118, Gene Theroux, S.A.L. Squadron 124 Commander and Edward Villard, Detachment Commander

Preamble to the Sons of The American Legion National Constitution

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as "Sons of The American Legion" for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism;

to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in the Great Wars;

to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

to combat the autocracy of both the classes and masses; to make right the master of might;

to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness;

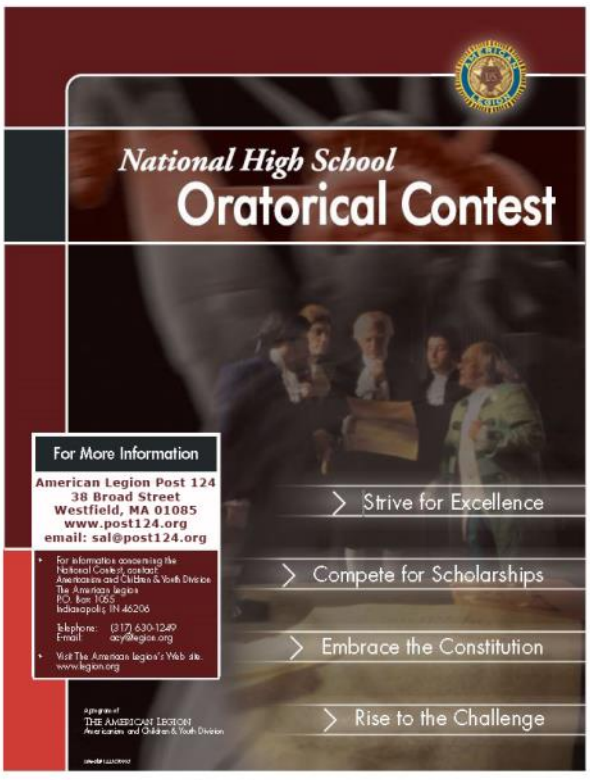
to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

2017 American Legion Oratorical Contest

College. Money. Two words that go hand-in-hand. It takes a lot of money to pay for a college education.

For high school students, there is a way to actually talk your way to college. Each year The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program awards over $138,000 in college scholarships. Find out today how you can get involved and talk your way to college.

The Post124.org website has been updated to include the rules and the resources to prepare for the American Legion Oratorical Contest. Contestants should be prepared for the first round of the Department of Massachusetts Oratorical Contest that will occur in January 2017. The Post 124 Family would like to work with contestants and have a Post 124 Contest in December 2016. Additional information on the American Legion Oratorical Contest can be found at: http://post124.org/index.php?id=42



Upcoming Events:

October 10th - S.A.L. Squadron 124 Monthly Meeting, Stanley Kellogg Smith Hall, 7:00 P.M.
October 18th - Casino Night, Soldier's Home in Holyoke: 6:30 P.M. (Canteen, 2nd Floor)
October 29th - St. Mary's Cemetery Veterans Day Flag Detail, 8:00 A.M.
November 8th - S.A.L. Squadron 124 Monthly Meeting, Stanley Kellogg Smith Hall: 7:00 P.M.
November 5th thru November 11th - Veterans Day Poppy Sales, sign-up at Post
November 11th - Veterans Day Parade, Westfield, begins at 10:00 A.M.
November 24th - Thanksgiving meal at the Post
December 4th - Children's Christmas Party
December 7th - Pearl Harbor Remembrance, Wojtkiewicz Park: 10:30 A.M.

We Are Family

American Legion Post 124 Family Officers (Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and S.A.L.)

Sons of The American Legion Squadron 124 Officers

Commander: Gene H. Theroux
Senior Vice Commander: Darrell R. Myco
Junior Vice Commander: William "Mo" Spradlin
Adjutant: Todd Gannon
Sergeant-at-Arms: Paul W. Nimchick Jr.
Treasurer: Todd Gannon
Chaplain: Paul W. Nimchick Jr.

E-mail: sal@post124.org
Website: post124.org
YouTube Channel: SAL Squadron 124: https://www.youtube.com/channel/

Membership News

Renewal notices for 2017 have been mailed from National (Post Card). The renewal for S.A..L. members is based upon age and whether a "dual-member", that being an existing American Legion member and being a S.A.L. member. The membership fee schedule follows:

First Year: $21.50

After first year: $35.00
Dual Member (Legion & S.A.L.): Pay S.A.L. per capita $ 7.00
Under 21 years of age: $ 10.00

Make checks payable to The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 124 and place "SAL Membership" in the memo field. Mail Payment to: The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 124, P.O. Box 236, Westfield, MA 01086-0236. Application for S.A.L. membership and eligibility criteria is available on the Post 124 website, Sons of Legion tab or URL: http://post124.org/content.php?id=39

"A way we can honor the service of our veterans is by renewing our dues in the American Legion Family. It's simple, but meaningful, way to stand up and be counted." - ***Kevin Collier***, Past National Commander, The Sons of The American Legion.

Legion Golf Outing

Ken Davison, Terry Daly, Dan Lucia & Laurie Davison

Robert, Kevin, Mayor Brian & Bo Sullivan

Coach Emmet F. Morrill 's foursome included sons Dan & Tom Morrill, both of whom are Youth Alumni

Ted Gage looking sharp in his knickers

The Legion Golf outing held on June 12, 2016 held at Tekoa Country Club was an overwhelming success. The goal of the event was to have a good time and at the same time, to raise money to support Westfield Post 124 Americanism programs such as the scholarships, tuition to sponsor Boys & Girls State citizens, Junior Law Enforcement Cadet tuition (previously known as Student Trooper), American Legion School Awards program, American Legion baseball, tents for Boy Scout Troop 821 and Children & Youth programs.

A special thank you to the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 124 member Terry Daly whose suggestions that he made in 2015 to improve the fundraising efforts from the Golf Outing. Terry suggested acquiring sponsors for Tee Box sponsorship for the 2016 Golf Outing which were implemented in 2016. The Tee Box sponsorship resulted in a very successful fundraising effort from the golf outing. Thanks to the volunteers at the course and at the Post that included: Todd & Sandy Gannon, Darrell Myco, Jack Blascak and Michelle Rozanski. The North End Butcher Block cooked Del Monaco steaks to order at the Post after the round of golf. The 2017 Legion Golf Outing will be held on Sunday, June 11, 2017 at Tekoa Country Club which will be a scramble with an 8:00 A.M. shotgun start.

Boy Scout Troop 821 Receives Donation to Purchase Two More Tents

The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 124 donates $ 300 to purchase two more tents at a Troop 821 scout meeting held on July 20th, 2016. Gene Theroux presents the check to Troop 821 Scoutmaster Joe Muto

This brings the number of tents donated from the American Legion Post 124 family to four for 2016.

This donation was made possible from the proceeds from the 2016 Legion Golf Outing.

It's always a pleasure to visit the scouts of Troop 821 who are outstanding citizens in the community.

American Legion Post 124 Recognizes Firtion-Adams

American Legion Post 124 recognized Firtion-Adams Funeral Service on July 28th, 2016. Past Commander Mo Spradlin presented a plaque that had a certificate of appreciation. Bill Cervonayco who had served the Post as Sergeant-at-Arms made a veterans trophy that was presented to James Adams.

Firtion-Adams has been a generous sponsor and a strong supporter of American Legion programs for many years.

Thanks to the 2016 Legion Golf Outing Sponsors and Donors

The following is a list of the 2016 Legion Golf Outing sponsors and donors. Please thank and/or patronize these generous sponsors and donors as appropriate:

Heritage Lawns of West Springfield
State Senator Don Humason
Shortstop Bar & Grill
The Mitchell Family
The March of Dimes Foundation
Cordes Orthodontics
E.J. Altobello & Tekoa Country Club
Jim & Lisa Masciadrelli
WSKB 89.5 FM - Your Community Radio
Mayor Brian Sullivan
Pepsi/Frito Lay
Big E's, Easthampton
David & Susan Huntley
North Elm Butcher Block
Jack & Donna Repoff
Home Depot of Westfield
B'Shara's (Southwick)
State Representative John Velis
Mestek, Inc.
Firtion-Adams Funeral Services
Boys & Girls Club of Westfield
Christopher & Taryn Willenborg
Cindy Lacoste, Post 124 Commander
Amelia Park
Walmart

Americanism

Since the country's founding, citizens have shown a devotion to establish a country free from prosecution and devoted to freedom, liberty, and democracy. As Sons of The Legion, we "foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism" through our daily activities in the Sons of the American Legion, we transfer that love of country and value of "justice, freedom and democracy" on to our youth. Strengthening the spirit of Americanism in all our citizens has positive values but especially when we engage the youth of our nation. They are truly the citizens of tomorrow who will carry on, not only the legacy of our organization but, the legacy established over 200 years ago as our nation formed from a group of dedicated patriots. Part of our overall purpose and mission is to continue to "inculcate an individual obligation to the community state and nation." When this is done through a spirit of Americanism, the true power of the individual comes to fruition. Each of us helping our community's efforts in some way reflects the positive element of Americanism that many seek out in the U.S. today as they leave their native lands for a better life and future. Embrace the ideals of the Sons. Work daily to make this a better country, help this carry through to the next generation by getting involved with our youth, start a Scout group, volunteer at a VA or at the Soldier's Home in Holyoke, or undertake just the simple act of going out and voting in the next elections. Exercise your rights and make a difference. Let the spirit of Americanism reflect from all you do!
- Americanism, Greg "Doc" Gibbs, National Americanism Chairman, S.A.L. National Update, Fall 2015.

Post 124 Implements American Legion School Awards Medal Program

The Award Medal represents the educational symbolism of the School Award Medal Program and associates it with The American Legion and its purposes. The medal is applicable for award to either boys or girls in the graduating class of elementary, junior and senior high schools, and colleges.

The objectives are:
1. Place emphasis on the development of the qualities of COURAGE, HONOR, LEADERSHIP, PATRIOTISM, SCHOLARSHIP and SERVICE.
2. Develop those ideals of Americanism among young people which will make them citizens of the highest type.
3. Give recognition through the award of American Legion School Award Medals to the boy and to the girl who are deemed most worthy of the high qualities of citizenship and of true Americanism.

The recipients of the 2016 American Legion School Awards Medal at Saint Mary's Parish Elementary School were:

8th graders: Aynsley Davidson and Jack Watson
5th graders: Amelia Willenborg and Everett Stec

The American Legion School Award Medallions were presented during the 2016 Saint Mary's graduation and Westfield High School Awards Night. The recipients were Benjamin Jury and Amaya Diana from WHS who are both alumni of the 2015 Boys State & Girls State program. William Alexander IV and Madison Bruno were the award winners from Saint Mary's High School. William Alexander is also an alumni of the 2015 Boys State program.

Westfield High School Seniors Awards Night

The American Legion School Awards Medallion was awarded during the WHS Seniors Awards Night. Past Commander and Post 124 Americanism Chairman presented the school awards to Ben Jury and Amaya Diana with assistance from Post Commander Cindy Lacoste.

Pictured are some of the 2015 Boys & Girls State alumni from WHS. Left to right: Dan Gosselin (UMass, Amherst), Kate McCabe (Fairfield Univ.), Amaya Diana (University of Pennsylvania), Gene Theroux, Ben Jury (United States Air Force Academy), Devon Kurtz (Dartmouth College). Missing from picture are Virginia Svec (Smith College) and Ellie Dufraine.

Congratulations to these outstanding citizens who represent the best of American values. The best of luck to them in their future endeavors. We are fully confident they will succeed.

Americanism: Scholarships Awarded at Memorial Day at Post 124

The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 124 two scholarships at the 2016 Memorial Day Ceremonies at the Post home after the Westfield Memorial Day Observance held in Westfield's South Middle School (the parade was cancelled due to inclement weather). In addition, the Squadron funded the third American Legion Post 124 scholarship.

The three scholarships funded and awarded by the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 124 were:

1. Past Commander Robert W. Myco Memorial Scholarship $500 – Devon Kurtz, Dartmouth College

Devon was the Valedictorian for the Class of 2016 at Westfield High School. Devon was very active in school activities that included Key Club for four years and was the New England District Lieutenant Governor . He participated in student council throughout high school was the 2016 Class President. Devon participated in the Massachusetts State Science & Engineering Fair and had placed 2nd in the regional fair and 4th in the state. In addition, Devon sever on the Massachusetts Governor's Youth Council during 2015-2016 as Councilor to the Governor, He is the co-founder and vice chairman of the Massachusetts Youth Conservatives Political Action Committee. Devon was the founder and coordinator of the Westfield News Student Think Tank and served as coordinator from 2012 thru 2015. In addition, Devon was a legislative intern for Senator Humason in 2013. Devon's hobbies include being the One Act Theater Group Director. Devon attended the 2015 Boys State program where he excelled. He was the Nationalist Party Chairman at Boys State and became the first Samsung Scholar from Western Massachusetts. Devon is a freshman at Dartmouth College where his major is Religion and Economics. Devon is a member of The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 124.

2. Al Drega Memorial Scholarship $500 – Anthony Riga, Suffolk University

Anthony graduated from Westfield High School in June. He had been active in numerous extra-curricular activities throughout his high school career such as baseball, golf, basketball, student council, Red Cross Club, peer mentoring which contributed to him being a finalist for Westfield High School's Bronze Tablet award.

The Bronze Tablet award is awarded to the member of the graduating class who has done the most for the welfare, good name and progress of Westfield High School.

Tony is a member of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 124 and a member of Post 124 American Legion baseball team. Anthony is attending Suffolk University as a Criminal Justice major. Anthony is the son of Post 124 member, US Army active duty Colonel Chris Riga and Gerri Riga.

3. Thomas J. Abernathy Memorial Scholarship $500 – Brian Mitchell, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Brian is in his sophomore year at Worcester Polytechnic Institute where he is an Electrical and Computer Engineering Major and has been on the Dean's list throughout his college career.

Brian graduated from WHS in June 2014 where he was active throughout his school years in sports such as varsity cross country and was in the Key Club. Brian earned his Eagle Scout merit badge in 2012. Brian enjoys running, soccer and video games. Brian is the son of Post 124 members Joe and Teresa Mitchell. Brian is a member of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 124.

Brian's sister Natalie Mitchell was the recipient of the inaugural American Legion Auxiliary Unit 124 scholarship. Natalie is a Freshman at Clark University and is enrolled as a Psychology major. Natalie is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 124.

Emmet F. Morrill, The American Legion Department of Massachusetts 2016 John Mulkern Educator of the Year

Emmet F. Morrill was named the 2016 American Legion Department of Massachusetts John Mulkern Educator of the Year during the recent American Legion Department of Massachusetts Convention held in Plymouth, Massachusetts during June 2-6, 2016.

Emmet taught in the Agawam Public Schools for 32 years (1968-2000) and retired in 2000. He taught every subject at one time or another (Science, Math, English, Reading & Social Studies). Emmet continued to be a substitute teacher for sixteen consecutive years after retiring from the Agawam Public Schools and until recently taught at Gateway Regional High School, West Springfield High School, and Westfield High School and continues to be a substitute teacher at Westfield Technical Academy. Mr. Morrill has been teaching, coaching, mentoring and being a positive force for youth for over 48 consecutive years. During the 2015-2016 school year, he was the girls' assistant soccer and assistant basketball coach at Westfield Technical Academy and is an assistant coach for the Westfield Technical Academy baseball team. Coach Morrill coached Westfield Post 124 Nick Clegg at Westfield Technical Academy and predicted at the onset that Nick would do well in Legion baseball. Coach Morrill was the Public Address announcer during the June 29, 2016 Youth Alumni Night home game at Bullens Field.

Emmet F. Morrill is a 34 year member of American Legion Post 124 which 18 of those years, he was coach of the Post 124 baseball team. He has fully supported the American Legion's Pillars of "Children and Youth" and "Americanism" by his teaching, mentoring, coaching, community service, and being an exemplary role model for students, players and adults alike. At the close of the Westfield Post 124 baseball season, the 2nd annual Coach Emmet F. Morrill scholarship was awarded to outfielders Colin Burns and Zachary Jarvis, both of whom are 2016 Westfield High School graduates and members of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 124.

Meet Weston B. Shepard Jr., Dual-Member of the American Legion and The Sons of The American Legion

Weston B. Shepard Jr., a World War II U.S. Navy decorated combat veteran. Wes was an aircrew member of U.S. Navy Bombing Squadron 98 which flew Douglas Dauntless Dive Bombers who served in the Solomon Islands in 1943-1944. Wes was award the Distinguished Flying Cross and was awarded three air medals as an Aviation Radioman First Class.

Wes was a member of America's greatest generation. Weston B. Shepard continues to serve today and has 45 years consecutive membership with the American Legion. His mother Julia Tibbals Shepard was a U.S. Navy WW 1 veteran. Wes is now a member of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 124 from his mom's service to our country in WW 1. Squadron 124 is truly honored and humbled to have Comrade Wes Shepard among our ranks. To learn more about Weston B. Shepard Jr., there is a short documentary video of him describing his participation in WW II, available at: https://www.youtube.com/

Some might argue that Weston B. Shepard Jr. must of had "*Lady Luck"* on his side not only for surviving his combat tour in the Pacific - he was also lucky to have been born. His mother Julia (Tibbals) Shepard survived the Influenza Pandemic of 1918. She was hospitalized October 7-11, 1918 at the New London Naval Hospital. It is estimated that some 20 to 50 million people died world-wide from the Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919.

American Legion Boys State

Boys State is designed to teach democratic values, improve knowledge of government and encourage citizen involvement through an intensive week-long program that immerses students in grass roots democracy. Over the course of seven days, students create and manage their own municipalities and work to understand how our government functions. In addition, they form political parties, create a platform, and vote in a slate of officers that mirrors state government. They also elect two senators to represent them at Boys Nation, a gathering held every July in Washington, D.C.

The 2016 Attendees of Boys State were:

1. Ari Schwartz, WHS, sponsored by State Senator Don Humason
2. Andrew Cameron, WHS, sponsored by WSKB 89.5 FM, Your Community Radio Station
3. William Lucardi, Saint Mary's High School, sponsored by Westfield Representative John Velis
4. Drew Collins, Saint Mary's High School, sponsored by Post 124
5. Padraig Smith, Saint Mary's High School, sponsored by Post 124
6. Ryan Prenosil, WHS, sponsored by Post 124
7. Jake Desclos, Southwick Tolland Granville Regional High School, sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 124
8. Jonathan Huntley, WHS, sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 124

Jake Desclos and Jonathan Huntley are members of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 124

There are three aspects to the program: academic, case-based instruction; participatory, learning-by-doing tasks of voting on platforms and candidates, and possibly running for office; and finally, social: meeting, working, and living with people from a variety of backgrounds from across the Commonwealth. When students arrive, they are assigned to a town and a party. The town is the group of boys they will study, eat and live with for the week. The parties are designated Federalist or Nationalist, and will represent what they decide, through debates, conventions and votes. Additional information on the American Legion Boys State Program can be found at: http://www.maboysstate.org

2016 Boys State

S.A.L. Squadron 124 Commander Gene Theroux visited Stonehill College on June 16th, 2016 and met up with some of the citizens sponsored by Post 124 or S.A..L. Squadron 124.

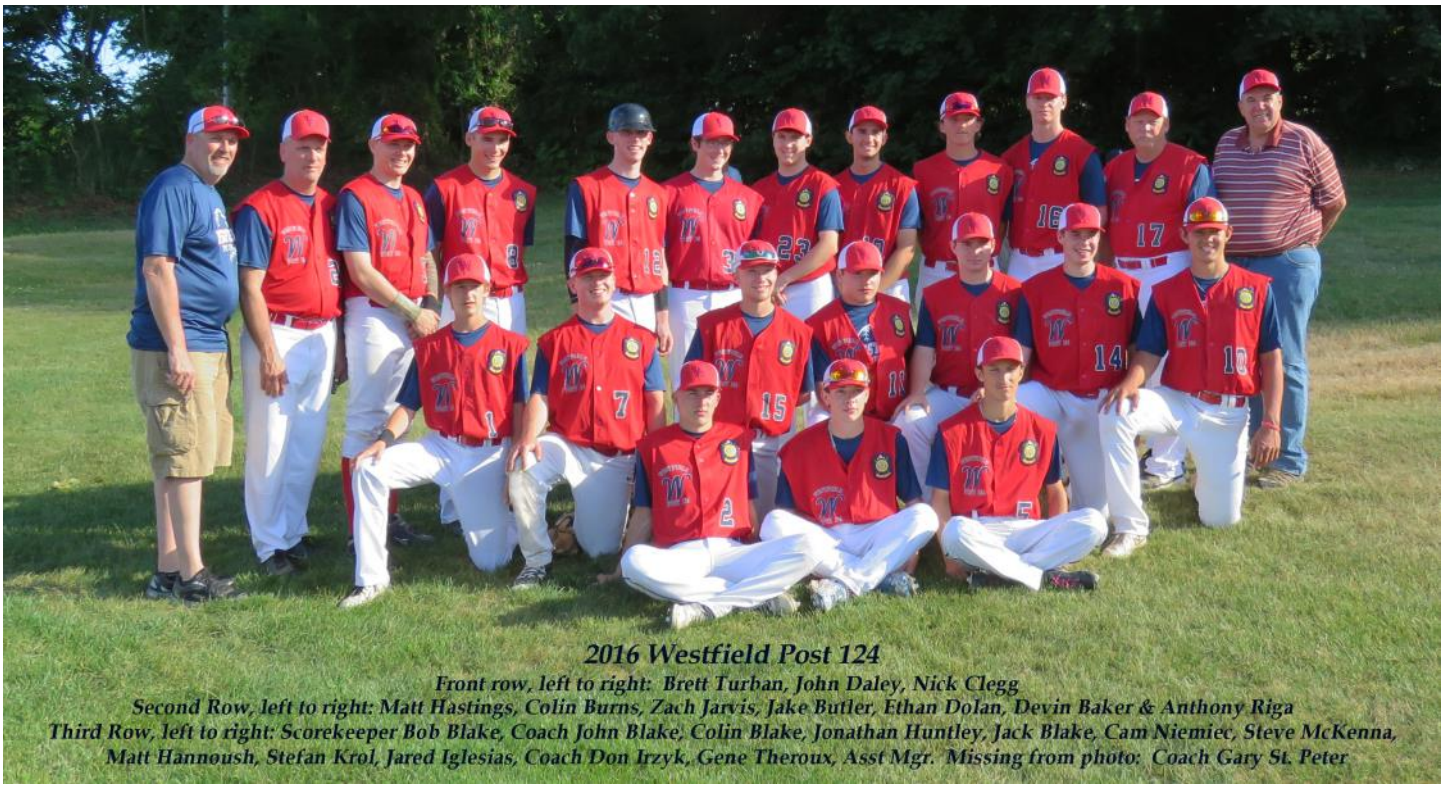
Pictured left to right: Gene Theroux, Drew Collins, Ryan Prenosil, Jonathan Huntley, Ari Schwarz and Andrew Cameron.

Left: JD Huntley receives American Legion Baseball hat and Boys State medal.

Right: Jake Duclos proudly wears his Boys State hat & Boys State medal.

American Legion Baseball

Westfield Post 124 had a very successful 2016 baseball season with a record of 10-5 in the regular season and 4-2 in the play-offs. We'd like to thank the players, the parents, the coaching staff of Coach Irzyk, John Blake, Gary StPeter and scorekeeper Bob Blake Jr and baseball committee member Kim Irzyk for their efforts through the season and keeping the American Legion Post 124 baseball program strong.



2016 Westfield Post 124
Front row, left to right: Brett Turban, John Daley, Nick Clegg
Second Row, left to right: Matt Hastings, Colin Burns, Zach Jarvis, Jake Butler, Ethan Dolan, Devin Baker & Anthony Riga
Third Row, left to right: Scorekeeper Bob Blake, Coach John Blake, Colin Blake, Jonathan Huntley, Jack Blake, Cam Niemiec, Steve McKenna, Matt Hannoush, Stefan Krol, Jared Iglesias, Coach Don Irzyk, Gene Theroux, Asst Mgr. Missing from photo: Coach Gary St. Peter

At a home game on June 29, 2016 at Bullens Field, the Westfield Post 124 hosted a very special event, ***Youth Alumni Night***. There was a special edition program produced for that evening that highlighted that there are hundreds, if not thousands of alumni of American Legion Youth programs who in their youth were sponsored by Post 124 and participated in American Legion youth programs such as Boys State, Girls State, Junior Law Enforcement Cadet Program (Student Trooper), and/or American Legion Baseball. The men and women that were recognized on Youth Alumni Night are just a sampling of the many alumni who benefited from American Legion Youth programs and how the experience has helped to shape, form and to make them better citizens. The American Legion Post 124 is proud of the achievements and successes of our youth alumni.

Honorees:

The Honorable Michael R. Knapik, 1980 Boys State Alumni

Devon Kurtz, 2015 Boys State Alumni

Katie Knapik, 2016 Girls State Alumni

Mayor Brian Sullivan, American Legion Baseball Alumni

Shannon Sullivan, 2016 Girls State Alumni

Richard K. Sullivan Sr., Boys State, Boys Nation & Legion Baseball, Kevin Sullivan, Bo Sullivan, Michael Sullivan & Robert Sullivan, American Legion Baseball

Daniel L. Genovese, American Legion Baseball Alumni

Youth Alumni Night

Dan Genovese and Mayor Brian Sullivan
Delivering Ceremonial First Pitch

Gene Theroux with American Legion Youth Alumni Honorees and Cindy Lacoste, Post 124 Commander

Westfield Post 124 Awards & Recognition Night

On Friday evening, 29 July 2016, the coaching staff, players, parents had an after season pizza party and a recognition and awards night for the players. Each player was presented with a participation certificate for American Legion Baseball. There were two co-winners of the 2nd Annual Coach Emmet F. Morrill baseball scholarship (Zach Jarvis & Colin Burns, both 2016 Westfield High School graduates). Proceeds from the annual American Legion Golf Outing held on June 12, 2016 funded the Coach Emmet F. Morrill scholarship. A check presentation of $ 1,200.00 from the proceeds of the Past Commander Richie Russell Memorial Golf Tournament by PC Butch Rines to Coach Irzyk which will be used to defray cost of new uniforms for the 2017 American Legion Baseball Season.

Stefan Krol (WHS) & Nick Clegg were presented American Legion Baseball medals and an accompanying certificate for being recognized for Outstanding Offensive Performance. Shortstop Matt Hastings was presented the American Legion Baseball medal and accompanying certificate for Outstanding Defensive Performance.

2016 Coach Emmet F. Morrill Scholarship Recipients ; left: Colin Burns, right: Zach Jarvis with Gene Theroux & Coach Morrill

Left: Coach Irzyk, Nick Clegg, Coach John Blake, Stefan Krol & Scorekeeper Bob Blake Jr.

Right: Coach Irzyk, Matt Hastings, Coach John Blake & Scorekeeper Bob Blake Jr.

National Defense

American Legion Department of Massachusetts 2016 POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremony

American Legion Department of Massachusetts POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremony aboard the U.S.S. Massachusetts at Battleship Cove, Fall River, Massachusetts

A somber and touching POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremony with many speakers that included WW II POW Robert Noble of Quincy and Vietnam War POW, U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander Timothy B. Sullivan of Springfield.

On Dec. 16, 1944, two days before Robert Noble's 19th birthday, Noble of the 87th Army Division became a prisoner of war. The Germans spied him in a trench and “captured 22 of us” said Noble, of Quincy, describing how he became a prisoner of war near Hanover, Germany, just over the French border at Alsace-Lorraine. Four months later after enduring horrendous conditions that saw the tall soldier’s weight plummet to near 100 pounds. Noble became one of the fortunate when Britain’s 8th Army liberated them

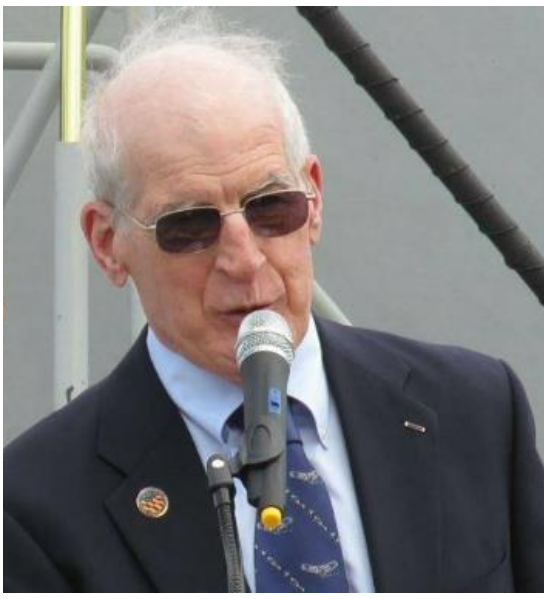
Sullivan was interned as a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam after he was shot down on November 14, 1967, and was held until his release on March 14, 1973. Sullivan was awarded the Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while interned as a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam during November 1967. Lieutenant Commander Sullivan's captors, completely ignoring international agreements, subjected him to extreme mental and physical cruelties in an attempt to obtain military information and false confessions for propaganda purposes. Through his resistance to those brutalities, he contributed significantly toward the eventual abandonment of harsh treatment by the North Vietnamese, which was attracting international attention. By his determination, courage, resourcefulness, and devotion, Lieutenant Commander Sullivan reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Naval Service and the United States Armed Forces. Sullivan was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States while serving as a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam.

The list of names of MIA still unaccounted for from Massachusetts from the Korean Conflict and from Vietnam was read and absolutely heartbreaking to hear status, "Missing, Sir". Individual carnations were thrown in the Taunton River after the "Missing, Sir" for each personnel unaccounted for.

There are still thousands of American POW/ MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America.

This POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremony was a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor!”

WW II POW, Robert Noble



Vietnam War POW Timothy B. Sullivan

The 2017 American Legion Department of Massachusetts POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremony will be held on September 10, 2017 beginning at 12:00 P.M. aboard the U.S.S. Massachusetts. American Legion Post 124 Judge Advocate and Westfield’s State Representative John Velis will be speaking at the 2017 POW-MIA Remembrance event.

Americanism - Get Out The Vote

2016 Presidential Election

Election 2016 - An American Legion Special Report

Our Pillar - Your Platform: 2016 Election Issues that Matter Most to the Nation's Largest Organization of Wartime Veterans

A Message From The Legion: The 2016 presidential and congressional elections come at a critical time for the United States, veterans, service members, young people and patriotic Americans. Many issues facing voters directly relate to defense, veterans health care, illegal immigration, the U.S. flag and other vital concerns of The American Legion.

This 28 page publication is available from the American Legion National website:

http://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/Our-Pillars-Your-Platform-2016.pdf

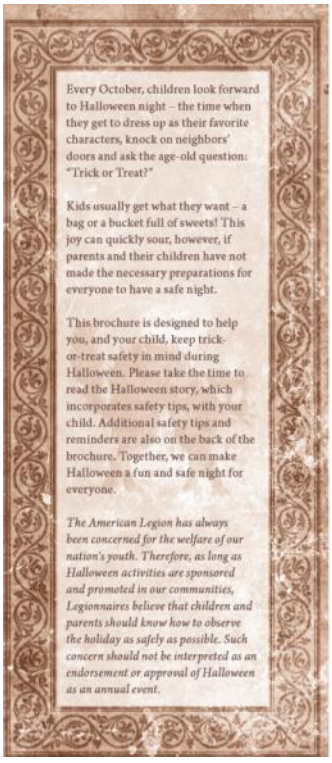
American Legion Policy on Partisan Politics: A reminder that the American Legion Charter prohibits it from participating in partisan politics (policy memo link below). However, The American Legion takes positions on issues and lobbies for veteran's benefits and a strong America. This is clearly permitted.

What is not permitted is the endorsement of any candidate or the donation of funds by The American Legion to a candidate. The American Legion takes positions on issues and its members being citizens need to be informed on the issues. The memo from the American Legion on Partisan Politics can be obtained at: www.legion.org/sons/files/parts.doc

Children & Youth: Halloween Safety

Halloween is a time for young people to dress up as their favorite cartoon character, music artist or superhero. It's also a holiday that The American Legion believes children and parents should know how to observe safely.

The Legion's brochure, "Make Halloween a Fun and Safe Night," provides trick-or-treating safety tips to keep in mind on Halloween. The brochure can be found and downloaded on the Legion's publication's website:
http://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/71ACY0716%20Halloween%20Safety.pdf



Every October, children look forward to Halloween night – the time when they get to dress up as their favorite characters, knock on neighbors' doors and ask the age-old question: "Trick or Treat?"

Kids usually get what they want – a bag or a bucket full of sweets! This joy can quickly sour, however, if parents and their children have not made the necessary preparations for everyone to have a safe night.

This brochure is designed to help you, and your child, keep trick-or-treat safety in mind during Halloween. Please take the time to read the Halloween story, which incorporates safety tips, with your child. Additional safety tips and reminders are also on the back of the brochure. Together, we can make Halloween a fun and safe night for everyone.

The American Legion has always been concerned for the welfare of our nation's youth. Therefore, as long as Halloween activities are sponsored and promoted in our communities, Legionnaires believe that children and parents should know how to observe the holiday as safely as possible. Such concern should not be interpreted as an endorsement or approval of Halloween as an annual event.

Halloween Safety Tips

- Pin a piece of paper to your child's costume that features their home or parents' phone number, home address, and to dial 911 for an emergency or 0 for an operator.
- Don't assume the right of way with traffic and always watch for vehicles backing out of driveways.
- Adhere to trick-or-treating hours in your community.
- Have fun and be safe!

Donate candy

Don't throw away excess Halloween candy! Ask your local American Legion post if they would like it. Many posts will put it in goody bags that they either send to the military men and women serving overseas or provide to homeless or hospitalized veterans.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Americanism Commission
Committee on Children & Youth
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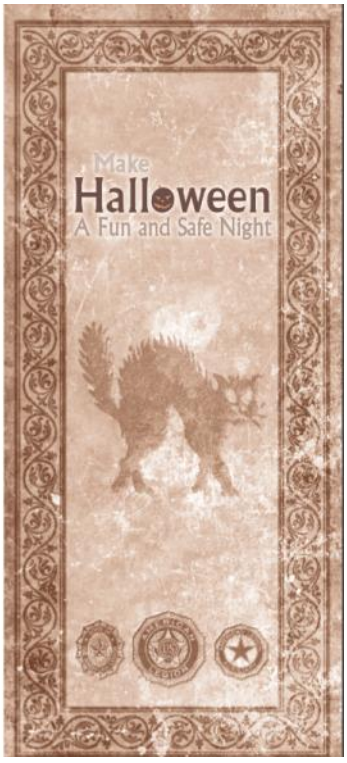
c&y@legion.org
www.legion.org
(317) 630-1323



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Post 124

WE ARE FAMILY

History of the Sons of The American Legion

The Sons of The American Legion "S.A.L." was created in 1932 as an organization within The American Legion. The S.A.L. is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion. Together, members of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion make up what is known as The Post 124 Legion Family. All three organizations place high importance on preserving our American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and perhaps most importantly, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.

Boy Scouts of America "Sea Scouts", circa: 1928

We Honor Those Who Serve