# 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**

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**We Honor Those Who Serve**

Post 124 Boy State Graduate Devon Kurtz named 2015 Samsung Scholar


**Inaugural Edition, Volume 1, Issue 1**


## 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.

## The Emblem of the Sons of the American Legion

The design of the Son's of the American Legion Emblem was taken from the emblem of the American Legion.

It was made in the shape of an oval to be easily distinguishable from the emblem of the American Legion.

Each part of the emblem is representative of the philosophy of the Sons of the American Legion. The star in the center represents our country.

The five points of the star represent the five-point program of the Sons of the American Legion.

The sun in the background represents the Sons of the American Legion

The rays represent the loyalty of its membership.

The blue of the emblem, like the blue of our flag, stands for justice.

The two stars in the blue border stand for freedom and democracy.

The Wreath below the star is in memory of our comrades and those of our fathers who willingly gave their lives for their country.

The ten points of the emblem represent the ten ideals of every Legion son.

## Commander's Message:

The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 124 has been quite active in its first full-year after rejoining the Post 124 family. The SAL has been fully supporting Post 124 and the American Legion's four pillars with concentration on Children and Youth, Americanism and our Veterans. It's important to note that it's been only 18 months since the SAL Squadron 124 reactivated its dormant charter of perhaps 75 years or more - best guess is that the SAL Squadron 124 surrendered its charter at the beginning of WW 2. We had found no mention of the SAL in researching the Post 124 historical records. Therefore, the SAL organizing committee initially thought there was never a SAL squadron at Post 124, hence why we applied for a new charter back in February 2014. The SAL had a total of 98 members for 2014-2015 which 78 of them were new members and held an additional 20 new membership applications for submission in the 2015-2016 membership campaign.

During this calendar year (2015), the SAL has donated $ 750 to the Holyoke Soldiers Home, funded and presented the first Sons of the Legion Past Commander Robert W. Myco $ 500 scholarship during the Post 124 Memorial Day Services, funded one Boy State attendee Devon Kurtz, who was named a Samsung Scholar on 15 October 2015, donated to the American Legion's Child Welfare Foundation, donated $ 125 to the Boys and Girls and Club of Westfield to fund two annual memberships and a camper's tuition to summer camp, awarded four scholarships for a total of $1500 to American Legion Post 124 baseball players, which all awardees were eligible for membership into the SAL and were gifted memberships by the SAL. Most recently, the SAL purchased a new Ricoh multi-function printer, copier, scanner and fax machine for Post 124 at a cost of $ 635. The SAL Squadron 124 had some effective fundraising during the year which included a generous donation of $ 5,000 from the parents of one of Post 124's baseball players Matthew Hannoush, who is also a member of SAL Squadron 124. Matt's parents Julie and Nabil Hannoush proudly served free meals to veterans after the Westfield Memorial Day Observance at their Shortstop Bar & Grill on 99 Springfield Road to thank them for their sacrifice and service to their country.

I'd like to thank Past Commander Ed Johnson who was the Post 124 Committee Chairman on restoring the charters for the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 124 and for the SAL in 2014. Past Commander Johnson continues to support the SAL Squadron as the Post 124 advisor to the SAL. There were a lot of people who assisted the Post in the restoration of the Auxiliary and SAL into the Post 124 family. There are too many of them to mention them all here, but I'd like to thank Ann Johnson, the Massachusetts American Legion Auxiliary District 3 Director for her efforts in guiding, assisting and supporting our Auxiliary Unit 124; Bill Murphy, Past Detachment Commander of Massachusetts S.A.L., SAL Past National Commander Cliff Smith, and Ray "Sunshine" Samko who is a dual-member of the American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion who is the editor of the weekly published vets news and a NEC for SAL Mass. I'm particularly proud of the S.A.L. Squadron 124 officers for their support and commitment not only to the S.A.L. but to the Post 124 family. The 2015-2016 Officers for S.A.L. Squadron 124 are: Commander Gene H. Theroux, a dual-member and Past Commander of Post 124, Senior Vice Commander Darrell R. Myco, Junior Vice Commander Jim Pitoniak, Adjutant and Treasurer: Todd Gannon, a dual-member and Past Commander of American Legion 124, Sergeant-at-Arms: Bill Cervonayco, a dual-member and long-time Post 124 Sgt-at-Arms, Chaplain: Paul W. Nimchick Jr, a dual-member who is also the Post 124 Chaplain. Three officers of the S.A.L. Squadron 124 were delegates to the SAL Detachment Convention in Plymouth this past June and the Squadron was recognized and presented two awards by the Detachment at the convention.

Some may ask, why belong to the Sons of The American Legion? One's motivation to join might be to honor their parent (s) or a grandparent's military service to our nation. Eligibility derives from the ancestor's military service from the Great War (WW I), Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf and the other recognized conflicts and dates that determine eligibility for membership into the American Legion. In addition, *We Honor Those Who Serve* and this blue star flag is displayed at each monthly S.A.L. meeting which is convened the second Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M. in the First Commander Stanley Kellogg Smith Hall (Post 124, 2nd floor). There are a good number of American Legion members who are dual-members. For me, it's to honor the service of both my paternal and maternal Grandfather's service as doughboys in France during WW 1 which both of them became charter members of the American Legion (in 1919) and to honor my father's service during WW 2. We encourage those existing American Legion members who meet the eligibility to be a "dual-member" to join the Sons to honor the military service of their ancestor(s), *to honor those who serve,* and perhaps becoming involved.

There are some S.A.L. members who were only months old when their parent or relative signed them up to be a member of the Sons of the American Legion.

The S.A.L. Squadron 124 goals for 2015-2016 include expanding our support for the American Legions' pillars with concentration on Americanism and the Children and Youth pillars in the greater Westfield community. We will help the American Legion with Veterans and National Security. Although we do not have a historian, we will publish a "S.A.L. Squadron 124 History Book" for 2016. The S.A.L. Squadron 124 would be supportive of a Post Oratorical Contest – for those who don't know, there are a lot of scholarship opportunities under the American Legion Family and we've been assisting in identifying and advertising them. The S.A.L. Squadron 124 will be looking to encourage our younger members to participate in the S.A.L. Five-Point Program of Service and for our young members, to participate in the S.A.L. Ten Ideals. The S.A.L. has been contributing to the development and publishing of content of the Post 124 history for the American Legion's Centennial in 2019. In addition, the SAL Squadron 124 has created a "YouTube Channel" for the Post 124 family and has published 4 videos to the channel. One of the videos that has been published to the *SAL Squadron 124* YouTube channel was the September 9, 1995 award dinner for recognizing Post 124 members with 50 or consecutive years membership in the American Legion. The Installation of Officers for the Post 124 family of the Legion, the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 124 and the American Auxiliary Unit 124 was a historical moment in the Post 124's history and I would like to extend congratulations to the newly installed officers and wish them good luck and success in their pursuit of service to God, Country, State, and Community.

## 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
Youth Program Alumni

### Children & Youth

Child Welfare Foundation
Family Assistance
Scholarships
Youth Support

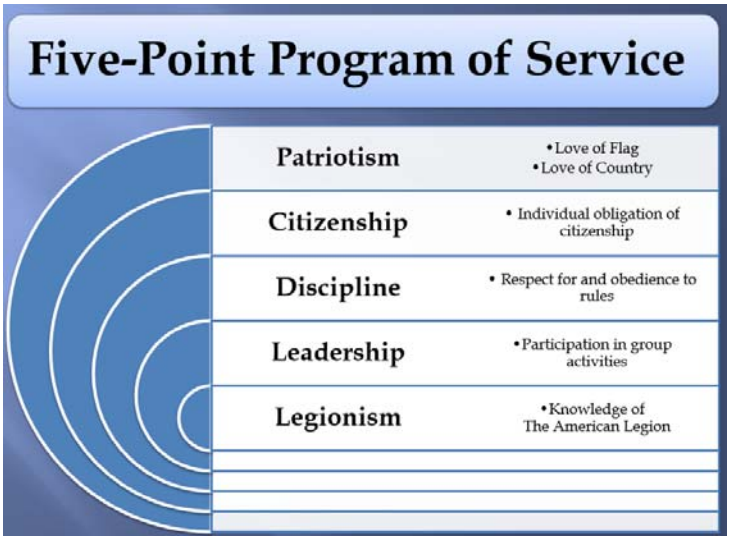
### National Security & Foreign Relations

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

## The Sons of The American Legion




Information on the Five-Point Program of Service, Five Star Award and Five Star Medals can be obtained at: http://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/sons_fivestar.pdf

The Five-Star Award, which can be presented to those SAL members who show dedication and knowledge in the Five Point Program of Service, is a gold plated medal bearing the SAL Emblem and the symbolism of the five points.

**Five-Point Medals**

After the member has earned each of the five Stars, he should then be awarded a Five-Star Medal for dedication and knowledge in the Five Point Program of Service.

## Tribute to a Past Commander's Legacy of Service

Past Commander Robert W. Myco (2002) 1937-2014. who was an United States Air Force Veteran who served 42 years total service to his country and retired as a Senior Master Sergeant. Highlights of Bob's military career included deploying to Phalsbourg Air Base France (1961-1962) during the Berlin Crisis. In addition, Bob had went on many deployments to places such as Turkey and within the CONUS. He was on active duty for Operational Deny Flight and Operation Deliberate Force in 1995. Bob was an active member of the ANG Alumni Association at Barnes. Past Commander Bob Myco served Post 124 as the Public Relations Officer and accomplished a superior job in managing the Post's Boys State, Girls State and Student Trooper Programs. Bob was an active member of the Post Honor Guard. PC Myco's will be remembered for his attention to detail, being task oriented and his meticulous instructions for continuity; the Post 2014 Boys State, Girls State and Student Trooper programs were successfully managed after his untimely passing.

Bob's son Darrell, the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 124 Vice Commander has carried Bob's legacy of service forward with his efforts in the Post's Americanism and Children & Youth programs. Darrell has been instrumental in the fund-raising efforts to fund the Past Commander Robert W. Myco annual scholarship and to fund tuition for a S.A.L. Squadron 124 sponsored attendee to the Massachusetts Boys State held at Stonehill College in June. The S.A.L. Squadron 124 is looking to expand it's support of scholarships by adding a second Sons of The American Legion Scholarship awarded during the annual Memorial Day Observance at Post 124. In addition, the S.A.L. will be looking to fund an additional tuition for a Boys State attendee from Westfield in 2016.

## Upcoming Events:

October 20th - Casino Night, Holyoke Soldier's Home: 6:30 P.M.
October 24th - Placement of American Flags, Saint Mary's Cemetery: 8:00 A.M.
November 1st - 104th Infantry Veterans Day Observance, 104th Infantry Regiment Memorial Park: 11:00 A.M.
November 9th - S.A.L. Squadron 124 Monthly Meeting, Post 124, Stanley Kellogg Smith Hall: 7:00 P.M.
November 11th - Westfield's Veterans Day Parade: 10:00 A.M.
November 26th - Thanksgiving meal at the Post
December 7th - Pearl Harbor Day Observation, Wojtkiewicz Park: 10:30 A.M.
December 12th - Post Christmas Party (must be 21 years of age or older)
December 13th - Kids Christmas party, 1:00 P.M. First Floor (Bar Closed) Sign-up required (under 12)
December 14th - S.A.L. Squadron 124 Monthly Meeting, Post 124, Stanley Kellogg Smith Hall: 7:00 P.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**
**Junior Vice Commander: Jim Pitoniak**
**Sgt-at-Arms: Bill Cervonayco**
**Chaplain: Paul W. Nimchick Jr.**
**Senior Vice Commander: Darrell R. Myco**
**Adjutant: Todd Gannon**
**Treasurer: Todd Gannon**

E-mail: salsquadron124@gmail.com
Website: post124.org
YouTube Channel: SAL Squadron 124

## Devon Kurtz Wins Samsung Scholar Award at Massachusetts Boy State

Devon Kurtz, President of Westfield High School's Class of 2016, attended Boys State this past summer at Stonehill College, sponsored by Post 124's Sons of the American Legion Squadron 124. He was one of ten Boys/Girls State attendees from across the country to be selected as a Samsung Scholar. The 2015 Samsung American Legion Scholarship recipients were announced Thursday (October 15, 2015) during the American Legion's Fall Meetings in Indianapolis. Devon will receive $ 20,000 for undergraduate studies. There were an additional 88 finalists across the country who will be awarded $ 852 each.

Devon plans to be a double major in Religion and Economics and then to attend law school. For a career, Devon hopes to become an attorney and a part-time minister. Devon has been gifted a S.A.L. Squadron 124 based upon his Grandfather Eugene J. Kurtz Sr. service in the U.S. Army during the Korean war and for being a Samsung Scholar,

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is available for high school juniors who participate in the current session of Boys State or Girls State and are direct descendants (or legally adopted children) of wartime veterans eligible for American Legion membership. The Samsung scholarship awards up to $ 20,000 for undergraduate studies (e.g. room and board, tuition and books) and each applicant is selected according to his or her involvement in school and community activities and academic record. Since 1996, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship has awarded nearly $5.5 million in scholarship grants to eligible applicants.

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected educational programs of government instruction for high school students. Each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government. At American Legion Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus and recreational programs. High school juniors are selected by local American Legion Posts to attend the program. In most cases, expenses associated with attending this program are paid by a sponsoring American Legion Post, a local business or another community-based organization.

The Massachusetts Boys State held it's 71st Annual Session at Stonehill College during the week of June 13-19, 2015. Each year, the American Legion Post 124 Boys/Girls Committee Chairman visits the guidance counselors at each of the high schools in Westfield to discuss the Massachusetts Boys/Girls State Program for that year. The Post membership votes to sponsor and pays the tuition for a minimum of six candidates to Boys/Girls State each year. This year, the S.A.L. Squadron 124 sponsored and funded the tuition for Devon Kurtz, the grandson of U.S. Army Korean War Veteran Eugene J. Kurtz Sr.

The Department of Massachusetts Boys State Chairman Mark Avis will coordinate with District Chairmen such as our District 3 Chairman Delfo Barabani Jr. and other Department of Massachusetts American Legion Post's Boy State Chairmen such as Post 124 Boys/State Committee Chairman Tom Pitoniak, Past Commander Post 124, District 3 Finance Officer & Post 124 Finance Officer to ensure that 400 boys from across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are provided an opportunity to attend this outstanding program. Information on the Massachusetts Boys State Program can be found at: http://maboysstate.org.

Representative John Velis, Massachusetts Boys State Chairman Mark Avis, and Mark Decavo at the Boys State Orientation, May 23, 2015

Devon Kurtz delivers Nationalist Party Platform at Boys State, June 13, 2015

Devon Kurtz being congratulated by Department of Massachusetts District 3 Boys State Committee Chairman Delfro Barabani Jr. Left: Mark Avis, Massachusetts Boys State Chairman, far right: Tom Pitoniak, Post 124 Boys State Committee Chairman.

# The Ten Ideals

- *Patriotism*
- *Health*
- *Knowledge*
- *Training*
- *Honor*
- *Faith*
- *Helpfulness*
- *Courtesy*
- *Reverence*
- *Comradeship*

Pictured: The Sons of The American Legion Detachment Vice Commander Ernie Laberge who has completed both the Sons of The American Legion's 5 Star Program of Service and The Ten Ideals.

Vice Commander Leberge leads by example and his duties in the Detachment include being the co-chairman of the Membership Committee. He has been an outstanding advocate and supporter to the S.A.L. Squadron 124. He has attended many S.A.L. Squadron 124 events including the Post 124 Baseball Team's Award and Recognition night on July 7, 2015. Most recently, Vice Commander Laberge performed the installation of the S.A.L. Squadron 124 Officers on October 2, 2015 at Post 124's First Commander Stanley Kellogg Smith Hall. SAL Detachment of Massachusetts Vice Commander Marvin Nay has supported the S.A.L. Squadron 124 at numerous events as well including the installation of the S.A.L. Officers.

## POST 124 Baseball

The Post 124 baseball team had a successful and a memorable season. We had a lot of talented younger players this year who were provided encouragement from the seasoned and experienced players. If we're able to retain these younger players for the 2016 season, it will be both a competitive and exciting season. The dedication of Coach Don Irzyk and his team of assistant coaches Bob Blake, Gary St.Peter, Rob Atkocaitis to the players is simply superior. The remaining members of the Post 124 Baseball Committee include Kim Irzyk and Gene Theroux, a Past Commander of Post 124 and Commander of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 124 who is the team's administrator, Post 124 Baseball Chairman, the baseball program writer and editor. Longtime Post 124 Baseball Chairman Tom Pitoniak now serves as the Department of Massachusetts District 3 Baseball Chairman and he continues to support Post 124 baseball. The support from the parents, the fans, from the Post 124 membership, and the from community is simply remarkable. Most of the player's parents attend each and every home game and Chris and Jerry Iglesias plan their summer around their son's Jared's baseball schedule, Karen Malinowski was a tremendous help with capturing images from the games which we made available by sharing a Dropbox folder. In addition, Karen Malinowski (mom of Brett Turban) and Betty Sobotka have both volunteered to assist with administrative help for next season which will further improve our processes and product. Mike Houle, father of Brent recorded video of almost all the games and provided an edited DVD to the players at the conclusion of the season. The photos and video footage were used on the Post's Video Bulletin Board system to introduce the players, provide highlights from the games, schedule of future games and to help with fundraising. A special thank you to Nabil and Julie Hannoush for their friendship to veterans and to the Sons of The American Legion - their generosity has been used wisely in supporting the American Legion's Americanism and Children and Youth programs by the Sons of The American Legion. .

For me, when I took on producing the Post 124 baseball program some nine years ago, I had no desire to attend the games, but that had changed over time as I began to know the players and the parents which many of them became good friends. What the Post 124 baseball committee tries hard to accomplish is to provide the player's baseball experience playing Legion ball. For the 2013 baseball season, we began to profile Post 124 players in the baseball program with their photo, a short bio of their baseball experience, academic achievements, school activities, community service, personal achievements and their goals. In addition, we wanted to profile the Alumni of our Legion baseball program from amongst the hundreds of men who had played Legion baseball for Post 124. The profiling of the players provided an eye opener to the baseball committee and to the Post membership of the quality of young men who play ball for Post 124 on and off the field and what they do in the community. Another goal of the baseball committee was to have the ability to award an annual baseball scholarship to a deserving player on the team. The 2015 season provided us the opportunity to satisfy that longtime goal of the baseball scholarship. The annual Legion Golf Tournament committee chairman donated $ 500 of the proceeds to the S.A.L. to fund the first annual Coach Emmet F. Morrill scholarship which was presented to 3 year Post 124 player Chris Riga by Coach Morrill. From the generosity of Nabil and Julie Hannoush, we were able to fund 3 additional scholarships that were awarded to players Colin Burns who received a $ 500 award for his academic achievement and community service. Colin was one of three Post 124 players who were teammates on the Saint Mary's baseball team that raised $ 10,000 and donated to the Wounded Warrior Project. The American Legion Post 124 family was both appreciative and proud of the Saint Mary's baseball team in supporting the American Legion's pillar of *Veterans and Rehabilitation*. Jared Iglesias and Geoff Sobotka were each awarded $ 250 scholarships. Of the 18 players on the 2015 Post 124 team, 16 of them were eligible for membership into the Sons of the American Legion and were gifted a membership to the S.A..L. Squadron 124 so they may honor the military service of their parent, grandparent or great grandparent who provided them eligibility to become a Son of The American Legion. Information on Coach Emmet F. Morrill, the entire team and sixteen players who are now Sons of The American Legion members can be obtained at the Post 124 website, baseball tab, page 2.

Chris Riga, the recipient of the first annual Coach Emmet F. Morrill $ 500 scholarship. Pictured with Chris are Gene Theroux, Coach Morrill and Todd Gannon.

Post 124 Catcher Jonathan Huntley who earned Eagle Scout at 13 years of age, receives the American Legion Good Citizen Certificate, presented by Troop Leader Joe Mitchell of Westfield's Troop 821.

## Membership News

Renewal notices for 2016 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 & SAL): Pay SAL per capita $ 6.00

**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

**S.A.L. Squadron 124 Mission Statement:** To strengthen the four pillars of The American Legion. Emphasis on preserving American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.

## Oratorical Contest

Delfro Barabani Jr, the Department of Massachusetts, District 3 Chairman for the American Legion Oratorical Contest and the District 3 Boys State Chairman visited Post 124 on Saturday, 17 October 2015 to congratulate Devon Kurtz for being selected a Samsung Scholar.

At the end of the formal program, Delfro was asked to explain the Oratorical Contest and the scholarship opportunities which he fully explained. In addition, he provided us the 2016 Rules and Regulations for the 79th Annual High School Oratorical Contest Sponsored by the American Legion. This document has been published to the Post 124 website and linked from the *Oratorical* menu on the left.

The Oratorical Contest is a great opportunity for High School students that will help them. We're eager to have contestants sponsored by Post 124. The following is an excerpt of the requirements for the prepared oration:

All contestants shall be required to deliver a prepared oration, which must be the original effort of each contestant, and must require not less than eight (8) nor more than ten (10) minutes for delivery.

The prepared oration must be based on some phase or phases of the Constitution of the United States which will give emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. Failure to do this may result in disqualification. The same subject is to be used for the prepared oration throughout all contests.

The contestant may choose their own subject or they may select a title similar to topics which follow:

An American Citizen's Rights and Responsibilities Under the Constitution

Our Constitution – Worth Having, Worth Defending

The Constitution In A Changing World

The Constitution In Our Everyday Life

The Bill of Rights – Reciprocal Rights and Duties

The Constitution – Guardian of People's Rights

*Note: If a high school student is interested, please ensure to acquire the entire Rules and Regulations from the Post 124 website.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
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Westfield, MA

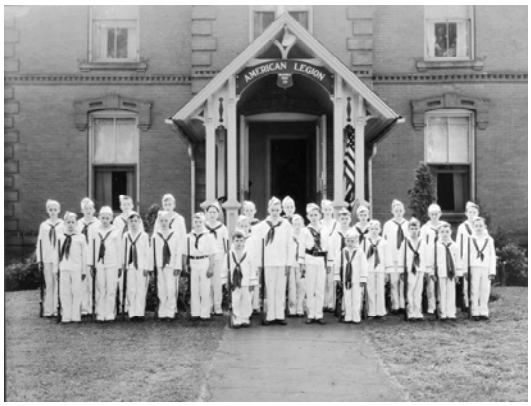


**Post 124**

**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***