



**National Executive Committee member
Bruce Feuerbach**

Hello Legionnaires, your National Organization has been working very hard for veterans and their needs, for example, the future of the VA health care. There are only about 5% of veterans choosing the Choice Program where they can receive care in their communities. We are hoping that Congress will pass legislation to unify VA's non-VA care in programs with the VA as the coordinator.

Modernization of veterans appeals that would provide veterans with a simple, fair, and transparent process where a decision would be decided within one year of an appeal by 2022. The last eight years the appeals have increased dramatically. If changes are not made it could take up to 10 years to receive a decision. There is a bill (H.R.457), which will shorten the waiting time for a claim. We should all support this legislation that puts veterans first.

Women veteran health care is very important to the American Legion. The American Legion wants every woman veteran to receive excellent care because of the sacrifices



**Department Service Officer
Gary Carter**

When you have the time to reflect the accomplishments of the efforts that are put into a great organization you can feel the pride of a job well done. The reputation of your Service Office continues to exceed expectations. The amount of claims that are processed daily for obtaining benefits, changing accounts and dependents are ever increasing. Every day the Service Office is constantly involved from the time we enter the office to the end of day. At the end of the day the normal snapshot is we have done well and continue to impact lives daily. So far since January of 2017 your office has awarded over \$80 million dollars in benefits to the veterans of the State of Iowa. This is giving them the opportunity to give back to the state in buying things they could not do before or being independent of having their own place to live in without being homeless or on the street. But we still have a problem and that is where we still need the help of all of you Legionnaires



**Department Chaplain
Dr. Daniel A. McClure**

Hi, Friends and Neighbors,

Indulge me a moment please. Recently I needed, yes needed, an honest Mexican meal so I made my way to Pueblo Real to acquire a Burrito Hawaiian. Of course I had to drive due to advanced age now allowing me to walk the 7 blocks and while on the way I was transformed into a hood ornament for an SUV following closely and at a great rate of speed. The speed



**Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander
Gary Bonesteel**

Greetings to one and all.

Well spring conferences are over. I must say I had good time at the conferences I went to 5th 6th and 9th District.

The SAL conference in Bedford was a good one to attend. Numbers were way down. I am looking for ways to get our attendance to increase. Any ideas on this please let me know...

they made while serving our country. Although the VA has made improvements in care, many challenges still remain.

The American Legion is requesting further research to see if cannabis is a viable option for treating pain, traumatic brain injury, and post-traumatic stress disorder, along with other illnesses.

The American Legion feels we must provide mandatory end-of-service exams for Reservists and Guard. Guard and Reservists should have the same right as active duty or separating or retiring from active duty service members. This is unfair treatment and must be changed. (Resolution 85) covers this matter.

A topic that does not get much press is that there are 5.5 million caregivers who go unnoticed while they care for America's wounded. Military caregivers suffer higher rates of depression and health problems than others in the same field. The American Legion is committed to the support of these hidden heroes.

Support veteran-owned small businesses; disabled veterans that own businesses are supposed to receive 3% of federal contracts. The American Legion is making an effort to see that this criteria is met. Also the American Legion is pushing for veterans to receive some of their G.I. benefits for starting businesses. This could be a win-win situation for veterans, because veterans hire veterans.

to reach out to veterans who do not know we exist and make them aware that they can get medical care, potential service connected benefits, or non-service connected benefits based on war time service. There are many times when we have had the opportunity to interview veterans that came into the office that did not know they were eligible for anything. With technology today it is truly amazing that this occurs and yet just by word of mouth of talking to your neighbors or coworkers in casual conversations could potentially make an impact in their lives as well. This is a great feeling of making a difference which can be contagious if you just take the time to listen and refer to them to either your Service Office or the nearest county service officer where they live. The Service Office is always ready for the challenges ahead and looks forward to each day that our veterans that need our resource of information to help them.

We could use a little feedback from our Veterans if you have been having difficulty with not receiving your travel pay entitlements for your VA medical appointments you have been scheduled for. The Service Office has inquired to the Veterans Administration if there have been any changes since the implementation of the contract examinations or civilian care referrals. The information received is that the policy has not been changed but if discrepancies are reported than can

limit is 35 mph and I was doing 35 mph which I discovered was too slow for the driver of the SUV. I turned my signal on to indicate my desire and intent to turn left and began to ease into the middle turn lane where I was met by a car doing the same but in the opposite direction. I moved back to the right to avoid an ugly situation. The SUV had sped up to pass me on the right but my avoidance of the car closed his avenue to pass.

I pulled into the parking lot at Pueblo Real and was confronted by a red faced vulgarity slinging cowboy who seemed upset that he would be late for his son's soccer game. He was not happy that I had avoided a head on collision, was traveling the legal speed limit, had properly used my signals to reveal intent but was merely upset his life was disrupted.

Had some good ideas we will try to work with and see how they work. Like getting some of our younger members to help out at Flag raisings for ball games, Color Guards while wearing SAL shirt or coat and cover.

Any SAL member wishing to attend the leadership school we still have a few spots available you can sign up on the website ialegion.org those are due by May 15th.

Went to Indianapolis for spring NEC meetings. Always a learning time.

Now is the time to really work on membership the 100% goal is May 10th. We just missed our goal we are currently at in national standings we are at 99.377 %. We just need to work a little harder. You can expect to hear from me or membership chairmen to see how we are doing in the next few weeks.

I would be remised if I did not reiterate that the American Legion is supporting a fully funded national defense as the global war on terrorism continues. With enemies such as the Islamic State, North Korea, and others we need to have state of the art equipment and enough troops to help other friendly countries and especially protect the United States. On that same thought the American Legion advocates for a good quality of life for our troops and an improved transition from military service to civilian life.

I would like to share one more item with you. With the American Legion's Centennial celebration coming in the year 2018-19 we are hoping the U.S. mint will authorize a coin to commemorate our celebration. The American Legion is also hoping and working with the United States Post Office to have a stamp to commemorate 100 years of service to our veterans and their families.

In closing I would like to encourage all Posts, whether you have elected or planning to elect your new officers, to get behind and support them and make next year an outstanding year. The American Legion needs the support of all members to be successful.

Hope to see many of you at the 2017 Department Convention at the Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines. Department is working very hard to make this a successful convention. Take care...For God and Country!

be investigated to see why there is a problem. The Service Office has received complaints of not getting travel pay, to being paid one way, and sometimes to the nearest VA facility. If you are having problems please provide us feedback so we can have this matter corrected and have every installations pay out the same way.

So here is your knowledge tip of the quarter: We will be recognizing FLAG DAY on June 14th but are your aware how this honor was established? Well it all started with the adoption of the American Flag by the Continental Congress in the First Flag resolution of June 14, 1777. Although the 200-year anniversary of this date was celebrated by flying flags on public building and holding remembrances in several cities, Flag Day wasn't officially recognized until President Harry Truman signed it into law in 1949. The week of June 14 is designated as "National Flag Week". During National Flag Week the President will issue a proclamation urging U.S. citizens to fly the American Flag for the duration of that week. This is also a time to continue to remember and honor military men and women who defend our flag and county.

Have a great summer be safe, and remember to reach out to a Veteran today and make a difference by providing them the opportunity to seek something they have earned.

After a reasonable tirade and several vulgar insights and a lesson on driving he drove off satisfied I had been properly chastised and instructed only to be pulled over and ticketed by law enforcement officers who had witnessed the whole incident. The young man apologized for his dad's words and actions and was not late for the soccer game.

All this was said to reveal that when we become self absorbed we become very foolish and even embarrass our families. MAYBE, JUST MAYBE we need to think of others to make this life worth living.

By the way, the burrito was excellent. See you at convention. God Bless.

Chaplain Dan

Summer convention will be held July 22nd at the Air Port Holiday Inn in Des Moines I would like to see you all there. Also consolidated reports are due by June 15th lets please get them in.

Be sure to like us at Iowa Sons of the American Legion on Facebook.

For God and Country.

Detachment of Iowa Call to Convention

The 2017 Detachment of Iowa Convention is hereby called for July 22, 2017 in the Airport Holiday Inn Convention Center; 6111 Fleur Dr.; Des Moines, IA 50321; (515) 287-2400. The meeting will begin with registration from 8:30 AM -9:00 AM; with the meeting convening promptly at 9:00 AM.