



Department  
of Iowa

# Legion Link

## Department Commander's Message



### Department Commander's Membership Message

Legion family,

As we enter the home stretch of our Legion year, it is time to look squarely at the numbers and remember exactly why we wear the cap. Right now, the Department of Iowa is **1,466 members behind** where we were at this time last year.

That isn't just a number on a spreadsheet. That is 1,466 missing voices. That is 1,466 veterans who aren't receiving our support, 1,466 families missing out on our community, and a diminished voice when we advocate for veteran benefits on Capitol Hill.

We have always been an organization defined by our mission and our mutual helpfulness. But to carry out that mission, we need people. We need *you*.

Closing a gap of 1,466 members is entirely within our reach, but it requires an "all hands on deck" effort from every Post, District, and individual Legionnaire across Iowa. We cannot pass the buck and assume someone else will make the call. We need to focus heavily on two fronts: **bringing new veterans into the fold** and **bringing our lapsed brothers and sisters back home**.

Look at your roster. Call the members who haven't paid their dues. Cross the street and talk to the veteran next door. Let's finish this year strong and ensure the Department of Iowa remains a powerhouse for veteran advocacy and community service.

For God and Country,

**Darrin Alderson**  
Department Commander  
The American Legion, Department of Iowa

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**The American Legion of Iowa**

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