



The Legion Scoop

Newsletter for the American Legion Federal Post #19
Baltimore, Maryland est. 1930 August 2024

Department of Maryland 106th Convention in Ocean City huge success

The American Legion Department of Maryland 106th Convention held in Ocean City in July was a huge success from beginning to end and a hearty salute to the people behind the scenes who made it happen. The Legion College sessions were informative and well attended with lots of new and useful information.

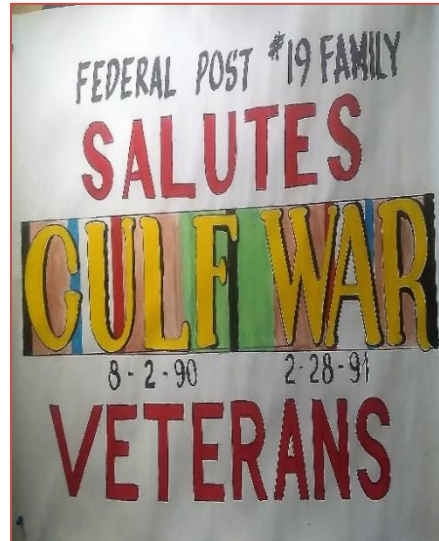
Federal Post #19 delegates took courses on Basic and Advanced Leadership and Administration, Judge Advocate, and Historian. Much of the material and information from the sessions can be found on the Department website under [Training Resources/Course Videos](#).

The Convention also elected officers for 2024-2025. Our new



Department Commander is David Heredia (pictured), Bernard L. Tobin Post #128, Aberdeen, MD. Comrade Nikki Randolph, Dorchester Post #91, Cambridge, MD, was elected as our Senior Vice Commander.

Commander Heredia pledges to “continue to work diligently for the Four Pillars” and to maintain “a united front with the Be the One initiative.” He also will strive to strengthen, insure, and sustain our (membership) growth. He noted that he chose purple



for our Convention shirt because when combined, the blue symbolizes stability and the red symbolizes energy, blue is calm and red is passion, all of which he hopes will create love, support, and a nurturing environment—“what we stand for.” The Commander’s Project for the year focuses on VA & R and raising funds for our Service Officers.

Much of the emphasis in this year’s Convention revolved around the Be the One initiative. Comrade Jim LaCoursiere, Post #91, Moosup, CT, leading candidate for National Commander, spoke before the Convention and emphasized consistency with his predecessors and noted that the Be the One initiative will remain a primary mission of the Legion. He challenged us to “to make our voices heard and let America know who we” by being active in our communities.



General Meeting
Sun, Aug 4, 4 pm at the Post

NCR Meeting
Sun, Aug 4, 1 pm
Brooklyn/Curtis Bay Post #157

DEC Meeting
Sun, Aug 16, 1 pm
Towson Post #22



Federal Post #19 receives 11 awards at Department Convention



During the Department Convention, Federal Post #19 received eleven awards in our categories and district. Past Post #19 Commander Larry Little declared that “Such recognition is a tribute to all the hard work and dedicated service that the men, women, and children of the Post #19 family perform each year. These awards belong to everyone, and we should all be proud of our achievement.”

The awards include 100% membership, Special Olympics (with Certificate from Special Olympics), Best SAL in the Region, Community Service, Best Website and Newsletter,

1st place ROTC/JROTC, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Best Service Officer and three for Children and Youth.



Comrades Reggie Baker and Rodney Reid participated in the POW/MIA Ceremony for the Post Everlasting Ceremony at Convention. Comrade Ronnie Holcombe also participated in the profound and somber Ceremony.



A hearty salute to the Maryland Legion Riders who raised more than \$155,000 for our Children and Youth Foundaton during this year's Legacy Run.

Federal Post #19 Family installs officers for 2024-25

On July 28, all three units of the [Federal Post #19](#) family installed officers before guests, family, and friends. The Legion gave out awards of recognition to all those who **volunteered** their time, energy, and money to help our Post.

Post #19 officers for 2024-25



Rodney Reid Commander
 Kaymin Brown 1st Vice
 Sabina Young 2nd Vice

Margaret Conaway Adjutant
 John Jones Judge Advocate
 Joseph Harden Finance Officer
 Adrian Barbour Service Officer
 Thomas Russum Chaplain
 Marlin Johnson Historian
 Reggie Baker Sgt.-at-Arms

Germaine Chappell, Kendall Cooper, Maurice Ellis, Thomas Kennedy, Gregory Scott, and William Young are the Operational Committee.

Unit #19 officers for 2024-25



Shelleyarlene Scott President
 Darnetta Simpson 1st Vice
 Pamela Hines 2nd Vice
 Donna Simpson Secretary
 Patricia Ann Walker Treasurer
 Sabina Young Chaplain
 Sherry Long Historian
 Lisa Ware Sgt-at-Arms

Tammy Hardy, Vickie Hardy, and Rokeysha Witherspoon comprise the Executive Board.

Junior Unit #19 honorary officers for 2024-25



Taylor Candy President
 Malyce Stancil Chaplain
 Ta'liya Candy Historian
 Zaiire Johnson Yarrell Secretary
 Tabatha Davage Treasurer
 Arielle Graham Sergeant at Arms

Zi'yon Wallace Color Bearer

Squadron #19 officers for 2021-22



Irvin JohnsonCommander
 Lewis Matthews 1st Vice
 Willam Pinder 2nd Vice
 Rufus Williams 3rd Vice
 Al Ramsey Judge Advocate
 Clarence Figgs, Jr. Adjutant
 George Wright Finance Officer
 Calvin Harvey Chaplain
 Enrico Williams Historian
 Darnell Gordon Sgt-at-Arms

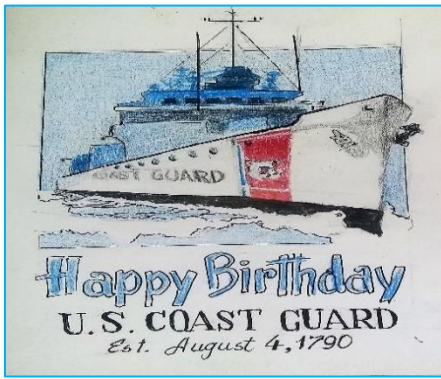


Comrade Ronnie Holcombe, Alternate National Executive Committee, receives the 2024 Federal Post #19 Legionnaire of the Year Award from Cmdr. Larry Little. He also received a special Appreciation Award from ALA Federal Unit #19.



Post #19 Color Guard takes a break after marching with Towson Post #22 in their 4th of July Parade.

Join to Serve



U.S. Coast Guard promotes first African American woman to admiral

This past April, the U.S Coast Guard promoted Captain Zeita Merchant to Admiral, making her the first black woman to serve as admiral in the service's 234-year history. Admiral Merchant will lead the Coast Guard Personnel Service Center in Washington, D.C., where she will oversee recruitment and scholarships.



The [history of the U.S Coast Guard](#) dates back to August 4, 1790, when Congress authorized the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service under the Treasury Department to enforce tariff laws and prevent smuggling. [African Americans](#) served from the beginning and worked and fought side-by-side with their white shipmates. While some were free African Americans, others were enslaved by officers in the Cutter Service, a practice not ended until 1843.

Nevertheless, African Americans, free and enslaved, fought in the Quasi War against France in 1790, and in the War of 1812. During the Civil War, African Americans comprised nearly 10% of the Cutter Service, creating de-facto integration, and during the Spanish-American War (1898), Congress awarded bronze medals for valor to Moses Jones and Henry Savage, black crewmen aboard

U.S.R.C. *Hudson* during the Battle of Cardenas Bay.

During World War I, ten African Americans crewmembers of the U.S.C.G.C *Tampa* gave the ultimate sacrifice when the cutter was sunk by a German U-boat in the worst naval loss of life in the war, 142 in total.

In 1943, the Coast Guard was the first branch of the armed forces branch to desegregate by assigning 50 black enlisted men and officers to the Coast Guard-manned USS *Sea Cloud*, which set the standard for integration in other Coast Guard and Navy vessels. And in 1944, five African American women enlisted in [SPARS](#), the Coast Guard Women's Reserve. Today, the Coast Guard continues to provide opportunities for African Americans and to break cultural barriers in the United States.



Earlier this year, Federal Post #19 family members Elaine Ware, La'Sharan Wallace, Betty Bonds, and Larry Little attended a reception for Post #19 family member Germaine Jefferson-Chappell, who retired as a civilian with the U.S. Coast Guard. Jefferson-Chappell served for several admirals during her tenure, one who drove up in an "NCIS" black SUV to congratulate her. Lieutenants, Commanders, and Captains were calling her "Ma'am." Most impressive and deserving of a hearty salute.



Bulletin for Auxiliary Unit #19

Unit #19 delegates attend ALA Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City

Delegates of [Federal Unit #19](#) attended the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maryland Convention held in July in Ocean City. The delegates to the Convention attended classes and business sessions and elected ALA Department Officers for 2025 including Connie Johnson as Department President.

Unit #19 received seven awards in several categories including membership. They also won 2nd place in the Poppy Hat/Mascot Contest (modeled below by Unit #19 members Lisa Ware and La'Sharan Wallace), raising the second most money in the state for the Poppy Fund.



Karaoke at the Sandbar in Ocean City.



What song do you think they are singing?

Unit 19 President Wallace gives heartfelt goodbye

"Thank you Shelleyarlene Scott forgetting us to our membership goal

and your work as 1st vice, Trishera Diggs, 2nd Vice, for your hard work; we kept her busy. Thank you Sabina Young for always going with me to do the last rites of our beloved members and Rokeysha Witherspoon for our lovely books you did while being historian and our executive committee, Robin Butler, Darnetta Simpson, and Lisa Ware for always being available to straighten out situations. Thank you, my two secretaries Yvonne Oliver and Kimberly and Yvette Yarbrough for keeping our finances together and on point. And thank you to the entire ALA; I appreciate you all for your commitment to our organization. SAL and Legionnaires, I thank you so much and definitely our Commander Larry Little for his total support. IT WAS AN AWESOME 3 YEARS!



A Word from the Sons

Detachment Commander

Obremski outlines goals for 2024-25

“My theme for this year is ‘Sons Having Fun Getting It Done.’ My year will be to continue in the revitalization of the only Youth Camp in Southern Maryland wholly owned and operated

by The American Legion Department of Maryland.

We all know the youth of today need a place to be able to attend for a safe and fun environment. The youth are our future, and we all need to help ensure that they continue in their learning as they grow up but always have fun doing so at the same time.



My project aims to create a vibrant space for our youth ages 2 and up, integrating essential playground elements such as slides, swings, climbers and more. Beyond physical development, these installations promote social interaction, creativity and a sense of joy among children. Fostering environments that nurture both physical and cognitive growth is crucial for the well-being of our future generations.”

Notes

Take the online [Basic Training Course](#) on the [National](#) website.

Please take time to visit or call our members who are sick and shut-in. They must not be forgotten.

Please remember to clean your own areas at the Post. Help keep all of us safe.

The Scoop salutes ...

us, our Post #19 family, for receiving a total of 24 awards from our state conventions in membership and all areas of the Four Pillars,

[Dorchester Post #91](#) for making the largest single donation from a veteran service organization to the VA Maryland Health Care System, 42K,

Unit #19 member Darnetta Simpson for receiving 2024 Unit Member of the Year and Squadron #19 Comrade George Wright for the 2024 Son of the Year Award,

all the volunteers and donors who helped make installation successful.

Sick Call

Louis Hardy
Freda Holley
Marlin Johnson
Emmet Pope
Claude Scott
Bill Williams

Post Everlasting



William “Billy” Hayes

