



The Legion Scoop

Newsletter for the American Legion Federal Post #19
Baltimore, Maryland est. 1930 February 2021

Department needs your input for Veterans Priority Survey

The American Legion, [Department of Maryland](#) is conducting a Veterans Priority Survey to help set Department priorities for the new year. By now, you should



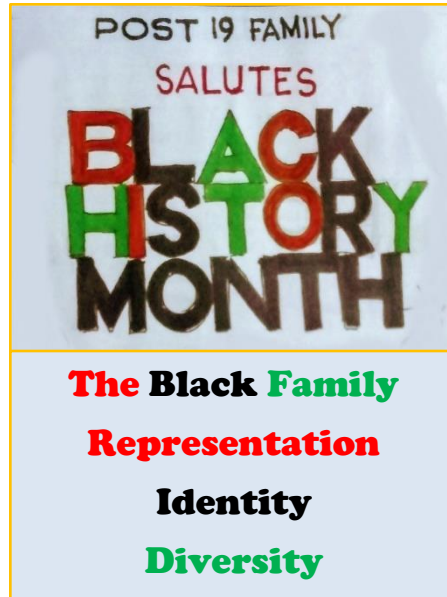
have received the survey in the mail. It only takes a few minutes to fill out, but your answers will be a tremendous help

in determining what direction the [Department](#) will pursue and how the [Department](#) will continue to change the lives of veterans, dependents, and children across the state.

[Department](#) Commander Phil Dorsey notes that “The issues we must resolve on behalf of our Veterans, dependents, and our future leaders are enormous. I need to know I can count on you ... and dedicated Legionnaires like you ... to guide us and support our critical mission that changes lives here in Maryland. I look forward to receiving your response and am grateful for your continued support. I pray that you also consider a gift to support the execution of our amazing Legion program and services.”

Baltimore District Four Chaplains Service canceled, but not forgotten

The Baltimore District was forced to cancel this year’s Four Chaplains Service; nevertheless, those brave clergy will never be forgotten.



Wednesday, February 3, 2021, marks the 78th anniversary of the sinking of the U.S Army Transport *Dorchester* and the selfless acts of four Army chaplains aboard. The *Dorchester* tragically sunk on February 3, 1943, while crossing the North Atlantic to transport troops to an American base



in Greenland. A German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck the *Dorchester*, killing 672 of the 902 officers and enlisted men, merchant seamen, and civilian workers aboard. Many of those survivors owe their lives to the courage and leadership exhibited by four chaplains of different faiths, who, in sacrificing their lives, created a unique legacy of brotherhood.

General Meeting
Sunday, February 7
4 pm at the Post

As soldiers rushed to lifeboats, Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic) comforted the wounded and directed others to safety. One survivor watched the chaplains distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and gave them to four young men. As the *Dorchester* sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying.

Nationwide, American Legion posts remember Four Chaplains Day with memorial services that pay tribute to the courageous chaplains and the brave young men who lost their lives on that fateful night.

Black History Month honors the black family

This year’s [Black History Month](#) honors and focuses on the Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity. In many ways, the greatest



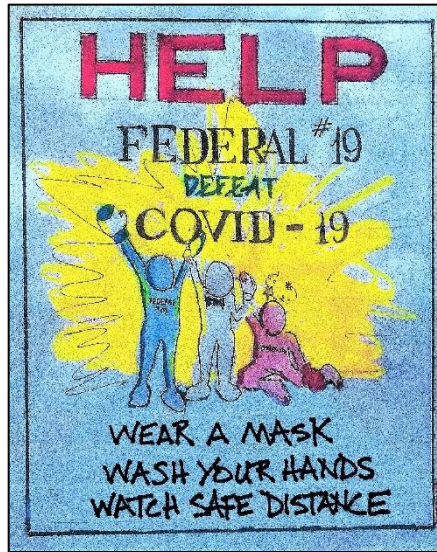
sin of American slavery was the break-up and separation of the black family whether from a village in Africa or a tobacco plantation in Maryland. The black family in America gets its start right on the

slave ships when captured Africans would care for children who had been separated from their families in a pattern of fictive kinship that existed throughout American slavery.

In American society, the black family provided the foundation for the development of the African American community and culture. Although restricted by American slavery, African Americans created extensive family networks that helped to educate the young, create and carry out common values and customs, and transfer culture from one generation to the next. The family allowed for individual and collective survival during slavery. Indeed, belief in their own humanity through family gave African Americans a powerful tool to combat slavery and the degrading effects of racism.

In the decades after slavery, African Americans liberated their families from white authority, legalized their marriages, sought greater family stability, and reunited scattered families, an overriding concern that persisted into the 29th century. The black family best represents a source of perseverance and resilience that brought African Americans through centuries of enslavement, Jim Crow laws, and the glaring racial inequalities and dangers that still exist.

Today, the black family continues to be the center of African American community and culture and serves as a microcosm of life in American society with all its complexity. The black family includes nuclear families, extended families, inter-racial families, same-sex marriage and parented families, and heterosexual parents of LGBTQ children. The family offers a rich tapestry of images for exploring the African American past and present.



Members of the Federal Post #19 COVID Relief Committee celebrate the reopening of the Post after raising more than \$1,370 for the Post. Fantastic job!

Boys State to be held June 20-26 at McDaniel College; applications now available

This year's [MD Boys State](#) will be held on June 20-26, 2021 at McDaniel College in Westminster, MD. Founded in 1935, Boys State is a summer leadership and citizenship program for high school juniors, which focuses on exploring the mechanics of American government and politics.



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 the program are paid by a sponsoring American Legion post, a local business, or another community-based organization.

In a tradition that dates to the 1940's, [Federal Post #19](#) attempts to sponsor at least one youth to Boys State. For instance, in 1951, [Post #19](#) sent one of only four African American youths of 150 total in attendance to the Boys State program at St. John's College in Annapolis. The July 7, 1951 *Baltimore Afro-American* noted that the youths were "chosen by their high schools on the basis of leadership and general character." [Apple TV is currently showing the critically acclaimed drama Boys State](#) that follows the trials and tribulations of attendees.

Applications for this year's [Boys State](#) are currently online. To be eligible you must be a male high school junior with at least one semester remaining in your senior year. Apply at the Boys State [Student Online Application portal](#).



The Christmas Building Fund Raffle winners Comrade Reggie Baker, ALA member Gloria Cephas, and Comrade Henry Ferguson pose for *The Scoop*.

The American Legion stresses online training at Department and National levels

While we're all stuck at home, now is the perfect time to learn more about The American Legion. Understanding and training are important to the future of our organization, and both [National](#) and

[Department](#) have introduced online education and training programs designed to increase our knowledge and effectiveness.

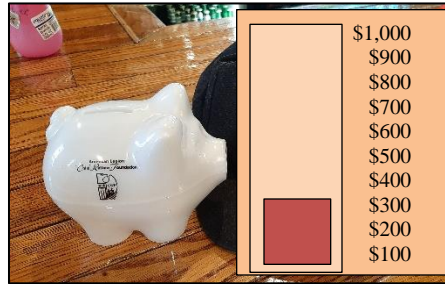
In October, the Department introduced the online [Department Training Resources Course](#). The lessons are designed mainly for the Post Adjutants and membership chairpersons who utilize [myLegion.org](#). It's also useful for those interested in learning about administration of a Post. Indeed, all members should sign up for [myLegion.org](#) to stay informed with digitized back copies of the *Legion Magazine* and *Digital Dispatch* and keep with the latest benefits. All you need is your Legion id number.

The courses have no prerequisites, and anyone can view and learn from the sessions. This is a great opportunity for all Legionnaires. The [Department Training Resources Course](#) webpage contains many great resources including Department Officers Orientation; Post Inspection; Judge Advocate Manual; Post Online Transmittal; Chaplain Training; Consolidated Post Report, and more information that you will find interesting.

It's still a good idea to take the [Basic Training Course](#) on the [National](#) website. [Post #19](#) Chaplain Margaret Conaway took the course and noted that "I never knew so much Legion history or that the Legion does so much for so many different people."

Also, in October, National initiated [Training Tuesdays](#) to be held the last Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. The first session was conducted by our own Department Adjutant Russell Myers on post administration and being a successful Post. All of the sessions are videotaped and online. You can learn about Legion programs like the National Emergency Fund (NEF); the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA), and Operation Comfort Warrior (OCW).

Federal Post #19 "Feed the Pig" fundraiser for Legion Child Welfare Foundation pushes forward



The next time you're at the Post, please don't forget to take your loose change and "Feed the Pig" to benefit our [American Legion Child Welfare Foundation](#). Even if you are stuck at home because of the pandemic, you can still purchase one of the little piglets for the low, low price of \$16. Just send a check payable to Federal Post #19 and note "Feed the Pig."

The cumulative donations from each Post, Squadron and Unit at the end of the program year is recognized with the Children First Gift Club award. Donation totals to receive the award are: \$1,000 – gold plaque; \$750 – silver plaque; and \$500 – bronze plaque. [Post #19](#)'s goal is to raise \$1,000 for the Foundation by May 31, 2021.



Bulletin for Auxiliary Unit #19

The ALA sponsors the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary sponsors the [Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship](#) to support the children of our warriors. These scholarships are awarded to 15 students annually who

excel in academics and volunteer in their communities.

It is important to acknowledge the sacrifices of our servicemembers who preserve our freedom, but that is not enough. The sacrifices of the children of those who served should also be honored. Providing funds to assist these children so they can pursue higher education is a concrete way of showing how much we, as a nation, care.

Three \$5,000 scholarships are awarded annually per geographic division, for a total of 15 scholarships. These scholarships are for undergraduate study only at a four-year accredited college or university, and may be used for tuition, books, fees, room, and board.

Candidates for this award shall be daughters, sons, grandsons, granddaughters, great-granddaughters, great-grandsons of veterans who served in the Armed Forces during eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion. [Applications are available online](#) and the deadline is March 1.



A Word from the Sons

New SAL site offers access to membership

Sons of The American Legion squadron adjutants and officers now have access to membership information, reports and electronic membership tools at [www.mySAL.org](#). The American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis developed the website to mimic myLegion.org, which assists post, district and county officers with their membership needs.

The new mySAL.org site allows members to search for members by name or ID number; see payment history for all members; find contact information for all members; view,

download and print rosters of current, expired, deceased, undeliverable and current-paid membership; view and edit squadron membership information; and locate a squadron.

To access mySAL.org, download the **registration form here**. The form requires approval signatures from both the squadron and post adjutants before it's sent to National Headquarters. Once national staff verify officer signatures and receive approval from the department, they will email instructions on how to create a mySAL.org account that requires a username and password.

The squadron adjutant on file at National Headquarters is the administrator of the site, but sign-on credentials can be shared.

VA Corner

VA MD Health Care System holds walk-in COVID-19 vaccination clinic on February 6 and 7

The VA Maryland Health Care System, in collaboration with the Maryland National Guard, is holding a Walk-in COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic on Saturday, February 6 and Sunday, February 7, 2021, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Baltimore VA Medical Center for Veterans 65 years of age and older who are enrolled with the VA Maryland Health Care System

As a walk-in clinic, Veterans will be served on a first come, first served basis while supplies last. Once the walk-in clinic reaches capacity, enrolled Veterans who did not receive the vaccine will be provided information on how to schedule a COVID-19 vaccination appointment.

Veterans must be 65 year of age and older and enrolled with the VA Maryland Health Care System to be eligible to receive the vaccine. Veterans must present their VA Health Information ID to park in the garage at the Baltimore VA Medical



Center and to check-in to receive the vaccine.

Veterans will be served on a first come, first served basis while supplies last. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine requires two doses, so Veterans will be scheduled for a second dose 21 days after their first dose. Masking and social distancing are required when visiting any VA facility. Veterans cannot be accompanied by a friend or family member unless they require caregiver assistance due to COVID-19.

The Baltimore VA Medical Center is located at 10 N. Greene St., Baltimore, MD 21201. The entrance to the medical center's parking garage is located off of W. Fayette Street.

Post 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. Personal responsibility and discipline will help keep all of us safe.



Membership for 2020-2021 is currently due. We missed 100% membership for 2019-2020, so please make every effort to pay your dues in a timely fashion.

The Scoop salutes ...

all the members of the Post #19 family who keep us strong and united during these rough times;

[Unit #19](#) President Gina Jones
[Squadron #19](#) Commander William Pinder for guiding us through these rough times and holding true to our Four Pillars;

all the participants in our COVID Relief Committee meetings who helped us raise funds in our hour of need.

Sick Call

**Louis Hardy
Freda Holley
Jimmy Johnson
Verlon Mills
Emmett Pope
Warren Scott
Lincoln Stokes
Abby Wilson**

Join to Serve