

The Morning Report

Quarterly Newsletter for The American Legion Springfield Post 32 Family

The Sons of The American Legion Honoring Forbears in Service to The American Legion Family Squadron 32 Commander Jim Peters



Paul Peavy
Commander
Post 32

World War I, the “war to end all wars”, finally ended in 1918 and on March 15, 1919, the American Legion was founded by WWI veterans. Legionnaires could never imagine another war like WWI, so in 1932 the Sons of the American Legion was established to carry on in honoring the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires.



Suzie Q. Weiss
President
Unit 32

Today, SAL members include males of all ages whose parents and grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership. Although the SAL has its own membership, it is not a separate entity. Rather, SAL is a program of The American Legion, and many Legionnaires hold dual membership in the Legion and SAL. **SAL’s mission is to strengthen the four pillars of the American Legion.** Therefore, Squadrons place an 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. Sons assist their posts in activities such as veteran’s programs, VA home and hospital volunteerism, children and youth projects and fundraising.



Jim Peters
Commander
Squadron 32

The American Legion Family has a combined total of nearly 4.2 million members. This year, the Sons of the American Legion attained an all-time high membership of over 365,000 members. The Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Illinois currently has over 13,000 members in 268 Squadrons in posts all across the state. Locally, our Squadron 32 membership total from 2021 was 121 members and 106 of those members have renewed their membership for 2022 as of March 3rd. With the help of American Legion Family members at Post 32 we have added 11 new members so far this membership year. Remember, the larger our membership count, the louder voice we have as we are advocates for our veterans and their families. Legionnaires, please consider dual membership and encourage your sons and grandsons to sign up. Or you can enroll them yourself! Squadron 32 membership dues are only \$20.00 per year.

Squadron 32 assists the Post 32 Legionnaires and American Legion Family members with events at the post and fundraising initiatives. From time-to-time Squadron 32 will be the primary on a fundraising event and the proceeds are used to provide food and gas cards for needy veterans and donations to worthy causes that support veterans and their families.



Mike Lee
Director
Post 32 Riders

Since 1988, the Sons of the American Legion has raised more than \$6.9 million for the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. SAL members have volunteered over 1.3 million hours at veteran’s hospitals and raised over \$2.5 million for VA hospitals and VA homes for a variety of items including TVs, radios, medical equipment, and clothing for the patients.

It is an honor to serve as the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 32 Commander and I’m proud of everything the Post 32 American Legion Family does for this great organization and veterans.

With Respect: Service to Veterans and Their Memory

No Veteran Left Behind
Service Officer and Past Commander Bruce O'Neil



Post 32 Service Officer received a request for assistance from a veteran just released from Danville veterans' hospital. The veteran, suffering from broken ribs, needed a recliner chair that would make sleeping less painful. Service Officer found a used recliner online. Post 32 Finance Officer, Mike Walton and Service Officer O'Neil delivered the chair on Veterans' Day of 2021.



**Inter-Veterans Burial Detail
Of Sangamon County**

The Burial Detail needs volunteers. In 2021, 384 military honors, including a rifle volley and Taps, were provided for deceased veterans. Rifle volleys with Taps were provided at 15 patriotic events. There were 28 volunteers 5 years ago. Today there are 17. Most of the decline was due to age and health issues. Uniform items are provided and dues for one required veterans organization is paid by the Detail. Members must agree to attend at least 10 funerals/events per year. Some evening, weekend and holiday funerals/events are available for those who cannot attend on weekdays. Our members are a dedicated group of men and women – unpaid volunteers – who strive to honor professionally and reverently those who have served and their family and friends. My contact information is below.

Gael K. Kent, Commander
224 Twin Oaks Drive
Rochester, Illinois 62563
818-953-5618 (C)
kamper279@comcast.net

The American Legion Riders and the 2021 National Wreaths Across America Day Post 32 Legion Riders Director Mike Lee

Arlington, Virginia, December 18, 2021: National Wreaths Across America Day took place on this day at 3,136 participating locations across the country. Our nation's heroes were remembered as each name was said aloud and honored. More than 525 truckloads of wreaths were delivered, representing 390 different carriers. Over two million volunteers, a third of whom were children, helped place more than 2.4 million veterans' wreaths on headstones of our fallen across the country. The American Legion Post 32 Riders took part and had a busy day. Pictures of the Springfield locations can be seen on Page 7 of The Morning Report

Friends of the American Legion Family and Sponsors of The Morning Report



**THE INTER-VETERANS BURIAL
DETAIL OF SANGAMON COUNTY**

NEEDS YOU

VOLUNTEER AT [KAMPER279@COMCAST.NET](mailto:kamper279@comcast.net)
ATTEND A FUNERAL AT CAMP BUTLER N.C.



**OUR POP-POP and GRANNY LOVE
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Dylan Walton, Benjamin Walton,
Lincoln Davis & Levi Davis**

The 88th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage To the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln

For More Information Contact Bob Wesley: bobwesley37@yahoo.com or 217-899-6826

The 88th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln was hosted by Post 32 on Friday and Saturday, February 11 and 12, 2022 in Springfield.

American Legion Department delegations from 9 states attended including: Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. Each delegation placed a memorial wreath during the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony at Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Wreaths were also placed by Illinois Adjutant General Richard Neely, representing The President of The United States; The American Legion National Commander, Paul Dillard; The American Legion Auxiliary President, Kathy Daudistel; The Sons of The American Legion National Commander, Michael Fox; Le Chapeau Nationale of the 8 & 40, Judith Zimmerman; Le Chapeau Departmental of the Illinois 8 & 40, Susan Heinz-Wojcik. Grande Chef de Gare of the Illinois 40 & 8, Paul Pardo and Presidente of the Illinois La-Femmes, Suzie Weiss jointly placed a wreath. Leaders of The American Legion Springfield Post 32 Family and Leaders of The American Legion Otis B. Duncan Post 809 Family placed wreaths.

Elected officials placing wreaths included Springfield Mayor Jim Langfelder, Illinois Senator Steve McClure and Illinois Representative Tim Butler.

The Tomb Ceremony was hosted by Commander Jim Peters of The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 32. Post 32 Adjutant, Jerry Bellatti and Post 32 Past Commander Bruce O'Neil. The 114th Illinois Volunteer Regiment (Reconstituted) provided an Honor Guard during the ceremony, and Legionnaire DeAnna Cagley provided her voice in singing patriotic songs.

The Commemoration Breakfast was held on February 12, with more than 150 attending. National

President Kathy Daudistel was the Keynote Speaker and gave a resounding tribute to Mr. Lincoln's ongoing legacy to our Nation.

The Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon was attended by almost 200 American Legion Family members from the various Delegations. During the luncheon, Commander Wayne Fischer of The American Legion Department of Illinois, presented a check in the amount of \$16,000.00 to Commander John Costigan of The American Legion Department of Kentucky. That check was donated by The Department of Illinois in recognition of our veteran brothers and sisters devastated by tornadoes in western Kentucky.

National Commander Michael Fox spoke briefly during the luncheon. He described the potential power of The American Legion Family at every level of our nation from local posts all the way to our national organization. He stressed our ability to take part in our communities, our states, and our nation in a unified, self-conscious way.

The Luncheon Keynote Speaker was The American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard of Texas. He developed his commitment and that of The American Legion Family to "no veteran left behind". A high suicide rate among veterans, homeless veterans and veterans with other needs should always be on our mind.

Special thanks to the Pilgrimage Ticket Committee (Barb Lush, Ethellynn Neville and Phil Drum) for their hard work. Special thanks to the Post 32 Legion Riders for organizing the motorcade quickly and successfully. Finally, special thanks to Mike Walton, Master of Ceremonies for the Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon. Visit the website to see pictures of the 88th Annual Pilgrimage:

ImageEvent.com/IllinoisAmericanLegionFamily.

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The American Legion Springfield Post 32 Family Leadership Officers Are Elected Annually to a 1 – year Term

Post 32 Commander Paul Peavy

During the March 15, 2022, monthly Post 32 Executive Committee meeting, I appointed Legionnaires Ron Halberg and Wilbur Bauman to act as the Post 32 Nominating Committee for election of Post officers for the 2022 – 2023 Command Year. The nominations will be made during the April 2022 Post 32 General Meeting. Membership will vote for their officers during the May 2022 Post 32 General Meeting. The following one-year positions will be open to nomination during the April meeting: Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, and Finance Officer. Additionally, Two, 2-year Terms (2022-2024) as members of The American Legion Memorial Home Corporation and Club Committee will be open to nomination during the April meeting. Membership will vote for officers during the May 2022 meeting. For each position for which more than one person is nominated a hand ballot will be held. See the Calendar of Events on Page 5 for the exact meeting dates for April and May 2022.

For more information, please contact me: paulpeavy@bellsouth.net or 217-622-6840.

Squadron 32 Commander James Peters

Greetings from SAL Squadron 32. On February 12th Post 32 hosted the 88th annual American Legion Pilgrimage to the tomb of Abraham Lincoln. Squadron 32 members assisted with planning, preparation and on the day of this great event. The SAL National Commander Michael Fox was in attendance along with Detachment of Illinois Commander Jeff Trout and many others from our SAL leadership. Personally, I was honored to serve as the host at the tomb for this year's pilgrimage. Seeing members of the American Legion Family from across the country gather to honor President Lincoln at the tomb is always a great experience. Our Squadron 32 monthly meeting is on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM right before the post meeting. We would love to see you there. If you use Facebook, please join the Post 32 Facebook Group and Like the SAL Squadron 32 page for upcoming events and announcements. Please sign up for SAL membership and encourage or personally enroll eligible men and boys in your family.

For more information, please contact me: jpeters.ilsal@yahoo.com or 217-416-1533.

Unit 32 President Suzie Q. Weiss

Greetings, American Legion Family. The Ladies' Auxiliary is on fire – our membership is up and we are, hopefully, moving in a good direction with helping our Veterans.

We just finished the Lincoln Pilgrimage and we're very proud to be part of hosting our National President and the Women of the central states. We held a Patriotic Conference on March 18/19, 2022 and assisted Post 32 with the Nelson Fundraiser on March 26.

On April 24, 2022, we will host a Taco Dinner from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Please, join us and help raise money to support our Veterans and their families. As we move into the Easter Holiday, remember how lucky we are to be in the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.

God bless the people of Ukraine and God Bless America.

For more information, please contact me: Weissuziq@aol.com or 217-341-3728; or Ethel-lynn Neville: Ethellynn1@comcast.net or 217-836-9173.

Post 32 Legion Riders Director Mike Lee

Hello. As the weather warms up The Riders start to get busy. During the upcoming 90 days Riders will undertake the following activities: 1) April 9 & 10 2022, 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM both days Legion Riders collect donations in front of Walmart for the Legacy Scholarship Fund and Comfort Warrior; 2) April 23, 2022, Blessing of the Bikes at Motorheads; 3) May 7 & 8, 2022 Vietnam War Memorial Vigil. We will do our regular early morning shift followed by breakfast at Road Ranger; 4) 14 May Haven Ride starting in Collinsville, Illinois and ending at The Haven in Carbondale, Illinois – to see pictures go to www.legion.org/veteranshealthcare/photos/235069/department-illinois-haven; 5) June: we will begin our Weekly Lunch Rides; 6) June 18, 2022, we will do the Freedom Run to Middle East Conflict Wall with details to be announced; 7) June 25 & 26, 2022, we will do the June Legacy Ride for district 4 with details to be announced.

For more information, contact me: 217-741-3003 or Biker1950@comcast.net; or Larry McCarthy Larrym60@hotmail.com or 217-523-8959

Post 32 Quarterly Calendar of Events

April, May, and June 2022

Event	Day, Date and Time
Regular Events	April, May, and June 2022
50/50 Drawing (Need not be present to win)	6:50 PM – Every Monday evening
4 th Wednesday Drawing (Must be present to win Color TV or Gift Certificates)	7:00 PM April 27, May 25, and June 22
Veteran's Administration Clinic	9:00 AM – April 5 & 19, May 3 & 17, and June 7 & 21
Unit 32 Meetings	5:00 PM – April 5, May 3, and June 7
Legion Riders Meetings	6:00 PM – April 5, May 3, and June 7
LaFemmes Meetings	5:00 PM – April 12, May 10, and June 14
ALMHC & Club Committee Meetings	5:00 PM – April 19, May 17, and June 21
Squadron 32 Meetings	5:30 PM – April 26, May 24, and June 28
Post 32 Meetings	6:30 PM – April 26, May 24, and June 28
NOTE: Nomination of Officers for the 22-23 Year	6:30 PM – April 26
NOTE: Election of Officers for the 22-23 Year	6:30 PM – May 24
Special Events	April, May, and June 2022
Good Friday	Friday, April 15 - All Day
Easter Sunday – POST 32 CLOSED	Sunday, April 17 – All Day
Unit 32 and LaFemmes Taco Lunch	Sunday, April 24 – 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Unit 32 Hosts Lunch for 21 st District	Sunday, May 1 – 11:00 AM
21 st District American Legion meeting at Post 32	Sunday, May 1 – 1:00 PM
Mother's Day – POST 32 CLOSED	Sunday, May 8 – All Day
Memorial Day – Fly your Flag	Monday, May 30 – 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Free Soup at Post 32	MESS HALL CLOSED
78 th Anniversary of D-Day	Monday, June 6
Flag Retirement Ceremony – Roselawn Cemetery	Saturday, June 11 – 9:00 AM
Flag Day	Tuesday, June 14 – All Day
Father's Day – POST 32 CLOSED	Sunday, June 19 – All Day

One of the Best Places to Work in Springfield

The American Legion Springfield Post 32 has been designated as one of the best places to work in Springfield by The Springfield Business Journal in its March 2022 issue. The process began with a communication to the Journal by employees of Post 32 followed by on-site interviews by Journal representatives. Post 32 operates a bar, The Mess

Hall Restaurant and a gaming room, all open to the public. Employees gave three reasons for claiming Post 32 as the best place to work: 1) pleasure in serving veterans and their families; 2) pleasure in serving the many non-veteran regulars who frequent Post 32; and 3) the relaxed atmosphere that comes from working on Springfield's Northend.

Friends of the American Legion Family and Sponsors of The Morning Report – Thank You!

American Legion Post 32

Mess Hall Restaurant

Lunch: Monday – Friday 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Dinner: Monday – Friday 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

www.springfieldamericanlegion.com

spfldpost32@outlook.com

Bar & Gaming open M-F 10:30 AM, Noon on Saturday and Sunday

1120 Sangamon Avenue – 217-523-3415

VIDEO GAMING – ALWAYS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



The American Red Cross “Service to the Armed Forces” Program

Dawn Morris, Executive Director, The Red Cross South-Central Illinois Region

The American Red Cross helps members of the military, veterans, their families and caregivers cope with the challenges of service, providing more than 513,000 services each year through a world-wide network of volunteers.

Military and veteran communities face unique circumstances. The Red Cross offers a variety of resiliency workshops with effective tools for the whole family to help improve communications, face challenges and manage stress. These programs are free, confidential and offered in person or online by licensed mental health professionals.

The “Coping with Deployments” program helps military families to manage stress and communicate effectively while their service member is deployed. Participants learn how to help their children cope with stress, in addition to building a family communication plan and discussing psychological tips on handling separation. These workshops are available in person or as a self-guided online course.

Reconnection workshops are designed to help service members, veterans, their families and caregivers learn how to cope with military-specific challenges and are available for adults, teenagers and children. These discussion-based workshops encourage participants to share their experiences and practice resilience-building activities to help reconnect with family members, work environments and communities.

Mind-body workshops focus on how emotional, mental, social and spiritual factors can directly affect physical health, and provide tools to stay grounded and refocus during times of stress. One workshop teaches participants foundational techniques like mindfulness, breathing and stretching, which are proven to lower stress and improve well-being.

Another workshop guides participants through techniques for personal and professional growth, such as drawing, journaling and meditation. These workshops were developed and reviewed by a team of experts in mental health, mind-body practice, military culture, and complementary and integrative healing.

The Red Cross Military and Veteran Caregiver Network offers peer-based support to those providing care to wounded, ill or aging service members and veterans. This is a global network created by caregivers for caregivers, supporting one another to decrease feelings of isolation and increase feelings of connection, hope and well-being. The network also supports veterans who are caregivers.

The Red Cross works with military aid societies to connect eligible military, retired military, veterans and their families with financial assistance in times of hardship. This assistance can include funds for emergency travel, food and shelter and more.

Volunteers are needed at your local South Central Illinois Red Cross chapter. Disaster response volunteers go to the scene after incidents like house fires or severe weather events and help provide comfort and supplies. Preparedness volunteers help families and communities prepare for emergencies before they happen by teaching people how to reduce the risk of disaster, prepare to respond effectively, and cope when a disaster happens.

The Red Cross is facing its worst blood shortage in more than a decade. Blood and platelet donations are critically needed to prevent delays in vital medical treatments. Make an appointment to give lifesaving blood or platelets as soon as possible.

Please visit [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org) for more information on Red Cross military programs, to become a volunteer or to give blood.

Friends of the American Legion Family and Sponsors of The Morning Report – Thank you!



Wreaths Across America Day, 2021 in Springfield

Post 32 Legion Riders, Director Mike Lee



Lincoln's Tomb with the
114th Illinois Volunteer Honor Guards



The Spanish America War Memorial and Cemetery



Camp Butler National Cemetery



Cemetery of the Grand Army of the Republic
(Civil War Version of the American Legion)

The American Legion Riders would like to thank those who donated to Wreaths Across America for helping to make it a successful 2021. American Pride on Display at this Year's National Wreaths Across America Day: more than 2.4 million Sponsored Veterans' Wreaths were placed by Volunteers at 3,136 Participating Locations Across the Country. Looking forward to December 17, 2022.

Friends of the American Legion Family and Sponsors of The Morning Report – Thank You!





The American Legion Springfield Post 32
1120 Sangamon Avenue
Springfield, Illinois 62702-1853
217-523-3415
Spfldpost32@outlook.com
www.springfieldamericanlegion.com

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The Mess Hall Restaurant at Post 32

Great Food – Warm and Friendly Service
Best Fried Chicken, Walleye and whole Catfish on the North End

Lunch, Monday – Friday, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Dinner, Monday – Friday, 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Lunch and Dinner specials every day in addition to full menu and children’s menu

Phone 217-523-3415 for the daily special and orders to go

See the full menu at www.springfieldamericanlegion.com

We serve inside, outside and drive thru.

Video Gaming at Post 32

Our Hours: Monday – Friday, 10:30 AM to Closing

Saturday and Sunday – Noon to Closing

We welcome everyone to our Video Gaming Room at your American Legion Post 32. It is considered the nicest private Gaming Room in Springfield. We have six of the most up to date gaming machines, along with our private area with very comfortable chairs.

The Gaming Room offers **free** Soft Drinks, **free** Coffee, **free** Hot Chocolate, and **free** Snacks to Gamers. You should also sign up for the **free** Give Aways offered by Prairie State Gaming. Each time you visit be sure to get your Card punched for a **free** Meal. 10 punches get you a **free** lunch or **free** “All You Can Eat” Spaghetti Dinner on Wednesday or **free** Chicken Dinner on Thursday or **free** Walleye Dinner on Friday.

You can sign up once a day, every day that you come in for our **free** 4th Wednesday Drawing where we give away a 32” Color TV; a \$50 Gift Certificate and a \$25 Gift Certificate.