



Cynthia Robbins
Commander
Post 32

The Morning Report

Quarterly Newsletter for The American Legion Springfield Post 32 Family

Martin “Marty” Conatser Past National Commander (PNC) The American Legion

PNC Marty Conatser in His Words



Suzie Q. Weiss
President
Unit 32

I find it hard to explain to others just how great an honor it was to serve as The American Legion National Commander. First, I need to explain my own background. I was raised in a small farming community of 450 people and attended DeLand Weldon High school, a graduating class of 28. Enlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard. I served in the guard and active duty a total of 26 years before retiring.

It took six years once Illinois selected me to be their candidate to run for National Commander for me to achieve the office. I chaired three National Committees, spent 2 years traveling to every state campaigning for the office. Trying to learn how The American Legion operates state by state. Every state has different programs that are most important to them. We all work membership and support for our veterans and their families, but each state has different approaches to that mission.

As I traveled, I was inspired by the great things our American Legion family did in their own communities. Helping the homeless veterans, scholarships, baseball programs, Boys and Girls State programs where just a few of the ways The American Legion family served their communities. It was heartwarming to see just how caring and generous our members were with their time and money helping each other and their communities.

One of my most cherished memories is attending a ceremony conducted by Native American Veterans at Mt Rushmore and getting to be part of that event.

Serving our troops Thanksgiving meals in Korea helped remind me why the Legion family works year-round to support our Active-duty personnel.

The travel was hard, I spent 7 nights at home during the year I served as National Commander. I visited every state and traveled to the far east and Europe. Everywhere we traveled touching our active-duty men and women was a key to explaining The American Legion’s mission.

Having the opportunity to represent this great organization when testifying about veterans’ issues before congress was exciting and challenging. To play a key leadership role, being the spokesman for The American Legion, was an honor that I will never forget.

Again, coming from a small-town background to serve as National Commander of The American Legion was a great experience. I can’t “Thank” the Illinois Legion family enough for giving me the honor of serving as National Commander.

Editor’s Addendum

PNC Conatser served as Commander, The American Legion Department of Illinois during the 1997 – 1998 command year. He served as PNC The American Legion during the 2008 – 2009 Command year. Since 2016 he has continued his service to the American Legion as The American Legion Adjutant, Department of Illinois. Thank you, PNC Conatser.



Jim Peters
Commander
Squadron 32



Mike Lee
Director
Post 32 Riders

The 90th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln

Another Successful Pilgrimage to Mr. Lincoln's Tomb Bob Wesley

The 90th Annual Lincoln Pilgrimage was a smashing success. Sixteen American Legion Departments were invited. Of those 13, including Illinois, sent delegations of varying size and composition. Those sending delegations included: Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin.

Chef de Chemin de Fer Frank Campo, a Post 32 Legionnaire, of the National 40 and 8 attended. National Director Georgiann Callaway of the National Honor Society of Women Legionnaires attended. Though unable to attend, LaChapeau Nationale Linda Diebel was represented by L'Aumonier Nationale Luella Buske.

Within the American Legion Family, Daniel J. Seehafer, National Commander the American Legion and Donald Hall, jr., National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion attended and participated fully in the ceremonies. Though Lisa Williamson, National President of The American Legion Auxiliary was unable to attend, she was represented by PNP and Special Envoy, Sharon Conatser. PNC Denise Rohan was also in attendance.

Mayor Buscher attended, placed a wreath, and spoke at the Tomb. She also gave words of welcome during Breakfast and the Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon.

Other dignitaries taking part in the Tomb Ceremony include Illinois State Senators Doris Turner and Steve McClure, and Illinois State Representative Mike Coffey.

We scored some impressive numbers this year. There were 211 individuals at the Breakfast and 220 individuals at the Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon. There was a total of 143 nights reserved at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel.

The impact of the Pilgrimage on Springfield's economy is impressive. 211 breakfasts times \$30.00 each equal \$6,330.00. 220 lunches times \$35 each equal \$7,700.00. 143 nights at the hotel times \$112.00 equals \$16,016.00. Adding the 3 together equals \$30,046. Not included is money spent at the Post 32 Open House held every year the night before the formal ceremonies of The Pilgrimage.

It Has Been an Honor Bob Wesley

It has been my honor to hold the position of General Chairman of the Post 32 Lincoln Pilgrimage Committee for the past five years. I have decided to relinquish that honor following the 90th Annual Pilgrimage. It is significant to note that in the 90-year history of the Pilgrimage, there have been only 5 Post 32 Legionnaires to hold this position. In addition to my 5 years, (2020 – 2024), Herbert Tragethon and Noel C. Moore served a total of 43 years (1935 – 1978), Mike Walton served 35 years (1978 – 2013), and Tony Libri served 7 years (2013 – 2019). In 2025, Jim Peters, Commander of The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 32 will assume the position of General Chairman.

The Lincoln Pilgrimage is THE Post 32 legacy, and we are justly proud of it. The members of the Post 32 Lincoln Pilgrimage Committee are the ones who make it a huge success thus maintaining the legacy.

Unit 32 member, Penny Lee, prepared 26 of the wreaths placed during the Ceremony at Mr. Lincoln's Tomb. Director Mike Lee and the Post 32 Riders delivered the wreaths to the Tomb the evening before the ceremony and retrieved the wreaths immediately following the Tomb Ceremony. The Riders also organized the vehicles taking part in the Pilgrimage to the Tomb. Unit 32 member, Ethellynn Neville and Post 32 members Barb Lush and Phil Drum organized meal tickets and provided them to attendees during the Breakfast and the Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon. Legionnaires Jerry Bellatti, Dave Cooper and Bruce O'Neil and Squadron 32 member Jim Peters organized activities during the Tomb Ceremony. All serve as volunteers. Thank you for making my time as General Chairman a success.

I also give thanks to The American Legion Family Department of Illinois for their support and participation in the Lincoln Pilgrimage: Adjutant Marty Conatser The American Legion of Illinois; Acting Director Sharon Conatser The American Legion Auxiliary of Illinois; Adjutant Jeff Van Horn, The Sons of The American Legion of Illinois. And a very special thanks to Christy Rich and Shandi Green, staff of The Department of Illinois.

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
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**



In Service to the Community

President Suzie Weiss (5th from the left)
and Director Mike Lee (4th from the right) Lead

Auxiliary Unit 32 and Post 32 Legion Riders
In providing hats and mittens to every student
At Withrow-Matheny School

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



**Thank You Veterans
for Your Service**



The American Legion Springfield Post 32 Family Leadership

Post 32 Commander Cynthia Robbins

Greetings to all Post 32 members. As we enter the 2nd quarter of 2024 our Post's membership goals still require attention. I urge each of you who have not renewed your membership to seriously consider opting for the 5-year membership. Dues will increase in 2025 so act now and save yourself some coin.

The May 1st deadline for our \$5,000 educational scholarship is fast approaching. The wonderful option to our Post scholarship is it can be utilized for journeyman or apprenticeship programs as it is not limited to a traditional college/university education. The scholarship application can be downloaded from our website www.SpringfieldAmericanLegion.com, under the Resources tab. Please address the completed application to my attention at 1120 East Sangamon Ave, Springfield, IL 62702.

I have mentioned The Blue Jean Project a past Morning Report. This program provides quilts for any veteran in a hospital or nursing home in Illinois. The Project provided quilts for our Holiday for Heros Christmas program. I am reaching out for financial, blue jean, yarn and fabric donations to assist this program. If you have something to give to this worthwhile project, please contact me directly.

The Sangamon County Veterans Assistant Commission currently has open positions for Veteran Service Officers. Please contact Post 32 VSO Bill Mowder or myself for further information. These positions are contract in nature with benefits. A great opportunity for any veteran wanting to assist other veterans.

As always, please feel free to contact me via email sacinrob@yahoo.com or 217-638-9197. You may leave a message at Post 32 for me as well.

Post 32 Legion Riders Director Mike Lee

Last quarter was busy for the Riders. Next quarter will be just as busy. In April, we collect donations for The American Legion's Legacy Charities and will take part in the Hippy Run to raise money for the Vietnam Memorial Vigil. Also, we will ride to Forsyth, Illinois Coziahr Harley Davidson for the Blessing of the Bikes.

First weekend in May, we take part in the Vietnam War Memorial Vigil with breakfast afterwards. May 9th, we assist the Auxiliary with selling Poppies at Walmart.

In June We will host a Car Cruise with the Route 66 Cruisers car club, and Vintage Iron motorcycle club and plan on it being a Legion Family Day. Next quarter will be just as busy. Ride Safe and get plenty of wind therapy.

For more information about these events, contact me: 217-741-3003 or Biker1950@comcast.net.

Squadron 32 Commander James Peters

February 12, 2024, we celebrated President Lincoln's birthday and honored America's greatest President with the 90th Annual National Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln. We set a record for the number of states participating in the Pilgrimage with 17 states attending. I was honored to serve as host at the tomb again this year. American Legion National Commander Daniel Seehafer's luncheon speech was one of the most inspiring I've ever heard.

I want to thank Chairman Bob Wesley, all the volunteers and the post staff for making this year's Pilgrimage one to remember. I'm looking forward to doing my best to continue this tradition as I assume the role of General Chairman for the Pilgrimage. Bob has done a fantastic job, and I will most certainly strive to live up to Bob's excellent planning.

We are getting close to that 100% membership mark. I mailed another reminder to SAL members who have not paid their dues yet this year. Thank you to everyone who recruited new members or joined this year. Please help continue to grow our membership.

Soon we will be kicking off the raffle of our custom collectable American Legion .45 caliber pistol. Watch for announcements on that and please consider purchasing tickets and spreading the word. For God and Country. Contact me: jpeters.ilsal@yahoo.com or 217-416-1533.

Unit 32 President Suzie Weiss

Unit 32 is on a roll. Fourth Division and the 21st District are holding the distinction of being in first place for membership for the state. If you are eligible, please consider joining our fine ladies at Springfield Unit 32. We have a wonderful group of ladies in the Auxiliary and your membership would be a plus.

On April 14th we will be doing Tacos, Sancho's, Taco Salad, Taco Soup and Chips and Salsa. Please come and support US! Open to the public.

In May – Happy Mother's Day! The Post is closed. On May 14 we will be with the Legion Riders at the North Walmart from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM handing out poppies. Everyone is welcome to help.

In June we will be having a quarter auction in Sherman at the Sherman Athletic Club. Hours will be: Doors open at Noon, Auction from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. We will be serving lunch. We have lots of amazing things to auction so come and join us. Also, in June Happy Father's Day and again the Post is closed.

On a good note, we were at Matheny Withrow School with the Riders donating caps and gloves to every student. God Bless all of us and God Bless America.

Contact me: Weissuziq@aol.com, 217-341-3728.

Post 32 Quarterly Calendar

April, May, and June 2024

Event	Time and Date
Regular Events at Post 32	April, May, June 2024
4 th Wednesday Drawing (Must be present to win Color TV or Gift Certificates)	7:00PM – April 24, May 22, June 26
Unit 32 Meetings	5:00 PM – April 2, May 7, June 4
Legion Riders Meetings	6:00 PM – April 2, May 7, June 4
LaFemmes	5:00 PM – April 9, May 14, June 11
ALMHC Club Committee Meetings	5:00 PM – April 16, May 21, June 18
Squadron 32 Meetings	5:30 PM – April 23, May 28, June 25
Post 32 Meetings	6:30 PM – April 23, May 28, June 25
Special Events at Post 32	
Unit 32 Taco Lunch	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM – April 14
Post 32 Closed Mother's Day	Post 32 Closed All Day – May 12
Morning Report Meeting	6:00 PM – May 21
Post 32 Free Soup (Mess Hall Closed)	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM – May 27
Post 32 Closed Father's Day	Post 32 Closed All Day – June 16

**Your car's story doesn't have to come to an end just yet.
Let it embark on a new journey with purpose by donating it to The American Legion.**



Why Donate Your Car?

1. **Extend Its Service:** Your loyal car has been by your side through thick and thin. Now, let it continue its journey by supporting veterans and their families through our vehicle donation program.
2. **Ease of Donation:** We've streamlined the donation process to make it as easy as possible for you. We'll take care of everything – from paperwork to towing, we handle it all.
3. **Tax Benefits:** By donating your car, not only will you be supporting our nation's veterans, but you may also enjoy benefits come tax time.

Your car's story doesn't have to come to an end just yet. Let it embark on a new journey with purpose by donating it to The American Legion. Thank you for considering this impactful way to honor our veterans. More information? <https://legion.careasy.org/home>.

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

American Legion Post 32, 1120 Sangamon Ave – 217-523-3415
Mess Hall Restaurant
Lunch: Monday – Friday 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Dinner: Wednesday – Friday 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
www.springfieldamericanlegion.com spfldpost32@outlook.com
Bar & Gaming open Monday and Tuesday – 10:30 AM-6:30 PM
Wednesday - Friday – 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
Saturday -NOON – 10:00 PM Sunday – NOON – 4:00 PM
1120 Sangamon Avenue – 217-523-3415
Mess Hall, Bar and VIDEO GAMING – ALWAYS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Honor, History and Humor at Camp Butler National Cemetery

Gael Kent, Commander, Inter-veterans Burial Detail of Sangamon County

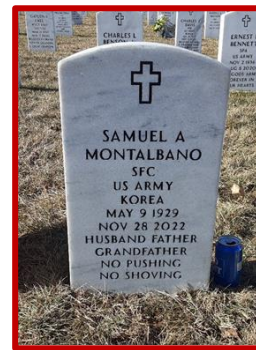
Camp Butler National Cemetery (CBNC) is hallowed ground. It is the final resting place for tens of thousands of deserving veterans and members of their immediate family. Members of the Inter-Veterans Burial Detail of Sangamon County (The Detail) consider it an honor and privilege to provide military honors, with or without the Department of Defense, for these veterans and their families. In 2022, The Detail provided military honors at 339 funerals, averaging almost seven per week. Approximately 294 (87%) were at CBNC.

Members of The Detail take the opportunity between funerals to honor and remember their family members buried at CBNC by visiting their final resting place. They also honor veterans with whom they served on The Detail, those with significant achievements and those with unique information on their headstones. Every veteran deserves honor and remembrance for their service.

One site of significant achievement is that of a Springfield native Medal of Honor Recipient. On July 26th, three members of American Legion Post 32, Springfield, Illinois, honored Medal of Honor recipient John Catherwood at his grave site. They are David Janssen, Bill Settles and David Cooper. According to Wikipedia, John Hugh Catherwood (1888 – 1930), was a United States Navy Ordinary Seaman (OS), born in Springfield. He “. . . received the Medal of Honor for actions during the Moro Rebellion aboard USS Pampanga (PG-39). Seaman Catherwood was critically wounded during action on September 24, 1911.” Visitors can honor their relatives and secure their personal history. Visitors to the cemetery can locate the grave of family members by accessing the “Grave Locator” terminal located outside the cemetery office and/or online at <http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/campbutler.asp>.

CBNC has its history documented online and on plaques, monuments, and memorials throughout the cemetery. The CBNC website lists a memorial carillon that the American Veterans (AMVETS) donated around 1970. The website also lists the Blue Star Memorial installed May 19, 2006, and the Korean War Memorial installed May 23, 2006. A monument honoring the Illinois LST sailors was erected in May 2006. Several plaques and informative signs are displayed on walkways throughout the cemetery. CBNC was selected in 1861 as a Union army training site. State Treasurer William Butler assisted General Tecumseh Sherman in acquiring the site. “General Sherman was pleased with the site and named it CBNC to honor his companion.” CBNC was a prison after the capture of Fort Donelson, Tennessee. 2,000 Confederates were held there. Primitive facilities, harsh winters and summers, diseases and epidemics decimated the prisoner population. 700 POWs died in the 1862 smallpox epidemic. They are buried in a special section of CBNC.

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) permits next of kin the opportunity to personalize the headstone the NCA provides with as many as four lines in addition to the record of service of the veteran. Sam Montalbano was a conscientious member of The Detail and served at every funeral for over 20 years. He had a great sense of humor. He always had a joke to share and always requested fellow Detail members to share jokes with him that he could tell at the Little Flower Catholic Church Mens’ Club. His humor is reflected in the lines that he requested that are forever chiseled in stone.



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



Post 32 Nominating Committee for Election of Post Officers

Legionnaires Bruce O'Neil and Emile Bouvet

We have been tasked by Commander Robbins to find members willing to serve this post in any of these positions for the next term of office. Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander and two (2) 2-year positions on the Club Committee/ Memorial Home Corporation Board. If anyone would like to be nominated for any of these positions you can email us, and your name will be added to the list. If you have any questions about the duties and requirements to fill any of these positions you can contact the post Officers, Adjutant, or Judge advocate of the post for complete duties and requirements of the office you would be seeking. Nominations will be made during the April 23, 2024, Post 32 regular monthly meeting at 6:30 PM. Elections will be held during the May 28, 2024 regular monthly meeting. You must be present to accept the nomination. Thank You and I look forward to hearing from you. You may contact us via email: Bruce O'Neil bwojlo1@gmail.com or Emile Bouvet ebouvet1@att.net.

Your Post 32 Service Officers

William "Bill" Mowder

217/607-7158

bill.mowder@yahoo.com

Keith Milliman

217/626-1378

klmill@casscomm.com

Mr. Mowder will be your first contact.

If unavailable, contact Mr. Milliman.

**The American Legion Department of Illinois
105th Annual Convention**



**105TH Department Convention
July 9 – 14, 2024, Springfield, Illinois**

Go to: <https://www.illegion.org/>

And Select: News and Events

**BOS Center
8th and Adams
Downtown Springfield**

**President Abraham Lincoln Springfield Doubletree
Hotel**

**7th and Adams
Downtown Springfield
Make Reservations**

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/americanlegionconvention/>

**Important Notice – Change in Hours at Post 32
Please Continue Reading
The Final Page of The Morning Report**

**New Hours for Post 32
Bar, Restaurant and Game Room
New Hours Effective January 1, 2024**

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

Best Fried Chicken, Walleye, and whole Catfish on the North End

Changes in Bar-Video Hours - Effective January 1, 2024

Bar & Video Gaming

Monday & Tuesday	10:30 AM – 6:30 PM*
Wednesday - Friday	10:30 AM – 10:00 PM*
Saturday	12:00 PM – 10:00 PM*
Sunday	12:00 PM – 4:00 PM*

MESS HALL RESTAURANT - Lunch

Monday – Friday	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
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MESS HALL RESTAURANT - Dinner

Wednesday – Friday	4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
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**We will stay open later for crowds and special events.*

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.