

Post Commander: Cliff Barker
Unit President: Jodi Mann
Squadron Commander: Russ Belz
Chapter Director: Doug Sargent

Vol XLIV, No 10

May 2026

225 Main Street
 Ames, IA 50010
 515-232-9870

www.ameslegionpost37.com
www.ialegion.org
www.iowaala.org
www.ialegion.org/riders

www.legion.org
www.alaforveterans.org
www.sal.legion.org

Ames Legion Family In Action

Differences Arise in Veterans Community Legislation

You may have heard or read about proposed veterans legislation in the Iowa Legislature. There were rumors that a bill was coming that would reform the process by which veterans claims were filed and providing training for the county veterans service officers. We had hoped to see that bill before Veterans Day on the Hill in January but it was withheld until just after that event.

Legion leadership found what we considered several important deficiencies in that legislation, important enough that it was felt necessary to declare opposition to the proposed legislation. Primary among those problems was a proposed ranking of the counties across Iowa with the lowest ranking counties losing training funds as a result.

This bill is based on the assertion that Iowa is in 47th place across the US when measured by veterans ben-

efits per capita. That may be true but we had trouble seeing how cutting training funds for problem counties would raise that ranking. Hence our opposition.

As time has passed and events have continued in the legislature, that legislation passed the Senate and moved to the House of Representatives.

The Veterans Affairs committee in the House did not approve the bill causing it to fail due to the second funnel. In an unprecedented action, though, the bill was moved from Veterans Affairs to Appropriations making it exempt from the funnel.

Along the way, the bill from IDVA has picked up support from the VFW, DAV and the Iowa National Guard, leaving the Legion aligned with the County Association of Veterans Service Officers (CAVSO) in opposition.

There has been considera-

ble activity on social media from the IDVA, the authors of the bill. Some of the activity has claimed there is misinformation being spread causing the opposition.

At the time of this writing, the proposed bill is alive in the Senate. There also exists a proposed amendment to the bill that would remove the cause for the opposition by the Legion and CAVSO. IDVA and their allies are opposed to the amendment, leaving the division in the veterans community open.

It is unfortunate and unnecessary that this impasse has occurred. Conversation among IDVA, CAVSO and the various veterans organizations could have created legislation to address the needed reforms. IDVA and Governor Reynolds chose a solitary path leading us to this division. It may be best for nothing to pass, allowing for conversation before the next session and a unified bill.

MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS

Memorial Day is a time to reflect and thank those who have served our country. The SAL will be placing flags on the graves of veterans at Ames Municipal Cemetery on Thursday, May 21st at 5:00 PM and collecting them on Tuesday, May 26th at 5:00 PM. The Post will help the Ames Patriotic Council put

up flags on Main Street on Friday, May 22nd at 7:15 AM and take them down on Monday, May 25th at 5:00 PM. (All dates weather permitting). Any and all assistance by Legion Family members supporting these events is greatly appreciated.

Inside this issue:

Post Commander	2
Unit President	2
Squadron Commander	2
Clubroom Events	3
Legion Riders	3
Service Hours Report	3
Officer Nominations	3

Post Commander Cliff's Comments

Spring has sprung and with it comes all of the activities we've come to expect. Cookouts, graduations, weddings, and of course conferences and preparations for convention. We're no less busy, but at least it's not snowing. Let's get on with summer.

We presented awards and ribbons to all three ROTC groups at Iowa State this month. It's always a proud moment to shake the hands of the future.

There's been a couple new activities at the post and I welcome everyone to

take part. The Student Veterans from ISU have begun hosting game nights, let's support them and have some fun at the same time. They're always looking for new event ideas to host so if you have something, share it with them.

The Riders have hosted a couple of Shuffleboard tournaments, and will bring them back in the fall. It's a lot of fun and encouraging to see everyone joining in.

Mother's Day is coming. In the words of the late Bear Bryant, "Call Your mama, I

wish I could call mine" This year, to honor them, we'll be hosting a brunch at the post, and I hope to see you all there.

Lastly, our presence at the Farmers Market will be increasing with the expansion of their footprint, so if you see Ron, stop and talk to him, his dedication to Be The One and our Veterans is obvious. Its exciting to see new ideas and new ways of getting members involved, let's keep it going, and thank you all for making Ames Post 37 what it is.

Unit President Jodi's Comments

Thanks to all who volunteered for our bake sale, whether you baked goodies to sell or came to buy goodies. We had a wonderful turnout. This is our biggest fundraiser and we couldn't have done it without all of you.

May is here and you know what that means, Poppies. Our Poppy Days are May 22nd and 23rd. Please help us by distributing Poppies at one of the grocery stores in Ames. Our chair, Jodi Looft, will have sign-up sheets available for each location and will create a bag and can for you to pick up before your shift. Poppy funds are used to better the lives of living veterans, service members and their families.

Spring is in the air and flowers are starting to bloom. Of course we had to have those April showers first. As the days get warmer it's time to start planning our flowers too. The Veterans Memorial Park will be adopted again by our unit and filled with flowers. We will need your help for planting. Please contact me or email the unit at Amesunit37@gmail.com for the time and date for planting. It should be sometime the weekend of May 16 and 17.

This month we will hold our annual Joint Legion Family Memorial service on May 5th at 6:30 and drape the charters and say the names of members that we have lost this past year. We will also

participate in the Memorial Day wreath laying at the Ames Municipal Cemetery following the parade. Following the program at the cemetery, the post will host the community for a luncheon, so if you can help, please let me or Commander Cliff know. If you would be able to help serve or make a dessert, it would be very much appreciated!

Thanks to everyone for renewing your membership and to our new members and being a part of our Auxiliary. Every member is important to us. Come join us at our meeting the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30. The more ideas we have, the more we can grow this organization.

Squadron Commander Russ's Comments

TAKING CHANCE. The movie, starring Kevin Bacon. It is about escorting a fallen soldier home. I won't go any further as I don't want to spoil it for you. I highly recommend it. It can usually be found on the free movie channels around Memorial Day each year. I highly recommend you look for it, and watch. It is sad, so have some tissues ready. Taking Chance, take the chance, you'll be glad you did.

Speaking of Memorial Day, PLEASE ATTEND A SERVICE, somewhere. The Ames Patriotic Council always puts on a very good service (See details elsewhere in this newsletter), but wherever you happen to be, find a nearby service, and go.

I am reminded of an incident from my youth. A vet, Dale Cluck, who had been left for dead on the battlefield but managed to survive, albeit with perma-

nent physical injuries, was speaking with my Dad as they planned the Slater Memorial Day Service. They were discussing the regular attendance numbers for the service, how low they were, and how they could possibly draw a larger crowd.

Dale got a little emotional, as he asked, "After all we've done, is it too much to ask someone to attend, and honor those that gave their all?"

The Memorial Day holiday was created for that specific purpose. To celebrate the lives, and honor the sacrifice, of those that died to earn and protect our freedoms. The least we can do is give some of our time to do just that. I usually close my article with this, but I need to say it here, I really hope to see you there.

The S.A.L. has made their Merit Award selections. This year's winners

are Anthony Jones, from Colo-NESCO High School, and Madison Powers from Gilbert High School. They will each receive \$1000.00 to help them continue their education. Congratulations to them. We wish Madison and Anthony all the best as they continue to prepare themselves for their future.

And last but not least, the May Steak Dinner is hosted by the S.A.L. This is the last monthly dinner, as we take a break over the summer, so don't miss this one. A menu note, rather than the usual ham steak option, this month we are offering a Smoked Pork option. Mmmm. The Dinner is May 2nd, serving from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. I will see you there.

Clubroom News

Happy May! We are getting closer to some warmer days and more sunshine! We have had a few teasers of nice days but hopefully we will have more soon. We have lots going on in the clubroom this month and hope you will join us. Poppy Days are coming up on the 22nd and 23rd. We will have a sign up sheet in the clubroom if you can help distribute please sign up for a time slot. If you know of a business who would let us put poppies in, please let me know. We have had some new events happening around the clubroom the last month or so. It is so great to have some new activities and seeing some more faces. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and weekly update for all events.

We do have a couple new faces behind the bar so please welcome Sami and Lydia to the Post. Stop by and say hi!

Here are our Wednesday Meals for May:

May 6-Tex Mex

May 13-Herb Roasted Chicken

May 20-Ham Balls

May 27-Chicken Fried Steak

Check our weekly emails and Facebook

for full menu each week.

Check out our awesome daily specials:

Taco Tuesday's-Enjoy a walking taco for just \$4 with all your favorite toppings.

Winesday Wednesday-try one of our many fine wines, whether you like a dry red or a sweet white or somewhere in between we have a wine for you. Just \$3.50 a glass!

Thursday's-Enjoy \$2 hotdogs, your choice of plain, Jalapeno or Cheddar sausage. Wash them down with \$2.50 Domestic bottles.



Thanks to all that volunteered to help make our Curbside and Tenderloin night's a great success!! We could not do them without all the help Marty Kelly and Jo Kelly, Colten Christensen, Bill Donovan, Ken Woodley, Sandy and Mike Deacon, Lynn and John Sellmeyer, Chris Duncan, Paul Madson, Greg Hobbs, Rick Lippard, Julie Rinard, Tom Fowler, Russ and Vicki Belz.

Nomination of Officers

It will soon be election time. That happens in June each year for the Post, Unit and Squadron. The nominating committees are working right now to have a slate of candidates to report to the meetings in May for that election.

The first objective of the nominating committees is to present a full slate of candidates for election. Beyond that, we would like to have enough members interested in an office that it be necessary for our members to cast a ballot to elect the officers for 2026-2027

The members of the nominating committees cannot know everyone that might be interested. If you have an interest in knowing more about the offices of the Post, Unit or Squadron and what the duties of those offices are, you may need to step forward so that the committee members know.

Dave Rehbein is chair of the Post committee but will forward messages from Unit and Squadron members. His email is davidrehbein@msn.com. Tell him which office you are thinking of.

Legion Family Members—It Is Time to Brag

The members of the Ames American Legion Family cast a wide footprint in the area and we tend to give more of our time and resources to the community than we think, volunteering with civic organizations, church and area schools, in addition to the time and resources we volunteer in support of the American Legion and our programs.

Have you done any community service or volunteer work in the past year? Donated blood? Helped with a Veterans event? Worked at a senior citizen event or helped out at a school? Donated money to local charity events in support

of children or veterans? Then we want to know about your contributions to the community and our veterans so that we can document your efforts in our Annual Report to the Department, which will in turn be used as an input to the National Report that is required to be delivered to Congress each year.

We know that we make a big impact in the Ames Community – and we are not ones to brag about it, but our contributions make a really big difference, so let's tell everyone how much of an impact that we make. Please provide any inputs (hours volunteered and where,

It's here! It's here! riding season is here! Please take a minute to look your bike over before hitting the road.

We have many things going on right now. The monthly can drive has started, dinner rides will start this month on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. KSU for the dinner rides at 4:30 from Zylstra's. May's rides will be to Pickles Pub in Kamrar and Copperhead's in Stratford.

The Memorial Day parade is May 25, rally time will be determined. The Riders hosted two Shuffleboard tournaments in March and April. It was a good time and it was decided to start them up again in October.

Dates to keep in mind this month:

May 4 – Riders meeting

May 16 – Can drive

May 17 – NOP flag received from Mason City

May 19 – NOP to Waterloo

Have a great month, ride safe and look forward to meeting up on the road.

Reminder to Legion Family

We are no longer accepting new or used medical equipment nor are we operating a Medical Loan Closet for a variety of legal reasons. Please do not, and do not recommend to your friends and neighbors that they can, drop off new or used medical equipment at the Post. We cannot take those items to salvage and we are forced to dispose of that equipment at a significant cost to the Post. We must start turning away anyone who tries to drop off medical equipment. We are saddened that we need to do this, but ***we simply cannot continue to accept used medical equipment.***

donations made, etc.) that you have by May 8th (your information will be kept confidential).

Legionnaires and SAL members can fill out a gold CPR Form available at the Post and leave it for the Adjutant or provide their inputs to him by e-mail at dmaccrea@gmail.com or text to 515-450-0773.

Auxiliary and Rider members can provide their inputs to the Unit and Chapter Secretary at this month's meeting.

Thank you in advance for your support in helping us put this very important report together.

AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 37


225 Main Street
Ames, IA 50010

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG

US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit 147
Ames, IA

MAY

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	 Find us on Facebook at American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37				1 FIREBALL FRIDAY	2
					MUNCHIES NIGHT	STEAK DINNER 5:00—7:00
3	4 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 5:30 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	5 TACO TUESDAY LEGION FAMILY MEMORIAL & AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	6 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL CHICKEN ENCHILADA	7 \$2 DOG NIGHT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	8 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	9
BINGO						
10	11	12 TACO TUESDAY SAL REGULAR 6:30	13 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL HERB ROAST CHICKEN	14 \$2 DOG NIGHT LEGION EXEC BOARD 6:00 REGULAR 7:00	15 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	16 CAN/BOTTLE DROP-OFF 9-11 AM PAST PRES PARLEY 10:00
MOTHERS DAY BRUNCH 10:30-12:30 BINGO						
17	18	19 TACO TUESDAY SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	20 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL HAM BALLS	21 \$2 DOG NIGHT GRAVE FLAGS MUNICIPAL CEMETERY 5PM	22 MAINST FLAGS UP 7:15 POPPY DAYS TACO BAR 5:30 MUSIC BINGO 7:00—9:00	23
BINGO	VFW POST MEETING 7:00					
24	25	26 TACO TUESDAY GRAVE FLAGS MUNICIPAL CEMETERY 5PM	27 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL CHICKEN FRIED STEAK	28 \$2 DOG NIGHT 40&8	29 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	30
BINGO	MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY MAIN ST FLAGS DOWN 5:00PM					