The Clarion

St. Charles American Legion Post 312

June 2026

COMMANDER JOHN

Let there be no doubt why we honor our comrades on Memorial Day. It is not the military in general; we do that on Armed Forces Day, nor those who've served in uniform, which we observe on Veterans Day.

On Memorial Day we pay tribute to those who not only answered the call, but whose service to their country culminated with the ultimate sacrifice. We revere all who knowingly put themselves in harm's way to defend the liberty we hold dear. Just as importantly we recognize the courage of their friends and loved ones who, in their own way, shoulder the same awesome responsibility. The debt we can never repay is to those who lay down their own lives in these endeavors.

As President Harry Truman stated in his address to the Armed Forces after the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices. Because of these sacrifices, in the dawn of justice and freedom throughout the world casts it's gleam across the horizon."

The respect and admiration we give our fallen pay tribute to their memory and lives they lived. We do so by visiting their gravesite or placing flags, wreaths and other mementos at memorials in our communities. To truly honor their lives, we must share their stories with others and ensure their memories live on even though they are gone. No matter where their battlefield was-in the mountains of Afghanistan, the desert of Iraq or Syria, over Europe, Islands of the Pacific, frozen terrain of Korea, jungles of Vietnam or elsewhere-the stories of the fallen matter and need to be told.

Duty, honor, country- they lived for it and they died for it. As a nation we must remind ourselves of the future they fought for and do our best to live up to those values in the days ahead. Please keep them in mind during this somber holiday and offer up a thanks for their selfless acts that ensure our great nation stays free!
There will be multiple ceremonies taking place locally, so please take some time to honor those that gave all for our country.

The local ceremonies are listed below with times and locations.

Sunday May 24th at Baue Memorial Gardens 3950 W Clay St Charles 12:00pm

The following are being held on Monday May 25th-
St. Peters City Hall, 1 St Peters Centre Blvd. St Peters MO 63376: 9:00am
St Charles City ceremony Bishop's Landing / War Memorial: 10:00am
St Charles County at Veterans Tribute Park 1031 Kisker St Charles 1:00pm
For God and Country
Semper Fidelis
John Gonzales Post Commander
314-707-3758

POST CHAPLAIN

Since the last report no Legionnaires of Post 312 have passed. Larry Dufour was admitted to the Hospital on April 12 and as of May 4 is still in Barnes Hospital St Peters. Our prayers are for the continued good health and happiness for our entire Post 312 membership. Say something nice to someone and give them a smile, it will warm your heart.

Larry DuFour Post Chaplain 636-441-7102

POST SECOND VICE

Moments of Military Valor: June D-Day – The Invasion of Normandy (June 6, 1944)

June 6 stands as one of the most significant dates in military history. On that day in 1944, Allied forces launched **Operation Overlord**, the invasion of Nazi-occupied France—better known as D-Day. It remains one of the largest and most complex military operations ever carried out, and a defining moment of courage and sacrifice.

In the early morning hours, more than 150,000 Allied troops began landing along the Normandy coastline, facing heavily fortified German defenses. For American forces at beaches like Omaha and Utah, the fighting was especially intense. Soldiers came under heavy fire as they exited landing craft, yet pushed forward through chaos and uncertainty with determination and grit.

Airborne units from the 82nd and 101st Divisions had already dropped behind enemy lines, carrying out critical missions to secure roads and disrupt enemy defenses. Despite scattered landings and difficult terrain, they adapted and pressed on—another powerful example of courage under pressure.

The success of D-Day was not guaranteed. It was earned through sacrifice, leadership, and the unwavering resolve of those who refused to turn back. By the end of the day, Allied forces had secured a foothold in Europe, beginning the long push toward victory.

As we reflect on this legacy of service and sacrifice, we are reminded that the spirit of those who served continues today through the work and fellowship of The American Legion.

Here at the Post, June offers several opportunities to stay engaged and carry that legacy forward:

- **June 7** – District Meeting at Post 312
- **June 8** – Election of Post Officers
- **June 14** – Flag Day
- **June 19–21** – ALR Legacy Ride, Lake of the Ozarks (Sunrise Beach, MO)

Each of these events, in its own way, reflects the same principles demonstrated on D-Day—commitment, service, and dedication to something greater than ourselves. As we gather this month, let us remember those who fought on the beaches of Normandy and honor their legacy by continuing to serve our veterans, our communities, and our nation.

Tony Rumbo, Post 2nd Vice Commander
tone_nav@yahoo.com 314-707-4683

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

May 5th is our annual Auxiliary Spring Luncheon and it is certain to be a huge success. I want to thank our corporate sponsors "Texas Roadhouse" of St. Charles, if you are looking for a dinner night please visit their location on Bass Pro to thank them for the support they have shown us. Thank you to "Ted Drews Frozen Custard"! With a theme of "Get your Kicks on Route 66 100 years" we could not imagine this event without their support and with Route 66 printed on their napkins it was a no brainer to ask Steak N Shake for a donation of napkins and they gave generously. This event is always a crowd pleaser with our community and we are frequently asked when we will start selling tickets because our guests want to be sure they get their ticket before we sell out. I want to be perfectly clear……this event could not happen without our Auxiliary Member Volunteers – they are the best!! Off the top of my head I cannot think of one member that did not contribute to the event… from donations of gift cards, attendance prizes and raffle baskets; pounding the streets for donations, advertising, ticket sales, room set-up, room clean-up, volunteer workers, and attendance at the luncheon everyone works hard to make this event a HUGE success. This fundraiser benefits our Girls State/Scholarship funds and can only be spent for these purposes. Thanks to the success of last year's event, we were able to award five high school seniors with $1,000 college scholarships (up from $500) and we were able to send six high school juniors to 2026 Missouri Girls State. Supporting the youth of our community is what it is all about and it feels good to be successful.

The 2026-2027 officers/board members' elections will take place at our June meeting with

the candidates introduced at our May meeting. You will want to be sure to attend these meetings to make your voices heard and your vote count. Following the elections in June the new committee chairmen will be assigned. If you are remotely interested in serving on a committee, PLEASE reach out us and let us know your interest. It is imperative for the growth of our Unit that we are able to rotate responsibilities and integrate new members into these rolls. New blood brings new ideas and new perspective and most importantly growth. If you have already made your reservations for the Spring Conference in Springfield you will want to do that as soon as possible as the hotel cutoff date is June 10th. You may reach the Oasis hotel at 1-417-866-5253. You will want to save the date October 23-26, 2026 for the annual Fall Conference which will be moving to the Inn at grand glaze in Osage Beach. In closing, I ask each of you continue prayers for peace in the Middle East and to bring our military men and women home safely. Thank you to all of our veterans who have served our country. God bless you; God bless the USA.

Respectfully,
Laura L. Diel Auxiliary President
lauraldiel@gmail.com 636-219-7091

AUXILIARY FIRST VICE

Summertime is officially here! I hope you're all enjoying outdoor activities and making memories with your family.
We're excited to share that we currently have 232 paid members, with a goal of reaching 254. Of those, 13 are new members and 1 is a transfer member—welcome!
There's still time to invite your family and friends to be part of this wonderful organization.
Let's keep the momentum going!

Judi Sovanski, Auxiliary 1st Vice President & Membership Chair Twinsn3@hotmail.com
2345 Federalist Pl, O'Fallon MO 63368
314-413-8883 cell

AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN

Happy Father's Day to all of you great dads. Your thoughtfulness, fun spirit, and caring hearts make every moment with you truly special. Thank you for always being there, for your endless love, and for the joy you bring into all of our lives. We are so grateful to have you as our dads. Enjoy your special day. Happy Father's Day.

Many Blessings.
Bam Kelly Auxiliary Chaplain terikkelly@aol.com
314-795-0283

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Next meeting Mon June 1st at 7pm.
Election of officers at our next meeting on June 1st.

John Leonard Squadron Commander
314-303-6665

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

This Month in Motorcycle History – June

Honoring the legacy of riders, veterans, and the open road

June marks the start of summer riding season across much of the country. With longer days and open roads calling, it's a time when riders gather for events, rallies, and long-distance trips. It's also a month that reflects the enduring connection between motorcycling, service, and community.

One of the defining developments tied to this time of year is the growth of **organized motorcycle riding and endurance culture** in the early 20th century. By the 1910s and 1920s, summer months like June became prime time for long-distance rides and reliability runs. These

events tested both rider and machine over rough roads and unpredictable conditions, helping prove that motorcycles were not just recreational vehicles—but dependable transportation.
This spirit of endurance and adaptability closely mirrors the role motorcycles played in military service. During **World War I and World War II**, motorcycles were essential for dispatch riders who carried messages between units, often across dangerous terrain and under fire. These riders needed skill, focus, and determination—qualities that continue to define both servicemembers and motorcyclists today.

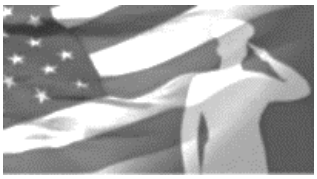
When those servicemen returned home, many brought their passion for riding with them. Summer became a time to reconnect—with the road and with each other. Riding groups and motorcycle organizations grew from that shared experience, creating bonds that closely resemble those formed in military service.

That legacy is alive and well today through the **American Legion Riders**. June, in particular, is a month where that mission is put into action. Here in Missouri, that commitment will be on full display during the **Missouri State Legacy Ride, June 19–21 at the Lake of the Ozarks**, hosted by **Post 624 in Sunrise Beach**. This ride brings together the Legion Family and supporters from across the state for a common purpose—supporting veterans and their families through the **American Legion Child Welfare Foundation**.
Funds raised during the Legacy Ride help provide **Temporary Financial Assistance** to military and veteran families facing unexpected hardship, covering essential needs like housing, utilities, food, and other basic living expenses. It's a direct way for riders to give back and ensure that those who served- and their families - are not left behind.

This is what sets Legion Riders apart. We don't just ride-we ride with purpose.
As the miles add up this June, remember that every ride is an opportunity. An opportunity to support, to honor, and to continue a legacy built by those who served before us.
If you're able, make plans to attend the Legacy Ride. Be part of something that truly makes a difference.
Because every mile matters.
Tony Rumbo, ALR Director
tone_nav@yahoo.com 314-707-4683

FRIDAY NIGHT BINGO

Bring your friends and join us for an evening of Bingo.



AMERICANISM CHILDREN & YOUTH COLOR GUARD

AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
"A CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST"
Boys State and Girls State begins Saturday, June 20 and continues through Saturday, June 27.
For one week, 1600 rising seniors from across Missouri take over and build a 51st state. Boys & Girls State will be held on the campus of Lindenwood University located in St. Charles, Mo.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry DuFour 636-441-7102
Americanism/Children & Youth/
Law and Order/Color Guard Captain

Summer is approaching and we are scaling back on music for Saturday Night. If you are in town stop by for a couple drinks, keep us company and listen to your favorite tunes on the jukebox.
Sunday, June 14th is Flag Day. We will have hot dogs as we celebrate Old Glory. We have upgraded the Legion's flags to extreme wind flags and increased the size as well.

Jukebox Nights are on Saturday's and Boston Dave, karaoke on June 27th.

Thursday nights are karaoke, compliments of Boston Dave if he is available.

Bowling (on gaming console) is on the first and third Wednesday in The Foxhole. It is low impact on the body while being competitive as you face your opponents. We draw names to pair up with a teammate or play head-to-head if we have only 4 people participating.

On July 4th, we will be open until 8 pm, giving time to take in the local fireworks displays. On this
very special 250th year for the United States, take in the various community celebrations for this quarter century mark in our history.

July 18th, I will host Music Bingo in the Foxhole, we need to give our jackpot away, hopefully this will be the night.

Please, come in often, drink responsibly and don't drive while intoxicated. We want everyone to be safe while still enjoying what we have to offer in The Foxhole.

Larry Carron Bar Chairman
LarryCarronRealtor@outlook.com 636-345-6106

PORK STEAK DINNER

Tuesday June 30th
4:30-6pm $15
Come join us for a delicious Pork Steak dinner, including baked beans, coleslaw
and dessert!
Free coffee and iced tea with a cash bar available.
Make your reservation today!
Text or call Bam Kelly 314-795-0283 to reserve your dinner no later than June 25th.
Come support your American Legion Post 312 and invite a friend along!

SAVE THE DATES

May 24th 12-3PM-Rib pick-up at the back door.

The Post will host its annual "First Responders Luncheon" on Tuesday, June 2. The hours will be from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. In attendance will be members from the City of St. Charles Police and Fire Departments and the St. Charles County Sheriffs and Police Departments. Members of the Post are invited to stop by and greet the officers upon their arrival and to thank them for their service.

POST 312 LEGION BASEBALL NEWS

We are extremely excited for the 2026 baseball season. We have High School players from St. Charles High, St. Charles West, Orchard Farm, Francis Howell North, Duchense and Lutheran High on our rosters this year. Our 19U team features a lot of graduating seniors and hopes to compete for the State Championship this season. If you are interested in coming out to a game, our schedules will be printed out and on display in the foxhole soon, we're finalizing some start times at present and working with umpires. The coaches, players and I appreciate the support of the Legion, the cost of youth baseball in the St. Louis region is between 3 and 5 thousand dollars. Legion baseball allows families to play in a competitive, well-coached program built on helping these young men become better baseball players, leaders, and teammates for life. This year, we will be offering the chance for veterans to throw out the first pitch at our home games, along with a short bio. Please let me know if you're interested in doing this (brandonbaker236@gmail.com), last year we had several family members participate, along with St. Charles County Councilman Mike Elam. This year we're hoping to have something for each and every home game. Thank you again, we'll see you at the ballpark.

Brandon Baker, Post 312 Baseball Manager

Brandonbaker236@gmail.com 636-288-3533

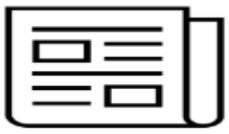
SAVE YOUR TAB TOPS

The Children & Youth Committee would like to **THANK** everyone who donated tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Charities this year. The total we collected this year was **170** lbs. We want to continue on this wonderful path of helping the kids and families that need to utilize the Ronald McDonald Houses in our area. Please continue donating by bringing your tabs to the Foxhole or give the tabs to Brenda Richarz or Jenn Slater

The Children & Youth Committee
Brenda Richarz
Jenn Slater

POST HISTORY

Marvin "Mark" Sloan, of St. Peters, Missouri, passed away Friday, April 3, 2026, at the age of 94. Loving husband of the late Elizabeth J. Sloan. Mark proudly served his country in the United States Army from 1950 to 1954, during the Korean War. His bravery and dedication earned him five Purple Hearts, along with numerous other commendations. The American Legion Department of Missouri made Mark a lifetime Honorary Member of Post 312. This membership was presented to Mark during a public event at Busch Stadium featuring the St Louis Cardinals and Fredbird. When Mark came home from Korea with 5 Purple Hearts, he was denied membership in the American Legion as well as the Veterans of Foreign War as Congress had not yet recognized Korea as a war but was still calling it a police action. As Mark had no surviving family members, a St Charles County community ceremony service with full military honors was held at Memorial Gardens on Friday, April 17, 2026.



OTHER NEWS

*A HUGE thank you to Tony's on Main Street for donating the delicious Chicken Modiga meals for our monthly dinner on April 28th! You are the best, Tony!

*ELECTION OF POST OFFICERS
The proposed nominations of the Nominating Committee were announced at the May General Membership Meeting on May 11, 2026.
The election of Officers will be held at the June General Membership Meeting on June 8, 2026.
To be eligible to vote it will be necessary to show your current 2026 membership card or PUFL card. Joe Diel - Past Post Commander

*The nominating committee has met, and the following slate of officers will be voted on at our June 8 th meeting.
Officers nominated for the year 2026-2027 are as follows:
President Laura Diel
1 st Vice President Judi Sovanski
2 nd Vice President Marilyn Rufkahr
Secretary Jeanne Steinhoff
Treasurer Lestine Echele
Historian Mary Bandini
Chaplain Bam Kelly
Sgt-at-Arms Ashley Marsden
Sgt-at-Arms Mary Diel
Executive Board Lucille Armbruster
Kristine Marsden
Mary Fairley

The nominating committee consist of : Kris Marsden, Jeanne Steinhoff, Lucille Armbruster, Lori Millam and Jan Irwin.

St. Charles American Legion Post 312

June 2026

Hall Rental 314-952-8833 | Post 636-947-7666 | Foxhole 636-724-9712

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Save the Dates- May 24th-Rib Pick-up 12-3 at the back door. July 4th- Foxhole will be open until 8pm July 18- Music Bingo @ the Foxhole.	**1** Riders Meeting 6pm SALS Meeting 7 PM Foxhole Opened 5-10 Clarion articles due	**2** First Responder's Luncheon 1130am Foxhole Closed	**3** Bowling @ the Foxhole	**4** Karaoke @Foxhole	**5** Bingo 6:30pm	**6** Jukebox Night @ the Foxhole.
7 District Meeting-Registration 9am	**8** Auxiliary Meeting Legion Meeting 7:30pm Foxhole open 5-10	**9** Foxhole Closed	**10**	**11** Karaoke @Foxhole	**12** Bingo 6:30pm	**13** Jukebox Night @ the Foxhole.
14 Flag Day-Hotdogs at the Foxhole.	**15** Foxhole Closed	**16** Foxhole Closed	**17** Bowling @ the Foxhole	**18** Karaoke @Foxhole	**19** Bingo 6:30pm	**20** Jukebox Night @ the Foxhole.
21	**22** Foxhole Closed	**23** Foxhole Closed	**24**	**25** Karaoke @Foxhole	**26** Bingo 6:30pm	**27** Karaoke @ the Foxhole 7pm
28	**29**	**30**				