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HEADQUARTERS

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AMERICAN LEGION NEWS BRIEFS
 FOR WEEK ENDING 3-4-77

The American Legion has expressed its opposition to "any legislation which would abolish the American Battle Monuments Commission as an independent agency of the federal government."

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Approximately two thousand disabled veterans will be hired by state employment service offices to staff job recruitment and service efforts for veterans in the nation's one hundred largest cities.

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WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--American Legion National Commander William J. Rogers has asked Legion departments and posts to provide crime resistance information and assistance to their members in cooperation with the FBI's crime resistance program.

In a letter to all department commanders, the Legion chief pointed out that by the adoption of Resolution 435 at the 57th National Convention, "The American Legion reaffirmed its resolve to work with the FBI and others in law enforcement to help overcome the criminal in our midst...."

The National Commander pointed out further that departments and posts can distribute crime safety literature, schedule crime safety presentations featuring films and appearances by local law enforcement representatives, and include crime resistance features in department publications.

"If we make crime resistance a habit, we can help insure that not only Legionnaires and their families, but all of our fellow citizens, will enjoy the benefits of a safer America," the Legion chief added.

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WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--National Commander William J. Rogers has sent the following telegram to President Carter:

"The American Legion continues to oppose any blanket pardon, blanket amnesty or blanket upgrading of discharges for convicted military offenders and military deserters.

"We strongly urge that the military services conduct reviews on a case by case basis using existing administrative and judicial procedures."

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"YOUR AMERICAN LEGION -- IT'S GREAT TO KNOW YOU BELONG"



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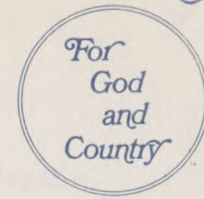
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For release 3-4-77

WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--The American Legion has expressed its opposition to "any legislation which would abolish the American Battle Monuments Commission as an independent agency of the federal government."

In a letter to President Carter, Legion National Commander William J. Rogers pointed out that "we (the Legion) fail to see the reason for including this Commission in any plan for consolidation with any other federal agency."

Following is the full text of the Legion chief's message to President Carter:

"Through nonofficial sources we have learned that the American Battle Monuments Commission is being considered by the staff of your Executive Office for consolidation with some other agency, as one of the means of reducing the number of federal agencies.

"An independent agency created by the Act of March 4, 1923, the American Battle Monuments Commission is responsible for the construction and permanent maintenance of military cemeteries and memorials on foreign soil, as well as for certain memorials on American soil. In addition, the Commission controls the design and provides regulations for the erection of monuments, markers and memorials in foreign countries by other United States citizens and organizations, public or private.

"Plans to abolish the American Battle Monuments Commission as an independent federal agency have been proposed before. After careful study, these plans were abandoned as serving no useful purpose, and not being in the best interest of our nation in fulfilling its obligation to honor, in a fitting manner, those members of its armed forces who gave their lives for their country since World War I.

"The most recent proposal consisted of legislation to transfer the Commission to the Veterans Administration, even though the cemeteries administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission are closed to burial of veterans, and, in effect, are national shrines in foreign countries of the American sacrifice on their behalf in a time of war or national crisis. After consideration of all testimony, it was concluded by the Congress that the Commission performed a unique function, unrelated to programs administered by the Veterans Administration, and that there was no reason for transferring the Commission's activities to another agency and abolish it as an independent agency.

"Since its creation, the American Battle Monuments Commission has earned the reputation in the Congress and the Executive Office, as well as of the public, for superior performance as an independent agency. If the functions should be transferred to or consolidated with cemetery responsibilities of the Department of Defense or the Veterans Administration, The American Legion fears the end result will be a gradual deterioration in maintenance of these exceptionally fine cemeteries and memorials. In view of the Commission's long history of excellent management, efficiencies and economy in delivery of federal services with which it is charged, we fail to see the reason for including this Commission in any plan for consolidation with any other federal agency.

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"Our policy, Mr. President, of many years standing, is to oppose any legislation which would abolish the American Battle Monuments Commission as an independent agency of the federal government.

"Thank you for considering our recommendation that this Commission be excluded from your staff's reorganization proposals."

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For release 3-4-77

WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--The present veterans pension program is "disgraceful" with the small pension check the World War I veterans and World War I veterans' widows are expected to survive on, Congressman Tennyson Guyer (Ohio) told Legionnaires in response to National Commander William J. Rogers' statement before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on Feb. 22, here.

"It's time we in America reward those who gave instead of rewarding those who didn't," he added.

Other typical responses follow: Congressman George Hansen (Idaho), in response to the Legion chief's statement said that the "communications gap" was a major problem in the attempt to prevent President Carter from granting the pardon to draft dodgers. He also pointed out that he had joined other congressmen and Medal of Honor recipients in bringing a legal suit against Carter for his blanket pardon of draft dodgers "who broke the law."

Robert W. Edgar, a Pennsylvania congressman, took "exception" on the organization's stand against granting a blanket pardon to draft dodgers and said that President Carter was "courageous" in granting a blanket pardon to the draft dodgers.

Congressman Sam B. Hall, Jr. (Texas) said the President was "courageously wrong" in his move to grant a blanket pardon to the draft dodgers, and noted that when you look at the disabled veterans from the war and remember those who did not come back, you know Carter was wrong and that the veterans organizations and others who attempted to prevent the President from granting the pardon were right.

"Those who dodged the draft have done nothing to give us the rights we have in this country today," he added.

Congressman G. V. Montgomery (Miss.) commended the National Commander on his opposition to Carter's pardon program for draft dodgers, and noted that he had introduced bills to provide a six per cent cost-of-living increase for service-connected and nonservice-connected disabled veterans. Montgomery told the Legion chief that he had also introduced legislation to provide a special 25 per cent increase in pension rates to eligible widows of World War I veterans when they reached age 78.

Following the Legion chief's statement before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, Senator Strom Thurmond (S.C.) told Legionnaires that the pardoning of draft dodgers was a "violation of federal law."

Turning to the subject of the Panama Canal, Sen. Thurmond, the only Veterans Affairs Committee member wearing a Legion cap, said that "it would be a great mistake if we relinquished control of the Canal. It could well end up in the hands of the Communists."

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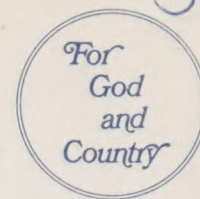
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WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--Approximately two thousand disabled veterans will be hired by state employment service offices to staff job recruitment and service efforts for veterans in the nation's one hundred largest cities.

Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall has announced that the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) will augment the present service staffs in these cities as well as creating at least one DVOP unit in each state.

The newly hired DVOP staff will serve as paraprofessionals in temporary federally funded jobs, seeking out eligible disabled veterans and assisting local public employment service staffs in providing services to which the disabled veterans are entitled. In addition, the DVOP staff will assist in the development of private sector jobs for the disabled veterans.

The secretary's initial authorization calls for the immediate hiring of two thousand disabled veterans in the one hundred cities and in each state. The number to be assigned to each unit will be based on the December 1976 Veterans Administration estimate of the number of disabled veterans in each area. Additional authorizations and hirings are anticipated as the program develops.

In a message to all regional and state employment service staff members, Secretary Marshall called for continued efforts to insure that disabled veterans registering under the DVOP activity are accorded preferential treatment for all services, including referral to public service jobs funded by the Labor Department.

Secretary Marshall said that funds for the employment of the disabled veterans will be provided under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

The DVOP is one of three major employment activities to assist disabled veterans and Vietnam-era veterans. The first is a program to be known as HIRE which will enlist the assistance of the nation's larger corporations to make private sector employment and training opportunities available. The second is a program to increase veteran participation in public service jobs by establishing a 35 per cent national placement goal.

Legion National Economics Director Austin E. Kerby, in a letter to Undersecretary of Labor Robert Brown, noted that The American Legion "would be more than pleased to advertise the need for these two thousand disabled veterans who will man the Outreach offices through our sixteen thousand posts."

"Disabled veterans interested in these jobs should apply immediately to their local employment offices. Each state will establish its own job qualifications and salaries for these paraprofessional positions, consistent with the regular state personnel policies," Mr. Kerby added.

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INDIANAPOLIS--(ALNS)--The appointment of Raymond C. Patterson, 51, as director. Americanism and Children & Youth Division of The American Legion was announced by National Commander William J. Rogers of Kennebunk, Maine. He succeeds the late Fred T. Kuszmaul who first joined the National Headquarters staff in 1950.

Originally from Osage, Iowa, Patterson and his wife, Marylee, and three of their five children now reside in Indianapolis. He is a life member of Osage Post No. 278.

In his new position, Patterson will be responsible for administering the various youth activities programs of The American Legion, including Boys Nation and the Oratorical Contest; the baseball program; the education and scholarship program; counter-subversive; the Child Welfare Foundation; and the many children and youth programs.

Patterson holds a Masters degree in education and prior to his appointment, he had been assistant director of the division, responsible for the education and scholarship program. He joined the National Headquarters staff in February, 1973, following seventeen years with the Osage, Iowa, community schools.

A Navy veteran of World War II, Patterson has been active in Legion affairs since his discharge from military service. He served as a National Executive Committeeman and held many responsible positions at the state, district and post level.

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COMMUNITY SERVICE

LACLEDE, MO.--(ALNS)--The Theodore Roosevelt Post 264 of Marceline, Mo., is challenging other American Legion posts in its district to contribute to the Pershing Memorial Museum Development Fund. Post 264 donated five hundred dollars to the museum fund, and its commander, George King, said the post is trying to get all the other Legion posts in its district to do as well or better.

The Pershing Memorial Museum site will be located in Laclede, Mo., north of the boyhood home of the only man to hold our nation's highest military rank (general of the armies) during his lifetime. A three million dollar nationwide campaign is now in progress to finance construction of the facility which will memorialize Gen. John J. Pershing and his companions of World War I.

The Pershing Memorial Museum campaign is headquartered in the Legion Auxiliary building of Pershing Old Home Post 197 just two blocks south of Pershing's home. First contributor to the campaign was the Pershing Old Home Legion Post 197 in Laclede.

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AMERICAN LEGION NEWS BRIEFS
FOR WEEK ENDING 3-11-77

National Commander William J. Rogers has urged the 2.7 million members of The American Legion to contact their elected representatives in Washington concerning the status of current negotiations on the Panama Canal and the Canal Zone. The Legion chief returned to the United States March 8, from an inspection tour of the Canal Zone area.

* * *

Ray Marshall, secretary of labor, has informed National Commander William J. Rogers that recommendations for the early appointment of a deputy assistant secretary for veterans employment "are receiving every attention within the Department."

* * *

The new head of the Veterans Administration, Max Cleland, has told The American Legion Magazine that he is "going to see that the agency is run as effectively as possible and that services are delivered as compassionately as possible."

* * *

National Commander William J. Rogers has sent a telegram to Congressman Bill Chappell, Jr., (Fla.), a member of the House Appropriations Committee, indicating the Legion's support of "accelerated construction of nuclear powered vessels to replace those ships which are now obsolete." The Florida congressman led the fight for the Nimitz carrier.

* * *

Crime is a problem -- everybody's problem -- and because it is everybody's problem, all Americans have a responsibility to do something about crime by resisting it, the FBI has informed the Legion, through its Crime Resistance Tips.

* * *

In an article in the March 6, 1977, edition of the New York Times, James M. Naughton comments on the extraordinary effectiveness of legislative action by The American Legion and other veterans groups, especially with regard to such matters as "pensions, education grants and medical treatment -- and the structure of federal agencies providing them."

* * *

A list of states and cities, along with the number of disabled veterans to be hired in each state under the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program, appears in this issue of ALNS.



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For release 3-11-77

WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--National Commander William J. Rogers has urged the 2.7 million members of The American Legion to contact their elected representatives in Washington concerning the status of current negotiations on the Panama Canal and the Canal Zone. The Legion chief returned to the United States March 8 from an inspection tour of the Canal Zone area.

"My visit reinforced my belief in the correctness of the Legion's position that the security and sovereignty rights granted to the United States in the present treaty must not be changed," Rogers said. The text of the Legion leader's statement follows:

"The American Legion fears that the Carter Administration, in drafting a new treaty with Panama, may act with undue haste in an effort to ratify that treaty with little or no public discussion. The future of the Panama Canal is vital to the security interests of the United States and the status of the negotiations that were mysteriously ended in February must be reported, in full, to the American people, consistent, of course, with national security requirements.

"The American Legion asks the Carter Administration: Why the intensity of negotiations? Why the determined effort to move quickly? What is the urgency? Is the Torrijos government in Panama about to fall? Has the United States government, or the banking interests who have loaned Torrijos untold sums of money, determined that it is in the best interests of the United States to keep a repressive dictator in power?

"Before a treaty is finally negotiated and acted upon by the Senate of the United States there are some questions that must be answered in regard to the political, economic, and human rights policies of the government of Panama. The American people bought and paid for the Panama Canal and the Canal Zone. The Canal was built upon land purchased, not stolen. The American people deserve and have the right to a full, open debate in the Congress concerning the status of any and all negotiations concerning the Canal. The American Legion and the American people will reject any secret deals made by our government and the dictatorship that controls the Republic of Panama.

"The security of our investment demands that this matter be dealt with openly and above board. We are, of course, concerned about our country's relationships with all nations of the Western Hemisphere, but we are not interested in being blackmailed by a totalitarian government as part of the cost of these relationships."

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SEATTLE, WASH.--(ALNS)--Dick Klinge, 1976 National Convention general chairman, has presented the National Commander's Citation and Bronze Plaque to the Albert Einstein Jr. High School of Seattle for "the pleasure of having the school's mural, made by the seventh and eighth grade students and depicting the nation's two hundred years, grace the Convention National Headquarters during the National Convention in Seattle."

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WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--Ray Marshall, secretary of labor, has informed National Commander William J. Rogers that recommendations for the early appointment of a deputy assistant secretary for veterans employment "are receiving every attention within the Department."

The full text of the Secretary of Labor's letter to the National Commander follows:

"The President has asked me to respond to your telegram of Jan. 27, 1977. I would also like to thank you for your letter of Jan. 31, 1977. We are extremely pleased with your reaction to the initiatives to improve employment of veterans that were announced at the time of my appointment.

"I deeply respect your concerns about joblessness among veterans and commend you for pioneering and sustaining your "Jobs for Veterans" program. Be assured that the recommendations recently submitted by Mr. Austin E. Kerby of your Economic Commission, are receiving every attention within the Department, with the early appointment of a deputy assistant secretary for veterans employment a priority consideration.

"I am aware that since your letter, The American Legion, represented by Mr. Kerby, has had the opportunity to meet with Messrs. Robert J. Brown and Ernest G. Green, at which time many of the points in your letter were discussed. I have asked both of them to continue to work on my behalf with you and other veterans organizations to assure that your concerns are carefully considered. Mr. Ralph Hall, director of the Veterans Employment Service, in particular, is available to bring any of your concerns to their and my attention.

"Thank you again for your continued interest in these matters of mutual concern."

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WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--The new head of the Veterans Administration, Max Cleland, says that he is "going to see that the agency is run as effectively as possible and that services are delivered as compassionately as possible."

In the first interview he granted after his appointment, Cleland answers a number of questions concerning the VA with the interviewer, Bill Hart, American Legion news editor of The American Legion Magazine. Legionnaires interested in how Cleland plans to operate the VA should read the article by Hart entitled "Cleland's First at VA" which appears in the April issue of The American Legion Magazine.

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"YOUR AMERICAN LEGION -- IT'S GREAT TO KNOW YOU BELONG"



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The full text of the Legion chief's message follows:

"The American Legion strongly supports immediate steps to restore global naval supremacy to the United States through modernization of our fleet. In pursuit of that objective, we fully recognize the critical need for accelerated construction of nuclear powered vessels to replace those ships which are now obsolete.

"As conventional energy sources become scarce and maintenance of overseas naval and air installations become prohibitively expensive, it will be necessary to increasingly rely on nuclear powered carriers which possess sustained combat capabilities. Funding decisions made in 1977 must consider our defense needs in the year 2000 by insuring that the naval hardware produced now will still provide us with a viable fighting fleet at that time."

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CRIME RESISTANCE TIP

WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--Crime is a problem -- everybody's problem -- and because it is everybody's problem, all Americans have a responsibility to do something about crime by resisting it. Resistance doesn't necessarily mean vigilantism or physical resistance to the armed criminal, but it does mean responsible anticrime action on the part of each and every one of us.

Start with yourself and your family by practicing crime safety to eliminate opportunities for the criminal and to enable you to avoid falling victim to crime. To make crime safety a part of your life, begin by thinking about the crimes to which you are especially vulnerable in light of such factors as your age, sex and geographic location.

Then be wary of these crimes just as you are of other hazards to life and property, such as disease and fire.

Many safety measures that help diminish your vulnerability to crimes, such as burglary, purse snatching, auto and bicycle theft, are all matters of common sense. Crime safety information is available to you through your local police department.

A second vital aspect of crime resistance involves responsible participation with the police in the law enforcement process. Promptly report crimes as well as suspicious activity. Testify at court proceedings when necessary. Familiarize

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yourself with the various elements of the criminal justice system, thus enabling you to render an educated opinion as to how these elements -- police, prosecutors, courts, and correctional systems -- can deal more effectively with crime and criminals.

Remember, too, that we all have an obligation to aid those who do fall victim to crime, and that we should encourage others to resist crime.

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For release 3-11-77

WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--In an article in the March 6, 1977, edition of the New York Times, James M. Naughton comments on the extraordinary effectiveness of legislative action by The American Legion and other veterans groups, especially with regard to such matters as "pensions, education grants and medical treatment -- and the structure of federal agencies providing them."

During February of this year, for example, intensive legislative efforts by the veterans organizations succeeded in blocking attempts to abolish the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. "I've never seen anything like the campaign the veterans organized," remarked Sen. Clairborne Pell. The effectiveness of such activity was also shown in late 1974, when the Senate voted 90 to 1 and the House 394 to 10 to override President Ford's veto of a Vietnam veterans assistance measure. And when Congress changed Veterans Day from November 11 to the fourth Monday in October a nationwide movement arose that has forced Congress to agree to restore the holiday to its original date.

Although forbidden by law from making campaign contributions the veterans groups, according to the author, "more than make up for that through sheer numbers, sophisticated organization and occasional displays of emotion."

Mylio Kraja, the director of The American Legion's legislative division, remarked that "our whole philosophy is to work from back home" on members of Congress.

The author of the Times article points out the fact that in the 94th Congress, 66 of one hundred senators and 209 of 435 representatives were enrolled members of the Legion.

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WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--National Adjutant William F. Hauck has issued the following information regarding ceremonial equipment.

In order to insure delivery by the desired date, blank ammo should be ordered thirty days prior to need and ceremonial rifles sixty days. Requests should be directed to the National Adjutant at the Washington offices of The American Legion, 1608 "K" St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

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WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--Senator Strom Thurmond (S.C.) has placed into the Congressional Record of Feb. 22 the statement of National Commander William J. Rogers before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

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WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--During the last of January, National Commander William J. Rogers promised the full cooperation of The American Legion in assuring the success of President Carter's three-point program to assist jobless veterans.

One point of this program is the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP), under which two thousand disabled veterans will be hired to seek out eligible disabled veterans, to develop jobs for them, and to assist local public employment offices in providing services to these veterans.

The initial authorization of the Department of Labor calls for the immediate hiring of two thousand disabled veterans in the nation's one hundred largest cities and in each state. A list of the states and cities and of the number of disabled veterans to be hired in each state follows:

<u>STATE</u>	<u>MINIMUM POS. REQUIRED</u>	<u>CITIES TO BE SERVED</u>
Alabama	33	Birmingham Mobile Huntsville
Alaska	2	None
Arizona	24	Phoenix Tuscon
Arkansas	21	None
California	172	Los Angeles San Diego San Francisco San Jose Oakland Long Beach Sacramento Anaheim Fresno Santa Ana Riverside
Colorado	24	Denver Colorado Springs
Connecticut	27	Hartford Bridgeport
Delaware	5	None

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District of Columbia	8	Washington
Florida	95	Jacksonville Miami Tampa St. Petersburg Ft. Lauderdale
Georgia	41	Atlanta Columbus
Hawaii	6	Honolulu
Idaho	8	None
Illinois	66	Chicago Rockford
Indiana	37	Indianapolis Ft. Wayne Gary Evansville
Iowa	20	Des Moines
Kansas	18	Wichita Kansas City, Kan.
Kentucky	29	Louisville Lexington
Louisiana	29	New Orleans Baton Rouge Shreveport
Maine	11	None
Maryland	33	Baltimore
Massachusetts	86	Boston Worcester Springfield
Michigan	75	Detroit Grand Rapids Flint Warren
Minnesota	37	Minneapolis St. Paul
Mississippi	20	Jackson
Missouri	37	St. Louis Kansas City, Mo.

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Montana	7	None
Nebraska	12	Omaha Lincoln
Nevada	7	None
New Hampshire	10	None
New Jersey	71	Newark Jersey City Patterson
New Mexico	14	Albuquerque
New York	170	New York City Buffalo Rochester Yonkers Syracuse
North Carolina	42	Charlotte Greensboro Raleigh
North Dakota	5	None
Ohio	95	Cleveland Columbus Cincinnati Toledo Akron Dayton
Oklahoma	30	Oklahoma City Tulsa
Oregon	20	Portland
Pennsylvania	112	Philadelphia Pittsburgh
Puerto Rico	17	San Juan
Rhode Island	12	Providence
South Carolina	20	None
South Dakota	6	None
Tennessee	32	Memphis Nashville Knoxville Chattanooga

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Texas	115	Houston Dallas San Antonio Ft. Worth El Paso Austin Corpus Christi Lubbock
Utah	9	Salt Lake City
Vermont	4	None
Virginia	44	Norfolk Richmond Arlington Virginia Beach Newport News
Washington	36	Spokane Tacoma Seattle
West Virginia	18	None
Wisconsin	36	Milwaukee Madison
Wyoming	3	None

Federal funds for these jobs will be provided under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), with the states to establish their own qualifications and salary ranges for the temporary, paraprofessional positions, consistent with the regular state personnel policies. The grade equivalent is anticipated to approximate federal grades five to seven, but this will be up to each individual state.

Any interested disabled veteran should apply immediately to the nearest public employment office, who will be notified by their state administrative offices about the program. These offices have been assigned the responsibility to recruit disabled veterans and to assist other disabled, jobless veterans.

"Here is The American Legion's opportunity to assist jobless disabled veterans. Please do everything possible to get the word out to reach as many as possible," Austin E. Kerby, director for Economics, has pointed out.

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For release 3-11-77

KANSAS CITY, MO.--(ALNS)--James B. Kerrigan, 83, former National Vice Commander of The American Legion (1958-59), died March 1, in Afton, Va. A veteran of World War I, he served the Legion as department commander of Missouri in 1953-54 and as Missouri National Executive Committeeman of The American Legion in 1954-55.

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FOR WEEK ENDING 3-18-77**

Ralph E. Hall, director of the Labor Department's Veterans Employment Service, has reminded the nation's employers that any business establishment with a government contract of ten thousand dollars or more must hire and promote disabled and Vietnam-era veterans, according to Section 402 of the Vietnam-era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (VEVRA).

* * *

"Top level Postal Service officials are using subterfuge and 'Catch 22' tactics to deny veterans, working in the Postal Service, employment rights to which they are entitled under provisions of the Veterans Preference Act," Austin E. Kerby, Legion National director for Economics, has pointed out in a letter to Raymond Jacobson, executive director of the U.S. Civil Service Commission.

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The subject of the FBI's crime resistance tip for this week's ALNS is burglary, and according to the FBI, easy access to an unoccupied residence is the opportunity a residential burglar looks for.

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Post public relations officers looking for a way to promote The American Legion in their local communities might consider the current billboard poster utilizing the Legion's national theme, "Your American Legion -- It's Great to Belong." The billboard posters are available through National Emblem Sales for only seven dollars each, including all shipping charges.

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Dates for the annual Washington Conference next year are Feb. 19-23, and dates for the conference in 1979 are Feb. 18-22.

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BALTIMORE, MD.--(ALNS)--The "Yankee Rebels," National American Legion Senior Drum and Bugle Corps champions for three consecutive years (1969-71), have disbanded. The famous corps, of Hamilton Post 20, American Legion Department of Maryland, was a victim of inflation, according to Dan Burkhardt, department adjutant of Maryland.

The precision plus group, which first won the Legion National Senior Drum and Bugle Corps championship in 1969 during the 51st National Convention in Atlanta, retained its national championship the following years in Portland (52nd National Convention) and Houston (53rd National Convention).



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For
God
and
Country

For release 3-18-77

WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--Ralph E. Hall, director of the Labor Department's Veterans Employment Service, has reminded the nation's employers that any business establishment with a government contract of ten thousand dollars or more must hire and promote disabled and Vietnam-era veterans, according to Section 402 of the Vietnam-era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (VEVRA).

Hall said that the law requires affected employers to take "affirmative action" to hire and promote covered veterans. This includes making any necessary changes in the employers' conditions of employment and personnel practices that involve recruitment, hiring, rates of pay, upgrading, demotion, and selection for training. In addition, contractors must list their job openings with a local Job Service office of their state's Employment Security Agency. The Job Service must give veterans priority when making referrals for job openings.

Disabled veterans with at least thirty per cent disability compensation and those discharged from active duty because of disability received or aggravated in line of duty are covered under the law.

Vietnam-era veterans are covered for four years after their discharge, if they served during the Vietnam era (Aug. 5, 1964, through May 7, 1975) and received other than a dishonorable discharge.

Information on the VEVRA can be obtained from the local veterans employment representative at any Job Service office, the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans Employment Service, or by writing to The American Legion's National Economics Division, 1608 "K" St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Director Hall urges all veterans and employers to use the state Employment Service Agency to obtain job market information and to secure qualified veterans registered with the Job Service. The federal-state Employment Service offices operated by the states and territories provide complete service to veterans and employers, at no fee, under the U.S. Department of Labor, United States Employment Service.

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MATTAPAN, MASS.--(ALNS)--Louis S. Silvey, whose "consequential and plenary involvement in The American Legion has merited him the title Mr. American Legion," in his area of Massachusetts, was honored on his ninetieth birthday at a brunch held at Temple Adas-Hadrath Israel, Hyde Park, where more than 130 guests paid tribute to the nonegenarian.

Among the dignitaries who came to honor Silvey were Congressman James A. Burke, who sponsored a tribute to Mr. Silvey in the Congressional Record, and former Speaker of the House John McCormack.

Silvey's lifelong motto, "For God and Country," fronts his 52-year-old electrical supply company. His is a past commander and a life member of Mattapan Post 128 of The American Legion. In addition, he is a vice chairman of the Legion's Distinguished Guest Committee.

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For release 3-18-77

WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--"Top level Postal Service officials are using subterfuge and 'Catch 22' tactics to deny veterans, working in the Postal Service, employment rights to which they are entitled under provisions of the Veterans Preference Act," Austin E. Kerby, Legion National director for Economics, has pointed out in a letter to Raymond Jacobson, executive director of the U.S. Civil Service Commission.

As proof of this assertion, he cited the following examples:

"1. The Postal Service is using the term 'realignment' as opposed to 'reorganization' in order to avoid adverse action or reduction in force measures which, pursuant to Title 39, U.S.C., Sec. 1005(a) (2), are applicable to veterans that are employees of the Postal Service.

"2. Management and nonsupervisory jobs formerly held by veterans have been abolished. Affected veterans have, in some cases, been given 'makework' detail assignments, kept at the same pay scale, but reduced in rank and placed in 'excess pools.' Many veterans placed on 'detail' assignments have been serving in that capacity for over sixteen months, and, at this writing, still have no clear indication of what their permanent assignment will be.

"3. Other veterans have been given lower grade permanent assignments at 'saved pay' after first being required to sign an agreement that they accept this arrangement. By accepting lower grade, saved pay job offers without qualification, veterans are unwittingly compromising any reduction in rank appeal rights that they may otherwise be entitled to under the provisions of the Veterans' Preference Act.

"4. Lower grade, saved pay job offers will not be consummated (i.e. FORM 50s will not be issued) if the individual insists on qualifying acceptance by indicating, in writing, that he reserves any and all appeal rights to which he is legally entitled.

"5. Failure on the part of veterans to accept, without qualifications, lower grade, saved pay job offers carries with it the risk of being subjected to involuntary separation."

"Obviously the tactics described above are not only coercive, but are designed to compromise and circumvent the legal options available to veterans under Section 1005(a) (2) of the Postal Reorganization Act," Kerby noted further in his letter.

In view of the foregoing problem, Kerby requested the following action be taken by the Civil Service Commission immediately:

"1. Favorably reconsider my Nov. 30, 1976, and Dec. 20, 1976, requests to have the Bureau of Personnel Management and Evaluations (BPME) of the Civil Service Commission conduct an audit of the personnel practices of the Postal Service which affect veterans.

"2. Have the general counsel of the Civil Service Commission issue an official opinion based on the results of the BPME audit."



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For release 3-18-77

INDIANAPOLIS--(ALNS)--Post public relations officers looking for a way to promote The American Legion in their local communities might consider the current billboard poster utilizing the Legion's national theme, "Your American Legion -- It's Great to Belong."

For only seven dollars each, including all shipping charges, your post can buy this full-size, 24-sheet poster, similar to those you see along the highways throughout the country.

Designed to catch the eye and convey its message easily to the motoring public, this is one of the most inexpensive promotional tools a post can use to develop interest in the Legion.

Many outdoor advertising firms will make unused billboard space available to non-profit organizations such as the Legion for little or no cost. Contact your local outdoor advertising firm now for possible arrangements to bring the Legion before the public.

The Legion's Emblem Sales Division also carries other promotional items which may be of interest to post PR officers, including window or bulletin board display posters for only fifteen cents each on a minimum order of 25 or 12½ cents each on a minimum order of 250, and the red, white and blue "It's Great to Know You Belong" bumper strips at twenty cents each for a single sticker, or \$17.50 per hundred in lots of one hundred or more.

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WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--The annual Washington Conference has been scheduled on the following dates for the years 1978 and 1979.

1978 -- Feb. 19-23, with the National Commander's banquet honoring the Congress scheduled on Feb. 22, at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

1979 -- Feb. 18-22, with the Commander's banquet scheduled on Feb. 21, at the Washington Hilton.

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BUENA VISTA, FLA.--(ALNS)--Walt Disney World has set aside May 21 through June 5, 1977, for their Armed Forces Days salute. The two week long celebration will offer special value admission tickets to all active duty and retired military personnel and their families. Also included are disabled veterans and reservists. During Armed Forces Days, the special value admission ticket will feature an advance sale price of \$6.25 per person which includes one day's unlimited use of all the Magic Kingdom theme park attractions (except Shootin' Gallery). Tickets purchased at Walt Disney World will be seven dollars per person. Advance tickets and additional information will be made available through most Recreation/Special Services offices located on most military bases throughout the southeastern United States.

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AMERICAN LEGION NEWS BRIEFS
FOR WEEK ENDING 3-25-77

National Commander William J. Rogers made the most of a brief four-day stay in the nation's capital March 21-24, with visits to the House and Senate leadership; courtesy calls on the new secretary of labor and the new administrator of veterans affairs; a working luncheon with his designated UN Committee and, capping the visit, a courtesy call on President Carter.

* * *

National Commander William J. Rogers has offered Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall the Legion's full cooperation in the area of promotion of the Department of Labor's job program for disabled and Vietnam-era veterans.

* * *

Robert Gros, retired vice president of Pacific Gas & Electric Co., will be the guest speaker for American Legion National Commander William J. Rogers' banquet for the Legion's National Executive Committee at 7 p.m., May 4, at the Columbia Club in Indianapolis.

* * *

Entries for the annual National American Legion Press Association "Best Papers" Contest must be mailed between April 15-30, 1977, according to Frank J. Giambra, secretary-treasurer of the organization. Mark "CONTEST" on your envelope and mail to Lillian Cleveland, president, N.A.L.P.A., P. O. Box 458, Punta Gorda, Fla. 33950.

* * *

WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and a member of The American Legion's special committee to study the UN and recommend a future course of action for the Legion with regard to the UN, met with Commander Rogers and other members of the committee on March 23 in Washington.

During the session in which Ambassador Lodge made his input to the Legion's committee, with an exchange of ideas among others present, it was decided to attempt to schedule sessions with each of the last five U.S. ambassadors to the world body to gain the benefit of their knowledge and experience prior to making recommendations to the entire Legion.

Members of the committee present included: Dr. Robert Foster, co-chairman of the committee and chairman of the National Foreign Relations Commission, Joseph Ellenwood, Henry B. King, Joseph L. Matthews, Dr. Francis O. Wilcox, J. Alvis Carver and Ambassador Lodge.



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WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--National Commander William J. Rogers made the most of a brief four-day stay in the nation's capital March 21-24, 1977, with visits to the House and Senate leadership; courtesy calls on the new secretary of labor and the new administrator of veterans affairs; a working luncheon with his designated UN Committee and, capping the visit, a courtesy call on President Carter.

The National Commander visited the administrator of veterans affairs, Max Cleland, at the VA National Headquarters on March 21, and offered the services of The American Legion to the new administrator.

On March 22, Commander Rogers paid traditional courtesy calls to the Congressional leadership with visits to Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker (Tenn.) and Speaker of the House Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill (Mass.), followed by a late afternoon visit with Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall. The Legion chief discussed areas of Legion interest in the labor department, with special emphasis on the new "Jobs for Veterans" programs with the secretary.

On March 23 the National Commander met with House Majority Leader James C. Wright, Jr. (Tex.), and House Minority Leader John J. Rhodes (Ariz.) and Sen. Ted Stephens (Ala.). At noon he hosted a working lunch at the Legion's Washington Headquarters Office for members of his UN Committee. Committee members attending were a co-chairman, Dr. Robert Foster; Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge; Dr. Francis Wilcox, director general of the Atlantic Council of the U.S.; prominent business leaders Henry King, J. Alvis Carver and Joseph Ellenwood; and Past National Commander Joe L. Matthews.

At 9:30 a.m. on March 24, the National Commander paid the traditional courtesy call on the President of the United States. President Carter received Commander Rogers in the Oval Office, and accepted a bound volume of resolutions passed by the 58th National Convention of The American Legion meeting in Seattle, Wash., in August 1976.

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WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--National Commander William J. Rogers has offered Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall the Legion's full cooperation in the area of promotion of the Department of Labor's job program for disabled and Vietnam-era veterans.

In a meeting with the labor chief on March 22, Commander Rogers stressed the early appointment of a qualified and veteran-minded deputy assistant secretary of labor for veterans employment. He also pointed out the need for effective implementation of existing laws which require job counseling, training and placement services for veterans and accountability for funds as provided state agencies for employment of veterans. The National Commander also suggested that more emphasis be placed on mandatory job listing by federal contractors and affirmative action provisions for disabled and Vietnam-era veterans.

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For release 3-25-77

INDIANAPOLIS--(ALNS)--Robert Gros, retired vice president of Pacific Gas & Electric Co., will be the guest speaker for American Legion National Commander William J. Rogers' banquet for the Legion's National Executive Committee at 7 p.m., May 4, at the Columbia Club here.

Gros, who has remained active in the energy and national defense field following his retirement after almost forty years with the West Coast utilities firm, will speak on the subject: "The Energy Crisis -- A Tough Road Ahead."

The son of a regular army cavalry officer, Gros has been close to military life and national security concerns. He is consultant to the commandant of the Marine Corps, has served on United Nations and NATO commissions, was a counselor to Notre Dame University and official escort to Nikita Khrushchev during the late Russian premier's 1959 visit to the United States. He holds ten awards from the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge, Pa.; the Navy's distinguished public service medal -- its highest civilian award; plus personal commendations from President Eisenhower and United Nations Secretary General U Thant.

In the past year Gros and other energy specialists have organized to launch a national public service education program to alert citizens to the problems facing the United States.

An accomplished speaker, Gros has lectured U.S. and NATO military staffs and has been a regular lecturer at the Navy War College and the Navy Line School and Post Graduate School.

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DENVER, COLO.--(ALNS)--The Oldsmobile Division of General Motors, working in conjunction with Metro Denver Oldsmobile Dealers Association, will make available to all department commanders the free use of a new 1977 Oldsmobile 98 during the Legion's 59th Annual National Convention scheduled on Aug. 19-25, in Denver, Colo., according to William H. Miller, National Convention director.

The Oldsmobile will be equipped with signs which will bear the Legion emblems, the department commander's name, and the name of his department. Additionally, it will carry a special Legion license plate.

Department commanders wishing to avail themselves of the offer are asked to provide insurance coverage for the convention period through their own insurance agent as per a letter from National Convention Director Miller. This can be done by the use of an insurance rider on the department commander's present policy. "The commander's own agent will be familiar with the required procedure and will furnish a letter stating that the automobile is covered for property damage and collision for the convention period," Miller added.

(more)

The serial number of the vehicle for insurance purposes will be forwarded to the department commanders in early July from Bill Miller's office.

At the conclusion of the convention, department commanders will be given the opportunity to purchase the 1977 Oldsmobile at "a most advantageous price," Miller said.

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For release 3-25-77

CRIME RESISTANCE

A CONTINUING SERIES IN COOPERATION WITH THE FBI'S CRIME RESISTANCE PROGRAM

Making a residence completely impervious to entry by burglars would be financially prohibitive, if not an impractical, undertaking. But, by spending just a few dollars and taking a few common-sense precautions, much can be done to convince a potential burglar that attempting to burglarize your residence would involve too much effort and risk.

Burglars, naturally, like to work unobserved. Dark or secluded areas around doors or windows afford them the kind of cover they need. By using appropriate outside lighting to illuminate doors and windows and cutting back shrubbery to insure that they are not shielded from view, burglars are deprived of a place in which they can operate unobserved.

Of course, doors and windows should always be locked. At the same time, they must be sound and secured with reliable locks or other security devices. To insure the security of your residence in this regard:

--make sure that your doors are solidly constructed (preferably solid wood or metal) and that they fit snugly in their frames.

--don't rely on latches to secure doors; install a more secure lock, such as a deadbolt or rim lock.

--use a flat-sided piece of wood, removable drop bar ("Charlie bar"), or removable pin to secure sliding glass doors and windows.

--install a lock that requires the use of a key to lock and unlock glass panels from both sides so that a burglar can't break the glass, reach through, and unlock the door.

Again, security against burglary doesn't cost much and doesn't take much effort. It does, however, make your residence a great deal less vulnerable to a major type of criminal activity.

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Competition classes include the following:

1. Best paper from the point of journalistic excellence. Unlimited category. Winner receives the Past President's Plaque.
2. Papers from posts with fewer than two thousand members. Winner is awarded the Al Weinberg Trophy.
3. Paper produced by a stencil process (mimeo, ditto, etc.). Winner receives the Jack R. C. Cann Plaque.
4. For editorials only -- one to be submitted. Must have appeared originally in an American Legion paper, within the contest year.

Send three Legion publications, one each of three separate months; also submit your best editorial in the contest year. Send publication, or tearsheet containing the editorial, and date of issue. Papers submitted must have been issued between May 1, 1976, and April 30, 1977.

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CHICAGO--(ALNS)--The American Legion Life Insurance Department has experienced its first instance of paying the absolute maximum death benefit of \$66,000 to the beneficiary of a young American Legionnaire.

The payment was made to the beneficiary of a Legionnaire under 29 years of age who had taken out the maximum allowable six units of insurance coverage under the existing American Legion Life Insurance plan.

This young man's family has received a major assist with the financial problems that will be encountered by his survivors as a result of his death.

The American Legion Life Insurance Program can serve a useful and beneficial purpose to the family of any member, and it is a benefit available to all members. For further details write: Gene L. Fattig; Director; Youngberg Carlson Co., Inc.; 222 North Dearborn St.; Chicago, Ill. 60601.

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ANCHORAGE, ALASKA--(ALNS)--Roland Henry Stock, 87, former Alaska National Executive Committeeman of The American Legion (1939-48), died here recently.

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