



# The Flash

*Serving the 19th District Community, State and Nation Since 1926*

MAY 2022



Volume 97  
No. 5

Member The American Legion Media Alliance



## Nominations are happening



National  
Commander  
Paul E. Dillard

Dear American Legion Family and Friends,

The month of May, which is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, is a perfect time to get outside, exercise and improve our wellbeing. It's also a perfect time to join or recommit to The American Legion's 100 Miles for Hope campaign, which runs through Labor Day.

Keep in mind that you don't have to actually run. You can walk, ride your bicycle or motorcycle, use an elliptical, canoe, kayak, swim or cover 100 miles any way you choose. Heck, you can even ride a mule like Trish Carlisle, an American Legion member from Arizona, for your 100 miles.

Just as important as keeping ourselves active is supporting the fundraising part of the challenge. All registration fees and donations go to The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation (V&CF), which funds programs for disabled veterans military families in financial crisis.

I understand some people are hesitant to ask family members and friends for donations. But keep in mind our brothers and sisters in arms who are counting on our support. If you are unsure where to start, Yates has outlined how he was able to achieve fundraising success with some **useful tips in this story:**

(<https://www.legion.org/100miles/255478/top-fundraiser-wins-signed-jimmie-johnson-shirt>)

### Get out, get active and get fundraising!

Your support truly demonstrates how The American Legion is ...

Veterans Strengthening America.

### 19th District Meetings for April 2022

E-Board May 4th  
Montebello Post 272

General Membership  
May 11th

Paramount Post 134

7550 Somerset Blvd., Paramount, CA  
90723

All meetings start at 7:00 PM



"Rover really put up a battle last night, dear, when I put him out."



Troops across the National Guard and reserve components of all military branches will see a standardized discharge form by 2025, according to a Defense Department instruction released earlier this month.

After the new policy goes into effect, members will receive the new DD Form 214-1 when they retire or separate from one of the military's reserve components. Currently, each service has its own reserve component separation form, such as the NGB 22 or the NAVPERS 1070/615.

Groups representing reserve component troops, including the Reserve Organization of America and the National Guard Association of the U.S., have long advocated for the change.

The hodgepodge of separation forms sometimes posed problems for reserve component troops when trying to access veterans benefits, explained J.C. Cardinale, personnel legislative affairs manager for NGAUS.

The retirement pay eligibility date will be plainly stated on the new DD-214-1, taking the guesswork out of it for troops.

If H.R.7041 is passed, it will require the military to issue a new DD-214 (or DD-214-1) at various checkpoints in a service member's career, according to an online summary of the bill.

The NGAUS official hopes to someday see "digital, on-demand DD-214s," similar to how members can log in and instantly download their paystubs from MyPay.

## Louie Adame—Commander



### Hello District 19 Posts and Members,

I am sure it has been hard on many of the District posts trying to recover from being restricted from doing our American Legion programs and promoting our membership drives within our respective communities. Many posts have suffered a decrease in membership for one reason or another, as well as the transfer of members to Post Everlasting. But I urge you all to continue those membership drives to renew old members, retain current members, and recruit new members into your posts. Become more active within your communities, and let them know that the American Legion is still there. For posts who have not had any meetings or activities within their buildings, it is time to open up those doors and welcome back your members to the regular order of business at your post.

In April, the District participated in a membership and donation drive at the Grand Prix of Long Beach during the weekend of April 8<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers from all Legion family branches came and recruited each day along with members from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Districts. We thank you all for participating and for your time to recruit and solicit donations. This year was different in that the American Legion purchased a mobile unit with expanding walls for the purpose of promoting the American Legion at various sporting events such as the Grand Prix. The mobile unit will be crusading across this nation for the purpose of membership recruitment and for donations. Also, our fellow Legionnaire Jeff Freeman presented District 19 with its Helmets for Heroes donation stand for the purpose of soliciting donations at District functions. It is vital that the Department of California continues to support our Veterans in California by hiring accredited Veteran Service Officers. We need donations to help support the program. Also, the District will be participating at Fleet Week to be held during Memorial Day weekend May 27<sup>th</sup> through May 30<sup>th</sup> near the Battleship Iowa. We need volunteers to be there each day to help with membership and donation collections. We need confirmed commitment from all who volunteer to attend. If you are interested in volunteering, please send me your name, email address, and contact telephone number. Further details will be forwarded once I have received them.

At our April 13<sup>th</sup> monthly general meeting, the District held first nominations of candidates for elected offices for the 2022-2023 year. All named candidates must submit to the District Adjutant Juan Gonzalez **njeg\_85@yahoo.com**, a "Resolution of Endorsement," properly signed preferably by the post Commander, Adjutant or Judge Advocate, prior to the next monthly general meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. I am sure several posts within the District will also be having their own elections in May. Just a reminder that the post must submit its Certification of Officers prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>, along with its Consolidated Post Report (CPR), and the Certification of Delegates to the Department convention in June. It is imperative that all District posts complete and file these forms promptly. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the District.

## Fernando Gallardo—1st Vice Commander

**Hello all District 19 Posts and members,**

I hope that all the First Vice Commanders in the District continue to be busy conducting “Buddy Checks” with members that are on your membership rosters, and with membership renewing, transferring and signing up new members. Remember, Legion membership is a vital brick to keep our organization strong in the coming years as we continue to assist our fellow Veterans and their families. Our next Membership target goal date of 100 % is May 4, 2022. As of Friday, April 22, 2022, the Department is standing at 49<sup>th</sup> place with 53,479 members paid to Post for 86.92% of goal, and District 19 membership is at 83.13% for 8th place with 1,811 paid members. Area 4 stands in at 1st place with 3,962 paid member for 86.22% membership renewal.

I would like once again congratulate Rivera Post 411 (120.24%) and Paramount Post 134 (110.78%) for achieving their 100% membership goal for 2021-2022, and their continue commitment to contacting members and recruiting new members to their respective Post.

The current membership report from the Department shows the following breakdown of all District 19, Posts:

100% or greater (2)

90% or greater (2)

80% or greater (4)

70% or greater (7)

60% or greater (1)

50% or greater (2)

I have started to contact members on Post 1000 to see if they are interested in transferring to one of our District 19 American Legion Post within their area by scheduling a day and time with the member at the local American Legion Post in their area to see if they would like to transfer to the District 19 American Legion Post. If you find that your Post's membership drive is slowing down, District 19 is willing to support you with resources that can assist you in reaching your membership goal. The [Calegion.org](http://Calegion.org) and [Legion.org](http://Legion.org) websites have resources available for you to access to help you with your membership drive. If you need support, or have questions relating to membership, just contact me at (213) 925-8927, or at my email address [ferndogsc28@gmail.com](mailto:ferndogsc28@gmail.com), and I will see what I can do to assist you with membership.

Thank you

## REV DAVID A CHURCH—CHAPLAIN

Another month is behind us, pushing forward towards the Department of California Convention coming up on June 23, 2022. I myself am really looking forward to attending it and I hope to see many others from Whittier Post 51 and District 19 there. Right now my company is going through a 24/7 shutdown for four weeks straight with us working 12 hours daily until finish, so I am out of the loop until late May as far as meetings and chaplain duties are concerned, although I am accessible through email.

In late May or early June, I would like to set up a meet and greet, possibly at a restaurant, for all the Post Chaplains and Assistant Chaplains so we can get to know each other and to exchange ideas and to keep each other in prayer. I will be releasing more information concerning this in the next few weeks concerning this by email.

Post Everlasting:

Robert G. Holzknacht, Battleship Iowa Post 61, WWII, U.S. Air Force  
 Frank Lagunas, Montebello Post 272, WWII, U.S. Army  
 Carlos Rivera, Montebello Post 272, Global War on Terror, U.S. Army  
 Carlos Villa, Norwalk Post 359, Korea, U.S. Army

Prayer:

“Lord and Master, I continue to lift up prayer for the veterans struggling with thoughts of suicide, PTSD, homelessness, and drug and alcohol addiction. Touch the hearts Lord and lead them to a place of help. I pray that all members of the Legion that we live up to our calling to serve other veterans, our communities, and our nation, which is in need of a return to the foundation laid out in the Constitution of the United States, and that we continue to uphold our belief in serving God and country. Amen”

## Judge Advocate Report

To all District 19 Posts and Members,

We are down to our final two month of the 2021-2022 year, which means many reports to prepare, final membership drives, and of course District and Post elections. The District held its first nominations of candidates for elected office for 2022-2023 on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Some nominations were made, but anyone wishing to run for elected office will have an opportunity at our May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. All candidates for elected office must have an updated "Resolution of Endorsement" properly executed from their respective post. It must be submitted to the District Adjutant Juan Gonzalez at [njeg\\_85@yahoo.com](mailto:njeg_85@yahoo.com) before the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. At the monthly meeting in May, second nominations will be taken, and once completed, the election will be held. All candidates for elected office, with the exception of those current officers who may be running for re-election, must present their DD214 or DD215 forms for review by the election committee. The elected offices are as follows: District Commander; 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commanders; Finance Officer and Assistant Finance Officer; LACC Executive Committee Vice Commander; LACC Executive Committee Member; National Convention Delegates; and National Convention Alternate Delegates. I encourage all District 19 members to seriously consider taking on an elected position.

On another note, all Posts must remember to submit their required forms before June 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid any delay, or possible placement on the Department's probation list. The forms due are as follows: the Post Data Report; Consolidated Post Report; Certificate of Post Officers for 2022-2022; and Certificate of Delegates to the Department of California convention. Currently, we have two posts on the probation list for not submitting the required noted forms: Post 27- Post Financial Audit 2020-2021; and Post 833- the Post Data Report. These two posts will continue on the probation list until such time the Department receives the required form, otherwise, continuing failure to submit may result in suspension of the post charter. Thank you.

## District Finance Report

District Comrades,

As the Finance Officer for District 19, I want to report that we are in good shape for the District's finances. As always if you want a copy of the monthly finance report email me at [gilsoto04@gmail.com](mailto:gilsoto04@gmail.com), and I'll be glad to send one out to you.

Gil Soto  
District 19 Finance Officer

## Children & Youth Programs

The District will be sending 45 junior grade high school male student delegates to this year's Boys State program session at California State University Sacramento on June 18<sup>th</sup> through June 24<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, it's not the same number of boys going this year as in previous years, but I think that the Covid pandemic has something to do with some parents taking precautionary measures to safeguard their sons. But, 45 student delegates is still a good representation of the District. Thanks go out to all our post chairs for their efforts to continue making Boys State a vital program of the American Legion. The District added a new post's participation to the Boys State Program, Battleship Iowa Post 61. The District offers its thanks to Bill Sims and Nick Vilicich for stepping up and sponsoring a high school male student to represent Post 61 at Boys State. In addition, Whittier Post 51 decided to sponsor a junior grade female student delegate to the Girls State Program this year in anticipation of the requirement to begin next year. The Girls State Program is administered by the American Legion Auxiliary in California. We all wish the chosen student delegates a safe and enjoyable experience with their programs.

Gil Soto  
District 19 Boys State Program Chairman

## **American Legion Experience at Long Beach Grand Prix**

By Fred Shacklett, Historian TAL Department of California

LONG BEACH, CA

April 8, 9, 10, 2022

Your American Legion was in action at the Long Beach Grand Prix, greeting the public, signing up new members and passing out printed material about the Legion.

District 19 Commander, Louie Adame, along with members of the District, the Auxiliary, Legion Riders and Sons of the American Legion were out in force all three days of the Grand Prix. Also attending were Department Commander Autrey James, and Department Adjutant Barbara Lombrano.



*Members of District 19 at the TAL Experience Long Beach Grand Prix.*

The American Legion has invested in a new NASCAR marketing campaign to attract veterans and has purchased a custom-built fold-out van. The van is designed specifically for conveying the American Legion message and our commitment to NASCAR. The intent is be present at NASCAR events throughout the country, with a strong visible message that the Legion is active and ready to assist our veterans and their families.

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Public side of the van with panels folded out, and the reception counter, and the information kiosks. (Photo: TAL Dept of California)



Drivers side of the TAL Experience Van. (Photo: TAL Dept of California)

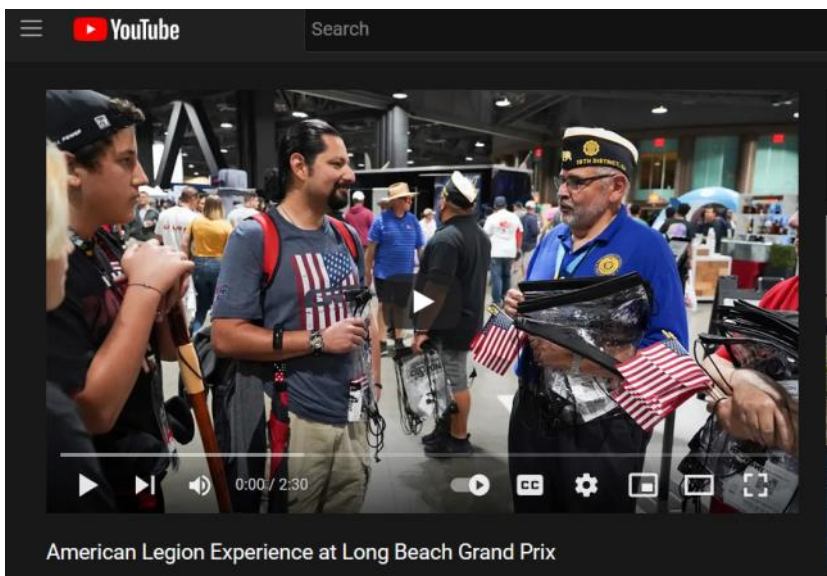
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*Jimmie-Johnson-Acura-Grand-Prix-of-Long-Beach (Contributing Photographer-Chris-Jones)*

Video from last weekend's Long Beach Grand Prix, featuring our District 19 Commander Louie Adame. Just click on link to view. Feel free to share this email also.

District 19 Commander, Louie Adame was featured in YouTube video about the event. Click on this link to watch the video of [American Legion Experience at Long Beach Grand Prix](#)



*source [American Legion](#)*

The American Legion emblem is prominently featured on the newly revealed paint scheme, or livery, for the No. 48 car that will be driven by seven-time NASCAR Cup Series champion Jimmie Johnson and former NTT IndyCar Series champion Tony Kanaan during the 2021-2022 NTT IndyCar Series.

Continued on Next Page



*Chip Ganassi Racing Announced the sponsorship of their Number 48 Jimmie Johnson Race Car.*

In December 2020, The American Legion and Chip Ganassi Racing announced a multi-year sponsorship agreement for the No. 48 Honda in the 2021 and 2022 NTT IndyCar Series. The American Legion will be featured prominently on the No. 48 Honda during every race in both seasons. Johnson will drive the street and road courses this season, while Kanaan will handle the ovals. The American Legion will be the primary sponsor for multiple oval races during the season, including the Indianapolis 500 – known as "the greatest spectacle in racing" and won by Kanaan in 2013.

Carvana is the primary sponsor for most of the street and road races; the livery for those races is primarily black and includes blue wheel covers featuring The American Legion emblem.





THE AMERICAN LEGION • DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA



# AREA 4

Sensible" 17th District • "Noisy" 19th District • "Team in" 23rd

# CALL TO CAUCUS

**SATURDAY, May 7, 2022**

**Past Commanders' Club @ 9:00 AM**  
**Area 4 Caucus @ 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

**Chinatown Post 628 (District 17)**  
**925 N. Broadway – Los Angeles 90012**  
**(832) 545-1585**

District Commanders, District 1st Vice Commanders, and Area 4 Commissioners are required to participate and be prepared to give a **BRIEF** verbal report as well as submit a written report to Adjutant Rideaux, [aide\\_deptcmdr@att.net](mailto:aide_deptcmdr@att.net) in advance or at the meeting. If you are unable to attend, notify Area 4 Vice Commander, Nick Rosa or Adjutant Rideaux, however, you are expected to submit a report.

Attention: District Commanders and District Chaplains, please forward names of Post Everlasting members in your District to: Area 4 Chaplain – Johnny Harris, [bigelton77@yahoo.com](mailto:bigelton77@yahoo.com)  
 Direct questions to the following:

Nick Rosa  
 Department Vice Commander – Area 4  
 (626) 476-6056

Ozan Evans  
 Vice President  
 Area 4 Past Commanders' Club  
 (310) 994-2872

Marilyn Rideaux  
 Adjutant, Area 4  
 310 293-1246

Robert C. Brown  
 Secretary, Area 4 PCC  
 310-516-0427

## Nine respiratory cancers added to list of illnesses presumed caused by burn pit smoke

By Leo Shane III



Veterans Affairs officials this week will add nine respiratory cancers to the list of illnesses presumed caused by burn pit exposure, easing the path veterans suffering from those conditions have to take to get disability benefits.

The move follows promises by administration officials last fall to speed up care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pit smoke in Iraq, Afghanistan and other overseas locations over the last 32 years.

In a statement, VA Secretary Denis McDonough called the move overdue.

“Veterans who suffer from rare respiratory cancers associated with their service deserve the very best America has to offer, but they’ve had to wait for the care and benefits they deserve for far too long,” he said. “That ends now.”

“With these new presumptives, veterans who suffer from these rare respiratory cancers will finally get the world-class care and benefits they deserve, without having to prove causality between their service and their condition.”

The nine new conditions are:

- Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx;
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea;
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea;
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea;
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung;
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung;
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung;
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung;
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung;

The policy applies to veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations beginning Aug. 2, 1990, to the present, or in Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001, to the present. That includes all veterans who served in the Gulf War, the Iraq War and the War in Afghanistan.

VA officials did not say how many individuals would be affected by the new policy, although they did classify the cancers as “rare” in their announcement.

The issue of presumptive benefits for burn pit victims has been a priority for advocates in recent years because of the difficulty in linking many health problems to the toxic smoke present at many overseas bases.

Under most cases, veterans must show a direct link between their medical condition and military service in order to receive disability benefits, which can amount to several thousand dollars a month.

But when VA grants presumptive status for an illness, that skips the need for proof of connection, making the path to getting disability payouts easier. In the past, VA has approved presumptive status for things such as exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam, a known carcinogen.

Last August, for the first time, the department approved presumptive status for veterans suffering from three illnesses — asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis — related to burn pit smoke overseas.

As of last month, VA officials had processed about 16,500 new claims related to those burn pit injuries, totaling \$36 million in retroactive benefits.

The White House also promised additional research into other medical problems believed linked (but never conclusively proven) to the toxic smoke produced when military members disposed of a variety of waste in open-air trash fires.

VA officials said the decision to add the nine new conditions came after researchers found “biological plausibility between airborne hazards and carcinogenesis of the respiratory tract” and that “the unique circumstances of these rare cancers warrant a presumption of service connection.”

Both McDonough and President Joe Biden have said they will look to go even further with the burn pit presumptives, but are limited somewhat by VA benefits regulations.

“Supporting our veterans is a critical part of the Unity Agenda I proposed for our nation,” Biden said in a statement. “No matter where we live or who we voted for in the last election, we all agree that we should serve our veterans as well as they have served us.

“My administration will continue to do everything in its power to support our nation’s veterans, and I urge Congress to pass bipartisan legislation to comprehensively address toxic exposures and further deliver the vital benefits our veterans have earned. I will sign it immediately.”

Congressional leaders are considering sweeping legislation that would grant presumptive disability status for an even broader list of medical conditions believed linked to burn pits.

Department officials are expected to reach out to veterans who have filed burn pit claims in the past to inform them of the changes. Individuals can also get more information on the benefits through the VA web site.

### New District 19 Pin and Sticker By Fred Shacklett

After too many years of not having a pin, our Department Historian, Fred Shacklett, has designed a new Noisy 19 collectable lapel/hat pin and a sticker. Yes, he is also a graphic designer.



The pin is approximately 1 ¼ inch wide. Made of polished brass, with dark blue background color. The pin has a double rubber clutch on the back and won't stain your cover or suit lapel.



The sticker is 3.00 inches wide, with yellow and blue colors on an adhesive back.

If you would like to have one of these collectables, come to a Post 51 meeting or a District 19 meeting. You can get both pin and sticker for \$5.00.

## Five Things to Know, April 4, 2022

The American Legion



1. Russia faced a fresh wave of condemnation on Monday after evidence emerged of what appeared to be deliberate killings of civilians in Ukraine. Some Western leaders called for further sanctions in response, even as Moscow continued to press its offensive in the country's east.
2. On Friday, The American Legion's deputy director for Claims and Benefits, Marty Callaghan, was featured in a WBTV-TV On Your Side story to warn veterans about a North Carolina-based company the Legion feels preys on servicemembers. Callaghan zeroed in on Veterans Guardian's practice of charging veterans for help that other organizations provide for free. "These companies are getting rich off of our veterans," Callaghan said. "They're basically, well, what can I call them? A pack of vultures."
3. Last February, Sons of The American Legion Squadron 294 in Hartland, Wis., staged its third annual "Sleepout for Veterans", when around 30 people slept outside for two nights in temperatures that ranged from the high 20s to single digits. The goal was to raise both awareness for and funds to assist homeless veterans. On Friday, Squadron 294 shared the results of their efforts, presenting the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative and Racine Veterans Outreach with more than \$27,000 each. Each entity assists homeless veterans in Wisconsin.
4. The active-duty Army marked a grim milestone Friday as a Defense Suicide Prevention Office report revealed that the service suffered more suicides in 2021 than any other year since the Sept. 11 attacks. The 176 confirmed or pending suicide deaths for the service's active component present a worrying signal that the increase in suicides that began in 2020, which saw 174 suicides, has not abated.
5. One of the most impressive coaching runs in NCAA basketball history came to an end Saturday when Duke lost to North Carolina in the Final Four. The loss marked the end of Mike Krzyzewski's head coaching career – one that started at the U.S. Military Academy in 1975 before he took the Duke job in 1980. Krzyzewski played point guard at West Point from 1966-1969 under Coach Bob Knight and then spent 1969-1974 serving in the U.S. Army, coaching three different service teams. In a 2018 Military Times article, Krzyzewski called West Point "the best leadership school in the world."



## FLEET WEEK

**LA★FLEET★WEEK****MAY 27 - MAY 30, 2022****Memorial Day Weekend 2022 | 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Daily****LA FLEET WEEK**

LA Fleet Week is a free public event celebrating our U.S. armed forces at our nation's #1 port, the Port of Los Angeles. Our annual event welcomes active military ships and personnel to the LA Waterfront and features public ship tours, military equipment displays, aerial demonstrations, live entertainment, educational activities and more.

A truly unique slice of Los Angeles, the LA Waterfront has been undergoing a transformation over the last decade. Only 30 minutes from downtown Los Angeles, this emerging tourist destination has a variety of popular attractions. During LA Fleet Week, make the most of your visit by planning some additional stops and activities. There's so much to do! From museums to a giant craft warehouse, to war memorials and maritime history, the LA Waterfront is where the past meets the present at the doorstep of America's largest trade gateway.



**No tickets or reservations needed  
for Ship Tours**

From our 2021 Leadership Council, Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, we wish you hearty and healthy holiday celebrations with those that are most near and dear.

Let's raise a glass to honor our steadfast sailors, marines, and coasties who continue to protect our freedoms at sea, day and night.

Our team looks forward to bringing you an amazing LA Fleet Week event over Memorial Day Weekend 2022!

**Celebrate life. Celebrate loved ones. Celebrate our US Sea Services.**

## Education and Transition



In the Army, Ulrich Nkou Sembe worked as an operating room specialist. When he got his first civilian job after transitioning out of military life, he went on to do the same thing in the private sector.

That seamless transition is courtesy of the U.S. Army's PaYS program, which stands for Partnership for Youth Success. The program has been around for more than 20 years and is a recruiting tool that ensures up to five job interviews upon separation from the Army with corporate partners committed to hiring former service men and women.

"I liked the uniform," said Nkou Sembe, who is still in the Army Reserves. "And I like my job. It hasn't been easy, but it's been worth it." In addition to his job as a surgical technologist at HCA Healthcare in Texas, Nkou Sembe is also at Houston Community College studying biology. He plans to go to medical school and hopes to become a flight surgeon or field surgeon in the Army one day.

"That is the goal," he said.

And the PaYS program helped him find a good job quickly — allowing him to keep pursuing his dreams.

when it comes to helping assist transitioning soldiers," said Antonio Johnson, PaYS program manager.

Nowadays, there are dozens of nonprofits, as well as programs within the services, that help transitioning servicemembers. But the Army program has been around a long time and has a track record of success. There are currently 966 PaYS partners, 782,860 jobs available and 275,974 PaYS soldiers.

PaYS started in 2000 and began as a way to help with recruiting. The Army helps soldiers gain valuable skills that will translate into civilian employment — even helping them obtain training and certification if necessary. Nkou Sembe said he got his certification as a Certified Surgical Technologist through the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting to work in operating rooms in the Army, for example.

PaYS partners, including companies like General Motors, USAA, Cintas and Century 21, interview servicemembers, and about 60% of them receive job offers, Johnson said.

Recruits can choose to sign up for the program upon enlistment and choose a qualified career path in the Army to help with future job prospects. The Army trains recruits in a number of different fields that translate into civilian employment, Johnson said — meaning it's a win-win for employers and servicemembers alike.

Many young people see the Army as a stepping stone to their future careers, and PaYS helps with that plan.

"The Army has made it a priority to help transitioning soldiers," Johnson said. "The more they successfully transfer out, the better. No one wants unemployed veterans.

"It's the soldier-for-life philosophy. We take care of each other for life."

  
**THE AMERICAN  
LEGION**  
*"Still and Forever  
Serving America"*

19th District Flash Editor

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## THE FLASH

### DEADLINE

25TH OF MONTH

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

WELCOMED

Check us out on  
 19th District Face book  
 On the Web page  
 Noisy 19th.com

## T-7 Red Hawk trainer makes its debut



The first of the U.S. Air Force's new fleet of trainer jets, Boeing's T-7A Red Hawk, was unveiled to the public in a rollout ceremony Thursday in St. Louis, Missouri.

The event, held in a Boeing facility at Lambert International Airport, marked the first delivery of 351 planned T-7s, which will replace the more than 5-decade-old T-38 Talon aircraft.

## END ZONE BRIEFS

### Famed Hawaii Marine attack squadron cases its colors



A Marine light-attack helicopter squadron that has been intermittently active in worldwide conflicts since World War II cased its colors in a Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, ceremony on April 22.

Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367, Marine Aircraft Group 24, known as "Scarface," was deactivated as part of the Marine Corps' latest plan to restructure its Hawaii-based forces.

### US National Guard's aging battle taxis find new use in Ukraine



At least five states are sending aging M113 armored personnel carriers to Europe to support the Pentagon's race to send equipment to Ukraine.

As of April 28th, the governors of Indiana, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio and West Virginia announced that, at the request of the Defense

Department, they're turning M113s from their fleets over to Ukraine. The aid stems from President Joe Biden's announcement April 13 of an \$800 million package that included 200 M113s, among more than a dozen other capabilities.

The U.S. Army considers the M113, its Vietnam War battle taxi, obsolete and stopped buying them in 2006. As the fighting in the Donbas region of Ukraine faces a rainy, muddy spring, the M113 — which has tracks and weighs far less than an Abrams tank — could offer the country's forces transportation and protection from small-arms fire and the effects of artillery.