



**David (Coop)
Cooper
Commander
Post 32**

The Morning Report

Quarterly Newsletter for The American Legion Springfield Post 32 Family

The American Legion Memorial Home Corporation (ALMHC) and The Post 32 Club Committee (CC)

Post 32 Finance Officer Mike Walton



**Suzie Q.
Weiss
President
Unit 32**

The purpose of The American Legion Memorial Home Corporation (ALMHC) of Springfield, an Illinois Not-for-Profit corporation, and an IRS Section 501 (c)(2) entity, is to hold title to property, collect income therefrom, pay expenses such as property taxes, utilities, etc. and to return the entire amount collected, less expenses, at the end of the fiscal year to the Springfield Post No.32, American Legion, Department of Illinois, an Illinois Not-for-Profit corporation, and an IRS Section 501 (c) (19) entity. The property that the ALMHC controls are 1120 Sangamon Avenue; 1125 Joles Avenue; 1117 Joles Avenue; 1132 Sangamon Avenue which is presently being sold contract for deed to the Sangamon County Republican Central Committee; Burial plots at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Calvary Cemetery and Roselawn Cemetery.

The members of the (ALMHC), also serve on the Club Committee. These members are comprised of the American Legion Springfield Post 32 elected officers: the Commander, the Senior Vice Commander, the Junior Vice Commander, the Finance Officer, the most-recent Past Commander and three (3) members elected from the Post 32 membership. The three members of the Club Committee/ALMHC shall be elected at the regular Post election, two (2) members shall be nominated and elected in even numbered years for a term of two (2) years, and one (1) member shall be nominated and elected in odd-numbered years for a term of two (2) years.

All Club Committee members must be in "good standing" with the Post, and they are responsible for the management, control, operations and preservation of the Post bar, Mess Hall Restaurant facilities and offices. This includes all the employees that are employed by the (Post) Club Committee. Both the Club Committee and ALMHC meet monthly, normally on the third

Tuesday of each month, beginning at 5:00 PM. Annually, the Club Committee members elect a chairperson and a secretary at the Club Committee's first regular meeting. The ALMHC elects a President and a secretary at the first regular meeting. These members of the ALMHC and Club Committee are volunteers who spend a lot of their time keeping your Post bar and Mess Hall Restaurant open and operating for you.

As you are aware our Post and Mess Hall Restaurant are open to the public. We strongly encourage all Post 32, Unit 32, and Squadron 32 members, along with their family and friends, to patronize **YOUR** Post bar and Mess Hall Restaurant. It is becoming increasingly more difficult to keep these Post entities operating due to utility costs; supply costs; licensing; employee costs. Think about it, the next time you journey out for an outstanding meal, maybe an adult beverage and you want to try your luck at the video gaming, **patronize YOUR POST #32 and MESS HALL RESTAURANT. WE NEED YOU!**

Post Finances: In September of each year the Post membership votes on the Annual Budget, as our budget year is from October 1 of each year to September 30 of the next year. As always, ANY member of Springfield Post 32 may review the financial statements, as everything is open and available to MEMBERS.

Editor's Note

The last four issues of The Morning Report have featured the entities comprising Post 32. Each of these entities are important to operating Post 32 as a whole. Each entity is governed by Post 32 elected officers. A big reason for offering this information to members is to ensure all members understand that our operations are transparent and open to Member review. Please take part in meetings and elections.



**Jim Peters
Commander
Squadron 32**



**Mike Lee
Director
Post 32
Riders**

Report on the 2025 Lincoln Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage General Chairman Jim Peters

The 91st Annual Lincoln Pilgrimage was a smashing success, despite some less than stellar winter weather. Of the 17 American Legion Departments invited, 10 sent delegations: Arkansas, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Washington and Wisconsin.

Those representing the Honor Societies include Past National Director Georgiann Callaway, 20 & 4; Le Chapeau Nationale Barbara Rutherford, 8 & 40; Le Chapeau Departmental Amanda Akins, Illinois 8 & 40; State Director Dakota Tolbert, Illinois 20 & 4; Grande Presidente Odie Ales, Illinois Le Femmes; Grand Chef de Gare Todd Latham, Illinois 40 & 8.

Within the American Legion Family, James LaCoursiere Jr, National Commander The American Legion, Joseph Navarrete, National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion and Trish Ward, National President the American Legion Auxiliary attended and participated fully in the ceremonies. Other National Officers attending included Roger Mathison, National Vice Commander the American Legion; Butch Ray, National Vice Commander the Sons of the American Legion; and Candidate for National President Pam Ray.

Mayor Buscher attended, placed a wreath, and spoke at the Tomb. She also gave words of welcome during Breakfast and the Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon. Other dignitaries took part in the Tomb Ceremony: Illinois State Senators Doris Turner and Steve McClure; Illinois State Rep. Mike Coffey; and Illinois National Guard Asst. Adjutant, Brigadier General Lenny Williams representing the President of the United States.

There were 198 breakfast tickets sold, and 174 tickets sold for the Abraham Lincoln commemorative luncheon. The block of rooms at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel was full. The impact of the Pilgrimage on Springfield's economy is impressive. Revenues from the Breakfast equals \$5,940.00; and revenues from The Lunch equals \$6,090.00 – a total of \$11,580 added to the Springfield economy. We also had a great crowd at the Post 32 open house. Thanks to all the volunteers who assisted with The Pilgrimage. This event is very special to the Post 32 family. We could not do it without all of you.



Selected Tomb Ceremony Speakers – Top To Bottom
Honorable Misty Buscher, Mayor of Springfield
Brig. Gen. Leonard A. Williams, Asst. Adjutant, IL National Guard
National Commander The American Legion, James LaCoursiere, Jr.

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



**THE INTER-VETERANS BURIAL
DETAIL OF SANGAMON COUNTY**

NEEDS YOU

VOLUNTEER AT KAMPER279@COMCAST.NET
ATTEND A FUNERAL AT CAMP BUTLER N.C.



**OUR POP-POP and GRANNY LOVE
THE AMERICAN LEGION**
Dylan Walton, Benjamin Walton,
Lincoln Davis & Levi Davis

Special Lent Lunch and Dinner Menus at Post 32 Mess Hall Restaurant – March 5 – April 18, 2025



LENT LUNCH MENU
MARCH 5TH - APRIL 18TH, 2025
MESS HALL RESTAURANT
AMERICAN LEGION POST 32
1120 SANGAMON AVENUE - SPRINGFIELD
WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

AS ALWAYS, WE HAVE OUR **FULL LUNCH MENU**

WALLEYE SANDWICH w/FREEDOM FRIES 11.25 +TAX
SHRIMP BASKET, 6 w/FREEDOM FRIES 14.00 +TAX
ADD A DINNER SALAD ONLY \$2.50 + TAX
TAKE OUT & DRIVE THRU ALWAYS AVAILABLE

please call 217-523-3415



LENT DINNER MENU
MARCH 5 - APRIL 18TH, 2025
MESS HALL RESTAURANT
AMERICAN LEGION POST 32
1120 SANGAMON AVENUE - SPRINGFIELD
WEDNESDAY – FRIDAY 4 – 8 P.M.

AS ALWAYS, WE STILL HAVE THE **FULL DINNER MENU**

WALLEYE DINNER	12.50 + TAX
OR ALL YOU CAN EAT	
WALLEYE DINNER	13.95 + TAX
WHOLE CATFISH DINNER	15.00 + TAX
GRILLED TALAPIA DINNER	12.75 + TAX
SHRIMP DINNER	15.95 + TAX

WALLEYE, WHOLE CATFISH DINNERS INCLUDE:
CHOICE OF POTATO, SALAD OR SLAW & BREAD.
TALAPIA DINNER INCLUDES: OVER DIRTY RICE, SALAD OR SLAW & BREAD.
SHRIMP DINNER INCLUDE 8 BREADED SHRIMP, DINNER SALAD,
CHOICE OF POTATO & ROLL.
TEXT LEGION TO 877-737-3415. JOIN OUR TEXT CLUB FOR SPECIALS!

**Go to Page 8 to See New Hours at Post 32
Bar and Video Gaming, And
The New \$2 Tuesday
At The Mess Hall Restaurant
Join The Fun and Support Post 32**

2025 Land of Lincoln Honor Flights

Land of Lincoln Honor Flights on the following dates:

**April 15, 2025
June 3, 2025
September 9, 2025
October 21, 2025**

PLEASE NOTE: U.S. Passport or REAL ID Requirement

The federal government has established a deadline of May 7th, 2025,
at which point all Illinois residents will be required to use a
valid U.S. Passport or REAL ID to fly domestically. For more information contact:

Land of Lincoln Honor Flight
1523 S Willemore Avenue, Springfield, IL 62704
email: jmb4604@aol.com
Joan Bortolon, President 217-652-4719
Steve Wheeler, Veteran Coordinator 217-473-2540

The American Legion Springfield Post 32 Family Leadership

Post 32 Commander David (Coop) Cooper

Greetings to My Fellow Legionnaires.

Being an active member of the American Legion involves much more than just paying dues. Members set an example to the community through active engagement and participating in meetings to determine what aspects of the American Legion can be improved. The more member participation in meetings and community functions will help better serve veterans and locals alike. We encourage all our members to stay proactive by staying engaged with the community and building relationships with local veterans. If you want to be more involved in a specific area of interest, please let us know. Again, our goal is to build a strong foundation for veterans to come together and to give back to the community with the resources we have.

Remember, we work together and share ideas to create long-term growth!

Show your support by stopping in American Legion Post #32 and enjoy lunch or simply to have a beverage! Our friendship extends outside the doors and it's always nice to see everyone and have great conversations. We appreciate your continued support!

Contact Commander Cooper about membership questions and any other Post 32 business. Phone: 217-899-4112 or email: Cooper6646@gmail.com.

Unit 32 President Suzie Q. Weiss

Greetings from the Auxiliary. We are here to say that, if you are eligible to join The Auxiliary and have not become a member, shame on you. Working for our Veterans and our Schools is our main priority.

The success of our fundraisers is a major reason we are able to support our Veterans and our Schools. Our next fundraiser will be held on April 6 at Post 32 The American Legion on Sangamon Avenue. We will serve tacos, sanchos, taco salad and taco soup. Please support our mission by attending this event.

We always accept donations for our schools. School supplies, socks, underwear both boys' and girls' sizes 4-12. also sweats for young ones who still have accidents. Just drop them off at the post.

Our schools are Matheny, Withrow, Southern View, Harvard Park and McClermand. This year with the help of the Legion Riders we passed out 1,000 hats and mittens.

May 3 we will be handing out Poppies at the Walmart on North Dirksen. Please come and see us.

Prayers for our Military and God Bless America, Land of the Free because of the Brave!!

For more information, please contact me: Weissusuziq@aol.com, 217-341-3728.

Squadron 32 Commander James Peters

Hello American Legion Post 32 family. Spring is in the air and I'm so ready for warm weather and getting outdoors. Please see my wrap up article about this years National American Legion Pilgrimage to the tomb of President Abraham Lincoln. This was our 91st annual pilgrimage. The Post 32 family is very proud of this tradition, and I was honored to be the chairman for the pilgrimage this year, my first year as chairman. I learned a lot and I have some great ideas for next year.

As far as membership goes, we are now at 101.5%, with a total of 132 members. We have 11 new thus far this year. We did cover the per capita for a few members we know always pay but have not so far. If you have not paid your \$20.00 membership dues for this year, please do so ASAP.

Please support the post by frequenting the Mess Hall Restaurant and enjoying a cold drink at the bar. I picked up a couple of fish dinners for last Friday and while I'm biased, I can tell you the fish was outstanding.

Please join the Springfield American Legion Post #32 Facebook Group and/or watch the post website for (springfieldamericanlegion.com) announcements on special events, menu and drink specials and other announcements. AND spread the word! Encourage your friends and family to support the post and consider joining one of the American Legion Family organizations. We can't do it without all of you. For God and country. Contact me at: jpeters.ilsal@yahoo.com or 217-416-1533.

Post 32 Legion Riders Director Mike Lee

Greetings to all from The Riders. The second quarter of 2025 will continue yet another full year for The Post 32 Riders.

For starters we will take part in The Hippy Run to raise funds for the Illinois Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Afterwards, we will ride to CoZiahr Harley Davidson in Forsyth, Illinois to get our bikes blessed.

On May 3rd of the following weekend, we are giving our support to help with poppies sales. That evening, or should say that morning, we will stand watch at the Vietnam Memorial from 1:00 AM to 2 AM Sunday morning. We usually go to breakfast at the truck stop afterwards.

On June 14th we will do an America Flag exchange with Scheels from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM with a flag retirement ceremony afterwards.

Please join us at 7:00 AM on the 21st of June at Roselawn Cemetery when we retire all the flags, we collected this past winter.

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

Post 32 Quarterly Calendar

April, May, and June 2025

Event

Time and Date

Regular Events at Post 32

4th Wednesday Drawing (Must be present to win Color TV or Gift Certificates)

Unit 32 Meetings

Legion Riders Meetings

LaFemmes

ALMHC/Club Committee Meetings

Squadron 32 Meetings

Post 32 Meetings

April, May, June 2025

7:00 PM – April 23, May 28, June 25

5:00 PM – April 1, May 6, June 3

6:00 PM – April 1, May 6, June 3

5:00 PM – May 13

5:00 PM – April 15, May 20, June 17

5:30 PM – April 22, May 27, June 24

6:30 PM – April 22, May 27, June 24

Special Events at Post 32

Auxiliary Unit 32 Taco Dinner

Morning Report Meeting

Easter – Post 32 Closed

Mother's Day – Post 32 Closed

Memorial Day Free Soup

Father's Day – Post 32 Closed

Morning Report Articles Due

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM – April 6

6:00 PM – April 15

All Day – April 20

All Day – May 11

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM – May 26

All Day – June 15

June 15

A Special Request from Post 32 Legionnaire Doug Williamson

From Mike Walton, Post 32 Finance Officer. This note will introduce you to Post 32 Legionnaire and retired Springfield Police Department Detective, Daryle "Doug" Williamson. Doug assists police throughout the country on cold cases. He is asking whether any of our members served in the below areas. If you have, please email Doug at darylewi00@msn.com.

Message from Doug Williamson

I am working with a small group on a cold case murder in California. I have 48 pages of heavily redacted military records of a person of interest. I am looking for someone that has similar military service so I can compare the records and try to decipher certain codes etc. Secondly, If anyone has experience in reading these documents and has knowledge of the codes used, I would ask them to review the information with me. Lastly, If anyone served or knows someone who has served at the below locations during the dates specified, I would like to reach out to them too.

September 15, 1964 - November 25, 1964 – Naval Recruit Training Center, San Diego.

November 18, 1964 - July 20, 1967, Assigned to USS Canberra (Destroyer).

November 16, 1967 - February 16, 1968, Assigned to USS Piedmont.

Anyone having information or assisting in reviewing the military records will remain confidential.

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



Keeping Our Promise to the Nation's Veterans

James LaCourisiere jr. National Commander The American Legion
Taken From The National American Legion Home Page, March 6, 2025

Last week, I testified before a joint session of the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees. While this is usually a forum for The American Legion to present legislative priorities, most questions from members of Congress were related to recent policy and personnel actions by the White House and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), including firings, contract cancellations, hiring freezes, return to work orders and voluntary resignations.

Billed as an effort to increase government efficiency, there has been growing concern in the veteran community these actions have had, and will continue to have, significant negative impacts on VA's core missions. I understand these concerns and empathize with veterans who are anxious about the speed and justification for these changes. On Tuesday, a leaked internal memo outlined a process by which VA will conduct a department-wide personnel review by May 9 and publish a plan for Reduction-in-Force by the end of Fiscal Year 2025, "as required by [the Office of Management & Budget and the Office of Personnel Management]." This agency review could potentially lead to a further 83,000 job cuts, reducing the total VA staff to 2019 levels.

While The American Legion believes VA should be efficient and accountable for the veterans it serves, a 2019 staff posture does not take into consideration the increased demand for health care and benefits after passage of the PACT Act in 2022. With fewer employees, the VA's ability to meet this demand would be called into question, and considering roughly 25% of federal employees are veterans themselves, up to

83,000 job cuts could put up to 20,000+ veterans out of work.

In Washington, D.C., The American Legion is consistently engaged on your behalf. As these cuts have the potential to threaten services our nation's veterans earned and depend on, I promise our 1.6 million members — and all veterans — we are taking action. The American Legion will work to ensure the administration's efforts to make VA more efficient do not result in unintended consequences for veterans. I ask all Legionnaires to be active in your peer support networks and Be the One to assist your fellow veterans and their families in need.

During our 2025 Washington Conference, we met with VA Secretary Doug Collins and senior personnel at VA's internal agencies to communicate our priorities and concerns and ask for increased transparency related to the methodology and potential impacts of agency actions. We are committed to working with VA leadership to ensure your voice is heard. Furthermore, we are actively communicating with members of Congress and will immediately raise the alarm when we see any mission-critical impact to veterans.

That's where you come in. Our voice in D.C. is only powerful if we hear from Legionnaires and communicate your message to policymakers. So if you or an immediate family member are personally impacted by recent or future government actions, I ask you to contact our Government Relations office and tell your story via The American Legion Impact Survey:

(Continued on Page 7)

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



American Legion Post 32, 1120 Sangamon Ave. – 217-523-3415
www.springfieldamericanlegion.com spfldpost32@outlook.com

Mess Hall Restaurant

Lunch: Wednesday – Friday 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Dinner: Wednesday – Friday 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Bar & Gaming Open

Tuesday – Friday – 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM

Saturday – NOON – 10:00 PM Sunday – NOON – 4:00 PM

New Service - \$2 Tuesday - See Page 8 for Details

Mess Hall, Bar and VIDEO GAMING – **ALWAYS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



“Keeping Our Promise...” Cont. from P. 6

<https://www.votervoices.net/AmericanLegion/Surveys/12345/Respond>.

Your voice is crucial to convey the human impact of these policies back to the White House and VA, advocating on your behalf. And in Congress, we will use your story to urge members of both parties to exercise oversight authority when necessary.

Additionally, The American Legion stands ready to assist veterans affected by job loss through job fairs and employment initiatives, emergency financial assistance and free claims processing – in the public or private sector.

Since The American Legion was founded, we have been a powerful voice to ensure our government lives up to Lincoln’s immortal promise to care for those who have borne the battle. We have never shied away from this responsibility. We won’t start now. For God and Country

Post 32 Commander David Cooper Assists Brigadier General Lennie Williamson to Place The Presidential Wreath During The Pilgrimage Tomb Ceremony



Loren I. Barnes, Past Commander The American Legion Springfield Post 32 Has Past to Post Everlasting

Loren Irvin Barnes passed away February 28, 2025, at Croixdale Senior Living after a long illness. Loren was born March 16, 1946, in Springfield, Ill., to Bryce and Eloise Barnes. He graduated in 1964 from Glenwood High School in Chatham, Illinois. Loren and Sheryl Lorimor were high school sweethearts and married on June 2, 1968, before completing undergraduate studies at Western Illinois University. Together, they and their children farmed for many years in rural Chatham, before Loren became Building Supervisor at the Hoogland Center for the Arts in nearby Springfield. Loren and his family moved in 2015 to New Richmond, Wisc., to be near family already in the area. He was active in many community organizations, including driving veterans to the VA hospital and the Illinois High School Association, and “leader of the in-laws” at family reunions. He was a loving husband, father, Papa, uncle, granduncle and friend.

A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Loren was an active member of American Legion Post 32, including a stint as Post Commander, and their Honor Guard in

Springfield, Ill., and New Richmond, Wisc. Loren was a lifetime member of Chatham Masonic Lodge 523 and active in the New Richmond Lodge 195. He similarly held leadership positions within the Scottish Rite Valley of Springfield, Ill. and the Valley of Eau Claire, Wisc. and was recognized with the 33rd Degree in 1993. Loren and family were members of Chatham United Methodist Church and New Richmond United Methodist Church.

Loren is survived by his wife, Sheryl, of Bayport, MN, son Richard of New Richmond, WI, and daughter Amy of Stillwater, MN. Loren is also survived by his sister, Mary Kay (Lee) Huntoon, granddaughters Natalie and Rachel Dumcum, sister-in-law Susan (William) Meltzer, brother-in-law Randall (Cynthia) Lorimor, five nephews, a niece and several grandnieces and grandnephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorials can be directed to: Cancer Center Of Western Wisconsin, Arnell Memorial Human Society or the Masonic Lodge #195 of New Richmond, Wisconsin.

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





The American Legion Springfield Post 32
1120 Sangamon Avenue
Springfield, Illinois 62702-1853
217-523-3415
Spfldpost32@outlook.com
www.springfieldamericanlegion.com

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The Mess Hall Restaurant at Post 32

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

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

BAR AND VIDEO GAMING

Tuesday – Friday	10:30 AM – 10:00 PM*
Saturday	12:00 PM – 10:00 PM*
Sunday	12:00 PM – 4:00 PM*

MESS HALL RESTAURANT

New “\$2 Tuesday”: Food and Drink 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

\$2 Domestic Bottles; \$2 Sliders or 3 for \$5; \$2 ¼ lb. Beef Hot Dog; \$2 Springfield Tavern Chilli

LUNCH

Wednesday – Friday	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
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DINNER

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

Welcome everyone to our Video Gaming Room at American Legion Post 32. It is considered the nicest private Gaming Room in Springfield. We have six of the most up to date gaming machines, along with our private area with very comfortable chairs. The Gaming Room offers **free** Soft Drinks, **free** Coffee, **free** Hot Chocolate, and **free** Snacks to Gamers. You should also sign up for the **free** Give Aways offered by Prairie State Gaming. Each time you visit be sure to get your Card punched for a **free** Meal. 10 punches get you a **free** lunch or **free** “All You Can Eat” Spaghetti Dinner on Wednesday or **free** Chicken Dinner on Thursday or **free** Walleye Dinner on Friday. **You can sign up once a day, every day that you come in for our **free** 4th Wednesday Drawing where we give away a 32” Color TV; a \$50 Gift Certificate and a \$25 Gift Certificate.**