



Post 162 Newsletter May 2026



AMERICAN LEGION

POST 162

8210 LEGION DRIVE
LORTON, VIRGINIA 22079
PHONE: 703-690-1107
FACEBOOK:
LORTONLEGION162
WEBSITE:
WWW.VALEGION162.ORG

Legionnaires

Commander: Chris Warner
First Vice Commander: Robert Hicks
Second Vice Commander: VACANT
Third Vice Commander: Lori Hicks
Finance: Blake Bass
Chaplain: Joe Wojtyna
Adjutant: VACANT
Judge Advocate: Julie Hoyte
Historian: Chris Truchon
Sergeant At Arms: VACANT
Service Officer: VACANT
Trustees: Sean Counihan

Auxiliary

President: Jessie Haynes
First Vice President: Sandy Haynes
Second Vice President: Jenna Lamouroux
Secretary: Vickie Pickering
Treasurer: Kelly Owens
Historian: Lori Mills
Chaplain: Lori Hicks

Sons of the American Legion (SAL)

Commander: Bryan Steele
First Vice Commander: Robert Hicks
Second Vice Commander: Eddie Mills
Chaplain: VACANT
Adjutant: Chris Warner
Finance: VACANT
Historian: Stan Williams
Sergeant At Arms: John Yaksima



We are Family

The American Legion is a friendly, welcoming place for veterans and their families—no matter your background. It's more than meetings and events; it's a community built on respect, friendship, and shared service. At Post 162, membership means family.

The American Legion is a private organization. All activities and information referred to in this newsletter are available to Members and Qualified Guests. The Newsletter is for informational purposes with proprietary information intended for members.

MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Game Night @ 7	2 Vet Retreat Fundraiser 6 to 10
3 Paint & Sip 1 to 3 PM	4	5	6	7	8 After Work Friday 7 to 10 PM	9
10 Post 162 Closed Mother's Day	11	12 SAL Meeting @6 Comm/Events Meeting @6	13	14	15 Game Night @ 7	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Game Night @ 7 National Poppy Day	23 Cemeteries Flag Placement 9:00 AM
24 Post 162 Memorial Day Ceremony 11:00	25 Memorial Day Picnic 1:00 PM Memorial Day	26 Post 162 Membership Meeting @6:30	27	28	29 Game Night @ 7	30
31	See Flyers for Event Details					

AMERICAN
LEGION

WE WILL BE
CLOSED
Sunday, May 10th
IN THE HONOR OF
MOTHER'S DAY

See you on Monday at normal time.

Commander's Message



I don't think the weather knows what it wants to do... one day it is 80 degrees and the next, we have a Freeze Warning! We must live in Virginia!!

On April 9th, members of the Executive Committee had the honor of attending a Gala where seven local high school JROTC programs came together in celebration. We were especially proud that Post 162 member, Phil Churn, served as the guest speaker for this memorable event.

We had another great turnout for our Music Bingo event on Apr 16th, but the 2000s music category went on for a LONG time! It was still a lot of fun! Thank you to the Legionnaires for putting it on!

I wanted to thank Mona Knight and Joe Banuchi for baking and bringing in their Carrot Cakes for the Bakeoff on the 18th! Both were REALLY good! We should do that more often! ☺ We also had a really good turnout for the Whiskey Share on the 18th. Ivan had his normal group, and a few Legionnaires came out to partake. It's always a good day when you can share Bourbon/Whiskey with others!!

SAL has been doing a tremendous job putting on the Wednesday evening Cornhole Tournaments. We have been getting a great turnout each week for this event!

To kick off events for May, just a quick reminder that we are conducting a fundraiser event for Vets Retreat Virginia on Saturday, May 2nd from 6-10pm. Hope to see you there!

Looking further into May, I'd like Members to please join us on May 23rd, as we will be putting Flags on gravesites at Pohick and Cranston Cemeteries!! Please come out and help us HONOR these fallen heroes! We will also be conducting a Memorial Day Ceremony on May 24th at 11am and putting on a Memorial Day picnic on Monday, May 25th at 1pm.

Our Americanism Chair, Joe Legra, has been working with local high schools to find young men to send to Boys State. We currently have 10 applicants to review. The EXCOM also approved providing 2 scholarships to local High School Seniors in the amount of \$500 each. This is done through the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Program.

For those that were not able to attend our General Membership Meeting on April 18th, David Tierney came to talk to our members about options for Long Term Care. If you are interested in more information, please reach out to Vickie and she can put you in touch.

As always, please let us know how we can make OUR Post the best it can be for our Members!

Chris Warner, Commander Post 162

Email: Commander@valegion162.org



Auxiliary Message



Happy May Auxiliary Members!

Thank you to all those who helped during our annual Children's Easter Party on Saturday April 4th. We had a wonderful turnout. We even rescued two baby squirrels who tried to join in on the festivities.

We celebrated Military Children's Day on April 15th with Purple up day.

Mark your calendars for Sunday May 3rd from 1pm-3pm our next Sip N' Paint Event. Come spend an afternoon with us enjoying snacks, drinks and being creative painting a summer themed picture. Please register from the link on our flyer.

If you are interested in getting more involved, sharing new ideas or looking for a new opportunity in 2026-2027, please consider joining us at our next two meetings in May and June.

Jessie Haynes

ALA President Unit 162

Email: Auxiliary162@gmail.com



Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Message



It's hard to believe the end of my term is already approaching. A big thank you to all of the SAL Board members for their help this year. Are you interested in taking a position on our board? Our next meeting is May 12th - elections will take place then.

We have hosted several great events at our post this year and have several more scheduled for the remainder of the calendar year.

Please be on the lookout for upcoming events, including another Legion Bus Crawl, a Pig Roast, and a Chili Cook-Off.

See you at the Post!

Bryan Steele, SAL Commander, Squadron 162

Chaplain's Message



Why We Serve

Have you ever stopped to ask yourself why you do what you do?

In the American Legion, service is at the heart of everything—serving fellow veterans, our communities, and our nation. But beyond what we do, there's a deeper question worth asking: What is driving us?

Jesus once gave a sobering warning that not everyone who appears outwardly faithful truly knows Him. Some were doing impressive works—even in His name—but their hearts were not right. They were focused on being seen and honored, rather than having a genuine relationship with Him.

That message still speaks today.

It reminds us that motives matter. It's possible to do good things for the wrong reasons—seeking recognition, approval, or even trying to earn favor with God. But the truth is, our relationship with God is not built on what we do for Him, but on what He has already done for us.

For me, this leads to personal reflection. Why do I serve? Is it for others to notice, or is it out of gratitude?

The Bible teaches that salvation is not something we earn—it is a gift of grace received through faith. When we come to God honestly, acknowledging our need and trusting in Him, that relationship becomes real and secure.

From that point on, our service takes on a different meaning. We no longer serve to earn something—we serve because we have already received something.

In a community like the American Legion, where service and sacrifice are deeply valued, this truth can be freeing. It reminds us that our worth is not measured by our performance, but by the grace we've been given.

So, as you continue to serve—whether in uniform, in your post, or in your community—take a moment to reflect:

Why do I serve?

And perhaps even more importantly:

Who am I serving?

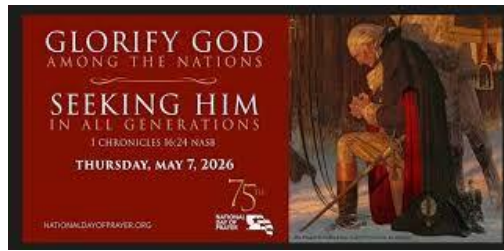
—Chaplain's Thought

Respectfully,

Joe Wojtyna, Chaplain, Post 162

Americanism Committee

May is National Military Appreciation Month, a time for our community to stand together in reflection and gratitude. Throughout the month, of those who have served, from Day to the vital recognition our [American Legion Post 162](#), calendar; it is an opportunity to fellow veterans, their families, for our freedom.




we honor the profound sacrifices the solemn tributes of Memorial of Armed Forces Day. For this is more than just a date on the reaffirm our commitment to our and the fallen who gave everything

At Post 162, we are keeping that spirit alive through local fellowship and service. We invite you to join us for our Vets' Retreat Virginia on [May 2nd](#) and our upcoming Paint & Sip on [May 3rd](#). We also look forward to our Memorial Day Ceremony on May 24th and the Post Picnic on May 25th as we gather to ensure their service is never forgotten.

Joe Legra, Chairman, Americanism Committee

Member Spotlight

Do you know a fellow Member who goes the extra mile—whether helping at the Post or lending a hand to another member? 

We'd love to celebrate them in our **Member Spotlight!**

Share their story with us and help us recognize the kindness and dedication that make our Post such a special place.

American Legion Post 162 is proud to recognize Mike Baker, one of our newer members who has truly stepped up these past few months. From helping shovel the sidewalks during the snow to installing our new Purple Heart Combat Wounded Reserved Parking marker, Mike's efforts have made a meaningful difference for everyone at the Post.

If you see Mike around, please take a moment to say hello and thank him for all he's done—we're grateful to have him as part of our Post family!



SICKNESS & DISTRESS



SICKNESS

Nothing reported this month

If you are aware of a member who is facing illness, has experienced the loss of a loved one, or could use some extra prayers and support, please let us know.

Our Post family cares deeply and wants to be there in times of need. You may contact Post 162 at 703-690-1107 or reach out directly to our Chaplain, Joe Wojtyna, at joewojtyna@gmail.com



POST EVERLASTING

Kenneth Franklin Whitmer, 75, of Woodbridge, VA, passed away on April 12, 2026, at his home on Chincoteague Island. A second-generation sheet metal fabricator, he proudly owned Southeast Sheet Metal Contractors Inc., founded by his father in 1963.

Kenneth served in the U.S. Marine Corps and later became a licensed HVAC journeyman in Virginia. He was an active member of the American Legion, serving as Commander of Post 28 and Vice-Commander of Post 162, where he was dedicated to supporting veterans and their families.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, and riding his Harley, and cherished time with his family. Known for his strength and character, Kenneth was truly one of a kind. He is survived by his wife, Juanita; his children and grandchildren; and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Services: Visitation 10–11am at Miller Funeral Home; Graveside 12–1pm at Mt. Comfort Cemetery; Reception to follow at American Legion Post 162.



William "Bill" Joseph Kegelmeyer

William "Bill" Joseph Kegelmeyer passed away peacefully on April 14th, leaving behind a legacy of service, integrity, and honor.

A veteran of the United States Air Force, Bill's commitment to his country was the cornerstone of his life. His unwavering patriotism extended into his civilian life, where he dedicated many years to protecting his community through several Law Enforcement roles.

Those who knew Bill understood that for him, service was not just a career, but a calling.

Bill will be deeply missed by his relatives, friends, and the many colleagues he served alongside. He will be remembered as a man of principle who stood tall for what he believed in.

A Celebration of life will be held at American Legion Post 162 in Lorton Virginia on Friday, May 1st 6 to 8 pm.

Pat Blackmore

Pat passed away on April 2nd. No other details are known.

Steve Mottern

Steve funeral will be held at Arlington Ceremony on June 16, 2026, at 3:00 PM.

VETS' RETREAT VIRGINIA

ALWAYS ON DUTY

Serving Military, First Responders, and Their Families

★ **NONPROFIT FUNDRAISER** ★



SATURDAY, MAY 2ND, 2026 | 6-10 PM

LORTON AMERICAN LEGION POST 162 | 8210 LEGION DRIVE
★★★ LORTON, VA ★★★

LIVE MUSIC • RAFFLES • DRINKS • FOOD

Support Our Veterans, First Responders and Their Families!

★ **\$10 Suggested Donation. Tickets @Door.**

Sunday
1:00-3:30PM
3
May

Afternoon Paint & Sip Painter's Choice



Pick your painting

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

\$42

HOST: Wendy Klinke
703-853-7896
Wendy@TheBlueCatStudio.com
Facebook.com/bluecatstudioart

LOCATION:
American Legion Post 162
8210 Legion Drive
Lorton, VA 22079

SIGN UP HERE →

<https://www.thebluecatstudio.com/event-list>



*National
Poppy Day*
Friday, May 22nd

Wear & Display
Proudly

Lapel Pin \$1
Yard Sign \$5

Available Now

Auxiliary Annual Fundraiser



 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

Memorial Day Weekend Events

Saturday, May 23rd 9:00 am

Flag Placement at Pohick and Cranston Cemeteries

**Meet at Post 162 at 9:00 am. Leaving for cemeteries
at 9:15 am. This will occur rain or shine**

Sunday, May 24th 11:00 am

Memorial Day ceremony outside (weather permitting) Post 162

Monday, May 25th 1:00 pm

Memorial Day Picnic

**We hope you will join us to
REMEMBER and HONOR**

OPEN to the Public

**American Legion Post 162 8210 Legion Dr Lorton, VA 22079
703-690-1107**

Membership Meetings

We are doing a trial date and time change for Post 162 monthly Membership Meetings. We NEED you to come and support.

DATES:

Saturday, June 20th 10:00 am
Saturday, July 18th 10:00 am
Saturday, August 15th 10:00 am



Open to ALL Post 162 Members

American Legion Post 162 8210 Legion Dr Lorton, VA 22079
703-690-1107

Limited Supply

NEWEST ^{Post 162} T-SHIRTS

For Sale

\$25 each

Wear them proudly

Don't Miss Out



Limited Supply

Welcome Our New Members

Legion:

Glenn Moses

SAL:

Jon Lindenbloom

Kevin Neary

Casey Whitmarsh

Christian Whitmarsh

Johnny Ferrell

Casey Rushbrook

Matt Moore

Alex Rose

AUX:

Rachel Lindenbloom

Daria Kelley

Darcie Priester

Britni Rose

Madison Flinn

Save the Date & Sign Up Early! Space Is Limited

Post 162

CONCEALED CARRY CLASS – VA & UT

**RECEIVE YOUR NRA
TRAINING
CERTIFICATE NEEDED
TO OBTAIN A
CONCEALED CARRY
PERMIT**

**CLASS SATISFIES THE TRAINING REQUIREMENT
FOR A CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT IN ALL
VIRGINIA JURISDICTIONS AS WELL AS A UTAH
NON-RESIDENT PERMIT WHICH GUARANTEES 37
STATES; INCLUDES LECTURE WITH LASER
FIREARMS LIVEFIRE**

• SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2026 12:00 PM TO 2:00 PM

• \$100.00 PER PERSON VIRGINIA and UTAH

CALL or TEXT 804-484-9694 FOR DETAILS

The course will be presented by Glenn Blandford, who brings over 30 years of law enforcement experience. Throughout his career, he has served as a police officer, investigator, police academy instructor, and firearms unit supervisor. Mr. Blandford holds multiple weapons instructor certifications from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), the National Rifle Association (NRA), and Utah BCI.

To register email: glenn dps@yahoo.com

Open to the Public

American Legion Post 162 8210 Legion Dr. Lorton, VA 22079 703-690-1107

**UTILIZING A CUTTING
EDGE LASER-BASED
INDOOR RANGE: NO
LIVE FIREARMS OR
AMMUNITION**

**NATIONAL RIFLE
ASSOC. ENDORSED**



**AMERICAN
LEGION**

AMERICAN LEGION POST 162

Reserve Your Event Today

80 PERSON CAPACITY

BIRTHDAY PARTY
BABY SHOWER
MEETINGS
SPECIAL EVENTS
WEDDING EVENTS
ENGAGEMENT
GRADUATION
RETIREMENT

Available:

Table and Chairs
Large Fenced Backyard
Playground
Fire Pit
Picnic Tables
Horse Shoe Pits



American Legion Post 162
8210 Legion Drive
Lorton, VA 22079
703-690-1107

Call Today For Availability!

Post 162 Memorial Bricks



PAUL J. EMMERT, SR.
CHEF DE CHEMON DE FER
2024-2025

CINDY HICKEY
LA PRESIDENTE NATION
2024-2025

Create a lasting tribute and honor someone special in a truly meaningful way. With a personalized memorial brick, you can preserve a legacy that will be remembered for years to come—whether to recognize their service, celebrate their passion, or lovingly remember their passing.

Each brick is \$60 and will be proudly placed in our memorial as a lasting symbol of remembrance. Please stop by for more information or pick up an order form. It would be our honor to help you create this enduring tribute.

POST 162 PRESENT

AFTER WORK

Music *Friday*



8TH
MAY

7 to 10
PM

HOSTED BY
Victoria Moore

Open to Members & Qualified Guests

Elvis, Karen Carpenter, Whitney Houston and Tina Turner to name a few...

8210 Legion Drive Lorton, Va 22079 703-690-1107



LEGION CRAWL

GOOD FRIENDS!
COLD DRINKS!
GREAT TIMES!

JUNE
6TH

- POST!
- POST!
- POST!
- POST!
- POST!



BUS LEAVING
POST
10 AM



\$40 PP
NONREFUNDABLE



LIMITED SEATING

PRESENTED BY
★ **SAL** ★

JUMP ON THE BUS FOR A
GREAT TIME AS WE **HOP**
FROM **POST** TO **POST!**

Open to Members and Qualified Guests

American Legion Post 162 8210 Legion Drive Lorton, VA 22079 703-690-1107

R.E.D. FRIDAY

Remember Everyone Deployed



Support Our Troops

Open to Members and Qualified Guests

American Legion Post 162 8210 Legion Drive Lorton, VA 22079
703-690-1107



GAME NIGHT

Friday Nights

Game starts at 7PM



Board Games
Multi Player Card
Dice Games

Stop in, grab a drink, and play along with friends. You never know which game will be played—but the fun is always guaranteed!

Bring your friends for an evening of FUN & Laughter

Open to Members & Qualified Guests

American Legion Post 162 8210 Legion Dr Lorton, VA 22079 703-690-1107

