A PROUD PAST…

Nov. 10-12, 1919 - The American Legion passed its first resolution supporting the Boy Scouts of America. Today, the Legion is the chartering agency for more than 2,700 Scouting units that involve 73,000 youths.

June 15, 1923 - The first “Flag Code” was drafted during a conference called by The American Legion. It was eventually adopted by Congress in 1942.

July 17, 1925 – The American Legion Baseball program was created. Today, more than 52 percent of professional baseball players are graduates of The American Legion Baseball program.

June 23, 1935 - The first American Legion Boys State was convened to help youths gain an understanding of the structure and operation of American government.

Dec. 15, 1943 - Harry W. Colmery, Past National Commander of The American Legion, wrote the first draft of what later became the “GI Bill of Rights,” the Legion’s greatest single legislative achievement.

Sept. 1, 1966 - The American Legion voiced great concern over the fate of POWs in Vietnam. Today, the Legion continues to press for a full accounting of our POW/MIAs and is one of the leading advocates among the nation’s major veterans organizations to push for action.

July 21, 1983 - “The American Legion-Columbia University Study on the Effects of Agent Orange on Vietnam-era Veterans,” was launched. Results were presented to Congress in 1989.

Aug. 2, 1990 – The American Legion filed suit against the federal government for failure to conduct a study mandated by Congress of the effects of Agent Orange on the health of Vietnam veterans.

Oct. 1, 1995 - The Persian Gulf Task Force was formed to enhance service to America’s newest generation of wartime veterans, thousands of whom suffer from illnesses linked to their service in the gulf region.

November 2002 - The American Legion launched a national “I Am Not A Number” campaign to identify and document the delays veterans faced in obtaining earned medical care benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

…A PROMISING FUTURE

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

For God and Country
We associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

…A PROMISING FUTURE

Four Pillars of Service

The American Legion since 1919

For more information: www.legion.org

“It’s not just what we do… It’s who we are”
**TAKING CARE OF VETERANS**

**Service Officers** – Accredited professional American Legion service officers, located in all Veterans Affairs regional offices, provide free assistance and representation to veterans and their dependents.

**Board of Veterans Appeals** – American Legion appeals representatives navigate a maze of regulations and veterans’ law representing veterans denied benefits to which they feel they are entitled.

**Field Service Unit and VA Health Care** – The Legion’s Field Service Unit regularly travels to VA medical facilities around the country assessing the impact of their health-care policies on veterans and their families.

**Military Discharge Review** – Dedicated American Legion staff review veterans’ military records and assist in obtaining reviews that may result in an upgrade in a veteran’s character of discharge.

**Walter Reed Army Medical Center** – An American Legion representative on the Walter Reed campus assists in representing wounded soldiers who are going before the Military Evaluation Board.

**Employment** – The American Legion has a presence at a number of job fairs around the country to provide veterans more outlets for employment.

**Heroes to Hometowns (H2H) Program** – Assists severely injured U.S. service members to experience a seamless transition from the military to civilian life.

**Testimony** – As our nation’s preeminent voice for veterans, The American Legion regularly lobbies at the federal and state levels on issues relating to the health and welfare of veterans to ensure that the government lives up to its commitment to our entire military family including retirees, reserve components and National Guard.

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

The nation’s largest wartime veterans service organization founded on the values, contributions and sacrifices of those who answered the country’s call to arms.

**Built on Four Pillars of Service**

- Advocating for a strong national security
- Responding to “quality of life” needs of all veterans and their families
- Perpetuating a “Square Deal” for every child
- Preparing each generation to fulfill the obligations of citizenship