# American Legion Marne Post 13

Volume 12 Issue 6
Membership Meetings:
Monthly on the 2nd Tuesday
Dinner 6:30pm
Meeting 7:00pm

American Legion Post 13
24741 W Renwick Road
Plainfield, Illinois 60544

(815) 436-9231

## Board of Officers

**James Castaneda**
*Commander*
**David LaFrancis**
*Senior Vice*
**Brent Finney**
*Junior Vice*
**DJ Hale**
*Adjutant*
**Ken Blair**
*Finance Officer*
**David LeVally**
*Chaplain*
**Paul Thomason**
*Historian*
**Brad Sellers**
*Service Officer*
**Dennis Downing**
*Sergeant-at-Arms*
—
**Robert "Doc" Schiavo**
*Executive Committee*
*President*

www. plainfieldlegion.com

*July 2026*

**Dear Legion Family,**

**Happy Independence Day!**

**This Fourth of July is especially meaningful as we continue the countdown to America's 250th Anniversary. For nearly 250 years, courageous Americans have answered the call to defend our nation and preserve the freedoms we celebrate today. As Legionnaires, we have the privilege of carrying that legacy forward by serving veterans, strengthening our community, and ensuring patriotism remains alive for future generations.**

**When I look at Marne Post 13 today, I'm incredibly proud of how far we've come. Together, our Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, Legion Riders, and volunteers have helped transform our Post into one of the premier American Legion Posts in Illinois. We've grown our membership, expanded our community events, strengthened our financial foundation, and built a Post that veterans and families are proud to call home.**

**I hope you'll join us for our 4th of July Celebration on Friday, July 4th from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM. The evening will feature a live band, pig roast, vendor tables, great food, music, and family fun, all while celebrating our nation's birthday and the road to America's 250th Anniversary. Best of all, it's open to the entire community, so invite your family, friends, and neighbors!**

## *Commander Report continued….*

**Looking ahead to August, we'll gather for one of the most important traditions of our Legion family—our 2026-2027 Officer Installation Ceremony on Tuesday, August 11. The evening begins with a Cocktail Hour from 5:00–6:00 PM, followed by Dinner from 6:00–7:00 PM, with the Installation Ceremony beginning at 7:00 PM. This special event recognizes the dedicated volunteers who have stepped forward to lead our Post, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and Legion Riders during the coming year. The event is open to Legion Officers, Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons, Riders, and their immediate family members. Please RSVP by August 6 through the link on our website (under the special events/Installation tab) or by contacting the office at (815) 436-9231. I hope you'll join us as we celebrate our incoming leadership and another exciting year for Marne Post 13.**

**Our regular events continue throughout the month, including Bingo every Thursday, Queen of Hearts every Friday, and many other activities. For a complete calendar of events and updates, visit www.plainfieldlegion.com.**

**Thank you for everything you do to make Marne Post 13 one of the strongest Posts in Illinois. As America prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday, let's continue building a Legion that honors our past while inspiring future generations.**

**Have a safe, happy, and patriotic Fourth of July!**

**For God and Country,**

**Commander James "Casta" Castaneda**
**Plainfield American Legion Marne Post 13**

## *Senior Vice Commander Report*

**Everyone have a very Happy and safe Fourth of July. I look forward to seeing those that can make it, at our installation dinner in August**

**David "Frenchie" LaFrancis**
**Senior Vice Commander**
**Plainfield American Legion Post 13**

## *Adjutant Report*

**I want to thank everyone for the help in getting our post to over 100% renewal for the 2026 year! We are up to 34 new members leading the way for Will County. Starting in August, we will begin our 2027 push and will be starting all over again. You can renew online at https://mylegion.org/personifyebusiness/default.aspx, by mail, or at the post! If there are any questions or concerns regarding membership, please let me know. Thanks again and keep up the good work!**

**David "DJ" Hale**

**Adjutant**

# *Chaplain*

**Legion Family,**

**July is when we celebrate and honor our nation's 250th birthday. At the heart of our nation's story this is the month for remembrance, and gratitude and thankfulness— a time to honor the birth of the United States and the sacrifices that made our freedoms possible. As we gather for parades, cookouts, and fireworks, we also pause to reflect on the courage, faith, and perseverance of those men and women that shaped our nation.**

**The United States was born in the crucible of a long and desperate war (1775-1783) — a struggle for independence that raged even as the ink dried on the Declaration of Independence in July 1776. The men who signed that document pledged *"Our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor,"* knowing that failure meant death.**

**A war with almost impossible odds: The American colonies faced the most powerful empire in the world. Britain commanded a professional army; the world's strongest navy; vast financial resources. The Continental Army, by contrast, was made up of the poor, the rich and the farmers, tradesmen, and volunteers — often poorly supplied and rarely paid. They fought with something stronger than muskets or cannons: it was their bravery, and it was the conviction that liberty was worth any sacrifice.**

**George Washington, appointed Commander-in-Chief in 1775, was the heart of the Revolution. He led with determination and character — enduring the same hardships as his soldiers, praying with them, and reminding them that they fought for a cause greater than themselves. He held the Army together through: The disastrous New York campaign; The freezing winter at Valley Forge; Chronic shortages of food, clothing, and ammunition; Political division and wavering public support. Before the daring 1776 Christmas night crossing of the Delaware, Washington had Thomas Paine's words read to the troops: *"These are the times that try men's souls".* The war was won by: Militia who left their farms to defend their townswomen who kept families, farms, and supply lines open; Patriots who fought for a freedom they themselves were often denied; Immigrants who believed in the promise of a new nation; Ministers who proclaimed liberty as a God-given right; Families who endured fear, hunger, and loss. The Revolution was ordinary Americans doing extraordinary things. For much of the war, defeat seemed imminent. Perseverance, courage, and providence endured. The final victory at Yorktown was the culmination of years of sacrifice. When the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783, the world witnessed something unprecedented: A nation founded not on monarchy or conquest, but on the ideas and ideals of— liberty, equality, and the God-given dignity of every person.**

**"We hold these Truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of happiness."**

**I am reminded of scripture: *2 Corinthians 3:17 "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."***

**We need to remember the values we uphold, honor, sacrifice, and love of our country. These same values we carry from our Post, our families, and our community. As we honor the heroes of the past, we also continue caring for Veterans, supporting military families, and building a community where no one stands alone. We can "Be the One" to help another person.**

**Sick Call:**

**We remember members and friends of our Post family who are ill, recovering, or carrying heavy burdens. Please keep the following in your prayers:**

**Joe Kmiek; Ron and Mary Kay Allan; Frank Pecoraro; Gary Taylor; George Shade; Frank Uher; Jim Mladic; Tom Mlynek; Jim Miller; Bob and Pat Kehoe; Doug Flagg; Lee and Barb Perignon; and Bob Tosch, "Boots!"**

**We also pray for all others who are sick but not listed here. If you know of someone who should be added, please contact the Legion office.**

# *Chaplain*

**Chaplain Continued…**

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4: "*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Chris, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*"**

**"*Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." — 1 Peter 5:7***

***Post Everlasting:***

**Shown below are our Legion comrades who have been promoted to Post Everlasting. We commend them to God's eternal care and hold their families in our memories and prayers.**

***George L. Lopes and Albert A Kaleta***

**Scripture offers comfort and hope*:* 1 Corinthians 15:54–57 (NIV) *"When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."***

**Federal Holiday in July:**

**July 4th, known as Independence Day, is a highly significant federal holiday in the United States because it commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. This document formally announced the separation of the 13 North American British colonies from Great Britain, establishing them as independent states and marking the birth of the United States of America. While the actual vote for independence occurred on July 2, 1776, the formal adoption and signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th made it the date widely recognized and celebrated as the nation's "birthday." July 8, 1776 - The first public reading of the Declaration of Independence occurred as Colonel John Nixon read it to an assembled crowd in Philadelphia.**

**Significant Military & Historic Events in July**

**July 1–3, 1863 – Battle of Gettysburg: A turning point of the Civil War, reminding us of the cost of preserving the Union.**

**July 4, 1776 – Declaration of Independence: The birth of the United States and the beginning of the American experiment in liberty.**

**July 9, 1944 – Saipan Secured: A critical victory in the Pacific that brought U.S. forces within striking distance of Japan.**

**July 9, 1868 - The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified. The Amendment defined U.S. citizenship and prohibited individual States from abridging the rights of any American citizen without due process and equal protection under the law. The Amendment also barred individuals involved in rebellion against the U.S. from holding public office.**

**July 12, 1862 – Medal of Honor Established: President Lincoln created the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military decoration.**

**July 15, 1918 - During the Battle of the Marne in World War I, German General Erich Ludendorff launched Germany fifth, and last, offensive to break through the Chateau-Thierry salient. However, the Germans were stopped by American, British and Italian divisions. On July 18, General Foch, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied troops, launched a massive counter-offensive. The Germans began a retreat lasting four months until they requested an armistice in November.**

# *Chaplain*

**Chaplain Continued…**

**July 20, 1969 – Apollo 11 Moon Landing: A triumph of American courage and ingenuity.**

**July 27, 1953 – Korean War Armistice: Honoring all who served in the "Forgotten War."**

**July 27, 1953 - The Korean War ended with the signing of an armistice by U.S. and North Korean delegates at Panmunjom, Korea.**

**Flag Etiquette to know and share:**

**Proper Display of the U.S. Flag: Raise briskly; lower slowly and with dignity: The U.S. flag is always placed to its own right (the viewer's left)**

**Illuminate if flown at night: Do not fly in severe weather unless it is an all-weather flag: For half-staff: raise to the peak first, then lower**

**Respectful Conduct: Veterans may render a military salute: Civilians place their right hand over their heart: Remove hats unless medically or religiously exempt.**

**Freedom is not an accident. It is the fruit of sacrifice, vigilance, and hope. As we celebrate July 4th and remember the milestones of this month, let us also remember the spiritual dimension of liberty: God calls us to use our freedom not for ourselves alone, but for service, compassion, and justice. Galatians 5:13 *"For you were called to freedom… through love serve one another."***

**Prayer: Heavenly Father, this month of remembrance and celebration, we thank You for the blessings of freedom and for all who have defended it. Strengthen our nation, comfort our veterans, protect those who serve today, and guide us to live with gratitude, courage, and unity. May Your peace rest upon our Post, our families, and our community.**

**David LeVally**
**Chaplain Marne Post 13**

# *Americanism Report*

**Patriots,**

**We had three young men head down to Eastern Illinois University for Boys State in June and they had an amazing time! If you know a young man who is going into 11th grade this fall, they are eligible for an experience of a lifetime. See the Boys State website (www.illinoisboysstate.org) for more information. We as a post are proud to sponsor these young men each year. Plainfield has done a great job of getting the word out on how great a program this is! Let's keep it going.**

**Come out to the Post's 250th Birthday celebration for the USA on Saturday, July 4th starting at 5pm. Live music, pig roast, and lots of fun ways to celebrate a milestone birthday for our great nation.**

**Important Days in July:**

**Saturday, July 4th – America's 250th Birthday!!!!!! FLY THE FLAG!**

**E Pluribus Unum,**
**Greg**

## Riders Officers

**Chris Gibson**
*Director*
**Brad Arnold**
*Asst. Director*
**Karen Gibson**
*Secretary*
**Leslie Vavra**
*Treasurer*
**Donnie Williams**
*Membership Chairman*
**Donna Blagojevic**
*Chaplain*
**David Hale**
*Sergeant-at-Arms*
**Jason Vavra**
*Historian*
**Jeff Kocis**
*Communications Officer*
**Nick Mesik**
*Run Coordinator*
**Roger Scott**
*Safety Officer*
**Nick Mesik & Jason Vavra**
*Road Captains*

**Dear American Legion Family,**

**Happy 250th Fourth of July!**

**As we enter the month of July, we are reminded of the freedoms and independence we celebrate as Americans. This special month gives us the opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by the men and women who have served our country, both here at home and overseas. Because of their courage and dedication, we continue to enjoy the freedoms we hold dear.**

**We wish everyone a safe, happy, and memorable Independence Day with your family and friends.**

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**We have several exciting events coming up this month that you won't want to miss!**

**Bike & Cruise Nights**
**Join us on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month for our popular Bike & Cruise Nights.**

**Christmas in July – Toys for Tots Bike Night**

**Wednesday, July 22**

**This will be a very special evening! Santa and Mrs. Claus will be making a stop at the Legion on their way back to the North Pole from their summer vacation. Bring your kids, grandkids, nieces, and nephews for a chance to see Santa early this year!**

**We are asking everyone to help support Toys for Tots by bringing a new, unwrapped toy to donate.**

**If you would rather make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to:**

**Plainfield American Legion Riders**

**Please write "Toys for Tots" in the memo line.**

**Thank you in advance for helping make Christmas brighter for children in our community.**

## Riders Officers

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**Jeff Kocis**
*Communications Officer*
**Nick Mesik**
*Run Coordinator*
**Roger Scott**
*Safety Officer*
**Nick Mesik & Jason Vavra**
*Road Captains*

***Cont'd....***

**2nd Annual Poker Run**

**Saturday, July 25**

**Be sure to save the date for our 2nd Annual Poker Run!**

**This year's proceeds will benefit PHAT – Project Headspace and Timing, an outstanding veteran organization dedicated to improving the lives and mental wellness of our nation's veterans.**

**Everyone is welcome to participate, you do not need to ride a motorcycle! All licensed and insured street-legal vehicles are welcome.**

**Even if you don't participate in the Poker Run, stop by the pavilion that day to enjoy some fantastic raffle prizes, visit with friends, and consider making a donation to PHAT. We hope to see you there for a great day supporting a great cause.**

**As we move through July, we want to sincerely thank everyone for your continued support, dedication, and enthusiasm for your American Legion Family and the Marne Post 13 Legion Riders.**

**We look forward to seeing everyone at the Fourth of July Post Party and at all of the exciting events the Riders are hosting throughout the month.**

**Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!**

**Riding in Service to Veterans and Children.**

**Chris Gibson**
**Director**
**Marne Post 13 American Legion Riders**

Plainfield American Legion Riders Present
BIKE And Cruise NIGHT
Bike Blessing at 7 pm
July 8, 2026
5-10 PM
Plainfield American Legion Hall Pavillion
24741 Renwick Rd, Plainfield, IL 60544

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS
POKER RUN
RIDE FOR A CAUSE • RIDE FOR VETERANS
SATURDAY JULY 25TH 2026
REGISTRATION OPENS 9:00AM
KSU 11:30AM
STARTS & ENDS AT THE AMERICAN LEGION
PLAINFIELD AMERICAN LEGION MARINE POST 13
24741 W RENWICK RD. PLAINFIELD, IL 60544
STOPS
DE BACK TO THE LEGION BY 4:00PM
PROCEEDS GO TO
POKER RUN GAME RULES
POKER RUN STOPS
WINNING HAND WINS $150.00
PARTICIPATION
$20 RIDER
$10 PASSENGER
ALL VEHICLES WELCOME
AFTER PARTY
FOOD TRUCK
50/50
RAFFLE BASKETS
CASH BAR

THE PLAINFIELD AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS
BIKE & Cruise
JULY 22ND NIGHT
5PM-10PM
CHILD FRIENDLY EVENT!
Santa & Mrs. Claus ARE COMING BACK FROM SUMMER VACATION ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE NORTH POLE!
PROCEEDS WILL GO TO
TOYS FOR TOTS
PLEASE BRING A NEW UNWRAPPED TOY FOR DONATION
24741 W RENWICK RD. PLAINFIELD, IL 60544

# Auxiliary News

**Happy 250th Birthday America!**

**This month we are getting ready to celebrate our country's 250th birthday on the 4th of July! The Post is holding a pig roast celebration on Saturday, July 4th from 5p–10p. There is no cost to attend. Parking will be limited so we have received permission to park down the street at the Park District on Renwick. Please note: you may not leave your vehicle there overnight so if you plan on drinking at the event, maybe consider taking an Uber/Lift that day. We want everyone to enjoy themselves, but remember safety is our priority. If you've signed up to volunteer, thank you so much! Please make sure to follow up with the Post for questions regarding volunteer specifics. I will be out-of-town and not in attendance, please feel free to reach out to VP Renee Bush with any questions, or post a chat to all members in the Stack app.**

**As a reminder, we will NOT be holding a meeting in July or August. August will instead hold our officer installation dinner. Any member is welcome to join in the festivities, however, you must RSVP with the link on the Post website or to the office by August 6th.**

**At our previous meeting, the members voted to sponsor an ice cream social for our veterans at both Manteno and LaSalle in June. Our veterans at these locations were extremely appreciative! We also voted on something smaller at our local facilities at Heritage Woods and Lakewood to take place in July.**

**Please watch the Stack app for details.**

**Bunco is Sunday, July12th . Registration begins at 12:00, with game play beginning at 1p. Come on out to support this Auxiliary fundraiser and for a chance at winning cash prizes!**

**With much gratitude and appreciation!**

**Deb Uher**

## *Auxiliary Officers*

**Deb Uher**
*President*
*amlegaux13@gmail.com*
*ala13.deb.uher@gmail.com*
**Renee Bush**
*Vice President*
**Linda Hale**
*Treasurer*
**Crystal Egle**
*Secretary*
**Erica LaFrancis**
*Historian*
**Sandi Mcvey**
*Chaplain*
**J. Truhler**
*Sergeant-at-Arms*

**Sons,**

**Hope you are enjoying summer! Our normal monthly meeting will take place (with pizza and a drink from the bar of course!) on Monday, July 13th with dinner starting at 6pm and the meeting to follow. Please come out and hear about all of the good things the Sons and our Post are involved in. The Post will be having a 250th Birthday celebration for the USA on Saturday, July 4th starting at 5pm. Live music, pig roast, and lots of fun ways to celebrate a milestone birthday for our great nation.**

**Tickets are still on sale for the Freedom 250 Raffle! Only $10 each for a chance to win one of three amazing Americana, bourbon, beef, beer, and pizza prizes. Drawing will take place at the Post's 250th Birthday Celebration on July 4th.**

**Important dates for the month include:**

**Wednesday, July 1 – Euchre (6-9:30p)**

**Monday, July 13 – Dinner and Meeting to follow (6-8p)**

**In service and support,**

**Greg Roach**
**Senior Vice Commander**
**Squadron 13**

## *SAL Officers*

**Michael Kasperski**
*Commander*

**Greg Roach**
*Sr. Vice Commander*

**John Selfridge**
*Jr. Vice Commander*

**Gary Uher**
*Adjutant*

**Jim Bush**
*Finance Officer*

**Chris Gibson**
*Chaplain*

**Don Raducka**
*Sergeant-at-Arms*

**Mike Krebs**
*Secretary*

**Greg Roach**
*Historian*

4TH OF
JULY
CELEBRATION
LAND OF THE FREE
AMERICA
250TH
CELEBRATION
OF
THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
JULY 4TH | 5PM – 10PM
LIVE
BAND
PIG
ROAST
VENDOR
TABLES
OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!
AMERICAN LEGION
MARNE POST 13
24741 W RENWICK RD, PLAINFIELD, IL 60544
FOOD MUSIC FUN FAMILY
THANK YOU VETERANS!