

ZACK WHEAT AMERICAN LEGION POST 624
PATRIOTS DISPATCH
JULY 2026

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SUNRISE BEACH MO
PERMIT#13

The American Legion Zack Wheat Post 624
P.O. Box 61, 852 American Legion Road
Sunrise Beach, MO 65079



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Versailles, MO 65084
s.bodyandpaint@gmail.com



Commander's Newsletter Input – July 2026

Happy Month and Happy Independence Day!! This month and year marks the 250th birthday of our Nation!! The Second Continental Congress convened in 1775, soon after hostilities broke out with England in the Colonies. After meeting, the Second Congress established the Continental Army and elected George Washington commander of the new Army. Once the king issued the Proclamation of Rebellion in August 1775, the Second Congress began working towards unifying the Colonies into a new Nation. The Second Continental Congress served as the provisional government of the United States during most of the Revolutionary War. Each man who served in the Congress were volunteers who were selected by their colony to represent them at the Congress and help form the Nation we know today. Our Legion Executive Board or E-Board is much like the volunteers who stepped up to serve the Nation 250 years ago. These men and women are all volunteers who raised their hands to serve the Post when asked. Much like the Continental Congress, each one was selected and voted on by our membership to represent the Post and to make the decisions that keep our organization and facilities operational. These men and women answered the call to service just like their predecessors over the life of our Post and those men who answered the call of their new Nation 250 years ago. I am absolutely proud to serve with each one of them because they place service to our Veterans, their families, our entities, our guests, and our community above themselves!! God bless them all!! So I want to leave you with a quote from President Theodore Roosevelt delivered in a speech he made on 23 April 1910 in Paris, France. "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly; so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory or defeat." Your E-Board are the men and women in the arena who work daily to improve the lives of our members and Veterans!! Thank you for your honor, thank you for your dedication, and thank you for your unwavering service!!

May God Bless you all and may God continue to bless our Nation!!

John E. Seward
Commander
American Legion Post 624



Hello! Happy Summer!!

Thank you to everyone that was able to help with the Memorial Day Breakfast, the District 8 Meeting Lunch and the Foundation of Hope MO ALR Legacy Ride. All were awesome events.

Tickets for our July Installation Dinner went on sale at the Patriot Bar on Saturday, June 12th. In order for us to better serve you, you must have a ticket. It was discussed and decided that the cost of the dinner will now be \$5.00 per ticket. The Auxiliary hosts the event for the Legion at no charge. The Legion pays for the cost of the meal and supplies. Any remaining fees for the meal and supplies is paid by the Legion. Having each of us pay a little more will help the Legion offset the cost. Thank you for understanding as we continue to offer a great meal at a great price for a great event.

The Auxiliary will be hosting an All-American Indoor Cookout to celebrate America's 250th Birthday on Friday, July 3rd. What an honor and how wonderful it is to be a part of this incredible celebration. Sign-up in the Kitchen to volunteer to help.

The Auxiliary will be hosting the Chamber of Commerce Networking Event the evening of Tuesday, July 14th. Thank you again to Mike Koenigsman for allowing us to host and cater this great event. Sign-up sheet to volunteer is located in the kitchen.

The Auxiliary will be hosting our Installation Fried Chicken Dinner on Friday, July 17th. Dinner will be served from 5-6:30pm with the Installation Ceremony to follow at 7pm. Come celebrate our Leaders as they are sworn in for the coming year.

The Astro Katz will be back on Friday, July 24th. The Auxiliary will be hosting this dinner as a fundraising opportunity. Just like last year, come out and have fun and dance the night away.

Thank you and God Bless the USA



The Sons of the American Legion will have our next meeting on the first of July. Our Dinner meal will be on the 8th, and we will have grilled pork steak and sides. Come out and enjoy Jimmy Rays wonderful grilling and his fantastic baked beans. We wish everyone a happy holiday and remind everyone to be safe with your celebration of our wonderful nation's birthday

Paul Henderson



Chapter 624 ALR Riders,

Summer is in full swing. Let's have some fun and support our Legion.

Reminder: The Foundation of Hope MO ALR Legacy Ride is June 19 - 21. Post 624 will be the host for this event. We will be needing several volunteers to make this event a success. The more volunteers we get, the fewer hours each person needs to work.

Congratulations to our new Officers. Asst. Director - John Smiley, Treasurer - Clara Clark, Secretary - Michelle Koenigsman, Judge Advocate - John Withee, Chaplain - Gary Brandt, Safety Officer - Ron Rice, Sgt At Arms - Tony Ewen, Historian - JoAnn Rice, and Director - Mike Koenigsman. Thank you to everyone that stepped up for the 624 Legion Riders. We still have an open position for Road Captain if anyone is interested, please contact any of the current Officers. Reminder that the Installation Dinner is July 17 at 5:00. All Officers, please plan to attend. You will need to register at the Patriot Bar.

We have a Dinner Ride planned for June 24 to Shady Gators. KSU at 4:00 from the Legion. Unless you live on the other side of the Lake (Smiley).

We will be in the Heart of the Lake Freedom Fest Parade in Osage Beach on July 4th. Staging begins at 8:30. See the Meeting minutes for more details.

We have received our Riders Challenge Coins. Some Riders have already received theirs. Join us at our next meeting and get your coin. If you know someone that you believe should receive a coin, please let one of the Officers know, or bring it to our attention at the Riders meeting. If you want additional coins, they are available for sale \$5 for Chapter 624 Riders and \$10 for all others.

On behalf of the Riders Officers, I want to thank everyone for supporting our Veterans, our Post and the community. You are the ones that make a difference.

See you July 8, at 1830 or 6:30 for our next regular meeting.

Enjoy the Ride

Mike Koenigsman

Chapter 624 ALR Director

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Friday, July 3rd All American Indoor Cookout Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Corn on the Cob, Potato Salad, Watermelon, Apple Pie, Icecream & More		1 Legion Wing Night 5-6:30pm Sons Meeting 6:30pm	2 Show Me the Money Dinner 4:30-6:00pm Game Begins @ 6:00pm	3 Aux Hosted All American Indoor Cookout 5-6:30pm Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	4  Patriot Bar open at 2pm Osage Beach Parade 10am
5	6 Mission Stables any time after 9am Calendar Meeting 11am Game Day 1:30pm Shuffleboard 3pm	7 Post Activity Meeting 5:30 Legion & Aux E-Board Meeting 6pm General Meeting 7pm	8 Sons Dinner 5-6:30pm Riders Meeting 6:30pm	9 Show Me the Money Dinner 4:30-6:00pm Game Begins @ 6:00pm	10 Aux Dinner 5-6:30pm Fender Benders 4:30-7:30pm Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	11
12	13 Shuffleboard 3pm	14	15	16 Show Me the Money Dinner 4:30-6:00pm Game Begins @ 6:00pm Laurie Care Center Veterans Visits 1:30pm	17 Installation Fried Chicken Dinner 5-6:30pm-Aux hosted Ceremony 7pm Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	18
19 Print Newsletter	20 Fold Newsletter 9am Game Day 1:30pm Shuffleboard 3pm	21	22	23 Show Me the Money Dinner 4:30-6:00pm Game Begins @ 6:00pm	24 Aux Dinner 5-6:30pm Astro Katz 5-8pm Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	25
26	27	28	29	30 Show Me the Money Dinner 4:30-6:00pm Game Begins @ 6:00pm	31 Aux Dinner 5-6:30pm Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Mission Stables any time after 9am Calendar Meeting 11am Game Day 1:30pm Shuffleboard 3pm	4 Post Activity Meeting 5:30 Legion & Aux E-Board Meeting 6pm General Meeting 7pm	5 Legion Wing Night 5-6:30pm Sons Meeting 6:30pm	6 Show Me the Money Dinner 4:30-6:30pm Game Begins @ 6:00pm	7 Aux Dinner 5-6:30pm Ron Mosier 5-8pm  Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	8
9	10 Shuffleboard 3pm	11	12 Sons Dinner 5-6:30pm Riders Meeting 6:30pm	13 Show Me the Money Dinner 4:30-6:30pm Game Begins @ 6:00pm Laurie Care Center Veterans Visits 1:30pm	14 Aux Dinner 5-6:30pm- Fender Benders 4:30-7:30 Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	15
16 Print Newsletter	17 Fold Newsletter 9am Game Day 1:30pm Shuffleboard 3pm	18	19	20 Show Me the Money Dinner 4:30-6:00pm Game Begins @ 6:30pm	21 Aux Dinner 5-6:30pm Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	22
23	24	25	26	27 Show Me the Money Dinner 4:30-6:00pm Game Begins @ 6:30pm	28 Aux Dinner 5-6:30pm Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	29
30	31					

Tentative 2026 Event & Entertainment schedule (Subject to Change)

- July – Kyle Lee Wiles & The Fender Benders (7/10)
Astro Katz (7/24)
- August – Ron Mosier (8/7)
Kyle Lee Wiles & The Fender Benders (8/14)
- September – Bike Fest (9/15-20)
Kyle Lee Wiles & The Fender Benders (9/18)
ALR Veterans Memorial Ride (9/18)
Cowboy (9/4)
Starla & Scotty (9/11)
- October – Oktoberfest with Legion Mouse Races & Aux Silent Auction (10/10)
Kyle Lee Wiles & The Fender Benders (10/9)
Helen Russell (10/23)
- November – Veterans Day Breakfast & Ceremony (11/11)
Kyle Lee Wiles & The Fender Benders (11/13)
Starla & Scotty (11/20)
Thanksgiving Dinner (11/13)
- December – Christmas Dinner (12/11)
Kyle Lee Wiles & The Fender Benders (12/4)
The Healing Box (12/18)

Tentative 2026 Event & Entertainment schedule (Subject to Change)

- March – Wing Night starts up again (3/4)
 - -Cowboy (3/6)



The American Legion Zack Wheat Post 624
P.O. Box 61, 852 American Legion Road
Sunrise Beach Missouri 65079
Phone # 573-374-6091, lakelegion.com

LEGION OFFICERS					
Commander	John Seward	573-480-0329	Judge Advocate	Karl Wendell	904-263-0501
1st Vice	Ron Naber	309-363-8696	Chaplain	Ted Cone	573-480-2854
2nd Vice	Rich Fischer	573-505-3055	Historian		
3rd Vice			Service Officer	Brian Smith	816-392-8788
Adjutant	Austin Teel	573-280-7585	Sgt-at Arms	Rebecca Deuel	254-702-2370
Finance Officer	Jamie Slinkard	573-578-6481	Asst. Sgt-at Arms	Ray Lacroix	303-263-8592
			Public Relation	Elyse Smith	816-392-1828
LEGION EXECUTIVE BOARD					
Tom Hohnecker		913-488-4580	Dale Hanke		402-660-0025
Austin Teel		573-280-7585			
Tom Boyce		573-723-0222			
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION OFFICERS					
Commander	Paul Hendersen	618-514-8202	Chaplain	Matt Laughlin	573-746-0131
1st Vice	John Smiley	303-419-8033	Finance Officer	Tony Lumbardo	816-806-1103
2nd Vice			Sgt-at Arms		
Adjutant	Rich Fischer	573-505-3055			
LEGION AUXILIARY OFFICERS					
President	Lisa Seward	573-480-6656	Chaplain	Shirley Dull	573-374-1912
1st Vice	Betty Hovey	573-216-2305	Historian	Michelle Koenigsman	402-657-6005
2nd Vice	Christy Fischer	913-708-1760	Sgt-at Arms	Clara Clarke	573-480-2587
Secretary	Cathy Blamy	314-307-0465	Asst. Sgt-at Arms	Kandy Bills	303-883-1241
Treasurer	Deborah Crider	816-454-5476			
AUXILIARY EXECUTIVE BOARD			COMMITTEE CHAIRS		
Nancy Hodges		816-835-5333	Membership	Michelle Koenigsman	402-657-6005
Donna Engelbert		573-216-4230	Fundraising	Christy Fischer	913-708-1760
Sheila Spry		573-410-2775			
AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS OFFICERS					
Director	Mike Koenigsman	402-740-7649	Sgt.-at Arms	Anthony Ewen	314-882-2021
Asst. Director	John Smiley	303-419-8033	Chaplain	Ted Cone	573-480-2854
Secretary	Michelle Koenigsman	402-657-6005	Judge Advocate	John Withee	314-607-6406
Treasurer	Clara Clarke	573-480-2587	Road Captain	Tiffany Fox	417-531-2181
Historian	Jo Rice	573-505-1375	Safety	Ron Rice	573-502-9053
Merchandiser	Michelle Koenigsman	402-657-6005			

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WEBSITE: LAKELEGION.COM

Cmdr.: Commander@lakelegion.com

Adjutant: adjutant@lakelegion.com

1st Vice: 1stvice@lakelegion.com

PR: pr@lakelegion.com

Auxiliary: auxiliary@lakelegion.com

SAL: sal@lakelegion.com

ALR: alr@lakelegion.com

NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND





The History and Purpose of the Honor Guard

Since its founding in 1919, The American Legion has continued the mission of service to God and Country. One of the most visible expressions of that service is the Honor Guard.

Honor Guards were formed from a simple promise: no veteran would be laid to rest without dignity, respect, and military honors. After World War I, Legion posts organized ceremonial teams modeled after military traditions to ensure fallen comrades were properly honored.

Honor Guard members conduct solemn ceremonies reflecting the highest traditions of the United States Armed Forces, including:

Presentation of the Colors

Rifle volleys

Playing of 'Taps'

Folding and presentation of the United States flag

Federal law guarantees military funeral honors for eligible veterans, and Veterans Service Organizations such as The American Legion assist in providing those honors when requested. This ensures every veteran receives the recognition they earned.

Honor Guard service extends beyond funeral details. Members present the colors at schools, parades, Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, and community events.

Through every folded flag, every note of 'Taps,' and every final salute, the Honor Guard fulfills a sacred promise — that no veteran will be forgotten.

Our Honor Guard Today

Uniforms are provided.

We average 4–5 honors per month.

Transportation to and from honors is provided.

Training is provided — no prior experience necessary.

More volunteers allow better rotation and flexibility.

Serve when you can — there is no pressure.

Contact any member of the Honor Guard or reach out directly to Honor Guard Captains, Austin Teel at 573-280-7585 or Keith Moss at 816-809-6789 for more information.

“We honor those who served... with their final salute.”





AMERICAN LEGION ZACK WHEAT POST 624 HONOR GUARD



★ ★ BENEFITS FOR ALL VETERANS ★ ★

PROUDLY SERVING ALL BRANCHES OF OUR ARMED FORCES



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UNITED STATES
AIR FORCE



UNITED STATES
SPACE FORCE



UNITED STATES
COAST GUARD

VETERANS DEATH BENEFITS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides several benefits to surviving family members and loved ones of Veterans. These benefits are meant to ease financial burdens and honor the service and sacrifice of our Nation's Veterans.

VA BURIAL AND SURVIVORS BENEFITS



BURIAL ALLOWANCE

A one-time payment of \$2,000 toward funeral and burial expenses for eligible Veterans.



PLOT ALLOWANCE

Reimbursement for the cost of a burial plot in a State, territory, or tribal Veterans cemetery.



BURIAL FLAG

The VA provides a United States flag to drape the casket or to be given to the next of kin.



HEADSTONE OR MARKER

A Government-furnished headstone or marker for the Veteran's grave at no cost.



DEPENDENTS' AND SURVIVORS' BENEFITS (DIC)

Monthly tax-free payments to eligible surviving spouses, children, and in some cases, dependent parents.



ACCREDITED SERVICE OFFICER ASSISTANCE

Get help applying for benefits from a Veterans Service Organization (VSO) or VA Accredited Service Officer.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- National Cemetery Administration: www.cem.va.gov
- eBenefits Portal: www.ebenefits.va.gov
- VA Form 21P-530E2: Application for Burial Benefits
- Find a Local VSO: www.va.gov/vso



IT IS THE LAW

By law, each Veteran is entitled to have at least two members of their own military service branch present to conduct Military Honors at their funeral. (10 U.S.C. § 3453 – Military Funeral Honors)

If honor guard members from the Veteran's branch are not reasonably available, the Department of Defense must provide members from another branch.



TO APPLY OR LEARN MORE:

Visit www.va.gov/burials-memorials
Call 1-800-827-1000
Contact your local VA office or Accredited Service Officer.

REQUESTING MILITARY HONORS

Military funeral honors are a dignified way to recognize and show gratitude for a Veteran's service. The U.S. Government provides honors at no cost.

HOW TO REQUEST MILITARY HONORS

- 1 CONTACT THE FUNERAL DIRECTOR**
Your funeral director will usually initiate the request with the appropriate military honors team.
- 2 PROVIDE SERVICE INFORMATION**
Have the Veteran's full name, branch of service, rank, dates of service, and discharge status available. Please provide a copy of the DD Form 214.
- 3 CONFIRM ELIGIBILITY**
The honors team have been discharged under honorable conditions.
- 4 SCHEDULE AND DETAILS**
The honors team will confirm the date, time, and location of the service.
- 5 HONORS WILL BE RENDERED**
A detail will provide a ceremonial folding of the flag and the playing of "Taps."



HONORING
★ SERVICE ★
SACRIFICE

WE HONOR THEIR SERVICE. WE SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES.
American Legion Zack Wheat Post 624 Honor Guard

★ Service Above Self ★



American Legion Post 624

Four-Person Scramble

Friday, August 21, 2026

Hosted By

Rolling Hills Country Club

13986 Country Club Road

Versailles, MO 65084 573-378-5109

Entries must be received by August 17th, 2026
Proceeds will go to: American Legion Programs

Shotgun start at 9:00 am

Entry Fee: \$240.00 per four-person team (\$60 per person)

Entry fee includes

Tournament Round with cart

Par 3 Insurance

Cash Prizes

Long Putt Prizes on several Holes

Mulligans

Attendance Prizes

Also includes post-tournament meal at the golf course.

Teams will be flighted by score.

The 2026 event will keep the 9:00 am start, we know most players appreciated the morning time in 2025.

American Legion Post 624 Tournament

Team Captain: _____

Phone: _____

Team Member: _____

|

Team Member: _____

Team Member: _____

Make Entry Fee Checks payable to: The American Legion Post 624.

Mail to: Ron Naber, PO Box 493, Sunrise Beach MO 65079 For info: 309-363-8696

2026 AMERICAN LEGION POST 624 FUND RAISER

AMERICAN LEGION GOLF TOURNAMENT HOLE SPONSOR

Yes, I would like to sponsor a hole in the American Legion Post 624 four-person scramble on August 21, 2026 at a cost of \$50.00 per sign.

Proceeds from this tournament will go to The American Legion Post 624 Veteran Programs.

Business or Organization Name: _____

Business or Organization Address: _____

Business or Organization Phone Number: _____

Make Sponsor Checks Payable to: American Legion Post 624

Mail To: Ron Naber, PO Box 493
Sunrise Beach, MO 65079.

For More Information: 309-363-8696
