

AMERICAN LEGION CLINTON POST 259



APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER



Commander ShaWanda "Shay" Brown

Commander Insight Better Together

Greetings, Legion Family

April is designated as the month to honor and celebrate military children who face unique challenges and experiences due to their parents' service. Military bases, cities, and school districts worldwide will host special events to honor these young American heroes. As part of this month-long celebration, communities are invited to participate in Purple Up Day on April 15th, where individuals wear or display purple to show their support for military children. I grew up in a military family, which taught me the challenges and benefits of being a military child. I was fortunate enough to travel both domestically and abroad. My father's service inspired me to serve and dedicate myself to our country. The Post will be celebrating Family Day on Saturday, April 13th, from 1 -4 pm. Please come out and enjoy the vendors and a day full of fun activities!

Several scholarship opportunities are available to our youth from both the Post home and the Department. Our scholarship committee, led by Walter Harvey, has been visiting local high schools to inform graduating high school seniors about the chance to receive up to five \$1,000 scholarships totaling \$5,000.00. The scholarship criteria and a copy of the application can be found in the newsletter. You may also visit the American Legion Department of Maryland for their criteria and application for additional opportunities for our youth. Both scholarship applications should be submitted by **April 15, 2024**.

Continuing with our youth, the American Legion Boys' State is an excellent program designed for all rising high school students and among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction. It's a one-week participatory program in which students become part of the operation of the local county and state government. The residential camp is held at McDaniel College, Westminster, MD, from June 16-22, 2024. All fees are paid by the American Legion Posts. We need your help to recruit attendees and volunteer to serve As a counselor. For registration and additional information, visit their website at <http://www.mdlegion.org/boysstate>.

American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a separate but similar program for young women called Girl State.

If you want to purchase a Legion shirt, Martin Embroidery will be at the Post at 5:00 pm before our scheduled monthly meeting to be held on April 22nd.

If you are interested in reserving your spot with our Post Super Season Package, you can make your selection on April 27th from 1 pm to 3 pm. Slots are limited and tend to fill up quickly.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all officers, committee members, legion members, and legion family who generously volunteer at our post. Your tireless efforts in organizing events, such as Shrimp Night, Bingo, and Karaoke, are genuinely appreciated and do not go unnoticed. If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch with any employee or legion officer, and they will guide you in the right direction. "We are truly better together."

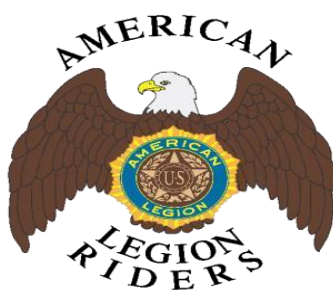
Yours in Legion Service,
Shay Brown, Commander

"Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always." - Robin Williams



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2023 – 2024

Commander	Shay Brown
1 st Vice Commander	Sylvester Jones
2 nd Vice Commander	Darryl Pegram
3 rd Vice Commander	George Martin
Adjutant	Barbara Smith
Assistant Adjutant	Valerie Jenkins
Judge Advocate	Anthony Hinnant
Service Officer	Roy Brown
Finance Officer	Dornita Brown
Assistant Finance Officer	Orlando Nesbit
Historian	Linda Poulson
Chaplain	Otis Wilson
Sergeant at Arms	Kenneth Weathers
Executive Committee Members-At-Large James Conner DuShaun Harris John W Harris Walter Harvey	



Auxiliary Officers

Legion Rider Officers

S.A.L. Officers

President Marilyn Miles Thomas

Director: Darryl Fielder

Commander: David L. "Hutch" Hutchinson

Vice President: Shay Brown

Asst. Director: Gary Headd

1st Vice Commander: Michael Thomas

Secretary: Tamara Thumbtzen

Secretary: Phyllis Headd

2nd Vice Commander: Kenny Hendrix

Treasurer: Roy Brown

Treasurer: Murray Hall

Finance Officer: Dave Desmarais

Historian: Lisa Cephas

Sgt At Arms: Trevor Benjamin

Sgt At Arms: Lou Montgomery

Chaplain: Latia Jones

Quartermaster: A.R. Bradley

Adjutant: Dave Desmarais

Sgt At Arms: Marie VanNess

Road Captain: Kenneth Trass

Historian: David L. "Hutch" Hutchinson

Executive Advisory Board:

Parnice Green
Athena Hemphill
Donna Queen

Chaplain: Gary Headd

Safety Officer: Phyllis Jordan Headd

Liaison: Roy Brown

Chaplain: Gary "GJ" Shafer

Liaison: Eugene Murray



CLINTON POST 259

SELF-NOMINATION FORM FOR ELECTED POSITIONS

Nominations for Post-Elected Positions

If you are interested in running for office, please complete the self-nomination form below and email your intention to **post259elections@gmail.com**. The Nominating Committee consists of Marvin Tisdale (Chair), Wendy Crosier, and Willie Evans.

1. In accordance with Post Standing Rules 7A, the following are the elected positions for Clinton Post 259:

Commander	1st Vice Commander	2nd Vice Commander	
3rd Vice Commander	Judge Advocate	Adjutant	
Finance Officer	Historian	Sergeant-at-Arms	Chaplain
Executive Committee Member-At-Large (4)	Disciplinary Review Committee (7)		

2. Your Name:

3. Identify the office for which you are seeking:

4. Email the completed form to **post259elections@gmail.com** no later than **April 15, 2024**.

5. Questions concerning the nomination process can also be emailed to **post259elections@gmail.com**.

6. Nominations will close at the April general membership meeting, and elections will be held on the May general membership meeting day. (scheduled for May 27, 2024)

Message from First Vice Commander Sylvester E. Jones

Membership Status:

We are currently at 1,056 of the 998 Goal of 100% for the 2024 Membership Year. This puts Post 259 at 105.5%. Congratulations to our Post as out of 127 Department of Maryland American Legion Posts, we are in the top 10 positions (currently at position #10) for membership for the 2024 Membership Year, as of this report.

Thanks as always to everyone for helping with our membership efforts. As mentioned before, Retention and Recruitment are both very important; however, Retention is critical as we want to retain all of our existing members. The Membership Committee and Team will be focusing on making additional Buddy Check Calls and encouraging 2023 members who have yet to renew, to renew their membership if they are able to do so. Buddy Check calls are always well received and appreciated by members. If you have members who are your close friends and colleagues, please make a Buddy Check call to see how they are doing.

Recruiting Status:

We have had another great membership recruiting month. At our March 25, 2024 Monthly Membership Meeting, we voted on 23 traditional new members, and 5 transfer members joining our Post for a total of 28 new members who have decided to be a member in our Post. We are also leading the Department of Maryland in recruiting Traditional New Members with 136 new members, with more than 30 new members, over the closest Post recruiting traditional new members. This number will continue to grow as we close in on the completion of the 2024 Membership Year in the next few months. The new transfer and traditional new members are:

Transfers:

1. Ora Patterson, U.S. Air Force
2. Willie R. Harrison, U.S. Army
3. Loretta M. Holley, U.S. Air Force
4. Joanna Benjamin, U.S. Army
5. Shirley A. Cotton, U.S. Army

New Members:

1. Neal Uranga, U.S. Army, Recruiter 1st Vice Commander Sylvester Jones
2. Dale Ludlow, U.S. Army, Recruiter Keith Sutton
3. Michael Price, U.S. Navy, Recruiter 1st Vice Commander Sylvester Jones
4. Willie Foster; U.S. Army, Recruiter, 1st Vice Commander Sylvester Jones
5. Melvin Logan, U.S. Army, Recruiter, 1st Vice Commander Sylvester Jones
6. Sherri Offer, U.S. Army, Recruiter Adjutant Barbara Smith

7. Orlando Brown, US. Air Force, Recruiter, Pierre McLeod
8. Kenneth B. Harris, U.S. Army, Recruiter 1st Vice Commander Sylvester Jones
9. Abdush-Shahid Munir, U.S. Army, Recruiter Marie Van Ness
10. Sedrick Buxton, U.S. Army, Recruiter, Keith Sutton
11. William Gibbons Jr, U.S. Army, Recruiter 1st Vice Commander Sylvester Jones
12. Christine Young, U.S. Navy, Recruiter 1st Vice Commander Sylvester Jones
13. Robert Webb, U.S. Air Force, Recruiter Lucius Allen
14. Stephanie L. Buxton, U.S. Army, Recruiter Keith Sutton
15. Alfred Miller, U.S. Air Force Recruiter Service Officer Roy Brown
16. Jeff White, U.S. Army/U.S. Air Force, Recruiter 2nd Vice Commander Darryl Pegram
17. Lawrence T. Davis, U.S. Navy, Recruiter, Larry Holmes
18. Dr. Tyrone S. Cooper, U.S. Army, Recruiter, 1st Vice Commander Sylvester Jones
19. Robin L. Harris Cooper, U.S. Army, Recruiter, 1st Vice Commander Sylvester Jones
20. Gloria A. Murray-Fleming, U.S. Army, Recruiter, 1st Vice Commander Sylvester Jones
21. Anthony M. Herring, U.S. Marine Corps, Recruiter, 1st Vice Commander Sylvester Jones
22. Martin J. Rosier, U.S. Army, Recruiter, Keith Sutton
23. Teri D. Dunham, U.S. Army, Recruiter, Cynthia Carlisle

Thanks again to our Post Membership Committee, Membership Team, and all Post members assisting with the retention of existing members and recruitment of new members. And please welcome all of our Post's new members!





Congratulations to our new recruits at the General Meeting on March 25, 2024!



Message from Second Vice Commander Darryl Pegram

Bingo remains the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month

Doors open at 6:00 pm



Karaoke 2nd and 4th Friday of the month



7:00 pm – 11:00 pm

Shrimp Night every Wednesday



5:30 pm -7:30 pm

SAL Pizza night, 1st Thursday of the month

Legion Riders Fried chicken wings and sausage, 3Rd Thursday of the month

Auxiliary: Normally Pork Chops

NEW!



American Legion

Steak Dinner Night

Sunday April 07, 2024



4:00 pm Until 8:00 pm

POST HIGHLIGHTS



1st Vice Commander Sylvester Jones presents the National Challenge Dogtail Recruitment to 2nd Vice President Darryl Pegram and Legionnaire Keith Sutton at the March 25, 2024 General Meeting.

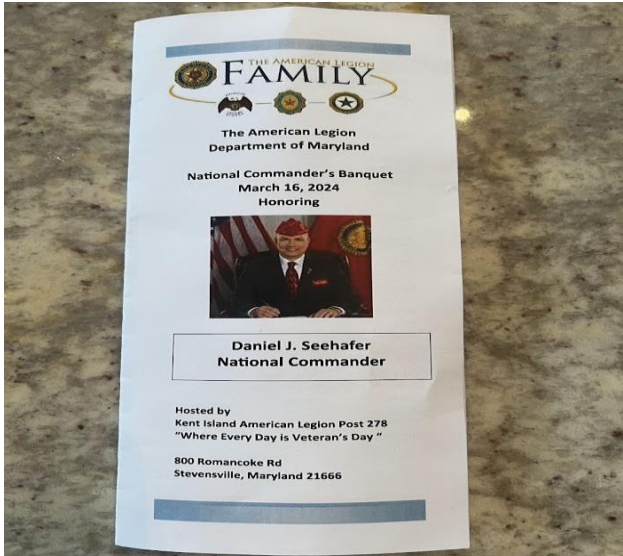


Clinton Post 259 celebrated their Vietnam Veterans at the General Meeting on March 25, 2024. Emeritus Chaplain Charles Johnson honored the Veterans with a special recognition.



On membership, Shaw announced our District 6 and Southern Maryland Region as #1 in the Department of Maryland and the Department is #4 on the National level.

National Commander’s Banquet



CDR Brown with American Legion National CDR Daniel J. Seehafer

With Department of MD CDR Ruth A. Higgins

**COMMANDER BROWN RECEIVES A PROCLAMATION AWARD FROM PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY DISTRICT 9 COUNCIL MEMBER SYDNEY J. HARRIS
MARCH 20, 2024**



1. Commander Shay Brown speaks to the audience at Mix and Mingle Coffee Lounge
2. CDR Brown showing award with District 9 Council Member Sydney J. Harrison
3. Prince George County Police Chief Malik Aziz, with award recipients
4. CDR Brown showing award to Post 259 members at General Meeting on March 25, 2024
5. CDR Brown with District V Police, Sgt Carr

The Prince George's County Police Department with the Division V Community Engagement Unit nominated Commander Brown for her community work, leadership, and being the second Female Commander at Clinton Post 259 during Women's History Month. District 9 Council Member Sydney J Harris made a proclamation.

Message from 3rd Vice Commander George Martin



STEM SCOUTS
Grades 5-8
OPENING SOON



SCOUTING
TROOP 1237 B & G
Ages 11 - 18



VENTURING
CREW 1237
Ages 14 - 20

YOUTH & ADULTS

JOIN NOW

Discovery is at the heart of Scouting.
Whether it's target sports, gaming, campout, derby car race, hike on the trail, or a travel excursion every adventure is memorable.

Scouting builds a foundations for inclusion, develop life skills
—strengthens character through actions—
to prepare youth for a lifetime of leadership.

Seeking adults to support the youth as scout leaders. crew advisors, target sport instructors or merit badge counselors.
Share your knowledge & Support the Youth

Volunteer Info

bit.ly/T1237-Info4Adults
(301) 200-2219

YOUTH - MALES
JOIN



bit.ly/JoinNCACTroop1237-B

YOUTH - FEMALES
JOIN



bit.ly/JoinNCACTroop1237-G

#ADVENTUREON!

Join Scouts BSA today at beascout.org

Message from Chaplain Otis Wilson Chaplain's Corner



Greetings and Salutations, Legionnaires!

To God be the glory from Whom all blessings do flow. Now is a great time to give thanks to our Lord and Creator. Some religious traditions, including my own, are celebrating Holy Week culminating with Resurrection Sunday. Moreover, God, through creation, continues to exemplify and illustrate the intrinsic value of compassion, composure and contentment. These are attributes crescendo for all humanity. When we practice and exude these innate characteristics, we are all B.E.T.T.E.R. T.O.G.E.T.H.E.R.



We solicit your prayers on behalf of all members and veterans. Below are specific actions taken this period:

1. Get well card sent to Legionnaire John Jackson, Post 255 Sergeant at Arms Emeritus
2. Card of sympathy & condolences sent to the Neitzke family for the passing of Legionnaire Leonard Neitzke
3. Eulogist, Sis. Maryland Elizabeth Gibson, wife of PC Lamont Gibson at Lee Funeral Home
4. Officiant for PC Bob & Lily Wilson's Inurnment at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery
5. Sent sympathy card & condolences to PC Lamont Gibson.
6. Offered prayers, words of restoration and resilience to 5 Post members.

This office continues to focus on the spiritual welfare of all members and veterans. If you need to pray or just want to talk, please do not hesitate to reach out. Me, Chaplain Emeritus Charles Johnson and Sergeant-at-Arms Kenneth Weathers stand ready to help, aid and assist. We are here for you.

Please join me as we congratulate Pastor Kenneth Weathers on his recent ordination. Look at God!

This month we celebrate Women's History Month. I intentionally recognize all women everywhere for their continue commitment to making life better, bolder and brighter for humanity. I am proud to be my Grandmother's grandson. I raise the name of Ms. Unita Zelma Blackwell born in Lula, MS on 18 March 1933. An American civil rights activist, she was the first African American woman elected mayor in MS. She served as the mayor for 25 years (1976-2001) in Mayersville, MS. Hat's off to women everywhere!

Something to Ponder

Teamwork simply expressed, *It is less me and more WE* (author unknown). This statement encapsulates the essence of teamwork, emphasizing the shift from individualistic thinking to a collective mindset focused on mutual support and collaboration.

We are:

B.E.T.T.E.R. T.O.G.E.T.H.E.R.

By Exemplifying Timeless Truths Exercising Responsibility

The Opportunity Granted Everyone To Help Each Reach

Preamble Explained – Extracted from the American Legion Preamble

To Make Right the Master of Might

All wars from the veterans of which The American Legion draws its membership were started by dictators who wanted their might to be the right. If human freedom is not to perish from the earth, right must always be master of might. The rights of small nations must be protected against the tyranny that powerful neighbors may seek to impose on them just as the rights of minorities in our society must be protected and respected. Our belief in enthroning right over might is the main essence of our ideological conflict with Communism today. Legionnaires are pledged by this clause always to stand with the right, protect the weak and preserve the liberties of the individual. This concept is the basis of The American Legion's continued advocacy of a strong national preparedness so as to achieve the ideal situation that right will be backed by adequate might.

Make a GREAT day!

Otis Wilson

Rev. Otis Wilson, MDiv

Soli Deo Gloria!

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Message from Service Officer Roy Brown



The Service Officer will be at Clinton Post 259 from 6-8 pm
every Tuesday for walk-in assistance to help with filing claims.

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Message from Member-at-Large Walter Harvey



THE AMERICAN LEGION CLINTON POST 259

P.O. BOX 44

9122 PISCATAWAY RD

CLINTON, MD 20735

(301) 868-2550

Subj: 2024 American Legion Clinton Post 259 Scholarship Program

The American Legion Clinton Post 259 is pleased to announce its 2024 Scholarship Program. This year, Clinton Post 259 intends to award up to five \$1,000.00 scholarships totaling \$5,000.00 to graduating high school seniors that fall in the following categories:

- Category 1: A graduating high school senior from Surrattsville/Crossland/Gwynn Park/Friendly High School and Grace Brethren Christian School.
- Category 2: A graduating high school senior who is a descendant (child, grandchild, great-grandchild) of a member of Clinton Post 259.

Eligibility Requirements. To be considered for a scholarship award, the applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Be an American citizen or a legal resident.
2. Be a graduating high school senior from Surrattsville/Crossland/Gwynn Park/Friendly High School/ Grace Brethren Christian School or a graduating high school senior who is a descendant of an active or deceased member of Clinton Post 259.
3. Have an overall grade point average of 2.50.

Scholarship Application Procedure. The application package must contain the following:

1. Completed and signed scholarship application form.
2. One-page letter stating the applicant's goals for furthering their education.
3. A listing of extracurricular activities, community service activities, academic honors, and leadership positions held.
4. Submit two (2) letters of reference with one from a school official.
5. An official high school transcript.

Due Date and Mailing Address. The deadline for receipt of all application packages is **April 15, 2024.**

The completed application package must be mailed to the following address:

American Legion Clinton Post 259
Attn: Walter J. Harvey, Scholarship Program Chair
P. O. Box 44
Clinton, MD 20735

Questions can be directed to the scholarship program chair, Mr. Walter J. Harvey, at (301-655-9842 or wjharvey3@yahoo.com.)

**ROOM E, 101 NORTH GAY STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202**

TO: APPLICANT

FROM: DEPARTMENT

RE: SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

To be considered for a scholarship, the applicant must:

- Be a child or a grandchild of a veteran (must show proof of veteran's status, or military discharge or DD-214).
- Be a Maryland resident.
- Not have attained their 20th birthday by January 1, 2024.
- Be a full-time student when he/she enters college (at least 12 credits per semester).
- Completed and mailed/delivered scholarship application and back-up information (cannot be faxed or emailed).
- Have the application, along with the essay and transcript, delivered to:

The American Legion, Department of Maryland, Inc.
War Memorial Building, Room E
101 N. Gay Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202

• Applicants may complete the online version of the application at
"[https://www.cognitoforms.com/ TheAmericanLegionDepartmentOfMaryland/
AmericanLegionDepartmentOfMaryland2024General Scholar
shipApplication](https://www.cognitoforms.com/TheAmericanLegionDepartmentOfMaryland/AmericanLegionDepartmentOfMaryland2024GeneralScholarshipApplication)" or by going to our website <http://mdlegion.org/formspage.htm>.
and look for a General Scholarship application.

- Applications are due in this office on or before April 15, 2024.
- Scholarship Winners will be notified by mail in August 2024.

Sincerely, Robert Berlett
Scholarship Committee Chair

April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Sons of American Legion Meeting 6:00 pm	2 Taco Tuesday 5:30- 7:30 pm 	3 Shrimp Night 5:30-7:30 pm 	4 SAL Pizza Night 5:30 - 7:30 pm 	5 5:30 – 10 pm 	6
7 Steak Dinner 4 pm- 8 pm 	8 Auxiliary Unit 259 Meeting 6:00 pm	9	10 Shrimp Night 5:30-7:30 pm 	11	12 Karaoke 7-11 PM 	13 Community Day Children and Youth 1:00 – 4:00 PM
14	15 E.C. Meeting 6:30 	16 Taco Tuesday 5:30- 7:30 pm 	17 Shrimp Night 5:30-7:30 pm 	18 Legion Riders Food Night 	19 5:30 -10 pm 	20
21	22 Legion Post Membership Meeting 6:30 Dinner 7:30 Start Time	23 Legion Riders Meeting 7:00 pm	24 Shrimp Night 5:30-7:30 pm 	25 Auxiliary Food Night 5:30 - 7:30 pm 	26 Karaoke 7-11 PM 	27 CPR/FIRST AID 9:00 am 1 pm 
28	29	30				

American Legion Clinton Post 259

Open 12:00 P.M. - 12:00 A.M. Sunday – Saturday

*****Football Super Season Selection April 27th 1pm-3pm*****



American Legion
Steak Dinner Night
Sunday April 07, 2024



4:00 pm Until 8:00 pm

American Legion Post 259 Super Season Selection

**APRIL 27, 2024
1:00 PM UNTIL 3:00 PM**

**SLOT DONATION: \$130.00 PER SLOT
(\$55.00 DEPOSIT REQUIRED) AT PURCHASE
SUPER BOWL SLOT DONATION: \$100.00
(\$25.00 DEPOSIT REQUIRED) AT PURCHASE**



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Stay Safe – Stay Connected

<p>American Legion Clinton Post 259 9122 Piscataway Road Clinton, Maryland 20735 Phone: 301-868-2550 Website: www.post259.org</p>	<p>I welcome your news, ideas, comments, and suggestions to the newsletter.</p> <p>Forward to Editor Linda Poulson at poulin515@gmail.com</p> <p>The Clinton Post 259 Newsletter is published monthly</p>
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