

AMERICAN LEGION

CLINTON POST 259

MAY 2026 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Overview and Purpose

Military Appreciation Month, also known as National Military Appreciation Month, is observed annually from May 1 to May 31 in the United States. It was established to recognize and honor the contributions of members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force, and National Guard, as well as their families and spouses. The month provides a platform for Americans to express gratitude, raise awareness of military challenges, and celebrate the dedication of service members.

All sources here and below - Wikipedia

History

The observance was proposed by Senator John McCain on February 9, 1999, and officially designated by Congress on April 30, 1999, following a unanimous vote of 93–0. May was chosen because it contains several military-related observances, including Memorial Day, Loyalty Day, VE Day, Armed Forces Day, and Military Spouse Appreciation Day. Since its inception, nearly all U.S. states have issued proclamations recognizing the month.

Key Observances

Loyalty Day (May 1): Celebrates loyalty to the United States and honors American heritage.

VE Day (May 8): Marks the end of World War II in Europe in 1945.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day: Recognizes the contributions of military spouses.

Armed Forces Day: Honors all branches of the military.

Memorial Day: Commemorates those who gave their lives in service.



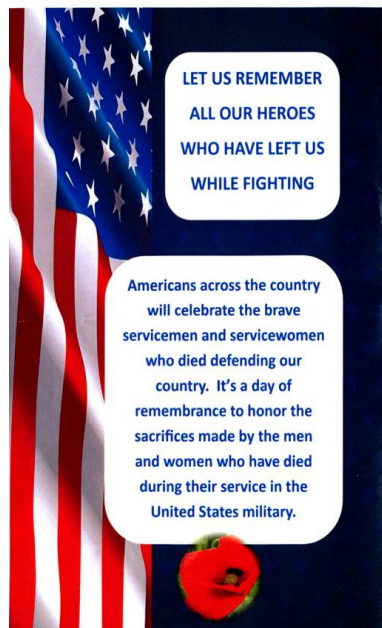
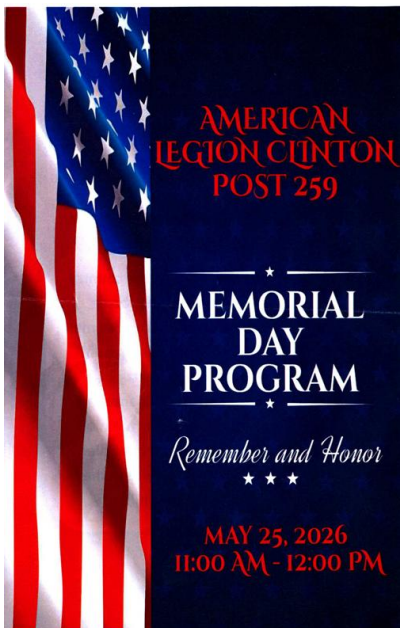
Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May.

Memorial Day is a time for visiting cemeteries and memorials to mourn the military personnel who died in the line of duty. Volunteers will place American flags on the graves of those military personnel in national cemeteries.

The first national observance of what would become Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Then known as Decoration Day, the holiday was proclaimed by Commander-in-Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic – a fraternal organization of veterans – to honor Union soldiers who had died in the American Civil War.

Official recognition as a holiday spread among the states, beginning with New York in 1873. By 1890, every state had adopted it. The world wars turned it into a day of remembrance for all members of the U.S. military who fought and died in service. In 1968, Congress changed its observance to the last Monday in May, and in 1971 standardized its name as "Memorial Day."

Clinton Post 259 Memorial Day Commemoration – May 25, 2026



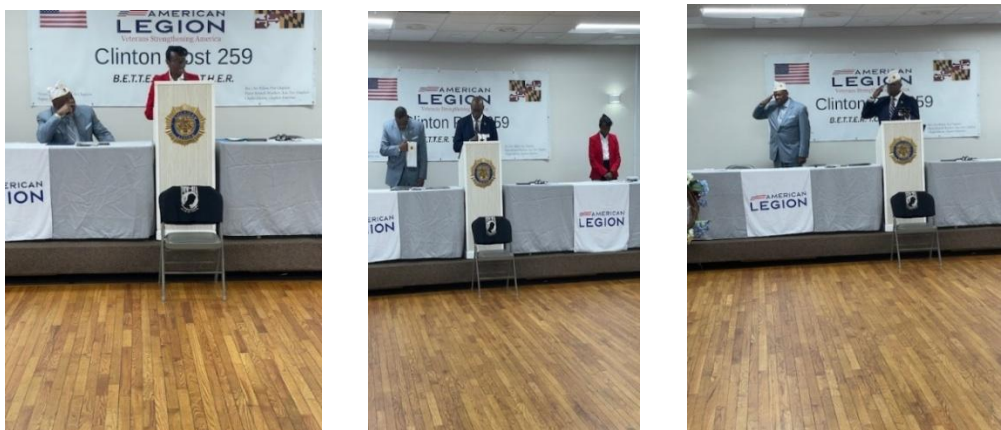
<i>Order Of Service</i>	
Opening	Sylvester E. Jones Sr., Commander
Pledge of Allegiance.....	All
Invocation	Chaplain Otis Wilson
Memorial Day Poem.....	Dornita Brown
Memorial Day Speech.....	Gaye Broadway Brigadier General (Ret), DCARNG
Thirty Seconds of Silence.....	All
Memorial Prayer.....	Chaplain Otis Wilson
Tribute to Clinton Post 259, 2025-2026 Fallen Comrades	
Laying of the Wreath.....	Kenneth Weathers Sgt-at-Arms
Taps	
Benediction.....	Chaplain Otis Wilson
Light Refreshments Served Shortly After	



CDR Sylvester Jones welcomes those attending event, Chaplain Dr. Otis Wilson begins invocation, Legionnaire Dornita Brown recites her poem honoring the fallen



Sgt-at-Arms Kenneth Weathers brings wreath to honor the fallen, Chaplain Wilson reads inserted letter plaque given to CDR Jones, both hug in Post brotherhood



Honored Guest Brigadier General (Ret) Gaye Broadway speaks to audience, A moment of silence was given after her speech, CDR Jones and Chaplain Wilson salute with others after "TAPS" honoring the fallen



Post members including Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Legion Riders and others came to honor all who sacrificed their lives for this nation. The red, white, and blue, which was indicated in table décor.

A light brunch was served after the ceremony.



Commander's Corner

My Fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders,

As we transition into the warmer months, May brings us a time for remembrance, renewal, and recommitment to our mission. It is a month in which we honor the ultimate sacrifices made for our freedoms while also celebrating the vibrant, ongoing fellowship that keeps our Post family so strong.

May is both Military Appreciation Month and Mental Health Awareness Month along with other significant observances which include Cinco De Mayo, Mother's Day, Jewish Heritage Month, and Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. As we continue to focus on the well-being of our veterans, family members, and friends, let us remember that we often do not know what someone may be dealing with or going through. A simple conversation, check-in, or kind gesture can make a meaningful difference.

Remembering the Fallen

With Memorial Day now behind us, we paused to honor those who gave their lives in service to our country. This solemn occasion gives us the opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices that continue to preserve our nation and our freedoms.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all members who joined us at the Post on Monday, May 25, 2026, and participated in our Memorial Day program. Thank you also to those who laid wreaths and placed flags at cemeteries to ensure the legacy of our fallen heroes is never forgotten.

Spring Activities & Fellowship

Beyond solemn reflection, May has been a busy and enjoyable month at the Post. Thank you to everyone who continues to support our many events and activities, including:

- Bingo every first and third Friday, with an additional Super Bingo scheduled for Friday, May 29, 2026, where prizes will be doubled
- Karaoke on the second and fourth Fridays
- Shrimp Night every Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Our Monthly Potluck Birthday Celebrations, usually held on the last Thursday of each month

These gatherings are more than just good food and fun—they strengthen the sense of community and fellowship that defines our Post family.

I also look forward to seeing everyone at the Post on Thursday, June 18, 2026, for our Juneteenth Celebration.

Serving Our Community

Our mission to support veterans and their families never stops. As we approach the summer months, I ask that you continue making Buddy Check calls and working alongside our outstanding Auxiliary Unit, SAL, and Riders to support veterans, their families, and members of our community.

Please remember to check on your fellow veterans and continue supporting our national **#BeTheOne** mission to help end veteran suicide simply by reaching out and listening.

Looking Ahead

As the 2025–2026 Legion year approaches its close, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the volunteers, officers, and members who keep our Post running strong. Your commitment is what makes Clinton Post 259 a place of fellowship, service, and shared purpose.

Congratulations to our Post, our Membership Chair, Membership Team, and all of you—the members—who helped us achieve the Department of Maryland goal of reaching 100% membership by obtaining 1,254 financial members prior to the National Office suspense date.

We are currently at 101% membership, with nearly 1,270 members, and our retention rate has improved to just over 86%.

I was recently informed that the Department of Maryland's 2026 membership drive cutoff date is June 9, 2026, nearly a month after the National Office cutoff date of May 13, 2026. Let's continue pushing forward and work toward increasing our retention rate to 90%. I know we can get there because we want to keep and retain all of our members.

If you are interested in becoming more involved, volunteering, or taking an active role by joining one of our Post committees or activities, please attend a meeting and sign up.

As always, I encourage everyone to visit our excellent website for information about the Post and upcoming activities:

<https://americanlegionpost259.org>

Thank you for your continued dedication to our community, our state, and our nation. I look forward to seeing you at the Post!

For God and Country,

Sylvester E. Jones Sr.

Commander

American Legion Clinton Post 259

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (2026 – 2027)

(From Election Results)

Commander	Sylvester E. Jones Sr.
1 st Vice Commander	Cynthia Carlisle
2 nd Vice Commander	Darryl Pegram
3 rd Vice Commander	Vacant
Adjutant	Glenda Sturdivant
Assistant Adjutant	To be appointed
Judge Advocate	Roy Brown
Service Officer	To be Appointed
Finance Officer	Orlando Nesbit
Assistant Finance Officer	To be appointed
Historian	Linda Poulson
Chaplain	Otis Wilson
Sergeant-At-Arms	Kenneth Weathers
Members-At-Large	Marie VanNess, Dornita Brown Marie Butler, Neville Smith



Auxiliary Officers

Legion Rider Officers

S.A.L. Officers

President: LaTia Jones

Director: Darryl Fielder

Commander: David L. Hutchinson

1st Vice President: Loretta Nixon

Asst. Director: Gary Head

1st Vice: Darryl Pegram

2nd Vice President: Venus Jones

Secretary: Phyllis Jordan-Headd

2nd Vice: Robert Pressley

Treasurer: Athena Hemphill

Treasurer: Murray Hall

Finance Officer: Vacant

Secretary: Farris Randall-Morgan

Chaplain: Gwen Murphy

Sgt At Arms: Darrell Bridges

Sgt At Arm: Mayumi Brewster

Sgt. At Arms: Trevor Benjamin

Adjutant: Dave Desmaris.

Chaplain: Kimberly Price

Quartermaster: Arthur A.R. Bradley

Historian: David C. Hutchinson

Historian: Annette Vaughn

Road Captain: Kenneth Trass

Chaplain: Gary "GJ" Shafer

Members At Large

Kathy Davis

Cheryl Batie

Rose Marie Butler

Safety Officer: Phyllis Jordan-Headd

Message from 2nd Vice Commander Darryl Pegram

Bingo



1st and 3rd Friday of the month. Doors open at 6:00pm

Kitchen opens for food sale **{Volunteers needed}**

Karaoke



2nd and 4th Fridays of the month 7pm – 11pm; Kitchen opens for sale

Shrimp Night



Every Wednesday (Boiled Shrimp, Fried Shrimp baskets, Fried Fish Baskets Coleslaw, Hush-puppies and Fries) **{Volunteers needed}** 6:00-7:30pm

Thursday Night Theme Meals

SAL Pizza night, 1st Thursday of the month

Legion Riders Fried Chicken Wings and Sausages,

Auxiliary: Pork Chops with sides 4th Thursday of the month

Message from Chaplain Dr. Otis Wilson



American Legion
Clinton Post 259

Greetings, Commander and Post 259 Family!

Centering Scripture: Psalm 30:1, 5 (KJV)

“I will extol thee, O Lord; for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me. For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”

May was a month marked by remembrance, compassion, fellowship, and service. As Chaplains, we are continually reminded that our ministry is not confined to podiums or ceremonies—it lives in the quiet moments of encouragement, the difficult moments of grief, and the joyful moments of community triumph. Whether honoring our departed comrades, supporting grieving families, mentoring athletes, or simply making a wellness call, each act reflects our commitment to “For God and Country.”

As we continue our mission For God and Country, let us remain committed to building a Post rooted in unity, respect and genuine care for one another. Together, we are stronger.

[American Legion Preamble Explained](#) – To Consecrate and Sanctify Our Comradeship By Our Devotion to Mutual Helpfulness

The last or 10th clause of our Preamble is the most important ideal expressed in our Preamble. It marked a new concept in America—a concept that made The American Legion the greatest force for social betterment in all the history of the United States. Let us be factual and examine this.

At the close of World War I, America was just emerging from its lusty era of rugged individualism. It was an era when the individual hammered out his own destiny and progress with little or no help from the government. An honest facing of the facts brings out that American society was then a cold society insofar as any organized public hands of helpfulness were concerned. The individual who fell upon evil times was left to private charity which meant mostly the churches and the Salvation Army. There were no public resources or services to help the unfortunates. (See American Legion Preamble for full citation.)

The complete American Legion Preamble and its interpretation is located at [Preamble to the Constitution | The American Legion](#).

Something to Ponder -

A ministry of presence is often more powerful than a ministry of words. Be The ONE!

One Team Together - 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

Please keep all Legionnaires lifted in your daily prayers to the Deity.





**American Legion
Clinton Post 259**

I am ever thankful to serve our beloved Post in this capacity. I have the best job in the Department. Thank you Commander and esteemed Legionnaires for the honor and support to serve in this capacity.

Make a GREAT day!

For God and Country.

Rev. Dr. Otis D. Wilson, Sr.
Department Chaplain

Message from Auxiliary President Parnice Green



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY CLINTON UNIT 259

Closes Out a Year of Service and Welcomes New Leadership



As the Auxiliary year comes to a close, the members of the American Legion Auxiliary Clinton Unit 259 extend heartfelt gratitude to American Legion Post 259 for its continued partnership, support, and dedication to our shared mission of serving veterans, active-duty military, military families, and our community.



This past year was filled with impactful service projects, community outreach initiatives, fellowship, and opportunities to make a difference. Together, the Legion Family continued to demonstrate the power of unity through programs supporting veterans, youth, military families, and community engagement efforts throughout the region.



From community service events and fundraisers to veteran support initiatives and collaborative outreach efforts, the support of Post 259 has remained instrumental in helping the Auxiliary fulfill its mission. The spirit of "One Team Together" continues to strengthen the bond within our Legion Family and inspire our collective service.



The Auxiliary extends sincere appreciation to the outgoing officers for their dedication, leadership, and countless hours of volunteer service throughout the year. Their commitment has helped continue the proud legacy of Unit 259 and its service to veterans and the community.



Looking ahead, the incoming leadership team is excited to continue building strong community partnerships, expanding outreach efforts, and strengthening the mission and visibility of the American Legion Auxiliary within the community.

★ Congratulations ★ TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

2026-2027 TERM

- ★ President – LaTia Jones
- ★ 1st Vice President – Loretta Nixon
- ★ 2nd Vice President – Venus Jones
- ★ Treasurer – Athena Hemphill
- ★ Secretary – Farris Randall-Morgan
- ★ Chaplain – Kimberly Price
- ★ Sergeant-at-Arms – Mayumi Brewster
- ★ Historian – Annette Vaughn
- ★ Member at Large – Kathy Davis
- ★ Member at Large – Cheryl Batie
- ★ Member at Large – Rose Marie Butler

Together, we will continue
*servng with purpose,
passion, and heart.*

SUBMITTED BY:



American Legion Auxiliary
Clinton Unit 259

American Legion Riders

Darryl Fielder, Director, American Legion Riders Chapter 259

On Saturday April 18, 2026, 259 Legion Riders participated in a motorcycle safety seminar at American Legion Post 22 in Towson, Maryland. The seminar was conducted by two Legion Riders from Post 295. Both are former police officers and motorcycle instructors.

The purpose of the event was to help raise money for the Veterans and Children's Foundation as well as to provide motorcycle safety training for Legion Riders.

Sunday on May 17, 259 Legion Riders attended a Bike Blessing held at Clinton Grace Church in Clinton, Maryland. The Blessing of the Bikes is an annual tradition in which riders of motorcycles are blessed in the hope that it will bring safety, protection, and spiritual connection for the coming riding season. Thanks to Clinton Grace Church for inviting us to this Blessing. In April during the Post 259 Annual Family Community Day, 259 held its first Bike Blessing. We will plan to do it again next year.

The weekend of 8 -10 June, 259 Legion Riders rode to the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts. The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame is an American history museum as well as a Hall of Fame. It serves as basketball's most complete library, with part of its mission of promoting and preserving the history of basketball. It is named after James Naismith, a Canadian American physician, who invented the sport in Springfield. We had a good time visiting the Hall of Fame. We had good weather riding there and back with rain on Saturday. If you are a basketball fan, it is worth visiting.



259 Legion Riders at the motorcycle safety seminar



The Basketball Hall of Fame



259 Legion Riders at the Basketball Hall of Fame



259 Legion Riders at the NBA's Championship Trophy

Message for Sons of the American Legion (SAL)

From the American Legion Magazine (April 2026)

Sons members invited to share their “Why”

The American Legion’s Media and Communications Division has set up a link for Sons of the American Legion members to record brief videos sharing their stories – why they joined, what makes their Squadron unique, and why they’re proud to be Sons.

With SAL membership exceeding 400.000, there’s undoubtedly thousands of unique stories to be told; a selection of videos will be used across the Legion’s social media to highlight the SAL, with a focus on the most compelling; delving into those members’ “why.”

Go to legion.org/sal-share-your-why.

Department of Maryland

SMR REGION MEETING CALENDAR		
LEVEL	DATE	LOCATION
MEETING 1		
DISTRICT 5	Sunday, July 27, 2025	CISSEL-SAXON POST 41
DISTRICT 6	Saturday, August 2, 2025	HARRY WHITE WILMER POST 82
SMR	Sunday, August 3, 2025	GLENARDEN POST 275
DEC	Sunday, August 17, 2025	FRANCIS SCOTT KEY POST 11
MEETING 2		
DISTRICT 5	Sunday, November 2, 2025	COOK-PINKNEY POST 141
DISTRICT 6	Saturday, November 1, 2025	JAMESON-HARRISON POST 238
SMR ✕	Saturday, November 8, 2025	CLINTON POST 259
DEC	Sunday, November 16, 2025	EDGEWOOD SERVICE POST 17
MEETING 3		
DISTRICT 5	Sunday, January 25, 2026	COLLEGE PARK POST 217
DISTRICT 6	Saturday, January 24, 2026	STALLINGS-WILLIAMS POST 206
SMR	Saturday, February 7, 2026	GUY CARLETON PARLETT POST 7
DEC	Sunday, February 15, 2026	AMERICAN LEGION POST 278
SMR	Saturday, April, 18, 2026	LAUREL POST 60 (OYSTER BOWL)
MEETING 4		
DISTRICT 5	Sunday, May 3, 2026	CUMMINGS-BEHLKE POST 226
DISTRICT 6	Saturday, May 2, 2026	BRANDYWINE POST 227
SMR	Saturday, May 9, 2026	HARRY WHITE WILMER POST 82 (Public Safety)
DEC	Sunday, May 17, 2026	STALLINGS-WILLIAMS POST 206
SMR	Saturday, June 6, 2026	SMR RECEPTION @ SMYC
CAUCUS'		
DISTRICT 5	Sunday, June 14, 2026	SEVERNA PARK POST 175
✕ DISTRICT 6	Saturday, June 13, 2026	OXON HILL POST 248
SMR	Sunday, June 28, 2026	CHEVERLY POST 108

2025-2026

JUNE TEENTH

CELEBRATION

18
June

AMERICAN LEGION
CLINTON POST 259

6PM

DJ & HAND DANCE PARTY
SOUL FOOD FOR PURCHASE



WEEKLY TRADITION CONTINUES TO SUPPORT DEPLOYED SERVICEMEMBERS

Many units across the country participate in R.E.D. Friday. The tradition stands for “Remember Everyone Deployed,” a weekly reminder that freedom is not free and that many of our brothers and sisters are still away from home protecting our way of life.

Auxiliary members nationwide actively wear red every Friday — until all troops come home.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 259 members in Maryland proudly wear red to recognize and honor the men and women who serve our nation.

Unit 259 incorporates R.E.D. Friday into its ongoing mission of service. Whether it’s through community drives, veterans’ support programs, or youth outreach, members ensure military families know they have a network of support here at home.

“We are heavily involved in our community, and we are close to Andrews Air Force Base, and have a really good relationship with the readiness center there,”

said Unit 259 member and First Vice President LaTia Jones. “When we are out and about, we try to educate the community about R.E.D. Friday. We definitely made it an initiative.”

The unit works hard to help new members understand the significance of wearing red on Fridays, as well as educate community members who attend bingo on Fridays who regularly see members in red shirts.

“We definitely try to encourage everyone to wear the red shirts on Fridays and we give them a poppy and special recognition and thank them,” Jones said.

It means a lot to the unit to participate in R.E.D. Friday and bring positive attention to those who are still deployed. The unit has a few members who are active duty, as well as dual members of the ALA and The American Legion, so members try to do what they can to remember those deployed.

“We do a lot of things together as one team — we honor those who are deployed and

we remember them,” she said. “We are a big American Legion Family and have been doing things together.”

For something seemingly small, wearing a red shirt on a Friday can make such a big impact to our servicemembers who are still deployed and help remind them that they are supported by the Auxiliary and The American Legion Family as a whole.

“To me, branding is everything and I believe it makes a big impact because we can tell people about a lot of things, but when people see unity and they see the shirts and see us in the community and know we are with the ALA, it creates a conversation,” Jones said. “Others can identify with that, even if they aren’t able to be in the Auxiliary. They may have a cousin or relative who is deployed and they can identify with that.”

Are you wearing red on Fridays? Be sure to share on your social media to help spread the word in our communities.



Our focus is always on our veterans, military, and their families. R.E.D. Friday gives an extra emphasis on those deployed, still showing our support until all servicemembers come home.

JUNE 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3 Shrimp Night	4	5	6
7	8 Auxiliary Mtg. 6:30 pm	9 TACO TUESDAY	10 Shrimp Night	11	12 KARAOKE NIGHT	13
14 Flag Day	15 Post Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm	16	17 Shrimp Night	18 Juneteenth Celebration 6PM	19 Juneteenth	20 CPR
21 Father's Day	22 Post Membership Mtg. 7:30 pm	23 TACO TUESDAY	24 Shrimp Night	25 Post Birthday Event Pot Luck	26 KARAOKE NIGHT	27 Post Installation of Officers
28	29	30	1	2	3	4



Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month — Key Facts

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month is an annual observance held in May to honor the history, culture, and contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the United States Britannica.

Origins and Timeline

1978: U.S. Congress established Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week to coincide with two important dates in Asian American history:

May 7, 1843 – arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in the U.S.

May 10, 1869 – completion of the transcontinental railroad, largely built by Chinese immigrants Britannica+1.

1990–1991: The observance expanded from a week to a month.

1992: President George H.W. Bush permanently designated May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month under Public Law 102-450 Britannica+1.

2009: President Barack Obama renamed it Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Britannica.

Who Is Included

AAPI Heritage Month celebrates people with origins in the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, and other Pacific Islands Britannica.

Why May?

The month was chosen to align with the two historic dates above, which were central to the original Heritage Week Britannica+1.



POST HIGHLIGHTS

SMR Oyster Bowl Laurel Post 60 - April 18, 2026



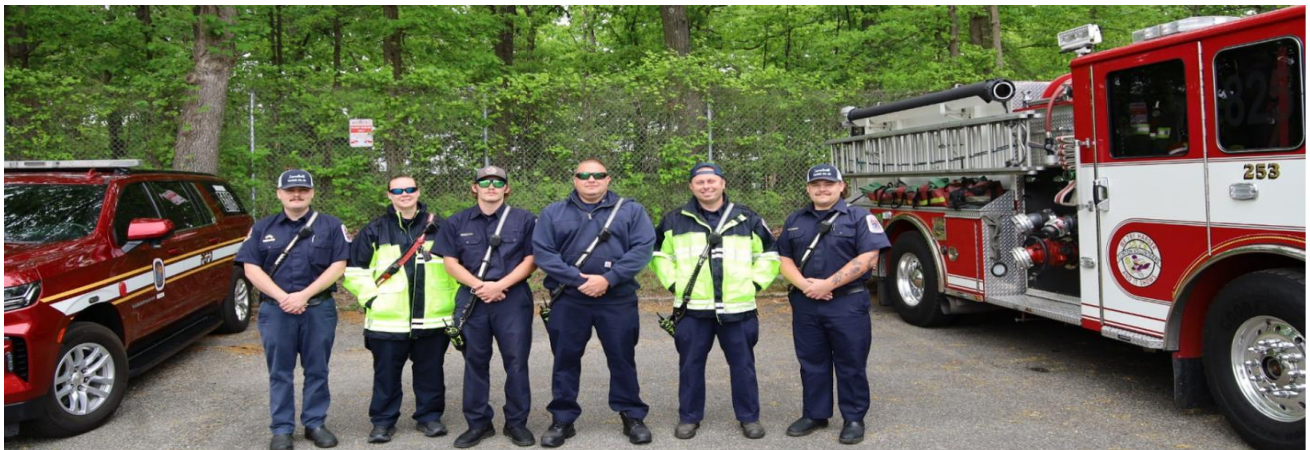


Clinton Post 259 Community Day - April 25, 2026












Clinton Post 259 General Meeting – April 27, 2026



AMERICAN LEGION
 Department of Maryland, Clinton Post 259

General Membership Meeting
 April 27, 2026

9122 Piscataway Road
 Clinton, MD 20735
 301-868-2550

Commander:
 Sylvester Jones

Officers:

1st Vice: Cynthia Carls
 2nd Vice: Darryl Pagan
 3rd Vice: Jonathan Armons
 Adjutant: Glenda Sturdivant
 Asst. Adjutant: Linda Freeman
 Finance Officer: Orlando Resbit
 Asst. Finance Officer: Keena Carter
 Judge Advocate: Anthony Hiramant
 Chaplain: Ota Wilson
 Sgt.-at-Arms: Kenneth Weathers
 Historian: Linda Noulton
 Resource Officer: Brade Fries

Member-at-Large
 Shantay Ammons
 Spruce Brown
 Mark Collins
 Mune VanNess

- Opening Ceremony
- Roll Call of Officers
- Acknowledgement of Guests
- Reading of meeting minutes
- Officer's Report

Commander
 1st Vice Commander
 2nd Vice Commander
 3rd Vice Commander
 Adjutant's Report
 Finance Officer's Report
 Judge Advocate's Report
 Resource Officer's Report
 Chaplain's Report
 Historian's Report
 Sergeant-At-Arms Report

- Committee Reports
 Americanism, Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, and National Security
- Unfinished Business
 Roof Closeout Inspection
 Front Right side vehicle damage repairs
 Final Nominations for Post Elections
- New Business
- Good of the Legion; Two minutes per item, Red, White and Blue,





*Western MD Guest Region
CDR Keith Clevenger*





More May at the Post

May Birthdays – May 28, 2026



Super Bingo – May 29, 2026



Make A Difference



The May 2026 Monthly Newsletter (Vol 8)

Editor – Linda P. Poulson

Questions, Comments, Ideas please forward to –

poulson515@gmail.com