

# !!!!!!!IMPORTANT!!!!!!!

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) now requires the use of standard claim and appeal forms to make it as fast and easy as possible for Veterans and survivors to file applications for benefits and receive timely and accurate decisions on their claims. This change brings VA processes in line with other government agency processes, such as those of the Social Security Administration and the Internal Revenue Service, which also require submissions on standard forms before they can pay benefits or issue refunds.

There are two claim actions that now require standard forms – applications for Veterans and survivors' disability compensation or pension, and notices of disagreement to initiate appeals of compensation claim decisions. Veterans or survivors who filed their claim prior to March 24, 2015, do not need to refile using a standard form. The easiest and fastest way for Veterans to submit an application for compensation is online through the eBenefits ([www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)) portal. Veterans and survivors are also encouraged to seek the assistance of a Veterans Service Organization in filing their claim through the Stakeholder Enterprise Portal. Veterans who are unable to submit their compensation application electronically can mail them to their Claims Intake Center. Completed forms for pension and survivors' benefits should be mailed to the nearest regional office.

A new *intent to file* process has also been established for applicants who need additional time to gather all of the information and evidence needed to support their claim. Applicants may notify VA of their intent to file a claim in order to establish the earliest possible effective date for benefits if they are determined eligible.

For more information on which forms to use, or how to notify VA of your intent to file a claim, visit <http://explore.va.gov/file-claim>.

**Continues on reverse side**

# VA STANDARD FORMS 3 EASY WAYS TO FILE CLAIMS

**1**

ONLINE THROUGH  
eBENEFITS.VA.GOV

**2**

WITH A VETERANS SERVICE  
ORGANIZATION (VSO)

**3**

USING VA  
STANDARD FORMS

**VA is streamlining how Veterans and Survivors apply for benefits.**

VA encourages Veterans to file their disability compensation claims online through the eBenefits portal. As of March 24, 2015, Survivors and Veterans who are not filing online must use standard forms to identify the benefit they are seeking.

**FILE COMPENSATION  
CLAIMS ONLINE WITH**

**eBenefits**

[www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)

**IF NOT FILING ELECTRONICALLY, USE  
VA'S STANDARD APPLICATION FORMS:**

**21-526EZ**  
FOR VETERAN'S  
COMPENSATION

AVAILABLE  
ELECTRONICALLY  
ON eBENEFITS

**21-527EZ**  
FOR VETERAN'S  
PENSION

**21-534EZ**  
FOR SURVIVOR'S DIC,  
DEATH PENSION,  
AND/OR ACCRUED  
BENEFITS

## OPTIONAL "INTENT TO FILE" PROCESS

For Veterans and Survivors who need additional time to gather their claim information, but want to save the earliest possible effective date, VA is using a new "intent to file" process. A Veteran or Survivor, or his or her authorized representative, can submit minimal information to establish a potential effective date for benefits and then take up to one year to gather evidence and submit the required standard form.

## "INTENT TO FILE" OPTIONS



**WITH A VSO**



**ELECTRONICALLY**

FOR VETERANS  
COMPENSATION ONLY



**BY PHONE / IN PERSON**



**BY PAPER VA FORM 21-0966**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit [www.benefits.va.gov](http://www.benefits.va.gov) or call 1-800-827-1000

**eBenefits**  
[www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# The American Legion



For God and Country

★ DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI, INC. ★ PO BOX 179 ★ JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102-0179 ★  
★ (573) 893-2353 ★ (800) 846-9023 ★ FAX (573) 893-2980 ★  
★ E-MAIL: [info@missourilegion.org](mailto:info@missourilegion.org) ★ WEBSITE: [www.missourilegion.org](http://www.missourilegion.org) ★

DENNIS WOELTJE  
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422 LORRAINE DR.  
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3612 S. SWEENEY RD.  
GRAIN VALLEY, MO 64029

LOWRY A. FINLEY-JACKSON, DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

## Greetings:

Most Legionnaires are aware of what The American Legion Legacy Scholarship is and how it works, and most of you also know that The American Legion Riders are huge contributors to the Legacy Scholarship. Nationally American Legion Riders collected over \$1 million last year during the National Legacy Run. At the National Convention last year a Department ALR donated a check for \$80,000 to the Legacy Scholarship. These funds were obtained by an interstate Legacy Run, and that's when I thought ----"Missouri can do that!"

This brings us to the heart of the matter. The Department of Missouri American Legion Riders has done an excellent job of organizing the first annual Department of Missouri ALR Legacy Run. This will be a 3 day, approximately 900 mile motorcycle ride. The ride will start in Independence Mo Post 21 and then end at Jefferson City Post 5. The purpose of this Ride will be to raise and collect donations for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship.

Your posts can donate to the Legacy Run by organizing fund raisers and then delivering your contributions to the posts along the route at the time of our arrival. The schedule is as follows:

### Day 1 June 26

5:00am-7:00am Post 21 Independence Missouri Breakfast

8:15am-9:15am - Mo. Veterans Home Warrensburg, MO

10:00am – 11:00am Arrive Sedalia MO Fuel Stop and departure

12:45am-2:00pm- Post 624 Sunrise Beach Lunch ceremony and fuel

3:15pm-4:15pm - Post 331, St Robert MO. ceremony and fuel

5:45pm - ? Post 639 Springfield MO Supper/Ceremony/Done for the night.

Day 2 June 27

5:00am -7:00am – Breakfast Riders Meeting Depart Post 639 Springfield MO

8:30am – 9:30am Arrive Cabool MO Fuel Stop (Name and Address TBA) Ceremony/Break and departure

11:30am – 12:00pm Arrive Fuel Stop Poplar Bluff MO Fuel Stop/ Break and departure

12:30pm - 1:30p - Arrive State Veterans Cemetery Dexter MO. Rest Break/Visit and Tour

2:00pm-3:30pm - Arrive Post 114 Sikeston MO Lunch/Ceremony

4:15pm – 5:15pm Arrive Mo Veterans Home Cape Girardeau MO

5:30pm- ? Arrive Post 158 Jackson MO Supper/Ceremony/Done for the night

Day 3 June 28

6:00am - 8:00am Breakfast Post #63 Cape Girardeau MO. Riders Meeting and Departure

9:00am – 10:30am Arrive Post #150 Ste Genevieve MO Break/Ceremony/Fuel Stop/Departure

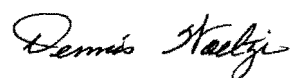
11:45 – 1:30pm Arrive Post #347 St Clair MO Lunch/Ceremony/Fuel Stop / Departure

3:15am - Arrive Post #5 Jefferson City, MO End of Run with Ceremony and Snacks

All donations will be greatly appreciated and duly noted during the contribution ceremonies during our stops. Letters of Appreciation will be mailed to the Posts that contribute to the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Thank you for all you do for our veterans and our children and youth.

Sincerely,



Dennis Woeltje  
American Legion  
Commander  
Department of Missouri

Send to: The American Legion, PO Box 179, Jefferson City, MO 65102 - 0179

Name of Post	Post number	
District	Located in the City of	County

**IMPORTANT --** Your Post will **not** receive the new membership cards until you return this completed form to Department Headquarters. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ADJUTANT OR PREVIOUS ADJUTANT (2015) TO COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS FORM. Forward immediately following the election.

**IMPORTANT --** Department mail list of **POST OFFICIALS** and **DIRECTORY** are prepared from information on this certification.

Print or Type Name, Complete Mailing Address, Phone Number and Email if applicable	Date of Military Enlistment	Date of Military Discharge	Military Rank and Branch	American Legion Membership #
Commander Address  Phone: (    ) Email:				
Adjutant Address  Phone: (    ) Email:				
Finance Officer Address  Phone: (    ) Email:				
Membership Chrmn. Address  Phone: (    ) Email:				

List additional officers on back side

**Membership supplies & mailings will go to Post Adjutant unless specify otherwise below.**

**Send Post Mail To:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Indicate Officer of Post Commander/Adjutant/Finance Officer etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ Street Or P.O. Box

\_\_\_\_\_ City State Zip

***Early submission of Officers List ( 9/25/15 ) will ensure your Post listing in the 2015-2016 Department Directory.***

**Additional Officers:**

Print or Type Name, Complete Mailing Address, Phone Number and Email if applicable	Date of Enlistment	Date of Discharge	Rank and Branch	American Legion Membership #
Vice Commander Address				
Vice Commander Address				
Service Officer Address				
Historian Address				
Chaplain Address				
Judge Advocate Address				
Sergeant-at-Arms Address				

Post Meeting Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Post Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Not to be Post Officers Home Phone #

Physical Address of Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street City Zip

Post Meeting Place If Not At Post \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Are Officials Bonded? \_\_\_\_\_ Is Post Incorporated \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPARTMENT BY-LAWS:**

**ARTICLE XI, SEC. 7** Each Post in the Department shall have a Commander, one or more Vice Commanders, an Adjutant, a Finance Officer, a Chaplain, a Historian, a Sergeant-at-Arms, and such other officers as may be provided by the Constitution and By-laws of the Post.

**ARTICLE XI, SEC. 8** The election of Post Officers for the ensuing year shall be held at least thirty days (6/09/15) but not more than sixty days (5/09/15), prior to the the Department Convention (7/09/15) Officers elected shall be installed after the Department Convention, but not later than 10/12/15, after the adjournment of the Annual Department Convention.

**POST OFFICER BONDING:**

**ARTICLE XV, SEC 4** Department By-Laws provides that all Post officials handling American Legion monies shall be properly bonded with a good and solvent bonding and surety company, or by other duly qualified bond, as surety. Bonds should be approved annually by the Post. Many local insurance brokers/agents provide such coverage.

Pursuant to the Department Constitution and By-Laws, I hereby certify that the following Officers have been duly elected to serve the Post as indicated below and that I have examined the service record of each and find them eligible to belong to The American Legion.

Certified by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Post Adjutant/Officer Date

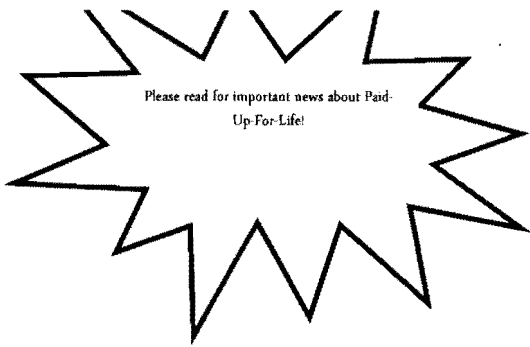
## 2015 National Convention Fact Sheet

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- Hotel:** Baltimore Harbor Hotel, 101 West Fayette Street
- Registration Room:** Thursday August 27 - 3:00 p.m. -5:30p.m.  
Friday, August 28 - 9:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Saturday, August. 29 - 9:00 a.m. to Noon  
Location: Baltimore Harbor Hotel Fayette meeting room
- Missouri Caucus:** Sunday, 1:00 pm, August 30th  
Location: Baltimore Harbor Hotel Fayette meeting room
- Missouri Party:** Saturday August 29th at 6:00 PM Combined Party with Arizona, New Mexico & Wyoming : Cost and Location to be announce later .
- Airport shuttle:** Shuttle Service- NO
- Parking:** NO- Self Parking Valet \$32 / Day
- Room amenities:** Rooms Available: 25-Kings or 19 Doubles  
Smoking- NON - SMOKING HOTEL  
**Free Continental Breakfast**  
Swimming pool – Outside roof top  
Coffee pot - Yes - In Room  
Iron and board - Yes - In Room  
Hair dryer - Yes in Room  
TV - Yes  
Safe - Yes - Located @ Registration Desk  
Laundry Service - Overnight Dry cleaning (Washer and Dryer available)  
Internet services –Complimentary
- Parade:** **Yes - Sunday August 30**
- Café/Shops:** Many Shops and Cafe's (within walking distance of Hotel)
- Grocery Store & Package Store:** Yes - (within walking distance of Hotel)

**Hotel 4 blocks from Convention Center**

**Registration and Housing Forms can be found on Department Website**



The American Legion  
National Headquarters  
Indianapolis, Indiana

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**MEMO TO:** All Post Adjutants  
**MEMO FROM:** Jack Querfeld, Director, Internal Affairs Division  
**SUBJECT:** Paid-Up-For-Life Application Processing Change

In January 2014, National Headquarters introduced a new simplified pricing structure for its Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) plan which also included the ability for a member to apply online for lifetime membership. This was done with the intent of simplifying the entire process for the member.

**Beginning July 1, 2015**, National Headquarters will no longer accept PUFL applications that were previously distributed in bulk to Departments or Posts. This includes any PUFL application reflecting a rate chart with the effective date of October 2009 or earlier.

All PUFL applications must be submitted to National by one of the three methods noted below. We will continue the policy of notifying the Post and Department when a member applies for a lifetime membership; this provides the opportunity for the Post to challenge the application, if necessary.

**ONLINE APPLICATION:** The member accesses the PUFL page on National's website at [www.legion.org/pufl](http://www.legion.org/pufl) to obtain a rate quote and/or submit an electronic application. Once the rate quote is received, the member can opt to apply online which will cause their record information to appear for confirmation purposes. Once confirmed and the payment information is completed, the member selects the *Submit* button to complete the application process. NOTE: If the member doesn't have internet access, either themselves or through family/friends, this process should be performed by the Post or the Department. A quick link to the PUFL application website has been added to *myLegion* for Posts and Departments.

**PRINTABLE APPLICATION:** The member accesses the PUFL page on National's website at [www.legion.org/pufl](http://www.legion.org/pufl) to obtain a rate quote and/or print an application. Once the rate quote is received, the member can opt to print a paper application to complete and mail to National Headquarters. The application will be pre-filled with the member's ID Number, Name, Address, Birth Date and the total cost of the PUFL membership. (*If any of the member's information needs to be updated, it can be noted on the application.*) The member then simply mails the application and payment to National Headquarters at the address shown on the form. NOTE: If the member doesn't have internet access, either themselves or through family/friends, the application should be printed by the Post or the Department and forwarded to the member for completion. A quick link to the PUFL application website has been added to *myLegion* for Posts and Departments.

**CALL A CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALIST:** Any member can speak to one of National's Customer Service Specialists by calling our toll free number at 800-433-3318. They're happy to answer any questions...print and mail a PUFL application...or even take the application over the phone. However, this should not be considered the primary procedure since all members, Posts, and Departments have the same ability.

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NOTE: Beginning July 1, 2015, Paid-Up-For-Life applications submitted to National Headquarters on old forms will not be processed; they will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters for review and handling.



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For God and Country

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GRAIN VALLEY, MO 64029

LOWRY A. FINLEY-JACKSON, DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

## CALL FOR

### NINETY SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

#### DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI, INC.

The Ninety Seventh Annual Convention of The American Legion Department of Missouri, Inc., is hereby called and in conformity with the action of the Ninety Third Convention, will be held **July 9,10,11 and 12, 2015** at the **Ramada Plaza Hotel & Oasis Convention Center, 2546 N. Glenstone, Springfield , MO 65803.**

#### PURPOSE

The Convention is called for the election of officers for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.

#### REPRESENTATION

1. In the Department Convention, each Post shall be entitled to one vote, and in addition thereto, one vote for each fifty (50) members, or major portion thereof whose current National and Department dues have been received by the Department Adjutant not later than ten days before the convening of the Department Convention. Section 1 (a), Article VII, Department By-Laws.
2. No Post shall be allowed a vote in the Department Convention that shall not have certified to the Department Headquarters on or before November 1, preceding such convention, a bona fide list of its Post officers for the year beginning October 1 preceding said November 1, Section 9, Article XI, Department By-Laws.
3. Absent Delegates. In the Department Convention, the vote of any absent delegate not represented by any alternate, shall be cast by a majority of the delegates present from his Post. If no delegate or alternate from any Post is present, the vote of such Post may be cast by a majority of the delegates from its District. Proxies are not recognized in the Department Convention and shall not be used. Section 1 (b), Article VII, Department By-Laws.

#### CREDENTIALS

Credential certificates, certifying the delegates and alternates, signed by both the Post Commander and Adjutant, should be mailed to the Department Headquarters immediately upon election of such delegates and alternates and not received later than **ten (10) days prior to convening of the convention or Monday, June 29, 2015.**

#### REGISTRATION

The Department Executive Committee did levy a **\$5.00 registration fee to be paid when submitting Delegate/Alternate certifications to Department Headquarters. Non-refundable.**

## DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Department Executive Committee, as now constituted, is hereby called and will be held in **Sahara at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, July 9, 2015.**

### CONVENTION COMMITTEES

In order to facilitate the business of the Convention, each District should select prior to **June 15, 2015**, one member for each of the following Committees: **RESOLUTIONS, CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS, and CREDENTIALS.**

In selecting members for these Committees, Districts should select Legionnaires who will be in Springfield in time for the organization meetings of each of the below designated Committees.

The CREDENTIALS Committee will meet in the **Sahara, at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, July 9, 2015.**

The RESOLUTIONS Committee will meet in the **Arabian, at 9:00 a.m., Friday, July 10, 2015.**

The CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS Committee will meet in the **Mojave, at 10:00 a.m., Friday, July 10, 2015.**

**NAMES, ADDRESSES, DISTRICT AND POST NUMBER** of the delegates selected to serve on these Committees should be forwarded to the Department Headquarters IMMEDIATELY after their selection and received not later than **Monday, June 15, 2015.**

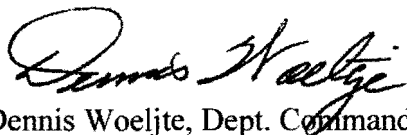
### RESOLUTIONS

All Resolutions should be prepared in TRIPLICATE, TYPEWRITTEN, DOUBLE SPACED and MAILED to the DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, NOT LATER THAN NOON, **Tuesday, June 9, 2015.** Resolutions should bear a caption indicating the SUBJECT MATTER.

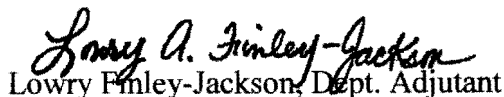
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS Section 1, Article XIX of the Department By-Laws read as follows: "These By-Laws may be amended at any Department Convention by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the total authorized representation thereof, provided that such proposed amendments shall have been submitted by the Department Adjutant to the members of the Department Executive Committee by mailing same to them at least 15 days prior to the convening of said convention or by publishing same in the Missouri Legionnaire at least once prior to the convening of said convention, except however in cases of emergency the Department Executive Committee may present, through the Convention Constitutional Amendments Committee, an amendment by a two-thirds vote at the meeting of said Department Executive Committee held immediately preceding the convention. An amendment shall be in force upon adjournment of such Department Convention."

### DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

Department Headquarters will be opened by the Department Adjutant in the **Bora Bora Boardroom at 3 P.M., Thursday, July 9, 2015.** Only business which pertains strictly to convention matters should be addressed to Convention Headquarters. NOTE: All scheduled meetings, etc., will be in accordance with the prevailing time of the Convention City.



Dennis Woeljte, Dept. Commander



Lowry Finley-Jackson, Dept. Adjutant

**MISSOURI FUTURE DATES AND CITIES**

**SPRING CONFERENCE**

- 2016 – 2/19 – 2/21    CAPITOL PLAZA HOTEL, JEFFERSON CITY, MO**
- 2017 – 2/17 – 2/19    CAPITOL PLAZA HOTEL, JEFFERSON CITY, MO**
- 2018 – 2/16 – 2/18    CAPITOL PLAZA HOTEL, JEFFERSON CITY, MO**

**DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

- 2015 – 7/9 to 7/12    RAMARDA OASIS, SPRINGFIELD, MO**
- 2016 – 7/14 to 7/17    EMBASSY SUITES, KANSAS CITY, MO**
- 2017 – 7/13 to 7/16    CAPITOL PLAZA HOTEL, JEFFERSON CITY, MO**
- 2018 – 7/12 to 7/15    RAMARDA OASIS, SPRINGFIELD, MO**

**FALL CONFERENCE**

- 2015 – 10/23 to 10/25    Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO**
- 2016 – 10/21 to 10/23    Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO**
- 2017 – 10/20 to 10/22    Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO**
- 2018 – 10/26 to 10/28    Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO**

**NATIONAL CONVENTION**

- 2015 - 8/28 to 9/3    - Baltimore, MD.**
- 2016 - 8/26 to 9/1    - Cincinnati, OH.**
- 2017 - 8/25 to 8/31 - Louisville, KY.**
- 2018 - 8/24 to 8/30 - Minneapolis, MN.**
- 2019 - 8/23 to 8/29 - Indianapolis, IN.**

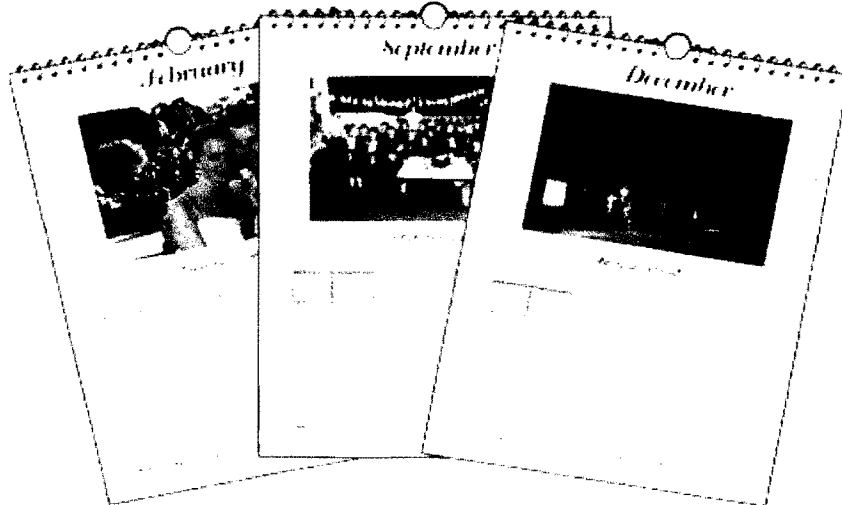
**Capitol Plaza Hotel - 1-573-635-1234 Toll Free 1-800-338-8088**

**Ramada Plaza Hotel & Oasis Convention Center 888-532-4338**

**Lamplighter Inn (SAL only) 2015 Department Convention 844-736-9567**



# THE AMERICAN LEGION *Centennial celebration*



Your post can purchase a month in the Department's 15 month engagement calendar, which is mailed out to the Department membership around September of each year. For \$100.00 a picture designated by your post will be featured in the calendar starting with the 2016 calendar and end with the 2019 calendar. This could be an opportunity for your Post to pay tribute to one or several members who have made a difference in your post or your community.

#### Guidelines for submission:

1. You can send in original photo(s) which will be return to you. Collages are welcome.
2. Photos should not contain alcoholic beverages, or and gestures or graphics that would be considered offensive to others.
3. You can request a specific month and year that you would like your photo(s) published, we will do everything possible to honor your request.
4. Submissions are due by May 15, 2015 to be published in the 2016 calendar.
5. A check payable to the Department of Missouri American Legion for \$100.00 must accompany all photo submissions. Please put in the memo section of your check Centennial Calendar.

**Please invite your Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and the ALR to participate.**

**If you have any questions please contact the Department Headquarters @ 573-893-2353**