



Leasure-Blackston Post 239



Worthington, Ohio Apr-May-June 2026

Post 239 Officers Post Commander Glenn Luksik

**1st Vice Commander
John Dernberger**

**2nd Vice Commander
Scott Yates**

**Finance
Daniel Winter**

**Adjutant
Bill Ansley**

**Sergeant-at-Arms
Joseph Lippert**

**Chaplain
Tony Konecny**



Post Commander Glenn Luksik

As we welcome the arrival of spring, we look forward to longer days, warmer weather, and renewed opportunities to gather as a community. This season reminds us of growth, resilience, and the enduring spirit of service that defines our Legion family.

If you have not had the opportunity to visit the Post since the remodel of the canteen, please stop by.

Upcoming Holidays & Observances

In the months ahead, we recognize several important dates:

Easter – A time of renewal and reflection for many of our members and their families

Memorial Day (May 25, 2026) – A solemn occasion when we honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation

Armed Forces Day (May 16, 2026) – A time to recognize those currently serving in all branches of the U.S. military

We encourage all members to participate in our Memorial Day ceremonies as we continue our proud tradition of remembrance. This will be our 107th year of continuous hosting.

Post Activities & Community

Spring is a busy season for our Post. We will be organizing community outreach events, supporting local veterans, and preparing for Memorial Day services. Volunteers are always welcome—your time and dedication make a difference.

Current Events

We recognize that many of our service members, veterans, and their families are closely following the ongoing conflict involving the United States and Iran. The situation began in February 2026 with major military operations and continues to evolve, impacting service members and global stability. We grieve for the loss of the brave service members of the Ohio Air National Guard assigned to the 121st Air Refueling Wing, based at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base who were killed in a KC-135 Stratotanker crash in western Iraq on March 12, 2026.

As always, we keep all those serving overseas in our thoughts and prayers. We remain committed to supporting our troops, veterans, and their families during uncertain times.

Looking Ahead

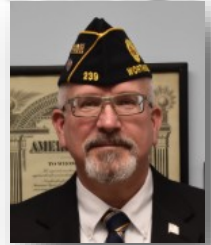
Let us move forward this season with unity, purpose, and pride in our shared mission. Together, we continue to serve our veterans, our community, our State, and our nation.

**For God and Country,
Glenn Luksik**

Membership Update

**Post Membership
John Dernberger**

The national 2026 membership campaign is winding down in prep for the 2027 campaign to begin in July 2026. At this time, the post sets at 94.3% of our quota of 248 members. There are 31 expired members from 2025. If you don't have your 2026 Membership Card, please reach out to John Dernberger (Membership Chair).



Post Dues Increase to \$50.00 / yr for 2027

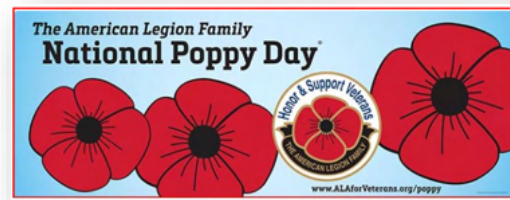
In Jan 2026, the Ohio Department Executive Committee (DEC) voted to place a resolution on the Convention floor to increase the Ohio Department per capita from \$9.00 to \$14.00. This \$5.00 increase is necessary to maintain the services currently provided by the Dept of Ohio.. Post 239 discussed a \$5.00 increase to our dues at the Feb and Mar meetings. At the March 2026 Post meeting the members present approved a \$5.00 increase to our dues. When you receive your 2027 Membership notices arriving in the July 2026 timeframe, you should see the new amount reflected. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to John Dernberger (Membership Chair).



Auxiliary



**Paula Lombardo
President**



Poppy Letters have been sent out!!! Please consider a donation to this important program. 100% of ALL funds raised in our Poppy Program are used to support veterans and active-duty military. Your donation counts!

Poppy Chairman Betty Scurlock reported that last year an amazing \$2,376.00 was raised and would love to increase that this year.

If you did not receive your letter in the mail, please see the attached form on Page 3

The Auxiliary is also excited about starting a project that will last over the next few months. We will be making scarves and hats for the veterans that attend the **Central Ohio Stand Down, October 2026.**

Thank you to Barb O'Connor for spearheading this amazing project for our veterans. We can use all hands on deck to complete this project. I'm not sure how many we will be able to get done, but as a reference.....there are approximately 500 veterans that attend the Central Ohio Stand Down.

We are asking our Legion Families & friends,If you have any 'new or good as new'.... microfiber blankets that you would like to donate for this project, please drop off at Post 239. Or if you can't make it to the Post, please contact Auxiliary President Paula Lombardo and she will make arrangements to pick up.

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

If you are not already a member of The American Legion Auxiliary, we need you! We have some outstanding projects we would like to pursue for our veterans & active-duty military, along with community service, etc....but we need more hands. Please contact me if you would like more information.

WHO CAN JOIN?

The mother, wife, daughter, sister, granddaughter, grandmother or male spouse of a female veteran member of The American Legion (living or deceased), is eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary. A woman who is eligible for membership in The American Legion is also able to join the Auxiliary.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 15th @ 6pm at the Post

In Service Not Self - Paula Lombardo, President

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
LEASURE-BLACKSTON UNIT 239
700 MORNING STREET
WORTHINGTON, OHIO 43085
614-888-9096

Dear Legion, Auxiliary and SAL Members:

It is Poppy Days again and as in the past years, the American Legion Auxiliary wishes to remind Americans of the sacrifice of life and health made by the men and women of the Armed Forces.

The little red flower is made by the Veterans in the hospitals. All contributions are used entirely for the rehabilitation and all welfare work done by the Auxiliary. Your support of this worthy cause is greatly appreciated and the enclosed self-addressed envelope is for your convenience in replying.

Also made available to purchase are our "Poppy Plates" which will be displayed at the Post. These plates reflect "IN MEMORY OF" a deceased Veteran or "IN HONOR OF" a living Veteran. A donation of \$2.00 per plate is much appreciated.

The following poem was written by an Auxiliary member:

PROUD REMEMBRANCE

Little paper poppy with your petals of red,
you help us remember all our brave dead.
Many of our loved ones died over there
so each poppy day we show we still care.
We old folks know your meaning and all your glory.
You make the young folks ask us to tell your story.
You're only wire and paper, but we all honor you.
You make us very proud of our Red, White and Blue.

I thoroughly enjoy this time of the year and I am proud to serve as the Poppy Chairperson. Thank you for all of your support and I look forward to continuing the service to our veterans through this very meaningful project.

Sincerely,

Betty Scurlock

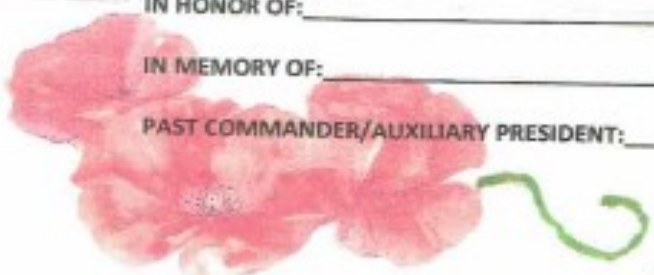
Betty Scurlock
Poppy Chairperson

FROM: _____ DONATION: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

PAST COMMANDER/AUXILIARY PRESIDENT: _____



Post 239 News

Post Everlasting Ceremony

We will honor the following deceased Veterans on 16 April

2025 WWII Herbert McGeet
 2025 WWII John Delphia
 2025 KOREA Don Pendell
 2025 VIETNAM Dennis Smiley
 2025 VIETNAM Ronald Wiles
 2026 KOREA Maria Knepp
 2026 Vietnam Stuart Sears



Buckeye Boys and Girls State Program

Joanne Zonatos (Post BS/GS Chair) The 2026 Boys State and Girls State programs will be held in June. The POST / AUXILLARY will be sponsoring 3 Boys and 4 Girls this year. These programs are an excellent youth and community outreach program for the Post. We are extremely pleased that this year we have representation from Thomas Worthington, Worthington Kilbourne, Worthington Christian, and DeSales high schools. We expect to add Upper Arlington next year.

Korean Conflict Program (Sept 2026)



Work has begun to present a program in the Sept timeframe to honor those that served during the Korean Conflict era. Based on the Post's membership records we have eighteen (18) veterans from this era. Would like to extend the invitation to those Veterans to participate in some way. Please contact either Glenn Luksik or John Dernberger if you would like to be involved / included in some way.

Join the American Legion Riders in the Harley-Davidson® **Let's Ride Challenge**® Ride for Heroes that kicked off on February 27 and runs through October 31, 2026

Every mile ridden counts toward a \$1 million donation to support our heroes.

For more information go to [Challenge American Legion Riders](#)



Glenn Luksik
American Legion Riders



BE THE ONE

TO **ASK** VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.

TO **LISTEN** WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.

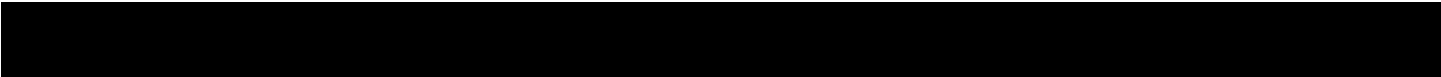
TO **REACH** OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.



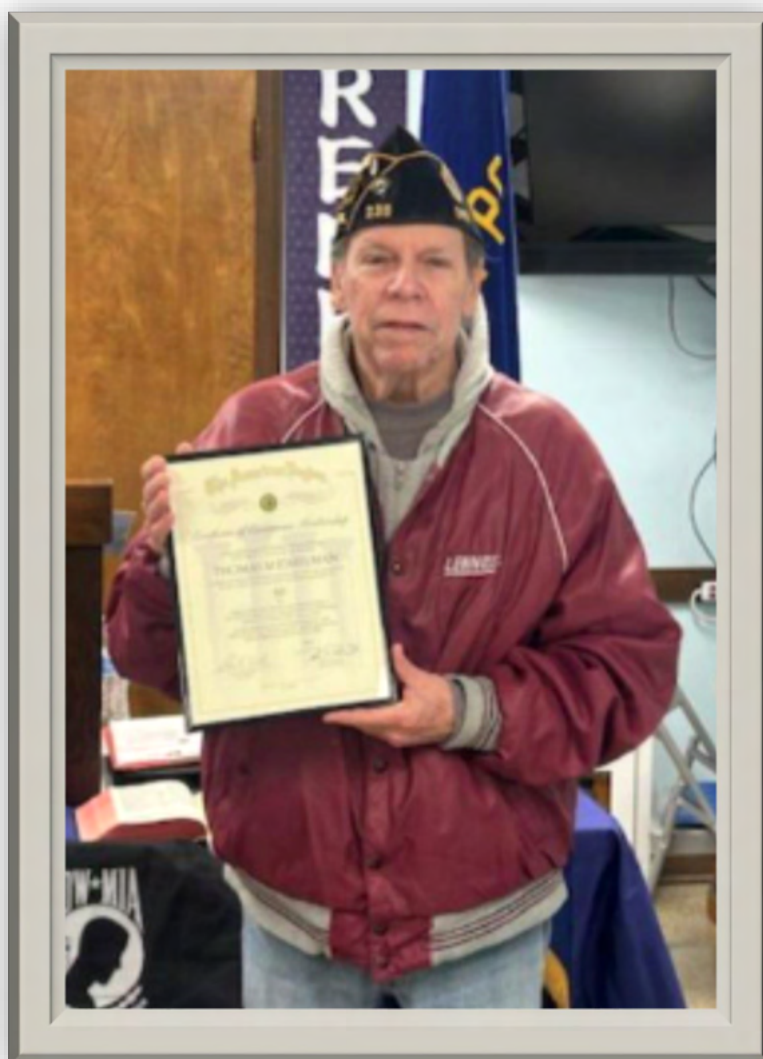
For information on the American Legion "Be The One" suicide prevention training click on the link below.

[Suicide Prevention Training Information](#)

<https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/be-the-one/2024/march/be-the-one-training-tackles-how-to-help-those-in-suicidal-crisis>



At our membership meeting on March 19, post member Tom Eschelman received a certificate from American Legion National Headquarters recognizing his 50 years as a loyal member of the American Legion



Congratulations Tom!

Lawmakers consider more than 2 dozen bills to modernize and expand VA programs

A whopping 27 bills for reauthorizing specific veterans programs and policies were presented Wednesday at an unusual hearing of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee that focused on eventually combining many of the initiatives into a single omnibus package for a vote in Congress.

The bills spanned improving health care access, government accountability and benefits for education and workforce readiness. Several pieces of legislation focused on efforts to update infrastructure, operations and processes at the Department of Veterans Affairs — affecting how medical facilities are managed, how quickly new drugs are made available and how research is prioritized on veterans health.

“These bills aim to address ongoing issues that have hindered VA health care delivery over the years due to excessive bureaucracy and cumbersome processes, which has shifted the focus away from placing veterans at the center of everything VA does,” said Rep. Mike Bost, R-Ill., the committee chairman, at the start of the two-hour hearing.

Some statutes and policies have not been meaningfully updated for 30 years, Bost said.

“When programs fall short, it is the duty of this committee to ask questions, demand answers and make the legislative changes to fix the problems. Reauthorization is not a procedural exercise. It is how Congress evaluates whether programs are working as intended,” he said. The bills included 12 Republican-led and 15 Democrat-led pieces of legislation.

Bills would align the VA's national drug formulary with health care industry standards, update VA's leasing and construction practices, and reform processes for issuing contracts and making procurements.

Other bills sought to establish or significantly broaden veterans access to specific health programs. They included an initiative to expand dental coverage to more veterans and for the first time provide VA mental health care to incarcerated veterans with PTSD, traumatic brain injuries and other service-connected conditions.

VA officials said they do not support the Dental Care for Veterans Act, led by Rep. Julia Brownley, D-Calif. The agency has “significant concern” about costs to implement the bill, said Phillip Christy, a principal executive director and chief acquisition officer at the VA. Of the approximately 9 million veterans enrolled in VA health care, only about 2.4 million currently qualify for coverage for dental services, he said.

The legislation would establish an advisory committee to guide the VA on further assisting toxic-exposed veterans. Identified toxins span burn pits, radiation, herbicides including Agent Orange, and other hazardous materials. Task force members would include veterans as stakeholders.

Community Outreach Table at the Worthington's Farmer's Market

Twice each year, the Post reaches out to the Community through the Farmers Market venue. The purpose of this outreach is to inform, educate and socialize the American Legion purpose and tenants of their local post. We provide Voter Registration forms, copies of the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and how to properly display and respect the American Flag. We also have information on both Buckeye Boys and Girls State programs.

And of course, we solicit new members for the American Legion Family (Post, Squadron, Riders, and Auxiliary) and provide associated pamphlets.

This event on February 28 was well received and we had plenty of interaction with young and old members of the community. Even though we don't see many immediate results, we feel this interaction both visually and verbally is very beneficial.

John Dernberger



Pass this along to any Veteran who would be interested in joining!



Children & Youth Programs

Scholarship & Financial Aid

Veterans Legislation & Benefits

National Security & Protection of Our Flag

I WANT YOU

to be a Legion Family member

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To Learn More, Contact:

Legion \$45.00 - John Dernberger 740-403-1760
 Sons of AL \$25.00 Scott Yates 937-207-7015
 Auxiliary \$45.00 Paula Lombardo 614-827-5362

Eligibility Dates

World War I
April 6, 1917 - Nov. 11, 1918
World War II - Present
Dec. 7, 1941 - Present*

* if currently serving on active duty today, you are eligible.



**Have you been
on an
Honor Flight?**

Honor Flight Columbus accepts applications from America's Senior Veterans.

Currently, these are the men and women, age 65 and over. For scheduling, top priority is given to WWII, Korea and terminally ill veterans. We proudly serve Veterans in all 40 counties of our territory as well as any eligible Veteran who can get themselves to the CMH airport.

Veterans are placed on a waiting list and are booked in the order that we receive their applications. WWII, Korea and terminally ill veterans receive priority and are booked on the first available flight.

Each veteran will be assigned a trained volunteer guardian. Guardians are selected and assigned to complement the needs of each veteran on a flight.

Unfortunately, a spouse who is not a veteran may not accompany the veteran.

To apply to go to your memorials and other related Washington, D.C. sites with us, please [click here](#).

Print the form/complete it, and mail it to:

Honor Flight Columbus
PO Box 20133
Columbus, OH 43220
Phone: (614) 284-4987
Fax (888) 779-8806

Email: veterans@honorflightcmh.org

Copy and paste this link into your browser to access the Honor Flight Application:
chrome-extension://efaidnbmninnibpcjpcglefindmkaj/https://3e07794c-fd44-4a3c-9246-32a051f83cdf.filesusr.com/ugd/69091b_bdd167a55360410ebf64ace0d5193c21.pdf

Sheep Pastures to Progress: A Worthington History & Art Installation



America 250 – Worthington | April–October 2026

As Worthington joins communities across the nation in commemorating America’s 250th anniversary, we’re celebrating our heritage in a uniquely local way. *Sheep Pastures to Progress* is a large-scale outdoor art and history installation that honors Worthington’s transformation—from the early days when livestock grazed on the Village Green to the thriving, creative suburb we know today.

From April through October 2026, painted sheep silhouettes will appear throughout Worthington’s public spaces. Each sheep is a collaborative creation, designed and decorated by local artists, cultural organizations, schools, and community groups. The artwork reflects the identity, mission, or spirit of each participating group, turning the city into a walkable gallery that blends creativity with place-based storytelling.

Every sculpture will feature a QR code linking to digital content curated by the Worthington Historical Society, including historic narratives, archival photos, videos, and introductions to the artists and organizations behind each sheep. This interactive layer invites residents and visitors alike to explore the people, stories, and moments that shaped Worthington’s evolution.

Built to weather the elements and travel between display locations, the sheep will rotate throughout the city from spring to fall—appearing in parks, business districts, civic spaces, and unexpected corners of Worthington.

This project is led by the America 250 – Worthington committee in partnership with the Worthington Historical Society and local community organizations. Together, we invite you to celebrate our shared past, honor our present, and imagine Worthington’s future—one sheep at a time.

Go to Settings to activate Windows.

Our Post will participate in this project

Post Calendar

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					3 Good Friday	
5 Easter					Friday Dinners	
				16 Members Meeting 7:30 p.m.		

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				21 Members Meeting 7:30 p.m.		
	25 Post Memorial Day parade					

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				18 Members Meeting 7:30 p.m.		

