



# Leasure-Blackston Post 239



Worthington, Ohio

Jul/Aug/Sep 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  
Tom Rieder**



## Post Commander Glenn Luksik

As summer reaches its peak, we look forward to celebrating the Fourth of July, a day that reminds us of the courage, sacrifice, and vision of those who founded our nation. Independence Day is more than fireworks and parades—it is an opportunity to reflect on the freedoms we enjoy and the responsibilities we share as Americans. We encourage all members, families, and community residents to participate in local celebrations (see invitations included) and proudly display the American flag.

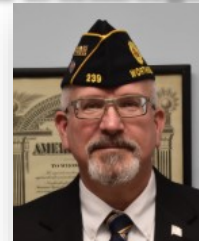
This year also marks an exciting milestone as our nation continues preparations for America 250, the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Throughout the coming months and years, communities across the country will honor the people, events, and ideals that have shaped the United States. The American Legion is proud to play a role in preserving our nation's history and inspiring future generations to understand and appreciate our American heritage.

Looking ahead to September, we will commemorate the 25th year Patriot Day on September 11. This solemn day honors the memory of the nearly 3,000 lives lost in the terrorist attacks of 2001 and recognizes the bravery of first responders, military personnel, and ordinary citizens who demonstrated extraordinary courage. We encourage everyone to take a moment to remember those we lost and to reflect on the resilience and unity that emerged during one of our nation's most challenging times. Plan to attend the ceremony on the Green at noon that day.

As Legionnaires, we remain committed to the principles of service, patriotism, and support for our veterans, active-duty military, and their families. Thank you for your continued dedication to our post and our community. Together, we honor the past, serve the present, and help build a stronger future for America. For God and Country.

## Membership Update

**Post Membership  
John Dernberger**



The national 2026 formal membership renewal campaign will end on the last day of June. This will make room for the 2027 national campaign to begin in July. I will still accept 2026 renewals and new members through November at \$45.00. The 2027 campaign dues amount will be \$50.00. You should start seeing the 2027 campaign mailing sometime in July as previously stated. Please pay your dues upon receiving your first notice. This will assist us reaching our quota early and gain us rebates.

If you haven't paid your 2026 dues or haven't received your 2026 membership card, don't hesitate to reach out to John Dernberger (Membership Chair).  
[jp.dernberger@gmail.com](mailto:jp.dernberger@gmail.com)

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## Buckeye Boys and Girls State Program

**Joanne Zonatos (Post BS/GS Chair)** By the time of this being published our Post sponsored delegates to the 2026 Boys State and Girls State programs will have completed their experience. The POST / AUXILLARY sponsored 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 had representation from Thomas Worthington, Worthington Kilbourne, Worthington Christian, and DeSales high schools. We expect to add Upper Arlington next year.



## Membership Quota War: Reflections and Action Points

### Current Status of the Membership Quota War

We have reached a critical point in the Membership Quota War where it is no longer possible to recover, and we must accept the reality of not meeting membership goals. Throughout the past year, much advice has been shared; advice that has consistently proven to be sound, logical, and effective in generating positive results. Despite these efforts, five Posts in our District remain significantly behind; having failed to reach the 80% mark, and four Posts have yet to achieve 90%. It is not my intention to single out or criticize any Post Officers; belittling others serves no purpose. Members are the lifeblood of every Post—without them, our organization cannot survive. It is essential to remember that we are the voice for all veterans and serve as advocates for their needs through government channels. The responsibility to maintain a strong and active membership lies with us, for the benefit of both veterans and our community.

### Opportunities for Membership Growth

Franklin County is home to one of the largest concentrations of veterans in the state of Ohio. Given this fact, it is completely possible for any Post in this District to have 500 members, especially when proven strategies are available to help Posts grow their membership. If we could achieve that we would be the largest District in Ohio. Could you imagine that **“the Capital 12th District Leading the Way”**. One effective method is making phone calls to those 888 members in your area—this is an excellent starting point. Additionally, every interaction with a Veteran, whether on the street, at a community event or even in the Market shopping, presents an opportunity to talk about the American Legion to those you meet, and invite them to your Post. Offer a specific invitation—ask when they might be able to visit, let them know about ongoing activities, and assure them you will be there to welcome them. Opportunities to engage and recruit are everywhere; it is simply a matter of recognizing them and taking action.

### Leadership and the Path Forward

With Post elections approaching, it is time to identify and select individuals who are passionate about the stewardship and future of our Posts. It is vital to choose candidates who are genuinely committed to the wellbeing of the Post. A strong, functioning Executive Board is crucial to the success of any Post—decisions should not rest with a single individual. Legionnaires must elect officers who are not only interested in positions of high regard, but are dedicated to performing their duties diligently and effectively.

This dedication directly impacts membership: a strong Executive Board nurtures a strong Post, and a strong Post, in turn, supports its members. Satisfied members share their positive experiences with other veterans, fostering pride and encouraging others to join. This is an example of Cause and Effect. Negativity in the Post is a KILLER and it spreads quickly.

I'm on your side.

Regards,  
**Joe (Woody) Woodrum**  
1st Vice Commander  
American Legion Department of Ohio  
12th "Capitol" District

# How Involved Can You Be?



As American citizens each of us has the right to peaceably assemble. This means we can attend rallies and protests etc. As The American Legion, we lobby on behalf of veterans, the military and their combined families. That is our job and mission. We can speak at events that promote veterans and our Military if invited to or are interviewed by media.

However, as legionnaires, we must be mindful of attending rallies and other events that may be deemed partisan politically. Attending such events

comes with caveats. As legionnaires, we cannot wear any item of American Legion clothing i.e. shirts, coats, jackets, hats or caps etc. of **ANY TYPE** while attending said events.

We can speak at such events if invited to or are interviewed by media. However, here again you cannot refer to the American Legion in any way shape or form. This includes SAL and Legion Riders. I'm confident that the American Legion Auxiliary holds the same policy.

You ask why? Because, wearing such things and/or referring to the American Legion while speaking could very well be misconstrued as the American Legion approves of or agrees with said events and what is said at such events by those who are members in attendance.

The next caveat is **BEHAVIOR**. While attending such events that are political in nature your proper behavior is paramount. You cannot act or do anything that would bring a negative light or view upon the American Legion in any way. The American Legion is VERY protective of its brand and does not tolerate anything that they deem negative towards the legion and its history and reputation.

If you follow these rules, you will be fine.

Remember, Legion before self.

## 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.

# Worthington 2026 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

## Post 239 News

Hundreds of Worthington residents gathered along the High St. parade route on May 25, for the annual Memorial Day Parade. The parade each year is organized and sponsored by our Post. Thanks to Joe Lippert and all that participated! Your involvement is greatly appreciated and ensured Post 239 provided an outstanding event in remembrance of those that made the ultimate sacrifice.

May they never be forgotten!



# Post 239 News

## Patriots Day (Sept 11th, 2026)



Mark your calendars! Ceremony will begin at 12 noon on the Village Green and will commemorate the Sept 11 attacks and honor first responders, volunteers, and those who lost their lives. We will once again be posting 2977 American Flags at the intersection of High Street and Dublin-Granville Road. Stay tuned on how you can support this event.

## Community Outreach Table (12 Sept 2026) 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.

Always looking for more volunteers for this outreach event between the hours of 8 am to noon. **Contact Joe Lippert and / or John Dernberger**

## Korean Conflict Program (28 Sept 2026 McConnell Arts Center, 7PM)

Work has begun in conjunction with the City of Worthington to present a program on Sept, 28th 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. The event is FREE and will be held at the McConnell Arts Center. You will need to register for the event due to limited seating on the McConnell Arts webpage (<https://mcconnellarts.org>) See Page 4



## FUNERAL DETAIL / RIFLE TEAM

Have you ever been interested in being a member of the Post Funeral Detail / Rifle Team? The Post is always looking for additional personnel to be added to the list. These events can be short notice, so the more individuals we have available, the better chance we have of fulfilling these requests. **Please provide your telephone # and email address to John Dernberger ([jp.dernberger@gmail.com](mailto:jp.dernberger@gmail.com))**

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**

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# 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>

**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](mailto:veterans@honorflightcmh.org)

**Copy and paste this link into your browser to access the Honor Flight Application:**

[chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpgclefindmkaj/https://3e07794c-fd44-4a3c-9246-32a051f83cdf.filesusr.com/ugd/69091b\\_bdd167a55360410ebf64ace0d5193c21.pdf](chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpgclefindmkaj/https://3e07794c-fd44-4a3c-9246-32a051f83cdf.filesusr.com/ugd/69091b_bdd167a55360410ebf64ace0d5193c21.pdf)



The advertisement features a dark grey header with the Legionnaire Insurance Trust logo (an eagle in a circle) on the left and the EA+ Emergency Assistance Plus logo (a shield with 'EA+' and horizontal lines) on the right. Below the logos is a collage of three images: a beach with a shadow, a black suitcase with a red EA+ tag, and a blue car. A red circular callout with white text reads: "Members enjoy travel protection at a discount!". At the bottom, white text on a dark grey background states: "24/7 emergency medical assistance for added peace of mind *whenever and wherever* you travel".

**EA+** is a dependable American Legion Department endorsed program that helps you handle almost any crisis when you're away from home. It's a critical safety net that helps pay for emergencies your health insurance generally will **NOT** cover and is available at a price you'll find hard to believe. Not because it's too costly, but because it's so reasonable.

**Copy and paste the link into your browser and sign up today!**

[https://www.emergencyassistanceplus.com/lp/lit-cc/?](https://www.emergencyassistanceplus.com/lp/lit-cc/?nab=0&utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=LT49359&utm_content=enroll1&utm_client=LIT&utm_promo=Partner90&utm_tcode=E3219)

[nab=0&utm\\_source=sfmc&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=LT49359&utm\\_content=enroll1&utm\\_client=LIT&utm\\_promo=Partner90&utm\\_tcode=E3219](https://www.emergencyassistanceplus.com/lp/lit-cc/?nab=0&utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=LT49359&utm_content=enroll1&utm_client=LIT&utm_promo=Partner90&utm_tcode=E3219)

## Coming Up.....



**Plans are in the works to  
celebrate our Post anniversary  
in October.**

**Mark your calendars for  
Saturday, October 10, and help  
celebrate this milestone.  
More info will be forthcoming.**

# Coming Up.....

## THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF



# HIO



**Get ready to trade in the everyday routine for sunshine, ocean breezes, tropical beaches, and unforgettable memories because the American Legion Cruise 2028 is officially happening!**

**April 13–18, 2028**

**Departing from Fort Lauderdale aboard Celebrity Cruises**

**Ports of Call:**

**Grand Turk**

**Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic**

**Whether you're looking to relax on beautiful beaches, enjoy amazing food and entertainment, reconnect with fellow Legion members, or simply get away for a few days, this cruise has something for everyone.**

**Staterooms are available starting from just \$438 per person.**

**This is more than just a vacation, it's an opportunity to make memories, strengthen friendships, and enjoy an incredible experience together at sea.**

**Spots will fill quickly, so if you are interested, now is the time to reserve your place.**

**For more information or to sign up, please contact:**

**Ty Bowers**

**ty.a.bwrs@gmail.com**



# Post Calendar

## July

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday                            | Friday                | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
|        |        |         |           |                                     | <b>Friday Dinners</b> |          |
|        |        |         |           |                                     |                       |          |
|        |        |         |           | <b>16 Members Meeting 7:30 p.m.</b> |                       |          |
|        |        |         |           |                                     |                       |          |
|        |        |         |           |                                     |                       |          |

## August

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday                            | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|-------------------------------------|--------|----------|
|        |        |         |           |                                     |        |          |
|        |        |         |           |                                     |        |          |
|        |        |         |           | <b>20 Members Meeting 7:30 p.m.</b> |        |          |
|        |        |         |           |                                     |        |          |
|        |        |         |           |                                     |        |          |

## September

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday                  | Wednesday | Thursday                            | Friday                 | Saturday |
|--------|--------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|----------|
|        |        |                          |           |                                     |                        |          |
|        |        |                          |           |                                     |                        |          |
|        |        |                          |           | <b>17 Members Meeting 7:30 p.m.</b> | <b>11 Patriots Day</b> |          |
|        |        |                          |           |                                     |                        |          |
|        |        | <b>28 Korean Program</b> |           |                                     |                        |          |