

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS  
AMERICAN LEGION

ALEXANDER BRADLEY BURNS POST 80

[www.post80.org](http://www.post80.org)



For God and Country

# LEGION - AIRE

## APRIL 2024



### Commander's Column

As I write this, the temperature is falling and the forecast is for snow, so I guess winter is not giving up without a fight. Hopefully this is the last gasp. I am eagerly looking forward to spring; I am ready for some nice days.

Tuesday Bingo crowds have increased and the games are lively. It seems like everyone is having a good time, stop in and see. Rentals remain steady and the crowd on Saturday mornings seems to be slowly increasing.

The new members initiation will be held on Saturday, May 18th, in conjunction with the Past Commanders' dinner. I would encourage all new members to attend. It will be a great opportunity to meet a lot of the active post members and to see how the Post operates. This is also Armed Forces Day, so come out and enjoy the day.

As we continue to increase the activities at the Post, I would like to encourage all members to get involved whenever they can. The membership meeting on the first Wednesday of each month is a great place to start. As they say, the more the merrier.

See you at the Post.

Howie



### A NEW EAGLE SCOUT FOR TROOP 80!

Youth Programs are one of the important pillars of the American Legion. Post 80 has been sponsoring Boy Scout Troop 80 continuously since 1936. The Troop has produced 141 Eagle Scouts to date.



Post 80 Past Commander and Troop 80 Chartering Organization Representative Todd Hanson presenting an Eagle Plaque to Quin Matune (Eagle Scout 139) at his Court of Honor. March 10, 2024.



PHONE: (630) 968-9710

WEB: WWW.POST80.ORG ABBPOST80@GMAIL.COM

TWITTER: AMLEGIONPOST80

- COMMANDER.....HOWARD PARKER
- SR. VICE ..... ED LUDWIG
- JR. VICE.....JASON WALES
- FINANCE OFFICER .....RICK McLAREN
- SGT-AT-ARMS..... WILLIAM DAWSON
- HISTORIAN..... NICOLE DEDICK
- CHAPLAIN ..... BOB HAHN
- JUDGE ADVOCATE..... TODD HANSON
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- SERGEANT-AT-ARMS.....JOYCE WILK

*There is more to AMVETS than just picking up your old clothing and household items....*



**AMVETS**, which is also known as American Veterans, is the most inclusive Congressionally-chartered veterans service organization open to representing the interests of 20 million veterans and their families. We are veterans serving veterans since 1944.

Founded in 1944 and chartered by an act of Congress, the AMVETS organization has more than 250,000 members nationwide. AMVETS exists to enhance the quality of life for all veterans, their families and survivors. Membership in AMVETS is open to anyone who honorably served or is currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves.

The AMVETS Department of Illinois was founded in 1945, and has grown to be one of the largest AMVETS chapters. Within our AMVETS family, Illinois also has the Illinois AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, Sons of AMVETS and Sad Sacks. Our members and supporters are almost 10,000 strong and spread out from top to bottom of Illinois, with the sole purpose of helping veterans, their families and their communities.

The Illinois AMVETS Service Foundation is supported by donations collected from discarded household goods, bequests, corporate giving, and personal donations. These fundraising efforts are vital in AMVETS doing their best to support Veterans and their surrounding communities.

AMVETS is a group of "Veterans Serving Veterans" and that is, simply, "...what we do best." All of the members of the AMVETS Department of Illinois know the importance of volunteering and are active in their various programs, which encompass such areas as Americanism, supporting our troops and community service.

The Illinois AMVETS have been assisting veterans since 1945 in a variety of ways. From helping veterans file disability claims with the VA, to providing scholarships, to teaching youth about flag etiquette, the Illinois AMVETS is a staple in Illinois communities.

To be eligible for membership in AMVETS, you must have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, any time after Sept. 15, 1940, and your discharge must have been under honorable conditions.

For more information, go to [www.ilamvets.org](http://www.ilamvets.org).



## Auxiliary News - APRIL 2024

### “Serving Veterans, the Real Super Heroes”



Hello again, another month has gone by. I hope everyone had a Very Happy Easter with your families.

I don't have much to say this month.

Kim, Julie, Rylla and myself attended the 11th District meeting in New Lenox last month. I gave a report of the meeting.

At this month's meeting the nominating committee will give the nominations for next year. Be sure to attend this meeting to see who you are nominating for your officers.

Just a reminder that we need a poppy girl for May. I will have a sign up sheet at our meeting for poppy collection places.

Julie's daughter attended our meeting and gave us some information to make our Craft fair a success.

I should be getting information soon for the Department Convention in Springfield, July 11th to the 13th.

We had our bowling Wednesday and had a good time. We will now be bowling on the first Wednesday of the month and the third Wednesday; same time 9:30.

The 11th District Memorial service will be held in Elgin at Post 57. Those ladies who would like to attend the service can meet in the Legion parking lot May 4th as always. I will have a time for you at the April meeting.

That's all for now. See you at the meeting.

Bonita Wisbrock  
President Unit 80  
630-303-2691

## Annual SHRED EVENT 2024

APRIL 27TH | 11-2 PM

724 Ogden Avenue | Downers Grove



Contact with questions:  
Anne Marie Vespo | 630-308-3167

Bring your boxes and bags on April 27th from 11 - 2 pm. for the Baird & Warner Annual Shredding Event. All documents are shredded on-site. Rain or Shine!

## IN MEMORIAM

This Legionnaire Has Gone To The  
Commander of Us All.

**JAMES VINOPAL, SR.**

U.S. Army & Navy Veteran  
WWII & Korea  
American Legion member - 59 years

*Rest Well, Our Friend.*





# APRIL 2024

## LET'S ENJOY A SOLAR-BRATION!



## APRIL 8 - A Partial Solar Eclipse in the Chicago area...

If you make your way to Southern Illinois, you would get a chance to witness a full solar eclipse. But if you are in the Chicago area, you can still witness a partial eclipse.

### What is a solar eclipse?

A solar eclipse is a rare, celestial event that occurs when the moon passes between the Earth and the sun, causing the sun to be partially or completely obscured from view as observed from a specific region on Earth. This happens because the moon's shadow is cast onto the Earth's surface, blocking or partially covering the sun's light.

### When is the next total solar eclipse?

On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse is set to occur, marking the final one visible from the United States until the year 2045.

### Where will the eclipse be visible?

This celestial event will pass through a path of totality encompassing 13 states, including Illinois.

### Where is the best place to view the eclipse?

While a partial solar eclipse will be visible across the entire country including much of the rest of Illinois, the special characteristics of a total solar eclipse can only be experienced within the narrow path of totality that will traverse Southern Illinois - specifically in areas such as Carbondale. It is only within this specific region and during this precise moment that you can observe the sky transitioning to darkness, resembling nighttime, as the Moon completely obstructs direct sunlight and unveils the solar corona—the Sun's outer atmosphere.

### How should you plan to view the eclipse?

As always, you should never look directly at the sun during an eclipse. To safely view the eclipse, consider:

**Eclipse glasses:** These special shades are similar to 3D glasses but are certified eclipse-safe for direct viewing. Regular sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe to view the eclipse.

**Solar filters:** If you want to use a telescope, binoculars or camera, do not use them unprotected even if you have safe eclipse glasses. Consult the manufacturer for a proper filter to attach to your device.

**Pinhole viewer:** This is a simple, inexpensive way to indirectly view the eclipse. Just take two sheets of white paper (card stock is best) and poke a hole in the middle of one sheet. With your back to the sun, hold the sheet with the hole over the other sheet and adjust them until you see a dot of light. That's the sun! As the moon travels across the sun, a crescent will appear.

### Purchase safe solar eclipse glasses

Before purchasing solar eclipse glasses or viewers, be sure to check that the items are coming from the American Astronomical Society's (AAS) list of trusted vendors. "It's not smart to just go on Amazon, Etsy, eBay, or Google and search for eclipse glasses and buy whatever pops up," says Richard Fienberg, project manager of the American Astronomical Society's Solar Eclipse Task Force. "There are companies selling eclipse glasses under false pretenses."

Given the unreliable market, Fienberg suggests customers test out their eclipse glasses before April 8 to ensure they have a safe pair. To do so, he says you should first wear their eclipse glasses inside your home. If you can see the room and objects around you, that means your glasses are not dark enough and will not adequately protect you from the sun.

### Travel Tips...

- If driving during the eclipse, ensure car headlights are on.
- Don't ever take photos, videos, or wear "eclipse glasses" while driving.
- Don't park along the shoulder of the road, highway, or interstate to watch the eclipse.
- Always exit the roadway and park in a safe area away from traffic before viewing the eclipse.

### Additional Resources:

<https://www.greatamericaneclipse.com/april-8-2024>

<https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/>



# AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



**AIR FORCE  
RESERVES**  
April 14



**ARMY  
RESERVES**  
April 23



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Victoria Koenig, DC  
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Phone: 773-528-8485  
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APRIL 2024

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**630/712-1834**  
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### **DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING INTERESTING TO SHARE?**

Articles and photos for the  
newsletter must be submitted  
*no later* than the **17th** of the  
month.

Please contact Bruce Peiffer:  
[agnlbp@gmail.com](mailto:agnlbp@gmail.com).

# AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



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Visit our website at [www.vfw503.org](http://www.vfw503.org)

Monthly Events:

- Canteen open Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays at 3:00 PM
- Members meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 7:00 PM
- Auxiliary meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 6:30 PM
- Taco Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 3:00 PM
- Hall Rental (Maximum Seating 100 people) see website
- Upcoming events (Calendar ) see website

Please stop by to visit, all veterans welcome

**WELCOME TO Delicious**

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APRIL 2024

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# We salute our veterans. Thank you.



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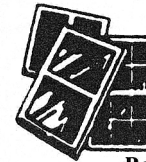


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## PAST COMMANDERS DINNER

*Saturday,  
May 18th*

...is the Past Commanders Dinner which is open to one and all Legion, Auxiliary, and other family members. It is the one chance to pay honor to the past commanders who are alive and those whose voices have been stilled.

The Social Hour.....5PM – 6PM

Dinner.....6PM

Program will follow dinner

We are asking \$8/per person for the dinner. Past Commanders and their spouses are free.

Please come and join us, by returning the lower part of this notice so that we can minimize waste and off set the cost of food.

**Yes, I am coming to Past Commanders Dinner**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ How many in your party? \_\_\_\_\_

Mail back to:

American Legion Post 80  
Attn: Rich Jones  
4000 Saratoga Ave,  
Downers Grove, IL 60515



## STRENGTH AND HONOR LUNCHEON

**WEDNESDAY**

**APRIL 17, 2024**

**BOBAK'S SIGNATURE EVENTS  
WOODRIDGE**

Join Naperville Responds For Veterans when they host their annual "Strength and Honor" Luncheon beginning at noon on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, to honor and give thanks to Veterans.

The Luncheon will be held at Bobak's Signature Events in Woodridge, 6440 Double Eagle Dr. An 11:00 a.m. arrival and check-in is scheduled with lunch served promptly at noon. This year's featured speaker is Dr. Ralph "Croker" Jones, U.S. Navy (Ret.).

Dr. Ralph "Croker" Jones has recently retired from the U.S. Navy where he served in multiple high level capacities. He has served as the medical director for multiple companies and served over 30 years in the Navy. While serving he spent time with the

special operations community and served as Director of Surgical Services for Operation Nobel Eagle over 9-11. Dr. Jones has seen multiple deployments to the middle east and served both as a surgeon for both ground and sea units. He also is a recipient of the Purple Heart.

Dr. Jones is well versed in tactical and wilderness medicine and has attended multiple civilian and military schools to learn how to provide care in austere environments. Dr. Jones is a Wilderness Fellow and has completed the ISTM's Tactical Medical courses. He is an accomplished Surgeon and has spent many years establishing himself as a world renowned surgeon and educator in both the military and civilian sector.

**The luncheon is free of charge for**

**Veterans and one guest (spouse, family member, care-taker, or good friend). Veterans wishing to attend are asked to RSVP through the Naperville Responds website by April 8.**



**DR. RALPH  
"CROKER" JONES**

The cost is \$60 for individuals, \$500 per table of ten and sponsorship opportunities are available. For more info and to purchase tickets, visit [NapervilleResponds.org](http://NapervilleResponds.org).

*Naperville Responds For Veterans assists Veterans and their families in need, especially those with low and moderate income, by raising donations of money, building materials, and professional labor; and coordinating the process of repairing, building, and donating homes. Naperville Responds For Veterans is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that provides services to Veterans in need and those in crisis. [www.NapervilleResponds.org](http://www.NapervilleResponds.org).*

Individual Tickets - \$60 / Tables of Ten - \$500

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Free for Veterans and a guest!

**[WWW.NAPERVILLERESPONDS.ORG](http://WWW.NAPERVILLERESPONDS.ORG)**



SCAN TO REGISTER





APRIL 2024

**~~ INTERESTING THINGS TO DO IN APRIL ~~**



**LOCAL  
ECLIPSE VIEWING EVENTS**

**Monday, April 8**

**Downers Grove  
Public Library**

1050 Curtiss St, Downers Grove, IL 60515

**1:30pm-2:15pm**

Eclipse glasses will be given out at the program

**Fullersburg Woods**

3609 Spring Rd, Oak Brook, IL 60523

**12:30pm-3:30pm**

Join us for a party with solar viewing glasses, activities, crafts, and, in case of clouds, a live stream of the eclipse.

**EARTH WEEK VOLUNTEER DAY**

**Saturday APRIL 27; STARTS 10AM - AGES 12+**

at **FISHEL PARK** - 1036 Grove St., Downers Grove IL

**HUMMER PARK** - 4833 Fairview Ave, Downers Grove IL

**SIGN UP is required** - A signup form will be available at [dgparks.org](http://dgparks.org) beginning April 1.



**Celebrate Earth Week with the Downers Grove Park District and beautify your local parks for spring!**

Volunteers will help prepare the parks for the season by mulching trees, picking up sticks and debris, and removing trash at each location. Gloves, tools and staff assistance will be provided. Please dress for the weather and to get messy. All volunteers will receive light snacks and an oak seedling to plant at home.

A volunteer waiver will be emailed in advance and available the day of the event. This event is for ages 12 and up. A legal guardian must complete the volunteer waiver for individuals ages 12 to 17.

**Individuals, organizations or volunteer groups are invited to lend a hand!**

**Visit Kline Creek Farm**

IN600 County Farm Road - West Chicago, IL

**SHEEP SHEARING!**

**Sunday, April 28 | 1:30-3:30pm**

Watch farmers hand shear our heritage Cotswold sheep, and learn about the role of sheep on an 1890s farm.

Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm.

No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.





## VETERAN INFO PAGE

**DO YOU KNOW A VET IN NEED?**

### VETERANS AFFAIRS ASSISTANCE

**The DuPage Veterans Assistance Commission**  
421 N. County Farm Road - 2nd Fl - Rear of Cafeteria,  
Wheaton, IL 60187

**Steve Fixler**, Superintendent

**Alberto Ranjley-Ninegia**, Asst. Superintendent

**Brittany Micher**, Case Manager/Service Officer

Phone: **630-407-5655** Fax: 630-407-5656

Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. and

1-4 p.m. Monday - Friday

email: dupagevac@dupageco.org



### Cook County Department of Veterans Affairs

Bureau of Administration Cook County

Government

**Audrey Mollo**, Administrative Assistant I

Telephone: **312-603-2221** Fax: 312-603-4479

email: Audrey.Mollo@CookCountyIL.gov

Veterans.Affairs@CookCountyIL.gov

Website: www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/veterans-affairs

### VETERANS CRISIS LINE

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(1-877-424-3838)

### LEGAL HOTLINE FOR ILLINOIS VETS

## 855-452-3526

for more info go to [iejf.org](http://iejf.org)

**For anyone having difficulties with the VA, there is a White House HOTLINE that is staffed 24/7: 855.948.2311**

## DISCOUNTS

**FOR VETERANS and/or ACTIVE MILITARY**

VISIT <https://veteran.com/military-discounts/>

to find information on discounts for:

**AT&T, Home Depot, Lowes, Yeti products,**

**Apple, Microsoft, HP, AMC Theaters**

**and many other retailers.**

Veterans and military members can also utilize the Veteran Tickets Foundation <https://www.vettix.org/visitor/home> to find free and discounted tickets to events in their area.

VeTix is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that partners with sports teams and promoters to give tickets to those currently serving and veterans of all branches of the U.S. military.

### ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES:

[va.org](http://va.org) • [legion.org](http://legion.org)

[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

For a list of benefits **Exclusively for**

**ILLINOIS VETERANS**, go to

<https://www.legion.org/veteransbenefits/illinois>

### DD 214 REQUESTS

If you are in need of your **DD 214** go to the following website:

**[www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records)**

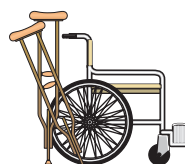
Then go to Start your Military Service Record (DD Form 214) Request and follow the prompts and fill in the required information. It also has you print a signature sheet that you have to mail to them. When they receive the signature paper, they will send you an email confirming that they received it. Then in about 10 days, you'll receive 2 certified copies of your DD 214 and copies of your discharge orders.

It's really easy and it only costs you the price of a postage stamp and an envelope.

Your Service Officer.

### WHEELCHAIRS, WALKERS & CRUTCHES

Post 80 lends out wheel chairs, walkers and crutches to anyone that may need them. For more information, call Rich Jones at 630-964-2434.



Anyone who has borrowed a wheelchair, walker, or crutches and no longer needs them, please return them to Post 80 so they may be available for other veterans.

AMERICAN LEGION  
 ALEXANDER BRADLEY BURNS POST 80  
 4000 SARATOGA AVENUE  
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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

*Please Change My Address*

**Are you moving?**  
 We hate to have you miss the next  
**LEGION-AIRE Newsletter!**

Mail this form to:  
 Alexander Bradley Burns Post 80  
 Attn: Adjutant  
 4000 Saratoga Ave.  
 Downers Grove, IL 60515

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 NEW Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## JOIN US FOR BINGO!

**APRIL 2, 2024**

KITCHEN: KIM CRUZ  
 BONNIE WISBROCK  
 JUDY MAITLAND

TICKETS: CHRIS GRAVES  
 COMPUTER: TOM LYNCH

**APRIL 9, 2024**

KITCHEN: JEAN KRUPIN  
 BONNIE WISBROCK  
 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

TICKETS: BILL COZZI  
 COMPUTER: TOM LYNCH

**APRIL 16, 2024**

KITCHEN: TODD HANSON  
 KIM CRUZ  
 JUDY MAITLAND

TICKETS: BONNIE WISBROCK  
 COMPUTER: HARRY MCCABE

**APRIL 23, 2024**








KITCHEN: JEAN KRUPIN  
 BONNIE WISBROCK  
 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

TICKETS: JASON COCHRAN  
 COMPUTER: MARY ANN PRONEY

**APRIL 30, 2024 HALF PRICE BINGO!**

KITCHEN: KIM CRUZ  
 BONNIE WISBROCK  
 JUDY MAITLAND

TICKETS: CHRIS GRAVES  
 COMPUTER: TOM LYNCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1  April Fool's Day	2 <b>BINGO</b> 6:45 pm Doors & Bar Open 4:00 pm	3 Business Meeting 7:30 pm	4	5  Gold Star Spouse's Day	6 Tai Chi 7:30-9:30 am Coffee, Donuts & Conversation 8:30 am
7	8 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30 pm	9 <b>BINGO</b> 6:45 pm Doors & Bar Open 4:00 pm	10	11	12	13 Tai Chi 7:30-9:30 am Coffee, Donuts & Conversation 8:30 am
14  Air Force Reserves Birthday	15	16 <b>BINGO</b> 6:45 pm Doors & Bar Open 4:00 pm	17	18	19	20 Tai Chi 7:30-9:30 am Coffee, Donuts & Conversation 8:30 am
21	22  Celebrate EARTH DAY	23 <b>BINGO</b> 6:45 pm Doors & Bar Open 4:00 pm  Army Reserves Birthday	24 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 pm	25	26	27 Tai Chi 7:30-9:30 am Coffee, Donuts & Conversation 8:30 am
28	29	30 <b>HALF-PRICE BINGO</b> 6:45 pm Doors & Bar Open 4:00 pm	 <h1>APRIL 2024</h1>			
		<p>NOTE: This calendar can change without notice          SEE <a href="http://www.post80.org/calendar">www.post80.org/calendar</a>          FOR MORE DETAILS</p>				