



**David (Coop)  
Cooper  
Commander  
Post 32**

# The Morning Report

*Quarterly Newsletter for The American Legion Springfield Post 32 Family*

## The American Legion Springfield Post 32 Overview of Its Component Parts

Mike Walton, Post 32 Finance Officer



**Suzie Q.  
Weiss  
President  
Unit 32**

Springfield Post #32, The American Legion was chartered in 1919 as Sangamon Post 32. A few years later the name was changed to Springfield Post #32. The original location was the former Dewitt Smith Mansion located at 625 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. In 1982 the original building was purchased by a Mr. Buddy Hunter and the Post relocated to 410 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, later the address became 505 American Legion Avenue, when we requested that Sangamo Alley be renamed. In 2007 the S. 5<sup>th</sup> location was purchased by the Illinois Municipal League and Post 32 relocated to 1120 Sangamon Avenue. Since that time, we have purchased property on Joles Avenue and we were also the recipient of the generosity of Charlie DeHart and Mary Jo Welch when they purchased the property at 1117 Joles Avenue and donated it to Springfield Post #32, The American Legion.

Memorial Home Corporation (ALMHC), another Not For Profit, were updated to make the ALMHC responsible for the property, which included the buildings and land that we own, payment of the utilities; insurance; upkeep etc. Per the By-Laws the same members of the Club Committee are also members of the ALMHC. The only funds that the ALMHC derive are from a monthly rent that the Club Committee and Post pay, along with the State Fair Parking each year which handles the second half of our property taxes that are due in September.

The American Legion, Springfield Post 32 is under the direction of the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Finance Officer. These four positions are elected each year by the membership for one-year terms and each of them may succeed themselves if they so desire and if they are elected. The other three ALMHC/Club Committee members have two-year terms, with alternating years where one year one member is elected for two years then the next year two members are elected for two years.

The Post operates as a Not-For-Profit Veterans Organization/Patriotic to assist those serving our country, our sister and brother Veterans, their families, the community, state and nation. The Post meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at Post 32 at 6:30 p.m. These are democratic meetings at which Post members may have their voices heard. Any Post 32 member may examine the finances of the Post including expenditures, income etc. No member has ever been refused an opportunity to look at the Post financial records.

The Post has always operated under the direction of the National and Department of Illinois American Legion, but we have always had our own By-Laws, and we are nonpolitical. For many years and until the late 80's or early 90's when the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) came in and advised us that we were not operating properly for a Not For Profit. At that time, we were operating under the Post By-Laws and The American Legion Memorial Home Corporation By-Laws. At the direction of the IRS the following happened:

1. The American Legion Post 32 Club Committee was formed to operate the bar and restaurant under the Post and the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander,
2. The By-Laws of the American Legion



**Jim Peters  
Commander  
Squadron 32**



**Mike Lee  
Director  
Post 32  
Riders**

# The American Legion Springfield Post 32 Burial Plots

Mike Walton and Bruce O'Neil

The World War I Veterans and members of Springfield Post #32, and we have no history on this, but in late 1919 or early 1920, they purchased, in three local cemeteries, several burial plots at: Oak Ridge Cemetery, Roselawn Cemetery, Calvary Cemetery.

At the time of obtaining the first plot in Oak Ridge Cemetery, we believe around late 1919 or early 1920, our name was Sangamon Post 32, as you will note on the large stone placed at the site. Sangamon Post 32 was renamed so Springfield Post 32 around 1920.

Auxiliary Unit 32 purchased and placed the large stone on the plot area. Several Veterans and others are buried in these plots. This stone is located west of Lincoln's Tomb as you drive down to his original burial site.

The plots at Roselawn and Calvary were obtained, we believe, sometime after the Post was renamed to

Springfield Post 32, as both large stones placed at our plots have Springfield Post 32 on them.

Oak Ridge Cemetery: the stone is located at the bottom of the hill across from the Grand Army of the Republic area.

Roselawn Cemetery: the stone is located on the west side of the cemetery; turn right on the last road headed towards the cemetery shop area, stone is on the left.

Calvary Cemetery: the stone is located West of the chapel. At the top of the hill turn right. The stone is on the left.

The American Legion Memorial Home Corporation (ALMHC) is responsible for these plots for Springfield Post #32, The American Legion. Presently, burial in any of these plots must be approved by the ALMHC.



## Oak Ridge Cemetery

This stone is located west of Lincoln's Tomb as you drive down to his original burial site.



## Roselawn Cemetery

This stone is located on the west side of the cemetery; turn right on the last road headed towards the cemetery shop area, stone is on the left.



## Calvary Cemetery

This stone is located West of the chapel. At the top of the hill turn right. The stone is on the left.

## "BE THE ONE"

**Make a Buddy Call to Check on a Veteran at Least Once Each Week**

**Friends of the American Legion Family and Sponsors of The Morning Report**



**THE INTER-VETERANS BURIAL  
DETAIL OF SANGAMON COUNTY**

**NEEDS YOU**

**VOLUNTEER AT [KAMPER279@COMCAST.NET](mailto:KAMPER279@COMCAST.NET)  
ATTEND A FUNERAL AT CAMP BUTLER N.C.**



**OUR POP-POP and GRANNY LOVE  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Dylan Walton, Benjamin Walton,  
Lincoln Davis & Levi Davis**

**Honoring Post 32 Legionnaire  
William “Bill” Horrom**



**The American Legion Springfield Post 32 Commander David Cooper and Sr. Vice Commander Jay Sanders presented William “Bill” Horrom with his 50 Year Certificate for his continued membership in the American Legion Values. A US Navy veteran, Bill has been active in various veterans’ groups over the years. Our Congratulations to Bill.**

**World War II Veterans – Members of Post 32  
Jerrv Bellatti. Post 32 Adjutant**

As of July 2024, according to records maintained by Post 32 Adjutant, Jerry Bellatti, the following Post 32 Legionnaires are Veterans of World War II. Thanks again to The Greatest Generation.

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Stanley Adams      | Ruth Anderberg   |
| Edward Ballinger   | Howard Beagles   |
| Charles Buscher    | Renato Favero    |
| John Hayes         | Orlando Krueger  |
| William Lemar      | Joseph McCormick |
| Donald St Lawrence | Robert Uthoff    |

**New Law Signed to Assist Disabled Veterans  
Information Provided By Illinois State Senator Steve McClure**

Legislation to alleviate some financial burdens placed on disabled veterans in Illinois was signed into law on July 1st. The law waives "permit fees" for disabled veterans needing to modify their homes for accessibility. Previously, disabled veterans who needed to adapt their homes were required to pay permit fees to their local government in addition to covering the cost of their renovation. This financial strain often made essential home modifications more challenging. Senate Bill 2751 addresses the issue by waiving permit fees for disabled veterans making necessary home modifications. The bill passed unanimously by both chambers of The Illinois General Assembly on July 1, 2024, and will take effect January 1, 2025.

**Friends of the American Legion Family and Sponsors of The Morning Report**



# The American Legion Springfield Post 32 Family Leadership

## Post 32 Commander David Cooper

Greetings my American Legion Family. Mark your calendars to join us and bring a friend or neighbor to enjoy the Best Schnitzel sandwich you have ever had on Saturday Oct. 12th from 11:00AM – 3:00 PM. Your support is always needed.

Another date for you to remember will be Monday Sept. 11th Veterans Day, for our FREE Ham & Beans from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM or till gone. Best in Town!!

Remember this Post 32 is YOUR Legion Home, we always need your fellowship and support at all our functions. If you have new ideas or suggestions, please reach out to me and leave a message at 217-899-4112.

CHRISTMAS - Never too early to think of our fellow Veterans, especially those in Nursing Homes. Please consider giving for the following, a few hours of your time or a donation to make sure our veterans have a nice Christmas and are Never Forgotten.

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING**  
**The American Legion**  
**"HOLIDAY FOR HEROES"**

Our American Legion Springfield Post 32 Veterans will be preparing and distributing Christmas to our brother & sister Veterans in nursing homes just prior to Christmas. We have been ensuring that they have Christmas every year for over 20+ years. You have/can help us continue this very worthy endeavor by donating to our

**HOLIDAY FOR HEROES**  
IF YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO ASSIST,  
YOU MAY MAKE YOUR DONATION TO:  
Springfield Post #32, The American Legion  
1120 Sangamon Avenue, Springfield, IL 62702-1853

**100%** of all donations goes to the purchase of items for these Heroes!

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**

## Post 32 Legion Riders Director Mike Lee

Greetings from the Riders. As fall moves in and summer fades, the third quarter was busy for us. The upcoming quarter will be just as busy. We start October 12 with Octoberfest with the Post 32 Family. We kick off our annual Wreath Across America Campaign. We are seeking sponsors to purchase wreaths for Veterans' Graves at Camp Butler National Cemetery this holiday season. For information on this program contact Mike Lee or go to the National Web site [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org). The cost is \$17 per wreath. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, we take part in the Veteran's Day Parade. In December we will take part in the Christmas Parade. December 14, we will place Wreaths at Lincoln's Tomb and the War Memorials at Oak Ridge cemetery. We are looking for volunteers to help place wreaths on the Veterans' graves at Oak Ridge and later that morning at Camp Butler. All are welcome to join us in our activities.

For more information about these events, contact me: 217-741-3003 or [Biker1950@comcast.net](mailto:Biker1950@comcast.net).

## Squadron 32 Commander James Peters

Well American Legion Family, it is that time of year again. Autumn is on the way; the conventions are over, and we are in a new membership year. Please get your membership dues paid as soon as possible and help us recruit new members. The American Legion Family is dedicated to programs that assist our veterans, service members, their families and various youth organizations. It is vitally important that we have a loud voice, and sustaining and growing our membership numbers is one of the many ways to accomplish that goal. We have our annual October Fest coming up on 10/12 from 11AM – 3PM. I will be cooking our now famous Schnitzel sandwiches again this year and we will also be serving brats. Oh, and most importantly, good German Beer. Please try to attend our monthly Sons of the American Legion meeting. The meeting is one the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM. This meeting is right before the Post 32 meeting at 6:30 PM. The meeting is a great way to stay in tune with upcoming events and get to know the American Legion Family membership. It is also a great way for you to share your ideas for fundraising events, membership growth etc. Please join and follow the Post 32 Facebook group (**(3) Springfield American Legion Post #32 | Facebook**) for announcements and upcoming events. You can also visit the Post 32 website for information – [springfieldamericanlegion.com](http://springfieldamericanlegion.com). Thank you all for your support. For God and Country.

Contact me: [jpeters.ilsal@yahoo.com](mailto:jpeters.ilsal@yahoo.com) or 217-416-1533.

## Unit 32 President Suzie Weiss

Greetings America Legion Family Members. At our first meeting on September 3, we are having Dan Parriot from Butler Funeral Home as a speaker starting at 5:30 PM. In October we will host bunco at the Legion on the 13<sup>th</sup> with refreshments from 1:00 – 4:00 PM.

November 3<sup>rd</sup> we will have our Harvest Dinner from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. The menu consists of beef and noodles, beef tips and rice, chicken and noodles, green beans, slaw and roll and butter.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of November we will have a meat loaf dinner with all the trimmings from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.

We have appointed Alba Jenkins as our Chairperson to put together and mail packages to our troops overseas. You can help by donating. Leave your check marked "Gifts For The Yanks" at the bar at the Post 32.

We have a great group of ladies in our Auxiliary. If you are eligible, please join us. God Bless America and offer prayers for our Veterans.

Contact me: [Weissuziq@aol.com](mailto:Weissuziq@aol.com), 217-341-3728.

# Post 32 Quarterly Calendar

October, November, and December 2024

Event	Time and Date
<b>Regular Events at Post 32</b>	<b>October, November, December</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday Drawing (Must be present to win Color TV or Gift Certificates)	7:00PM – October 23, November 27, December 25
Unit 32 Meetings	5:00 PM – October 1, November 12, December 3
Legion Riders Meetings	6:00 PM – October 1, November 5, December 3
LaFemmes	5:00 PM – October 8, December 10
ALMHC Club Committee Meetings	5:00 PM – October 15, November 19, December 17
Squadron 32 Meetings	5:30 PM – October 22, November 26, <b>No December Mtg.</b>
Post 32 Meetings	6:30 PM – October 22, November 26, <b>No December Mtg.</b>
<b>Special Events at Post 32</b>	
Octoberfest With The American Legion Family – Post 32	11:00 AM – 3:00 PM – October 12
LaFemmes Bunco	12:00 PM – 5:00 PM – October 13
Lincoln Day Pilgrimage Committee	6:00 PM – October 15
Morning Report Meeting	7:00 PM – October 15
Auxiliary Harvest Dinner	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM – November 3
Early Bird Lunch	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM – November 10
Veterans' Day – Free Ham and Beans	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM – November 11
LaFemmes Meatloaf Dinner	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM – November 17
Thanksgiving Day Bar and Game Room Open	4:00 PM – November 28
<b>Thanksgiving Day – Mess Hall Restaurant Closed</b>	<b>All Day – November 28</b>
Morning Report Articles Due	5:00 PM – December 15
Free Egg Nog	12:00 – 5:00 PM – Bar Closes at 6:00 PM – December 24
Christmas Day – Bar and Game Room Open	4:00 PM – December 25

## A Special Thanks to Those Who Helped Post 32 During the Last Quarter

Post 32 Finance Officer Mike Walton

On July 4th, several of us came into the Post and stripped and waxed the game room and the office, and then we also repainted the back bar floor and did several cleaning and update items. So, thanks to: Lem Davis; Kevin Cartwright; Kaidon Holdman; Addison Hipsher; Mike Walton

Mike Lee and our wonderful Legion Riders, just brought in 10 \$50.00 gas cards to assist our brother and sister Veterans. So, thanks to: Mike Lee and all our Legion Riders

John Chernis and Joey Chernis. They are putting in a special cement parking area on the north side of the building where we can not only park motorcycles, but also place tents and other items. So, thanks to: John Chernis and Joey Chernis

Now all of you out there, support your Post, Unit & Squadron the same way these folks did and do. Whether it's coming in to eat, a few cocktails, playing the machines, volunteering for state fair parking or whatever.

You can also help by donating to our Vala Veteran Assistance Fund, as it is getting low due to the number of Vets we have assisted. Please continue to serve as many of us do.

## Friends of the American Legion Family and Sponsors of The Morning Report – Thank You!

American Legion Post 32, 1120 Sangamon Ave – 217-523-3415  
Mess Hall Restaurant

Lunch: Wednesday – Friday 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Dinner: Wednesday – Friday 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

[www.springfieldamericanlegion.com](http://www.springfieldamericanlegion.com) [spfldpost32@outlook.com](mailto:spfldpost32@outlook.com)

Bar & Gaming open Monday and Tuesday – 10:30 AM – 6:30 PM

Wednesday - Friday – 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM

Saturday - NOON – 10:00 PM Sunday – NOON – 4:00 PM

1120 Sangamon Avenue – 217-523-3415

Mess Hall, Bar and VIDEO GAMING – ALWAYS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



# National American Legion Leadership for the 2024-2025 Command Year

Taken from the National Websites (Modified for Space)



James A. LaCoursiere Jr. (La coursey air) was elected National Commander of The American Legion on August 29, 2024, during the 105<sup>th</sup> National Convention. National Commander LaCoursier hails from The American Legion Post 91, Department of Connecticut.

An Air Force veteran, LaCoursiere has been a long-time field representative for the American Legion Department of Connecticut's Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund, which financially assists veterans and their families in need. LaCoursiere is a member of American Legion Post 91 in Moosup, Conn. LaCoursiere is married to Lisa and has two children and three stepchildren.

As national commander, LaCoursiere is strongly committed to raising awareness for The American Legion's Be the One mission to prevent veteran suicide.

National President Trish Ward was elected to her post in August 2024. She hails from The John P. Hand Unit 250, Department of Kansas. Her eligibility is her father and grandfather, both WWII veterans. The Ward family is a proud American Legion Family that supports the mission of the Legion Family. Her husband, Steve, is NEC for the Detachment of Kansas. Trish retired from Lumen, a global IT company. She now focuses on The American Legion Family and her hobbies: parliamentary law and Robert's Rules of Order. She has BAs from the University of Southern California and the University of Kansas. Her favorite quote about The American Legion Family: "Follow your passion. It will lead to your purpose." She continues, "Serving our nation's heroes is my life's work, passion, and purpose."



Joseph Navarrete was elected as National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion in August 2024. He is a member of Otero-Garcia-Navarrete Squadron 72 in Albuquerque, N.M. His eligibility stems from his father, a Vietnam-era veteran. Joseph has endorsements from Post Legion Family and The Legion Family New Mexico. His father, Tony, is the Department and Detachment Adjutant for New Mexico. His mother, Rita, is an Auxiliary PNP. His brother, Steven, a member of Squadron 72, directs the Boys State program. A graduate of the National Management Institute and is familiar with organizational strategy. He and his wife Loretta have seven children and eight grandchildren.

**Friends of the American Legion Family and Sponsors of The Morning Report – Thank you!**



## Help A Vet in Need

Sangamon County Veteran Assistance Commission

Good Morning – Veteran Assistance is needed at the Sangamon County Veteran Assistance Commission. Mr. David Rieger, Asst Supt, attended the July 2024 American Legion Springfield Post 32 meeting and stated they need volunteers to drive our brother and sister Veterans to different locations for Medical Treatment (they supply the vehicles). If you could volunteer or if you have further questions, please contact Mr. Rieger at [david.rieger@sangamonil.gov](mailto:david.rieger@sangamonil.gov) or 217/753-6680.

For anyone (Veteran/non-Veteran), that is interested in becoming a volunteer driver to get Veterans to and from VA appointments. The direct contact for that is Andrea Hooker : [andrea.hooker@va.gov](mailto:andrea.hooker@va.gov) .

Andrea Hooker  
Voluntary Services – Transportation Coordinator  
Bob Michel VA  
7717 N Orange Prairie Rd  
Peoria, IL 61615  
309-589-6800 x37279

### Your Post 32 Service Officers

#### William “Bill” Mowder

217/607-7158

[bill.mowder@yahoo.com](mailto:bill.mowder@yahoo.com)

#### Keith Milliman

217/626-1378

[klmill@casscomm.com](mailto:klmill@casscomm.com)

Mr. Mowder will be your first contact.  
If unavailable, contact Mr. Milliman.

**Take Your Family to Dinner  
at the Post 32 Mess Hall Restaurant  
Wednesday Night Special: Meat Loaf Dinner  
Thursday Night Special: Fried Chicken Dinner  
Friday Night Special: Fried Fish Dinner  
Or, Order From the Full Menu**

## Adjutant Joshua M. Thielen

### The American Legion Department of Illinois

Joshua M. Thielen, [jthielen@illegion.org](mailto:jthielen@illegion.org) was recently appointed Adjutant, The American Legion Department of Illinois. The adjutant is the chief administrative officer of The Department.

Born in Hibbing, Minnesota in 1984, Josh and his family moved to Clinton, Illinois in 1992. Upon graduating from high school, Josh enlisted in the Army as a 92G Food Service Specialist. After Basic and AIT, he received orders to report to Fort Drum in New York. Assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, he deployed twice to Iraq. After his second tour, he re-enlisted and went to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri where he was assigned to the 463<sup>rd</sup> MP Company. During this time, he served as the driver for the 14<sup>th</sup> MP Brigade Command Sergeant Major and cooked in the NCOA Dining Facility.

Following this assignment, Josh returned to Fort Drum, this time assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team and deployed to Afghanistan for a year. In September 2013, Josh was medically discharged and returned home to Clinton, Illinois.

Josh and his wife, Christina, have been married since May 2006 and have one daughter, Jeanette. Josh' brother, Jeff, also served in the Army from 2004 – 2009 and deployed twice to Iraq. Josh and Jeff are members of Crang-Bennett American Legion Post 103 in Clinton. His wife, mom and daughter are all members of Auxiliary Unit 103. Josh and his dad are members of The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 55 in Farmer City. He is also a member of Darwin Volker AmVets Post 14 in Clinton, VFW Post 5346 in Monticello and the Clinton Ducks Unlimited.

Josh is a Past Commander of Post 103, Past 19<sup>th</sup> District Commander, Past Post Sgt. At Arms, Post and District Finance Officer and Post Service Officer. He has also served as the 19<sup>th</sup> District Chairman for Children, Technology and Americanism.

A hearty welcome to Adjutant Joshua M. Thielen!

### Friends of the American Legion Family and Sponsors of The Morning Report – Thank you!





**The American Legion Springfield Post 32**  
**1120 Sangamon Avenue**  
**Springfield, Illinois 62702-1853**  
**217-523-3415**  
[Spfldpost32@outlook.com](mailto:Spfldpost32@outlook.com)  
[www.springfieldamericanlegion.com](http://www.springfieldamericanlegion.com)

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Permit No. 18

**The Mess Hall Restaurant at Post 32**  
**Best Fried Chicken, Walleye, and whole Catfish on the North End**

**MESS HALL RESTAURANT NEW HOURS – Effective July 15, 2024**

**Lunch: Wednesday – Friday**                      **11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**  
**Dinner: Wednesday – Friday**                      **4:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**MESS HALL RESTAURANT CLOSED SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY AND TUESDAY**

**Bar-Video Gaming Hours**

**Monday & Tuesday**                      **10:30 AM – 6:30 PM\***  
**Wednesday - Friday**                      **10:30 AM – 10:00 PM\***  
**Saturday**                      **12:00 NOON – 10:00 PM\***  
**Sunday**                      **12:00 NOON – 4:00 PM\***

**\*We will stay open later for crowds and special events.**

We welcome everyone to our Video Gaming Room at your American Legion Post 32. It is considered the nicest private Gaming Room in Springfield. We have six of the most up to date gaming machines, along with our private area with very comfortable chairs.

The Gaming Room offers **free** Soft Drinks, **free** Coffee, **free** Hot Chocolate, and **free** Snacks to Gamers. You should also sign up for the **free** Give Aways offered by Prairie State Gaming. Each time you visit be sure to get your Card punched for a **free** Meal. 10 punches get you a **free** lunch or **free** “All You Can Eat” Spaghetti Dinner on Wednesday or **free** Chicken Dinner on Thursday or **free** Walleye Dinner on Friday.

**You can sign up once a day, every day that you come in for our free 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Drawing where we give away a 32” Color TV; a \$50 Gift Certificate and a \$25 Gift Certificate.**