

BIRTHDAY CAN BE A WINDOW DISPLAY

What does your community as a whole know about The American Legion?

The late 1980's and early 1990's have seen The American Legion experience rapid growth. But the growth also calls for additional commitment to share The American Legion story. And what better time to tell the story than during the Legion's 91st Birthday in March?

In March, The American Legion celebrates 93 years of service to the United States and to thousands of communities around the nation. But, while knowledgeable legionnaires are aware of their organization's purposes, other citizens might well ask, "What does The American Legion mean to me?"

Since 1919, the men and women of the Legion have dedicated themselves to doing whatever they could for those less fortunate than they. It was the Legion which saw the need for meaningful activities for the nation's youth.

Through support for the Boy Scouts, American Legion Boys' State and Boys' Nation (and parallel programs sponsored by The American Legion Auxiliary), Student Trooper Program, American Legion Baseball, and countless other localized programs, the Legion has taught the values of good sportsmanship and responsible citizenship. Many an American Legion Post has been a pacesetter in community involvement.

Once way of telling your community about The American Legion and its programs is a display (pictures, awards, scout or baseball uniforms, etc.) put in a store front window downtown or a shopping center.

(suggested news release --- 93rd Birthday)

The American Legion will observe its 93rd anniversary, March 15 - 17, and Legionnaires of -- (Community) -- are planning a gala celebration of this significant milestone, Commander -- (Full Name) -- of (Name of Post) - (Post No.) -- announced today.

Commander -- (Last Name Only) - announced the appointment of a special committee, under the chairmanship of -- (Full Name), -- to direct the local observance which will feature a -- (Type of Event, i.e., party, dinner, dance, special meeting, etc.) -- at -- (Time) , -- (Day) , -- at (Place) .

(insert here any further details concerning your Post's 93rd birthday celebration. Include the names of any special speakers, distinguished guest, highlights of the program, special recognition to be presented, etc.).

The festivities in -- (Community) -- are part of a celebration at the more than 16,000 American Legion Posts located through the United States and in many parts of the free world.

The American Legion was founded March 15-17, 1919, in Paris, France at the close of World War I. Representatives of the various units of the American Expeditionary Force of World War I were present for the first meeting. The organization now included veterans of World War II, Korean and Vietnam Wars, The Lebanon/Grenada periods, Operation Just Cause in Panama, and Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Commander -- (Last Name Only) - explained.

Commander -- (Last Name) -- extended an invitation to all eligible veterans of -- (Community) - to become Legionnaires. "The American Legion continues to concern itself with major issues facing America's veterans, as well as our fellow citizens. Of particular concern to the Legion is the well-being of families of armed service personnel serving in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. At the same time, we are also an organization deeply rooted in the fundamentals of service to the community. Our most important accomplishments occur here in -- (Community)." -- (Give brief summary of Post activities and accomplishments, including any examples of assistance rendered through response to calls to the Family Support Network.)

The American Legion, since its founding, has strived to assist veterans, their widows and children, and their fellow citizens. The organization was responsible for the creation of the GI Bill of Rights, used by millions of veterans to obtain assistance in education and home loans.

The nation's largest veterans' organization, The American Legion, fought for passage of legislation creating a Department of Veteran Affairs and for passage of the Veterans Reassurance Act, designed to correct existing inequities in veterans claim procedures.

The work of the American Legion to support the nation's youth continues to grow as more young people become involved in Legion sponsored programs. The Boy Scouts, Boys' State Program, Student Trooper Program, American Legion Baseball and the National High School Oratorical Contest are just a few examples of how The American Legion continues to strive to provide the youth of America a solid foundation on which to grow.