



Agenda
 106th Annual National Convention
 The American Legion
 August 26-28, 2025



Tampa Convention Center, East Hall (3rd floor)
 Tampa, Florida

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

8:00 a.m. **Prelude by Rick Pedro**

8:30 a.m. **Call to Order**

James A. LaCoursiere, Jr. (CT)
 National Commander

Advancement of Colors

Newport Harbor Post 291
 Newport Beach, CA

National Anthem

Scotty Hasting; Country Music Artist and
 Army Veteran, along with Nancy Hays

Invocation

Daniel Depozo (NV)
 National Chaplain

Pledge of Allegiance

Everett G. Shepard III (CT)
 National Sergeant-at-Arms

POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony

By: James E. Grenier, Jr. (VA), Chairman,
 National Security Commission
 Michael Landkamer (NE), Chairman
 Foreign Relations Committee

Preamble to Constitution

James A. LaCoursiere, Jr. (CT)
 National Commander

8:45 a.m. **Opening Ceremony**

Master of Ceremonies

Scotty Hasting, Purple Heart Recipient
 and Country Music Artist

Musical Selection

Scotty Hasting, Purple Heart Recipient
 and Country Music Artist

The American Legion Youth Champions

Tristin Pecevich, Quincy, MA
 2024 ALB All-Academic Team Captain

Oliver Burke, Dallas, TX
 2025 Eagle Scout of the Year

Gina Harjani, Gatlinburg, TN
 2025 National Oratorical Contest Winner

Bethany Shirley, Monroe, GA
 2025 Jr. Shooting Sports Sporter
 Champion

Luke Lawson, Headland, AL
 2025 Boys Nation President

Spirit of Service Awards

By: James A. LaCoursiere, Jr. (CT)
 National Commander

LTG Joseph Ryan
 Deputy Chief of Staff, U. S. Army

Dwight Birdwell
 Medal of Honor recipient

To: SPC Willie J. Robling
 United States Army

HM2 Alexander B. Craig
 United States Navy

Cpl Jessica Nagel
 United States Marine Corps

MST3 James Saelee
 United States Coast Guard

SSgt Lindsey Neubauer
 Air National Guard

SSgt Cheyann T. Smith
 United States Air Force

Sgt Melvin R. Smith II
 United States Space Force

9:45 a.m. **Distinguished Service Medal**

To: United States Army
 Accepting: LTG Joseph Ryan, Deputy
 Chief of Staff, United States Army

9:55 a.m. **Address**

LTG Joseph Ryan, Deputy Chief of Staff
 United States Army

10:15 a.m.	Address Dwight Birdwell Medal of Honor Recipient		The Honorable Laurel Lee United States House of Representatives
10:35 a.m.	Distinguished Service Medal To: United States Marine Corps Accepting: MajGen Joseph Clearfield, Deputy Commander of MARCENT, USMC		The Honorable Jane Castor Mayor of the City of Tampa (video greetings) MajGen James S. Hartsell, USMC (Ret.), Executive Director, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs
10:45 a.m.	Welcome The Honorable Ashley Moody United States Senate		Stephen C. Hamrick 2024-25-Florida Dept Commander
10:50 a.m.	Greetings Trish Ward (KS), National President American Legion Auxiliary		Clarence Hill, President National Convention Corp. of Florida
10:55 a.m.	Distinguished Service Medal To: United States Navy Accepting: Vice Admiral Nancy S. Lacore Chief of Navy Reserve, USN	1:25 p.m.	Greetings MajGen Bob LaBrutta, USAF (Ret.), Vice President Survivorship, USAA COL Tim Sheppard, USA (Ret), President National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs
11:00 a.m.	Greetings Joseph Navarrete (NM), Past National Comdr, Sons of The American Legion		Caroline Carney, MD, President and CMO, Magellan Health
11:05 a.m.	Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Remembrance: Video Presentation	1:55 p.m.	Natl. Commander's Report to Convention James A. LaCoursiere, Jr. (CT) National Commander
11:10 a.m.	Past National Commander William M. Detweiler Excellence Award		
11:15 a.m.	Presentation To: James A. LaCoursiere, Jr. (CT) National Commander By: The American Legion Riders Additional Donations to Legacy Fund Collection of Donations to Veterans & Children Foundation	2:10 p.m.	Celebration/Remembrance of Miles S. Epling (WV), Past National Commander (1989-90) Eulogy: Daniel A. Ludwig (MN), PNC
11:50 a.m.	Greetings Chin-Kung Chen, Vice Minister Veterans Affairs Council, Rep. of China Al Dunham, Dominion President Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada Michael J. Elston, President General Natl. Society of Sons of American Revolution Jared S. Lyon, President and CEO Student Veterans of America	2:15 p.m.	Call for Convention Rodney K. Rolland (GA) National Adjutant
		2:20 p.m.	Report of Credentials & Rules
		2:30 p.m.	Report of Finance Collection of Donations to American Legion Charities Collection of Donations to National Emergency Fund Collection of Donations to Operation Comfort Warriors
12:25 p.m.	Welcome The Honorable Rick Scott United States Senate (video greetings) The Honorable Kathy Castor United States House of Representatives	2:50 p.m.	Announcements
		2:55 p.m.	Salute to Colors Recess Times of subsequent sessions and conv cmte reports subject to change by chair.

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

- 8:00 a.m. **Prelude by Rick Pedro**
- 8:30 a.m. **Call to Order**
James A. LaCoursiere, Jr. (CT)
National Commander
- Salute to Colors**
- Invocation**
Daniel Depozo (NV)
National Chaplain
- Pledge of Allegiance**
Everett G. Shepard III (CT)
National Sergeant-at-Arms
- 8:35 a.m. **Certificate of Appreciation**
To: Daniel Depozo (NV)
National Chaplain
- 8:40 a.m. **Report of Americanism**
Garland Murphy Award
U. S. Grant Legacy Award
CWF Meritorious Achievement Award
CWF Excellence Award
CWF presentation to Natl. Comdr.
- Collection of Donations to the American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation**
- 9:10 a.m. **Address**
Rosie Rios, Chair
America Semiquincentennial Commission
- 9:25 a.m. **Patriot Award**
CW5 Phyllis J. Wilson, USA Ret.
President, Military Women's Memorial
- 9:30 a.m. **Address**
CW5 Phyllis J. Wilson, USA Ret.
President, Military Women's Memorial
- 9:45 a.m. **Address**
Robert Edsel
Author, "The Monuments Men"
Monuments Men and Women
Foundation
- 10:10 a.m. **Address**
The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard
Director of National Intelligence
- 10:30 a.m. **Address**
The Honorable Douglas A. Collins
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- 10:50 a.m. **Presentation**
Phil Knutsen, Founder and CEO
Founding Fathers Brewery
- 10:55 a.m. **Address**
George S. Leone, President and Chair
Homecoming 250 Navy Marine Corps
- 11:15 a.m. **Report of Legislation**
- 11:30 a.m. **Plaque to the City of New Orleans for the 2024 National Convention**
By: Daniel J. Seehafer (WI)
Past National Commander
To: Herbert J. Petit, Jr., President
Natl. Conv. Corp. of Louisiana
- 11:35 a.m. **2025 Natl. Law Enforcement Officer of Year**
To: Sergeant Shane Maloley
Beatrice Police Department
Beatrice, NE
- 2025 Natl. Firefighter of Year**
To: Captain Jason Harmsen
Clayton County Fire & Emergency
Svcs., Sharpsburg, GA
- 11:50 a.m. **Report of National Security**
- 12:35 p.m. **Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion**
To: Natl. Comdr. James LaCoursiere, Jr. (CT)
National Vice Commanders
Gary B. Leach (CA)
James C. Kellogg (MN)
Charles K. Robbins (NJ)
Joseph A. Lysaght (SC)
Roger P. Mathison (WI)
National Chaplain Daniel Depozo (NV)
By: Capt. Louis A. Cavaliere, USN (Ret.)
Chapel of Four Chaplains Bd of Dirs
- 12:45 p.m. **Employer of Year Award for Hiring Veterans**
LARGE CATEGORY
To: J. B. Hunt Transport Services, Inc.
Massachusetts

**Disabled Veterans Outreach
Program Specialist of The Year Award**
To: Maria Lindsey
San Antonio, Texas

10:10 a.m. **1919 Society Inductees**
Denise Rohan (WI), Past National
Commander and Chair, Veterans &
Children's Foundation Steering Cmte

12:55 p.m. **Report of Vets Employment & Education**

10:25 a.m. **Presentations**

1:25 p.m. **Department Membership Awards**

10:45 a.m. **Presentation of Plaque and Colors to
Outgoing National Commander**

2:25 p.m. **Report of Internal Affairs**

By: David K. Rehbein-PNC, IA (COLORS)
By: Daniel M. Dellinger-PNC, VA (PLAQUE)

2:40 p.m. **Report of Constitutional Amendments**

12:00 noon (or at the conclusion of all other business,
whichever first occurs)

2:55 p.m. **Announcements**

3:00 p.m. **Salute to Colors
Recess**

Special Order of Business

Times of subsequent sessions and conv
cmte reports subject to change by chair.

Election of National Officers
National Commander

Thursday, August 28, 2025

**Administering the Oath of Office to the
National Commander**

8:00 a.m. **Prelude by Rick Pedro**

**Acceptance Speech by Newly Elected
National Commander**

8:30 a.m. **Call to Order**
James LaCoursiere (CT)
National Commander

Election of National Officers
Five National Vice Commanders

Salute to Colors

**Installation of National Vice
Commanders**

Invocation
Daniel Depozo (NV)
National Chaplain

**Presentation of Colors to Newly Elected
National Commander**

Pledge of Allegiance
Everett G. Shepard III (CT)
National Sergeant-at-Arms

**Response by Newly Elected Natl
Commander**

8:35 a.m. **The American Legion Fourth Estate Award**
BROADCAST CATEGORY
To: KXAN-TV
Austin, Texas
PRINT CATEGORY
To: The Courier Journal
Louisville, Kentucky

**Presentation, Newly Elected National
President of American Legion Auxiliary**

**Presentation, Newly Elected National
Comdr, Sons of The American Legion**

9:10 a.m. **Report of Veterans Affairs &
Rehabilitation**
Announcement of Winning Department -
William F. Lenker Natl Service Trophy

Unfinished Business

Announcements

**Benediction
Retirement of Colors
Adjourn**

NOTE: The NEC will meet within 24 hours
after close of the convention