

From the One Generation to the Next Generation – the American Legion continues to advocate for our military, for our veterans and for a strong America. Since 1919, the American Legion has fought for each generation through the four pillars of service. American Legion Petaluma Four Pillars Service are the guide that defines what we focus our energy and service upon.

Pillar 1 - Taking Care of Veterans

American Legion Petaluma Veterans Service Officer answer questions and provide help in securing your veterans' benefits. You are never alone. Call our post and get connected to our Veterans Service Officer – call: (707) 347-9085

Pillar 2 - Strong National Security

A military that is properly funded, staffed and equipped to defend our nation against a growing number of global threats, including cyber attack

Pillar 3 - Americanism

The Legion has been a stalwart champion of patriotic values, morals, culture and citizenship. The Legion's pillar of Americanism embodies law-abiding citizenship, and respectful observance of patriotic holidays and remembrances

Pillar 4 - Children & Youth

The American Legion strongly supports traditional family values, assistance for at-risk children, and activities that promote their healthy and wholesome development

American Legion Petaluma Four Pillars 1 – Taking Care of Veterans



American Legion Petaluma Four Pillars - Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation is composed of programs, services and advocacy efforts that improve the lives of those who served, along with their families and dependents. The Legion lobbies Congress for a well-funded, appropriately staffed VA that can handle benefits claims efficiently, quickly and accurately.

Locally, Legion volunteers work individually with veterans to help them navigate the complicated benefits application process. You can set up an appointment with the Petaluma Post 28 Veterans Service Office by calling (707) 347-9085 or sending an email to: post28@americanlegionpetaluma.org requesting an appointment with our veterans Service Officer.

As the VA backlog continues, The American Legion is leading a national conversation about accountability to veterans and reforms aimed at veterans receiving timely appointments and the benefits they earned throughout their service.

The Legion conducts System Worth Saving visits to VA centers across the country. These monthly visits include a thorough assessment of the facility, and discussions with patients and staff at VA. This information is

then compiled and published in a report.

The American Legion also works one-on-one with veterans to ensure they receive proper benefits. Accredited American Legion service officers are specially trained to provide expert assistance, free of charge, to veterans and their families.

The majority of service officer work involves claims for VA disability benefits, but these compassionate professionals also provide information, referrals and resources on education, employment and business, death benefits and other topics.

Go To for more information - [Your VA benefits Simplified](#)

EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS

The American Legion conducts, promotes and supports hundreds of veteran career events nationwide each year. Thousands of veterans land jobs because of these efforts.

The Legion helps place hundreds of other veterans in job-training programs every year. Working veteran-to-veteran with The American Legion Small Business Task Force, along with the Small Business Administration, Department of Labor, VA and corporate associates, the Legion helps veterans understand the federal contracting process and offers personal guidance for career-seeking veterans.

VETERANS EDUCATION AND THE GI BILL

The American Legion was instrumental in the creation of the modern Post-9/11 GI Bill, providing veterans with education benefits that better meet today's needs. Following its passage, the Legion has continued to fight for even more improvements to the benefit, making it more helpful to

National Guardsmen, reservists and those pursuing online education.

VA VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Legionnaires collectively donate around 1 million hours of service a year at veterans health-care facilities, working through the VA Volunteer Services program. These volunteer hours save the federal government at least \$18.5 million a year and connect Legionnaires with veteran patients and their families.

American Legion Petaluma Four Pillars 2 - Strong National Security



American Legion Petaluma Four Pillars position on national defense, homeland security, border control and military support are all part of the

long-held Legion value that the key to peace and world stability is a strong, well-resourced defense.

In order to protect America, troops and their families must have support. The American Legion plays a vital role in supporting the men and women who risk their lives to protect our freedoms.

American Legion posts throughout the nation:

Adopt military units

Deliver care package

Provide emotional support for families of deployed service-members

Welcome deployed troops home

Specific examples of these efforts include – Arranging transportation to reunite soldiers with their families for the holidays and Organizing fundraisers to buy phone cards for use in combat zones.

Such assistance doesn't end when service-members return home. At U.S. military installations across the country, including Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland, Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas, and Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, WA,

Legion staff members help troops work through the medical discharge process and provide representation before medical examination boards to reconcile disability ratings.

Military Quality of Life

The Legion's support of the U.S. military "from adequate funding for weapons systems to reasonable child-care services for deployed troops" is respected in the Pentagon, at the White House and on Capitol Hill.

Support for Tricare

The U.S. military's health-care system and medical insurance program frequently face challenges in Washington. The American Legion persistently testifies on the need to keep Tricare and Tricare For Life viable and affordable benefits of military service.

Disaster Preparedness

The American Legion works with the Department of Homeland Security at the national, state and local levels to prepare for natural disasters. In many communities, American Legion posts serve as civil-defense shelters and havens of relief in the event of catastrophe or attack on U.S. soil. The Legion and DHS collaborate to help posts prepare their communities.

Foreign Relations

The American Legion maintains a strong working relationship with the State Department to promote peace, human rights and trade on a global scale. The Legion urges the president and Congress to continue pursuing the "smart power" strategy of using military and economic strength in tandem with foreign aid and human-rights negotiations to fulfill U.S. foreign policy.

Full Accounting of POW/MIAs

The American Legion maintains unwavering support for the full accounting of all U.S. military personnel taken as prisoners of war, missing or killed in action on foreign soil. Official meetings of the Legion start with a prayer to honor our nation's POWs. POW/MIA flags, patches and pins are displayed at Legion events to demonstrate the organization's eternal vigilance

American Legion Petaluma Four Pillars 3 - Americanism



American Legion Petaluma Four Pillars is about making a difference in our local communities, within each state, and America as a whole. From Legion Baseball to Boys & Girls State / Boys & Girls Nation to Legion Riders, there are plenty of opportunities to make your mark within Americanism.

Boys & Girls STATE / NATION

Young men and women throughout the country learn firsthand how government works during American Legion State and Nation. From each Boys and Girls State program, two delegates are selected to attend Boys and Girls Nation in Washington, D.C., where they form a mock federal Senate and meet with top officials in the nation's capital.

Education Assistance

At the national, state and local levels, The American Legion provides

access to dozens of scholarships and education programs.

Legacy Scholarship

Opportunities to attend college should not be out of reach for children left behind because a parent died on active duty. This is why The American Legion established The American Legion Legacy Scholarship, which provides funds for the children of military personnel who lost their lives on duty on or after 9/11.

Legion Riders

The Legion Riders, with more than 1,500 chapters, have helped raise more than \$10 million for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. The Riders also perform a number of services for Legion-supported causes and provide support at military funerals.

Other Program

American Legion Baseball
Junior Shooting Sports
Oratorical Competition
Boy Scouts of America
ROTC
Flag Education Program
Operation Comfort Warriors
School Award Medal Program
Youth Cadet Law Enforcement

American Legion Petaluma Four Pillars 4 – Children & Youth



American Legion Petaluma Four Pillars Children & Youth are guided by three main objectives:

Strengthen the family unit

Support organizations that help children in need

Provide communities with well-rounded programs to provide hope and opportunity for young people facing difficult challenges.

One program within this pillar is [Temporary Financial Assistance \(TFA\)](#).

This program provides funds to veterans and military service-members' families who are struggling and have minor children at home.

For example, when health problems forced a Vietnam War veteran and his wife to quit their jobs, they still had to care for their five children at home. A local American Legion post in California state raised funds to help out and provided money through Temporary Financial Assistance. After a fire at an apartment complex in New Hampshire left the families of five active-duty service-members' homeless, The American Legion stepped in with \$500 in TFA funds for each family. The American Legion provides temporary cash grants to hundreds of families in need each year. Posts make requests for funds from the TFA program, which annually distributes more than \$500,000 to help families.

Family Support Network

Established during Operation Desert Storm, this program connects American Legion members with families struggling at home when loved ones are called to military duty. The program takes many shapes. Legion volunteers provide child-care services, yard work, car repairs or other forms of personal help. A dedicated hotline - **800-504-4098** - is available for families looking for assistance.

Child Welfare Foundation

Nonprofit organizations that reach out to help young people in need are supported through American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants. The foundation provides grants to enhance communications for groups that tackle problems ranging from childhood neglect to substance abuse.

Child Welfare Foundation [Learn More...](#)

Social Issues

The American Legion opposes attempts to weaken U.S. laws governing the production and distribution of pornographic materials and takes a zero-tolerance stance on sexual exploitation of children. The Legion also works with local programs, law-enforcement officials and schools to prevent substance abuse among young people in their communities. Other issues of Legion concern include Halloween safety, suicide prevention, support for children of deployed troops, and control over excessive use of violence in the entertainment media.

Children and Youth Programs [Learn More...](#)

Free Children and Youth Resources [Learn More...](#)

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