



Knoxville, Tennessee

May 2026

Chartered in 1919

The American Legion Post 2

Legionnaires – We start May off with one of my favorite events of the year...the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association's annual Medal of Honor Evening. Post 2 is pleased to support this event each year and as a result, the May Post meeting is always rescheduled for the first TUESDAY of May to allow Post members to attend and also serve as volunteers.

This is also election night for the upcoming year- and as always, all positions are available- so please consider stepping up to serve the Post. I hope to see many of you at the Red Cross. There will be no meal served at the meeting, but coffee and sweet treats will be available and members are encouraged to bring a brown bag supper. Doors open at 6pm with the business meeting beginning at 7pm.

Memorial Day weekend is just around the corner and we will need volunteers to help place flags at John Sever State Veterans Cemetary. on Saturday May 23rd. The Post is again supporting the ETVMA Reading of the Names Ceremony, at the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial beginning at sunrise. This is followed by Legion's Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday May 25th. I encourage you to attend and bring your family.

MAY POST MEETING

***Tuesday* May 5**

Knoxville American Red Cross Building
6921 Middlebrook Pike

Election Night

All Legionnaires are encouraged to attend this meeting

Doors open at 6pm with business meeting beginning at 7pm.
There will be no meal served, however, coffee and sweet treats will be provided.

legionknox.com

Commander@legionknox.com

865-313-0964

More than a Century of Service

1919-2024

Congratulations to Logan Henderson on being named the Department of Tennessee's 2026 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year!. Logan's achievement is a great example of what Post 2 can do when we come together to support our community. We're here to serve our veterans, while also helping create opportunities for our youth and children to grow, lead, and succeed.. We're also working to make our Post a place where veterans feel at home—a spot to connect, relax, and enjoy being part of something meaningful.

We are equally committed to making our Post a welcoming place—a true home—for veterans to gather, connect, and feel a strong sense of belonging among all the Post 2 family members - Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Riders, and SAL.

Membership is the heart of our Post, and with your continued support, I look forward to growing And, as always, if you have any comments, questions,, or concerns, please feel free to contact me at at 865-742-6170 or by email at commanderlegionknox.com

Mike Testerman

Slate of Candidates for Election on Tuesday

Position	Current	Nominated
Commander	Mike Testerman	Mike Testerman
1st Vice	Steven Patrick	Steven Patrick
2nd Vice	Kim DiDomenico	Kim DiDomenico
3rd Vice	Chris Richardson	Chris Richardson
Adjutant	Norita Cruz	Norita Cruz
Asst Adjutant	Kim DiDomenico	Kim DiDomenico
Finance Officer	Marty Everett	Marty Everett
Service Officer	Rod Myers	Rod Myers
Chaplain	Steve Sword	Steve Sword
Sgt at Arms	Rod Myers	Rod Myers
Historian	Sean Deil	John Jefferies
Judge Advocate	Ken Irvine	Ken Irvine

May 2026 Calendar of Events

All events are held at the Red Cross Building unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday, May 5

May Post Meeting - doors open at 6pm, with meeting beginning at 7pm.

Wednesday, May 20

Run For the Wall luncheon at East Tennessee Veterans Memorial

Thursday, May 21

American Legion Riders monthly meeting begins at 6:30, followed by SAL at 7:30 at Knoxville Harley Davidson, 5810 Clinton Hwy.

Saturday, May 23

Flag Placement at John Sevier State Veterans Cemetery beginning at 8:30am

Monday May 25 MEMORIAL DAY

ETVMA Reading of the Names begins at sunrise, followed by Post 2 Annual Memorial Day Ceremony at 11:45am

Tuesday, May 26

Post Executive Committee meeting begins at 6:30pm

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Post 2 Chaplain Steve Sword

I first met Joshua Robinson when his mind and life were in turmoil. He was confused about who he was and even the nature of reality.

Unfortunately, like many individuals suffering from similar ailments, Josh found himself locked up with individuals who struggled with making good moral decisions rather than suffering from mental health issues. Other inmates would laugh and mock Josh when his mind led him down roads of fanciful thinking. To them, Josh was an object of derision. To those who knew Josh before he was struck with mental illness, he was a hero.

Specialist Joshua Robinson served two tours of duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom. At one point, he was recognized for valor after an IED attack. While he was tending to his wounded comrades, he noticed the locals fleeing the area. He notified his commander of this observation just as the second IED exploded. Josh, once again, leaped into action, rendering aid to the wounded.

None of us knows exactly what Josh experienced during his time in the military, or how it contributed to his later mental breakdown. Many of those who loved him saw his post-service struggles. There were efforts made at treatment. But as is all too common, the resources for help were few. This led Josh to spend more time in the local jail than in VA treatment facilities.

When I last saw him, things had seemingly improved. He was living on his own, participating in counseling, and receiving medication. I wish the story ended there. I had no contact with Josh for over a year after I accepted a new position. My heart broke when I received the message two weeks ago that Josh had died. Like far too many of our veterans, Josh took his own life to put an end to his suffering.

As I have thought about what the system could have done differently, my mind keeps asking the question, what could I have done differently? I have concluded that the real question that matters is what I can do differently today.

Josh loved to save lives. To honor him and many others like him, we must each ask ourselves when we encounter someone who appears to be suffering, "How can I help?" Is there anything I can do or say to lift this person up for a moment, to render aid, or to lead them to places of healing?

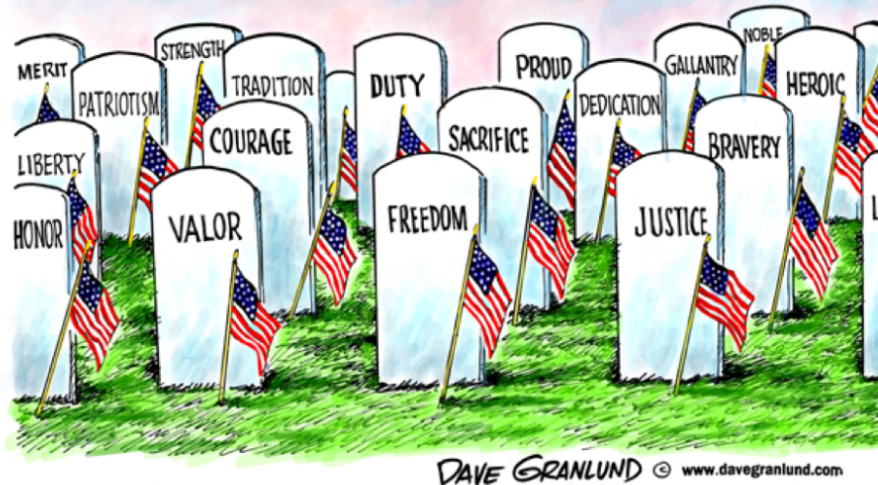
In other words, how can I love those around me the way Josh loved those around him? If we do that enough, the world will be a better place, especially for our veterans.

Annual Reading of the Names

Monday, May 25th

East Tennessee Veterans Memorial at Word's Fair Park

Remember their names...



Beginning at sunrise on Monday, May 25th

Volunteer readers are needed to read aloud each of the 6,300+ names engraved on the granite columns of the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial. More than one hundred readers are needed, with each volunteer reading approximately 60 names. Names are read chronologically, by conflict and county.

Families welcome!

At the conclusion of the Reading of the Names Ceremony, the three newly engraved names will be dedicated, followed by the annual Memorial Day Service organized by American Legion Post 2.



No need to pre register - simply arrive at the Memorial and check in at volunteer table

THIS IS A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Roy O'Neill, ALR Director



ALR Members are enjoying the warmer weather and the most recent Sunday fun run took them to Butterbean & Pilkey's Restaurant in Decatur, Tennessee.

The next Legion Riders meeting will be on May 1 21st, at Knoxville Harley Davidson, located at 5810 Clinton Highway beginning at 6:30pm.



Sons of the American Legion Post 2 - Knoxville TN

Annual Golf Tournament

July 25, 2026 - 1:30 PM Shotgun

Three Ridges GC

6101 Wise Springs Rd., Knoxville, TN 37918

All Proceeds Benefit Various Youth Organizations

Four Player Scramble - \$75 per Player

Cash Prizes - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place

Along With Lots of Door Prizes

Also Selling Hotdogs and Hamburgers

*More Information
and Registration
Contact*

Dan Chipman 865-719-1207
chipmanvttmn@gmail.com



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Bob Vergith, Squadron Commander

2025 SAL Officers

Bob Vergith
Commander

Shane Shaffer
Vice Commander

Steve Kyriazes
Adjutant

Lloyd Pitney
Treasurer

The SAL continues to recruit hole sponsors and door prizes for their annual golf tournament scheduled for July 25th.

If you are interested in sponsoring a hole, or would like to register a team, please contact Bob Vergith, or Dan Chipman.