



# *The AMVETS Informer*

**January**  
**2020**

**WEBSITE** [Home - AMVETS Dept of MA](#)

**E-MAIL** [amvetsma@verizon.net](mailto:amvetsma@verizon.net)



## **STATE COMMANDER CAROLINE J. KENYON:**

This is what is going on for January. I've asked Stephen Garner State Adjutant to move the Cdr Staff meeting up by 1 week. It's now on 1/8/20 at 7:30 p.m. Natick. I need ALL officers to attend as something came up on the Post level that needs attention.

Finance meeting will be held on same date at 7:00p.m. 1/19/20 is the SEC in Haverhill. On 1/22/20 is the Passion Plunge meeting in Natick. We might have 1 more meeting prior to the plunge which is 2/8/20. We will also have the Website meeting on 1/22/20 in Natick. On 1/24/26 is National District I Smithfield, RI. I will attend round table on 1/25 and the District I meeting on 1/26 Later on that day I will attend my local District III meeting held at my own Post 74 Three Rivers.

I hope everyone in the AMVETS Family had a safe and enjoyable New Year. In 2020 changes will be made from the government on down. Good or bad let's see what will happen in the upcoming months. I know it's still winter. So keep thinking warm thoughts. Spring is coming just not soon enough!  
Caroline J. Kenyon – State Commander

## **1st VICE COMMANDER ARTY MARCHETTA:**

Greetings AMVETS I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year. As we step into 2020 and a new decade may we continue to serve and support all Veterans and their families with care, compassion and the kindness we have always shown. December is the month when we remember the sacrifices made at Pearl Harbor. I was honored to attend ceremonies in Randolph and Natick two communities where the citizens will never forget. I would like to mention the 383<sup>rd</sup> birthday of the Massachusetts

Army National Guard held at the State House.

Presiding over the Commissioning and Awards Ceremonies were Gov. Charlie Baker and The Adjutant General of MA National Guard Major General Gary W. Keefe.

The first Militia was organized on December 13<sup>th</sup> right here in Salem MA. Later becoming the National Guard they have fought in all the nation's major wars continuing today in the War on Terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan. What Major General Gary Keefe said really resonated in me about the hardships taken on by these citizen soldiers. Multiple deployments, family separation, having to leave their civilian jobs, being called for emergencies here at home, and the wide range of tasks they have taken on. These citizen soldiers and airman and all that keep us safe have my utmost respect and support.

Another membership mailing will be sent out by National this month, please reach out to members that have not renewed. Get your active members involved reaching out to other members of your communities that are also veterans whom are eligible to join AMVETS. Let's get our name out there.

Web Committee is now in the planning stages and discussions on ideas are starting to formulate and come together. SEC will be Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> Post Haverhill 1:00 p.m. Once again I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Yours in AMVETS

Arty Marchetta – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

## **2<sup>nd</sup> VICE COMMANDER**

**WAYNE ANTHONY:**

***No Report Submitted – Month #1***

## **3<sup>rd</sup> VICE COMMANDER**

**TIMOTHY J. EATON:**

***No Report Submitted – Month #1***

**STATE ADJUTANT  
STEPHEN J. GARNER:**

Fellow AMVETS,

Hope everyone had a joyous Christmas and enjoyed the merriment of ushering in another New Year in 2020.

I wish to recognize and commend Post's 51, 60, 96, 208, 333 and 1980 for faithfully supporting this newsletter and for informing all AMVETS of their hard work and dedication in support of veterans and their communities. It is my sincere hope other Posts will follow their lead and start by sharing their own news with all their fellow AMVETS.

***Special Olympics Committee***

Wed. 22 Jan. 2020 7:00 p.m. Post 79 Natick

Chair: Wayne Anthony

***State Website Committee***

Wednesday, 22 Jan. 2020 7:30 p.m. Post 79 Natick

Chair: Stephen Garner

***State Service Foundation*** Thur. 19 Dec. 2019

7:00 p.m. Post 79 Natick Chair: Don McLean

***State Commander Staff Call***

Wed. 8 Jan. 2020 7:30 p.m. Post 79 Natick

Chair: Caroline Kenyon

***State Finance Committee***

Wed. 8 Jan. 2020 7:00 p.m. Post 79 Natick

Chair: Tom Davitt

***2020 State Convention Pin Contest***

Designs for 76<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention need to be sent to into Dept. of MA NLT: 15 Feb. 2020.

Pin design must have either Dept of MA or 76<sup>th</sup> Convention on it. Pin size is 1-1/4" to 1-1/2". Pin shapes may be in form of round, square, oval, rectangle, a symbol or outline of State, etc. Winner will be selected by Convention Corp. at Feb. 2020 meeting. **National Convention Entry Rules for August Convention 2020 are pin must contain AMVETS emblem. NEC Rep will bring winner's pin to Annual National Convention and submit it.**

It time to start work on the 76<sup>th</sup> State Convention Book ads. Costs are \$150 Frt Cover, \$125 inside cover, \$100 full page, \$60 half page and \$35 third page. This year we are going to expand our ads by with a flyer for corporations and local business to make a tax free donation to purchase an ad to show their support for veteran and want our business. More to come on this next month.

Special recognition and a thank you to Post 208 Hudson for making copies of this monthly newsletter and placing them in their social quarters for members to read.

**PROVOST MARSHAL  
BILL O'CONNELL:**

***No Report Submitted – Month #1***

**JUDGE ADVOCATE**

**JOE DINEEN:**

Thanks to all Post's that submitted their update C&BL's. For Posts that have not done theirs yet PLEASE get them done so Committee can review them. I hope everyone had a Great Christmas and a Happy, Safe New Year. On a personal note my wife and I went to visit Jessica and she's about the same; she smiled and laughed with us. Please keep her in your prayers. I would like to thank the Department Officers and Janice for great job they are all doing.

**STATE SERVICE OFFICER**

**DON McLEAN:**

Hello AMVETS family,

It is time for you all to design the pin for 2020 State and National Conventions. Theme this year is the "Spirit of 76".

Pin size should be 1-1/4" to 1-1/2" Shape may be round, square, oval, helmet, dog tag, outline of Massachusetts, etc. Your design in color MUST be submitted by February 15, 2020. Any design received after this date shall be placed on file for following year.

Convention Corp. shall select a winner from those submitted. Mail to:

Dept of MA Convention Corp

State House Room 546-3

Boston, MA 02133-2972

or

Don McLean

5 Brom Dutcher Rd

Buzzards Bay, MA 02532

Thank you.

**FINANCE OFFICER**

**TOM DAVIT:**

***No Report Submitted – Month #1***

**NEC REP**

**JIM PEACEY:**

Greetings AMVETS,

With the holidays over and winter set in I hope this finds you all well and healthy. Let's all make sure we check in with those that cannot get out.

I attended NEC in Dec. along with Commander. One of the biggest points that emerged was Rolling To Remember event coming up next Memorial Day. AMVETS along with Riders from National is hoping for a great turnout. Event details along with ways one can volunteer at the event or along the way can be found on the National website. I know there is talk of riders from Post 12 Chicopee going, if interested, let me know and I can try to line you up for discussion. AMVETS partnership with Lowe's is going strong. Stop at their help counter to sign up and get your veteran discount.

You do need some form of ID with you. for the first sign up, then you just have to give them your phone number. Our joint ventures with JUUL have been put on hold as the country tries to decide if vaping is good for us or not.

National District I will be holding its winter meeting end of Jan. in Rhode Island. They started a district face book page [www.amvetsdistrict1.org](http://www.amvetsdistrict1.org). District meeting info is listed there. District has started a fundraiser raffle, tickets are \$20 and most state officers will have them available after SEC.

Yours in AMVETS,  
Jim Peacey, NEC

#### **ALT NEC REP**

**JOHN PASIERBIAK:**

*No Report submitted - Month #2*

#### **CONVENTION CORP.**

**JIM PEACEY:**

*No Report submitted - Month #1*

#### **CHAPLAIN REPORT**

**ROBERT O'CONNELL:**

Greetings AMVETS Family,  
I hope everyone had a great Christmas-Hanukkah and a very happy New Year. My heart and prayers go out to the Britton and Rowbotham families for our loss of PDC Walter "Scotty" Rowbotham. It is so vital every 1<sup>st</sup> Vice commander gets their Deceased Members Form filled out and into Janice so we can insure that NO ONE gets forgotten.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all."

Revelation 22-21

Yours in AMVETS,

State Chaplain Robert T. O'Connell Jr.

#### **SICK CALL**

PDC James M. Wiley of Post 95 Millis - recovering from heart stent surgery at home address is 28 Country Side Road Bellingham, MA 02019 (508) 657-1173.

PDC Tom Davitt's mother is ill please keep her in your prayers.

#### **TAPS**

PDC Walter "Scotty" Rowbotham 89, on Dec. 30 2019 Marlborough, MA. US Army veteran of the Korean War serving from 1952-1954 and husband of Michelle Britton Ladies Auxiliary. Scotty was a charter member of AMVETS Post 1980 Marlborough and he served as commander. He also served as District 5 Commander, State Commander for Department of Massachusetts and was a key influence in establishing the Sons of AMVETS in the State of Massachusetts. He was honored with several awards throughout the years to include City of

Marlboro Veteran of the Year, Special Commander Award winner, AMVET of the Year, and the AMVET Lifetime Achievement Award.

#### **DECEASED MEMBERS AMVETS of FAMILY**

None reported.

#### **STATE LADIES AUXILIARY PRESIDENT SHARON JOHNSON:**

*No Report submitted - Month #2.*

#### **STATE SONS COMMANDER**

**JIM JONES:**

Greetings,

In Dec. traveled out of state to upstate New York to visit family so this month is One of Progress. 11/24/19 I attended the Pearl Harbor Day Breakfast and Ceremonies at Post 51 Randolph.

#### **DISTRICT COMMANDERS:**

**District 3 Hampden**—Commander Ed Wyzik

11/23/19 2577 held Bingo with snacks at Leeds Soldiers home and we served 50.

12/14/19 attended the State Commanders Christmas party at Post 74 Three Rivers. All presents were donated to Shriners in Springfield.

12/18/19 Attended with State Commander at Shriners Hospital in Springfield to drop off toys donated at her Christmas party.

12/18/19 I was on a board of review for Eagle Scouts in Ware

12/20/19 2577 Bingo and Snacks Holyoke Soldiers Home 6:00 p.m. we had \$145 of snacks, \$200 in cash prizes and \$600 in gifts. State Commander Caroline attended with us we us we served 50

2/8/20 Eagle Scouts honor 1:00 pm

**District 5 Middlesex**—Commander Bob O'Connell

A very Happy New Year to all. District 5 Bingo and gift cards at Bedford on Sun. January 26, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Post 208 Ladies Auxiliary has meat-shoots coming up in January 2020.

All the posts in District 5 really need your support. Please check with your local Post for their upcoming events.

If you are involved in District 5 Post you can contact me at 508-308-2251 so I can help promote your activities.

Bingo/Gift Cards Sun. 26 Jan. 2020.

**District 6 Norfolk**—Commander Bill O'Connell

*No Report Submitted Month #1*

**District 8 Essex**—Commander Gerard Marchand

VAMC Manchester held Christmas Party on 20 Dec. Pizza and cash cards for all. ROTC from Salem NH amended and performed Drill & Ceremony for all in attendance.

### **District 9 Bristol–Commander Chuck Gregory**

Paid a visit to Post 70 Falmouth and location of the property is ideal and so is the building and surroundings. There was a wedding there at the time and I was greeted by a host of members in the lower level social quarters area. All is well in Falmouth, as it should be anywhere on the Cape. Spoke with Post 72 Somerset Commander Wayne Pimental and we will be discussing area issues in the very near future.

Post 60 Fall River is flowing along with an excellent staff, active membership and growing financial security. Looking forward to seeing all Posts in District 9 over the next few months.

### **VAVS ACTIVITIES**

**Bedford** – Richard Burnell

Bingo/Coffee/Donuts Sat 11 Jan. 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

**Brockton** – Bill O’Connell

*No Report Submitted Month #1.*

**Jamaica Plain** – Tom Davitt

Holiday Bingo Party is scheduled for Tue. 28 Jan 2020 Bldg#4.

**West Roxbury** – Joe Dineen

West Roxbury VA is still in need of sweatpants, tops and underwear for men and women.

**Manchester** – Gerard Marchand

Christmas & Bongo party was held Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 2019. Pizza served and canteen cards for all. Air Force ROTC from Salem attended and performed a Rifle Drill and Ceremony.

**Northampton** – Bud Garrant

*No Report submitted Month#1*

**Chelsea Soldiers Home** – Wayne Anthony

*No Report submitted Month#1*

**Holyoke Soldiers Home** – Caroline Kenyon

*No Report submitted Month#1*

### **POST EVENTS & NEWS:**

**Post 60 Fall River**

2019 holiday period was an exceptionally great time for Post 60. Extensive hall rentals, well attended meetings and a new Thursday night pool league have added to the ambiance of the post. Assigned plowing has been quite effective as several members chipped in their labor to secure parking area surrounding the building.

Chuck Gregory Post Commander was instrumental in forming a special First Division in Fall River Children’s Holiday (Christmas) Parade which is still the largest in New England. Bill “Red” Grinvalsky, drove his award winning K-Car convertible as the first civilian vehicle in the Division with a 93 year old Pearl Harbor veteran by his side. Red presented Post 60 with a POW-MIA banner that flew for years at a local cemetery, was destroyed and replaced. Red completely refurbished the banner which now hangs on our Post 60 Commemorative Wall.

Now, for old news:

It was rather a pleasure on my part to visit the Randolph AMVETS for the first time at the September 19 SEC meeting. All that I have ever heard about the site was true, a most grandiose building and great surroundings.

Post 60 hosted a day-long celebration for the AMVETS’ life, military service and community involvement of life member Norbert “Stu” Robideau. The sellout event had a surprise visit from Stu himself which resulted in a lot of handshakes and a million tears.

The Post also hosted several anniversaries lately, as well as several birthday parties and has a pending marriage event. Oh, there are always the Post’s football dinners hosted by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Gabe Gaspar, Colleen Grant Quartermaster & 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Tom Grant.

**POST 208 Hudson**

Metro West Daily News Excerpts Nov & Dec 2019: Annual Home Alone Christmas Meal was held on Christmas Day. Kate Hogan State Rep. for 3<sup>rd</sup> Middlesex District attended and presented an Award of Excellence for community service to the Post. Post 208 Hudson has delivered hundreds of meals to people on Thanksgiving & Christmas day for more than two decades now. Volunteers cook, pack up, and deliver a full meal to include turkey and gravy, peas and carrots, cranberry sauce, and mashed white and sweet potatoes. “This is an awesome thing,” AMVETS manager and event organizer Mike Geary said. “I’m very proud of the people who show up to do this.” 26 drivers using their own cars delivered meals to people spending the holiday alone, or unable to cook for themselves – many, but not all of whom are elderly. “It is for anybody who’s home alone or doesn’t have family local,” said Patty McInnes of the Ladies Auxiliary, who organized the serving line. Also they deliver meals to police & firefighters who have to work on the holidays. “I thought it was a good idea,” said 10-year-old Lily Schmaltz, Ed Bacon’s daughter, as she waited with her family for the 21 meals they would deliver locally. “It’s important to me to give back to people who need it.”

Once the delivery line is all done, the hall is then set up with tables and the Post welcomes the public for more free meals.

**Post 1980 Marlborough**

*In memory of PDC Walter “Scotty: Rowbotham our past Post Commander who passed 30 Dec. 2019.*

By Brittney McNamara/Daily News Staff Posted May 23, 2015:

Walter “Scotty” Rowbotham, a Korean War Army veteran, stood back watching Boy scouts lugging armfuls of American flags around Evergreen Cemetery, learning firsthand the true meaning of Memorial Day. Local boy scouts and the Post 1980



AMVETS met at the cemetery on a Sat. morning to place flags at each veteran's grave. "The day is important to those who served", Rowbotham said, as it is teaching today's children the meaning of

Memorial Day. "It's knowing and seeing what it's all about," Rowbotham said. "When they have questions, we try to answer them. We do this every year and get the boy scouts and little ones involved."

The long weekend drew about 20 scouts from Troop 41 and Packs 31 and 42 out to volunteer their time in honor of past veterans. Scouts carried bundles of flags around the cemetery, taking turns placing them about a foot in front of the military markers that adorn service members' graves.

Navy veteran James Holt said it takes an hour for the veterans and scouts to place about 1,200 flags at the cemetery.

Post Commander Mike Thompson said placing flags is important to him, and having children learn from it is an added benefit. "Being a veteran myself, I wouldn't miss this day for anything," Thompson said. "It's the least we can do. It's nice to see the younger generations (involved) because they weren't raised with it the way we were."

Thompson served four tours in the US Army; his first began 1987 in field artillery in Germany and from there he took part in Operation Desert Storm. Thompson went on to Iraq and Qatar as member of the military police.

"Being around veterans and honoring those who died", Assistant Scout Master Paul Gadd said, "helps the scouts realize the gravity of Memorial Day, by taking it from a holiday weekend to a sobering event".

#### **AMVETS NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS:**

**AMVETS National Commander Jan Brown** sent a letter this week to the organization's 1,100 posts, 43 state-level departments, and 6 regional districts calling for 10,000 volunteers to become trained HEAL Ambassadors by the end of the year.

Earlier this year, national staff created the "AMVETS Suicide Prevention & Crisis Intervention Course for HEAL Ambassadors" for the purpose of providing family members, caregivers, and friends of veterans at risk of self-harm or suicide with new tools to intervene and save lives. Upon completion of the course, users will join the nationwide network of HEAL Ambassadors equipped to help veterans and service members overcome crises and get the help they need.

The new course is an online, scenario-based training curriculum that presents the user with educational content then tests retention and application of the material in several simulations involving persons whose circumstances present suicide risk factors and ways to identify the red

flags and intervene when necessary.

"It is so important for the entire AMVETS Family to do whatever it takes to confront veteran suicide," said Commander Brown in the letter. "We will demonstrate to our nation what true veteran advocacy looks like, encouraging others to follow our example. Drastically reducing the incidence of veteran suicide is achievable, but it will require all hands."

Commander Brown challenged every AMVETS Post and Department to have at least one member complete the course during the month of November and up to 10 members complete it by the end of 2019. The "AMVETS Suicide Prevention & Crisis Intervention Course" is also available to the public and can be accessed at: [amvets.org/vet-heal/](http://amvets.org/vet-heal/). A copy of the letter can be accessed [here](#). **The AMVETS HEAL Team** These services are free. For healthcare issues contact the helpline by phone toll-free at 1-833-VET-HEAL (1-833-838-4325) from 8AM to 8PM ET Monday-Friday or any time by email at [VETHEAL@amvets.org](mailto:VETHEAL@amvets.org).

**Harry Neal AMVETS National Membership Director** One of our canteens is getting jacked around by an insurance company raising rates. I was asked if I knew of a good company which I don't. I do have access to all the companies our posts are using which might give you some areas to comparison shop if anyone wants one. A number of AMVETS posts are using AIX Insurance Specialties 800-922-8427 ask them for one of your three quotes. As you know all policies written must include National HQ and your Dept HQ as additionally insured. Current insurance is required to protect post officers and the organization..

**Rolling to Remember**, a massive motorcycle run will take place in the nation's capital over Memorial Day Weekend 2020 to raise awareness of the plight of U.S. prisoners of war and the 82,000 service members still missing in action.

The ride will also address national suicide epidemic taking lives of more than 20 veterans a day.

Three days of meaningful events in Washington, culminating with the motorcycle ride May 24, Events are scheduled to begin May 22. A special "Blessing of the Bikes" ceremony will take place at Washington National Cathedral and a nighttime vigil at National Vietnam Veterans Memorial May 22. A stage will be active on steps of famed Lincoln Memorial from early Friday afternoon through Sunday, featuring personal accounts of these issues, notable speakers, Gold Star families and entertainment.

The message will be clear throughout: we will never forget our POWs and MIAs, and we won't stop fighting for real solutions to the suicide crisis

**AMVETS IN ACTION:**



*Post 208 Hudson delivers & serves meals Christmas Day. Even Santa helps out, as did Elf Hammy.*



*Mike Geary takes late orders Christmas morning.*



*"T" Thibeault making gravy for 400 in the kitchen.*



*Ed Bradley packs up pies for delivery.*



*Volunteer Jin Kim, of Marlborough, right, goes through the line assembling meals for delivery.*



*Santa Claus spends time with Glen Whittemore of Marlborough and grandson, Joey*



*Dan Jolie made 210lbs of mashed potatoes behind the scenes*





*National 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander and Past National Sons Commander David Spencer in DC attend unveiling of Rolling to Remember AMVETS Riders Logo*

*State House Ceremony National Guard 383rd Birthday was attend by Dept of MA Vice Officers*



*PhotOs below of Pearl Harbor Ceremony Natick MA*





Sponsored by

AMVETS Dept. of Massachusetts

17<sup>th</sup> Annual Passion Plunge

Saturday, 8 February 2020

Hosted by

AMVETS Post 79 Natick, MA.

Registration 9:00 A.M.

Event Start 12:00 P.M.

**Raffles & Auction of Boston Teams Sports Memorabilia**

ALL MONIES GO DIRECTLY TO

*Special Olympics of Massachusetts*

*To Pledge on line go to link*

<https://specialolympicsma.donordrive.com/event/Natick2020>

**To Make Your Donation or Receive a Pledge Sheet  
Contact Event Chairs**

Wayne Anthony 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander (774).270.3253  
Tim Eaton 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander (857).498.0612







## AMVETS (American Veterans) FAQs

Frequently asked questions about AMVETS, our mission, and membership requirements.

To join AMVETS Post \_\_\_\_\_ call \_\_\_\_\_

**What is AMVETS?** AMVETS is an abbreviation for American Veterans. AMVETS members are active duty and honorably discharged veterans from all branches of service. We are chartered by Congress to assist veterans in all aspects of their lives, from fighting for full benefits to finding decent jobs.

**Do you have to serve in combat to become an AMVETS member?** Combat service is not a requirement. All active duty honorably discharged military personnel, National Guard and Army Reserves are eligible to become AMVETS, making AMVETS the most inclusive veteran service organization in the country.

**What is the cost?** Annual dues are \$30 a year when you join online as a member-at-large. Life membership is \$250.

**What is a Member-at-Large (MAL)?** When you join online through the AMVETS.org website, you select the state of your choice. You can become a MAL in your home state or the state in which you are stationed. MALs have access to all AMVETS canteens and restaurants as well as member discounts. Members-at-large do not have a vote in AMVETS elections. To be a voting member of AMVETS, you must join a Post.

**How do I join an AMVETS Post?** You can request a transfer from MAL status to a Post. By joining a Post, you actively help veterans through local AMVETS programs. You can do a zip code search at [AMVETS Nationwide](#) followed by an email or call the Post point of contact. Let the point of contact know you are interested in joining the Post. The Post will take care of the transfer.

**How was AMVETS started?** When troops returned to America at the end of WWII, many used their newly earned GI bill benefit to complete a degree, a goal usually reserved for the wealthy. Veterans found they were comfortable with other veterans on campus, and they formed veteran's clubs. These clubs became active in shaping American policy, and on July 23, 1947, President Harry Truman signed public law 216, which granted a Congressional Charter to AMVETS (American Veteran).

**My husband is in the military. Can I also join AMVETS?** Yes. You can join the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary. The Ladies Auxiliary works closely with AMVETS posts on programs to help veterans. Other programs include **Junior AMVETS**, they organize youth programs, promote the Americanism Program, and build Drill Teams and create Service Programs. Junior members are ages 5-17. <http://www.amvetsaux.org/>

**My Dad is a veteran. Can I join?** Yes. You can join the Sons of AMVETS. Many posts have a Sons of AMVETS program working closely with AMVETS to support returning veterans. <http://www.sonsofamvets.org/>

**How can I join the AMVETS Riders?** AMVETS Riders are a dedicated, patriotic group of veteran motorcycle riders who hold true to an unwavering respect for our Nation, our Flag, and our Military. First join AMVETS then contact the riders <https://www.amvetsridersnational.org/>

**Do you have to serve in combat to become an AMVETS member?** Combat service is not a requirement. All active duty and honorably discharged military personnel, National Guard and Army Reserves are eligible to become AMVETS members, making AMVETS the most inclusive veteran service organization in the country.

**What is the cost?** Annual dues are \$30 a year when you join online as a member-at-large. Life membership is \$250.

**What is a Member-at-Large (MAL)?** When you join online through the AMVETS.org website, you select the state of your choice. You can become a MAL in your home state or the state in which you are stationed. MALs have access to all AMVETS canteens and restaurants as well as member discounts. Members-at-large do not have a vote in AMVETS elections. To be a voting member of AMVETS, you must join a Post.

**I don't have any military members in my family. How can I support the AMVETS mission?** You can donate directly to AMVETS through this [Donate Now](#) link. You can also donate your used vehicle (car, truck, motorcycle, RV, sail or motorboat, even aircraft) to AMVETS by calling **1-877-999-8322**. Out thrift stores support our free VA claims work

**What is AMVETS doing to help veterans?** Our National Service Officers offer free help to all veterans Filing claims with VA. Our [Career Center](#) will place 500 veterans in jobs this year. We offer free Warrior Transition workshops to help veterans cope with the stresses of service. We fly family members to the bed side of injured veterans. We monitor and champion [Legislation](#) supporting veterans.

[The AMVETS HEAL Team](#) ensures veterans with medical needs have access the best quality mental health and specialized services, post-traumatic stress and live longer, healthier lives. Posts throughout the country find and furnish housing for homeless vets. We feed and clothe veterans in need. We provide honor guards at military funerals for veterans. Our [National Service Officers](#) file claims for veterans free.

**AMVETS is hosting the largest veteran's demonstration in America; Join us and the AMVETS Riders for the Memorial Day *Rolling to Remember* ride. Remember POWs MIA's and 20 veteran suicides today.**

**What is my next step?** Join us at [www.amvets.org](http://www.amvets.org) and help make a real difference in the lives of our Nation heroes! Call AMVETS National Headquarters at 877-728-8387 for assistance.

