

WHY DO WE STAY?

Every membership in the Sons of The American Legion begins with a story of service—the honorable military service of a parent or grandparent.

Their service made our membership possible. What we choose to do with that opportunity is how we continue their legacy.

For some of us, that parent or grandparent is still here to share the stories. For others, those stories live through photographs, memories, medals and perhaps a folded flag.

We stay because their service deserves to be remembered—but remembrance alone is not enough.

We honor their service by continuing to serve.

That is where the impact of the Sons of The American Legion begins.

It begins when a Son visits a veteran who may feel forgotten.

It grows when a squadron raises money to support a military family, provides a scholarship, sponsors a youth program, places flags on veterans' graves or steps forward to help someone in its community.

It can be seen when our members support the Child Well-Being Foundation, Veterans & Children Foundation, Special Olympics, Fisher House and countless other national, state and local programs.

It can be felt by every veteran, child and family who has been helped because members of the Sons of The American Legion chose to turn their eligibility into action.

During the 2025–2026 reporting year, SAL members collectively:

Donated \$16,138,489

Volunteered 8,152,287 hours

Created a total volunteer value of \$310,762,151

Our members contributed:

- \$6,803,326 and 6,816,388 hours to Americanism
- \$2,837,207 and 224,902 hours to children and youth
- \$3,082,814 and 354,491 hours to veterans affairs and rehabilitation
- \$324,557 to the Child Well-Being Foundation
- \$93,604 to the Veterans & Children Foundation
- \$760,736 to Special Olympics
- \$609,952 to Fisher House

But these are not simply numbers on a report.

Every dollar represents a member who helped organize an event, sold a ticket, prepared a meal, asked for a donation or supported a project.

Every volunteer hour represents time that a member could have spent somewhere else—but chose to give in service to another person.

Behind every figure is a veteran who was supported, a child who was given an opportunity, a family that received help or a community that became stronger.

These remarkable accomplishments reflect reports from 43.78% of our squadrons, offering just a glimpse of the full impact SAL members are making throughout the country.

Imagine the complete story we could tell as more squadrons report and share their service. By telling these stories, we help our members and communities better understand the impact of the SAL—and we inspire others to become involved and help carry the mission forward.

This is what the Sons do. This is the difference our members make.

We also stay for the camaraderie created through that service.

We stay for the friendships built while working side by side, the conversations before and after meetings, the laughter shared at an event and the telephone call made when someone has not been around.

We stay because every generation has a place in the SAL. From our newborn members to those who have served for a lifetime, we are connected by family, service and a shared responsibility to ensure the mission continues.

Our older members provide experience and guidance. Our younger members bring energy, new ideas and the promise of tomorrow. Together, we preserve the past while building the future.

Staying involved does not mean attending every meeting, holding an office or volunteering every weekend. Life becomes busy, and circumstances change.

Sometimes service is one hour at an event. Sometimes it is one telephone call to check on another member. Sometimes it is sharing a skill, offering an idea, mentoring a younger member or inviting someone who has stepped away to come back.

There is no single way to serve—but every member has something to offer.

When we renew, we are not simply paying dues or receiving another membership card. We are renewing our commitment:

To honor the service of our parents and grandparents.

To support veterans and military families.

To invest in children and youth.

To strengthen our communities.

To stand beside one another.

To preserve this legacy for the generations that follow us.

Their service is where our story began.

The impact we make together is how their legacy continues.

That is why we joined.

That is why we serve.

That is why we stay.

Renew your commitment: legion.org/sal-renew

<https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/SAL-Renew>

Jason Miller

SAL National Membership and Squadron Activities Chairman

WHY I STAY

HONOR THEIR SERVICE. CONTINUE THEIR LEGACY.

