



To my Illinois American Legion Family!

It is almost impossible to believe that an entire year has gone by since I was elected SAL Commander for the Detachment of Illinois. Wow! Again, what a year it has been!

I want to take this opportunity to thank every member of the Illinois American Legion Family for all of your support and encouragement this past year.

I believe this year your SAL have made positive impacts on our State, our Veterans and our communities.

I want to take this time to thank the 1st and 2nd Divisions for the opportunity to attend this year's Armed Forces Dinner. This event has always been a good way to spotlight our uniformed services and highlight the work they do to protect our freedom we so seldom take for granted.

I had started the year by wanting to raise awareness and funds for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation and The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. With the generosity of The American Legion Family we have collected many donations and funds are still coming in. My thanks are meaningless, but the thanks for what these funds will be able to do for our veterans and our children can never be expressed in words large enough to convey my true feelings. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart!

Once again, I want to extend my personal invitation to all of The American Legion Family to stop by during the 54th Annual Sons of The American Legion Detachment Convention to be held June 23 – 26, 2017 at American Legion Post # 102 in DeLand, Illinois. Here we will celebrate our accomplishments and congratulate each other on a job well done, all while sharing in Fun and Fellowship with all!

For one last time we will see what **"Shooting for Membership"**, has accomplished for the Illinois Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Illinois!

I thank you all for the honor to serve!

Phil Shipley, Commander 2016-2017