



To my American Legion Family!

Wow! What a year it has been so far!

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone that participated in The American Legion's observance of "Children & Youth" month. Everything you did during April to the benefit of our communities' children is an investment in our future. I want to thank The American Legion Auxiliary for inviting me to attend the ALA Jr. Conference in Springfield this year. I had a great time and know that we will see good things from our future ALA leaders. What a huge success!

Some of this is old news, but I wanted you to know just how busy your Detachment has been. We have participated in the National Statewide membership caravan, the annual Pilgrimage to the Tomb of President Abraham Lincoln, and have participated in the ALA Patriotic Conference! All of this with just one goal in mind and that was to continue the traditions that have made the American Legion Family so Great!

In the summer of 1932 The American Legion voted into existence the Sons of The American Legion as one of their programs to continue the legacy of the four pillars on which The American Legion was founded. It has been one of my biggest honors to serve as your Detachment Commander during this 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year.

I want to extend my personal invitation to all of The American Legion Family to stop by during the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Sons of The American Legion Detachment Convention to be held June 23 – 26, 2017 at American Legion Post # 102 in DeLand, Illinois. It is here that we together will celebrate not only our 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary but all of the goals we have worked so hard for this past year. Come and see what together; **"Shooting for Membership"**, the Illinois Sons of The American Legion have accomplished as we continue to serve for God and Country.

Phil Shipley, Commander 2016-2017