

AMERICAN LEGION



July 2026/ Volume 1, Issue 7

Floresville, TX Post 38 | July Newsletter

America 250!, Gettysburg, Important Legislation, and Buddy Checks in the Texas Heat.



Come visit every second Thursday from 7pm to 9pm at the American Legion Hall, and our Tailgates on the third Thursday of every month from 6:30pm to 8pm for fun activities and some good food.

**American Legion Hall | 1412 4th Street, Floresville, TX 78114
(830) 393-7929**

Or check out our new website: <https://txlegion38.org/>

BE =THE= ONE

America's 250th Anniversary: Reflections on Freedom and Service

As the United States celebrates its 250th birthday in 2026, American Legion Post 38 reflects on the profound history of our nation and the role veterans have played in preserving its ideals. This milestone offers a powerful opportunity to renew our commitment to the principles of liberty, democracy, and self-governance established in 1776.

The American Legion, founded in 1919 by World War I veterans, has participated in every major national anniversary celebration since its inception. Post 38 continues that tradition locally by supporting community events and educating members about the sacrifices that secured our independence and have defended it ever since. From the Revolutionary War through today's global operations, American service members have answered the call to protect freedom.



This 250th anniversary reminds us that freedom is never free. It requires constant vigilance, civic engagement, and the willingness of citizens — especially veterans — to step forward when needed. Post 38 members carry forward that legacy every day through community service, youth education, and advocacy for fellow veterans.

Locally, we see the American spirit alive in Floresville's Freedom Fest and other patriotic gatherings. These events bring neighbors together to celebrate not just fireworks and fun, but the shared values that unite us. Post 38 encourages all residents to use this anni-

versary year for reflection: read founding documents, discuss history with family, and find ways to contribute to your community.

Our Post remains dedicated to ensuring that the lessons of the past guide our future. Through flag education, proper retirement ceremonies, and active participation in national and local observances, we help keep the flame of liberty burning brightly for the next 250 years and beyond.

Happy 250th, America — Post 38 Stands Ready.



The Battle of Gettysburg:

A Turning Point in July That Defined a Nation

Remembering Courage and Sacrifice – July 1-3, 1863

As we celebrate Independence Day and America's 250th anniversary during July, American Legion Post 38 in Floresville, Texas, honors one of the most pivotal and costly battles in United States military history: the **Battle of Gettysburg**, fought July 1–3, 1863, in Pennsylvania. This decisive engagement of the American Civil War marked a major turning point and helped preserve the Union at a critical moment in our nation's story.

By the summer of 1863, the Confederate Army under General Robert E. Lee had invaded Northern territory, hoping to achieve a decisive victory that might force a negotiated peace. The Union Army of the Potomac, commanded by General George G. Meade, met the Confederates near the small town of Gettysburg. Over three days of intense fighting — including the famous defense of Little Round Top, the massive artillery duel, and Pickett's Charge across open fields — more than 50,000 soldiers from both sides became casualties in what remains the bloodiest battle ever fought on American soil.



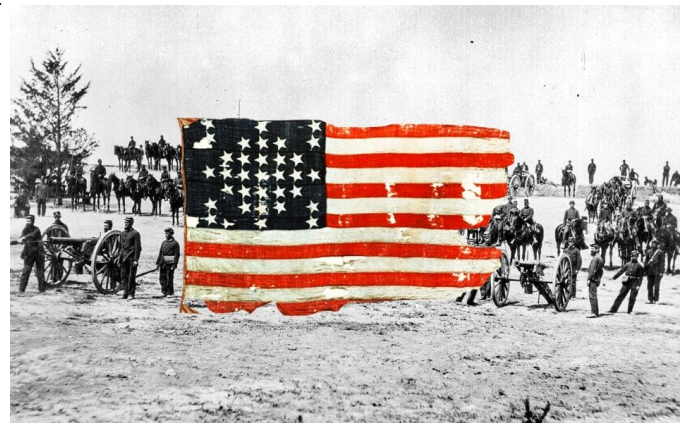
The Union forces held their ground against determined Confederate assaults. On July 3, the disastrous Confederate assault known as Pickett's Charge was repulsed with devastating losses. Lee's army, battered and unable to continue the offensive, began its retreat south the following day. The victory at Gettysburg, combined with the fall of Vicksburg on July 4, effectively split the Confederacy and shifted the momentum of the war toward eventual Union success.

President Abraham Lincoln later dedicated the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg with his immortal Gettysburg Address, emphasizing the preservation of liberty and government "of the people, by the people, for the people." The battle and its aftermath underscored the profound sacrifices required to maintain the Union and end the institution of slavery. Veterans of later wars, including many American Legion members, have long drawn inspiration from the courage displayed by soldiers on both sides at Gettysburg.

Post 38 members who have studied or whose families were touched by the Civil War carry forward the lessons of unity, resilience, and national reconciliation. Through our educational programs, youth initiatives, and participation in patriotic observances, we ensure that the sacrifices of Gettysburg — and all who fought to define America — are remembered and honored in Floresville and Wilson County. These stories remind us that the freedoms we enjoy today were purchased at a tremendous price by previous generations of Americans.

On this anniversary period, Post 38 encourages reflection on the Battle of Gettysburg and its lasting significance. It stands as a powerful example of determination against great odds and the importance of preserving our shared national heritage. We salute all veterans across history whose service has defended the ideals for which so many fought at Gettysburg.

Post 38 – Honoring America's Military History and Sacrifices.



Take Care of America's Veterans Act: Important Legislation Moving in Congress

Post 38 Supports Comprehensive Benefits Package for Veterans

American Legion Post 38 in Floresville, Texas, is closely following and strongly supporting major veterans' benefits legislation currently advancing in Congress — the **Take Care of America's Veterans Act (H.R. 9237 / S. 4744)**. This comprehensive bipartisan package combines more than 60 individual bills addressing critical needs in benefits, healthcare, caregiver support, education, and survivor programs. It represents a significant opportunity to deliver long-overdue improvements for veterans, families, and caregivers across the nation, including right here in Wilson County.



Key provisions in the package include the **Major Richard Star Act**, which would finally allow combat-injured veterans receiving VA disability compensation to also receive their full military retired pay without offset — ending a long-standing inequity for those who sacrificed the most. The legislation also incorporates the **Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act**, providing meaningful increases for catastrophically disabled veterans needing aid and attendance and boosting Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for surviving Gold Star families.

Additional measures focus on expanding mental health and substance abuse services, improving access to care in rural and urban areas, strengthening caregiver support programs, enhancing transition assistance, and addressing other priority issues identified by veterans service organizations. The American Legion and a broad coalition of VSOs have voiced strong support, viewing the bill as a practical path forward to deliver results for veterans while protecting and expanding essential benefits.

Post 38 recognizes that strong advocacy at the national level directly impacts local veterans. Many of our members and their families stand to benefit from these reforms, whether through improved compensation for severe disabilities, better support for caregivers who sacrifice careers to provide in-home care, or enhanced resources for mental health. We encourage all Post members, veterans, and community supporters to contact their representatives in Congress to urge swift passage of this important package.

The American Legion has long championed these issues through resolutions and direct advocacy. By combining multiple bipartisan priorities into one comprehensive bill, the Take Care of America's Veterans Act offers the best chance to achieve meaningful progress this session. Post 38 will continue monitoring developments and



keeping our members informed through meetings, tailgates, and future newsletter updates.

For more details on the legislation or how to contact your elected officials, visit txlegion38.org or the national American Legion website. Together, we can help ensure that promises made to those who served are promises kept.

Post 38 – Advocating for Stronger Veterans Benefits Today and Tomorrow.

The Importance of the Buddy Check: Looking Out for One Another This Summer

Plus Tips for Beating the Texas Heat

In the ongoing fight against veteran suicide, American Legion Post 38 in Floresville, Texas, emphasizes the simple but powerful practice of the **Buddy Check**. This straightforward act of reaching out to a fellow veteran — asking “How are you doing?” and truly listening — can save lives. As part of the American Legion’s **Be the One** initiative, the Buddy Check reminds us that no veteran should ever feel alone in their struggles.

Veterans often face unique challenges including transition stress, chronic pain, PTSD, and the lingering effects of service. The Buddy Check creates opportunities for early intervention and connection to resources. A quick phone call, a visit to a tailgate, or a conversation at a monthly meeting can make all the difference. Post 38 encourages every member to make Buddy Checks a regular habit, especially during the summer months when isolation can increase due to heat or travel.

If you or a veteran you know is in crisis, remember the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24/7 at 988. Post 38 also stands ready to connect veterans with local support through our meetings, tailgates, and partnerships.

Staying Safe in the Texas Heat Texas summers bring intense heat that can be particularly dangerous for veterans, many of whom are older or manage service-related health conditions. Here are practical tips to beat the heat while staying active and connected:

- **Hydrate proactively** — Drink plenty of water throughout the day, even if you don’t feel thirsty. Avoid excessive caffeine or alcohol, which can dehydrate you.
- **Stay in the shade or air conditioning** during the hottest parts of the day (typically 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Post 38’s Hall and events offer cool gathering spots.
- **Dress appropriately** — Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, light-colored clothing and a wide-brimmed hat.
- **Recognize warning signs** of heat exhaustion (heavy sweating, dizziness, nausea, weakness) and heat stroke (confusion, hot dry skin, rapid pulse). Move to a cooler place, loosen clothing, and seek medical help immediately if symptoms worsen.
- **Check on buddies** — Use your Buddy Check to also ask about heat safety. Elderly veterans or those with heart/lung conditions are at higher risk.

By combining the Buddy Check with smart heat safety practices, Post 38 members can look out for one another and enjoy the summer while protecting health and well-being. Our monthly tailgates and meetings provide perfect opportunities to connect safely indoors or during cooler evening hours.

Post 38 – Be the One for Your Buddy and Stay Safe in the Texas Heat.

Heat Exhaustion	Heat Stroke
ACT FAST • Move to a cooler area • Loosen clothing • Sip cool water • Seek medical help if symptoms don't improve	ACT FAST CALL 911 • Move person to a cooler area • Loosen clothing and remove extra layers • Cool with water or ice
Dizziness Thirst Heavy Sweating Nausea Weakness	Confusion Dizziness Becomes Unconscious
Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke.	Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given.

Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, Stay Informed!

Thursday	July 9, 2026
19:00 - 21:00 ● General Membership Meeting Post 38	
Sunday	July 12, 2026
16:00 - 17:00 ● Scout Meeting	
Thursday	July 16, 2026
18:30 - 20:00 ● Veteran's Tailgate	
Sunday	July 19, 2026
16:00 - 17:00 ● Scout Meeting	
Friday	July 24, 2026
all day ● The Center for Women Veterans - Convention	
Saturday	July 25, 2026
all day ● The Center for Women Veterans - Convention	
Sunday	July 26, 2026
16:00 - 17:00 ● Scout Meeting	
Sunday	August 2, 2026
16:00 - 17:00 ● Scout Meeting	
Sunday	August 9, 2026
16:00 - 17:00 ● Scout Meeting	
Thursday	August 13, 2026
19:00 - 21:00 ● General Membership Meeting Post 38	
Sunday	August 16, 2026
16:00 - 17:00 ● Scout Meeting	
Thursday	August 20, 2026
18:30 - 20:00 ● Veteran's Tailgate	
Sunday	August 23, 2026
16:00 - 17:00 ● Scout Meeting	
Sunday	August 30, 2026
16:00 - 17:00 ● Scout Meeting	
Sunday	September 6, 2026
16:00 - 17:00 ● Scout Meeting	