

AMERICAN LEGION



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Floresville, TX Post 38 | March Newsletter

THE LEGION'S FOCUS DURING 'A PIVOTAL TIME FOR OUR COUNTRY'



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

American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley Delivers Powerful Testimony to Congress

On March 4, 2026, **American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley** appeared before a joint hearing of the **Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs** in Washington, D.C., to present the organization's legislative priorities for the second session of the 119th Congress. The testimony, delivered during The American Legion's annual Washington Conference, highlighted the urgent needs of the nation's 1.5 million Legionnaires and the broader veteran community amid a "pivotal time for our country."



Commander Wiley, a retired Air Force veteran and former Kansas district court judge from Leavenworth, Kansas (a member of Byron H. Mehl American Legion Post #23), was introduced by Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), who praised Wiley's service and the Legion's advocacy. The hearing provided a platform for Wiley to share the organization's resolutions-based agenda, rooted in 107 years of grassroots input from posts nationwide.

In his opening remarks, Wiley emphasized reframing how the nation repays military service. He noted that only about 6% of American adults have served, yet military service often becomes a "family business," with lifelong impacts on veterans and their loved ones. Addressing recent media narratives criticizing veterans for "taking advantage" of the VA benefits system, Wiley called the focus misguided and urged a shift toward systemic improvements rather than blaming those seeking earned benefits.

Wiley underscored the Department of Veterans Affairs' core mission: "to care for him who shall have borne the battle." He highlighted ongoing challenges and opportunities, including the proposed Veterans Health Administration reorganization, the NextGen Community Care contract, and accelerated deployment of the Electronic Health Record system. He stressed the need for adequate resources and congressional oversight to ensure VA fulfills its obligations.

Key legislative priorities outlined in the testimony included:

- Advancing **Be the One**, The American Legion's flagship suicide prevention initiative, to combat veteran suicide through awareness, intervention, and support.
- Ensuring robust access to high-quality health care for veterans, including exploration of alternative and breakthrough therapies for conditions like PTSD and traumatic brain injury.
- Supporting passage of key bills such as **H.R. 2730 – Military Moms Act** and **H.R. 4769 – Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act of 2025**.
- Pushing for the **Major Richard Star Act** to provide fairer benefits for combat-injured veterans.
- Priorities in Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Veterans Employment and Education, and National Security.

Wiley concluded by thanking the committees for their bipartisan commitment to veterans, especially as the nation approaches its 250th anniversary. He expressed eagerness to collaborate on meaningful legislation that honors service and supports readiness in the Armed Forces.

The full written testimony is available on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs website, and video of the hearing can be viewed through Senate and House committee channels or The American Legion's resources.

This appearance reinforces The American Legion's role as a leading voice for veterans, delivering direct input from the community to lawmakers. Commander Wiley's testimony serves as a call to action for continued advocacy to ensure veterans receive the care, benefits, and respect they have earned.

VA Rescinds Controversial Disability Ratings Rule: A Win for Veterans

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has officially rescinded a highly controversial interim final rule that would have changed how disability compensation ratings are calculated for millions of veterans. The rescission, published today in the Federal Register as “Rescission of Interim Final Rule, Evaluative Rating: Impact of Medication,” is effective immediately and restores the prior regulatory text. This rapid reversal comes after intense backlash from veterans, service organizations, lawmakers, and the public—demonstrating the power of unified veteran voices.

What Was the Controversial Rule? The interim final rule was published on February 17, 2026, without prior public input. It would have required VA medical examiners to consider the positive effects of medication and treatment when assigning disability ratings for conditions such as mental health disorders and musculoskeletal injuries. In practice, this meant ratings could be lowered if symptoms were well-managed by medication—essentially penalizing veterans for following their doctors’ orders and staying healthy.

The VA said the rule was intended to clarify long-standing policy (dating back to 1958) and respond to court rulings, including the 2025 *Ingram v. Collins* decision. However, veterans and advocates viewed it as a direct counter to multiple court rulings that prohibited the VA from reducing ratings based on medication effectiveness. The change risked affecting hundreds of thousands of pending claims and could have cost veterans billions in benefits over time.

Why the Strong Opposition? Within days of publication, more than 19,000–20,000 public comments flooded in via the Federal Register and regulations.gov. Veterans and advocates argued the rule created an impossible choice: take medication to manage service-connected conditions (and risk lower ratings) or skip treatment to preserve benefits (and harm your health).

Major veterans’ organizations—including the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Disabled American Veterans, and American Legion—spoke out strongly. VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore and National Service Director Michael Figlioli called the proposal rushed and harmful, urging the VA to listen to the community. Lawmakers, including Rep. Mark Takano and Sen. Richard Blumenthal, sent letters condemning the rule as a “political maneuver” aimed at cutting costs. At least one federal lawsuit was filed by veterans’ law firms.

VA Secretary Doug Collins quickly halted enforcement just 48 hours after the rule’s publication, acknowledging the widespread concerns.

What the Rescission Means for Veterans—Good news: The VA has fully restored the previous standard. Disability ratings will continue to be based on the severity of your service-connected condition as evaluated during your Compensation and Pension (C&P) exam—without automatically discounting for the benefits of medication.

This protects:

- Veterans whose mental health or physical conditions are managed by daily medication
- Ongoing and future claims (including the more than 350,000 pending claims potentially affected)
- The trust veterans place in the VA benefits system

The VA’s official notice states: “VA always takes veterans’ concerns seriously and recognizes that many commenters construed the interim final rule as something that could result in adverse consequences... the department hereby advises that the interim final rule is rescinded effective immediately.”

Unlock Your Leadership Potential: American Legion Training Opportunities for Post 38 Members

Fellow Legionnaires of **American Legion Post 38** in Floresville, Texas—whether you're a longtime member helping at our monthly veterans tailgates, supporting our scouting programs, or organizing the annual gun raffle for scholarships—now is the perfect time to invest in yourself and strengthen our Post. With more than 228 members serving Wilson County and beyond, Post 38 has long been a pillar of patriotism, community service, and veteran support at 1412 4th Street. Training opportunities from National and the Department of Texas equip every Legionnaire with the knowledge and skills to lead more effectively, serve veterans better, and keep our organization thriving for future generations.



The American Legion offers accessible, high-quality training designed specifically for post-level members like us. These programs cost little or nothing, fit busy schedules, and deliver real results—whether you want to become a stronger post officer, help fellow veterans navigate VA benefits, or simply deepen your understanding of our Four Pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

Start with the Basics—Free Online Training for Every Member The **American Legion Extension Institute** (also called Basic Training) is the perfect first step. This completely online program takes less than two hours and is free for all Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion members. It covers the history and organization of The American Legion, our programs, and how posts operate, with videos, photos, clickable links, and a final exam. Finish and you receive a digital certificate of completion.



Register today at legion.org/alei (or through txlegion.org). Post 38 encourages every member—especially new ones—to complete this course. It's the foundation recommended for anyone considering leadership roles or simply wanting to be more effective in our community work.

Build Real Leadership Skills with the National American Legion College For those ready to take the next step, apply for the **National American Legion College (NALC)**—a prestigious six-day immersive leadership program. Participants learn servant leadership, team building, advocacy, public engagement, financial management, and best practices in everything from social media to alumni relations. You'll leave with a personal action plan to implement right here at Post 38.

The program uses lectures, small-group discussions, and hands-on activities led by national instructors. Applications go through the Department of Texas (deadline typically July 31 for the following year). Talk to your Post Commander about endorsement—Post 38 proudly supports members who want to grow into district, department, or national leaders.



THE AMERICAN LEGION

DYNAMIC THIRD DIVISION

PRESENTS

DEPARTMENT LEGION COLLEGE

SATURDAY & SUNDAY MARCH 21 & 22TH, 2026
0900 – 1600 (ZOOM CALL)

SAVE THE DATE!



Phase 1

- The Department Strategic Plan
- Post Mission/Vision/Relevance
- Post Operations
- Committee Leadership
- Post Delegates/Conventions

Phase 2

- Post Taxes and Forms
- Managing Post Finances
- Writing a Resolution
- Parliamentary Procedures
- Post Programs



Phase 3

- Membership Growth/Retention
- Succession Planning
- Department Administrative Guide
- Legislative Advocacy
- Public Relations
- Graduation



RSVP: ThirdDivisionTraining@gmail.com

OPEN TO ALL POST, DISTRICTS, AND DIVISIONS!

Unlock Your Leadership Potential: Continued

Texas Department Opportunities Close to Home The **Department of Texas** makes training even more accessible. The **Department Legion College** offers specialized training tailored to Texas Legionnaires. The annual **District & Division Commanders School** in Austin at the Renaissance Hotel is open to anyone—perfect for future leaders. Training sessions also appear regularly at district conventions and post meetings.

Plus, the Department provides free Post Commander Orientation and a full library of manuals and guides on txlegion.org/training. Post 38's own Training Chairperson (or any officer) can request instructors for our regular meetings.

Help Veterans with VA Claims Through Service Officer Training If you're passionate about veterans benefits, consider **Service Officer Training**. National offers beginner, intermediate, and advanced courses (including VA Disability Claims Processing) that prepare you for accreditation. Department Service Officers and Post Service Officers receive specialized accreditation training through the VA. These skills let you directly assist comrades and families with claims—work that aligns perfectly with Post 38's mission of direct veteran support.



Monthly Virtual Training and On-Demand Resources Don't miss **Training Tuesdays**—60- to 90-minute virtual sessions from National Headquarters on the last Tuesday of each month. Topics cover post operations, membership, leadership, and more—ideal for our officers and anyone interested.

Additional tools include "Training in a Box" (a free Dropbox of presentations and videos) and specialized programs like **Be The One** suicide prevention training, developed with Columbia University. The **National Regional Information Conference** and **Combined Americanism Conference** bring deeper dives into programs that power our youth oratorical contests, ROTC support, and community events.

Training Starts Right Here at Post 38 You don't have to travel far. We can incorporate short training segments into our monthly meetings (held the second Thursday at 7:00 p.m.) or tailgates (third Thursday, 6:30–8:00 p.m.). Our Post Training Chairperson keeps records and shares successes with the district—helping Post 38 stand out as a model for other posts.

Ready to Get Started? Contact Post 38 today at (830) 393-7929 or visit us at 1412 4th Street in Floresville. Follow us on Facebook at American Legion Post 38, Floresville, Texas, for updates. Visit legion.org/training and txlegion.org/training to explore programs and register.

By investing in training, we honor our motto "For God and Country" while ensuring Post 38 remains strong for the next 100 years. Every Legionnaire who steps up makes our Post, our community, and our nation better. Let's lead by example—sign up for a course today and bring those skills back to Floresville!



For God and Country, American Legion Post 38 Floresville, Texas

Sunday		March 1, 2026
10:00 - 11:00	● Guitars for Vets	
11:00 - 12:00	● Lets Jam	
16:00 - 17:00	● Scout Meeting	
Friday		March 6, 2026
18:00 - 19:00	● American Legion Riders SCTX Legacy Run 2026 - Early Check In	
Saturday		March 7, 2026
08:00 - 12:00	● Wilson County Household Hazardous Waste Collection	
08:00 - 09:00	● American Legion Riders SCTX Legacy Run 2026 - Check In	
Sunday		March 8, 2026
10:00 - 11:00	● Guitars for Vets	
11:00 - 12:00	● Lets Jam	
16:00 - 17:00	● Scout Meeting	
Thursday		March 12, 2026
19:00 - 21:00	● General Membership Meeting Post 38	
Sunday		March 15, 2026
10:00 - 11:00	● Guitars for Vets	
11:00 - 12:00	● Lets Jam	
16:00 - 17:00	● Scout Meeting	
Thursday		March 19, 2026
18:30 - 20:00	● Veteran's Tailgate	
Sunday		March 22, 2026
10:00 - 11:00	● Guitars for Vets	
11:00 - 12:00	● Lets Jam	
16:00 - 17:00	● Scout Meeting	
Sunday		March 29, 2026
10:00 - 11:00	● Guitars for Vets	
11:00 - 12:00	● Lets Jam	
16:00 - 17:00	● Scout Meeting	