



CHAPLAIN / MEMORIAL

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MARCH, 2026

Happy 107th Birthday American Legion

March 15, 2026



March 15, 2026 marks the 107th year since The American Legion was founded. Many of the benefits that our veterans and their families receive are because of the tireless work of members of The American Legion.

Some of these accomplishments include:

- ✓ They banded together to become a driving force in helping combat veterans receive the assistance they desperately needed when they returned home from World War I in 1919. In 1921 they created the U.S. Veterans Bureau which quickly became the Veterans Administration.
- ✓ In 1923 they drafted the first “Flag Code” which congress adopted in 1942.
- ✓ In 1925, they created the American Legion Baseball program. Today more than 50% of major league players are graduates of this program.
- ✓ In 1935, The Legion held its first American Legion Boys State program to help youths gain an understanding of the structure and operation of local, state, and federal government.
- ✓ In 1943, National Commander Harry Colmery began to draft the G.I. Bill of Rights. When it was signed into law in 1944 it was one of the greatest legislative achievements.
- ✓ In 1982 The Legion presented a \$1 million check to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for construction of The Wall in Washington, DC. They were the largest single contributor to the project.
- ✓ In 1983 The Legion sponsored a study on the effects of exposure to Agent Orange on Vietnam Veterans.
- ✓ In 2008, President George W. Bush signs into law the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, a new GI Bill strongly supported by the Legion.

BIRTHDAY PRAYERS FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION

Heavenly Father, bless us as we gather to celebrate the anniversary of The American Legion, that great organization which has continued to serve America for the past 107 years. We thank Thee for the opportunity given to the American Legion Auxiliary to have a part in everything The American Legion has done and in sharing its endeavors. Grant that the patriotic enthusiasm which inspired these Legionnaires to serve our country in time of war may continue to always guide their activities, and that the principles of justice, freedom, loyalty, and democracy be preserved for a happy and secure America. Bless all our efforts for God and country, and may we continue to be mutually helpful to each other. Amen.

Almighty God, we thank Thee for permitting us to gather here for the purpose of celebrating the anniversary of the founding of The American Legion. We thank Thee for granting to the mothers, spouses, sisters, daughters, granddaughters, and grandmothers of these men and women the opportunity to share their unselfish program of service consecrated to God and country. Deepen our earnestness and devotion to the noble ideals for which our two organizations stand. May our numbers be increased, and may we, as members of these two great patriotic organizations, with Thy help, rededicate ourselves anew to our work. Lead us fearlessly, courageously, and nobly, increasing our usefulness and tempering our work with constant prayer for peace in our hearts. Amen.



An Irish Prayer

May God give you...
For every storm, a rainbow,
For every tear, a smile,
For every care, a promise,
And a blessing in each trial.
For every problem life sends,
A faithful friend to share,
For every sign, a sweet song,
And an answer for each prayer.