

P R E S S R E L E A S E
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 7, 2019

On Tuesday, August 6, President Trump signed the “Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act,” known as The LEGION Act. By the President signing this legislation into law, the Congress has extended the declared period of war back to December 7, 1941. The eligibility dates are now defined to include any actions undertaken by the U. S. Military until a time when the U.S. is no longer at war, as determined by Congress.

So, if you have served in any of our military services and have an honorable discharge, you are now eligible to join The American Legion. Veterans who were honorably discharged but whose service did not fall into the previously defined war eras, may now join The American Legion immediately. Army and Air National Guard personnel and Reservists with **one day** of federal service are also eligible, under “Title 10, Subsection 672 or 12301” which are orders from the Secretary of Defense and are federal orders. The aforementioned serving on active duty will have this information in the “Authority Line”, of their DD Form 214.

To this end, The Monmouth County Executive Committee of The American Legion, in cooperation with all American Legion Posts in Monmouth County, is holding a “Veterans Open House” at Neptune American Legion Post 346, 21 Gully Road, Neptune, on Sunday, September 8, 2019, from 1 PM until 5 PM. This “Open House” is for veterans who are not currently members. We will have representatives from all Monmouth County Posts as well as a Service officer to answer any questions the veterans may have regarding possible VA claims. Be sure to bring your Honorable Discharge Certificate or your DD Form 214, for service verification.

For further information, Our contact information will be visit our:

Website at: www.monmouthcountylegionfamily.org

Email legionmcec@gmail.com .

Google Voice at 732-800-2252 please leave a message.

2. Documentation for New Members (for Post CDR's and Membership Chairman)

“In the meantime, I recommend that prospective Legionnaires and recruiters write ‘LEGION Act’ in the eligibility date section of American Legion membership applications if they fall outside the previous war eras,”.

Example for filling out new members:

The American Legion Membership Application

(Name) _____
(Phone)

(Mailing Address) _____
(Date)

(City) _____
(State) _____
(Zip) _____
(Post #)

(Membership ID# former member) _____
(Email Address) _____
(Dues)

Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below

Aug 2, 1990 – cessation of hostilities as determined by U.S. Government

Aug 2, 1990 – Jan 31, 1990 U.S. Army

Aug 2, 1990 – Jan 31, 1984 U.S. Navy

Feb. 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975 U.S. Air Force

June 25, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955 U.S. Marines

Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946 U.S. Coast Guard

April 6, 1917 – Nov. 11, 1918 Merchant Marines 12/7/41 – 12/31/46 (only eligibility)

Legion Act




I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Signature of applicant _____
Name of recruiter

30-009 (2012)

Receipt of Dues
(Please Print)

 From _____

\$ _____ for 20____ Post # _____

Recruiter's Name _____

Recruiter's Signature _____

Recruiter's Phone # _____

Here are answers to 11 key questions about the new law and what it means for The American Legion.

Question: *How does this change the eligibility requirements for The American Legion?*

Answer: The only change is that Congress has reduced the number of eligibility periods from seven to two. They are April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941, and continuing. No other restrictions are changed.

Question: *What's the impact on veterans who previously were not eligible for American Legion membership?*

Answer: Veterans who were honorably discharged but whose service did not fall into the previous defined war eras may now join The American Legion immediately. To do so, eligible members may sign up at www.legion.org/join.

Question: *I am among the veterans who were not allowed to join previously, so why do you want me now?*

Answer: The American Legion's founding fathers believed, "a veteran is a veteran," an axiom that has held true throughout the organization's more than century of service. Some veterans were ineligible to join because of the war eras that were defined by Congress. The recent bill passage and president's signature changed that.

Question: *So how does this differentiate The American Legion from AMVETS?*

Answer: The American Legion's eligibility criteria states that veterans must have served during "wartime." When Congress decides the U.S. is no longer in a state of war, the Legion's membership eligibility period will close, while AMVETS will still be open to those who served.

Question: *How does this affect the Sons of The American Legion (SAL)?*

Answer: The Sons' eligibility criteria will change along with that of The American Legion. Any son or grandson of a living American Legion member will be able to join the SAL program. (Sons and grandsons of deceased veterans are also eligible.) For example, a son of a veteran who served between 1985 and 1988 previously would not have been eligible. With the extension of the war period, that veteran would immediately be eligible for The American Legion and the son would be able to join the SAL.

Question: *How does this affect the eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary?*

Answer: This follows the same concept as the SAL, as noted previously. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is currently open to grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and direct and adopted female descendants of eligible veterans.

Question: How does this affect membership for departments, districts and posts?

Answer: This change opens up American Legion membership to thousands more veterans who likely live in your communities. They may become members immediately.

Question: The current membership applications don't address the eligibility change. How do we process those members?

Answer: New membership materials will be developed and provided as quickly as possible. Until then, it is recommended that prospective members from a previously undocumented war era write "Other Conflicts" in the eligibility date section and send it in to their department with the appropriate dues.

Question: What steps should departments, districts and posts focus on?

Answer: A good first step would be to review all recruiting materials to look for eligibility dates. Information on electronic media (websites, social media channels, etc.) should be changed immediately. It is up to departments to decide on the best way to handle printed materials, while updated ones are being produced.

Question: How does this change the Paid Up For Life program?

Answer: There are no changes to the PUFL program, though the newly eligible members would be able to become PUFLs. To learn more about the program, visit <https://www.legion.org/PUFL>

Question: Who can I contact for more information about this change as it applies to membership and recruiting?

Answer: Contact the national Membership Division. Visit this web page to find the representative in your state. <https://www.legion.org/membership/contactus>