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My Fellow Legionnaires and Friends,

Wow, it's hard to believe after all the planning and promotions that month of the 100th birthday of the American Legion is finally here! Post 210 New Haven, our centennial Post, will be signing their permanent Charter on March 15th with a dinner celebration. Haven't yet thought of a way to celebrate, submit your 4-person team for the American Legion Family Bowling Tournament on March 16, 2019, 1pm at Bowl-O-Rama Newington. Sign-up forms are available on the department website www.ctlegion.org.

My travels for the month of February allowed me to travel mostly within our department. Attended Four Chaplain's Ceremonies, one at Post 104 Taftville and another at Post 154 Thompsonville. Members from Post 107 Hoboken New Jersey came to visit Post 15 Jewett City's 18 Veterans Housing apartments to inquire about lessons learned as they have built a new post with 6 apartments for transitioning homeless veterans.

On the national level, my wife Sandra was able to accompany me at the Washington Conference. Though the weather was not the greatest the events we attended were superb. It was great to see personally that the American Legion has a great relationship with our Legislators. During the National Commander's testimony, each Senator and Representative reiterated the strength and influence that The American Legion Family has on legislation. We speak about it at post and district meetings but to hear from our legislators speaks volumes.

Congratulations! To the following Legionnaire that earned the National Commander's Incentive pin for recruiting 3 new members into the American Legion: *Thomas Alegi Post 88 Hamden*. Thank you for your contribution to TEAM 100!!

Connecticut you're making me proud as we're consistently maintaining our position in the top ten! It surely is obvious that everyone is working towards making our Commander Tom Flowers a 100% Commander for our Centennial Year. I truly appreciate your continued efforts in achieving our goal, "Let's keep this momentum going, **Go TEAM 100!!**"

Lastly, I'd like to express my deepest sorrow for the loss of Past Department President (2015-2016), Georgia Theriault, Rest in Peace my friend.

Yours in TEAM 100 Spirit,

Paul Spedaliere
National Vice Commander