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My Fellow Legionnaires and Friends,

It is great to see that Connecticut hit first place in the Nation in membership this past month and we've consistently maintained our position in the top ten! This can only happen by everyone working towards the common goal of a 100% plus Department for our Centennial Year. As I stated last month "Let's keep this momentum going!!" Go TEAM 100!!

My travels since my last letter, Sandra and I attended the Department of New Hampshire's Mid-Winter Conference held at Post 7 Rochester. At the joint opening I spoke before the delegation about the latest happenings in the American Legion and membership. In route to New Hampshire, national assigned me to stop at Coast Guard Station Boston to present TFA checks to 6 Coastguardsmen along with national media representative Schelly Stone. I would like to convey the great appreciation that was received. This was a spot-on idea that National Commander Reistad did for the Coastguardsmen and our Organization.

National Commander Reistad has called for a "BUDDY CHECK: National Week of Calling" the week of March 11, the week of our 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday to reach out to our current and former members to see how they are doing and if they may need any help. Gather up a calling team meetup at a post or local community center and make that personal contact.

**New:** Any Legion Family member who renews 6 legionnaires can receive the national Commander's "Membership Excellence: Team 100" Pin. Renewals prior to January 14, 2019 do not count. To download a form, visit [www.legion.org/commander/pin](http://www.legion.org/commander/pin).

**Congratulations!** to the following Legionnaires that earned the National Commander's Incentive pin for recruiting 3 new members into the American Legion: *Charles Pickett Post 210 New Haven; Brian Avery, Charles Woodin, Jr, Jimmie Smith, & Robert Getz Post 209 Forestville; Ronald Codere Post 13 Putnam; Mary Harris Post 20 Plymouth; and William Burdick Post 61 Clinton.* Thank you all for your contribution to TEAM 100!! I hope to see more from Connecticut on the list in the coming months.

Please take the time to support the CT Boys and Girls State Foundation fundraiser "Dimes to Dollars". Help them help you sponsor Boys & Girls to participate in Boys & Girls State. Visit their website <http://www.ctbgsfoundation.org>.

The American Legion 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday is March 15 – 17, thinking of a way to celebrate over the weekend and taking a break from all those phone calls during BUDDY CHECK. Submit your 4-person team for the American Legion Family Bowling Tournament on March 16, 2019, 1pm at Bowl O Rama in Newington. Sign-up forms are in the Department Bulletin.

Yours in TEAM 100 Spirit,

Paul Spedaliere  
National Vice Commander