



**Website:** <https://www.alpost14cdaidaho.org/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/19mSHXcwYF/>

**Mailing Address:** 2215 N 7th Street, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

**Post Contact Number:** 208-699-6540

Email: [idaholegion14@gmail.com](mailto:idaholegion14@gmail.com)

### COMING EVENTS

February 5, 2026: General Membership Meeting

February 8, 2026: BIG GAME at the Post.  
Doors open at 2:30. Pot Luck, Bring your favorite dish

## COMMANDER BOB'S REPORT

As we embark on a new year, we are encouraged by the recent interest in our Post, as indicated not only by the addition of 20 new members the past few months, but also by their enthusiasm and willingness to participate in new programs to improve the lives of Veterans and our community. We are reorganizing to add several new committees to be of better service, and are adding many new activities to provide more fun and interest. Why should you come to our monthly meetings?

- Learn to maximize the benefits you earned by your military service.
- Associate with new friends that understand and respect you and that offer support.
- Enjoy the camaraderie of working together in service of Veterans in your community and nation.
- Support the organization that procured your Veteran rights and fights to maintain & add to them.

Thank you to the Post Staff who have been working so hard! — —  
Commander Bob Smee

### ATTENTION: ALL POST 14 MEMBERS

Our 1st Vice Commander Shaun Swant will be presenting our modified bylaws to all members at the February general membership meeting.

After presenting the changes, Shaun will open the meeting for discussion and then request a vote on their ratification by the membership in attendance.

Scheduling and personal commitments allowing, please make every effort to attend this meeting as ratification of the amended bylaws is of paramount importance.



**UPDATE: JANUARY 26, 2026.....**The 2026 session of Gem Boys State will be held Sunday, May 31 to Friday June 5, 2026 at Gowen Field in Boise, ID. There will be a limit of 120 boys selected to attend. Please apply early to ensure your selection, after we reach 120 a stand-by list will be instituted. Click on these links to obtain the [Boys State Course Curriculum](#) and [Application Packet](#). Completed application packages must be submitted directly to American Legion Post 14 Kootenai County **no later than April 1, 2026**. Your primary point-of-contact at AL Post 14 is Pat Tatum who may be reached at 208-699-6540 or email at [idaholegion14@gmail.com](mailto:idaholegion14@gmail.com).

What exactly is Boys State? American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students. It is a participatory program where each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government.

Boys State has been a program of The American Legion since 1935 when it organized to counter the Fascist inspired Young Pioneer Camps. The program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield.

At American Legion Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus and recreational programs.

High school juniors are selected by local American Legion Posts to attend the program. In most cases, expenses associated with attending this program are paid by a sponsoring American Legion Post, a local business or another community-based organization.

American Legion Boys State is currently conducted in 49 Departments of The American Legion. Hawaii does not conduct a program. As separate corporations, Boys States vary in content and method of procedure, but each and every Boys State adheres to the basic concept of the program - that of teaching government from the township to the state level.

## Lunch Served to Vets & Families at St Maries Outreach Center

Dave Bruyette (1st on left) serves as Pastor of the Mountain Lakes Bible Church and is also an active member of American Legion Post 14 here in Coeur d'Alene. If you're familiar with Dave, you know this man freely gives of himself and goes non-stop supporting our local community in so many ways. Dave is pictured



here at the St Maries Veterans Outreach Center earlier today (12-23-2025) where he helped prepare and serve lunch to our fellow veterans and their family members.


Dave, through his actions clearly supports the St Maries Veterans Outreach Center ethos: "The bond between veterans lasts a lifetime. At the Outreach Center, Veterans Helping Veterans isn't just a phrase — it's a way of life. When a veteran finds connection and support, we have then upheld our lifelong commitment. We are committed to helping our veterans build a life worth living."

If you'd like to find out more about the services offered by the St Marie's Veterans Outreach Center, click [here](#) to be taken directly to their website for a full listing of the services they offer. THANK YOU Dave for your kindness and generosity! **Bravo Zulu my friend! Bravo Zulu** (Well Done for those not acquainted with Military jargon).




Pictured to the left is a beautifully hand-made crocheted American Flag comforter. This lovely piece of craftsmanship will keep you warm throughout the remainder of the winter. Our raffle-master, Pat Tatum and his team will be providing specifics very soon on where and when you can purchase your raffle tickets in hopes of winning this wonderfully, crafted piece of Americana! Stand by for more information!










**BIG GAME Party & Potluck**  
**Sunday, February 8th, 2026**  
 Hosted at American Legion Post 14, 2215 N 7th Street,  
 Coeur d'Alene  
 Post Doors open for Kickoff Gathering at 2:30p.m.





-  **Join Us for the Ultimate Game Day Hangout!**  
 Bring your team spirit and settle in for an afternoon of football, food, friends and good banter! Whether you're cheering, snacking, or just here for the commercials, everyone's welcome.
-  **Potluck Style**  
 Bring something tasty to share — appetizers, chili, wings, desserts, anything that fuels a great tailgate. We'll provide Hot Dogs, Popcorn & possibly Cotton Candy! Alcohol is not permitted.
-  **Game-Day Fun**  
 Big screen, good company, and plenty of excitement as we watch the biggest game of the year together.
-  **Community Vibes**  
 A relaxed, friendly gathering at Post 14 — **Bring your family members and guests.**
-  **Big Game Door Prize**  
 We'll also be holding a drawing for one (1) Buck Knife at halftime, to present to one lucky winner!



**American Legion**  
**Auxiliary**

Do you have a desire to support our veterans or help those who have served and need assistance? Are you new to our community and simply looking for a way to get involved and meet some good folks without any drama?

Please consider joining our brand new American Legion Post 14 Kootenai County Auxiliary chapter. Who are we? We are the male and female spouses, grandmothers, mothers, sisters, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion. Some of us are veterans ourselves.

All you need to do is contact Jan who is our interim Auxiliary Organizational Leader at 208-699-6540 or click on [this link](#), complete the form and send it off to Jan at [idaholegion14@gmail.com](mailto:idaholegion14@gmail.com) and if approved, we'll introduce you to some of the best friends you'll ever have! Annual dues are \$45/year.



Post 14 is more than just boring monthly meetings! It's been a BUSY year with LOTS of **smiling faces** at our raffle sales, membership drives, morning coffee & pastry get-togethers, 4th of July parades, National Guard Fall Festival, America 250 Activities and so much more! Life is not boring at American Legion Post 14....Come on down and try us out!

## American Legion Post 14 Legionnaires swooping in to honor a Civil War Veteran and a WWI Veteran!



Coeur d'Alene American Legion Post 14 Commander Robert Smee, Adjutant Jerry Staub and Sergeant at Arms Michael Rod are shown here spearheading a committee on Monday, January 26th with the intent of honoring two veterans who are interred at Mica Peak Cemetery without gravestones or a military service marker. The original markers at the resting places of the Civil War and World War I soldiers have gone missing or have been destroyed through time." For the complete article, click on the following link: <https://cdapress.com/news/2025/nov/09/mica-peak-soldiers-gravesites-need-military-markers/>



## Critical Response Awareness

This NON-CERTIFICATION class provides on-scene personnel with the knowledge, capability and confidence to follow a 911 dispatcher's emergency response directions until First Responders are on-scene and available to assist the injured party.



**Where:** American Legion Post 14, Mountain Lakes Bible Church, 2215 N 7th Street, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

**When:** February 27, 2026

**Time:** 1:00 to 3:00p.m.

**RSVP's only accepted until 2-25-26 or until we reach maximum occupancy for the Mountain Lakes Bible Church**

**Call 208-699-6540 or email [idaholegion14@gmail.com](mailto:idaholegion14@gmail.com) to register now.**

## American Legion District I Meeting

The American Legion Department of Idaho District 1 Spring Meeting for 2026 is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2026, at the Steven H Nipp, Post 143, 1138 E Poleline Ave in Post Falls. Registration and a meet-and-greet starts at 9:00 am, followed by the meeting at 10:00 am.

If you'd like to register for this event, contact Jan Powell at 208-699-6540 and let her know how many people will be attending in your party. You may also email Jan at [idaholegion14@gmail.com](mailto:idaholegion14@gmail.com) to inquire about registration. There is a \$5.00 attendance fee, lunch prices are still to be determined and payment for this will be collected at sign-in.

**Attention: All Veterans and their families!**

Starting February 5, 2026, Pastry and More is offering FREE coffee along with a 15% discount on all pastries, sandwiches and cookies!

We've designated every Thursday as "Veterans Appreciation Day!" You have bravely served and protected us, now it's our turn to serve you!

Come visit us at 411 W Haycraft Ave in Coeur d'Alene, where Haycraft and the 95 meet! Call us at 208-667-3808 for all your bakery needs.

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## LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD ON AMERICAN LEGION LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

In 2025, American Legion Family members and veteran advocates sent 102,873 messages to Congress urging them to pass Legion-supported legislation. These messages were sent through The American Legion's [Grassroots Action Center](#) that connects American Legion Family members and advocates with their members of Congress. The Grassroots Action Center allows The American Legion to contact every member of Congress on large, national campaigns as well as target specific members on key committees that pertain to The American Legion's legislative priorities.

Visit the Grassroots Action Center [here](#). You can stay informed of all American Legion legislative campaigns by signing up for legislative alerts on the Grassroots Action Center page.

The top campaigns for messages sent include:

- Major Richard Star Act, 22,299
- Service Dogs Assisting Veterans, 17,779
- Ships for America Act, 16,481
- 2025 GI Bill Parity, 14,015

And the top five states that sent the most messages were: Kansas (8,842), Wisconsin (8,317), New York (6,221), Florida (6,177) and Tennessee (5,483).

"This is a direct link to all of the federal elected officials from your state to hear your concerns for the Legion's priorities on bills in Congress," said Randy Frank, past Department of Kansas commander. "Just go to [www.legion.org/action](http://www.legion.org/action) and be heard. You can do this once every 24 hours. It is so simple that I complete mine daily while eating a bowl of cereal for breakfast.



## 2026 District 1 Oratorical Contest Championship

Due to the initial high interest in applicants who wanted to participate in the 2026 District 1 American Legion Oratorical Contest, Posts 143, 154 and 14 collaboratively decided that



we would hold three different contests, to facilitate a more logistically friendly environment for the geographically scattered contestants.

In the end, the field of contestants dwindled down to only four local students and it was decided to hold the main event at Steven H Nipp AL Post 143 in Post Falls on Saturday, January 10, 2026.

Cecilia Dignan-Omodt, a senior from Sandpoint High School took top honors winning the District 1 and Area 1 Oratorical Contest with a speech entitled "Antiquated or Relevant." Ms. Dignan-Omodt now advances to the Department of Idaho competition.

Our second place winner's spot was awarded to Elijah Harrison (Trinity Home Educators) and our third place winner was Evangeline Krombein (Logos Online School).



## **AARP** Foundation® Tax-Aide

# Get your taxes done for free!

The AARP Tax-Aide program primarily serves taxpayers with low to moderate income and is open to taxpayers of **all ages**. AARP membership is not required.

**CALL for an appointment BEGINNING JANUARY 15** at one of the following sites **where an appointment is required**. There is 1 "Walk-In" site and 3 "Appointment" sites.

### ***Tax-Aide sites open February 2 - April 15, 2026***

**Dalton Gardens Church of Christ** – this site **accepts "Walk-Ins"** – no appointment required

OPEN Monday through Saturday – 9am to 3pm

6439 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Dalton Gardens (corner of Hanley and 4<sup>th</sup>)

CALL 208-255-0337 for Information

**Lake City Center** – Coeur d'Alene

**CALL 208-665-7329 for APPOINTMENT**

OPEN Monday to Friday – 9am to 4pm

1916 N. Lakewood Dr., Coeur d'Alene

**Rathdrum Community Center**

**CALL 208-659-2464 for APPOINTMENT**

OPEN Wednesday & Friday – 9am to 4pm

8037 Montana St., Rathdrum

**Kellogg, Idaho Health & Welfare Office**

**CALL 208-659-1827 for APPOINTMENT**

OPEN Wed & Thurs – 9am to 12 noon

35 Wildcat Way, Suite B, Kellogg

***Please stop by one of the above sites to pick up your Tax-Aide Envelope for the current tax year. Enclosed will be an Intake/Interview booklet that you are required to complete before we prepare your tax return.***

#### **What to bring:**

- Your Social Security Card (and those of everyone else on your tax return, including children)
- Your picture ID (and spouse's picture ID if applicable)
- ALL your current tax year income documents (W2's, Soc Sec income, 1099s, 1098s, etc.)
- Tax-Aide Envelope with COMPLETED Intake/Interview booklet
- Your prior year's income tax return IF POSSIBLE

**IRS-CERTIFIED** – Our qualified volunteers are trained and IRS-certified.

**MORE INFORMATION** at:

states.aarp.org/idaho/ **OR** taxaide.aarpfoundation.org

ID1-D02 01-05-2026 for TY2025



### **Post 14 February Birthdays!**

**Michael Adams, Kenneth Castagno, Douglas Dandrea,  
Thomas Hoiland, David Martin and Lloyd Moran**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY GENTLEMEN!**



## Kootenai County Idaho Veterans' Court Update

Since Fall of 2024 the Kootenai County Veteran Treatment Court has been helping Veterans charged with misdemeanors and other crimes to request acceptance into the program. Benefits to the Veteran defendant include mental health and substance abuse therapy provided by the county and a chance for reduced time served and waiver of fines. The 12-18 month required time in the program comes with a Veteran Mentor who works with the Mentee each week to assist in keeping the person focused on changed behavior and personal responsibility for their decisions.

To date, twelve mentors have been recruited to serve their Mentee throughout the three phases. Successful completion of each step results in graduation and reduced sentences and possible restoration of driving. The program under District Special Courts Judge Poorman needs more Mentors and its recruiter Joe Deacon from Post 14 is seeking qualified Vets.

Five Veterans have graduated from the program recently and one is back as a Mentor in appreciation for the experience with VTC. Also, a nonprofit 501c3 organization has been established to help support mentors and it's called Friends of the Veteran Treatment Court. It is accepting donations from the public and Veteran Organizations. For more information on Kootenai County Idaho Veterans' Court, [click here](#).



First District Judge Tristan Moorman administers Veterans Treatment Court in Kootenai County.

### POST OFFICERS

Post Commander - Bob Smee

Post Adjutant - Jerry Staub

Post Office Manager - Jan Powell

Post 1st Vice Commander - Shaun Swant

Post 2nd Vice Commander - Pat Tatum

Post 3rd Vice Commander - Ralph Perry

Post Membership Officer - Joe Deacon

Post Chaplain - David Bruyette

Post Associate Chaplain - Bill Muck

Post Finance Manager - Glen Wilson

Post Historian - Jerry Staub

Post Sergeant at Arms - Michael Rod

Post Public Relations & Veterans Services Officer - Damon Darakjy

Send any newsletter comments or suggestions to  
Ralph at [exnavydiver@gmail.com](mailto:exnavydiver@gmail.com)