

The American Legion Post #428

This month we are featuring The American Legion Post #428 in Wesley, Iowa, and also include some members from St. Benedict and Titonka, Iowa. The Wesley Legion has around 45 men and woman members. The Wesley American Legion Post #428 was started in 1920 and was chartered in 1924, next March; The American Legion will be celebrating their 100 year anniversary. I interviewed Dwayne Eden, The Commander and Mick Cruise the Vice Commander of The American Legion Post #428.

Dwayne Eden was Army active duty in the 82nd Airborne Infantry Division based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After that, he moved back to Iowa and was in the National Guard for 20 years. Dwayne has been a part of the American Legion for 15 years and has been Commander for 18 months. Dwayne's son Jake Eden is in Sons of the American Legion Post #428 and is currently in the National Guard.

Mick Cruise was in the Army from June 15, 1965 to June 17, 1967. Mick was based in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. From there, he went to Fort Ord, California, and was sent to Korea for 13 months. After Korea, Mick went to Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and trained Officer Cadet School (OCS) candidates. Mick has been a part of The Wesley American Legion for 49 years. Mick's son Mike Cruise is also in Sons of the American Legion Post #428.

To be eligible to be a part of The American Legion you must have served at least one day of active duty during wartime or are currently serving. To be a part of the Sons of the American Legion your father, grandfather, great grandfather, etc. must be or have been a part of the American Legion. The American Legion Auxiliary is dedicated to veteran service for women.

The American Legion Post #428 is responsible for helping the community with various projects such as the Pool Project, the Shelter House Project, play equipment for South Park and Fourth of July Fireworks. The American Legion gives scholarships to two graduates from both Algona and Bishop Garrigan schools. Another opportunity The American Legion gives is a sponsorship to allow one student per year to go to Boys and Girls State. This sponsorship is for high school juniors and is a weeklong hands-on experience in the operation of the democratic form of government located at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa. This is just a few of the generous things our American Legion does for our community!

The American Legion can also use your help in helping others by coming to a few of the events they hold or making a monetary donation. The next event is the Feather Party this month on November 17th; sandwiches will be served along with playing Bingo to win hams and turkeys. The Memorial Day chicken dinner and Fourth of July Fireworks. Thank you to The American Legion & Sons Post #428 for being a part of our City!

A little history...

The organization was founded on March 15, 1919, at the American Club near Place de la Concorde in Paris, France, by members of the American Expeditionary Forces, and it was chartered on September 16, 1919, by the U.S. Congress. Membership peaked for The American Legion right after World War II, when enrollments doubled from 1.7 million to 3.3 million. After the Korean War, there were 2.5 million Legionnaires. As the baby boomers joined, its membership increased to 3.1 million in 1992. However, membership has slowly been decreasing since then. In 2013, National Headquarters of The American Legion reported 2.3 million members. Notable members of The American Legion have included: Harry Truman, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, Humphrey Bogart and Clark Gable. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Legion