

## 1 Your Membership Card

Your passport to friendship and hospitality. Your card enables you to visit any of the 800 Posts located throughout Illinois, 15,000 Posts across the U.S. and 4 foreign countries: France, Mexico, Philippines & Puerto Rico. Be a part of a member of over 106,000. Get access to excellent meals at reasonable prices for you and your family.

## 2 Benefits

Rehabilitation of the Veteran and his/her family is one of our prime initiatives. The American Legion's network of more than 2,000 accredited services officers helps veterans understand their benefits, apply for them and appeal disputed decisions. In Illinois 3,500 cases were handled by a highly trained rehabilitation staff in the areas of healthcare services, correction of military discharge designations, mental health counseling, education, employment, funeral benefits to name a few.

## 3 Legislative Program

Your link to your Senators and Congressperson: American Legion maintains a strong and active legislative program with the Department of Illinois. Our legislative committee monitors the activities of the members of Illinois General Assembly as well as the duly-elected officials on Capital Hill in Washington D.C. The Committee help to sponsor bills and resolutions affecting veterans and their family's

## 4 Baseball Program

Every year over 100 American Legion baseball teams compete in sectional, regional, and state tournament within the state of Illinois. Comprised of high school players under the direction, coaching and sponsorship of members. The program does stress winning, but more importantly stresses the important of good sportsmanship, fair play and teamwork.

## 5 Illinois Premier Boys State

A week that shapes a lifetime. Since 1935 the Illinois Department of the American Legion has conducted a week long learning experience into the democratic form of government, called Illinois Premier Boys State. Boys State offers more than 600 young men who attend a session annually, an opportunity to learn first hand the inner workings of a political party and to apply this knowledge in an actual practice.

## 6 Special Olympics

A person-to-person program, the Illinois Department of the American Legion actively supports Illinois Special Olympics, in terms of both man hours spent conducting local events and financial sponsorship as well. We believe there is no such thing as handicapped people . . . only truly special people.

## 7 Oratorical

The youth of today speak out on the Constitution. The Illinois Department of the American Legion has conducted a high school oratorical contest for over 75 years.

## 8 Comfort For The Recovering

Troops and veterans recovering from wounds or illnesses linked to their service in the armed forces have no greater friend than the American Legion. Two of the Legion's biggest efforts on this front - (1) Operation Comfort Warriors; (2) Heroes To Hometowns - aim to provide comfort items, recreational experiences and support for those whose lives have been greatly changed by military experience.

## 9 Gifts To Hospitalized War Veterans

Since 1944 the Illinois American Legion has supported a program to remember every hospitalized war veteran in Illinois. Merchandise requested by hospitalized veterans is purchased with donated funds. More than 2,000 Legion and Auxiliary volunteers wrap and distribute gifts at Christmas.

## 10 Family & Community Support

When times are tough for veterans and their families, the American Legion Steps Up - Two marquee programs of the organization:

- Family Support Network
- Temporary Financial Assistance

Offer direct Legion help to families with young people at home. The Family Support Network (FSN) connects military and veteran families with volunteers from local posts who help with babysitting, lawn care, auto maintenance and many other needs. Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) provides cash grants to military and veteran families in financial trouble.