



To: Department of Virginia

Subject: Report on the National Legion College Class of 2020

Fellow Legionnaires,

I wanted to take a moment to tell you about one of the best weeks I've had as a member of the American Legion.

After a year of waiting, the "NALC" National American Legion Class of 2020, was finally able to assemble in Indianapolis, Indiana on November 13-19, 2021. The training we received was first rate, The National Staff, the Instructors, our Class Facilitators, were all there to give my classmates and myself a better understanding of the American Legion and ourselves, but this week was about so much more than what we learned in books. We were challenged every step of the way from start to finish and yes it was exhausting at times but very rewarding. I'm writing this to tell you all how thankful I am, for the opportunity to give you a little insight into what we learned in such a seemingly short week.

We had to learn teamwork and quickly! Without teamwork, none of what we were tasked with during the week would have been possible to accomplish. We quickly learned to network with fellow legionnaires from all over the country, to depend on each other to complete each task as a team, while also learning about ourselves. There was no wasted time, and everyone had input.

We learned Value! We took a hard look at what drive's us as individuals, as a group how to place value on everything we do. We were asked to look inside ourselves to see what motivated us to join the Legion in the first place, our "why" if you will. This helped us determine the value in ourselves and our mission.

We learned that together, with no self-imposed barriers, we can set goals, develop agenda, and accomplish whatever mission we face. We are not alone! We now have all these great new friends but even more importantly, we have people we can count on across this country and at National Headquarters for the rest of our lives and they are fellow legionnaires. I'm excited to pass this information on, to share this experience and to help others find their "why". Don't be afraid to look for your "why" and then reevaluate your goals as a legionnaire.

I would also like to mention that December is here, and while our thoughts turn to holidays and family, I ask all legionnaires to remember those who have fallen on hard times. These last months have been rougher on some than others especially the children. Reach out to fellow veterans, use Buddy checks, check with local community centers and shelters. Maybe your post can provide meals, help with Toys-for-Tots, Salvation Army or Shop with a Cop, so that those less fortunate may also have Christmas! The opportunities are there if you choose to see them. Together, we can help veterans and their families prosper through the American Legion in 2022.

For God and Country,

Rick Ward, Chairman  
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