



Official Biography Leland Baxter, Commander The American Legion Department of Indiana 2010-2011

Leland O. Baxter, a Vietnam veteran and eight-year veteran of the prestigious HMX 1, the President's Helicopter Squadron, was unanimously elected Department Commander in the closing session of the 92nd annual convention of the Department of Indiana Saturday, July 18, in Indianapolis.

Baxter is a 28-year member of The American Legion at Sellersburg, Indiana, having joined Post 204 there following his 21-year career as a United States Marine. He retired from the Corps as a Master Sergeant.

His Legion experience includes service at the post level as commander for five years, vice commander for three years, and finance officer for five years. He served the eighth district as Commander, Vice Commander, Finance Officer and Membership Chairman, and the Department as Southern Vice Commander, Membership Chairman and has chaired all four major commissions. He also served a seven-year stint as Vice Chairman of the National and Homeland Security Council for the National Organization of The American Legion.

Baxter and his wife Joan have been married for 47 years and are the parents of two children and the grandparents of six, including two special needs children who have become an integral part of the family.

He has selected the Riley Children's Hospital Foundation as his special project for the year, and will call on Legion Family Members throughout the year to support his efforts on behalf of that organization.

Commander Baxter has chosen the traditional American Legion motto – “For God and Country” – as his theme for this Legion year. The motto is the opening phrase of the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution and expresses the foundation on which all Legion programs and activities are based.