LOCAL 873 VETERANS COMMITTEE
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER 2ND QUARTER 2026

Veteran Committee Executive Member's

Chairman	Vice Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer
Patrick Julian	Joel Bolen	David Sherron	Brandon Fulk

Chairman's Message

Brothers and Sisters,

This past quarter has been a strong example of what can be accomplished when our members come together with a common purpose.

The completion of the Grissom Air Museum project showed exactly what this committee is about — giving back to our community, honoring our military history, and putting our skills to work for something bigger than ourselves. It took time, effort, and coordination, but in the end, it was our members stepping up that made it happen.

That's something to be proud of.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, supported, and continues to represent Local 873 the right way. This is how we build something that lasts.

Fraternally,
Patrick Julian Jr.
Chairman, Veterans Committee
IBEW Local 873

Grissom Air Museum Project – Completed

The Veterans Committee successfully completed the interior electrical installation for the new building at the Grissom Air Museum, which now houses the historic B-58 Hustler Bomber.

This project was completed entirely through volunteer labor. Members of Local 873 donated their time, and local contractors and vendors stepped up by donating materials and equipment to make it possible.

This was a major accomplishment and a great example of the brotherhood and skill within our Local.

Hoc Nos Defendemus Semper Fidelis Non Sibi Sed Patriae
Semper Paratus Aim High…Fly-Fight-Win Semper Supra

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Helmets to Hardhats Update

Washington Watch – GI Bill Parity Effort

Helmets to Hardhats, in coordination with the American Legion and partners within the building trades, is advancing an effort to improve how the GI Bill applies to veterans in registered apprenticeship programs.

This initiative was **introduced to the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee** last month and focuses on creating a more level playing field between apprenticeship and traditional college pathways.

Key issues being addressed include:

- The **20% step-down** in housing allowance over time for apprentices
- Loss or interruption of benefits when veterans are **laid off or short on hours through no fault of their own**
- Ensuring apprenticeship programs are treated as a **structured, career-focused education pathway**, not a secondary option

The goal of this effort is simple:
Provide **fair, consistent support** to veterans choosing careers in the skilled trades.

The Veterans Committee is actively supporting this effort and have identified Veterans that have been negatively impacted by the current structure. A survey was sent out by Helmets to Hardhats to have their voices heard.

Below is a link to the American Legion web page discussing their efforts and actions taken place so far.

https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/careers/2026/march/task-force-movement-unions-legion-agree-on-apprenticeship-schism

Veterans Committee Coin Update

Work continues on the new **Veterans Committee challenge coin**, with **Bill Percy** leading the design effort.

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Member Update

We are proud to share that **Bill Percy has been nominated for Indiana State Chair in the IBEW 6th District**. This is a strong reflection of his leadership and commitment, not only to our committee but to the Brotherhood as a whole.

The Veterans Committee fully supports Bill and wishes him the best as he moves forward in this process.

Merchandise

Local 873 Veteran Hats and Shirts: Available at the hall. These are sold at cost by the Hall.
Veteran Committee Coins and Hats: We still have some hats available; If you would like a hat, reach out to Patrick Julian or Joel Bolen. All proceeds go toward supporting committee activities and veteran outreach.

Washington Watch

Here are a few important updates from the Department of Veterans Affairs and national veteran policy discussions this quarter:

VA Disability Pay Increase (2026)

VA disability compensation saw a 2.8% cost-of-living increase effective late 2025 and continuing into 2026.
This helps offset inflation, though many veterans continue to feel rising living costs outpacing increases.

GI Bill Expansion – Major Win for Veterans

In a recent legal development, the VA dropped an appeal that could allow up to 1.2 million veterans to access additional GI Bill benefits under multiple programs.
Details are still being finalized, but this is a significant step toward expanded education benefits.

VA Investing Nearly $5 Billion in Facilities

The VA announced nearly $4.8 billion in funding to modernize hospitals and healthcare facilities across the country.
This includes repairs, upgrades, and improvements aimed at better care for veterans.

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Important Dates

Vet Committee Meeting: April 22nd, 2026; 6PM Location TBD! Check the Vet Committee Private Page or reach out to Patrick Julian for details.

Phone Numbers/Emails

Chairman-Patrick Julian Jr: (260)330-5554; patrickjulianjr@gmail.com
Veteran Coins-Bill Percy: billpercy873@gmail.com

Websites
IBEW 873: www.ibew873.com

Social Media
Facebook: IBEW 873 Veteran's Committee
We Now Have a Public and Private Page!

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