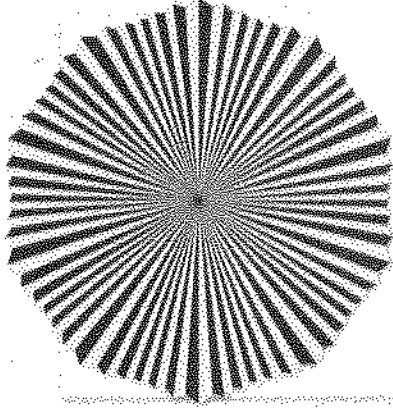


# Elements of the Emblem

"Each of the emblem's many significant parts signifies a meaning which no Legionnaire who wears the emblem should take lightly, and which he should know from the first minute he or she puts it on," professor Robert W. Hart wrote in 1956.

Hart's observation is as insightful today, on the occasion of the Legion's 83rd birthday, as it was nearly half a century ago. It behooves every Legionnaire to learn the meanings of the symbols that constitute The American Legion emblem.



## *The Rays of the Sun*

The rays of the sun form the background of the emblem and suggest the Legion's principles will dispel the darkness of violence and evil.



## *The Wreath*

The wreath forms the center, in loving memory of those brave comrades who gave their lives in the service of the United States that liberty might endure.

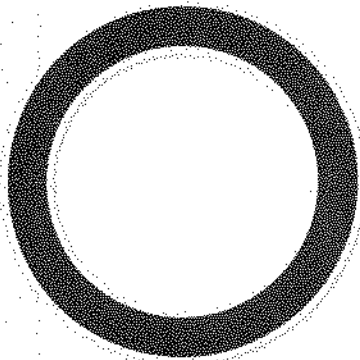
## *The Words*

The words "American Legion" tie the ring together for truth, remembrance, constancy, honor, service, veterans affairs and rehabilitation, children and youth, loyalty, national security and Americanism.



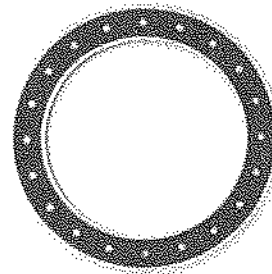
## *The Star*

The star, victory symbol of World War I, also symbolizes honor, glory and constancy. The letters "U.S." leave no doubt as to the brightest star in the Legion's emblem.



## *Outer Rings*

The larger of two outer rings stands for the rehabilitation of our sick and disabled comrades. The smaller inside ring denotes the welfare of America's children.



## *Inner Rings*

The smaller of two inner rings set upon the star represents service to our communities, states and the nation. The larger outer ring pledges loyalty to Americanism.