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AMERICAN LEGION MATTHEW BLOUNT POST 555

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IN GOD WE TRUST



Matthew Blount Post 555
General Membership Meeting Agenda
Pelham First Baptist Church Annex
2882 Pelham Parkway, Pelham, AL 35124
Tuesday, August 03, 2021

TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER
6:00 p.m.	Reception for Post 555 Members	N/A
6:30 p.m.	Reception for Players and Coaches	N/A
7:30 p.m.	Call to Order / Salute the Colors	Commander Jeffrey Monday
7:33 p.m.	Pledge of Allegiance	Commander Jeffrey Monday
7:34 p.m.	Placement of the POW/MIA Flag on the Empty Chair	Service Officer Jerry McClain
7:37 p.m.	Reading of the Preamble of the American Legion Constitution	Adjutant Nancy Waller
7:38 p.m.	Opening Ceremony Prayer	Guest Pastor Davin Watkins, PFBC
7:40 p.m.	Roll Call	Adjutant Nancy Waller
7:41 p.m.	Welcome from Post 555	Commander Jeffrey Monday
7:46 p.m.	Message from American Legion 102nd Department Commander	Commander Tina Bush
7:56 p.m.	Introduction of the Guest Speaker by Director Alan Phillips	Director Alan Phillips Alabama American Legion Baseball Director Steve Woodard, Professional Baseball Pitcher
8:00 p.m.	Guest Speaker	
8:25 p.m.	Removal of the POW/MIA Flag from the Empty Chair	Service Officer Jerry McClain
8:28 p.m.	Closing / Salute the Colors	Commander Jeffrey Monday
8:29 p.m.	Benediction	Chaplain Joe Dunn
8:30 p.m.	Motion to Adjourn / Adjournment	Commander Jeffrey Monday

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Jeff Monday
Post Commander



American Legion baseball season has been in full swing. This year is incredibly special to the program because Post 555 has the honor of hosting the 2021 Southeast 19U Regional Tournament. We will be hosting state champions from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Louisiana.

The regional tournament is an incredibly special event because, not only the winner will go to the American Legion World Series to represent the Southeast, but also this is the first time the state of Alabama has hosted the 19U Senior Regional.

This tournament is particularly important not only for the Post but for Alabama American Legion baseball. We want to create an experience for the players and families of the teams participating, that will last a lifetime.

The Post meeting will move to Tuesday 3 August 2021. This will give us the opportunity to host the Meet and Greet the night before the Tournament starts.

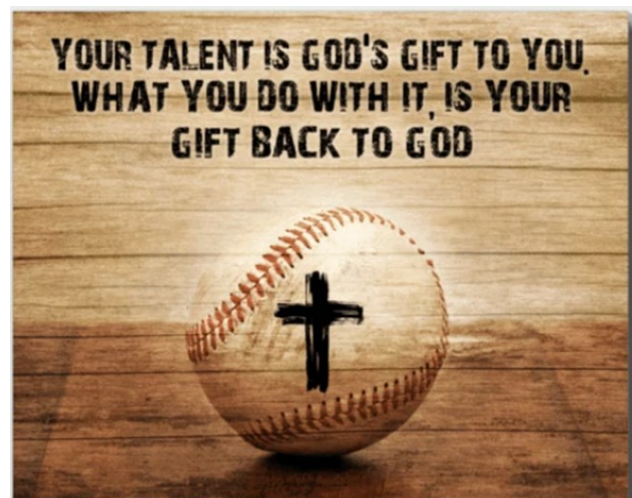
We need assistance in making this event successful. What does that mean? This means we need **you**, our Post members, to come to the Meet and Greet and the ball games; let's show the Southeast that Post 555

knows how to be a great host.

Post 555 needs your support to show the Southeast that Post 555 is one hundred percent in support of American Legion Baseball. I have no doubt that all in Post 555 will show great support and leadership during these five days: 3 thru 8 August; come and bring your friends to a game or two. Finally, yet importantly, I would like to thank everyone that has played a role in making this happen, it takes an Army not just one individual. So, thank you. Thank you!

Jeff Monday

Commander.



Commander's corner continues on next page

COMMANDER'S CORNER, CONTINUES...

Please, put **Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Pelham First Baptist Church Annex** on your calendar to join us at the "Meet and Greet", for the American Legion 19U Senior Regional Tournament's baseball players and coaches, before they start their tournament. This evening also serves as our August General Membership Meeting, so there will be just a little bit of business with a lot of fun and food thanks to Chubbfathers.

Post 555 has the honor of hosting the 2021 Southeast 19U Regional Tournament with State Champions from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Louisiana. What a privilege to have these young men here in Pelham, Alabama, and what a privilege for us to be their host!!

Refer to the Tournament Schedule that Commander Monday put in this Newsletter on page 12 for all of the dates and game times. If anyone wants to help with ticket sales at the gate at Pelham High School, contact Bill Blank @ 214-476-7074. I am sure he can find a spot for you to help.

If you are able to join us, please do so. We will eat first, then at 6:30 p.m. the players and coaches will arrive in buses to enjoy a meal with us. The more Post 555 members there, the more these young men will see what a wonderful group of Veterans we have in our Post. Wear your Post polo or T-shirt and/or your garrison cap to show them you are members of the Post!!



Post 555 Attends State Convention

Members of Post 555 Family attended the Alabama Department Convention held in Montgomery, AL on June 17- 20, 2021. Members of the Sons of The American Legion attended the Alabama Detachment convention meeting. Members of the Triple Nickel Riders attended the American Legion Riders at the ALR meeting. The Post had a delegation that participated in three days of training, committee meetings and elections of 2021-2022 Department officers.

1ST VICE'S COMMENTS



Bill Blank

1st Vice Commander



Hello everyone! For now, there is not much to talk about except baseball. The state championship games are now complete. Post 555 JV team has won the state championship. This is huge for the JV team and post 555. Congratulations to the JV team for their accomplishment!

Next in this baseball season is the Regional Championship. This is the biggest event ever and is being hosted here in Pelham. There will be teams from eight states competing for a chance to play in the American Legion World Series. A grand event to which all are being invited to attend. This grand event is an opportunity for the Legion and its members to be present and be seen. We are going to be able to fulfill two of the pillars: Americanism, as we serve our community, and, Youth Service. So, I

say to you, come one come all and bring your families out to the ole ballgame!

There are still a couple of openings at the ticket booths for fired up volunteers to serve. If you would like to volunteer, please call me (Bill Blank) at (214) 476-7074. Your help during this event would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely;
Bill Blank
First Vice Commander
Post 555



AMERICAN LEGION ALABAMA BOYS STATE 2021

American Legion Alabama Boys State is a leadership program for young men who have completed their junior year of high school and are leaders in their schools and communities.

This year's delegates also include the young men selected for the 2020 Boys State since that session was cancelled due to COVID-19.

American Legion Alabama Boys State provides delegates with a working knowledge of how government functions on the city, county and state level.

Acceptance to Alabama Boys State is a privilege granted by invitation only. Delegates from across the state are selected by their school faculty and community leaders based on their demonstration of leadership, hard work, strong moral and motivation.

Boys State is a full and active week held on the campus of The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and an invitation to attend is one of the state's highest honors.



For the year of 2021 we are pleased to have sponsored three delegates from local high schools. The delegates are shown above and from left to right is Gary Lacey and Wesley Yeatman both from Oak Mountain High School and Micah Langston of Hope Christian School.

From all the reports I have received from our delegates and parents, the results from attending the 2021 Alabama Boys State was outstanding. Their enthusiasm is very gratifying knowing we, American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555,

can keep America strong and ensure freedom for future generations by sending outstanding young students to attend The Alabama Boys State. We will continue to honor our obligation to God and Country and inspire our youth.

Tom McDaniel

Past Commander, Post 555



Picture of the 2021 Boys State Delegation



ADJUTANT'S AREA



Nancy Waller
Adjutant

YOUR ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE FOR 2022
AS OF JULY 1, 2021!!!

Our membership for 2022 so far is 47. This includes the WWII and Korean War Veterans who all are now Honorary Life Members in Post 555. Congratulations to them all. We were honored to have four Korean War Veterans present at our last General Membership Meeting and it was a pleasure seeing them again. They were Coy Cambron, Milton Foley, Marion Kane, and Doyle Kernia. There is a lot of history with these four Veterans.

Everyone should have received their notification from the American Legion asking for your dues for 2022, so please make sure you take care of that as soon as you can. Make the check payable to **Matthew Blount Post 555** and put it along with the "Dues Notice" in an envelope and mail to the Post address which is 50 Racquet Club Parkway, Pelham, AL 35124. Ron Koonce will get them out of the mailbox at the Pelham Senior Center, deposit your check, and send me a copy of the "Dues Notice" for me to update your membership in MyLegion.org as a 2022 paid member—HOOAH!!!

I will then send you your 2022 membership card via USPS along with a nice letter thanking you for your Service and continued support of Post 555.

Do not get behind on your membership since that would affect the loss of your benefits. Everyone is important to the Post even if you cannot participate directly.

You will see this last piece of information from me several times in the August 2021 Post 555 Newsletter, but better to see something im-

portant several times than not at all, right? The August Post 555 General Membership Meeting has moved to **Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 6:00 p.m. at the Pelham First Baptist Church Annex** (across the street from the church) on Highway 31 so that we can welcome the Regional Baseball players and coaches in a "Meet and Greet" as they start their baseball tournament. Refer to the agenda that Commander Monday asked to be put on the front page of this newsletter, and if you are able to come to the "Meet and Greet" on the 3rd, wear your Post 555 polo, garrison cap, etc. proudly to show everyone that you are members and Veterans of Post 555 there to welcome all of them to Pelham, Alabama!!!

For God and Country
Nancy Waller
Adjutant

4 ways to be a member of our Legion family

- ☐ American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555
- ☐ American Legion Auxiliary
- ☐ Sons of the American Legion
- ☐ American Legion Riders (must be members of one of the 3 above)

Contact Information (Please Print)

NAME: _____
CITY: _____
CELL PHONE: _____ HM: _____
EMAIL: _____
MILITARY BRANCH: _____
REFERRED BY: _____

SERVICE OFFICER NOTES



Jerry McClain
Service Officer

As noted in the July newsletter, beginning in 2023, the VA will be getting into the life insurance business (see details on it on how to sign up for some of the options)

Many VA Benefits Will Be Expanding in 2021 Thanks to a New Law

Jim Absher

Congress has passed legislation making several changes to benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and sent it to President Donald Trump's desk to be signed into law.

The legislation, known as the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvements Act of 2020, makes several changes to existing benefit programs.

Here are some of the additional changes that may affect you:

Expansion of Medal of Honor Pension

The monthly pension paid to Medal of Honor awardees will be paid to their surviving spouse upon the death of the service member. Surviving spouses receiving Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) are not eligible. The current Medal of Honor pension is \$1,388.68 a month; it changes annually based on inflation.

Related: Here's Your 2021 Military Retiree and Disability Pay Raise

Home Loans for National Guard Members

National Guard members without active-duty service will be eligible to receive a VA home loan beginning in 2021. The new law makes Guard and Reserve members who have at least 90 days of service eligible for the home loan program. Thirty of those days must have been consecutive.

Currently, only Guard and Reserve members who had at least 90 days of active service are eligible for home loans.

Memorial Benefits

Within two years of the bill becoming law, the VA will begin paying the costs to transport a deceased veteran's remains to state and tribal veterans cemeteries. Currently, the VA will pay only to transport a deceased veteran's remains to a national veterans cemetery.

In two years, the VA will begin furnishing urns for storing the cremated remains of deceased veterans. Families will have the option of receiving a free headstone or burial urn, but not both. Currently, most veterans are eligible to receive a free headstone upon their death, but not an urn.

Also, veterans who receive the free VA-issued headstone and are buried in either a state or private cemetery will be able to have their spouse's name engraved on the headstone at no cost. Currently, the family must pay to have the spouse's name engraved on a VA-issued headstone. This will be effective for deaths going back to Oct. 1, 2019.

Native Americans and VA Copay

Within one year of the law becoming effective, all Native Americans will be exempt from any VA copay for health care or medication, regardless of whether the individual has a service-connected disability.

Read next: 4 Keys for a Successful Military Transition

Stay on Top of Your Veteran Benefits

Military benefits are always changing. Keep up with everything from pay to health care by subscribing to Military.com, and get access to up-to-date pay charts and more with all latest benefits delivered straight to your inbox.

va.alabama.gov



CHAPLAIN'S UPLIFT



Joe Dunn
Post Chaplain



One of the most influential mentors in my life has stated 15 principles that he has learned after 59 years of pastoral ministry! I will be passing them on to you, a few at a time, and commenting on them as to why they are worth remembering.

Life Principle

“Tell people now how you feel about them-not later” Sometimes you really wish you had done that before they died.”

How often have you heard the words, “I didn’t get to tell them that I loved them,” or something similar to those words?

COVID kept me home last Spring from going overseas to do my missionary work. I decided to go to Englewood, FL to see my mom who had been bedridden for a long time from a deteriorating spine for a long time. When I left, I climbed up on my knees on her bed, wrapped her up into my arms, prayed with her, told her that I loved her, and said goodbye.

Three days later I got a call that she had sudden taken a serious turn for the worse, so much so and that she would be going into Hospice care in two days! I rushed back down to Florida, planning to talk to her the next morning through the window

of the hospital and tell her how much I loved her. Right after I arrived in Florida, I got a call and was told that she had died. She was 88. I didn’t get to tell her goodbye, which made my visit with Mom three days earlier a most precious time. She **knew** that I loved her.

We have probably all failed to tell people in the past what they really mean to us. Let me challenge us all to decide that we swallow our pride or forget about being embarrassed, or whatever it is that is holding us back, and tell those we care about how we really feel about them.

Chaplain Joe



P.S. One thing you can never regain is a missed opportunity!

POST 555 WORK AREAS

*Triple Nickel
Riders**Auxiliary Unit 555*

Slow month for the rides due to rainy weather. However, we did stay active and visible in the community. The Fire on the Water at Oak Mountain State Park was a great showing for our post. The riders assisted with the set-up and teardown of the booth. The riders cleaned up a couple motorcycles and placed them beside the booth, to show the versatility of the American Legion.

The following week was our riders meeting. Fellow rider, Eric Fort, explained the task he has undertaken to get a nationally recognized day for children with a parent or parents who paid the ultimate sacrifice during his or her combat duties. He finally got the Alabama Legislature to pass a bill declaring August 1st, would be designated Goldstar Salute for children of Alabama. He is now working with the U.S. Legislatures to get it passed nationally. Good Luck Eric!!

--
Doug McDaniel
Triple Nickel Riders Director
Post 555

Hi to All,

I sure am excited to get back to some sense of normalcy. We are back at our meetings at regular place and time. We are ready to renew our membership in August. Please bring your dues \$30 for Adults. You can give it to me or mail it to me at my home address at 1214 Bennett Circle, Al 35007. I am looking for ladies that want to get semi busy and do. We need ideas on ways to put funds in so we can give back to our Veterans programs and outreaches. We want to be out in our community doing service. To do that we need people ready, willing, and able to help.

Please let me know if I can be of any help. May God Bless you and your family.

Caroline



MATTHEW BLOUNT POST 555



Post 555 meets first Thursday of the month. But because of the Regional Baseball tournament, we will meet in a "Meet and Greet" on Tuesday 3 August at the Annex of First Baptist Church in Pelham. Come one and all! Dinner and Fellowship at 6PM, Meeting at 7:30PM

Post Everlasting

Ronald E Seibert

JANUARY 23, 1932 – JULY 9, 2021

It is with deep sorrow that we must announce that Ron passed away from Chronic Kidney Disease while in home hospice care in his Tuscany condominium. He was 89 years old. Preceding Ron in death were his parents, Bill and Anna Seibert of Fort Thomas, Ky and his brothers, Bob Ruberg of Ft Wright, Tom Ruberg of Severna Park MD, Bill Seibert of Salem OR, and Sister Mary Kevan, SND of Covington. Surviving him are his brother Don, and his wife, Martha, as well as 22 nieces and nephews, who are located as near as Ft Wright and as far away as Anchorage, Alaska. All of them feel a special kind of love for "Uncle Ron"! Ron attended St Xavier High School and Newport Catholic High School, the University of Kentucky and the University of Miami. From 1951 to 1955, Ron served in the U.S. Navy at the Naval Academy in Annapolis and for 2 years (and 2 circumnavigations of the World) aboard the aircraft carrier, USS Wasp. He achieved the rank of Storekeeper First Class. Ron was a member of American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555, Pelham, AL.



Later, Ron joined Avis Car Rental and quickly became a city manager, a capacity in which he functioned in many cities, including Minneapolis, Detroit, Los Angeles, Honolulu, Maui, San Francisco, Miami and New York City. Promoted to Zone manager, Ron was responsible for the Avis State of Florida operation, the largest of its kind in their network. Later, he was promoted to Vice President in the corporate offices in New York. He worked at Avis for 27 years, finally retiring in Virginia Beach, VA in 1984. Moving to various condos in Ft Lauderdale, Daytona Beach, and Naples, FL, he found great companionship with Nancie Kres Beg, whom he loved and supported until her death in 2017. Ron then moved to Birmingham, AL to be close to family and in August of 2020, to Covington, KY to be closer to Sister Mary Kevan, SND, who passed away about the same time.

Ron was a fun loving and very caring person to all with whom he made contact. A Celebration of Life Mass was held at St Agnes Church, Ft Wright, KY on Thursday, July 15, 2021. His remains will be interred, with full military honors at the National Veteran's Cemetery in Williamstown, KY.

Post Leadership 2021/2022

Post Commander Jeff Monday	Auxiliary President Caroline Culpepper
1st Vice Commander Bill Blank	Sons of Legionnaires Bill Blank, Comm.
2nd Vice Commander TBD	Ron Koonce, Advisor
Adjutant Nancy Waller	Legion Riders Director Doug McDaniel
Asst Adjutant Ron Koonce	Flag Team Coordinator TBD
Judge Advocate Tom Long	Boy Scouts Coordinator David Coram
Financial Officer Barry Blount	Jr. Shooting Director Darrell Lawley
Chaplain Joe Dunn	Baseball Director Jon Freeman
Sergeant-At-Arms Derek Winters	School Awards Program Frank Lakotich, Chr.
Anita Bennett	Awards Program Barry Blount, Chr.
Post Service Officer Jerry McClain	Webmaster Ron Koonce
Historian Shauna Hadley	Triple Nickel Editor Frank Chacon
Public Relations Officer Vacant	Photography Chic Cecchini
Post Trustees Frank Lakotich Robert Horsley Chris Combs	

The Triple Nickel

is published monthly for members of Matthew Blount Post 555.

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Pelham, AL 35124
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commander@ALpost555.com

Items for publication are accepted on Executive Committee approval and available space.

Submit articles prior to the 10th of the month for publication the following month. We reserve the right to edit any submissions for the purpose of publication.

Letters to the Editor must include name, address & telephone number. Names will be withheld upon request.

Send email to: Editor@alpost555.com

Photos by Chic Ceechinni, Post 555

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American Legion Post 555



Squadron 555 is finishing the 2020-2021 year falling short of 100% membership by nine members. However, the squadron has begun the 2021-2022 years with ten new members. This is a great start of the new year. The leading recruiter for the month of July is Joe Dunn. Congratulations to Joe.

The Squadron's roster total is forty-eight that includes both active and inactive members.

The annual dues remain at \$20. We encourage all members and all sponsors to submit your 2022 renewals now. Also, everyone one is a recruiter. One new member will earn you a Post 555 Commander's Membership Award pin. Five new members will earn you a National Commander Excellence pin.

Applications for new members are found on the "Home" page of www.alpost555.com. Just select: "Join the Sons of American Legion" button and print the application.

Checks are to be payable to "Matthew Blount Post 555"

Mail renewals and applications to: American Legion

Sons of The American Legion
50 Racquet Club Parkway
Pelham, AL 35124

The Sons will continue to meet with the Post on August 3, 2021, at the First Baptist Church Pelham Annex at 6:00 pm for meal and 7:30 pm for meeting. This meeting will be combined with the American Legion Baseball Southeast Regional player's banquet. All members of the Post 555 Family are invited.

The Regional Tournament begins on August 4, 2021, at the Pelham High School Hayes field.

Separate future Son's meetings are being are still being planned. Since members of the key SAL leadership has been involved with the State and Regional baseball tournaments, confirmed dates and times have been delayed. Members will be notified once location/date/time has been confirmed.

For God and Country

Ron Koonce



American Legion Baseball Southeast Regional Tournament

Stadium – Bobby Hayes Stadium
Host – Matthew Blount Post 555
Local Chairman – Alan Phillips
(albaseball@charter.net)
Local Program Manager - Kyle Phillips
(kp.albaseball@gmail.com)



<u>Game</u>	<u>Date/Pairings</u>	<u>Time</u>
Wednesday - August 4		
Game 1	FL Champ vs. TN Champ	10:00 a.m.
Game 2	SC Champ vs. MS Champ	1:00 p.m.
Game 3	LA Champ vs. AL Champ	4:00 p.m.
Game 4	GA Champ vs. Post 555	7:00 p.m.
Thursday - August 5		
Game 5	Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 3	10:00 a.m.
Game 6	Loser Game 2 vs. Loser Game 4	1:00 p.m.
Game 7	Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 3	4:00 p.m.
Game 8	Winner Game 2 vs. Winner Game 4	7:00 p.m.
Friday - August 6		
Game 9	Winner Game 6 vs. Loser Game 7	1:00 p.m.
Game 10	Winner Game 5 vs. Loser Game 8	4:00 p.m.
Game 11	Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 8	7:00 p.m.
Saturday - August 7		
Game 12	Winner Game 9 vs. Loser Game 11 (See Note 1 below)	1:00 p.m.
Game 13	Winner Game 10 vs. Winner Game 11 (See Note 1 below)	4:00 p.m.
Sunday - August 8		
Game 14	Winner Game 12 vs. Winner Game 13 (See Note 2 below)	2:00 p.m.
Game 15	(If necessary) Fifteen games will be needed if Winner Game 11 loses Game 13 or Winner Game 12 wins Game 14	5:00 p.m.

www.legion.org/baseball

Note 1: Pairings for Game 12 & 13 will not match previous opponents against each other unless absolutely necessary. (Tournament Director has further instructions).

Note 2: If three teams remain after Game 13, the winner of Game 11 automatically draws the Bye for Game 14.