



## Come join the 2.8 million members of the American Legion family. For God & Country since 1919.

The following section contains downloadable, printable application forms, eligibility requirements, and helpful instructions for joining:

**The American Legion**  
**American Legion Auxiliary**  
**Sons of the American Legion**  
**American Legion Riders**



## Who is eligible to join?

There are **three ways to join** our Legion family ... see which one fits you below:

### 1. The American Legion (Legionnaire)

If you are currently serving in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard or have served on active duty during the date ranges of one of the times of conflict listed below under 'Eligibility Dates', and were honorably discharged and possess a form DD-214.

Current and past members of the national guard and Reserve may also be eligible for membership provided they had periods of active duty in one or another of the eligible eras. Annual summer training and weekend drills do not constitute eligible periods of service. Active duty is the key to Legion membership.

or ...

### 2. Sons of the American Legion Member

To be eligible, you must be a male descendant (includes stepsons and adopted sons) of a member of The American Legion.

or ...

You would also be eligible to join the Sons of The American Legion if you are the male descendant (Stepsons and Adopted Sons included) of a veteran who died in service during one of the date ranges listed below under 'Eligibility Dates'.

or ...

You would also be eligible to join the Sons of The American Legion if you are the male descendant (Stepsons and Adopted Sons included) of a veteran who died subsequent to his or her honorable discharge from service during one of the date ranges listed below, under 'Eligibility Dates'.

or ...

You would also be eligible to join the Sons of The American Legion if you are the male descendant (stepsons and adopted sons included) of a veteran who died in service during one of the date ranges listed below, under 'Eligibility Dates'.

### **3. American Legion Auxiliary Member**

If you are the Mother, Wife, Daughter, Sister, Granddaughter, Great-Granddaughter or Grandmother of a veterans who is a member, or a deceased veteran who qualifies as a member.

or ...

If qualifying for yourself, if you are in the service or have served during one of the date ranges listed below, under 'Eligibility Dates', and were honorably discharged. You can also have a dual membership of both the Legion, and Legion Auxiliary.

### **Legion Rider Member**

All members of the American Legion Riders must be a current member of the American Legion, Auxiliary or Son of the American Legion. Establish and maintain membership by owning a motorcycle licensed and insured as required by state law.

### **Transfer Membership from Existing Post**

Submit membership form indicating you are a member of another active Post.

The below dates reflect eligibility requirements for either yourself OR the veteran through whom you are applying for membership in the case of the Sons of the American Legion, or American Legion Auxiliary.

## World War I

April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918

## World War II (as Veteran) to Present

December 7, 1941- Present

## World War II or Merchant Marine)

December 7, 1941

### I am eligible to join, now how do I prove it?

The American Legion establishes proof of eligibility based on a **DD-214 form**. The DD-214, or DD Form 214 is a document of the United States armed forces issued by the Department of Defense upon a military service member's separation or discharge from the active duty military.

The full name of the document is "Defense Department Form 214", however the document is often shortened to be called a DD-214, DD Form 214 or simply as a "sep doc". A DD-214 is also commonly referred to as "Discharge Papers", however this is slightly misleading as the document is more often issued for release from active duty and transfers to the inactive reserves than it is for final discharge from the military.

DD-214 is widely regarded as one of the most important documents in the military as it is a complete record of a service member's time in the military, awards and medals, and other pertinent service information such as promotions, combat service or overseas service, and Military Occupational Specialty identifiers. **DD-214 is commonly used by various government agencies, chief among them the Department of Veterans Affairs, to secure veteran benefits.**

### Where can I find the DD-214 form?

If the veteran through whom you qualify doesn't already have their DD-214 form readily available then the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided a website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214 online: [www.vetrecs.archives.gov](http://www.vetrecs.archives.gov). This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes or for membership in The American Legion.

Veterans and the next of kin of deceased veterans may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can also be downloaded from the online web site. Because the person making the request will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays

that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized.

## **I have the DD-214 form, what's next?**

### **This is what you need to do to join the American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555.**

1. Complete application form
2. Include copy of your DD-214 or Discharge Certificate if available.  
If documents are not available, submit your application without documents and request for the DD-214 per above instructions. DD-214 can be submitted at a later date following submission of application.
3. Check for \$55 for new members payable to:  
"American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555"
4. Either mail the form and membership fee or bring to the next meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 1815 hours.

***American Legion Post 555***

***P.O. Box 97***

***Pelham, AL 35124***

If you have any questions, either send an email [mbpost555@gmail.com](mailto:mbpost555@gmail.com) or call our Office at (205) 222.4495 and we will be happy to help you.

## **Additional Benefits:**

In addition to being welcomed as a valued member of our Post, as a member you will also have a large number of member benefits listed at [www.legion.org/members/benefits](http://www.legion.org/members/benefits) with national companies when staying in hotels, renting vehicles, moving, buying computers or even sending someone flowers!

## **Downloadable/Printable Application Forms**

### **Format of the Forms**

In order to view these membership applications, you will need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader, a free program, installed. If you do not already have Adobe Reader installed then click on the "Get Adobe Reader" button below for a free copy.

### **Download the Forms**

**To down load forms, Go Too Hone page and scroll down to the "join' Box and select the desired application to print.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at **(205)222-4495**, or contact us by email at : [mbpost555@gmail.com](mailto:mbpost555@gmail.com)

**Meeting Times  
American Legion  
1st Thursday of the Month  
Pelham Senior Center**

**6:15 pm Fellowship/ Light  
Meal  
Meeting 7:00 pm**

American Legion  
Matthew Blount Post 555  
P.O. Box 97  
Pelham, Alabama 35124  
205-678-1375 Office  
email: [commander@alpost555.com](mailto:commander@alpost555.com)