



**AMERICAN
LEGION**

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AMERICAN LEGION MATTHEW BLOUNT POST 555

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THE TRIPLE NICKEL

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Matthew Blount Post 555

Governor Ivey Signs Proclamation



Emma Noble, American Legion National Oratorical Champion, at Governor Ivey's proclamation signing yesterday for her accomplishment of winning The American Legion National Oratorical Championship. Representatives from Post 555, District 23, Division 2 and Alabama Department leadership, her mother, and Representative Kenneth Paschal attended the May 17, 2022 event in support of Emma.

IN GOD WE TRUST



**AMERICAN
LEGION**

COMMANDER'S CORNER



For God & Country
Jeff Monday
Post Commander



Legionnaires, I hope this finds you all well, drinking sweet tea and staying cool.

It is the Month of May (as I write this), so many have different views about this month and what it means to them. I have a short story to tell of my past. My memories of May and Memorial Day all started when I was 8 years old. The month prior my father had retired from the Air Force after 20 years of service and my oldest brother was about to leave to start his career in the Air Force as well. I can remember my dad getting up every morning and my mom would have his Class B shirt ironed and breakfast ready; it is the small things in life that you remember and bring very great and proud memories.

This had all ended when my dad retired; now it was off to a new career, my dad moved us to Indianapolis, Indiana. We had family there that had moved from my hometown in Kentucky, most moved there for work in the auto industry and many other manufacturing jobs.

On April 30 1981, we moved to a great place, a dream place for an 8-year-old: Speedway, Indiana. My parents rented a house that was behind turn 4 of the most respected racetrack of them all "The Brickyard", The Indianapolis Motor Speedway. I could see the grandstands from my backyard, I asked my dad, "dad can we go there someday please?" He replied: "We are going the 2nd weekend of the month for qualification time trials". As you can imagine, I was super excited, coming from a family that loved racing and hot rods, I was beyond excited. The second Saturday back then was pole day; this is the best time, set for who gets the first starting position of 33 drivers.

On that Saturday I got to see what Memorial Day was all about, it was a time to remember those that have come before us and served this great country of ours. On that day at the track, the display honors them. It started with the recognition of the veterans who attended. This followed with a Moment of Silence and the playing of taps, over 200 thousand in attendance if not more and it was dead silence, as the color guard moved very slow to position themselves for the National Anthem. It was an amazing display of respect. After this happened, I looked at my dad standing there bigger than life to me. With his ball cap off, hand over his heart. I looked very close to him; he had tears in his eyes. I then understood the Meaning and Sacrifice that the men and women of this country have put themselves thru, and the friends, family, brothers, sisters, and mine, and some paid the allotment sacrifice to defend the freedoms for so many. They gave the chance for an 8-year-old young man, to one day see some amazing racecars with his dad.

Take time this month and reflect on those that are no longer with us. Give them the honor that they deserve, show younger generations what it means to remember. Educate them. To those that have moved on: I will never let you to be forgotten nor will I forget. In addition, I will not forget what it was to be an 8-year-old young man, learning that the love for this country is more that skin deep... it is much, much more. Therefore, my friends, this Memorial Day 2022 reflect and educate. God Bless America and all of the fallen heroes!!

Jeff Monday,
Post Commander

1ST VICE'S COMMENTS



Bill Blank

1st Vice Commander



I am starting this article with a great big thanks to Vashone Smith and Frank Chacon and their team who made Palooza in the Park a great success. There were some difficulties along the way and they overcame them and made it happen. I feel like this group deserves a, job well done and thank you.

There is the cannon shoot to end the memorial service at Alabama National Cemetery May 30. We will arrive at 0730 to set up the cannons for the rolling thunder display. It will take place immediately after the service, we will shoot four civil war cannons in honor of our fallen heroes who gave all. It is a wonderful event and I hope that many of you will come if not all of you to witness this great event.

As always, I want to mention the baseball season and the tremendous opportunity that post 555 and Pelham have to host the mid-south regional tournaments again this year. I am looking forward to many of you to help out with the games this year. Girls and guys can participate and it is more fun than work. It will not take that much of your time. Give it some thought; it is the pillar of youth and community service, one we all agree to serve. It is one effort you will never forget.

Give me a call at (214) 476-7074 or email me at; bhbpac@yahoo.com.

Think about this for one moment all three of the afore mentioned events represent our service to our community, our patriotism and to our youth. After all that is what we are about as Legionnaires. Don't you agree?





2nd Vice's Interim Report Nancy Waller

PALOOZA IN THE PARK WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!!

Since I was out-of-town for two business meetings in Fairhope, AL and Montgomery, AL, I missed one of the events in which I love to participate, but I was told that some very special Post 555 members took charge and made it a huge success. I want to thank Vashone Smith and Frank Chacon for stepping-up in the absence of Bill Blank and Ron Koonce who were selected and approved to attend the first District 23 Yellowhammer American Legion College May 20-22, 2022. Donald Walker with the Sons also was selected and approved to attend, and Ron Koonce told me that he was asked to step-in to do the Sons briefing with about a one-hour notice. Ron said Donald did a tremendous job and again, put members of Post 555 in the lime-light. Great job, Donald!!!

Bill Blank handed everything off to Vashone and Frank to get the equipment to the event, coordinate all of the Post 555 Volunteers who helped with set-up and manning the information table, and of course, breaking down everything. Check out the photos to see who was "famous" at that event (page 8).



and you can go to any section you prefer. I will be coordinating everyone at Section 8 where our namesake, Matthew Blount, rests in peace. Pam suggested you bring gloves and perhaps water. I will be there early to help with the flags and hole-punchers, and will look for my Post 555 comrades to join me in Section 8.

There are a zillion events going on for Memorial Day, but I would like to invite you to the Alabama National Cemetery on Mon., May 30, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. ALNC Support Committee members already received an e-mail from Chairman Pam Nichols about help needed earlier that day, so I will be looking for my Support Committee buddies. The ceremony will include a flyover of one or more planes, wreath-layings for each of the branches of service, cannons will be fired by Post 555 members, and guess who will be the guest speaker? EMMA NOBLE!!! As some of you know, she is an excellent and eloquent speaker, so this will be a treat. I was given the privilege of introducing Emma immediately following Congressman Gary Palmer's speech; how about that for an honor!!! See you there!!!

*For God and Country,
Nancy J. Waller
Acting Second Vice Commander*

In preparation for Memorial Day at the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo, there will be flags placed in front of each headstone and at the columbariums. If you would like to place flags on Sat., May 28, 2022 at 9:00 a.m., let me know and I will contact Pam Nichols and put you on the list. The flags and hole-punchers will be staged at each of the sections of the cemetery,



ADJUTANT'S AREA



Nancy Waller
Adjutant



WE DID IT!! Thanks to everyone who renewed their memberships for 2022 (and with a little help from an anonymous donor), we exceeded 100% membership with the last report from the Department of Alabama!!!

Everyone reading this article needs a hug (or at least a handshake or a personal thank you) for taking the time to renew your memberships for 2022 and to be a HUGE part in making us reach and exceed our 100% membership goal. The last Department of Alabama membership report showed us having 219 members (we needed 218) which equaled 100.46%. **THANK YOU ALL!!!**

If you are one of the members who has yet to renew, you definitely still can by mailing a \$45.00 check made payable to **Matthew Blount Post 555** to 50 Racquet Club Parkway, Pelham, AL 35124 or go to legion.org and "Renew" on-line with a credit/debit card. As soon as you do this, I will see it and send you a 2022 membership card and a nice letter thanking you for your support and commitment to The American Legion and Post 555. Let's keep the number of renewals and the percentage increasing as we get very close to the 2022-2023 year.

If you are a current R.S.V.P. (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) member, don't forget to report your volunteer hours for the month of May when you come to the June 2, 2022 Post 555 meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, call me or send me an e-mail with your hours. I was given approval to report your hours with a notation that




they were reported "telephonically". I don't want to miss any hours!! I submit the hours by the 10th of the month, so contact me before then. If you are not yet an R.S.V.P. member, the only criteria is that you are age 55+ years young. You need to complete an application and supply a copy of the front of your driver's license. There is a copier at the Senior Center that I can use to make a copy of your driver's license for you. Every month you will record your volunteer hours anywhere you serve, including Post 555 meetings and events. Just let me know if you would like an application.

NOTE: I have some information regarding the requirement for providing a copy of your drivers license. There have been some concerns from several members about doing this, so when I mentioned their concerns to Mrs. Pamela Raines, the RSVP Director, she offered to do a quick briefing about why this is needed. She will be coming to Post 555 on June 2, 2022 to do another briefing about a program entitled "Yellow Dot Program" and will take a few extra minutes to help us all understand about the RSVP requirement. Please be present at the June meeting to hear about the Yellow Dot Program as well as the explanation for our current and future RSVP members.

*For God and Country,
Nancy J. Waller
Adjutant*

American Legion, Matthew Blount Post 555
Working to promote citizenship and patriotism in our community.

PROVIDE support to veterans;
PROMOTE programs that benefit the community and its youth;
PRESERVE the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom.

Meeting Times: 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm
Pelham Senior Center, 50 Racquet Club Parkway,
Pelham, Alabama 35124
www.alpost555.com • commander@alpost555.com
www.facebook.com/alpost555



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 555

The Squadron officers' election was held during the May monthly meeting.

Introducing the 2022-2023 Officers for Squadron 555

Matthew Blount Squadron 555 - 2022-2023 Officers



Bill Blank
Commander



Donald Walker
First Vice Commander



Ron Koonce
Adjutant/Financial Officer



Jeff Monday
Chaplain

Squadron participation activities during the month of May & June.

Pelham Palooza May 21, 2022

Yellowhammer Legion College May 20-22, 2022

Alabama National Cemetery Events Memorial Day week.

June Activities

American Legion Baseball

Alabama Detachment Convention.

MATTHEW BLOUNT POST 555



Meets first Thursday of the
month.

The next Membership Meeting will be
at the Pelham Senior Center
Please come for free dinner at 6PM
followed by the meeting at 7PM

Post Leadership 2021/2022

Post Commander Jeff Monday	Caroline Culpepper
1st Vice Commander Bill Blank	Sons of The American Legion Bill Blank, Comm.
2nd Vice Commander TBD	Ron Koonce, Advisor
Adjutant Nancy Waller	American 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.
Post Service Officer Jerry McClain	Awards Program Barry Blount, Chr.
Historian Shauna Hadley	Webmaster Ron Koonce
Public Relations Officer Dorian Ross	Triple Nickel Editor Frank Chacon
Post Trustees Frank Lakotich Robert Horsley Chris Combs	Photography Chic Cecchini
Auxiliary President	

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commander@ALpost555.com

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the month for publication the follow-
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edit any submissions for the purpose
of publication.

Letters to the Editor must include
name, address & telephone number.

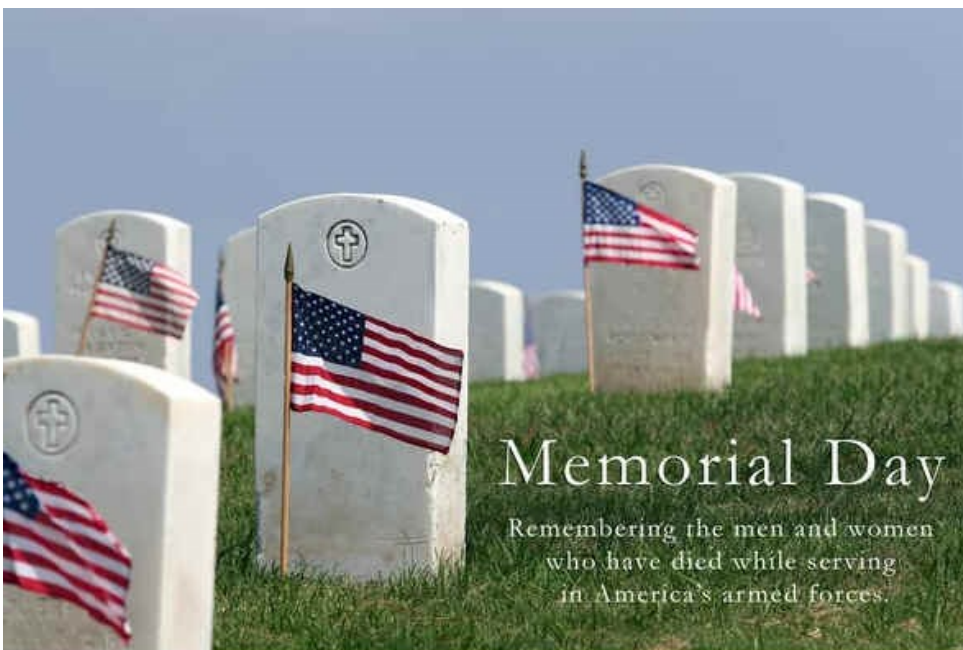
Names will be withheld upon re-
quest.

Send email to:

Editor@alpost555.com

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Members of troop 404, visitors and friends



Volunteer members and Riders

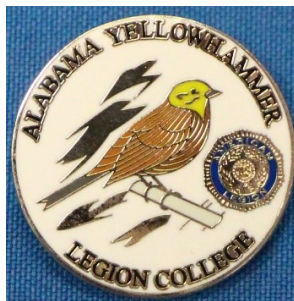


Rider's "hardware"

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Political "visitors" were many



Alabama Yellowhammer Legion College

The Alabama Department held its inaugural class of the Alabama Yellowhammer Legion College on My 20-22, 2022 hosted by Alabaster's Post 138. There were 21 attendees representing District 21 and District 23. The college provided advance leadership training patterned from the annual National American Legion College held in Indianapolis, IN. Post 555/SAL 555 had 3 members in attendance.



Donald Walker- SAL 555



Ron Koonce- Legion/ SAL 555



Bill Blank- Legion/SAL 555