



**AMERICAN
LEGION**

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THE AMERICAN LEGION MATTHEW BLOUNT POST 555

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THE TRIPLE NICKEL

ROVEO LUNCHEONS CONTINUE

The ROVEO “Regulars” continue to keep this tradition going that was started by Chaplain Joe Dunn. Each month we meet and decide on the location for the next month’s luncheon (or if we forget, I bring it up during the next General Membership Meeting.....). The September 10, 2024 get-together was attended by eleven “regulars” at the Golden City Chinese Restaurant in Pelham. Food was fantastic, and I have been back on several occasions since then.



L/R: Karryl Anderson, Kenneth Paschal, Frank Chacon, Joe Dunn, Pete Williams, Robert Sanders, Nancy Waller, Chic Cecchini, Bonnie Woodie, and Eldon Woodie

We met again on Tues., October 8, 2024 but switched to the “King Buffet” (used to be the Golden Corral behind Cracker Barrel). What a HUGE amount and variety of food! I didn’t know where to start until I saw the shrimp!! I took advantage of the Chinese food and had a great lunch. I am sure we will be back there for another gathering.



L/R: Pete Williams, Karryl Anderson, Chic Cecchini, Robert Sanders, Gerry Schrader, Joe Dunn, and Eldon Woodie (Nancy Waller is taking the photo).

PELHAM POLICE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

We were invited to attend the Pelham Police National Night Out on Tues., October 1, 2024 and were happy to be there for yet another year. Post 555 attendees were **Bill Blank, John Clopton, Frank Lakotich, Skip Mize, Vashone Smith, and Nancy Waller**. We were glad to have Representative Kenneth Paschal and City of Pelham Mayor Gary Waters (both Post 555 members) come by to say hi.



Pelham Police Officers / Color Guard



L/R: Skip Mize, Bill Blank, and Frank Lakotich



L/R: City of Pelham Mayor (and Post 555 member) Gary Waters and Nancy Waller

19TH ANNUAL BARBER VINTAGE FESTIVAL

Post 555 was again invited to help with "Tram Safety Volunteers" (or whatever else we could do to help where needed) at this event that took place Friday through Sunday, October 11-13, 2024 at Barber Motorsports Park in Leeds/Birmingham. This is always a huge event with

motorcycles everywhere!! It was interesting being a Volunteer on trams for two days and listening to the guests talk about the different types of motorcycles they saw. They really knew their stuff!!!

The Post 555 members who gave their time to help Post 555 with the donation that we will receive for the shifts we worked were **Bill Blank (three shifts), John Clopton (two shifts), Doug McDaniel (two shifts), Curtis Orse (two shifts), Ray Pata (four shifts), Donald Walker (two shifts), Nancy Waller (two shifts), and Pete Williams (three shifts)**. Thanks to everyone!!!



GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM (GWOT) CEREMONY

The GWOT Ceremony was held at the Alabama National Cemetery on Tues., October 15, 2024. The following members of Post 555 in attendance were **Chic Cecchini, Ray Pata, Conrad Stempel, Nancy Waller, Bonnie Woodie, and Eldon Woodie**. This ceremony honored the Service members who served after 9/11's attack on American soil, both deceased

and still living. After the event, we had a small group of Volunteers who helped with adding some plants and bushes near Committal Shelter #3. Looked great when we were finished!!!



L/R: Bonnie Woodie, Nancy Waller, Ray Pata, and Conrad Stempel (as always, Chic Cecchini behind the camera).



Eldon Woodie behind the podium as the emcee of the event. Great job!!!



One very dedicated member of the SCALNC on the right, Ed Burdette.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Vashone Smith and Helen Moman represented Post 555 at the Texas Roadhouse Annual Trunk or Treat on Wed., October 23, 2024. It appears that the Birmingham Bulls Mascot found two new friends that afternoon!!



L/R: Vashone Smith with the Birmingham Bulls Mascot.



L/R: Helen Moman with the Birmingham Bulls Mascot.

TEXAS ROADHOUSE 20TH ANNIVERSARY

On Fri., October 25, 2024, several members of Post 555 attended the Texas Roadhouse 20th Anniversary hosted by the Hoover Chamber of Commerce. **Attendees were Bill Blank, Helen Moman, Leroy and Patti Raymond, Vashone Smith, and Nancy Waller.** After the ribbon-cutting outside, we were welcomed inside to enjoy a sampling of delicious food prepared by the Texas Roadhouse staff. Couldn't have asked for a better start to our day!



Members of the Hoover Chamber of Commerce who hosted this wonderful event.



Sign on the front of the Pelham Texas Roadhouse with my “cousin’s” name (only kidding).

CHARACTER IN ACTION AWARDS

On Tues., October 29, 2024, several Post 555 members attended an awards ceremony for students from schools in Calera, Chelsea, Columbiana, District, Helena, Montevallo, Oak Mountain, and Vincent. Each student and his/her family went up on the stage to receive a certificate and medal from Frank Lakotich sponsored by Post 555. Bill Blank was also on the stage to congratulate these wonderful students. Other than a very long line for dinner, it was a nice event for everyone. Post 555 members present were **Bill Blank, Mac Braid, Frank Lakotich, Kenneth Paschal, Conrad Stempel, Larry Strayer, Donald Walker, and Nancy Waller.**



L/R: Bill Blank, Frank Lakotich, and the Honorable Judge Erin Welborn.



L/R: Frank Lakotich, Conrad Stempel, Larry Strayer, Nancy Waller, Mac Braid, Donald Walker, and Kenneth Paschal. Bill Blank may have been taking the photo; I don’t recall.



L/R: Donald Walker, Bill Blank, and Kenneth Paschal.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Happy fall, y'all. This is my favorite season; I'm loving the fall events, changing leaves, and cooler weather and I hope you are, too.

Squadron 555 membership is off to a decent start, staying just ahead of our goals. Don't forget that if you're a Sons member and haven't renewed yet, memberships expire at the end of the year so get them in as soon as possible. Dues remain at \$20 per year. If you're eligible and not yet a dual-member, we'd love to have you. Also, don't forget that, as a current Legionnaire, your sons and grandsons are automatically eligible to join this great organization to support the Legion's Four Pillars.

Although we haven't receive a banner yet, we did receive confirmation of Squadron 555 meeting the 100% goal for Children's Welfare Foundation (CWF) support under the Children & Youth Pillar. We're also working on some exciting projects to support the VA&R, Americanism, and National Security pillars.

Additionally, the Squadron is working on a project to set up info tables at area locations to share what we do with the community (and hopefully get some new members). The plans are still being worked, but we hope to have information and representatives from the entire Legion Family (Legion, Sons, Auxiliary, and Riders), so keep your eyes open for more details coming soon.

We just wrapped up another Volunteer opportunity at the Barber Vintage Festival and it was a great weekend of vintage motorcycle racing. It's hard to overstate how wonderful these opportunities are – not just because of the fun involved with getting to spend time out at Barber (your Volunteer credentials get you in all weekend), but also because of the potential to earn donations for the Triple Nickel family just by working a couple of shifts at a fun event. Thank you to the Sons and Legionnaires who made it out to participate and a special thanks to Squadron 555 member, Kyle Phillips, for helping to secure these opportunities. There are usually plenty of spots, so please consider signing up for future events.

Finally, with Veterans Day fast approaching, let me say on behalf of SAL Squadron 555 – THANK YOU and WELCOME HOME to everyone who has put on the uniform in service to our great country.

Donald L. Walker
Squadron 555 Commander

CHAPLAIN'S UPLIFT

My Fellow Vets; perhaps you, like I, were shocked to hear on National TV that so many people were recently **killed** and **wounded** in Birmingham (Five Points South). It was stated that, "**Three** of the nation's 23 mass shootings this year were in **Birmingham**, including **two** earlier **quadruple** homicides." **SO** sad! Not to mention the **986** who **died** in automobiles accidents in Alabama, in 2022. I doubt that hardly anyone at all **knew** that they were going to **die** when they sat down in their vehicles.

My goal this month is **not to scare** anyone, but rather to get us to consider **life** and "its soon **end**," "**death's** soon reality," "its seriousness," and "the possibility of death to come upon **any** of us in a moment." AND STILL, we **always** think it will be the "other guy." Yet an average of around **194,000** people die every day around the world!

I thought it would be appropriate this month to write some **comforting** verses as reminders to you, God's **family** of **believers** in Jesus, showing just how **precious** you were to God when He **created** you, how He has had **total control** of your lives, showing **how well** He has taken care of you, and how He **will** see you through **to the end** when He takes you **home**.

For those of you, my friends, who are **not** sure **where** you stand with the Lord, PSALM 130:15 below and Romans 3:20-24 in the Bible can be your comfort if you **will** accept God's offer of Divine **MERCY** and **FORGIVENESS** through His Son.

I Care For You All!

PSALM 139

1 O **Lord**, you have searched me and **known** me, and you **understand** all my ways.
5 You hem me in, behind and before, and **lay** your **hand** upon me.
6 Such knowledge is too **wonderful** for me; it is high, and I cannot take it in.
7 **Where** shall I go from your presence!
8 If I ascend up into heaven, you are **there!** If I make my bed in the depths of the earth, you are **there!**
9 If I take the wings of the morning to the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 even there Your **right hand** shall hold me.
13 **You** formed my inward parts, and **You** knitted me together and **covered** me in my mother's womb.
14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and **wonderfully** made! My soul knows it very well.
15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was **being made** in secret and **intricately woven**.
16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written **every one** of the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was **none** of them!
17 How **precious** to me are your thoughts; O God How **vast** is the sum of them!
18 If I would count them, they are **more** than sand on the shore, and when I wake up, I am **still** with you.

PSALM 103

14 He Himself **knows** our frame, and He is **mindful** that we are but dust.

PSALM 130

3 If you Lord should mark **iniquities**, O Lord, **who** could stand?
But there is **forgiveness** with You, that You might be Deeply respected

PSALM 39

4 "O Lord, make me know **my end**, and what is the extent of my days; let me know how **fleeting** I am!
5 Behold, you have made my days a **few** handbreadths, and my lifetime is as **nothing** before you.
6 Surely a man goes about like a **shadow!** A man also heaps up **wealth** and does **not** know for sure **who** will gather it!

PSALM 90

10 For the days of our life as set at 70, and if one is strong, then 80 But soon they're gone, and we fly away. So teach us to **number** our days, so that we may present to You a heart of **wisdom**.

PSALM 116

15 **Precious** in the sight of the Lord is the **death** of His saints.

*For God and Country,
Chaplain Joe*

OCTOBER “BELATED” BIRTHDAY WISHES

Chacon, Frank, 10/02
Ott, Jonathan W., 10/02
Austin, Earl L., 10/03
Waller, Nathan C., 10/03
McGavin, Stephen P., 10/04
Smith, Henry M., 10/04
Brown, George D., 10/05
Grissett, Melvin M., 10/05
Hallford, Thomas J. “Tom”, 10/06
Woodie, Eldon A., 10/07
Giese, John M., 10/09

Sanders, Robert L., 10/09
Phillips, Alan, 10/10
May, Mark, 10/11
Johnson, Aubrey J., 10/13
Stewart, Patrick E., 10/16
Bailey, Jason, 10/20
Clopton, John A. III, 10/20
Crocker, Billy, 10/21
Dormuth, James M., 10/21
Waller, Phillip S. “Sparkie”, 10/24
Cambron, Coy D., 10/29



If your birthday is in October and your name is not on this list, it is because it is not listed in your profile in MyLegion.org. Please send me your birthday so you can be included in future Happy Birthday wishes!!

POST LEADERSHIP FOR 2024 – 2025

Post Commander

Bill Blank

First Vice Commander

Harry “Skip” Mize IV

Second Vice Commander

Dorian Ross

Adjutant

Nancy Waller

Sons of The American Legion

Donald Walker, Commander

Ron Koonce, Advisor/Adjutant

American Legion Rider’s Director

Doug McDaniel

Flag Team Coordinator

Bill Blank

Judge Advocate

Tom Long

Finance Officer

Ron Koonce

Chaplain

Joe Dunn

Sergeant-at-Arms

Jerry McClain

Service Officer

Curtis Orse

Historian

Nancy Waller

Public Relations Officer

Nancy Waller

Post Trustees

Tom McDaniel (1 Yr.)

Vashone Smith (2 Yr.)

Frank Lakotich (3 Yr.)

Boy Scout Troop 404 Coordinator

David Coram

Jr. Shooters

Sam Richardson, Director

Darrell Lawley, Coach

Baseball Director

Kyle Phillips

School Awards Program

Barry Blount, Chairman

Frank Lakotich, Co-Chairman

Awards Program

Nancy Waller, Chairman

Webmaster

Ron Koonce

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

Send e-mail to: wallernj@gmail.com

Photos by Chic Cecchini, Post 555

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