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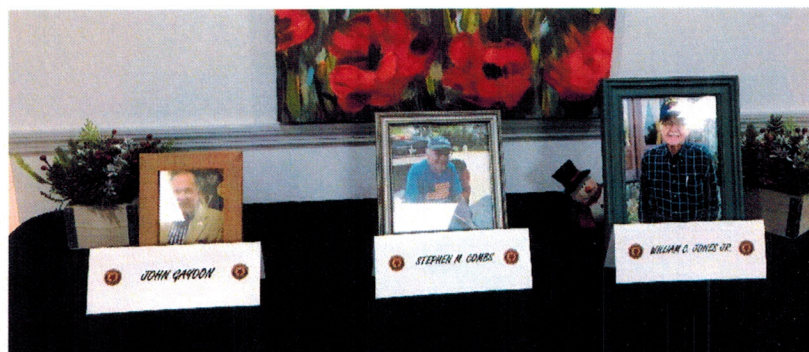
THE TRIPLE NICKEL

POST EVERLASTING CEREMONY IN HONOR OF SIX POST 555 COMRADES WHO HAVE GONE TO THEIR “FINAL FORMATION”

On Thursday, February 1, 2024, Post 555 members and family members of six deceased members were present for our Post Everlasting Ceremony to honor the passing of six Comrades: **William C. Jones Jr., Jerry Tibbett, Henry W. Carter, Stanley Francis, John Gaydon, and Stephen M. Combs**. Family members present for William C. Jones Jr. were Billy Jones, Helen Holder, Lisa Jones, Cassie Gamble, Logan Gamble, Piper Gamble, and Courtney Wise. A family member present for John Gaydon was his widow, Sharon Gaydon. Family members present for Stephen M. Combs were his widow, Sally Combs and Chris Combs, a current member of Post 555.

The evening started with a great fellowship meal hosted by Texas Roadhouse of Pelham, some great conversations, and meeting all the family members. After taking care of the Post protocol that is required prior to all Post meetings, we moved into the Post Everlasting Ceremony. I want to thank the following Post members who played a part in this wonderful ceremony: **Commander Barry Blount, 1st Vice Commander Bill Blank, Adjutant Nancy Waller, Jerry McClain, Eldon Woodie, and Harry “Skip” Mize IV**. Also, thanks to **Mr. James Quakenbush** from Bugles Across America who played a beautiful rendition of Taps to bid our Comrades a final farewell.

Please enjoy the photos below and on the next couple of pages, and never forget these Comrades who were Post 555 members, as well as their family members as they continue to grieve and miss their loved ones.





Commander Barry Blount after lighting all six candles in honor of our deceased Comrades.



Adjutant Nancy Waller and Sharon Gaydon honoring Sharon's husband, John Gaydon with a Resolution in his memory.



Adjutant Nancy Waller with Sally Combs and Chris Combs as they share a Resolution in Steve Combs' memory.



Adjutant Nancy Waller with Billy Jones holding a Resolution in memory of Billy's father, William C. Jones Jr.

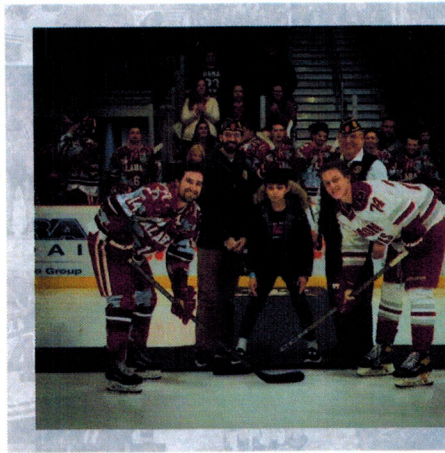


Adjutant Nancy Waller presents a Matthew Blount Post 555 coffee mug to Mr. Jim Quakenbush from Bugles Across America as a thank you for the live Taps presentation for our Post Everlasting Ceremony. A very touching end to the ceremony.

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

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA ICE HOCKEY MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT

The University of Alabama Ice Hockey annually designates one game as a Military Appreciation Night and allows Veterans free admission. Eight Post 555 members (second photo below) attended the event. This year, The American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555 was highlighted for positive impacts in the local community.



A.J. Blount, Jesse Blount, and Barry Blount dropping the puck at the January 19, 2024 game at the Pelham Civic Complex Ice Arena.



L/R: Eldon Woodie, Frank Lakotich, Bill Blank, Barry Blount, Curtis Orse, Jesse Blount, A.J. Blount, and Kenneth Paschal

CHAPLAIN'S UPLIFT

Greetings To All My Veteran Friends!

I'm winding down a five-week stint in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, working with these young medical students who will all go back to India to be doctors. It is a real joy to graduate them and send them back to work in their own country of 1.2 BILLION people! Being the last week, I have been inundated with visits, etc., to our apartment, and so I found it best to e-mail everyone.

I trust that you are all doing OK during this time of so much turmoil in our country. I know that all 217 Veterans on the Buddy Call list have any number of things going on in their lives. I certainly have my share of "heavies," and I know that you all do as well, as many of you share things with me that you have going on in your lives.

I watch these Indian young people really stick together because the Kyrgyz people do not understand them, and the Pakistani students do not care to be around them AT ALL, because politically they are enemies. The cohesiveness I see in these kids away from home reminds me of our Post and the camaraderie that is there for those of us

who want it and accept it, and become a more intimate part of what we do for the community and abroad AND for each other.



Chaplain Joe Dunn on the left sharing information with these future doctors of the world.

As the Post Chaplain, the Triple Nickel is always on my prayer list, but this month I have been moved to pray for us all even more, as I have worked with these students “up close and personal.” Please know that the Post is here for you, and if you have anything in your life that needs prayer, please pass that on to me.

*For God and Country,
Chaplain Joe*

ROVEOs ENJOY YET ANOTHER LUNCH AT “WOK ON IN” IN PELHAM

As we usually do, the “ROVEO Regulars” vote on the next restaurant that we are going to visit before we leave the restaurant, but this month, we forgot to do that. So, I asked members at the February General Membership Meeting where they would like to go and we came up with going to “Wok On In” for the second time. I will admit that the initial suggestion came from Chic and Rita Cecchini since they had just eaten there recently, so I “encouraged” our folks to choose “Wok On In”.

Another thing about which we unanimously agreed is that we will continue to patronize Pelham restaurants since we are a Pelham Post. They support us so we need to support them.

It was an excellent choice for several reasons; one was everyone stated that they enjoyed their meals, there were 11 members who attended, there was some great conversations from one end of the table to the other, and the owner offers a military discount!!! He was VERY appreciative of us having our group at his restaurant for lunch, and we will more than likely return one day.



L/R (going around the table): Eldon Woodie, Steve Loftin, Mark May, Becky Anderson, Karryl Anderson, Robert Sanders (looking the other way), and Nancy Waller.



L/R (starting at the far end of the table): Randy Ferguson, Alan Phillips, Eldon Woodie, Steve Loftin, and Mark May.

We remembered to discuss where we want to meet on **March 12, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.** We will be at **Margarita Grill on Highway 119** in Pelham next to Starbucks (my favorite coffee place). Some of you might know that one of the owners, Javier Jerez, is a member of Post 555 and has supported us on more than one occasion with donations to the Post, so we wholeheartedly agreed that we should pay him another visit!!! Please join us; we would LOVE to fill up several tables.

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

ADJUTANT'S AREA

The most recent 2023-2024 Membership Report I received from the Department of Alabama has us with 191 renewals out of the goal they set for us of 220 which equals

86.82%. **We exceeded the January goal of 85%**, so thanks to all members who renewed: ***Richard A. Argo, Andrew C. Davis, Durall Dobbins, Gretchen DiFante, Cheryl Gilliam, Hugh D. Holloway Jr., Kurt Honbarrier, David W. Inglis, James L. Jones, Daniel G. Manuel, Kimball Maull, Thomas M. McDaniel Jr., A.W. Munch Jr., Chris Vonderau, Christopher Young, and Karla Young.*** The next goal is 90% (198 renewals or new members) for February 29, 2024. I have been working closely with the 28 members who have not renewed for 2024 in hopes that they will stay with us. Every single member is important which is why I do not give up on making sure that our members receive e-mails from me, some of which come from the Commander, so that everyone stays informed of events, members needing prayers for health issues, meeting notifications, etc. I am honored to be a part of Post 555 and I will continue to serve you for as long as I am able and am appointed to stay as the Adjutant!!!

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE “CHILDREN’S OF ALABAMA INDY GRAND PRIX” IN APRIL 2024 AT BARBER MOTORSPORTS PARK

For the past few years, Zoom Motorsports has invited us to be “Tram Safety Volunteers” on ten trams that they will have running during the April 26-28, 2024 event. The shifts are 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. All you need to be able to do is get on your tram at the beginning of your shift and off the tram at the end of your shift, check to make sure that all guests are seated and safe, then wave to the driver pulling the tram to indicate that he can now move. TOO EASY!! **DO NOT FORGET TO BRING A PILLOW TO SIT ON; THE TRAMS HAVE METAL SEATS!!!** You will represent Post 555 so you will want to try to wear anything with Post 555 on it. Every member who volunteers their time for this event is going to be part of the monetary donation we will receive after the event. As of right now, I have the following days/shifts available: ***Fri., April 26, 2024, 7:00 a.m – 12:00 p.m. has five open slots; Fri., April 26, 2024, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. has seven slots open; Sat., April 27, 2024, 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. has six slots open; Sat., April 27, 2024, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. has five slots open; Sun, April 28, 2024, 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. has seven slots open; and Sun., April 28, 2024, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. has five slots open.*** As you can see, there is PLENTY of room for anyone who has not already signed-up. So far, our Volunteers who will be helping out are ***Bill Blank (five shifts), Kenn Fox (two shifts), Helen Moman (two shifts), Curtis Orse (one shift), Ray Pata (three shifts), Leroy Raymond (one shift), Vashone Smith (two shifts), Don Walker (three shifts), Nancy Waller (three shifts), and Pete Williams (three shifts).*** When the check is sent to us, each of these Post members will designate to which Legion Family they would like their portion to be donated to (i.e., Legion, Riders, Auxiliary, and/or Sons). You can even divide up your donation among more than one Legion Family entity. You earned it, you give to whomever you choose. If anyone is interested in filling any of these open slots, send me an e-mail (wallernj@gmail.com) or call me at 251-554-6986. Even if you only volunteer for one shift, you will receive credentials that will allow you access all three days, plus two meals per day!!! What a hot deal, huh???

For God and Country,
Nancy J. Waller
Adjutant

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Ward, Jeffrey E., 02/01
Williams, James B. "Pete", 02/02
Ervin, Sylvester Jr., 02/07
Schlueter, David, 02/10
Fox, Kenneth M., 02/15
Posey, James "Leon", 02/16
Carroll, William, 02/17

Hamilton, Ronnie C., 02/17
Vincelette, Timothy J. "Tim", 02/19
Holloway, Hugh D. Jr., 02/20
Boner, Donald H., 02/21
Sanders, Billy G., 02/21
Clark, Archie H., 02/26
Loftin, Steven B., 02/28



If your birthday is in February and your name is not on this list, it is because it is not listed in MyLegion.org or you did not reply to an e-mail I sent out ages ago asking for updates, so please send it to me so I can wish you a Happy Birthday next year!!!

For God and Country,
Nancy J. Waller
Adjutant

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

We meet the first Thursday of the month, so our next meeting is scheduled for **March 7, 2024** with our fellowship meal (hosted by Texas Roadhouse) at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting starting promptly at 7:00 p.m. at the Pelham Senior Center at 50 Racquet Club Parkway, Pelham, AL 35124. We will be receiving a donation from the University of Alabama Hockey Team, so be there to witness this (we have no idea how much it will be, but it has always been a great and welcomed surprise).

POST LEADERSHIP FOR 2023-2024

Post Commander *Barry Blount*

First Vice Commander
Bill Blank

Second Vice Commander
Dorian Ross

Adjutant
Nancy Waller

Judge Advocate
Tom Long

Finance Officer
Ron Koonce

Chaplain
Joe Dunn

Sergeant-at-Arms
Anita Bennett

Service Officer
Curtis Orse

Historian
Shauna Hadley

Public Relations Officer
Nancy Waller

Post Trustees
Chris Combs (1 Yr.)
Tom McDaniel (2 Yr.)
Vashone Smith (3 Yr.)

Sons of The American Legion
Donald Walker, Commander
Ron Koonce, Advisor/Adjutant

American Legion Rider's Director
Doug McDaniel

Flag Team Coordinator
Bill Blank

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
Barry Blount, Chairman
Nancy Waller, Co-Chairman

Webmaster
Ron Koonce

The Triple Nickel

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Items for publication are accepted upon Executive Committee approval and available space. Submit articles prior to the 10th of the month for publication the following month if approved. We reserve the right to edit any submissions for the purpose of publication. Letters to the Editor must include name, address, and telephone number. Names will be withheld upon request.

Send e-mail to: editor@alpost555.com

Photos by Chic Cecchini, Post 555

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