



 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

Published exclusively for the members of
AMERICAN LEGION MATTHEW BLOUNT POST 555

VOLUME IX, ISSUE XI NOVEMBER 2022

THE TRIPLE NICKEL

Matthew Blount Post 555

INSIDE ...

1st Vice's Comments	2
2nd Vice's Comments	3
Adjutant's Area	4
Chaplain's Uplift	5
Post Auxiliary	6
Sons of the Am. Legion	7
Post Leadership	8
Photos	9
Wreaths Across America	10



IN GOD WE TRUST



 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

1ST VICE COMMANDER BILL BLANK'S COMMENTS



To all of you who take the time to read these wonderful and informative newsletters. Hi!

Not a whole lot to say this month, just to say we have behind us a couple of events worth mentioning.

First the charity ride by post 555 riders that raised \$2,900.00 for Wreaths Across America. A well noted accomplishment and a great big congratulations and an effort worth highlighting. The First Responders Night Out was a great success. This was a Pelham event in which our Post and Sons participated. I personally want to send out a thank you to those who put the event together and worked in it. JOB WELL DONE!

Upcoming events are as follows: Trunk or Treat is open to all and Post members should join in on the fun. (where?) If y'all think of it, bring some candy to share with the Trunk or Treaters.

Post 555 Thanksgiving Dinner at the Pelham Baptist Annex (Please follow the e-mails Nancy has sent asking members to call and make reservations for it).

The Awards Banquet at the Sheraton downtown Birmingham. The Veterans Day event at the Texas Road House in Pelham uphill behind Cracker Barrel (get details at the Thanksgiving Dinner)



*2nd Vice's
Eldon Woodie*



*Acting 2nd Vice's
Nancy Waller*

This may be my last article as "Acting" Second Vice Commander since Eldon Woodie is back in town. Please keep him in your prayers as he mourns the recent loss of his beloved Mother. He has been taking care of her affairs for the last few weeks, but is scheduled to be back in town soon. For now, I will continue reporting about the events of the past month and about some scheduled for the next few months.

PELHAM POLICE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

On Tues., October 4, 2022 at the Pelham City Park, once again Post 555 was a presence at the Pelham Police National Night Out. Post 555 members who helped were Jeff Monday, Nancy Waller, Frank Lakotich, Frank Chacon, Ray Pata, Harry "Skip" Mize, Chic Cecchini, Ron Koonce, Cheryl Gilliam, and Don Walker. Post 555 "visitors" were Kenneth Paschal and Pelham Mayor Gary Waters. We were there to meet and greet event attendees as they passed by our tent and motorcycle display (always a hit). This year we were glad to have representatives from Auxiliary Unit 555 with their own table with coloring books and candy for the youth of our community, so their table was very busy. The Auxiliary members present were President Caroline Culpepper (dual member), Linda Johnston, Linda Colvard, Rachel Sills, Beth Phillips, Vashone Smith (dual member), and Nancy Waller (dual member). We all enjoyed having our Auxiliary members with us at an event!

BARBER VINTAGE FESTIVAL

During Friday through Sunday (October 7-9, 2022), 12 Post 555 members volunteered their time to work at the Barber Vintage Festival at the Barber Motorsports Park in the Leeds area. We were invited by Kyle Phillips (son of Alan and Beth Phillips and a member of our Sons) to volunteer to sit in the back of the trams that go through the entire park from 7:30 a.m. to dark numerous times to help the drivers of the trams know when the guests were seated and safe. I think everyone had a great time (I know I did) because we met people from all over the country and I met a gentleman from Canada! I was told that this event is one of the biggest in the country for racing and displaying motorcycles of every type and brand. They were EVERYWHERE!!! I want to thank our Volunteers: James and Lisa Aaron (worked three shifts), Andrew Burell (worked two shifts), James Darden (worked one shift), Frank Lakotich (worked one shift), Doug McDaniel (worked one shift), Curtis Orse (worked one shift), Alan and Beth Phillips (worked one shift), Vashone Smith (worked one shift), Nancy Waller (worked three shifts), and Don Walker (worked two shifts). The event POC said we did a great job and hoped that we would be interested to return to events in the future. I told her to keep us posted.

"CONCERT FOR A CAUSE"

The "Concert for a Cause" was held on Sun., October 23, 2022 at the Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church in Bessemer. I am writing this article the evening before the event, so I cannot really report how it went, but it is a fundraiser for Wreaths Across America and has "Homeland" on the program to do all sorts of patriotic and holiday songs. I am sure it will be a great event.

FLAG PLACEMENT FOR VETERANS DAY AT THE ALABAMA NATIONAL CEMETERY

If you have not already volunteered to help with flag placement at the Alabama National Cemetery (ALNC) in Montevallo, please let Nancy Waller know @ 251-554-6986 or via e-mail at wallernj@gmail.com. I am keeping a roster of Post 555 Volunteers to make sure we have a good representation from our Post. As of right now, there are five members who will help, so please join us if you are able. It is scheduled for Tues., November 8, 2022, 10:00 a.m., at Committal Shelter #3 (near Section 8 where Matthew Blount is interred). Family members will place their flags first, then the Volunteers will take care of every headstone in the ALNC. Please help if you can!!! There are almost 10,000 graves and that is a LOT of flags.

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

ADJUTANT'S AREA



Nancy Waller
Adjutant

Effective July 1, 2022, our new membership drive began. The Department of Alabama gave all Adjutants a list of goals to strive to reach or exceed between July 31, 2022 and May 31, 2023. Here is what they are asking us to do as far as membership numbers. The numbers I sent in the September 2022 Newsletter in the "Adjutant's Area" have been revised due to the Department calculating a different end total which is now 225 members.....so I adjusted the expectations of each of the upcoming monthly goals. Green highlighting means the goal was met or exceeded. If we don't make it, I will use yellow highlighting (let's hope we do not have any yellow!!!).

Cut-off Dates:

July 31st = 40% membership (need 90 members renewed/joined) – WE MET AND EXCEEDED THIS GOAL BY ACHIEVING 42.22% WITH 95 MEMBERS RENEWING FOR 2023—THANKS!!!

August 31st = 50% membership (need 113 members renewed/joined) – WE EXCEEDED THIS GOAL BY ACHIEVING 52.44% WITH 118 MEMBERS RENEWING FOR 2023—THANKS AGAIN!!!

September 30th = 55% membership (need 124 members renewed/joined) – AS OF THE WRITING OF THIS ARTICLE, WE HAVE 55.56% WITH 125 MEMBERS RENEWING FOR 2023—WE DID IT AGAIN!!!

October 31st (Happy Halloween) = 65% membership (need 146 members renewed/joined) – AS OF THE WRITING OF THIS ARTICLE, WE HAVE 57.77% WITH 130 MEMBERS RENEWING FOR 2023. WE NEED 16 MORE TO RENEW OR NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN. UH-OH!!!

November 30th = 75% membership (need 168 members renewed/joined)

December 31st (Happy New Year) = 80% membership (need 180 members renewed/joined)

January 31st = 85% membership (need 191 members renewed/joined)

February 28th = 90% membership (need 202 members renewed/joined)

March 31st = 95% membership (need 213 members renewed/joined)

April 30th = 100% membership (225 members

renewed/joined)

May 31st (Happy Memorial Day) = 103% membership (231 members renewed/joined)

To keep the ball rolling for October, we need 16 more renewals to meet the total of 146 members (65%) needed. If you want to be one of those **VERY IMPORTANT** 16 members, **PLEASE** renew either by mail or on-line. I check the on-line renewals very frequently and would be **THRILLED** to see several names on there for October.

There was an article in the Dispatch (a magazine that is sent to Adjutants) talking about the Post Excellence Award. I will be working on all of the criteria for this award to strive for Post 555 to be considered. The time period for this award is July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. They look at membership, the Consolidated Post Report (CPR), the membership renewal rate, and the one in which we excel which is community activities. You see all of my e-mails asking for help with events in Pelham and at the Alabama National Cemetery, so I am POSITIVE that we will exceed in this category. I will keep you posted.

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 October if you are one of the members to respond to my RSVP to reserve a seat for you and your family member(s) for the Thanksgiving Dinner/Meeting scheduled for November 4, 2022. If you will not be attending the dinner/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, have a current driver's license that I can take a photo of on my phone to send to Pamela Raines, and complete an application. No paper copy of your driver's license needed anymore. 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.

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

CHAPLAIN'S UPLIFT



Joe Dunn
Post Chaplain



From Chaplain Joe

This month is a special month for the American Legion. It is the month we honor ALL those who have served or still serve in military and are alive and able to celebrate Veterans Day. One would think that my responsibility of writing a Chaplain's Uplift would be easy. Yet I have found it somewhat difficult. What can I write about Veterans Day that hasn't already been written, or say something that catches the eye, but even more than that, touches the heart?

Oh, I could write about a "hero," and that would stir our heart strings; but we all know deep inside that such men and women are few and far between. We do know, though, that there are many among us who would be recognized as being "well above average" because of their accomplishments during either war or peace through the medals or certificates that they were awarded. Solid character and a consistent performance of duty is also recognized and rewarded in the military.

For the greater majority, though, the military is made up of ordinary people. I'm personally convinced that many such GI's were at times less or even far less than what we were expected to be. We just never got caught! And I don't think, if we're brutally honest, that ANYONE should be thumbing their nose at that statement like that, for we know it to be true, right?

So I've asked myself, "Where can I go to write and honest, yet uplifting letter of honor and encouragement to the Triple Nickel. I've chosen to go to the one place that is a solid rock of truth every time—the Bible. In the Old Testament you'll find the word "valor" used 37 times—"men of Valor." Sometimes it is said regarding just a few, at other times it's a few thousand! When God chose a man or a women, a squad or an army of "mighty men of valor," He could call them that because He can see their hearts. He knew that they **would indeed** answer the call if He chose to use them to defend their country, which at that time was Israel. It had **nothing** to do with not being FEARFUL. It had **everything** to do with being WILLING to do their job.

The Statute of Limitations has run out, I believe, so I think I can tell you this. At Paris Island we were told that if a fellow Marine turned tail and ran in Viet Nam, to shoot him in the back! If he would do that, then he would also collaborate with the enemy, which made him worse than worthless. He was a traitor. You DO realize that the Corps saw things just a little bit different than most, right?

Having said all this, let me wish you all, my fellow Vets at Post 555 a **MOST HAPPY VETERANS DAY!**

For God and Country
Chaplain Joe

Auxiliary Unit 555

Hi Everyone,

I pray everyone is doing well. We had our meeting on Oct 23rd and there was four in attendance. We are getting our footing and I appreciate everyone. We have lots of room for more people and membership never closes

In October, we went to Pelham night out and passed out candy, trinkets, and Halloween Safety material. Also, we went to Texas Roadhouse on the 24th and did it again. Thank you to everyone who came and brought candy in our efforts to keep children safe for Halloween. It was a lot of fun and I really enjoyed visiting with everyone.

Our next big thing is the Thanksgiving meal on November 4th. We will have a raffle again. I hope everyone will make an effort to help us. This year, we are going to give half of our proceeds to Wreaths Across America.

Our next meeting will be November, 20th, 12:30, at Buck Creek Coffee in Pelham. We would love to have you come.

Blessings,
Caroline Culpepper





Sons of The American Legion

Members of the squadron continue to be active during the month of November.



Post 555 Family



Sons- L-R: Jeff Monday, Ron Koonce, Ray Pata,

Squadron 555 participated in support of the Triple Nickel Rider's Annual Matthew Blount Charity Ride in recognition of his birthday. The proceeds of the ride resulted in providing over 200 Wreaths for The Alabama National Cemetery Wreath Across America event in December.



Sons member Jesse Blount helps with registration



Sons L-R: Jeff Monday, Jesse Blount, A.J Blount



Sons- Ray Pata, Ron Koonce



Squadron members volunteered as a member of the supporting staff for the Barber Vintage Festival held on October 7-9, 2022 at the Barber Motorsports Park in Leeds, Alabama along with members of the Post 555 Family.



The squadron's Facebook page is acquiring a large number of visitors. You are invited to visit and "Like" our page at www.facebook.com/alabamaSAL555 if you have not had the opportunity. The Facebook page share's current events and activities of the squadron and the Alabama Detachment.

MATTHEW BLOUNT POST 555



Usually Meets first Thursday of the month.

The next Membership Meeting will be the **Thanksgiving Dinner** at the Pelham Baptist Church Annex (across Hwy 31)

at 6PM on *Wednesday* 4 November 2022.

Note the day change!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU, OUR NOVEMBER MEMBERS

Karryl L. Anderson, 11/01
 Marion M. Kane, 11/01
 Neil M. "Marcus" Lowe, 11/01
 Wayne C. Curtis, 11/02
 Mark R. Sawyer, 11/04
 Vincent H. Seaward, 11/04
 Marc T. Louis, 11/06
 Jerry Smith, 11/06
 David W. Inglis, 11/07
 James I. Miller, 11/11
 James R. "Jimmie" Blue, 11/13
 Shannon S. Fields, 11/14
 Matthew B. Maxwell, 11/16
 Thomas A. "Tom" Long, 11/18
 James F. Carter, 11/22
 Christopher R. Watts, 11/28

If your birthday is in November 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!!!

Nancy J. Waller, Adjutant

Post Leadership 2022/2023

Post Commander Jeff Monday	Sons of The American Legion Bill Blank, Comm. Ron Koonce, Advisor
1st Vice Commander Bill Blank	American Legion Riders-Director Doug McDaniel
2nd Vice Commander Eldon Woodie	Flag Team Coordinator Vacant
Adjutant Nancy Waller	Boy Scouts Coordinator David Coram Jr.
Asst. Adjutant Ron Koonce	Jr. Shooting Director Darrell Lawley
Judge Advocate Tom Long	Baseball Director Jon Freeman
Financial Officer Andrew Blount	School Awards Program Frank Lakotich, Chr.
Chaplain Joe Dunn	Awards Program Barry Blount, Chr.
Sergeant-At-Arms Derek Winters	Nancy Waller, Asst. Chr.
Post Service Officer Vacant	Webmaster Ron Koonce
Historian Shauna Hadley	Triple Nickel Editor Frank Chacon
Public Relations Officer Dorian Ross	Photography Chic Cecchini
Post Trustees Frank Lakotich (1 yr) Chris Combs (2 yr) Tom McDaniel (3yr)	23rd District Commander Paul Gonthier
Auxiliary President Caroline Culpepper	2nd Division Commander Richard Kaster



1046534838 FreeArt

The Triple Nickel

is published monthly for members of Matthew Blount Post 555.

50 Racquet Club Parkway
 Pelham, AL 35124
 205-678-1375

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 Cecchini, Post 555

Copyright 2022
 American Legion Post 555



Tuesday Oct 5th at Pelham City Park



Motorcycles everywhere at Barber...

*14th Annual Wreaths Across America Campaign**Alabama National Cemetery**Montevallo, Alabama**Saturday, December 17, 2022*

The cost to sponsor each wreath is \$15.00. This year we are hoping for at least 10,000 wreaths. All wreath sponsors and family members of those interred at the Alabama National Cemetery are invited and strongly encouraged to attend and participate in the wreath-laying ceremony.

To sponsor wreaths, please complete the information below and mail it Matthew Blount Post 555, 50 Racquet Club Parkway, Pelham, AL 35124. Make your checks or money orders payable to "Matthew Blount Post 555" and put "Wreaths Across America (WAA)" on the memo line. The deadline for donations is **November 3, 2022**, so please act on this request as soon as you are financially able. Each sponsorship is tax deductible. For more information and/or questions, please contact Dorian Ross, Post 555 WAA Chairperson @ 205-624-4548. Thank you in advance for your show of support to our Fallen Heroes and their family members during the 2022 Christmas Season.

CUT HERE

14TH ANNUAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DONATION FORM

PRINT NAME OF INDIVIDUAL / ORGANIZATION: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ SPONSORSHIP AMOUNT: \$ _____

IN HONOR OF (LIVING): _____

IN MEMORY OF (DECEASED): _____