



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

VOLUME IX, ISSUE IV APRIL 2022

THE TRIPLE NICKEL

INSIDE ...

Commander's Desk	2
1st Vice's Comments	3
2nd Vice's Comments	4
Adjutant's Area	5
Chaplain's Uplift	6
Post Triple Nickel Riders	7
Post Leadership/B'days	8
Judge Advocate	9
Boys State	10
Post 555 Shooters	11
WWII Veterans	12
Sons of Legionnaires	13
Service Officer Page	14



# Matthew Blount Post 555

## Post Everlasting

Lynda Hendley Morris  
October 28, 1923-February 10, 2022



Lynda Hendley Morris transferred to the Post Everlasting on February 10, 2022.

Lynda was born Siglynda Schmacher in Stuttgart, Germany. At the age of nine, she immigrated to America where she later received her U.S. Citizenship. She joined the U.S. Women's Army Corps (WAC) at the age of 18 in 1942 and served in several capacities. During her service, she served as General Eisenhower's driver. She received an honorable discharge in 1945.

While she was serving as a Recruiter for the U.S. Army, she met and married Staff Sergeant Woodrow Wilson Hendley in 1944. They had one son, James "Jim" M. Hendley. Woodrow Hendley died of cancer in 1953.

Lynda remarried Gerald Morris in 1970. In 2008, Lynda once again became a widow.

Lynda was a member of The American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555, and attended Post 555 meetings regularly as long as her health permitted. She was a recipient of the Quilts of Valor while a member of Post 555 for her service during WWII.

We thank her for her service to our great country and for instilling the love of country in her son and grandson. Her legacy will continue for many years to come.

Lynda is survived by one son, James "Jim" M. Henley, MME USN Vietnam.

Grandchildren: James W. Henley CDR USN (Andrea), Patricia Henley Nix (Heath) & Megan Lynn Henley Harrell (Jesse)

Great Grandchildren: Tanner Nix, Taylor Brooke Nix Tidwell (DJ)

Isaiah Steven Henley & Mason James Henley

IN GOD WE TRUST



# COMMANDER'S CORNER



**Jeff Monday**  
*Post Commander*



Happy spring, fellow Legionnaires!!! Yes, we have made it to spring.

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to join us at the first family BBQ at the HOG Meeting Room on Sat., March 19, 2022. We served hamburgers and hotdogs along with baked beans, chips, soft drinks, and several desserts. We had 33 members/family members as well as two dogs, Molly and Bindi Chacon who also had a great time with their owners Frank and Pat. I hope to continue to provide a similar event every quarter. The family day gives us time to make connections with each other. We found that in many ways, we have the same stories about the time we spent serving or even what we do within the communities in which we reside. The Post works much better when we all work as a team, and with that being said, I hope that everyone who attended shares their experience with those who could not make it in hopes that they will join us next quarter.

Adjutant Nancy Waller had the pleasure and opportunity to prepare and present two shadow boxes to two of our WWII members, Robert Genry (uncle of Chic Cecchini's wife, Rita) and Bill Jones (who was accompanied by his son, Billy). She also had a shadow box for Billy Crocker, but he did not attend. Adjutant Waller also found out that our fourth WWII member, Lynda Morris,

passed away on February 10, 2022, but Lynda's son, Jim Henley (also a Post 555 member) will be given his mom's shadow box when a meeting can be arranged. Lynda will be missed by many.

Many things have been going on behind the scenes such as the High School Oratorical Scholarship contest and the Jr. Shooting Team, both events representing the Post very well this past month. Ms. Emma Noble is going to Indianapolis, Indiana to compete in the National Oratorical Scholarship Contest, and the Jr. Shooting Team brought home the Commander's Cup once again for Post 555. Great job to all!!

Jeff Monday,  
Commander



# 1ST VICE'S COMMENTS



**Bill Blank**  
1st Vice Commander



Hello comrades of post 555 and Squadron 555, hope our newsletter reaches you and that you find this newsletter somewhat informative.

I hope that those who attended our first quarterly get-together enjoyed themselves. Please invite family members and friends to join us for our next quarterly cook out. We would like to grow this event to one that all would look forward to. I have always felt it was good to get to know more people in our community and what a better way to do this. A big thank you to those who organized and set this first party up for us to enjoy. Cannot forget chef Jeff for taking time out to cook for us, great dogs and burgers.

Our next community event is coming up in May and that is Palooza in the park. It is a wonderful spring event that introduces you to some of our community businesses and organizations. Our post takes part in this event; we will have our tent there and the information about the American Legion. We are there to answer questions about joining the American Legion, Legionnaire's involvement in community affairs and what we do to support the young in our community. We will be looking for members of our post and squadron to come join the effort and man the information table. Also, we would like for those who would be willing to set up our tent, information table and flags. More information is forth coming.

Next item to discuss is the Legion's 2022 "100 miles for Hope" a program that has started this month. The 100 miles for hope will raise money

for the American Legion and children foundation. Those interested in the walk/run the miles can sign up through Emblem Sales with a \$30.00 donation. There is more information on this fund-raising event at, <https://www.legion.org/100miles>. For more information, give me a call at (214)476-7074 (Bill Blank 1st Commander Post 555). I will do my best to answer your questions or get someone who can.

Last but not least and always my favorite interest. I hope there are others who will join me; that is American Legion Baseball. Our job is to sell tickets for the ball games, not a real tough job, in fact it is kind of fun. The money raised selling tickets supports the fundamental expenses of the game.

We like to have two people selling tickets at each game, so there will always be someone at the ticket table while one gets a bit of a break. I have been doing this for a while and it is a lot of fun. So, what do you say? If you are interested give me a call at (214)476-7074 or email me at [bhbpac@yahoo.com](mailto:bhbpac@yahoo.com). It would be great hearing from you.

That is about it for this month.

Bill Blank  
1st. Vice Commander



## 2nd Vice's Interim Report Nancy Waller

If you have been following my article including the updates of the High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest, you know I have been focusing on Ms. Emma Noble who is sponsored by our Post. In the last newsletter, I reported that Emma won the 23<sup>rd</sup> District contest held on Sat., February 12, 2022 at the First Baptist Church in Alabaster. She then moved on to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Oratorical Scholarship Contest which was held on Sat., February 26, 2022 at the Shades Crest Baptist Church in Birmingham. Guess what? She won that contest!!!

Her next challenge was to compete at the Department of Alabama Oratorical Scholarship Contest held on Sat., March 12, 2022 at the Alabama Department of Archives and History in Montgomery. 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Commander Kaster, Judge Advocate Long, and I attended to represent Post 555, and I am so glad that I was there. Emma was the first one and did her 8-10-minute oration, but she went over the maximum time limit by 10 seconds. We were in shock and thought that her chances of winning were over. We listened to the other two contestants and were sure that Emma would be in second place. After all, three contestants did the assigned topic (all three contestants did a great job), the judges left to tabulate their scores. Tom Long and his wife, Dee, and I talked among ourselves and thought that second place would be the best Emma could do, but guess what? Even though Emma exceeded her time by 10 seconds, her other attributes outweighed the one mistake and she won **FIRST PLACE!!!!**

What a great day for Emma, her mom (we finally met her), and Post 555. Emma is now headed for the final contests at the national level in Indianapolis, Indiana. Here is how the competition goes at this final level. The contest will get underway Sat., April 23, 2022 at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel with the high school orators competing in the quarterfinals; the top nine contestants will advance to the semifinals. The top three semifinal contestants will advance to the championship finals which will be held Sun., April 24, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. EDT (9:00 a.m. CST for us), and will be streamed live on The American Legion National Headquarters Facebook page and YouTube Channel.

If you missed both opportunities to witness Emma's orations in person at two of our recent General Membership Meetings, I highly recommend you watch her on April 24<sup>th</sup>. You will be amazed. Best of luck to Emma!!!

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



Ms. Emma Noble, 2022 Oratorical Contest winner



## Department winners selected to compete in National Oratorical Contest

The American Legion is looking forward to hosting the program in person April 23-24 with 49 high school orators speaking on the U.S. Constitution and competing for over \$203,000 in scholarships.

The youth won their American Legion post, district Oratorical Contest the national level. Post Noble is one of forty-nine the 49 participants



The contest will get

underway Saturday, April 23, at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel with the high school orators competing in the quarterfinals; the top nine contestants will advance to the semifinals. The contestants will present a rehearsed eight- to 10-minute oration on an aspect of the Constitution in front of judges, as well as a three- to five-minute speech on an assigned topic discourse — a phase of the Constitution selected from its Articles and Sections. The top three semifinal contestants will advance to the championship finals.

The championship finals will be held Sunday, April 24, at 10 a.m. EDT, and will be streamed live on The American Legion National Headquarters [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

pective American Legion post, district and state- to earn a spot at 555's Emma No- participants. [See here.](#)

underway Satur-

ADJUTANT'S AREA



*Nancy Waller*  
Adjutant



Spring is finally here and boy, did it come in with some CRAZY weather!!! Storms and tornadoes followed by cold weather, tons and tons of rain, and long hours on local TV stations watching the “polygons” where the tornado watches and warnings were being reported. Nothing is scarier than seeing your location inside the polygon. I live in a little town called Quinton (four miles from exit 81 on I-22) and even Quinton was named by the weather guy during one of the storms about a month or so ago!!! I even took a picture of it on my phone!!! I hope everyone reading this article was spared from the bad weather.

Now for “Membership Business”. I checked MyLegion.org and found five members who renewed on-line for 2022. That made my day, and I am anxious to get their membership cards and “thank you” letters in the mail ASAP. YEAH!!!

Here is the next set of goals set by the Department for 2022 renewals:

- March 9, 2022 = 90% (196 members) (we achieved 91.74% on March 23, 2022 with 200 members; did not meet the deadline, but we did exceed 90% two weeks after the deadline, so **GREAT JOB!!!!**)
- April 13, 2022 = 95% (207 members) (only seven more renewals for 2022 to meet this goal; if you have not renewed yet for 2022, **PLEASE RENEW TO HELP MEET OR EXCEED OUR 95% GOAL!!!!**)
- May 11, 2022 = 100% (218 members)

There are two ways to renew with one being to mail your \$45.00 check made payable to **Matthew Blount Post 555** to 50 Racquet Club Parkway, Pelham, AL 35124. Ron Koonce will get them out of the mailbox at the Pelham Senior Center, deposit your check, and send me a copy of the “Dues Notice” for me to update your membership in MyLegion.org as a 2022 paid member. I will then send your 2022 membership card via USPS along with a nice letter thanking you for your Service and continued support of Post 555. I cannot wait to send you my nice “thank you” letter and your 2022 membership card with my signature on it; that is the best part of my job as Adjutant; taking care of **YOU!!!**

The second way to renew is to pay with a credit/debit card. Please go to legion.org and join on-line. I check that report almost on a daily basis, so I would LOVE to see your on-line renewal if you like renewing from the comfort of your own home. I just pulled-up a report from MyLegion.org and there are six members who renewed,

so **THANK YOU!!!**

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 February when you come to the April 7, 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 (proof of age). 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!!

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

*Here is a handy form to use as a hand-out to veteran friends and their family as encouragement to join Post 555*

**4 ways to be a member of our Legion family**

- American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555
- American Legion Auxiliary
- Sons of the American Legion
- American Legion Riders (must be members of one of the 3 above)

**Contact Information (Please Print)**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ HM: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

MILITARY BRANCH: \_\_\_\_\_

REFERRED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

## CHAPLAIN'S UPLIFT



**Joe Dunn**  
*Post Chaplain*



Recently, I've been thinking about the times when I acted like a Lone Ranger in my life. We all have, right? Actually, we act upon what we believe to be true deep down in our hearts. That shows me that I at times think I'm something that I'm not. There's nothing, though, that can knock us off our pedestal as when something happens that we can't control and we can't get rid of. That can be VERY humbling, and things can get exacerbated when we can't get past it without the help of others.

We have to admit that we need people, whether we like it or not. Here's a good example. After I got out of the hospital, I was confined to bed at night. I had a portable toilet right next to me. I was too lazy to get up and use it, so I just used the urinal and dumped it in the toilet. One night I forgot to attach the bottom part, and in the dark, I just dumped the whole urinal onto the bedroom floor! It was only because I was in serious need of help that kept my wife from killing me!

There's a biblical term that God used when looking for someone to rise to the occasion and help His people. God said that He looked for someone to "Stand in The Gap." To close the breach, to take up the slack, to have your back, to be big enough to say, "I'll help."

Our military experience probably teaches us to "never volunteer." But those days are over. What a great thing it is to have someone "Stand in the Gap" for us when we can't cover all the bases alone. I know. It was 10 weeks from being Covid positive to being able to stand alone again. SO MANY people stood in the gap for me and helped when my wife was sick and couldn't cook, and I was on a walker and on oxygen and couldn't do anything by myself.

My fellow Vets, Spring is upon us, and there will so many ways that you can step up to the plate and get involved, standing in the gap with someone or for someone who needs help, so that we don't have anyone running around acting like the Lone Ranger. 🙏🙏

Chaplain Joe

*Good job Joe! we're glad to have you healthy and back with us. Editor*

# Triple Nickel Riders



Hello All Legionnaires,  
It has been cold and/or wet the last few weeks. That did not keep the riders from finding a couple of good days to get out and ride. We got together for our monthly meeting at Heart of Dixie. After the meeting we went to Beef O' Brady's for dinner and good conversation. The following weekend we met up at Heart Of Dixie and we took advantage of the warm sunny day with a ride. The ride took us up to Mt Cheaha State Park. The view from the highest point in the State of Alabama was fantastic. The weather and comradery was great. Thanks all for showing up.

--

Doug McDaniel  
Riders Director  
Triple Nickel Riders



**MATTHEW BLOUNT POST 555**



**Meets first Thursday of the month.**  
 The next Post 555 Membership Meeting will take place on Thursday April 7 at the Pelham Senior Center.  
*Come at 6PM for free dinner and stay for the 7PM Membership meeting*

***Birthdays for April 2022***

I thought it would be fun to send birthday wishes to our Post 555 members each month, so here are the folks you need to say Happy Birthday to if you see them during April.

- Wort Helenius and Norman C. Hicks, April 6<sup>th</sup>
- Bill Blank, April 8<sup>th</sup>
- Cheryl A. Gilliam, April 10<sup>th</sup>
- Charles H. Carroll and Todd Erwin, April 11<sup>th</sup>
- Ronald W. Gofourth, April 12<sup>th</sup>
- Charles Geter, April 14<sup>th</sup>
- Clarence J. Johnston and Charles "Chuck" F. Kiser, April 16<sup>th</sup>
- Jacqueline M. Lucas, April 19<sup>th</sup>
- Eric M. Hunley, April 20<sup>th</sup>
- Joshua M. Vandiver, April 21<sup>st</sup>
- Stan D. Murrell, April 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Gretchen DiFante, April 28<sup>th</sup>
- David W. Bishop, Eugene G. Rowley, and Glennis D. Smith, April 29<sup>th</sup>

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU, HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU,  
 HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THESE POST 555 MEMBERS, HAPPY  
 BIRTHDAY TO YOU (and many more.....)!!!**

*Best wishes, Nancy J. Waller Adjutant*



***Post Leadership 2021/2022***

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Post Commander</b><br>Jeff Monday                                    | <b>Auxiliary President</b><br>Caroline Culpepper        |
| <b>1st Vice Commander</b><br>Bill Blank                                 | <b>Sons of The American Legion</b><br>Bill Blank, Comm. |
| <b>2nd Vice Commander</b><br>TBD  | Ron Koonce, Advisor                                     |
| <b>Adjutant</b><br>Nancy Waller   | <b>American Legion Riders Director</b><br>Doug McDaniel |
| <b>Asst Adjutant</b><br>Ron Koonce                                      | <b>Flag Team Coordinator</b><br>TBD                     |
| <b>Judge Advocate</b><br>Tom Long                                       | <b>Boy Scouts Coordinator</b><br>David Coram            |
| <b>Financial Officer</b><br>Barry Blount                                | <b>Jr. Shooting Director</b><br>Darrell Lawley          |
| <b>Chaplain</b><br>Joe Dunn   | <b>Baseball Director</b><br>Jon Freeman                 |
| <b>Sergeant-At- Arms</b><br>Derek Winters                               | <b>School Awards Program</b><br>Frank Lakotich, Chr.    |
| <b>Post Service Officer</b><br>Jerry McClain                            | <b>Awards Program</b><br>Barry Blount, Chr.             |
| <b>Historian</b><br>Shauna Hadley                                       | <b>Webmaster</b><br>Ron Koonce                          |
| <b>Public Relations Officer</b><br>Dorian Ross                          | <b>Triple Nickel Editor</b><br>Frank Chacon             |
| <b>Post Trustees</b><br>Frank Lakotich<br>Robert Horsley<br>Chris Combs | <b>Photography</b><br>Chic Cecchini                     |

***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](mailto: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](mailto:Editor@alpost555.com)**

*Photos by Chic Cecchini, Post 555*

Copyright 2020  
 American Legion Post 555





**Tom Long**  
**Judge Advocate**  
**District 23/Post 555**



### Official Use of American Legion Trade- marks/Emblems

Good morning. A short note regarding the use of American Legion Trademarks, emblems etc.

We all have probably been in the position of either sending or receiving written or electronic mail related to American Legion business. Using these trademarks/emblems can lend an official quality to those communications which can be a useful and powerful tool. This is for the most part a reasonable and appropriate use of The American Legion Emblem. That said, on occasion that has not always been the case. To that end, it is important to understand what the official regulations are for usage of those trademarks/emblems and what the ramifications of use without permission are.

Title 36 U.S. Code § 21705 grants exclusive rights to the American Legion for use of its emblems and badges. This means the use or misuse of these emblems or badges carries the weight of federal statutes. Within the Constitution & Bylaws of the American Legion, **§ 21705. Exclusive right to name, emblems, and badges**, states **“The corporation and its State and local subdivisions have the exclusive right to use the name “The American Legion” or “American Legion”.** The corporation has the exclusive right to use, manufacture, and control the right to manufacture, emblems and badges the corporation adopts.” In addition, under **18 U.S. Code § 705 - Badge or medal of veterans’ organizations**, it specifically addresses remedies the organization might take for misuse of their trademarks/

emblems. It states, **“Whoever knowingly manufactures**, reproduces, sells or purchases for resale, either separately or on or appended to, any article of merchandise manufactured or sold, any badge, medal, emblem, or other insignia or any colorable imitation thereof, of any veterans’ organization incorporated by enactment of Congress, or of any organization formally recognized by any such veterans’ organization as an auxiliary of such veterans’ organization, or knowingly prints, lithographs, engraves or otherwise reproduces on any poster, circular, periodical, magazine, newspaper, or other publication, or circulates or distributes any such printed matter bearing a reproduction of such badge, medal, emblem, or other insignia or any colorable imitation thereof, except when authorized under rules and regulations prescribed by any such organization, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than six months, or both”.

What does all this mean? Simply put, there are ramifications for using The American Legion Trademarks/Emblems without expressed consent of the American Legion.

While there is not an expectation this will happen, it is always good to know what the rules are and share them with American Legion Posts and Districts. If you have questions about the above contact your Post, District or Department Judge Advocate for guidance.

Tom Long,

 **AMERICAN  
LEGION**

*Post 555 Boys State Scholarship Program  
Open to 2022 High School Juniors  
Detail information contact Larry Strayer at:  
alboystate555@gmail.com*

*Visit Post 555 Boys State Webpage <https://www.alpost555.com/>*



# ALABAMA BOYS STATE

*We Build Citizenship!*

**The 85th Annual Alabama Boys State**  
Troy University,  
Troy  
May 29th - June 4th, 2022



Sponsored by  
**The American Legion  
Department of Alabama**

[alboystate.org](http://alboystate.org)



**@alboystate**

## AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

The American Legion believes there is no better way to assure the survival of our republic than to train our young people in the ideals and objectives of American government. Boys State is an unique summer program that does not rely on letter and textbooks scenarios, but hands on experience and participation on a model government.

The program teaches that the preservation of our democracy depends on informed citizens electing responsible officials to administer our government.

## PURPOSE AND MISSION

Boys State seeks to educate our youth in the duties and privileges of American citizenship. It is a program of training in the practical aspects of government. Boys State offers delegates instruction in the machinery of American politics by placing delegates in the same positions decision making as their real life counterparts. This instruction will give delegates a view of government from municipal, county and state levels.

## WHAT IS ALABAMA BOYS STATE

The curriculum of Boys State is directed by an experience staff well versed in many area of expertise. The duties and responsibilities of each elected and appointed office at the Alabama Boys State are studio in the academic course.

Upon registration, delegates are assigned to a political party. The delegates will discuss and vote on a platform for their respective parties and nominate candidates for the state offices. Delegates will also elect leadership in their cities and counties.

Delegates will also have the opportunity to take part in an organized recreational program that will give then the opportunity to participate in sports, band, chorus and theatre. In the spirit of citizenship and civic participation, delegates will also have the opportunity to participate in a large scale community service project.

## POST 555 SHOOTERS WIN

The Triple Nickel Junior Precision Air Rifle Team successfully defended their claim to the American Legion, Department of Alabama Commander's Cup on Saturday, March 5, 2022. The junior precision team, consisting of Clara Bailey, Emily Buck, Grayson Ellis, Carley Seabrooke, and alternates Caleb Edwards and Bryce Newman represented Post 555 in this prestigious American Legion Alabama air rifle event. This marked the Post's second consecutive year for entering the top precision team in the Facility Department of Alabama. This is an annual event, held at the Civilian Marksmanship Program Indoor Air gun Facility at Anniston, offering Alabama posts' junior air rifle teams the opportunity to compete against each other for the honor of earning the Commander's Cup. This year's event was broken into two air rifle disciplines; sporter and precision. There were 27 total teams, representing 11 Department of Alabama American Legion Posts.

The top three Precision Air Rifle Teams were:

**First Place (Commander's Cup Winner) Post 555, Shelby County,**

**Aggregate Score: 2327-141**

Second Place Post 73, Enterprise Precision Team 1, Aggregate Score: 2224-74

Third Place Post 73, Enterprise Precision Team 2, Aggregate Score: 2099-45

The top three Sporter Air Rifle Teams were:

First Place Post 73 Enterprise Sporter Team 1, Aggregate Score: 2090-50

Second Place Post 44 Robertsedale Team 1, Aggregate Score: 2081-51

Third Place Post 5 Hawkeyes (Gadsden), Aggregate Score: 2057-46



## POST 555 FUN DAY

Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and Triple Nickel Riders of Matthew Blount Post 555 gathered to share in good fun, food and fellowship.

View more photos at <https://alpost555.smugmug.com/Post-555-Family-Fun-Day-3192022/>



WWII VETERANS RECEIVE COMMEMORATIVE SHADOW BOX AT THE  
POST 555 SPRING FAMILY FUN DAY



Nancy Waller & Bill Jones, WWII veteran  
receives shadow box

Nancy Waller & Robert Genry, WWII veteran  
receives shadow box





## Sons of The American Legion Squadron 555

Membership has not changed since last month. We continue to recruit new members. Applications for membership to The Sons of American Legion can be found on the "Home" page of the Post website, [Alpost555.com](http://Alpost555.com). Scroll down to the "join" section. Select "Join the Sons". Print the application and follow the instruction on the form.

Squadron 555 received a banner for achieving 100% per capita goal in donations to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. In 2022, the Foundation made seventeen grants more than \$639,328 to fourteen youth serving non-profit organizations. These grants helped children suffering from abuse, depression, blindness, and leukemia just to name a few.

The Squadron continues to work on filling 2022-2023 Officer nominations for three officer positions.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander  
Chaplain  
Sgt-AT-Arms

Interested parties contact Ron Koonce, Adjutant, at [ron.koonce@alpost555.com](mailto:ron.koonce@alpost555.com)

The Sons joined in with the Post 555 Fun Family Day held on March 19, 2022.

Some of the future activities the squadron plans to participate in the coming months are PALPOOZA, Memorial Day, Baseball Support, Flag Day, and Veterans Day. Those that are interested in participating in any of these activities, contact Commander Bill Blank -[bhbpac@yahoo.com](mailto:bhbpac@yahoo.com) or Adjutant Ron Koonce -[ron.koonce@alpost555.com](mailto:ron.koonce@alpost555.com)

Next Squadron meeting is April 12, 2022, at the PSC, 7:00pm

All active members are encouraged to attend this important meeting as we prepare to close out the 2021-2022 year.

*For God and Country*  
*Ron Koonce*  
*Adjutant*



## SERVICE OFFICER NOTES



**Jerry McClain**  
*Service Officer*

# VA benefits for spouses, dependents, survivors, and family caregivers

From November 23, 2021

As the spouse or dependent child of a Veteran or service member, you may qualify for certain benefits, like health care, life insurance, or money to help pay for school or training. As the survivor of a Veteran or service member, you may qualify for added benefits, including help with burial costs and survivor compensation.

If you're caring for a Veteran, you may also be eligible for support to help you better care for the Veteran—and for yourself. Find out which benefits you may qualify for and how to access them.

**On this page:** <https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/>

- Benefits for spouses, dependents, and survivors
- Support and services for caregivers of Veterans

More resources for those supporting a Veteran or service member

### Having trouble signing in?

Get answers to common questions about [signing in](#) and [verifying your identity](#).

Call our MyVA411 main information line for help at [800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411) (TTY: [711](tel:711)). We're here 24/7.

**va.alabama.gov**



**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
VETERANS  
AFFAIRS**