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PELHAM, ALABAMA

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IN GOD WE TRUST



Matthew Blount Post 555

Did You Know?

During all official meetings of American Legion Posts, Divisions, Conferences and Conventions, the only acceptable uniform headgear item is the Garrison Cap. Members can attend meetings without the Garrison cap, however, no head gear should be worn.

Baseball caps are not acceptable to be worn **during** the meetings.

*Also, headgear should not be worn while eating.
When not wearing, the garrison cap should be laid with the
American Legion Logo
Facing up.*



COMMANDER'S CORNER



Jeff Monday
Post Commander



ALABAMA MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT (MIAP) Veterans Recovery Program

On Tuesday October 19, 2021, the Alabama Missing in America Project (MIAP), Veterans Recovery Program, Dignity Memorial, Elmwood Cemetery & Mausoleum and Rideout's Valley Chapel honored seven previously unclaimed cremated remains.

One was the wife of a WWI period Army Corporal. Six served honorably in the Army, Marine Corps or Navy during the WWI, WWII, Korea or Vietnam war periods. These Alabamians were unclaimed an average of 44 years. This was the third MIAP service held in Alabama and the largest to date.

Rideout's Valley Chapel in Homewood also hosted a visitation the evening before the burial service.

The purpose of MIAP is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations. To provide honor and respect to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes. Across our Nation, MIAP has located, identified and interred over 5000

unclaimed Veterans.

The burial service on Tuesday was open to the public and included Patriot Guard escort/Flag Line, bagpiper, live TAPS, bell ringing, Firing Team and flag folding. The Support Committee is proud to be of assistance. For those who were unable to attend, you may visit our website blog at <https://scalnc.org/blog/f/third-and-largest-missing-in-america-interment-held-at-alnc> and see photos which are posted on the Support Committee for the Alabama National Cemetery website photo gallery:

<https://scalnc.org/photo-gallery>

Pam Nichols, Chairman, *Support Committee for the Alabama National Cemetery*

SCALNC Mailing Address: P. O, Box 648 Montevallo, AL 35115

email: chairman.scalnc@gmail.com

website: scalnc.org

<https://www.facebook.com/scalnc/>





“Acting” 2nd Vice’s Interim Report Nancy J Waller

Post 555 is rocking and rolling with the COVID-19 guidelines being lifted enough to get us back out into the community. Here is what is coming up.

Tues., November 2, 2021: Pelham National Night Out was re-scheduled after bad weather back in October, and will be held in the Pelham City Park Complex in the parking lot between Pelham Middle School and the youth football field from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. We were invited to participate in this event this year and will be there with our tent, flag display, information table, and hopefully the BIGGEST draw for our area, our Legion Riders and their motorcycles. If you would like to arrive a little early to help set-up, please do so. There will be free food and prizes available.

Thurs., November 4, 2021: Annual Thanksgiving Dinner/Meeting hosted by the Blount Family, 6:00 p.m., Pelham First Baptist Church Annex. RSVP required due to having a headcount that we cannot exceed. We are not there yet, but getting close. If you already put your name on a sheet at one of our General Membership Meetings or let me know by e-mail or phone, you are still good-to-go. If not, call me @ 251-554-6986 or send an e-mail to wallerlj@gmail.com to reserve a seat. You may bring a spouse or guest(s) as long as they reside with you; no extended family members, please, due to the limited number of seats. I hope you understand.

Tues., November 9, 2021: Flag Placement for Veterans Day at the Alabama National Cemetery. To help with transporting buckets of flags throughout the cemetery, please arrive at 9:00 a.m. at the Storage Building. For flag placement, arrive at 10:00 a.m. at Committal Shelter #3 by Section 8 for a short ceremony and instructions to all Volunteers. Let me know if you can volunteer because I promised Pam Nichols of the Support Committee for the Alabama National Cemetery that Post 555 would have a HUGE number of Volunteers.

Wed., November 10, 2021: Birmingham National Veterans Day Awards Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Sheraton Downtown Birmingham. Tickets are \$45.00/person and if you are interested, call Nancy Waller @ 251-554-6986 to see if any tickets are left for the Post 555 tables.

Thurs., November 11, 2021: Veterans Day events all over; check the Internet, newspapers, etc. for details.

Sat., November 13, 2021: Birmingham Bulls Hockey Military Appreciation Night, 7:00 p.m., Pelham Civic Complex Ice Rink. We will have our tent and information table, so let me know if you want to help with that. If not, please go to this fun event.

Tues., November 16, 2021: Flag removal at the Alabama National Cemetery, 10:00 a.m. I recommend gloves, cloths to wipe off the sticks, and perhaps some extra rubber bands to put 10 flags together. There will probably be cloths and rubber bands, but it is always nice to have your own “stuff” if needed. Let me know if you can help with this since Pam Nichols will need to know how many Volunteers will be available.

Tues., November 19, 2021: University of Alabama (ROLL TIDE) vs. Texas A&M Hockey Military Appreciation Night, 7:00 p.m., Pelham Civic Complex Ice Rink. We will have our tent and information table again, so come help if you can. There will be a ton of free “stuff” for Veterans so don’t miss out!!!

Sat., December 11, 2021: The first annual “A Pelham Hometown Christmas” parade and Christmas tree lighting are happening!!! The parade will start at the Pelham Civic Complex at 5:00 p.m. and travel through Pelham and return back to the Pelham Civic Complex for a tree-lighting. There will be a ton of things to do and food to eat, so put this date on your calendar. Commander Monday has been keeping us up-to-date from the committee meetings with the City of Pelham and we will be responsible for “staging” the floats at the Civic Complex, and recovering them as they return. Riders Director, Doug McDaniel, was “voluntold” to be the Float Chairman, and he is looking for members to help with the Post 555 float, so let him know.

Date TBD, 2022: The Pelham High School Oratorical Contest is being re-scheduled due to a conflict with The American Legion Mid-Winter Conference, January 13-16, 2022, so Chairman Richard Kaster continues to work with Pelham High School POC Michelle LeSueur for a new date (potentially January 18, 2022). Volunteers are needed for several positions so get with Richard Kaster for more details. As the event gets closer to the date, I will be putting out updates for everyone, but if you have an interest in volunteering to help, let Richard know. I helped with my first Oratorical Contest a good while ago and it was very interesting and a rewarding experience. The students who participated were amazing!! Get involved!!



ADJUTANT'S AREA



Nancy Waller
Adjutant

YOUR ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE FOR 2022 AS OF JULY 1, 2021!!!

As promised in my September and October newsletter articles, I am keeping you up-to-date on our membership numbers for 2022 every month. As of today's report, we have 136 members paid through 2022 (including the 11 PUFL members), and 80 paid through 2021 (in other words, these members have not renewed as of yet). These are my "target" members!!!

So far this year, we have been doing very well with the requirements that the Alabama Department puts out for us.

September 15, 2021's goal was to have 50% of our goal of 218; we had exactly 50% (109), even without the PUFL members that were left off for some reason.

September 21, 2021's goal was to have 55% of our goal of 218; we were at 55.5% which DID include the PUFL members, so we were good-to-go there.

November 3, 2021's goal is 65% which means we need to have a total of 142 members renewed for 2022; with our total now at 136 paid for 2022, **WE NEED SIX MORE TO RENEW OR SIX NEW MEMBERS!!! HELP!!! RENEW ON-LINE OR BY MAIL ASAP!!!**

Everyone should have received their notification from The American Legion asking for your dues for 2022, so please make sure you take care of that as soon as you can. One reason for doing it now will prevent you from continuing to receive more notifications and mistakenly paying duplicate times. I have heard some members tell me that they are going to wait until the end of 2021 to pay their 2022 dues, but I try to explain to them that the State Department puts requirements out that have certain percentages that need to be met at certain times of the year, so the earlier we get our 2022 dues in, the better we will do in meeting these requirements. Make your check payable to **Matthew Blount Post 555** and put it along with the "Dues Notice" in an envelope and

mail to the Post address which is 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!!!

Do not get behind on your membership since that would affect the loss of your benefits. If you pay your 2022 dues after 12/31/21, your membership will have expired, so don't take a chance that you might forget and lose your valuable benefits. Everyone is important to the Post even if you cannot participate in meetings or events. We still want you to stay on our rolls as an honored member of Post 555.

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 when you come to the November 4, 2021 Post 555 Thanksgiving Dinner/Meeting. I report the hours by the 10th of the next month. 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). 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

SERVICE OFFICER NOTES



Jerry McClain
Service Officer

Benefits AttenTION! CHAMPVA

This is a health insurance program available to totally disabled veterans and their dependents or to dependents of veterans who died from service-connected disability.

There are no premiums associated with this insurance, however co-pays for services must be paid. For eligibility under this program, the veteran-sponsor must be one of the following:

- Be rated permanently totally disabled from service-connected disability;
- Have died on active duty, in line of duty;
- Have died from a service-connected disability; or
- Have been rated service-connected and permanently totally disabled at the time of death from any cause not willful misconduct.

Eligible persons include the veteran's spouse or surviving spouse, minor children under age 18. children between the ages of 18 and 23 who are attending an approved school, and children over age 18 who have been determined to be permanently incapable of self-support ('helpless').

Dependents of retired or other military personnel who are eligible for health care coverage under TRICARE (formerly called CHAMPUS) are not eligible for coverage under ChampVA.

www.veteransaidbenefit.org/For assistance with application pls contact your Veterans Service Officer john.jones@va.alabama.gov
Timothy.Waters@va.alabama.gov

va.alabama.gov



CHAPLAIN'S UPLIFT



Joe Dunn
Post Chaplain



From Max Lucado:



Are you weary from your challenges, wounded by your battles, or worried your world is spinning out of control? Have struggles pilfered the life out of your life? If so, the book of Esther brings welcome news: ***Relief will come!***

Queen Esther concealed her Jewish identity. As far as anyone knew she was pure Persian. But then came the royal decree that would annihilate her people. She had to make some tough choices. Would she remain silent or would she speak up? Would she blend in or would she stand out? Esther could have refused. She could have cowered in fear. But she spoke up. She stood out. And God used her to save the nation. It's not hyperbole to say that her courage changed the course of history. Nor is it an overstatement to say that God can do the same with you.

Like Esther, you may be staring down a seemingly impossible situation. And what's true for Esther is true for you: deliverance will come. God will have his victory. He will rescue his people. He will right the wrongs of this world. The question is not, *Will God prevail?* The question is, *Will you be part of the team?*

You, like Esther, can act in a way that will bless more people than you could imagine. This is your hour. This is your moment. You were made to stand up like Mordecai, to speak up like Esther. Your challenge is an opportunity to join God in his work. ***You, friend, were made for this moment. Max***

POST 555 WORK AREAS

*Triple Nickel
Riders*



God and Country patriotic cap
\$20, available at membership meetings



New offering from the Post Store

Auxiliary Unit 555



Hi to all,

I hope you are all well. We have turned in the renewed memberships. If I have not given you your 2020 card please let me know.

I want to thank you for renewing and hope that we can begin to get busy and do things. Also, we were given a donation from the Family of Bonnie Posey, in memory of her. A thank you note has been given to the family.

We have been given the opportunity to do a raffle at the Thanksgiving meal. We will be raffling a beautiful picture, matted and framed, taken by our own Heather Culpepper. I hope you will consider our raffle and enter. It will make a great Christmas present. Thank you in advance.

May you and your family be blessed as we begin the Holiday season.

For God and Country,
Caroline



MATTHEW BLOUNT POST 555



Meets first Thursday of the month.

The next membership meeting will be our **Thanksgiving Dinner / Meeting** on 4 November 2021 at the Annex to First Baptist Church in Pelham on US31

Free Dinner and fellowship at 6PM, meeting afterwards. Bring your family who lives with you!

Call Nancy at 251/554-6986 for reservations ASAP!

Post Leadership 2021/2022

Post Commander Jeff Monday	Auxiliary President Caroline Culpepper
1st Vice Commander Bill Blank	Sons of Legionnaires Bill Blank, Comm.
2nd Vice Commander TBD	Ron Koonce, Advisor
Adjutant Nancy Waller	Legion Riders Director Doug McDaniel
Asst Adjutant Ron Koonce	Flag Team Coordinator Ron McGriff
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 Vacant	Triple Nickel Editor Frank Chacon
Post Trustees Frank Lakotich Robert Horsley Chris Combs	Photography Chic Cecchini

*The Triple Nickel*

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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

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American Legion Post 555

Sons of The American Legion



Squadron membership is going great. The Squadron has exceeded the National 100% goal of 27 paid members to 125% falling short by one of our goal of 35 paid members. Let us keep up the momentum. Everyone one is a recruiter.

A link to Membership applications can be found on the home page at www.alpost555.com website. Dues remain at \$20/Yr.

Next Meeting: Squadron 555 will have a membership meeting on November 9, 2021, at the Pelham Library, second floor. Watch for email with the agenda and other material.

I encourage all members to attend if possible. We will discuss activities planned for the 2021-2022 year.

The Squadron has positions open for Second Vice Commander and Historian.

Great opportunity to be involved in a leadership position helping to move the organization forward.

Next Event: The Sons will be sharing the Post 555 Display Tent at the *Pelham Police Department National Night Out* November 2, 2021, from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Pelham City Park next to the Middle School. Open to the public. Come by and visit.

For God & Country
Ron Koonce Adjutant

WHY I BELONG

TO

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

OUR COUNTRY

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.
- To honor my forefather's service to our country.
- To perpetuate (encourage) the true spirit and positive view toward Americanism.
- To help our children of (and into) tomorrow.
- To assist teaching all Americans of all ages what it took to make our country great.
- To keep freedom alive.
- To reinstate our loyalty and patriotism and beliefs in America.
- To help our country prepare for the future through the ideals established by our forefathers.
- To provide various services to the community, state and nation.
- To protect our nation's flag and to educate youth on flag etiquette.

OUR FAMILY

- To support The American Legion and its programs.
- To respect our parent organization.
- To give back, for what The American Legion has done for my family and me.
- To make our support of The American Legion Family as strong as possible.
- To help teach our youth the principles of justice, freedom and democracy.
- To unite with others who belong to the organization with a shared interest.
- To learn how to conduct a meeting using Robert's Rules of Order.
- To be a part of The American Legion Family, and to help preserve it.
- To help the Sons of The American Legion become a better organization for all those who belong and for all who are helped through the Sons of The American Legion programs.
- To help prepare our youth in their ability to succeed.

OUR VETERANS

- To help care for all veterans who served our nation by assisting the VA&R and the VAVS programs.
- To impact my community in a positive way, by helping and assisting veterans, and supporting various American Legion programs.
- To provide assistance to all veterans, especially those in need of care.
- To help assure that our veterans, POWs and MIAs from all wars will never be forgotten.
- To show pride for those who served this country to keep us free.
- For God and country, and to support our veterans and their families.
- To show the pride we take knowing our contributions to The American Legion and its charitable programs are making a difference for the youth of America.
- To help those in need.

Flag Replacement at Amazing Kids School



Post 555's Flag Team performed a flag replacement and education ceremony at Amazing Kids School in Helena, AL on September 30, 2021.

Jr Flag Team?



Flag Team



L-R:- Ron Koonce, Jeff Monday, Nancy Waller, Steve Loftin, Robert Horsley,
Ron McGriff, Frank Chacon, Bill Blank, Frank Lakotich