



THE TRIPLE NICKEL

Published exclusively for the members of

**AMERICAN LEGION MATTHEW BLOUNT POST 555
PELHAM, ALABAMA**

VOLUME VI, ISSUE VII

IN GOD WE TRUST

JULY 2019

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Triple Nickel visits Fort Benning

Members of Post 555 and their spouses traveled to Fort Benning, Ga., on June 6, the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

The highlight of the trip was a visit to the National Infantry Museum and the World War II "Company Street."

They also saw a presentation by actor James Fowler who, performing as President Franklin D. Roosevelt, recited FDR's prayer for the nation on D-Day.

The group met at 6 a.m. at the Pelham Senior Center and traveled in a bus provided by the city. They returned in time for the post meeting.

BE SURE TO ATTEND OUR JULY POST MEETING!

Reminder!

Due to the July 4th holiday, the next general membership meeting will be on July 11 at 7 p.m.
Please make plans to be there!

COMPLEMENTARY MEAL
PROVIDED BY
**TEXAS
ROADHOUSE**



DINNER BEGINS AT 6:15 P.M.

MEETING AT 7 P.M.

PELHAM SENIOR CENTER

50 RACQUET CLUB PARKWAY, PELHAM

COME JOIN YOUR FELLOW LEGIONNAIRES!

FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK



Kenneth Paschal
Post Commander

For God and Country! I appreciate the team efforts in making the Post General membership meeting on June 6 both a productive and successful meeting.

I would like to ask everyone's continued patience as the new leadership team and staff enter their second month seeking to excel in every task set before them. If we all stay focused on The American Legion four pillars of care: our veterans, a strong national defense, Americanism, and our children and youth; only blessings and success will follow.

Post 555 was well represented with 14 members participating, during the 100th Department Convention of the American Legion, Department of Alabama June 13-16.

Summary of key events from that meeting:

- Eight of the nine Post delegates attended the Department Convention and five Legion Riders participated over the course of the four day convention.
- Posting of the Colors was coordinated by Post 555 – Vincent High School Army ROTC
- Special Awards Presentation
 - The Law Enforcement Officer of the Year winners were Shelby County Deputy Clinton J. Williams and Deputy Matthew L. Mosley.
 - Congratulations to Comrade Koonce for being a candidate for Legion of the Year.
 - Congratulations to Past Commander Blount for being a candidate for the 2nd Division Commander.
- Membership Awards and Presentation – Congratulations to the Post 2018-2019 leadership team, members, and Legion Family.
 - Certificate of Appreciation for 100% membership goal 2019;
 - Certificate of Appreciation for Post Excellence Award;
 - Certificate of Appreciation from the Department Commander;
 - A plaque from the Department Commander;
 - Third Place for the One-Year Post History Book; and
 - The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 555 received from the National Commander a Certificate of Accomplishment for exceeding member goal by March 15, 2019.
- The Post donated \$75 to the Children and Youth program via the piggybank fundraiser.
- Election Results/Installation of Officers. Congratulations to the newly elected Department and 2nd Division Officers.
 - Department Commander: Ronald F. Bradstreet
 - Senior Vice Commander: Tina M. Bush
 - Junior Vice Commander: John B. (Buddy) Keen

(continued on page 4)

FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK ... CONTINUED

(continued from page 3)

— 2nd Division Commander: David Vann Daughtry

— 23rd District Commander: Richard Kaster

On behalf of Post 555, Commander Paschal submitted Resolution No. 2019-03 in support to pass the LEGION Act, which was approved by the Department Convention. The LEGION Act would allow any veteran who served honorably under federal orders since World War II to join The American Legion. The resolution call on all legionnaires of Alabama to call/email their congressional representative and ask them to support all Veterans by voting yes on the LEGION Act. See the resolution in its entirety later in this issue.

Volunteer opportunities and needs:

Veterans Day program at Texas Roadhouse chairperson. Anyone interested please contact the Post Events Coordinator and 2nd Vice Commander Nancy Waller.

Areas of interest contact:

Service Officers and membership: Jerry McClain
Events: Nancy Waller
Boys State: Immediate Past Commander Tom McDaniel

You can find additional information in the news letter regarding the following:

Leadership Camp 2019;
Resolution in support to pass the LEGION Act;
Triple Nickel 50/50 raffle;

Those interested in the Auxiliary are invited to attend

the July 11th Post General Membership meeting. In attendance will be Gloria Haygood to answer your questions.

Remember, working together, we can achieve more!

Communication – the importance of belonging: I ask all members and their guests to greet each other and share one thing with each other during the next Post meeting. Direct contact with veterans is a guaranteed way to boost membership and find out the concerns and issues that they have, creating a cohesive environment.

Hope to see everyone July 3rd – Fire on the Water at Oak Mountain State Park.

For God and Country!

Senate resolution calls for 'American Legion Week'

From The American Legion

On June 26, a bipartisan group of U.S. senators introduced a Senate resolution honoring The American Legion's 100th anniversary of serving veterans, their families and communities.

Sens. Mike Braun (R-Ind.), Jon Tester (D-Mont.), Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and Todd Young (R-Ind.) introduced a resolution designating August 23-29 as "American Legion

Week" to coincide with the Legion's 100th anniversary convention in its home city of Indianapolis.

In a press release, Braun said, "The American Legion has been a cornerstone of American life from the local to the federal level since the beginning, and serves as a constant reminder of the enormous contributions America's armed service members have made to enrich our nation

during and after their military service. Indiana is proud to be home for the American Legion, and I'm proud to congratulate them on 100 years of service."

Tester, Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, also praised the organization. "For generations the American Legion has played an undeniable role in strengthening the veteran community," he said.

RESOLUTION
Alabama Department, The American Legion
Annual Department Convention, Montgomery, Alabama
June 13, 14, 15, 16, 2019

RESOLUTION NO. *2019-03*

SUBJECT: In support to pass Legion Act

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON:

WHEREAS, the American Legion provides critical resources to our veterans, but currently, only veterans who served during formally recognized conflicts can belong to the Legion; and

WHEREAS, that restriction leaves out thousands of former American service members who signed up to defend our country; and

WHEREAS, "these veterans are unable to receive some of the benefits and recognition available to their counterparts who served during official wartime periods." American Legion National Commander Brett P. Reistad; and

WHEREAS, because The American Legion's membership periods are congressionally chartered, the organization is prevented from expanding membership eligibility without an act of Congress; and

WHEREAS, bipartisan legislation was introduced in both the U.S. Senate (S.504) and House of Representative (H.R.1641), which would expand membership eligibility to honorably discharged veterans who have served in unrecognized times of war since World War II; and

WHEREAS, this legislation is referred as "Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act"—also known as the LEGION Act, passed in the U.S. Senate (S.504) on June 11, 2019 by unanimous consent; and

WHEREAS, the Legionnaires thank the U.S. Senators for the passage of S.504; and

WHEREAS, the LEGION Act (S.504) moves to the U.S. House of Representatives for consideration. The House of Representative version of S.504 is H.R.1641 and is co-sponsored by only one Alabama congressional representative, Rep. Byrne, Bradley [R-AL-1]; and

WHEREAS, the LEGION Act, needs to be approved by the House of Representatives in order to extend the current recognized period of war back to Dec. 7, 1941; and

WHEREAS, Alabama has seven congressional representatives (Bradley Byrne – District 1, Martha Roby – District 2, Mike Rogers – District 3, Robert Aderholt – District 4, Mo Brooks – District 5, Gary Palmer – District 6, Terri Sewell – District 7); and

WHEREAS, we call on all legionnaires of Alabama to call/email their congressional representative and ask them if him/her to support all Veterans by voting yes on the LEGION Act (S.504); and

WHEREAS, Legionnaires can find and contact their congressional representative by calling the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121; and

Therefore Be It Resolved, that The American Legion, Department of Alabama 100th Annual Department Convention supports the LEGION Act (S.504) and urges the seven representatives in the United States House of Representatives to work and vote for its passage.

Be It Further Resolved, that The American Legion, Department of Alabama 100th Annual Department Convention urges President Donald J. Trump to sign the LEGION Act (S.405) into law upon passage.

2ND VICE'S CORNER



Nancy Waller
2nd Vice Commander

Happy Summer as of Friday, 21 Jun 19!!! I hope that you and your families are planning some fun activities for the summer months, but be sure to stay safe, stay healthy, and stay hydrated. Our next activity is scheduled for Wed., 03 Jul 19 at "Fire on the Water" at Oak Mountain State Park. Post 555 will have an area set-up in what I "assume" will be the same place as last year so that we have easy access to take part in the National Anthem and other activities to open the event. The set-up crew will be there at 3 p.m. to get the tent and information table ready to go as well as the flags we will be presenting, so if anyone gets there that early, please help out. The "Fire on the Water" actually begins at 5 p.m. and goes until 9 p.m. at which time there will be a breakdown crew that could use some help again if anyone is available. The more helpers, the better. **Bill Blank** and **Jeff Monday** are the co-chairs for this event, and the Flag Team will be presenting the colors. Please stop by our area if you are there!

Richard Kaster invited several high school students to address the members at the 11 Jul 19 Post General Membership meeting. **Will Sawyer** recently attended the Boys State event, and **Emalee Monday** attended Girls State. They are both going to share their experiences with you. Tramaine Moore, who was involved in the Oratorical Contest this year, will tell us a little about what her experience was. I encourage you to attend the meeting to learn about what these young people did and learned from being involved in these three events. Should be very enlightening.

American Legion Baseball has started and if you would like to be involved with ticket sales at the upcoming games, please contact **Bobby Horsley**. Bobby is in direct communication with Jon Freeman regarding the game times, etc. and he can always use help with set-up and ticket sales. I am scheduled to help for the 01 Jul 19 game, so put your name on Bobby's list if interested.

The trip to Ft. Benning on 06 Jun 19 was a big success (even though the weather was "challenging" throughout the day). We had a Pelham Senior Center bus filled with Post members and a few spouses that departed the Pelham Senior Center at 6:00 a.m. and headed to Ft. Benning to visit the National Infantry Museum (NIM) and the World War II "Company Street", which included listening to and watching an individual by the name of James Fowler who dressed, acted, and talked just like Franklin D. Roosevelt who recited the D-Day Prayer word for word. He sounded exactly like FDR!!! The D-Day 75th Anniversary Commemoration was a great event for all of us. Our plan is to schedule other trips in the future to different places of interest for our Veterans, so keep your eyes and ears open for information about these trips. Thank you for your service, thank you for being a member of The American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555, and thank you for being a part of this wonderful group of comrades of which I am proud to be one!!!

JUDGE ADVOCATE'S CORNER



Larry Strayer

Judge Advocate

Obviously, coming up is one of, if not the most important holiday we as American Legionaries can celebrate.

In honor of the Fourth of July, I present this article which gives the meanings to the folds when our flag is folded. There are others, however, I find this one very good.

*The **first fold** is a symbol of life.*

*The **second fold** is for our belief in eternal life.*

*The **third fold** is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing rank, who gave a portion of his or her life for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.*

*The **fourth fold** stands for our weaker nature; as American citizens trusting in God, it's to Him we turn to in times of peace as well as war for his divine guidance.*

*The **fifth fold** is a tribute to America. In the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."*

*The **sixth fold** is where our heart lies. It's with our flag that we pledge allegiance to the flag and the republic it stands for.*

*The **seventh fold** is a tribute to our armed forces. For it is the armed forces that protect our country and flag against enemies, whether they be domestic or foreign.*

*The **eighth fold** is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor our mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.*

*The **ninth fold** is a tribute to womanhood, for it is through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.*

*The **tenth fold** is a tribute to father, for He has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was first born.*

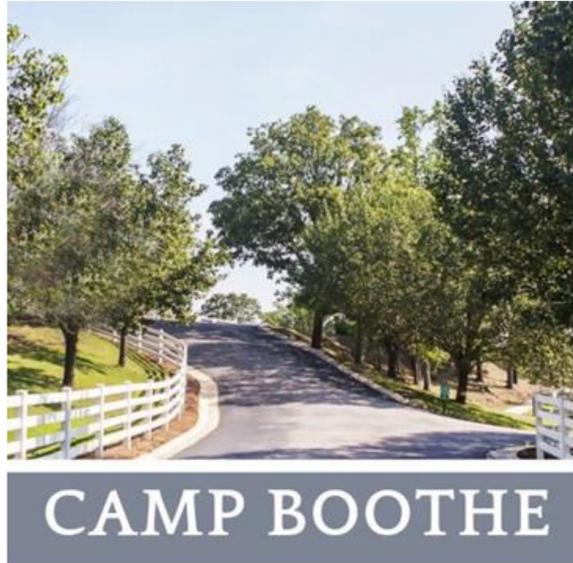
*The **eleventh fold**, in the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.*

*The **twelfth fold**, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost.*

*When the flag is completely folded, which some consider the **13th fold**; the stars are up-permost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."*

Finally, those who disrespect our flag, have never been handed a folded one.

**2019 Summer Leadership Camp for Children of Veterans and Community
Supporting the American Legion Children & Youth Programs.
July 19 to July 23rd**



**This camp is for children of veterans and of community ages 8 - 18.
The cost/sponsorship for the week long summer camp is only \$160.00 per student.**

- You drop them off (July 19th) and we take care of them;
- We feed and house them;
- We make sure that they are cared for; and
- You must pick them up – on July 23rd.

The application and registration fee of \$160.00 must be mailed to The American Legion, Department of Alabama Headquarters, P.O. Box 1069, Montgomery, Alabama 36101 no later than July 15, 2019. Leadership Camp application enclosed/available upon request.

Location: Camp Boothe (3111 Grey Hill Rd., West Blocton, AL 35184)

For additional information or volunteer opportunities contact Ron Haygood, (205) 910-8566 or (205) 531-9227 or email gloriarealty22@gmail.com.

Our goal (100 students) is to support the American Legion Children & Youth Programs; create a memorable camp experience and an exciting week of fun activities and educational adventure while allowing campers the opportunity to gather and learn in a safe place.

Today's American Legion is as focused on the welfare of our country's children and the issues facing young people as it has ever been. Therefore, this pillar – Children & Youth – and its programs remain committed to serving the nation's youth.

Taps

William C. "Bill" Sims July 23, 1935 — May 20, 2019

William C. "Bill" Sims, age 83, of Jemison, passed away at home on May 20 after battling several types of cancer.

He was born July 23, 1935, to Mary Louise Vernon and Monette Sims in Boothton, Ala. After graduating from Bibb County High School, he joined the U.S. Navy, performing various aircraft mechanic duties. After his time in the service, he settled in Bakersfield, Calif., working as an aircraft mechanic.

In 1969, he and his family moved to Montevallo, where he continued to work on aircraft and later as a mechanic for Alabama Power, retiring in the early 90s.

Bill was a member of The American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555, Pelham.

He is preceded in death by his mother; father; sister



"Kitty"; and grandson, Jeremy Lawrence. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Betty Ann Sims; daughter, Linda Hill (Kenny); son, Patrick Sims; grandchildren, Summer Sullivan (Jason), Will Hill (Ana), Seth Lawrence (Ashley), Adrian Sims, Tyler Snow (Lauren), Jasper Sims; and great-grandchildren,

Colton and Catelyn Sullivan, Grayson Scalise, Brennon Marlin, Camden and Brooklyn Lawrence, Lorali, Knox and Willow Hill, Kinedei Gilbreath, and Anderson and Ryleigh Snow; sisters, Nancy Williams and Vonceil Jones; numerous nieces and nephews, including most dear to his heart, Debbie Giles.

A graveside service commenced on Thursday, May 23, at the Alabama National Cemetery. The family requests any memorial donations be made to the American Cancer Society.



THE TRIPLE NICKEL

*is published monthly for members of
Matthew Blount Post 555.*

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

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 submission for the purpose of publication. Letters to the Editor must include name, address & telephone number. Names will be withheld upon request.

James Billings, Editor

Triple Nickel Presents Our Monthly



1 ticket = \$1
7 ticket = \$5

How it works!

1. You buy your 50/50 raffle tickets, and they are put in a bin.
2. At the end of the Post Meeting a ticket is pulled.
3. That person wins 50% of the money collected. The other 50% goes directly to support the Post Goal and Objectives.

****Winner needs to be present to be eligible****

*The proceeds will go toward supporting the American Legion veteran's programs such as Military Appreciation Night, community and youth programs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 2019

Note about American Legion Baseball: Since Bobby Horsley is the main POC for set-up and ticket sales, contact him to help with any of the games listed below for July 2019. His e-mail is robertlhorsley@aol.com and his cell is 205-862-0430 (voice mail or text). Volunteers will be able to terminate ticket sales after the beginning of the second inning of the second game of a “double-header”. Volunteers are requested to be on-site and ready to sell tickets 45 minutes prior to game time, and please wear a Post 555 polo or T-shirt and Post 555 ball cap if you have one.

Monday, July 1, 6–8 p.m.

What: American Legion Baseball, Post 133 vs. Post 555 19U

Where: Pelham High School

Chairperson: Jon Freeman

Co-Chairperson: Bobby Horsley is coordinating all of the ticket sales

Volunteers Needed: Nancy Waller is helping with set-up and ticket sales

Tuesday, July 2, 6–8 p.m.

What: American Legion Baseball, Post 20 JV vs. Post 555 JV

Where: Pelham High School

Chairperson: Jon Freeman

Co-Chairperson: Bobby Horsley is coordinating all of the ticket sales

Volunteers Needed: Richard Kaster is helping with set-up and ticket sales

Wednesday, July 3, 4–9 p.m. (set-up at 3 p.m.)

What: “Fire on the Water”

Where: Oak Mountain State Park, 200 Terrace Drive, Pelham.

Chairperson: Bill Blank

Co-Chairperson: Jeff Monday

Volunteers Needed: Definitely Yes!!! Bill Blank already has the majority of the events in which Post 555 members participate taken care of, but please consider joining us at our site to enjoy the festivities for the entire day. Be sure to bring plenty of water and sun screen!!

Friday, July 5, 6–8 p.m. and 8–10 p.m. (double-header)

What: American Legion Baseball, Post 555 JV vs. Post 107 JV

Where: Pelham High School

Chairperson: Jon Freeman

Co-Chairperson: Bobby Horsley is coordinating all of the ticket sales

Volunteers Needed: John Zeiss is helping with set-up and ticket sales

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, July 8, 6–8 p.m. and 8–10 p.m. (double-header)

What: American Legion Baseball, Post 555 vs. Post 2011

Where: Pelham High School

Chairperson: Jon Freeman

Co-Chairperson: Bobby Horsley is coordinating all of the ticket sales

Volunteers Needed: Bill Blank is helping with set-up and ticket sales

Tuesday, July 9, 6–8 p.m.

What: American Legion Baseball, Post 555 vs. Post TBD

Where: Pelham High School

Chairperson: Jon Freeman

Co-Chairperson: Bobby Horsley is coordinating all of the ticket sales

Volunteers Needed: Bill Blank is helping with set-up and ticket sales

Tuesday, July 9, 8–10 p.m.

What: American Legion Baseball, Post 555 vs. Post 68

Where: Pelham High School

Chairperson: Jon Freeman

Co-Chairperson: Bobby Horsley is coordinating all of the ticket sales

Volunteers Needed: Bill Blank is helping with set-up and ticket sales



Thursday, July 11, 6:15 p.m. – UTC (NOTE: DATE CHANGE FOR MEETING DUE TO 4TH OF JULY.)

What: Post 555 General Membership Fellowship Meal and Meeting

Where: Pelham Senior Center

Program: Emalee Monday will speak about her recent experiences at Girls State, Will Sawyer will do the same for Boys State, and Tramaine Moore will tell us about her involvement in the Oratorical Contest. A Post Everlasting Ceremony will be included. The Post Everlasting Ceremony is The American Legion's way of recognizing those Post Members who have passed away.

Guest Speakers / Programs at General Membership Meetings

August 1st: Congressman Gary Palmer

September 5th: City of Pelham Mayor Gary Waters and City Manager Gretchen DiFante

October 3rd: Service Dogs Alabama, Scott and Rambo (tentatively planned)

National Veterans Award Dinner Invitation to Post 555



ARMY



MARINES



NAVY



AIR FORCE



COAST GUARD

Veterans Day Dinner • NOV. 10th • RSVP by Sept. 5th

The Birmingham Veterans Day Committee is busy planning this year's Parade and Awards Dinner. This year's Birmingham National Veterans Awards Dinner is Sunday evening, 10 November 2019 at 6:00 PM in the "Birmingham Ballroom" in the Sheraton Inn Downtown. A reception will begin at 5:00 PM. Tickets are \$45.00 each.

This year, there will not be a World Peace Luncheon on Veterans Day so the Veterans Day planning committee is expecting a full house, and they are encouraging everyone to register as soon as possible. In year's past, the Support Committee for the Alabama National Cemetery (which includes members of Post 555) has had enough attendees to reserve a table (or 2) and we would like to invite Post members and possibly **reserve three (3)** table for this year. Therefore, if you would like to attend and sit at a reserved table for the American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555 table, please let me know no later than September 5th. Once we have a committed number, I will ask you to send a check or pay your \$45 at our next gathering, and we will send in one check with a list of names for a table.

Thank you for your interest and support of National Veterans Day in Birmingham. I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

More about the National Veterans Award Dinner:

A perpetual National Veterans Award was created in Birmingham for America's first official National Veterans Day observance November 11, 1954 as authorized by Congress. Its purpose is to honor an outstanding veteran in the United States each year who has made the greatest contribution to further the patriotic interests of veterans and veteran organizations throughout the country. Every year, the award is presented at the National Veterans Award Dinner in Birmingham.

The National Veterans Award Dinner supports the Post Goals and Objective:

- Support Community service project that include local youth and legionnaires
- Participation in local community support activities
- Conduct Community activity that connects the local community with the American Legion

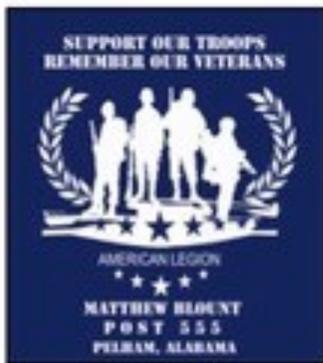
You must RSVP by September 5, 2019 to bkblount@gmail.com, and Past Commander Blount will reply when he receives your request.

Coat and tie for males and **Semi-Formal** for females.



Post Store Price List

(Proceeds Benefits Post 555 and Department Programs)



Post 555 T-Shirt
S-XL - \$20
XXI-XXXL - \$22



Post 555 Coffee Mug \$ 10



Car Fund-raiser Benefiting Oratorical Scholarships
\$7 value for \$5



Defender's Bracelet \$5

American Legion Centennial Pin - \$5



1ST VICE'S COMMENTS



Jerry McClain
1st Vice Commander

Happy Birthday America and welcome to the month of July 2019! I want to thank the current post commander, previous commanders and all those current officers who attended the American Legion Conference in Montgomery, Alabama! It was my pleasure to attend Service Officer Training on Thursday with other Legionnaires from around the state. At this conference one of our very own Comrade Richard Kaster was sworn in as District Commander of the 23d District. Congratulations, Comrade Richard!

The transition of elected and appointed officers can be challenging at times because new leaders bring new ideas and changes. However, I can assure you that the heart of our leader is apparent, committed and dedicated to the success and well-being of our post! We continue to ask for your support as we make this effort together to support the vision and intent of the post commander and his staff team.

This month, I want to implement the post membership recruitment plan for achieving our membership goals. It's a simple plan that simply asks each Comrade to recruit one new or previous member to join or rejoin the membership of Post 555. Stay tuned!

You can reach me 24/7 at 206-412-3548! You must dial (206).

"Let's make things happen!"



Get yours today!

Get your official,
limited-edition

**POST 555
LICENSE
PLATE!**

Pre-orders taken at the Post Store
during the March meeting.

\$12

POST 555 FUNDRAISER COMMITTEE PRESENTS: VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISER OPPORTUNITY!



Have you heard? McDowell Security Services based in Pelham is inviting individuals, groups, and organizations to volunteer and earn fundraiser money.

Your volunteer time can be converted into a charitable donation to the Post.

- **How does it work?** Volunteers can sign up to work for the security firm for 2-5 hours at an Event and McDowell Security Services will make a charitable donation to the Post in your name.
- **Why volunteer?** To support our Veterans, community, and youth.
- **Questions or interested:** Contact Comrade Bill Blank (fundraiser committee member) at bhbpac@yahoo.com or (214) 476-7074.