



THE TRIPLE NICKEL

Published exclusively for the members of

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

VOLUME VI, ISSUE VIII

IN GOD WE TRUST

AUGUST 2019

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Legion baseball season successful

American Legion baseball has concluded with a historic winning season for Post 555 teams.

On July 22, Post 555 defeated Tuscaloosa Post 34 in the 19U State Tournament (5-4) to claim their first appearance in the State Tournament Championship game. The team lost to Troy Post 70

(1-9) at the State Tournament at Paterson Field in Montgomery.

The 19U team ended its season with a 12-3 record.

The varsity team had a 9-2 record.

The Post 555 junior varsity team finished with a 10-4 record.

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BE SURE TO ATTEND OUR AUGUST POST MEETING!

COMPLEMENTARY MEAL
PROVIDED BY
JOE'S ITALIAN



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 July 11 both a productive and successful meeting. Our two programs and 50/50 raffle were effective.

Congratulations to Post 555 American Legion baseball players, coaches, and entire baseball program for making history on July 22, 2019. On July 22nd, Post 555 defeated Tuscaloosa Post 34 in the 19U State Tournament (5-4) to claim their first appearance in the State Tournament Championship game. This is Triple Nickel base-

ball team 5th season. Job well done!

Special thanks to Alan Philips, *Alabama American Legion Baseball* Program Director and Commissioners for running three professional and competitive tournaments during the month of July. Thanks to all the volunteers during the Triple Nickel fifth baseball season. Special thanks to Comrade Bobby Horsley (Trustee) for facilitating the ticket sales during the baseball season and especially during tournament play.

Also, thanks to Texas Roadhouse for providing courtesy bags of peanuts and coupons for a free appetizer for fans and baseball players for the tournaments. A great community partnership.

While the majority of the Post activities for July involved our Legion baseball program, I would like to acknowledge just a few other community presence opportunities:

- Attended the City of Pelham Quarterly Business Council meeting on July 16th with the immediate Past Commander Tom McDaniel to distribute Boys State brochures.
- Attended the 23rd District training session, which was hosted at our Post location with 1st Vice Commander Jerry McClain and Post Adjutant, Ron Koonce. Thanks to the 23rd District Commander (Post 555 member) Richard Kaster for seeking opportunities to better our district.
- Joined the SAL Advisor Ron Koonce, and SAL 1st Vice Commander John Atwell for a meeting with the City of Pelham Mayor Waters (Post member) to discuss the 3rd Annual Graveside Flags Placement Ceremony at the City of Pelham Cemetery. This project is sponsored by The City of Pelham and Sons of the American Legion, (S.A.L.) Squadron 555. Thanks to Comrade John Atwell for seeking ways to improve the SAL annual project.
- Five members of our Triple Nickel shooting team participated in the 2019 Camp Perry: Air Rifle and Smallbore Championships in Ohio.
- The Post Flag Replacement Team conducted its first flag replacement this year at Burnette Farms Market on July 16th.
- Several of the Post members (presented the Colors) and Legion Riders participated in the 19U State Tournament opening ceremony July 21st.

(continued on page 4)

FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK ... CONTINUED

(continued from page 3)

Continued Volunteer opportunities and needs:

- We need someone to volunteer and serve as the chairperson for the Veterans Day program at Texas Roadhouse, Nov. 11th;
- Oratorical program co-chairperson;
- Military Appreciation Night co-chairperson; and
- Members to join the hospitality committee.

Areas of interest contact:

- Service Officer and Fundraising: Jerry McClain
- Events: Nancy Waller
- Renewal Membership campaign: Ron Koonce
- National Veterans Award Dinner Invitation: Past Commander Barry Blount
- 23rd District Auxiliary President, Barbara McAnally

You can find additional information in the newsletter regarding the following:

- Post 555 Organizational Structure
- Renewal Membership Campaign flyer
- BBQ Pork Butt & Brisket Sale flyer
- National Veterans Award Dinner Invitation to Post 555 flyer

Learn more about the Post and American Legion by visiting the following websites:

- ALPOST555.COM
- LEGION.ORG/ALEI [Take the Basic Training (self-paced online) course]

Want to Learn More About the *American Legion Auxiliary*?

Those interested in the Auxiliary are invited to attend the August 1st Post General Membership meeting. In attendance will be Mrs. Barbara McAnally, 23rd District Auxiliary President 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.



For God and Country!

1ST VICE'S COMMENTS



Jerry McClain
1st Vice Commander

July Post 555 In Full Throttle!

Post Baseball Ticket Sales!
Post Membership Renewal Campaign!
Fire On The Water Event Oak Mountain State Park!
Presentation of the Junior Shooting Team Banner!
Post General Membership Meeting which included:
-Post Everlasting Program!

- Oratorical, Boys' and Girls' State Recognition!
- National Commander's Recruiting Award Presentation!
- Post Recruit (1) Program announcement!
- 1-Flag Replacement Event!
- 2-Posting of the Colors Event!
- Post Events' Meeting!
- Post Riders' Meeting!
- Legion Baseball Tournament!
- Pelham Business Council Meeting!
- 23rd District Leadership Forum!
- National Jr. Shooting Team Tournament (Colorado)!
- Post Executive Committee Meeting!

All of this happened because of the great men and women of Post 555!

I am grateful for the Leadership & Vision of our Post Commander and the leadership of the previous Post Commanders who laid this foundation. July was hot and heavy with a myriad of tasks but I thank God for the dedication and commitment of our wonderful Legionnaires who make Post 555 one of the Best In the State! As we prepare for the new school year, August tasks are before us and we could use your help! Pls find a place to serve and 'Let's Getter Done!'

NOW ON SALE AT THE POST STORE
OFFICIAL POST 555 GEL PEN



\$2
EACH OR
3 FOR \$5

2ND VICE'S CORNER



Nancy Waller
2nd Vice Commander

I want to tell you how wonderful the military is for me nowadays. I had the privilege to fly in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter with three other aircraft from other departure airfields in the state to Fort Benning, Ga., with a total of 23 employers from companies and schools from all over Alabama. This was an ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve) function, but I honestly do not think I would ever have done something like this if it wasn't for all my years of service in the Alabama Army National Guard. I thoroughly enjoyed the helicopter ride, the employers were thrilled (since the majority of them have never even been on a helicopter, let alone a military one), and it was a great three days for all of us. The purpose of this trip was to demonstrate to the employers the benefits they would receive in considering hiring military members. They observed a lot of the training that the Infantry Soldiers do while at Fort Benning, and attended "Rangers in Action" the final morning we were there. This was an amazing demonstration of what the Rangers go through in their very, very specialized training and was a phenomenal showing of their skills. Very memorable to all. Chic Cecchini joined us as our official photographer, so you should be able to see his 300+ photos on SmugMug. If I am incorrect, I apologize...but I am 99.9% sure everyone can see what he posted on that site.

That is my "show and tell" story for this month. My next topic is a very important one and I hope that you pack the Pelham Senior Center on Thurs., 01 Aug 19 for our General Membership Meeting to listen to whatever Congressman Gary Palmer has to say about his involvement in Washington, D.C. I asked for him to address Veteran-related issues, and hopefully be able to answer a few questions that you might have of him. I unfortunately will not be present, but know that you will receive him well and greet him with the respect he deserves as a United States Congressman. We have talked on several occasions and is a wonderful man, so enjoy your time with him. I will be driving to Des Moines, Iowa on 01 and 02 Aug 19 to participate in the 2019 EANGUS (Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States) National Conference from 03-08 Aug 19. This is an annual event of which I have enjoyed and participated for the past ten years, and am looking forward to this year's event.

Be sure to check "Upcoming Events" toward the end of the newsletter because I put August, September, and October events and General Membership Meeting guest speakers/events, so hopefully there is something that is interesting to you.

Thank you for your service to our great nation, and don't forget to record your R.S.V.P. hours for July!! I will give the form to "someone" (not sure who yet) but will make sure that they circulate the sheet to everyone in the Post on 01 Aug 19, and get it back to me to send to Marvin Copes for recording. HOOAH!!!!

ADJUTANT'S AREA



Ron Koonce
Post Adjutant

Thanks to our members that have been “early birds” in submitting their 2020 membership renewals resulting in a total of thirty-one renewals for the month of July ending the first month of the campaign at 16% of our goal. We will need to continue this rate for each of the next five months to meet our goal of 100% by December 31, 2019. Let's keep up this momentum. You can make 2020 the seventh consecutive year the Post has obtained 100% membership.

You can renew your membership by three methods:

1. Renew on-line at www.Legion.org
2. By check payable to “Matthew Blount Post 555” in the

amount of \$45 and mail to:

**American Legion
Matthew Blount Post 555
50 Racquet Club Parkway
Pelham, AL 35124**

3. Submit your renewal at any Post 555 Post meeting and immediately receive your 2020 membership card. We accept checks, cash and credit cards.

I want to thank all members that supported our successful Baseball program this season. Great job by all that contributed!

Ron Koonce

Adjutant



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

CHAPLAIN'S THOUGHTS



Tom McMahon
Chaplain

My fellow servicemen and servicewomen, my friends: If you will allow, I will quote President and General George Washington from his Farewell Address on 17 September 1796.

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports... reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle. "Though in reviewing the incidents of my administration, I am unconscious of intentional error: I am nevertheless too sensible of my defects not to think it probable that I may have committed many errors. Whatever they may be, I fervently beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils, to which they may tend."

Our first President was keenly aware of both the corporate as well as individual need to keep Faith and Morality in the forefront of our country and its politics. Jesus Christ is the foundation of our guidance in developing a personal and national morality.

America is in great need of turning back to our calling as a godly, Christ-centered nation. On all sides, we can see the results of trying to maintain or legislate a moral conscience without Christ and His Word, our Bible.

As did George Washington, we must continually and fervently "beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils" to which we are subjected. Our prayer, His Word with the Holy Spirit is our only means of salvation.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10)

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me." (Jesus in John 14:1)

Chaplain, McMahon

Post 555 baseball teams have winning 2019 season

(continued from page 1)

Post 555 actively supported the Junior Division Regional Tournament at Rickwood Field in Birmingham and Birmingham Southern College. Teams from Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee participated.

In the championship game of that tournament, Ala-

bama's Millbrook Post 133 defeated Missouri's Scott County Post 389, 3-1.

With an alumni base that includes more than half of current Major League Baseball players, American Legion Baseball is one of the most prominent and tradition-rich amateur athletic leagues in existence.

The program is always growing and participation is easy so there's ample opportunity for new players to join, for coaches who want to start a team, for umpires, and for individuals or groups interested in volunteering.

American Legion Baseball has a long history in Alabama.

NOTES FROM THE SONS



Ron Koonce
Squadron 555 Advisor

Squadron 555 chartered with 20 members in 2016. The Squadron is now at 37. If you have a son or grandson or great grandson, consider signing them up for The Sons of American Legion. Applications can be obtained on the Post's website <https://www.alpost555.com/sons-of-the-american-legion>. You can mail the application and membership fee of \$20 payable to "Matthew Blount Post 555" to:

Sons of American Legion
Matthew Blount Squadron 555
50 Racquet Club Parkway
Pelham, AL 35124

August begins the membership renewal campaign for Squadron 555. Renewal fees of \$20 can be mailed to the Squadron address above or submit at either a SAL or Post 555 monthly meeting.

Squadron 555 meeting on the 2nd month of each month at the Heart of Dixie Harley Davidson HOG Club House in Pelham behind the Cracker Barrel Restaurant on Highway 119 at 6:00 pm. Visitors are Welcome.

Contact SAL Advisor/Adjutant, Ron Koonce, at ron.koonce@alpost555.com or go to website <https://www.alpost555.com/sons-of-the-american-legion> for additional information.

The squadron will be supporting Post 555 events as well as its own hosted events throughout the coming year. Join and be a part of serving our Veterans and community.

LEGION Act passes Congress, signed into law

In a significant legislative victory for The American Legion, President Trump signed a bill July 30 that declares the United States has been in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941.

The American Legion sought the declaration as a way to honor approximately 1,600 U.S. servicemembers who were killed or wounded

during previously undeclared periods of war.

The LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act) also opens the door for approximately 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible.

"Recognizing the service of these wartime veterans is the right thing to do and it is long overdue," National Commander Brett Reistad said. "The families of those who were killed or wounded during these wartime acts should take pride in knowing that we recognize their sacrifice and service."

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2019

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 6–8 p.m.

What: Open House for Oratorical Scholarship Contest

Where: Pelham High School

Chairperson: Richard Kaster

Co-Chairperson: Frank Lakotich (will continue mentoring with Richard Kaster, and may consider becoming the Chairperson for next year)

Volunteers Needed: If anyone would like to join Richard and Frank, please let either of them know; the more at the information table to share information about the Oratorical Scholarship Contest, the better.

OCTOBER 2019

Tuesday, Oct. 1, Time TBD

What: Pelham Police National Night Out

Where: Adjacent to the Publix shopping center on Huntley Parkway, Pelham

Chairperson: Nancy Waller

Co-Chairperson: Sparkie Waller

Volunteers Needed: Yes! We will set-up our information table, American Legion Riders will be there, lots of other exhibitors there to visit, and lots of visitors to come by our tent!

GUEST SPEAKERS / PROGRAMS

Aug. 1st: Congressman Gary Palmer (confirmed)

Sept. 5th: City of Pelham Mayor Gary Waters and City Manager Gretchen DiFante (confirmed)

Oct. 3rd: Service Dogs Alabama, Scott and Rambo (confirmed)

Nov. 6th: Thanksgiving Family Meal and Updated on Post 555

Dec. 5th: Speaker/Program/Topic TBD

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.

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**



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.

**Place Orders by
Aug 16th, 2019**

Just In Time For Labor Day!

BBQ PORK BUTT & BRISKET SALE

\$35

BUTT

\$50

BRISKET



"The Best Pork Butt You Will Ever Eat"

Benefiting

The American Legion Triple Nickel Shooters

To Order

Call or Text:

Chris

At **205-966-1364**

Info Needed:

Name

Phone #

Item/Quantity?

Deadline for orders is
Friday, Aug 16th, 2019



Pick Up and Pay On

August 24th at 0930-1030

at American Legion Post 555

Pelham Senior Center

off Racquet Club Parkway in Pelham, AL



Membership Renew Campaign



MEMBERSHIP

Post 555 success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism.

Renew Your Membership Today

Three easy renewal options:

1. Renew your membership online

[<https://www.members.legion.org/renewal>]

- 1) Enter your Legion ID#;
- 2) Enter your last name;
- 3) Enter your Billing Information; and
- 4) Submit

2. Mail your \$45.00 check or money order payable to: American Legion Post 555

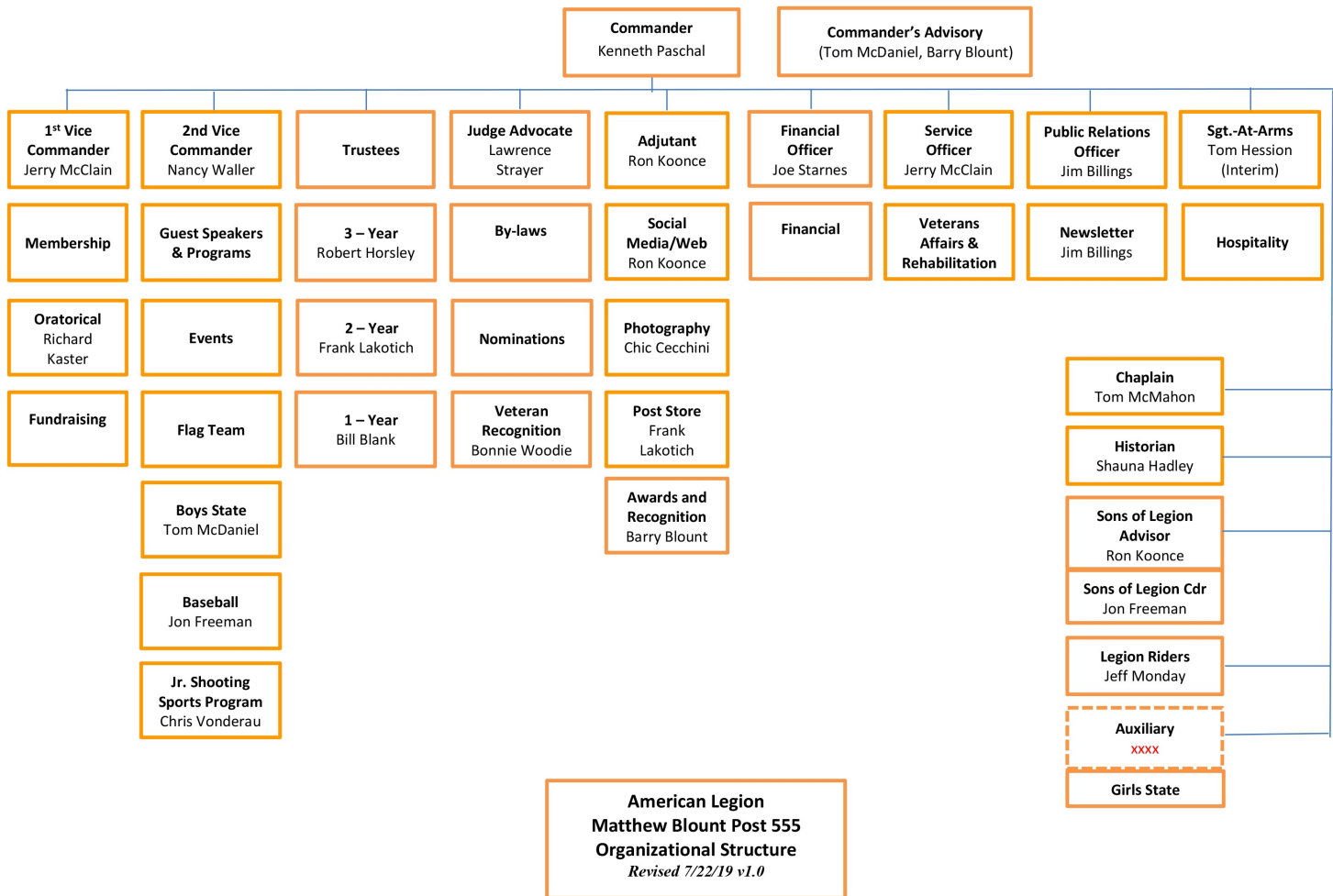
Mail to:

American Legion Post 555

50 Racquet Club Parkway Pelham, AL35124

3. Bring your \$45.00 **renewal payment to the next Post meeting.**

*Matthew Blount Post 555
Organizational Structure*



Thank you, McDonald's!

Maria Bake and Byron French of McDonald's on Valleydale Road in Hoover display a Certificate of Appreciation presented by Post 555 members in recognition of the restaurant's generosity. In support of the post's June 6 trip to Fort Benning, Ga., McDonald's provided meals to the 20 Legionnaires and spouses making the trip to commemorate D-Day.