

THE TRIPLE NICKEL



Published exclusively for the members of

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

VOLUME VI, ISSUE XI

IN GOD WE TRUST

NOVEMBER 2019

INSIDE ...

Festive Feast Menu	2
Commander's Desk	3
1st Vice's Comments	5
2nd Vice's Corner	6
Helena Intermediate	7
Adjutant's Area	8
Service Officer Notes	9
SAL Report	10
Judge Advocate	11
Coroner Note	12
Chaplain	13
Trunk or Treat	14
Mental Health Survey	15
Veteran's Donuts	16
Career Fair	17
Upcoming Events	18-20
Membership	21
Mil. Appreciation Night	24

Post 555 arranges funeral for veteran



**By Briana Harris
Shelby County Reporter**

MONTEVALLO — On Wednesday, Oct. 23, dozens of people showed up at the Alabama National Cemetery to attend the funeral of Edward L. Prokes Jr., a man they did not know.

Prokes was a local veteran who died on Oct. 9 without family to claim his remains. He served in the Air Force from 1950-1954. Alt-

hough there's no record of his duties in the military, the Korean War was under way at the time.

Several veteran organizations, military personnel and members of the community showed up in support of Prokes.

"It's really a blessing to see so many people come out for someone they didn't know personally," said American

(continued on page 11)



American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555 – Festive Feast Menu

- Sliced Turkey Breast
- Cornbread Dressing with Giblet Gravy and Cranberry Sauce
 - Whipped Potatoes
 - Southern Green Beans
 - Yeast Rolls
- Choice of Dessert (New Orleans Bread Pudding, Peach Cobbler, Apple Cobbler or Sweet Potato Pie)
 - Beverage Station with Tea and Coffee
- Includes Elegant Disposable Dinnerware, cups, napkins, cups, salt and pepper, chafing dishes and serving utensils
- Servers: Set up, table and buffet scaping to include flags on every table, replenishment, refills, break down and clean up

***Vegan option (pre-order required):** Pasta Primavera

FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK



Kenneth Paschal
Post Commander

For God and Country! Let's continue to increase our Legion Family membership and renewal. Congratulations to the following newly elected Auxiliary Unit 555 officers:

President, **Caroline Culpepper**

Secretary, **Rebecca Layfield**

Treasurer, **Linda Colvard**

Also, congratulations to the individuals that received the Commander's Membership Award lapel pin during our October 3rd General membership meeting: **Ron Koonce, Jerry McClain, Nancy Wal-**

ler, Frank Chacon, Don Seibert and Vashone Smith.

I look forward to the opportunity to personally recognize the hard work of other recruiters during the upcoming Post meetings.

Special thanks to the hard work by the entire Post 555 leadership team, committee heads, and members.

November areas of interest:

- Annual Family Thanksgiving Dinner, 6:00 pm on November 7th at the Pelham Civic Complex and Ice Arena banquet hall. I look forward to seeing the individuals that RSVP'd.
- Annual University of Alabama Military Appreciation Night partnership on Nov. 16th.
- Establish an assistant chairperson for single chair committees for continuity. **Continuity** is the advance planning and preparation undertaken to ensure that the Post will have the capability to operate in the absent of the chairperson or during emergency events.
- Events committee heads, building a useful continuity book.
- Members becoming familiar with the Post Organizational Structure/chart. (see update organizational chart dated 10.28.2019)
- American Legion Post 555 Pro Rodeo sponsorship, marketing, and volunteers

October at a Glance:

- First Vice Commander facilitated the October 3rd General Membership meeting.
- Second Pro Rodeo APH Radio Interview (Commander, 1st Vice, **Bill Hudson**)
- *Commander and Immediate Past Commander Tom McDaniel presentation to the Rotary Club of Alabaster-Pelham*
- *Riders participate in Hanger Fest 2019*
- Legacy of Heroes Ceremony (SCALNC)
- Presentation to Hope Christian School Key Club about the American Legion youth programs
- City of Pelham Quarterly Business Council meeting and luncheon; (guest speaker: Judge O. L. "Pete" Johnson, Director/Chairman, Alabama Boys State)
- Initiated citywide Halloween Safety Week proclamation

(continued on page 4)

FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK ... CONTINUED

(continued from page 3)

- Flag Replacement ceremony, Helena Intermediate School
- 2nd Vice presentation to Chelsea Middle School, 7th graders
- Partnership with Shelby County Character In Action by implementing The American Legion School Award Medal Program (presented four medals and certificates to Pelham City School students); Committee members: **Barry Blount**, chairperson; Comrade **Alan Miller**, and Commander Paschal
- Auxiliary Unit 555 community presence: Texas Roadhouse in Pelham for Kids Night, Monster Bash Trunk Or Treat.
- Assisted with the burial of a veteran with no family members to claim his remains.
- Huge Crowd (Veterans – Post 555 Legion Family, Military, and Civilians) Attends Funeral
- Special thanks to the following that directly assisted with funeral arrangements/expenses:
 - Good Shepherd Funeral Home
 - Shelby Baptist Association
 - Heavenly Smile Inc.
 - Lone Warriors
 - Cahaba Valley Elks Lodge No 1738
 - American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555
 - Mrs. Donna Thompson
 - **Tom McMahon**, Post 555 Chaplain
 - Maxwell Air Force Base – Funeral Honors Team
 - Alabama National Cemetery
 - Patriot Guard Riders of Alabama

Communication – November is full of activities, will be demanding and require the volunteer support of as many as possible Post members and their families. **Additional details are enclosed throughout the newsletter.**

Remember, working together, we can achieve more!

For God and Country!



1ST VICE'S COMMENTS



Jerry McClain
1st Vice Commander

Happy 🇺🇸 November, Happy Veterans' Day and Happy 🦃 Thanksgiving!

Operation Rodeo is in Full Swing! I could use your help on every level in getting the word out and helping to find good quality business sponsors. The dates of March 27 and 28, 2020 are just around the corner! Post 555 need Ticket Takers, Golf Cart drivers, I.D. Checkers, Security, and people to supervise Kidzone play areas! Text me at 206.412.3548 or email me: [rangerjer-](mailto:rangerjer-mac@gmail.com)

mac@gmail.com

In the October general session, the 555 Post Commander **Kenneth Paschal** gave out the coveted membership award to all members present that Recruited one new member into our post. Congratulations to our Task Force Recruit One Team. Congratulations **Ron Koonce**, **Jerry McClain**, **Nancy Waller**, **Frank Chacon**, **Don Seibert** and **Vashone Smith**. Legion Membership continues to be a high priority for this Post and I encourage you to find that one individual to invite, recruit and membership them over the next 30 days. I am eager to help you with your recruiting efforts and getting them on the membership roll-call! 100 percent enrollment and 100 percent renewal here we come!



2ND VICE'S CORNER



Nancy Waller
2nd Vice Commander

I hope those of you who attended the 03 Oct 19 Post General Membership Meeting enjoyed Scott and "Rambo" from ServiceDogs Alabama. It is amazing the connection man and dog have, and what a wonderful thing for both Scott and Rambo to share such a close bond. I am so glad Scott offered to come and talk to all of us. Continue to offer guest speaker opportunities to me if you think of someone you would like to have visit our Post. The way the approval process works (just as an FYI) is when I receive a request to have a guest speaker considered, I present it to the Events Committee for their review and approval. If the committee members approve, I then present the request to the Executive Committee. If they approve, I get in touch with the prospective guest speaker and let him/her know they are approved to come, and we work on a month that fits their and our calendars. I have 2-3 speakers "in the works" and will keep you posted, but do not hesitate sending me some options.

I am looking forward to the 07 Nov 19 Post 555 Annual Thanksgiving Dinner/Meeting at the Pelham Civic Complex at 6:00 p.m. "Bright Star" is doing the catering and their menu is full of "goodies" that everyone will enjoy. I will be sending an e-mail to all members who RSVP'd to attend the dinner/meeting with final details about the event, and will include the menu with an option for a vegan choice so that we are able to accommodate all of our guests. If you have not RSVP'd to me, please send an e-mail to wallernj@gmail.com and I will add you and your immediate family member(s) to the roster, as well as prepare name tags for everyone (tell me everyone's names and relationships to you as the member). I am sure that Past Commander **Barry Blount** will be adding a few extra meals for those who "forgot" to RSVP, but better for you to let me know as soon as you see this article.

November is a super busy month so be sure to check the "Upcoming Events" information in this newsletter and if you see an event that sounds fun or something you might want to help with, let me know. I know that **Chris Combs** is looking for help for the Veterans' Day Program at Texas Roadhouse, so let me or Chris know that you are interested.

I sent an e-mail invitation to all of our R.S.V.P. (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) members who record their Volunteer hours each month for them to attend the 2019 Annual Christmas and Award Brunch scheduled for Wed., 04 Dec 19 @ 9:00 a.m. at the Pelham Civic Complex. I heard from only a few so if you would like to go with us, I am coordinating the names from Post 555 to report the headcount for this event. If you have not signed-up for the R.S.V.P., I always have applications with me. All that is needed is that you are 55+ years young, a completed application, and a copy of your driver's license for proof of age. The Christmas and Award Brunch is where Post 555 will receive an award for the HUGE number of Volunteer hours that our R.S.V.P. members report to me each month, so let me know if you are a current R.S.V.P. member and would like to go.

Happy Early Thanksgiving and I look forward to our 07 Nov 19 event and to enjoy some turkey, socializing with our comrades and guests, and just a "little bit of business." Thank you for your service to our great nation, and your Volunteerism moving forward."

Post 555**Flag Replacement Team
Helena Intermediate School
Oct. 22**

Post 555's Flag Replacement Team taught students at Helena Intermediate School about flag etiquette on Oct. 22.

Officer Jeff Murphy contacted post historian Shauna Hadley about teaching students respect for the flag and proper handling procedures.

People involved were: Flag Team Captain: **Bobby Horsley**, Moderator: Commander **Kenneth Paschal**, Flag Handlers: **Doug McDaniel Jr.**, **Frank Lakotich**, **Alan Philips**, **Jon Freeman**, and **Beth Philips** passed out flags to the students.

Flag Replacement Coordinator: **Shauna Hadley**.



ADJUTANT'S AREA



Ron Koonce
Post Adjutant

There are only two months left to reach the Post's membership renewal goal of 100 percent by Dec. 31.

Many thanks to the ones that have submitted their 2020 membership renewals. We are behind with only 55 percent of our target of 68 percent by the end of October. We will need to double up our membership renewals and our efforts in recruiting new members during the month of November to achieve the 84 percent target by Dec. 1. We only need an average of 50 renewals and/or new members in each of the next two months.

Membership applications can be accessed on the Post website www.alpost555.com. Contact Jerry McClain with the Membership Committee for membership materials that will help you recruit members.

You can renew online at www.legion.org. All you need is your membership number and Credit Card or mail your \$45 check payable to "Matthew Blount Post 555" and mail to:

American Legion
50 Racquet Club Parkway
Pelham, AL 35124

Join me in welcoming our October new and transferred members:

Robert Thompson-	Transfer
James L. Jones	- Transfer
Ronald C. Powell	- New Member
Dustin Lee Endicott	- New Member
Tom Long	- New Member

Hope to see you at the Nov. 7 meeting, Pelham Civic Complex- 5:45pm

Ron Koonce

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

SERVICE OFFICER NOTES



Jerry McClain
Service Officer

The state of Alabama provides several veteran benefits:

- Four Alabama State Veterans Homes
 - 1.The Bill Nichols State Veterans Home in Alexander City
 - 2.The Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville
 - 3.The William F. Green State Veterans Home in Bay Minette
 - 4.The Col. Robert L Howard State Veterans Home in Pell City.

There is a monthly fee for the veterans homes, you must have

an honorable discharge and at least one day of wartime service to qualify for admittance.

- Alabama Tax Benefits For Veterans
 - Property Tax for Homes of Totally Disabled Persons Over Age 65
 - Any Alabama resident is exempt from ad valorem taxes on their home and adjacent 160 acres of land if they are permanently and totally disabled or 65 years of age or older, and have a net annual income of \$12,000.00 or less.
 - Property Tax for VA Specially Adapted Houses
 - Any veteran who has a home that was acquired under the VA's specially adapted housing grant is tax exempt as long as it is owned and occupied by the veteran or their surviving spouse.
 - Income Tax
 - All military retirement pay is exempt from any Alabama state, county or municipal income tax.
- Motor Vehicle Paid for by VA Grant
 - Any disabled veteran who owns a vehicle which was paid for by the VA will pay no license fees or ad valorem taxes on it.
- Alabama Veteran Employment Benefits
 - State Employment
 - All honorably discharged veterans can have 5 points added to any state employment examination scores. Those with a VA service-connected disability will get 10 points added to their score.
 - Spouses and surviving spouses of certain disabled or deceased veterans can have the 10-point preference extended to them and added to any test scores.
 - Veterans also get preference over non-veterans with the same ratings on the classified service employment registers.
- Alabama Veteran Education Benefits
 - Tuition Waiver for Purple Heart Medal Recipients
 - Purple Heart recipients may be eligible for free education at Alabama public institutions of higher learning including two-year and four-year technical colleges, community colleges, and junior colleges. Check with your school to see if they participate in the program.

More to follow in next month's issue!

Sons of The American Legion Advisor Report



Reminder to Legion members that are sponsoring family members of The Sons of American Legion, 2020 renewals are due.

\$20 payable to "Mathew Blount Post 555"

Mail to the Post address or Submit to SAL Adjutant, Ron Koonce.



American Legion members are encouraged to register male descendants as members of Squadron 555 for 2020.

Total 2019 membership – 37

2020 Renewals – 14 – 38%

The Sons will host the Veteran Flag Placement at Pelham Cemetery on November 9, 2019 , 10 am.

Members pf the Post Family are invited to attend.

Wreaths Across America contribution campaign Chairperson – Chuck Kiser



*Questions, see Chuck Kiser during the next Post meeting.

FROM THE BENCH ...



Larry Strayer
Judge Advocate

November, what a special month for Veterans and all Americans. November, the month we give thanks for living in the most remarkable Country which has ever existed.

November, the month our remarkable Country recognizes the Veterans responsible for keeping our Country remarkable.

November, Thanksgiving, nearly every year after our Pilgrim Forefathers landed at Cape Cod, Massachusetts in November 1620, thanks has been given for the blessings we have received from this land. While Thanksgiving now heralds the beginning of Christmas shopping, we must never forget to give thanks for our Country, our Lives, and the blessings we have received from our God.

November, Veterans Day, commemorating what happened on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, 1918, when Armistice with Germany went into effect, ending World War I. Note, it is Veterans Day, not Veteran's Day, this day does not belong to anyone, but is a day for Veterans to be honored.

November, this month especially, to the Legionaries of the Matthew Blount Post 555 of the American Legion, I thank you all for your service and sacrifices made to help to keep the United States of America, the most remarkable Country which has ever existed.

Proskos laid to rest at Alabama National Cemetery

(continued from page 1)
Legion Post 555 Commander Kenneth Paschal. "But as veterans, we all know each other and the sacrifices we made. We're all here to make sure a veteran was not laid to rest alone."

The Patriot Guard escorted Prokes's body from Good Shepherd Funeral Home to his final resting place at the national cemetery. Airmen from Maxwell Airforce Base conducted military honors. Post 555 Chaplain Tom McMahon officiated the funeral.

The events of Oct. 23 were set in motion by Columbiana resident Donna Thompson. On Oct. 14, she contacted Post 555 Commander Kenneth Paschal to ask for help to bury Prokes who was found dead in his Columbiana home on Oct. 9. Thompson was contacted when he died because she was listed as the emergency contact on his apartment lease.



Complimentary copies of
THE TRIPLE NICKEL
provided by



2659 Pelham Parkway

Message from the Shelby County Coroner's Office

What happens when a Veteran dies and no one claims the body?

No Next-Of-Kin
Burial / Information



The Shelby County Coroner's Office values military members and Veterans. On behalf of the Shelby County Coroner's Office, we will ensure eligible Veterans without known next-of-kin or sufficient financial resources, burials in the Alabama National Cemetery.

In the past two years the Shelby County Coroner's Office has arranged for four Veterans' burials at the Alabama National Cemetery.

Should you have questions regarding above, please contact us at (205) 669-3846.

Lina Evans
Coroner

CHAPLAIN



Tom McMahon

Post Chaplain



I just wanted to take a couple minutes to encourage everyone; to let you know that every one of you on the roster has been prayed for and by name. I do not know what every need might be, but our Heavenly Father does. I put in a good word for your wellbeing. It is my duty and desire to pray for and visit the sick and shut-in members of this post. I may not remember your names or faces (Please forgive me for that.), but when I read over your name on my list, I remember that you have value and are appreciated.

I go and visit shut-ins and the hospitalized and am ready to pray for any request or illness that I am aware of. As Chaplain, I have visited members in Pelham, Montevallo and Helena. Also, helped with various services at our National Cemetery. I have distributed flag/cross pins and Psalm 91 cards to a number of people.

At the front desk, I have a small box for your prayer requests. You are welcome to participate in this by giving me a name and the need we are praying for. You can rest assured that I will make your petitions know to the Lord. I usually keep the request sheets for a few weeks in prayer.

I also answer the phone for Post 555. There have only been a few calls, but we never know how important one call might be.

The Commander and I have discussed developing a Buddy Check by which myself and as many as are willing to join us will call members that we haven't heard from in a while. This is not for membership, but to check on their wellbeing. We will get a list and make calls periodically to those whom we have not heard from in some time. If you would like to assist me in this way, please give me your name. We can make it happen. As few as five or six of us can make a few calls and be finished in 30 minutes or so.

Thank you for your participation and assistance to your fellow Legion members.

The American Legion symbol has a 'starburst' in the background. When this was chosen, someone at that early meeting suggested that this might represent sort of a shield of protection. As Chaplain, let me clarify that in our service to God and Country, our only protection comes from our One God and our military defense. Your service and faith is why our Republic has held strong through storms and trials from its inception. May God grant wisdom and grace to you personally as you continue your activities of duty and commitment to your convictions and to the needs of others.

King David, a man after God's own heart, was also one of the greatest of warriors. His writing in Psalm 91 is a masterpiece of the security found in the most High. Here are a few verses:

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God; in Him will I trust. Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler." (KJV)

Monster Bash Trunk or Treat

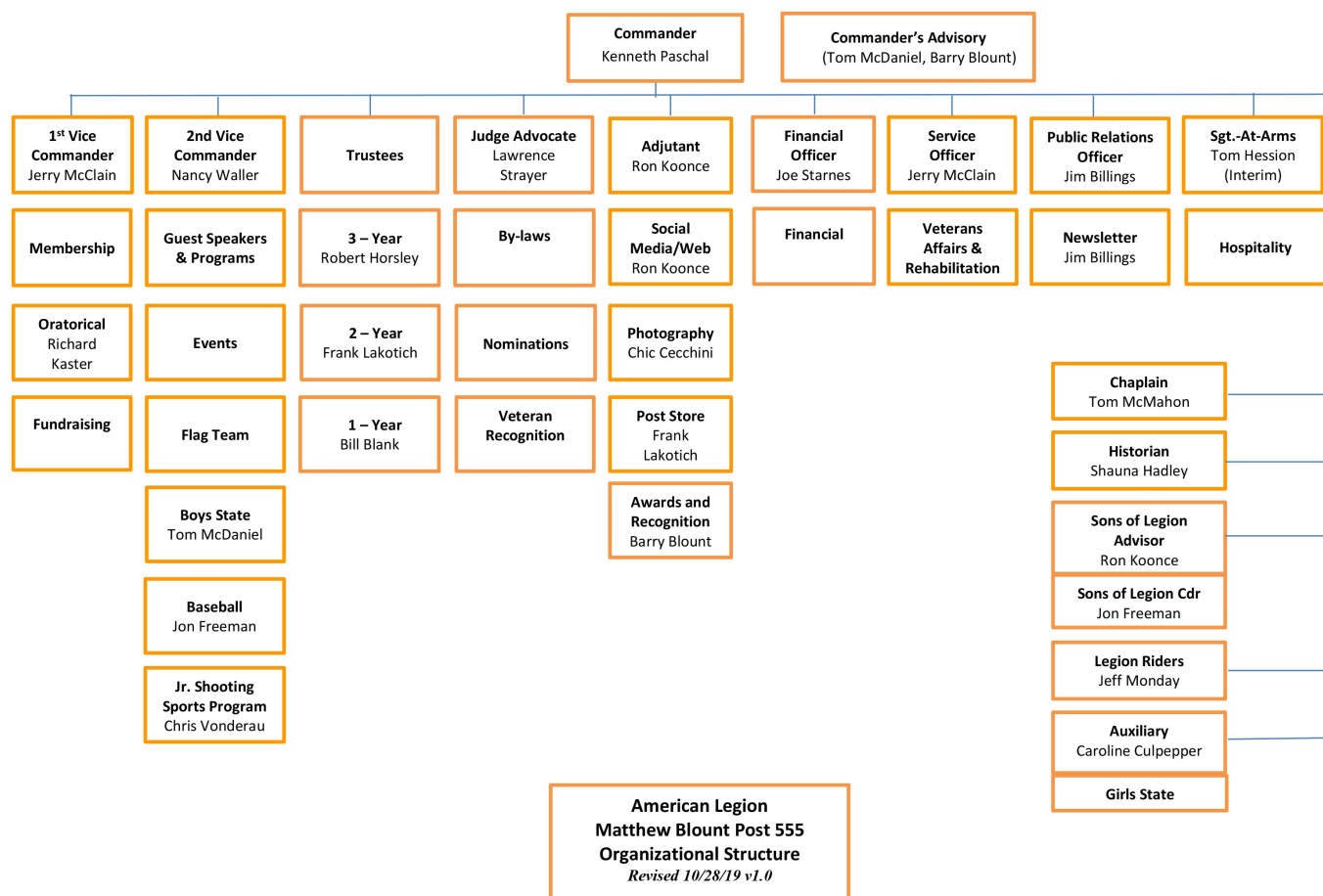


Tuesday, Oct. 29

Texas Roadhouse
Pelham



**Matthew Blount Post 555
Organizational Structure**



American Legion survey reveals mental care disconnect

From The American Legion

Over 30 percent of respondents to a recent American Legion survey said they personally knew a veteran who committed suicide. And nearly 40 percent were unsure if the veteran they knew was eligible for VA mental care services.

The survey, conducted by The American Legion's Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Committee, received a record-breaking 13,648 responses from across the country last

summer. Nearly 97 percent of respondents were veterans, 66.5 percent of the Vietnam War and over 12 percent from the post-9/11 era.

The gap between veteran suicidality and use of VA mental health services matches the message Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie delivered Aug. 28 at the 101st American Legion National Convention. He explained that just six in 20 daily veteran suicides are committed by people enrolled in the VA

health-care system. He and others in VA have called upon The American Legion and other veterans service organizations to help them get word to at-risk veterans that care is available.

The survey found that 82.47 percent of respondents had received no formal suicide-prevention training. The 1,688 who reported having had some suicide-prevention training generally agreed that the training "provided them with the appropriate resources to prevent suicide."



ARMY



MARINES



NAVY



AIR FORCE



COAST GUARD



Veteran's Donuts hosted by Pelham Senior Center

November 8, 2019 from 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM

Pelham Senior Center are a proud supporter of our veterans and The American Legion Post 555. We have coordinated for members of the American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555 to provide a short 5-10 minute program at 9:30 am: "It is The Veteran – Poem" and a "Fallen Heroes Table display and narrative".

The event is an opportunity for our veterans, both male and female, to connect with our seniors at the Senior Center, share stories and enjoy free coffee, doughnuts and conversation.

The Pelham Senior Center can be reached at (205) 620-6064.

The Pelham Senior Center stands by and supports our veterans.

Pelham Senior Center
50 Racquet Club Parkway Pelham, Alabama 35124

CAREER FAIR and VETERANS' RESOURCE FAIR

THURSDAY, November 7, 2019

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

THE FINLEY CENTER (Behind The Hoover)

1000 RV Trace, Hoover, Alabama 35244

All Job Seekers Are Welcome & Encouraged To Attend

Civilians ★ Veterans ★ National Guard ★ Reservists ★ Active Duty



UNEMPLOYED

UNDEREMPLOYED

EMPLOYED, BUT YOU DON'T LIKE YOUR JOB

Don't have a Resume, or is it Old and in Need of Updating?

Birmingham Career Center, 3216 4th Ave. S. (205-582-5200)
Jasper Career Center, 2604 Viking Dr. (205-221-2576)
Tuscaloosa Career Center, 202 Skyland Blvd. (205-758-7591)
Talladega Career Center, 1005 So. Street E. (256-493-0865)
Gadsden Career Center, 216 North 5th Street (256-546-4667)

Jeff State One-Stop Career Center, 2601 Carson Rd. (205-856-8538)
Alabaster Career Center, 109 Plaza Circle (205-663-2542)
Lawson State Career Center, 1100 9th Ave. S., Bessemer (205-929-3485)
Anniston Career Center, 1731 Coleman Road (256-832-0147)

- Update your resumes (Bring many copies)
- Dress appropriately to meet company recruiters

To Pre-Register & View a List of Participating Companies & Veterans' Resources

LOGON: <https://www.evenbrite.com/> and enter info below:

Looking for Career Fair	In Hoover	On Nov. 7	<input type="button" value="Q"/>
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UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2019

Wednesday, November 6, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

What: Flag Placement on Gravesites in Section 8

Where: Alabama National Cemetery, 3133 Highway 119, Montevallo, AL 35115

Chairperson: Chuck Kiser

Co-Chairperson: Nancy Waller

Volunteers Needed: Yes! We are responsible for the flags being placed at all of the gravesites in Section 8 where the Post namesake, Matthew Blount, is laid to rest. Not sure if the holes will be pre-punched or not, but will find that out ahead of time.

Friday, November 8, 2019, 9:15 a.m.

What: Veteran's Donuts Hosted by Pelham Senior Center

Where: Pelham Senior Center, 50 Racquet Club Parkway, Pelham, AL 35124

Chairperson: Kenneth Paschal

Co-Chairperson: N/A

Volunteers Needed: Yes! We need some Volunteers to enjoy some coffee and donuts!!!!

Friday, November 8, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

What: Birmingham Bulls Hockey Military Appreciation Night

Where: Pelham Civic Complex and Ice Arena, 500 Amphitheater Road, Pelham, AL 35124

Chairperson: Bill Blank

Co-Chairperson: Bobby Horsley

Volunteers Needed: Yes! It would be great to have someone help at the information table and to mingle among the attendees.

Saturday, November 9, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

What: Flag Placement on Gravesites

Where: Pelham Cemetery, Shelby County Highway 105 (Bearden Road), Pelham, AL 35124

Chairperson: Bill Blank (SAL)

Co-Chairperson: Ron Koonce (SAL Advisor)

Volunteers Needed: Yes! There are about 70 Veterans' graves that will need a flag placed, so anyone who would like to help with this is certainly welcome. Chris Combs offered a small contingent from his Boy Scout Troop to help, so thanks for that, Chris!! Cahaba Valley Elks Lodge No 1738 offered to help and will provide the flags and hole punchers for this event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 10, 2019, 5:00 p.m.

What: National Veterans Award Dinner (reception at 5:00 p.m.; dinner at 6:00 p.m.)

Where: Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, 2101 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. N., Birmingham, AL 35203

Chairperson: Barry Blount (made tickets available)

Co-Chairperson: N/A

Volunteers Needed: N/A Everyone who wanted a ticket hopefully has one.

Monday, November 11, 2019, 10:30 a.m.

What: National Veterans' Day at Texas Roadhouse

Where: Texas Roadhouse Restaurant, 60 Drivers Mart Way, Pelham, AL 35124

Chairperson: Chris Combs

Co-Chairperson: TBD

Volunteers Needed: Yes! Most of the primary positions have been filled for the actual event, but Chris will be looking for help manning the table at the front door of the restaurant from October 31, 2019 until the end of November to participate in the Collection Card Fundraiser. Sign-up at the table for this event. We are also looking for Post 555 members who would like to sit with Veterans while they enjoy their meals on Veterans' Day.

Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

What: Flag Retrieval from Gravesites, Section 8

Where: Alabama National Cemetery, 3133 Highway 119, Montevallo, AL 35115

Chairperson: Chuck Kiser

Co-Chairperson: Nancy Waller

Volunteers Needed: Yes! Each flag needs to be removed from the hole in front of the gravesite,

wiped clean of dirt and/or moisture, put into a bundle of ten each with a rubber band, then placed stick end up (to dry) in the plastic bins located at the road sides.

Thursday, November 14, 2019, 2:30 p.m.

What: "Saluting Those Who Served" Thanksgiving Dinner

Where: Hope Christian School Key Club, 419 Philippians Boulevard, Pelham, AL 35124

Chairperson: Nancy Waller

Co-Chairperson: N/A

Volunteers Needed: Yes! Anyone interested in attending this event can RSVP to Nancy Waller so she can give an accurate headcount to the school NLT November 7, 2019.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, November 16, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

What: Military Appreciation Night – University of Alabama Hockey

Where: Pelham Civic Complex and Ice Arena, 500 Amphitheater Road, Pelham, AL 35124

Chairperson: Kenneth Paschal

Co-Chairperson: TBD

Volunteers Needed: Yes! As the information becomes available, Kenneth will be able to share the exact need for Volunteers, so check with him.

Saturday, December 7, 2019, 9:00 a.m.

What: Filling Gifts Bags for the Birmingham VA Christmas Caravan

Where: Pelham Senior Center, 50 Racquet Club Parkway, Pelham, AL 35124

Chairperson: Frank Lakotich

Co-Chairperson: N/A

Volunteers Needed: Yes, but not too many. This is a fairly quick and easy task, but if anyone is interested, contact Frank Lakotich for details.

Tuesday, December 10, 2019, 5:00 p.m.

What: Birmingham VA Christmas Caravan

Where: Birmingham VA Medical Center, 700 19th Street S., Birmingham, AL 35233

Chairperson: Frank Lakotich

Co-Chairperson: N/A

Volunteers Needed: Perhaps. There is a limited number of Volunteers that can be involved from each community organization, but if you are interested, let Frank Lakotich know.

Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday, December 11, 12, or 13, 2019, time TBD (depends on when the ALNCSC is contacted by the semi-truck driver)

What: Unloaded Christmas Wreaths and Staging on Trailers

Where: Alabama National Cemetery, 3133 Highway 119, Montevallo, AL 35115

Chairperson: Chuck Kiser

Co-Chairperson: Nancy Waller

Volunteers Needed: Yes! They are expecting as many as 6,500 wreaths, which means a LOT of boxes to unload from the semi-truck. Bring gloves!!!

Saturday, December 14, 2019, 11:00 a.m.

What: Wreaths Across America

Where: Alabama National Cemetery, 3133 Highway 119, Montevallo, AL 35115

Chairperson: Chuck Kiser

Co-Chairperson: Nancy Waller

Volunteers Needed: Yes! When the family members are finished placing wreaths at their loved ones' gravesites, wreaths will be placed at every other gravesite. Bring gloves!!!

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.**

POST 555 implements The American Legion School Award Medal Program for schools within Shelby County.



Youth are often awarded for their scholastic achievements, but The American Legion believes they should also be praised when they demonstrate strong qualities of character and good citizenship. That's why, Post 555 is partnering with the Shelby County Character in Action Program to recognize such students with The American Legion School Award Medal Program for schools within Shelby County.

The American Legion School medal is applicable for awards to either boys or girls in the graduating class of elementary, junior, and senior high schools, and colleges. The Award is based on courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship, and service.

On October 23, 2019, four Pelham City Schools students received the first American Legion School Award presented by Post 555. The students recognized were Freddy Lopez, Pelham Oaks Elementary; Jayden Castillo, Pelham Ridge Elementary; McKenzie Little, Pelham Park Middle School; and Xavier Lankford, Pelham High School.

Post 555 Awards and Recognition Committee members: Barry Blount – chairperson and Past Post Commander; Alan Miller; and Commander Kenneth Paschal



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**





ARMY | MARINES | NAVY | AIR FORCE | COAST GUARD

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **MILITARY** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
APPRECIATION
NIGHT

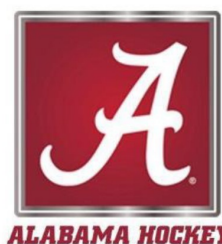


SATURDAY @ 7:00 PM

Opening ceremony @ 6:45 PM

NOVEMBER 16TH

Alabama Hockey



VS

Delaware



HOSTED BY

**The University of Alabama Hockey Program
and**

American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555

Veterans and Active military personnel and all who have honorably served free admission. Must present valid Military ID or proof of service.

500 Amphitheater Rd, Pelham, AL 35124