



THE TRIPLE NICKEL

Published exclusively for the members of

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

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IN GOD WE TRUST

OCTOBER 2018

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Reistad elected Nat'l Commander

By Matt Grills

The American Legion Magazine

Brett Reistad appreciates what it means to be part of a legacy.

When he completed infantry school in 1974, the Army sent Reistad to historic Fort Myer, Va., to serve with the Presidential Salute Battery of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment – the Old Guard, the

Army's oldest active-duty infantry unit. He enjoyed the mission: firing cannon volleys for ceremonies and special events at Arlington National Cemetery and throughout the Washington, D.C., area. But it was only later, after he'd embarked on a career in law enforcement and become involved in The American Le-

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1ST VICE'S COMMENTS



Richard Kaster

1st Vice Commander

As we move into the fall season we are looking at some changes, not only with the normal weather patterns as the temperature drops.

We have as a Post reached out to the Pelham High School Open House on Sept. 20th, as several members attended and set up a table to advertise our support for the Oratorical Scholarship Program. We had a productive session meeting many parents and students interested in earning scholarship money for Oratorical Program in 2019.

Also, in the Oratorical area we are supporting the 2nd Division posts by providing them with leadership and information on how to set up and conduct Oratorical contests.

Please don't forget about contributing to our two fundraisers for the Post. Purchase the Blue Rain Car Wash coupons for only \$5. You will get an excellent car wash that is at a very good price. All of the sales from the coupon sales goes into the Oratorical Scholarship Fund.

Fundraiser drawing on the donated Alabama Football vets WWII books. Purchase the tickets for \$5 each or 3 for \$10 to win one of these books at our drawing scheduled for Nov. 1st Dinner/Meeting.

Reistad to lead centennial celebration for American Legion

(continued from page 1)

gion, that Reistad began to fully appreciate those four years in the military.

"To be involved with a unit that prestigious is an honor," he says. "It's something I will forever cherish."

There's a pride in belonging to something bigger than yourself, something with a rich history. That's Reistad's message for Legionnaires as he leads the organization into its centennial year. Elected national commander at the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis on Aug. 30, he wants each and every member to consider themselves part of

his Team 100, building a strong membership and spreading the word about the Legion's unequalled record of veterans advocacy.

"This is a great year to celebrate The American Legion, and we're all stakeholders," Reistad says. "We all have a responsibility to ensure the Legion survives and thrives into the next century."

The military life chose Reistad as much as he chose it. His grandfather served in World War I. Three uncles served in World War II. His father met his mother at West Point, where he was a

military policeman and she was a civilian employee.

As a boy, Reistad spent a lot of weekends at his grandmother's home in Highland Falls, N.Y., a stone's throw from the front gate of the U.S. Military Academy, watching cadet sports, drills and parades. He even attended the New York Military Academy, President Trump's alma mater, for a short time.

"My parents were going through a divorce and felt it was the best environment for me," he says. "That one year influenced the rest of my life just in terms of learning discipline, taking responsibility for oneself, doing your best."

2ND VICE'S CORNER

Nancy Waller

2nd Vice Commander

As of the Sept. 27 Post 555 Executive Committee meeting, I was appointed to replace Anita Bennett as the 2nd Vice Commander. Commander McDaniel read Anita's letter of resignation, the committee accepted her letter, and I was appointed to fill the remainder of Anita's term. I am very glad to accept this appointment and will do the best I can to fill Anita's shoes. She will remain the POC for the VA Christmas Caravan and I am sure she will remain an active member in Post 555, but for now, she will be focusing on her personal life.

Since this position oversees the Events Committee, I will remain involved with this committee and ensure that it continues to be as positive and informative as it has been since it was re-formed back in August of this year. Bill Blank is the Events Committee Co-Chair and will continue to be a key person in this role (unless we can convince him to take over as the Chairperson...).

Let's look at several upcoming Post 555 events to make sure that you are aware of the dates, times, locations, Volunteer requirements, etc. If any (or all) of these events sound good to you, mark your calendar to attend and have a great time representing Post 555!!

Tuesday, Oct. 2: Pelham Police Department National Night Out @ Publix on Huntley Parkway in Pelham, 6-8 p.m. Post 555 tent will be set-up for members and visitors. There will be free food and giveaways as well as First Responder and Public Safety demonstrations.

Thursday, Nov. 1: Post 555 Thanksgiving Dinner/Post Meeting @ Pelham Civic Complex 6-9 p.m. We will also be celebrating the 100th birthday of the American Legion with a great show commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great World War. Please use the following e-mail to RSVP to Commander McDaniel (tmcdaniel40@att.net) no later than Oct. 21 to ensure we have enough food for everyone to enjoy. Note that this is a change to what was initially put out, so use this new e-mail for your RSVP. I will also be accepting RSVPs during the Oct. 4 Post 555 General Membership Meeting so get with me to reserve seats for you and your immediate family!!

Thursday, Nov. 15: "Saluting Those Who Served" Thanksgiving Dinner @ Hope Christian School located at 419 Philippians Blvd., Pelham, AL 35124, 12:30 p.m. The Hope Christian School Key Club will be sponsoring a HUGE meal for all members of the Police and Fire Departments, Active and Currently-Serving Veterans, EMTS, and First Responders to thank them for their past and continued service to our community. ALL Post 555 members are invited to attend, so please send an RSVP to keyclub@hopechristian.net no later than Nov. 8 so they can plan an appropriate amount of food for everyone. I have my reservation in, so please join me in representing Post 555. If you would like me to send an RSVP on your behalf, let me know during the October and November General Membership meetings and I will be happy to send an e-mail for you.

Don't forget to give me your Volunteer hours for the month of September!! I will have my Post 555 Station Form for everyone to fill-in so help me get with you at the next Post 555 General Membership Meeting scheduled for Oct. 4. See you then, and thank you all for your service to our great country.

ADJUTANT'S AREA



Ron Koonce

Post Adjutant

The National Membership Committee is offering a 2018-2019 Individual Recruitment Award pin for those members recruiting five (5) new members into the Sons of The American Legion within a membership year. All American Legion Family members are also eligible for this award. This pin is suitable to wear upon your cover or lapel.

Requirement is to recruit five (5) new members to The Sons of The American Legion. Must be new members only, no renewals. Deadline for submitting form to National Headquarters is midnight of Aug. 31, 2019. Please make notation of recruiter's name on the submitted application form. Membership information and applications are available on the SAL page of the Post website www.alpost555.com or contact Post Adjutant, Ron Koonce at ron.koonce@alpost555.com.

The 2019 American Legion renewals continue to come in. We are currently at 60 percent for the Dec. 31st target. Thanks for your response so far. If you are not among this 60 percent, please submit your renewals either online at Legion.org or mail to the Post at 50 Racquet Club Parkway, Pelham, AL 35124 or submit at the Oct. 4th Post meeting.

S.A.L Squadron 555 renewals are at 93 percent. Let's be at 100 percent before Dec. 31st. Please mail renewals to the Post address or submit at any Post monthly meeting. All checks are payable to Matthew Blount Post 555.

For God & Country

Ron Koonce

Adjutant

THE TRIPLE NICKEL

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Matthew Blount Post 555.*

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



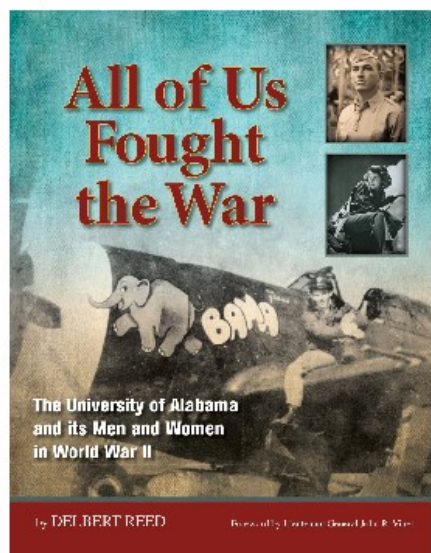
Items for publication are accepted on Executive Committee approval and available space. Submit articles prior to the 10th of the month for publication the following month. We reserve the right to edit any submission for the purpose of publication. Letters to the Editor must include name, address & telephone number. Names will be withheld upon request.

Send email to:
Editor@alpost555.com

Fundraising Drawing

**Drawing Nov. 1
During the Post
Thanksgiving Dinner**

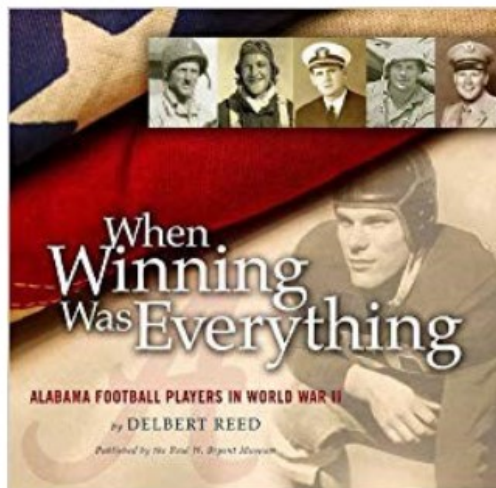
Two books by Delbert Reed.
Separate drawing for each.



A companion to his *When Winning Was Everything: Alabama Football Players in World War II*, Delbert Reed's *All of Us Fought the War* extends the story of sacrifice and heroism to the university at large.



American Legion
Matthew Blount
Post 555
Pelham, Alabama



The personal war stories of many of the Crimson Tide football players who participated in the Good War are told in *When Winning Was Everything*, a tribute to all the players who earned our enduring admiration not only on the football field but also in wartime.

Tickets

\$5 each

or

3 for \$10

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN



***Thanksgiving Dinner
with the
American Legion
Matthew Blount Post 555
At***

***Pelham Civic Complex (500 Amphitheater Road, Pelham, AL 35124
November 01, 2018 (Thursday)
6 PM***

(This is the Post's regular monthly meeting)

***You and your immediate family are welcome but,
I need a head count for you and the members of your family to reserve
the meals and table.***

***You must RSVP by October 21, 2018
TO: tmcdaniel40@att.net***

Please don't wait — RSVP today!

TRIPLE NICKEL RIDERS



Jeff Monday

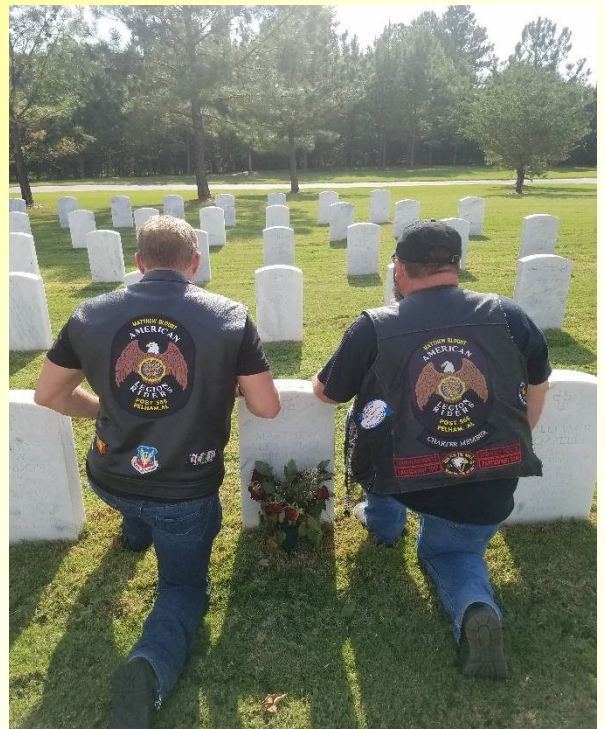
Director, Triple Nickel Riders

The Month to Remember

The month of September has come and gone, but with that in mind we shall never forget the memories of POW/MIA's. The 3rd Friday of September is a day of remembrance and a reminder that we still have missing hero out there. Never shall we forget those, until they all come home. Thanks to the Post 76 out of Mobile for stopping by Post 555, it was a great day to reflect and NEVER EVER FORGET!!!

This month we remember Matthew Blount, Matt's Birthday is 18 September. The Rider remembrance ride on 15 September to pay honor to this great Man, Father, Brother and Son. We stay very busy, but sometimes it's nice to just take a moment and remember why we are here and part of the American Legion!!, we are here to support our fellow brothers and sisters that we can VETS. Never ever forget. If you make your way out to the Alabama National Cemetery stop and say hello to Matt, Section 8 - Site 75.

The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example” — Benjamin Disraeli



JUDGE ADVOCATE'S CORNER



Chuck Kiser

Judge Advocate

This month, I am repeating some of my comments from last month regarding the need for donations to purchase wreaths for the Wreaths Across America ceremony to be held at the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo in December. **October is a critical month in fundraising as our consolidated contribution will be made following the November Post meeting.**

As I announced at the last Post meeting, the annual Wreaths Across America drive for donations by the Blue Star Salute Foundation has begun. As burials continue to climb at the Alabama National Cemetery, it is expected that donations will need to be raised to provide a wreath for approximately 6,100 graves this year.

Wreath donations will again cost \$15 per wreath. The annual Wreaths Across America ceremony will take place on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 11 a.m. at the Alabama National Cemetery.

The Post is once again accepting donations for wreaths and will consolidate all donations received and forward them to the Blue Star Salute in November. We are prepared to accept these donations currently. Donation forms are available at each Post.

The 2018 campaign to date has raised a total of \$425 through Sept. 23rd. In 2017, the consolidated Post contribution was \$1,335. **Though the need is nearly 24 percent higher than last year, our donations are lagging last year by 68 percent!**

If you, a family member or friend wishes to donate for wreaths, please complete a donation form and give it to Chuck Kiser at a Post meeting, **no later than Nov. 1st**, along with a check for the total of wreaths donated and we will see that it is consolidated with all Post donations and forwarded to the Blue Star Salute prior to the cut-off date of Nov. 5th.

Note that checks to be included with the Post consolidated donation should be made payable to Matthew Blount Post 555 and Wreaths Across America should be written in the memo line. **We cannot accept checks made out to Wreaths Across America.**



CHAPLAIN'S THOUGHTS



Chris Vonderau

Post Chaplain

Have you spent time in God's Word lately? How about today? The Bible is God's revelation of His will and of Himself to humankind. It's God's love letter to each and every one of us.

Did you know that the Bible was penned by 40 writers whose occupations ranged from shepherds to kings? The Bible was written over a span of approximately 1,600 years. Through all of these writers over all of those years, the message remains the same. God created us, He loves us and He wants to redeem us.

There are about 300 prophecies about the Messiah's coming in the Old Testament AND hundreds of years later, Jesus fulfilled every one of them. That alone should spark some interest in reading God's love letter to you.

Turn your eyes to the Cross of Jesus Christ comrades, we are one day closer to home! 2 Peter 3:8-15

Your Chaplain,

Chris Vonderau

205 966-1364



Pelham High School Open House

Frank Lakotich, Kenneth Paschal and 1st Vice Commander Richard Kaster represented Post 555 at the Pelham High School Open House on Sept. 20. The purpose was to encourage Pelham High School students to participate in the American Legion Oratorical Contest, which will be held at the high school on Jan. 16.

Matthew Blount Charity Ride – Sept. 15





ARMY | MARINES | NAVY | AIR FORCE | COAST GUARD

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ MILITARY ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

APPRECIATION

NIGHT



FRIDAY @ 7:00 PM
Opening ceremony @ 6:45 PM



ALABAMA HOCKEY

FEBRUARY 9TH
Alabama Hockey

VS

Missouri State

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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

Matthew Blount Post 555 will again offer to consolidate donations and forward them, along with all memorial designations, to The Blue Star Salute Foundation. Checks should be payable to Matthew Blount Post 555 with Wreaths Across America written in the memo line. Donation forms and checks should be sent to: American Legion Post 555, 50 Racquet Club Parkway, Pelham AL 35124.

Nineth Annual Wreaths Across America – 15 December 2018
Alabama National Cemetery
Montevallo, Alabama



Remember - Honor - Teach

Updated 6 Dec 2017

The Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc., (BSSFI) needs sponsors for our 10th Annual Wreaths Across America project -- a nationwide fundraising endeavor to provide a live Maine Balsam Wreath for each Veteran's grave each Christmas season. Wreaths sponsored by this BSSFI endeavor are for Veterans graves in the Alabama National Cemetery (ALNC), HWY 119, Montevallo. The 2018 National Remembrance Ceremony will be held at 11AM on the 15th of December 2018. The cost of each wreath is \$15.00. In 2018 we will need approximately 6,000-6,250 wreaths for our Cemetery. All wreath sponsors as well as family members of those buried within ALNC are invited and strongly encouraged to attend and participate in the wreath-laying ceremony.

To help sponsor wreaths for the ALNC, return this completed form with your sponsorship to BSSFI, PO Box 203, Harpersville AL 35078. Your checks or money orders must be payable to BSSFI, for: Wreaths Across America. For names to be included on the BSSFI "In Honor/In Memory display, forms must be received no later than 5 November 2018. Wreath sponsorships are accepted throughout the year. Each sponsorship is tax deductible and a receipt will be provided for sponsorships of \$100 or more if requested. For more information, please visit our website www.bluestarsalute.org or phone Glenn Nivens, (205) 672-2887.

Wreaths Across America - Sponsorship Form
The American Legion, Matthew Blount Post 555

Please print clearly

Printed Name of Individual/Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Sponsorship Amount: _____

In Honor of (living): _____

In Memory of (deceased): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____