



# 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

AUGUST 2018

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## Flag team teaches YMCA kids

Summer campers at Pelham's YMCA learned about caring for the American flag July 5 during a Flag Replacement Ceremony conducted by Post 555.

More than 100 children participated in the ceremony, assisting the flag team and reciting the Pledge of Alle-

giance.

Mayor Gary Waters, City Councilwoman Mildred Lannier, and Brenda Walker of the Exchange Club of Shelby County, along with YMCA staff representatives Jason Beasley and Steve Smith, also participated in the ceremony.

# COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



**Tom McDaniel**

*Post Commander*

The month of July has really been a busy month. Starting off with "Fire on the Water" at Oak Mountain State Park and the regular season of American Legion Baseball leading into the State Baseball Tournament and not to forget the Triple Nickel Shooters who have been in competition, and the Triple Nickel Riders planning their pancake breakfast and ride event to benefit the Lone Warriors Foundation. That is, believe me, a lot of planning and a lot of doing what is necessary to make things fall into place.

I wanted to mention all that is going on this month to let you know, as members of this post, you can be proud of what the Matthew Blount American Legion Post 555 is doing in the community and state. We are fortunate to have members who realize as veterans, there is still a lot of work to be done and are proud to carry on the legacy of The American Legion.

I would like to let everyone know that our First Vice Commander, Richard Kaster, has arranged to have retired congressman Spencer Bachus to be our featured speaker at our Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> post meeting. I know you all will want to be there to hear Mr. Bachus. Come early at 6:15 pm and enjoy a meal and fellowship. Regular meeting starts at 7 p.m. See you all there.

## Spencer Bachus to speak at August meeting

Former Congressman Spencer Bachus will speak at the Aug. 2 meeting of American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555. The meeting begins at 7 p.m.,

Bachus served in Congress from 1993 until his retirement in 2015. He was ranking member and chairman of the House Financial Services Committee.

Born and raised in Birmingham, Bachus graduated from Auburn University and the University of Alabama Law School.

He served in the Alabama National Guard from 1969 to

1971.

In 1982, Bachus was elected to the Alabama Senate. In 1983, he was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives. In 1986,



he was elected to the Alabama State Board of Education. He became chairman of the Alabama Republican Party in 1991.

Prior to his political career, Bachus owned a sawmill and practiced law until 1992.

Bachus and his wife, Linda, have been recognized by multiple organizations for their support and contributions to medical research. They were awarded the National Distinguished Advocacy Award for Excellence in Cancer-Fighting Public Policy by The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

# 1ST VICE'S COMMENTS



**Richard Kaster**

*1st Vice Commander*

We had several Post members that were able to attend the Department of Alabama American Legion Annual Convention June 15th - 16th in Montgomery, Al. We were able to meet the top two elected officials of the Boys State session this past May. They are Gov. Mason Laney and Lt. Gov. Arman Sheffield who were elected at the end of the session on June 1st. They will go on to participate at Boys Nation this summer in Washington D.C. Also, we participated in electing new Department Leadership, the new Department Commander is Harry Christian, Adjutant Greg Akers, Vice Commander Ron Bradstreet.

We had a well-attended and successful participation by our post members with the American Legion Baseball State Tournament held in three locations, Pelham High School field, Spain Park field and Calera field. Special thanks to Bobby Horsley scheduling ticket takers from our Post 555 and Jon Freeman, American Legion Baseball Representative to Post 555.

Post 555 Membership now, there are 203 members listed on the Active/Expired Roster in the National Database However, we have only 187 members that are current on paid dues 2018 and 2019. Eventually, these will fall off the Roster if not renewed for 2019.

We had two new members this month they are James E. Dunway and Shawn Scott. Also, one new transfer-in member - Edward Andy Healy.

This is the time of year for renewals, please renew your membership as early as possible. The renewal fee is only \$45. If you want to pay when you come to the General Membership Meeting on Aug. 2nd, look for me at the head table before or after the meeting or you can pay online. There will be more about 2019 Dues Renewal Updates from Ron Koonce.

Also, at our next General Membership Meeting Aug. 2nd our featured guest speaker will be Retired Congressman Spencer Bachus. He is still active working in his law partnership in Birmingham. He will share some of his experiences after 22 years in Congress.

We need to support our High School Oratorical Scholarship program. We would like for you to buy carwash coupons from Blue Rain for only \$5. We will have the coupons for sale at the General Membership Meeting at the front door as you enter the room at Pelham City Senior Center.



## 2ND VICE'S CORNER



**Anita Bennett**

*2nd Vice Commander*

Hello comrades, I am very honored to announce that our guest speaker for the Aug. 2nd Post 555 meeting will be retired Congressman Spencer Bachus. Please make plans to join us for what, I am sure, will be a very informative meeting.

As most of you know, I chair the V.A. Caravan every December to the Birmingham V.A. Medical Center. I would like to report that due to a generous donation to Post 555, we have already received the 150 pairs of socks and 150 gift bags needed for the Caravan! This donation was made by Sherri Fuchs who some of you may know. Up until recently, Sherri served as a captain and led the cadet program for the Bessemer Composite Squadron-Civil Air Patrol. A huge "Thank You" for supporting this wonderful annual event!



*Sherri Fuchs presents a donation of socks and gift bags to Frank Lakotich.*

## 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.

Send email to:  
[Editor@alpost555.com](mailto:Editor@alpost555.com)



## ADJUTANT'S AREA



**Ron Koonce**

*Post Adjutant*

The 2018-2019 fiscal year is off to a good start at the completion of the first month.

Changes were approved at the state convention to the method of calculating renewal targets. Our new target is 187 renewals to achieve 100 percent. However, this does not change our efforts in meeting our goals. At the time of this writing, the renewal campaign has met 75 percent of its September goal in the first month of the campaign. Let's keep the momentum that has developed during July. Those that have not done so, it is still time to be an

early bird and renew your 2019 membership now either by mail to

the Post or online at [www.Legion.org](http://www.Legion.org). Thank you in advance for helping the Post reach its 100 percent goal for the fifth year in a row.

The Flag Detail and the Fire on the Water Event committee chaired by Bill Blank did an outstanding job in conducting the Opening Ceremonies and representing Matthew Blount Post 555 at this community event. Many thanks to all those that participated and attended the event.

Congratulation to the Flag Team in conducting the largest attended flag replacement ceremony and flag education session for over 100 YMCA Campers at the Pelham Branch of the YMCA on July 5. Selected campers were able to participate in the ceremony.

The Triple Nickel Rider's Charity Breakfast and Ride benefiting a veterans support organization, The Lone Warrior Foundation, was a big success on July 21. Thank you to those that supported this worthwhile event.



Next big Event is the 3rd year the Post will participate in the annual Hangar Fest III on Aug. 25 at the Bessemer Airport. The Riders will be facilitating the event parking. The Post will have the Post Tent and Welcome Center in the vendor area. Post workers and their spouses will be admitted free. Contact Jeff Monday or Will Hayes to sign up to help man the Post Welcome Center.

Our Aug. 2 meeting will include the Post Everlasting Ceremony in honor of our fallen comrade, Rodney Hightower Sr. Guests are welcome.

Hope to see you on Aug. 2 and bring a veteran with you.



**OAK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK  
JULY 1**



# TRIPLE NICKEL RIDERS



## Jeff Monday

*Director, Triple Nickel Riders*

Once again it has been a very busy month for the Triple Nickel Riders. We have laughed, cried and even shed a little blood this month. Its very hard to put everything that goes on with the Riders in one monthly article. I strongly recommend you keep up with us on Facebook @ Triple Nickel Riders, as well on the post webpage.

This month started with the monthly meeting the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Heart of Dixie Harley Davidson Hog Room. During the meeting, we said good luck and we will see you soon to Joshua Vandiver. Josh is training for an upcoming deployment and we will keep him on our minds and in our prayers daily. Lead From The Front, Josh, and we will see you soon.

The next big event was on 14 July. The Rider has become a Annual event for TNR. We take part in the Chattanooga "NoogaStrong" ride so we never forget the fallen five recruiters gunned down four years ago. Alan Farmer, Will Hayes and Jeff Monday made the trip to Chattanooga to support this great memorial ride. It was great to meet up with the Semper fi riders out of Huntsville. These great Marine Corps vets really know how to take care of their own. Thanks, Wiley.

The riders ended the month with the Annual Lone Warriors Benefit Breakfast and Ride. We always love to support local grass roots organization that 100 percent takes care of Veterans. Thank you, Eric Fort, once again for letting us team up to have a great day of riding and raising money. I am very proud to say this year we raised \$1,000 — 100 percent will go to Lone Warriors. To see more about Lone Warriors, go to [www.lonewarriors.org](http://www.lonewarriors.org). Hope to see everyone at the post meeting as we present the check to Lone Warriors. A big "thank you" to Boy Scout Troop 404 for their support of the pancake breakfast. We will recognize them at the post meeting this month. Hope to see everyone at the post meeting. And remember: LEAD FROM THE FRONT AND NEVER FORGET PAST AND PRESENT VETERANS.

*"No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks."-- James Allen*





Flag Replacement  
Ceremony

Pelham YMCA

July 5



## CHAPLAIN'S THOUGHTS



**Chris Vonderau**

*Post Chaplain*

Hope the summer has been a good one for you. My 10th grade Sunday School class has been working through the world religions the past few months and several things have become clear to me —

- 1 - There are a lot of religions out there.
- 2 - If they believe God exists, they all claim to know the way to God and you have to earn it.

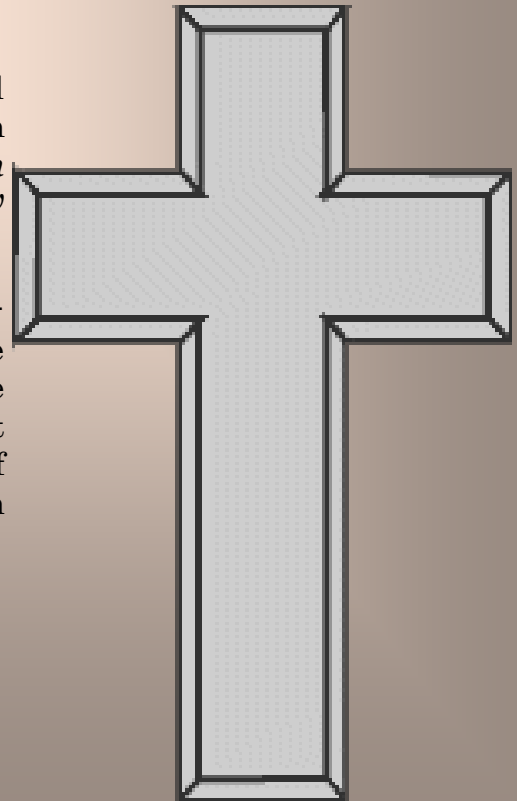
I've been teaching the boys to look at any religion in light of what you know to be the truth, which I'm convinced is exclusive by its very nature. The Bible teaches very clearly a few things -

- 1 - We are sinners - *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23)
- 2 - We deserve death - *"For the wages of sin is death"* (Romans 6:23)
- 3 - Christ died for our sins and rose again - *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* (Romans 5:8)
- 4 - We can put our trust in Christ - *"For by grace you have been saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not a result of works, that no one should boast."* (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- 5 - If you put your faith alone in Christ alone, you will come into a loving & eternal relationship with Christ. *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life."* (1 John 5:13)

I watch what is happening all over the world and believe we are about to see the curtain fall on this life as we know it. Turn your eyes to the cross, my comrades. We are one day closer to home. If you have questions or just need to talk to someone, call me — 205 966-1364. Or if you want to talk about Jesus but just want to remain anonymous, call 1 800 Need Him (800 633-3446).

Your Chaplain,

*Chris Vonderau*



# Flag Replacement Ceremony

Selective  
Management  
Services

June 28



# JUDGE ADVOCATE'S CORNER



**Chuck Kiser**

*Judge Advocate*

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 will once again accept donations for wreaths and consolidate all donations received and forward them to the Blue Star Salute in November. We are prepared to accept these donations currently and have, in fact, already received our first donation. Donation forms will be available at each Post meeting beginning with the August meeting.

If you, a family member or friend wishes to donate for wreaths, please complete a donation form and give it to Chuck Kiser or Bonnie Woodie at a Post meeting 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.

**WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN POST ACTIVITIES!**

Step up and let us know of your interests and we will get you in touch with the proper people

**PLEASE, GET OUT AND  
SUPPORT YOUR POST IN  
2018!**





**LONE WARRIOR CHARITY  
Pancake Breakfast and  
RIDE  
APPLEBEE'S, PELHAM  
JULY 21**



**Place Orders by  
August 21, 2018**

*Just In Time For Labor Day!*

# BBQ PORK BUTT SALE

**\$35**  
each



*"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 #

Quantity?

Deadline for orders is  
Tues., August 21st, 2018



**Pick Up and Pay On**

**August 25th, 2018**

**At 10:00**

**at American Legion Post 555**

Pelham Senior Center  
off Racquet Club Parkway in Pelham, AL



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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

# HANGAR FEST

**THE HANGAR BAR & GRILL**

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**AUGUST 25, 2018**



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N  
CRYIN**

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JESSICA MEUSE TREY LEWIS MEGAN KANE  
RYAN FLYNT CHRIS EWING AJ BEAVERS**



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