



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

NOVEMBER 2018

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Shelby Ridge gets replacement flag

Post 555's Flag Team presented a flag history and etiquette seminar to residents at Shelby Ridge Rehab Select on Oct. 4.

The team also raised a new U.S. flag at the rehabilitation center. All residents in

attendance and veterans received a flag lapel pin.

Post members participating in the event included: team captain Bobby Horsley, Frank Lakotich, Bill Blank, Charles Geter, Nancy Waller, Ron McGriff and Ron Koonce.



***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.***

RSVP today to tmcdaniel40@att.net

Please don't wait — RSVP today!

1ST VICE'S COMMENTS



Richard Kaster

1st Vice Commander

- Two Post members attended the Pelham High School on Oct, 10th to reach out to 120 students in all four AP History classes to brief the prospective contestants about the Oratorical Scholarship Program. I briefed all four classes with Kenneth Paschal assisting.
- We had a productive session meeting with students interested in earning scholarship money for Oratorical Program in 2019.
- 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 money 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.

A 50th-anniversary Legion keepsake

As the true 100th birthday of The American Legion draws closer, Emblem Sales has available for purchase a souvenir from a previous landmark anniversary: a limited quantity of original first-day issues of the American Legion 50th Anniversary stamp by the U.S. Postal Service. The 6-cent stamp is postmarked from – and was first placed on sale at – Washington, D.C., on March 15, 1969, the Legion's 50th anniversary.

According to the *Postal Bulletin* from Feb. 20, 1969, artist Robert Hallock of New-

ton, Conn., adapted a portion of the bald eagle on the Great Seal of the United States for the design. The eagle clutches an olive branch, the heraldic symbol of peace. The stamp was lithographed and engraved using a Giori press. Inside the envelope that contains the stamp is a postcard describing The American Legion in 1969.

The collection was made available to Emblem Sales by the library at American



Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis. The stamps are \$2 each. You can purchase them at <https://emblem.legion.org/First-Day-Cover-50th-Anniversary-Stamp-1969/productinfo/735.950>.

2ND VICE'S CORNER



Nancy Waller
2nd Vice Commander

With the arrival of the Fall Season, the leaves are everywhere and we are pulling out the coats and hats for the chillier weather. Also, the college football season is well underway and it appears that the University of Alabama is on its way to another championship—Roll Tide Roll!!! Auburn is struggling a little this year, but let's keep cheering them on—War Eagle!!!

Our next big event for Post 555 is the **Thanksgiving Dinner/Post Meeting** on Thursday, Nov. 1 at the Pelham Civic Complex. Since an RSVP was required by Oct. 21, hopefully everyone who wanted to attend let us know so that you and your immediate family members will be joining us. We will be seating 140 Legionnaires, immediate family members, and VIPs who will have a great time while enjoying the Thanksgiving meal, a special program celebrating the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War (World War I) orchestrated by my son, Nathan Waller, then everyone will have a piece of birthday cake celebrating the 100th birthday of the American Legion. Should be a great evening, and hope you are on the list.

If anyone is interested in **placing flags for Veterans' Day next to headstones at the Alabama National Cemetery** on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 9 a.m., Post 555 has chosen Section 8 which is where Matthew Blount is resting in peace. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help with the flags, please let me know either at the Nov. 1 dinner/meeting or call me at (251)-554-6986 and I will make sure you are on the list. There are over 1,000 graves in Section 8 so the more Volunteers we have, the easier it will be on everyone.

Another opportunity to enjoy yet another Thanksgiving meal is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 15. This event is entitled **"Saluting Those Who Served" Thanksgiving Dinner** at Hope Christian School located at 419 Philipppians 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 November 8, 2018 so they can plan an appropriate amount of food for everyone. As of now, there will be seven Post 555 Legionnaires and one guest attending, so please join us in representing Post 555. If you would like me to send an RSVP on your behalf, let me know during the November meeting and I will be happy to send an e-mail on your behalf.

If anyone would like to suggest a guest speaker for our General Membership meetings, please send his/her name, contact information, and topic so I can follow-up. We are always looking for different, informative, and interesting individuals from throughout the community to address our members, and we would even entertain someone who is already a member who might want to be a guest speaker on something in which they are involved or passionate about. My e-mail is wallernj@gmail.com.

Don't forget to give me your Volunteer hours for the month of October!! Hope to see you at the Thanksgiving dinner and thank you all for your service to our great country.

ADJUTANT'S AREA



Ron Koonce

Post Adjutant

The 2019 Department Mid-Winter Conference will be Thursday, Jan. 24 – Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019, at the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa, 1 Grand Blvd, Point Clear, AL 36564.

The Sons of American Legion Detachment meetings will be on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019, starting at 9 a.m.

There is a 15 percent-per-day resort fee added to the cost of the room.

- Deluxe Resort View Room \$129
- King Bayside Executive Suite Room \$129
- Spa Building Resort View Room \$149
- Deluxe Bayside Room \$169
- Spa Building Bayside Room \$179.00.

Please call 1-800-544-9933. The cutoff date is Dec. 28.

A detailed agenda will be available in the near future.

Only a few 2019 renewals were received during the month of October. We are at only 68 percent of our 100-percent December target. If you are among those that have not renewed, don't let your membership expire on Dec. 31.

Join me in welcoming Gaytan Glover, recent transfer from Post 911, to the Post 555 Family.

For God & Country

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.

Send email to:
Editor@alpost555.com



**This year, as you gather around your table with family
and friends, celebrating the blessings we have as
Americans, please take a moment to remember:**

**Those who are standing in harm's way in lands far
away from home**

**Those who dream of coming home but remain missing
or captive**

Those who never made it home

**Our comrades in Post Everlasting now celebrating
around the heavenly table.**

JUDGE ADVOCATE'S CORNER



Chuck Kiser

Judge Advocate

As previously announced, the Post campaign for donations to Wreaths Across America will end with the November Post meeting. **Our consolidated contribution will be made following the November Post meeting.**

Wreath donations 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 2018 campaign to date has raised a total of \$895 through Oct. 15th. 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 33 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 the Post meeting on **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.**

November marks the beginning of the holiday season for many folks. Don't forget our Veterans during this time. From flag placements at the ALNC on Nov. 7th, to Veterans Day activities around the area during the following week to Wreaths Across America on Dec. 15th.

Also, begin to think about how you can be involved in Post activities during 2019. I will be looking for non-Officer Post members to serve on the Nominating Committee in January and February. If you have an interest in being considered for nomination for an Officer position in 2019 or are interested in serving on a committee in 2019, please contact me.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends!





How many have died for your right to wear this sticker?

In 1920, during The American Legion National Convention in Cleveland, the organization went on record urging all American Legion men to become qualified voters. Since then, the organization has passed countless similar resolutions advocating Legionnaires to not only exercise their constitutional responsibility to vote, but to also encourage others to do the same.

Elections are important to our republic. As citizens of this great nation, it is our duty and responsibility to exercise this right of franchise by casting our ballots on Election Day and to encourage others to do so as well. It was on this premise that The American Legion's "Get Out the Vote" program was initiated shortly after the organization's inception. Today it is as important as it was in elections past.

The Legion's "Get Out the Vote" program encourages all Americans to register and vote in all elections. In addition, Legionnaires, posts, districts and departments are encouraged to fully involve themselves in the electoral process by serving as poll volunteers, poll workers and by encouraging and assisting others to register and vote.

All Legionnaires are encouraged to renew their commitment for continued service to this country by being politically active as individuals. By working together as an organization we can make a difference by promoting an informed populace, participation in our government, and involvement in its electoral process. We cannot forget that in this country, our government is "of the people, by the people and for the people." It cannot survive as a democratic republic unless the people participate. That is our task.



Triple Nickel participates in National Night Out

From Shelby County Reporter

Post 555 participated in the Pelham Police Department's second National Night Out Oct. 2.

The event was held in the Publix parking lot from 6-8 p.m. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

In addition to the PPD and Pelham Fire Department, the Alabama State Troopers, Shelby County Sheriff's Office and other city, state and federal agencies were at the event. Children were allowed to sit in law enforcement vehicles, turn on the sirens and lights and talk on the car speakers.

The event included free food and drinks and inflatables for kids to play in.

Pelham Police Chief Larry Palmer said the event is intended to help bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community.

"We are seeing positive changes in the community and that's a great feeling," Palmer said.



POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

**Tuesday
October 2nd**





ARMY | MARINES | NAVY | AIR FORCE | COAST GUARD

★ ★ ★ ★ **VETERANS** ★ ★ ★ ★

DAY



Texas Roadhouse
60 Drivers Way, Pelham, AL 35124

SALUTE TO THE TROOPS!



Help us say
"Thank You!"



Purchase a
Texas Roadhouse®
GIFT CARD
for the troops who
serve our country.

When our troops can't be home for the Holidays,
a Texas Roadhouse® Gift Card and your personal greeting is
a warm way to show how much we appreciate them. Stop by
Texas Roadhouse® for details on how to send them a heartfelt
"Thank You" for their service.



Texas Roadhouse will be accepting donations starting
October 1st through November 11th to go towards the
American Legion, Matthew Blount Post 555. These
donations will be turned into gift cards for the
American Legion to give out to military and veterans.
Donate money today and provide a meal for our
Military and Veterans



NATIONAL CEMETERY HAPPENINGS

Bonnie Woodie

Alabama National Cemetery

The Alabama National Cemetery is well postured for mission success going into Fall and Winter. Fiscal year 2018 closed out with the purchase of several pieces of much needed equipment. The cemetery added a new handicap accessible golf cart and a standard golf cart to the fleet which is so important for transporting mobility challenged. Also received funding for three new utility vehicles, a stump grinder and new casket lowering devices.

The facilities are also in great shape. The recent expansion project added 5,000 pre-placed crypt sites for caskets and 1,500 new in-ground cremation sites. Recent upgrades include new tile in administration office, irrigation system got a new sustainment pump and shelter two was re-stained. Staffing is now at 100 percent with the hiring of a new Caretaker, Mr. Gray Foster. Additionally, Mr. Herman Watkins was promoted to Administrative Officer.

In the last fiscal year, Alabama National Cemetery took care of 984 Veterans and eligible family members. That number is up from 905 last year and 750 from two years ago. In the last quarter, Alabama National Cemetery burials included Veterans who had served



one tour, Veterans who were retired from all branches, a pioneering female WWII sailor, and an indigent Veteran. Each burial received dignity, honor and respect. A large part of that comes from the support this community gives our Veterans. Support Committee ALNC, Patriot Guard Riders, American Legion Riders and great Veteran Service organizations like American Legion Post 555 all contribute to the success of Alabama National Cemetery.

Some of the exciting opportunities coming up for our membership include:

- 7 Nov 2018 – 10:00 AM** Gravesite flags will be placed at each site in the National Cemetery for Veteran's Day. AL Post 555 has adopted one of the burial sections to place the flags. Also, volunteers can help the Support Committee set up the Avenue of Flags.
- 13 Nov 2018 – 10:00 AM** Need volunteers to remove gravesite flags and Avenue of Flags.
- 15 Dec 2018 – 11:00 AM** Wreaths Across America Ceremony open to public.
- 17 Dec 2018 – 9:00 AM** Volunteers needed to take down Avenue of Flags.
- 12 Jan 2019 – 10:00 AM** Volunteers needed to take up wreaths

Thank You!

CHAPLAIN'S THOUGHTS



Chris Vonderau

Post Chaplain

Exodus 3 tells us about the encounter Moses had with God. Verses 13 - 14 say - 13Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" 14God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

God is! God is not only God of the past. God is not only God of tomorrow. He is the God of the right now, right here. He is I AM!!

Because God is God of your past, you can seek God's forgiveness. It sounds something like this, "LORD, I know that I've done some things that are definitely wrong. I need your forgiveness for these things."

Because God is God of your present, you can seek His help right now to overcome sin you struggle with. It sounds something like this, "LORD, I know that the sin in my life does not honor you. I need you to help me overcome these areas I struggle with."

Because God is God of your future, you can trust Him to take care of things you worry about. It sounds something like this, "LORD, I know that you have a plan for my life. Help me to trust You and lay these worries at Your throne."

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

PS - Please keep the leadership of your Post 555 in your prayers. They have a difficult job and want to honor God and Country,

Your Chaplain,

Chris Vonderau

Construction of National Army Museum moving along

The National Museum of the United States Army is quickly taking shape on 84 acres of land at Fort Belvoir, Va., less than 30 minutes south of Washington, D.C. The museum will honor and celebrate the service and sacrifice of the more than 30 million men and women who have worn the Army uniform since 1775. It is scheduled to

open in 2020.

The American Legion has supported the building of the National Museum of the United States Army since 2005, through the adoption of Resolution No. 17.

Construction of the \$200-million privately and publicly funded museum broke ground about two years ago, with the main building con-

sisting of 185,000 square feet that will display Army artifacts, documents, images and artwork. According to a recent press release, the majority of these items have never been seen by the public.

For more information about the museum, and to purchase a personalized commemorative brick, visit <https://armyhistory.org/>.



ARMY | MARINES | NAVY | AIR FORCE | COAST GUARD

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ MILITARY ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

APPRECIATION

NIGHT



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



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: _____