



**American Legion Tyler Cates Post #281**

*June/July/Aug 2023 Newsletter*

**(Mailing) PO Box 67, Mt. Juliet, TN 37121**

**(Meetings) Senior Activity Center, 2034 N Mt. Juliet Road, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122**

<https://www.mtjulietalpost281.com/>

Commander, Terry S. Ward, 615-519-6523

Adjutant, Shawn Taylor, 615-642-1973

Post meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month from 6-8 pm.

- Parking and Entrance is in the rear of the building, located next door to the Church of Christ.
- Each month we have a social time starting at 6:00 pm with Pizza and sodas followed by the regular meeting starting at 7:00 pm.

**- Come join us for our July 11<sup>th</sup> , our next meeting !**

***UPCOMING POST CALENDAR OF EVENTS:***

11 July, Regular Post meeting, MJSAC @ 6:00 pm. **Come hear the State winner of the Legion’s Oratorical Contest, MJCA’s Abigail Whicker, give her presentation.** See article in this newsletter.

8 Aug, Regular Post meeting, MJSAC @ 6:00 pm.

7 Sep, Executive Committee Meeting MJSAC @ 5:30

12 Sep, Regular Post meeting, MJSAC @ 6:00 pm, with guest MT J JROTC D&C performance.

15 Sep, National MIA/POW recognition day

16 Sep, Annual Post Picnic, Charlie Daniels Park, Pavilion 4 @ 12:00 Noon, All veterans are invited.

**FROM THE COMMANDER:**

Fellow Legionnaires

Hello to all of the members and friends of American Legion Post 281. It is with great honor that I greet you as the newly installed Commander of the Tyler Cates American Legion Post 281 of Mt. Juliet. For those of you who attended the meeting and voted for me, thank you for your vote of confidence.

Our new post officers are from left to right:



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Commander                              | Terry Ward (6 <sup>th</sup> term, new position) |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander         | John Herko (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)               |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander         | Mike Faoro (2 <sup>nd</sup> term, new position) |
| Adjutant                               | Shawn Taylor (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)             |
| Finance Officer                        | Stephen Iles (5 <sup>th</sup> term)             |
| Service Officer                        | Pattie Whitmore (new )                          |
| Sgt at Arms                            | Elliot Tadych ( 2 <sup>nd</sup> term)           |
| Chaplain                               | David Hale (2 <sup>nd</sup> term )              |
| Seated, outgoing 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice, | Bobby Hibbett.                                  |
| Not included in the photo:             |   |
| Public Affairs                         | Fred Higdon (5 <sup>th</sup> term)              |
| Historian                              | Katie Sarazine (new)                            |

As I begin my time as Commander, I am reminded of the phrase “Veterans Strengthening America” that I’ve read and heard other leaders use. It’s a phrase that strikes my inner being and motivates me to look at the bigger picture of why we gather together, and how fortunate I am to associate with the best citizens our country has. We are the “ 6.5 percenters” of our Nation’s population that are/were willing to sacrifice for a cause bigger than ourselves or own self-interest. We all have served, and continue to serve, our fellow Veterans, our Nation, our Military, and communities we live in and especially our youth and children. I challenge you all to take an active role in the programs and events we are a part of as a post! Post 281 has a reputation for being active and volunteering to make a difference. Come and join in and make it happen with us.

Continuing to Serve,  
Terry Ward, Commander Post 281

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Honoring America’s Flag Event with the Mt. Juliet Exchange Club.**



Mrs. Nancy Britt addressed the Post at our June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and thanked us for our continued support this year. Out of 11 years doing this, this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time there has been no rain during the event. This is the biggest event our post participates in as a collect group and typically we gain three or four new members from fellow veterans that come to the event without realizing that Mt. Juliet has a Legion post. Typically, many join just by sharing our information and offering an invitation. Nancy shared how this was not the best year for flag sales and for business supporters, as compared to other years. Hopefully we can prevent a similar occurrence in the future. She reported the display of 330 flags on the field. Of that amount 230

flags were sold! As a result, she has 100 flags for next year. Total sales were \$11,605, which must cover \$700 in expenses. Again, this year, the event received a huge donation in the form of supplies from Burdine Supply of Mt. Juliet equivalent to \$1,479, which is a wonderful gift to the effort. If you know the owner, Vincent Lenny, thank him and most certainly give him your support if you need plumbing supplies. A big thanks goes out to our post members that supported the setup, manning the information table and supporting the walk-in traffic that wanted to purchase a flag or locating a flag purchased for a loved one, and of course the take down and storage for next year. We fully plan to support this motivating event into the future. Come and take part in the action with us!



**Membership/ Dues**

Membership remains as our strength and ability to meet our mutual obligations to the four pillars of service. As we finish out the 2022-2023 Legion Year on 11 Jun, we currently have 224 “current” members. We still need 9 to pay their dues for the current year to reach the goal the State (Dept) folks have set for us of

233 paid up members. We look forward to more members joining our gatherings in the future. We ask that membership dues be paid during our monthly meetings in person by cash or check. You may also pay by mailing dues payments to our PO Box 67 address above. Dues are currently \$45 for the 2023 membership year. The new renewal year for 2024 begins on 1 July 2023. I know, it seems kind of crazy when we are only halfway through the year, but that is what National has in place. Please validate your contact data online at [mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Home](http://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Home). The user email address for the member must match the email address in the Legion database for your account, not a new one. If you have questions about the email address on your account, please call your Commander or Adjutant at the phone numbers above.

It seems that along with everything else in our lives costing more, membership in the Legion is about to increase too. Currently, our dues for Post 281 are \$45. Of that amount, \$31 dollars is divided up between Department (State) and National Headquarters. The remaining \$14 comes to Post 281 for our use in our day-to-day operation and promoting our post.

The TN Department has expressed to us in three different ways that we can expect dues to increase with the 2024-2025 year to \$38. Your Executive Committee will discuss this news at our next meeting, but for now, we can forecast that we expect an increase to happen in the Legion's 2025 physical year, and we will react accordingly.

**Welcome new Members (January 2022- present)**

Fred Heiman	Roy Parson
Mathis Agnew	Bryan Kane
Ronnie Key	Erik Johnson
Scott Moore	Johnnie Lassiter
Scott Cryer	

**Members with health concerns Members and those who are now in the Post Everlasting.**

Member Chaz Spampinato works with our Post Chaplin David Hale to check in on our members that are having health concerns and on-going visits to a hospital. Please let us know about your health concerns by calling Chaz at 615-336-3847 or through his email: [chazsheila@gmail.com](mailto:chazsheila@gmail.com) Please continue with your thoughts and prayers for our members and their families who may be ill. This includes but is not limited

to: Ray Forester, Bill Houston, Phil Friedli, and Gloria Wix. If I have missed someone, please let me know.

We've received notice of 2 members who have gone on the Post Everlasting.

Edward McHale showed as deceased on 6-9-23 but Chaplain Hale found he actually died on Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. He was paid up through 2022 and was a Korean War Veteran.

Mike Vanbavel showed as deceased on 6-11-23 but Chaplain Hale found he actually died on Apr 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. He was paid up through 2022 and a Gulf War Veteran.

**Honor Guard**

Post 281's Honor Guard has the distinction of being one of the few Honor Guards in our Region. Our honor guard is typically called multiple times a month to provide honors at funerals all across our region. If an Honor Guard is needed to "Present the Colors", they call our post first. The picture below was taken at the Veteran's memorial service given at the Veteran's Center in Lebanon on Memorial Day. The team was there to offer a rifle volley.



*Pictured above, R to L: Cary Cundall, Brenda Thompson, Mike Faoro, Brady Thompson, Jeff Mattingly, Pat Costanzo, Shawn Taylor, Jimmy Cheramie.*

Our team is often called upon to be an Honor Guard for fellow veterans that have passed on to the "Post Everlasting", as is the Legion-approved manner of recognizing the death of a member. **OUR HONOR GUARD NEEDS ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.** The post provides the uniforms and reimburses the travel expenses to and from any organized call on the part of the Honor Guard. If you are interested in finding out

more, talk with any of the members of the team or contact the HG Captain, Steve Wren at 615-957-3489.

The total military honors rendered from our 2010 inception of Post 281 and the Honor Guard Team now stands at 434.

**Squadron (Post) 281 Sons of the American Legion (SAL)**

At the State conference, our Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 281, of Mt Juliet achieving 100% membership for 2022-2023.

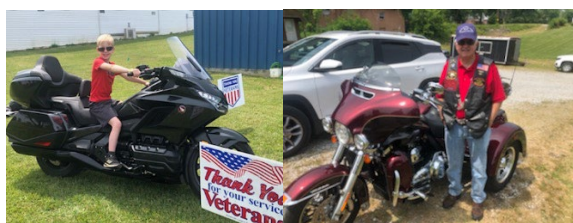


*Pictured above are State Detachment Commander (and our very own former Commander too, Pat Unger, on the left) receiving a 100% of our membership goal award certificate from the Detachment Membership Chair for the State, Jason Reed.*

At our last post meeting, SAL Adjutant Lew Hightower, recognized Rick Wheeler as a new SAL member. That brings the SAL to 24 paid-up members.

**American Legion Riders Post 281**

The Riders visited The American Legion Post in Spencer TN this past Saturday. This was a Breakfast Ride for us and it was WELL worth the trip. This Post has an all-you-can-eat breakfast feast every 2nd Saturday. They had bacon, sausage, biscuits & gravy, eggs, home fries, fruit cups, homemade waffles, homemade blueberry waffles using fresh blueberries, Greek Yogurt with fruit, and all the coffee you can drink. Remember, it was All-You-Can-Eat and it was only \$8.00. The hospitality and fellowship was amazing. Mark your calendars for the 2nd Saturday and pay them a visit. You will NOT be disappointed!



**Department Oratorical Contest**

Mt. Juliet's Christian Academy's Abigail Whicker was recently awarded an American Eagle Award from the Tennessee Department of the American Legion's Commander, Lanny Culver, at their annual summer conference. Ms. Whicker won the award as a result of her speech presentation regarding the American Constitution and what it means to her, given at the American Legion's National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis, Indiana this past April. Along with the Eagle Award, Abigail earned a total of \$7,000 in college scholarships as she follows her plans to continue her education after graduation. Abigail begins her junior this year at MJCA and is planning to participate in the State's American Legion Oratorical Contest again in the spring of 2024.



*Pictured are, left to right, American Legion Department Commander Lanny Culver, Abigail Whicker, Robin and John Whicker, American Legion National Vice Commander Patricia Harris, and the Oratorical Chairman for the State of Tennessee, your Commander.*

Abigail will be our featured guest at our July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting where she will give her Oratorical speech! Plan on attending.

## Honoring Those Who Served

### Quilts of Valor

By Katie Sarazine

Jerry and Patty Chatfield are the latest veterans to receive a Quilt of Valor at American Legion Post 281. The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans who have been touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.



### Jerry Chatfield

served in the U.S. Army from June 1970 to February 1972 and was stationed in Da Nang, Vietnam at the 95th Evacuation Hospital. He quickly advanced to Sergeant/Specialist Fifth Class during his time in. Jerry began his active-duty assignment in June 1970 with basic and advanced training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Prior to his deployment to Vietnam, Jerry attended Medical Corpsman Training and Operating Room Specialist Training at Fort Sam in Houston, Texas.

Jerry was honorably discharged at the completion of his Vietnam tour. Jerry's awards include; the U.S. Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

### Patty Chatfield

participated in the U.S. Army Nurse Program from September 1968 to May 1970. She later entered Active Duty into the U.S. Army and served from September 1970 to December 1974.

During that time, she attended basic training at Fort Sam in Houston, Texas. She then went to serve as a Staff Nurse at the Presidio in San Francisco, CA and held

the position of Intensive Care Unit/Recovery Room Nurse at the 95th Evacuation Hospital in Da Nang, Vietnam.

After Vietnam, Patty was the Head Nurse, Pediatrics, at Fort Carson, Colorado; attended the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Course at Fitzsimons Medical Center, Denver, Colorado; and a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Following her Active Army service, Patty served in the U.S. Army Active Reserve from January 1975 to May 1992 in multiple reserve units.

Throughout her career she completed several training courses, including Officer Basic and Advanced (Medical Department); Combat Casualty Course; \*Instructor Training Course (Army Reserve Component); and the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Course; and the Army Command and General Staff Officer Course.

Patty's awards include U.S. Army Commendation Medal (two awards), the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Army Reserve Achievement Medal (three awards) and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

We thank you both for your service to our country and we hope that you may find some comfort when you are surrounded by your quilt. "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices." — Harry Truman



**Thank you for your Service Jerry and Patty**

## UPCOMING EVENTS POST EVENTS

**Mt Juliet High School JROTC Drill and Ceremony team** will be conducting a dress rehearsal and review for our post at our September 12th Meeting. Their parents and loved ones will be with them. Plan on bringing lawn chairs and come out to see the event. It will be open to all of the public and then the team will join us for our social time of pizza and soft drinks before our regular meeting.

**Our Annual Post Picnic, Charlie Daniels Park, 16 Sep, Starting at NOON, Pavilion 4, Burgers, Dogs and all the fixins. Open to ALL VETERANS from Mt. Juliet and Wilson County and the surrounding area, including their families too. Food, Games, Entertainment, and best of all, a chance to enjoy each other's company and make new friends.**

