



**American Legion Tyler Cates Post #281**  
**August-September 2022 Newsletter**  
**(Mailing) PO Box 67, Mt. Juliet, TN 37121**

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

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



Commander, Maxie C. (Max) Wix, 615-626-4087, [maxwixpost281mj@gmail.com](mailto:maxwixpost281mj@gmail.com)  
First Vice Commander, John Herko, 830-431-1296, [johnherkopost281mj@gmail.com](mailto:johnherkopost281mj@gmail.com)  
Adjutant, Shawn Taylor, 615-549-8351, [shawntaylorpost281mj@gmail.com](mailto:shawntaylorpost281mj@gmail.com)

- Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month 6-8 pm.
- Parking and Entrance is in the rear of the building, located next door to the Church of Christ.
- Each month our Sergeant-at-Arms provides Pizzas and sodas before the regular meeting starts.
- Commander Wix and his wife Gloria, a post member, provide cookies each month.

**UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

- 6 Sep, Executive Committee Meeting @ MJSAC, 5:30 pm
- 13 Sep Regularly Post meeting, MJSAC 6-8pm
- 17 Sep - Post Picnic, Charlie Daniels Park Pavilion #3, 11am - 2pm, Bring a fellow veteran and their spouse.
- Oct-Nov Semi-annual Buddy Checks

**FROM THE COMMANDER:**

Fellow Legionnaires, family, and friends,

We hope that this newsletter continues to find you and your family members healthy and doing well.

We continue to support our community through The American Legion's founding principles of four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

We continue to be fortunate to have member Zabrina Seay, the Wilson County VSO, to address veteran's questions about claims and other related matters.

We joined her and others Veteran Organizations for booth duty at the State/WC Fair @ Veterans Building.

We held an Executive Committee meeting on 2 August. On 9 August meeting we had three Guest Speakers

Gaye Lynn Wilson, Wilson Rides. They help to preserve the quality of life and foster a connected community for older adults. Rides are free for veterans, their spouses, and household pets. Rides are to and from your residence and destination; both must be in Wilson County. <https://wilsonridesinc.org/>, 615-622-5557.

Veteran Ron Fisher, Retired USANG, spoke about helping veterans with VA Aid and Attendance and

Medicare issues qualifying them for Nursing Homes.

Past Commander Pat Unger spoke on SAL Membership.

On 13 September we will be joined by the Mount Juliet High School Marine Corps JROTC for a Drill Demonstration in the MJSAC Parking Lot. We will also be joined by our 2022 Boys State Delegates who will tell us of their experiences at Tennessee Tech.

Our new 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander John Herko jumped in with gusto. He has become familiar with our website and updated most of the links already. John will take on the Buddy Check Program and seeks helpers to reach out to our members who do not attend meetings and ascertain their health and vitality and see if anyone needs our assistance. Members who have renewed for 2023 will not be called—they know we are here for them. We will do a sweep up in the spring and send some letters to those we are not able to reach. He presented information and provides help to our members seeking to sign up for the Legion Care program which provides free of cost \$5,000 and \$1,000 for accidental death of those members who sign up for this program. Link is provided on our website.

## **HONOR GUARD**

### **Capt Steve Wren**

There are 4,000 members in AL Administrative Post 2000 that reside locally but not affiliated with a post in TN. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Bobby Hibbett was provided a roster of 117 Post 2000 members residing in our Area of Operation. He sent 57 of them, with email addresses listed, asking them to join our post. I prepared a letter and Adjutant Shawn Taylor addressed 60 envelopes to those with no email contact and those that did not respond to phone calls, when one was listed in the American Legion database.

Please continue with your thoughts and prayers for our members and their families who may be ill. This includes but not limited to: George Barnes, Al Cecere, Pat Costanzo, Ray Forester Jr., and Bill Houston. Dan Rhame previously addressed our meeting and informed us of treatment support he is receiving from Vanderbilt. Past Chaplain Rolus Smith has recovered from Heart Surgery and has been visiting in North Carolina. If I have missed someone, please let me know.

May the Great Architect of the Universe bless our nation and hold us in the Palm of His Healing Hands through this trying time for the world.

Respectfully,  
Max Wix, Commander

### **Welcome New Members**

Five new members were welcomed to our post recently: Kathern Sarazine, Chris Whitworth, Jackie Price, Bob Snuck and Barry Mortinson. We are also in contact with Eddie Stewart, a Post 2000 member.

### **2023 American Legion Membership Drive**

Please renew your membership for 2023. Each member needs to validate this data yourself on mylegion.com. If you come to our meeting, you may pay with Cash, Credit Card, VenMo, PayPal, or a personal check for \$45, or mail your check to the address above.

Membership remains as our strength and ability to meet our mutual obligations to the four pillars. We look forward to more members joining our gatherings in the future. We currently have 254 members. We have 36 to 40 members and guests at our meeting who join us for pizza, fellowship, listen and learn from guest speakers and to also learn about ongoing support planned for veterans and our youth.

There is no greater honor we may bestow upon a fellow veteran and their family than participating in ceremonies celebrating their life and service to our nation. Many posts in our state do not offer these services. Our Post 281 Honor Guard is in high demand, but due to the limitations of some active members, we are limiting these events to Wilson County. Don't want to burn out those who can and will participate. The Honor Guard seeks volunteers to assist in Funeral Details and public functions. Uniforms and training are provided to the volunteer, and transportation is provided, when needed.

On 7/4/2022 the Honor Guard provided military honors (rifle salute, taps and flag presentation) for a Korean War veteran of the U.S. Navy in Lebanon, TN.

The following members participated:

Steve Wren, Shawn Taylor, Bud Werner, Cary Cundall and Jim Simpson.

On 7/16/2022 the Honor Guard provided military honors for a 78 year old veteran of the U.S. Army at Mt Juliet Memorial Gardens.

The following members participated:

Steve Wren, Shawn Taylor, Cary Cundall, David Hale, Dan Rhame and Bud Werner.

On 7/22/2022 the Honor Guard provided military honors (folded/presented the flag and played taps) for a 96 year old veteran of the U.S. Army at the Salem Cemetery, Liberty, TN. (This was a last minute request, the evening before the service)

The following members participated:

Steve Wren and Cary Cundall.

On 8/19/2022 the Honor Guard provided military honors for a 75 year old veteran of the U.S. Army at Sellars Funeral Home, Mount Juliet.

The following members participated:

Steve Wren, Shawn Taylor, Pat Costanzo, Mike Faoro, David Hale and Dan Rhame.

On 8/20/2022 the Honor Guard provided military honors for a 81 year old veteran of the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force at Hermitage Gardens.

The following members participated:

Steve Wren, Brenda Thompson, David Hale, Mike Faoro and Shawn Taylor.

## Post 281 Sons of the American Legion (SAL)

On 8/22/2022 the Honor Guard provided military honors for a veteran of the U.S. Army at the Middle Tennessee Veterans Cemetery.

The following members participated:

Steve Wren, Pat Costanzo, David Hale, Brenda Thompson and Jimmy Cheramie.

The total military honors rendered from our 2010 inception of Post 281 and the Honor Guard Team in year 2011 now stands at 431.

### American Legion Riders (ALR) Post 281

Director Keith Rowell seeks Post 281 members who are Motorcycle, Trike or Slingshot riders to join the ALR. ALR members must be a member of Post 281, the Auxiliary, or the SAL Squadron 281. To join this unit you need a Motorcycle, Trike or Slingshot, 500ccs or greater. We recently donated \$500 to Combat Hero Bike Build. We socialize and participate in funeral honors for Veterans and support Post 281 events and meetings. The ALR Officers for 2022-2023: Director Keith Rowell, Assistant Director Bob Ramsey, Secretary Shawn Taylor, Treasurer Joe Chilando, Road Captain Phil Friedli, Chaplain Pete Blinn, Sgt at Arms Terry Ward. Our next meeting is September 10 at 8am at the Golden Corral, 315 Old Lebanon Dirt Rd, Hermitage, TN.

### **Run For the Wall 2022**

#### **Phil Friedli, RFTW Lebanon Coordinator and Past Tennessee American Legion State Rider Director**

During the recent 5<sup>th</sup> District TN Department Meeting at Old Hickory, our post received a Certificate of Appreciation for donating \$1,000 to The Annual Run-For-The-Wall (RFTW).



SAL Commander Dan Rhame, Adjutant Lew Hightower and Treasurer Joe Chilando continue their membership renewal drive. SAL membership criteria are located at <https://www.legion.org/sons>.

All male descendants adopted sons, and stepsons of members of the American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during the period of April 8, 1917, through November 11, 1918, or any time from December 7, 1941, to date, who served honorably, as set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of the American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of the American Legion.

If you are a post member, and/or your ancestor was a member of the military, you can be a member of the SAL too. Or, if your son, who has no military service, would like to be a part of our Post's SAL, let us know.

### Service Officer News

By Mike Faoro

#### **Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water.**

With all the Camp Lejeune commercials because of the toxic water during this time, please do not make the mistake of retaining legal counsel and joint the class action. They will simply take a fee of one third of your award or more. That's not all either, see below.

If you or someone you know is thinking about joining the lawsuit about Camp Lejeune water contamination, we all should wait a while before signing with a lawyer. This may not be the deal veterans are expecting. Turns out the government will recoup money paid the veterans under any VA program. All prior medical costs and apparently future medical costs must be paid out of the money one gets from the settlement – and that includes the portion the lawyer takes!

**Your VA Claim.** To attain your VA benefits, please contact the Wilson County Veterans Service Office. They can actually do the same or better and you get 100% of the reward. Their free services are certified by the VA and available to you if you and your family are eligible.

Zabrina Seay, LTC US Army (Ret) is the Director of the Wilson County Veteran's Services and the Veterans

Museum Complex. She is also a member of our Post and regularly attends, answers questions on veterans' claims, and makes appointments. She and her staff are available to help veterans and their families with their VA Claims. If you already have a VA claim they can provide you status on your claim. They have access to all government records, including your military and active duty medical records. They are certified by the VA to file claims and their service is free. So there is no out of pocket cost to you or your family. They are here to help and support veterans of Wilson County.

So what if you do not have a VA claim? You may be entitled to have a disability that you do not know about that was not noted during your discharge documents. You may be suffering today from something that happened on a base, ship or deployed location that you served; ships and shore based living quarters and working sites constructed using asbestos, etc.

#### **Wilson County Veterans Service Office**

304 East Main Street, Lebanon, TN 37087.

[wilsoncountyttn.gov/departments/veteran-services](http://wilsoncountyttn.gov/departments/veteran-services) (615) 444-2460.

#### **Department of Veteran Affairs**

Veterans may enroll in Veterans Affairs Health Care at 1-877-222-VETS or sign up on [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov), or apply in person at Nashville or Murfreesboro campuses.

#### **The Veterans Affairs Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS)**

TVHS provides property tax relief for disabled veterans, recreational discounts, motor services, etc. Go to website is [www.tn.gov/veteran](http://www.tn.gov/veteran). 615-741-2345.

#### **Veterans Transportation Program (VTP).**

Transportation to and from the VA TVHS at Nashville and Murfreesboro is available. Veterans have to make an appointment with the VA in order to participate in these rides. You must call "during the last full week of the previous month (October for an appointment during November)." One day prior, you will receive a re-verifying call and confirm pick up time. 615-225-5616. <https://www.dav.org/veterans/i-need-a-ride/>

#### **Mid-Cumberland Senior Rides 800-945-4125**

<https://www.mchransit.org/schedule-a-ride>

#### **The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit 281**

**Gwynne Queener, Auxiliary President**

615-773-1977 or [gwynnequeener@gmail.com](mailto:gwynnequeener@gmail.com)

ALA Unit 281 is putting together a presentation and we need the help of the Legion members. We need pictures of them in their military uniforms and or pictures of them posing where they were stationed. If they could take a picture of that picture and send it to the following address that would be great. [spuels@protonmail.com](mailto:spuels@protonmail.com).

The Honor Guard is requested to come to the next meeting dressed in their uniforms for a picture.

The ALA Unit 281 is taking orders for yard signs to honor our veterans. They have a navy background with white lettering and they say "WE LOVE OUR VETERANS". They are \$10.00 and if you want a stake to put in the yard that will be \$1.00. We will have them in September. So order them now!!

We are still accepting Brick Donations for the Veteran's Wall of Honor. It will be located in Robinson Park, which is located on N. Mount Juliet Rd across from the Valley Center Shopping Center. Purchase a brick to honor your veteran at [www.thatsmybrick.com/ala281](http://www.thatsmybrick.com/ala281).



*Concept of Mt. Juliet's "Future" Military Wall of Honor*

#### **United Services Organization (USO)**

**Nashville International Airport (BNA) and the Nashville Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS)**

<https://fortcampbell.uso.org/nashville-meps>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1vnBsywnpY>

Director Devilyn Boyles seeks volunteers to support transient active duty and military retirees. You may call 703-586-2112.

### **Long-range events**

- 22 October, Mount Juliet's Halloween in the Park, 11am - 3pm. (Note: We have three tubs of candy in the storage unit, but will accept donations)
- 11 November, Veterans Day Event at the Veterans Plaza, Lebanon, 11am
- 10 December, Annual Mt. Juliet Christmas parade
- 13 December, Annual Post Christmas Party

### **Opportunities to Participate**

The American Legion Tyler Cates Post 281, Mt. Juliet, TN

– Contact information for First Vice Commander on heading of Newsletter:

1. Become an Honor Guard Member, uniforms, training and travel expense provided
2. American Legion Baseball (assistant or coach, when team(s) are started)
3. Boy Scout Troop 150 Liaison
4. Membership Team (growing the membership)
5. Post Historical Team (maintaining our history)
6. Web Master (maintenance of site's text, hyperlinks and HTML code in coordination with Post members and website contractor)
7. Finance Committee starting in December, be able to balance a checkbook and think out of the Box. Especially fund raising events and successful methods. We need smart people.
8. Oratorical Committee starting in December
9. Boys State Committee starting in December
10. Memorial Day weekend Annual Honor our Flag Event and Memorial Day Event at Veterans Plaza and Veterans Museum
11. July 4<sup>th</sup> Veterans Events
12. Veterans Day Event at Veterans Plaza
13. Annual Mount Juliet Christmas Parade
14. Buddy Check phone team
15. Reverse Raffle Committee
16. Annual Christmas Dinner Committee
17. Annual Post Picnic Committee
18. Annual Tennessee State/Wilson County Fair Parade Veterans Participant and Booth Support