



**American Legion Tyler Cates Post #281
December 2021 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, Maxie C. (Max) Wix, 615-626-4087 maxwixpost281mj@gmail.com
Adjutant, Terry Ward, 615-519-6523 tswardpost281am@gmail.com

Post meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month 6-8 pm, Mt. Juliet Senior Activity Center (MJSAC).

- 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 during the meet and greet time before the regular meeting starts. **Come and Join US!!**

4 Jan 2022, Executive Committee Meeting, MJSAC @ 5:00 pm
8 & 9 Jan, 22, TN Department Midwinter Conference, Murfreesboro, TN, @ 8:00 am
11 Jan, 22, Regular Post meeting, MJSAC @ 6:00 pm
22 Jan, 22, 5th District Oratorical, Providence Methodist, Rutland Road, Mt. Juliet @10 am
1 Feb, Executive Committee Meeting, MJSAC @ 5:00 pm
8 Feb, Regular Post meeting, MJSAC @ 6:00 pm

FROM THE COMMANDER:

Fellow Legionnaires, family, and friends

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 hope that this newsletter finds you and your families healthy and doing well. We wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and that everyone has healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

Post 281 Christmas/Holiday Dinner was held on 14 Dec at the Rutland Senior Living Place Banquet Room. The Roast Beef or Vegetarian meals were lauded upon by all in attendance. We had 72 in attending.

A grand surprise was had by all as we were entertained by a member of our post, Paul Alan Coons. Our Adjutant Terry Ward led us in singing a few Christmas Carols. I want to thank our Finance Officer Stephen Iles for his hard work coordinating with me in collecting funds for the meals and settling the bill.



We recognized the following as being present for our meal and gathering. Past Commander Pat Unger and American Legion Department of Tennessee Constitution and By-Laws Chairman, and past Commanders Lew Hightower and Brenda Thompson.

We also recognized Gwynne Queener, President American Legion Auxiliary(ALA) Unit 281, Kathy Leedy, Past President ALA Unit 281 and Past President ALA Department of Tennessee and currently Alternate National Executive Committee for the ALA Department of Tennessee, ALA Dept of Tennessee President Melinda Hackney and Membership Chair Pat Wallace.

Our Post and Auxiliary Unit 281 participated in the Mount Juliet's Christmas Parade. Auxiliary President Gwynne Queener led the effort with me and worked with Mount Juliet Parks and Recreation Department and the Tennessee Army National Guard to provide HWMMV's and military vehicles for our Grand Marshals. Members participated from different conflict eras in the "Parade of Heroes". The parade got moved out to 18 December, losing some participants, but we still were able to proudly represent our post and veterans in our community. See article attached.

While the parade was underway, other members of the post participated in a funeral detail (Honor Guard Capt Steve Wren, Brenda Thompson, Mike Faoro, Grady Thompson, Bud Werner and Robert Fields). Members David Hale, Andy Collier, Jim Wermes, Bob Steuck and Ardis Ferguson (Veteran non-member) participated in the Wreaths Across America Event at the Middle Tennessee Veterans Cemetery.

<https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/pages/17154/Overview/?relatedId=43000>

I am soliciting donations to our post to help in Tornado Relief and other venues of need in our community. I want to focus our efforts to MJ4hope.org whose mission is to GIVE BACK to the MJ community for those who need HOPE during a time of crisis. I contacted Kenny Martin, Mount Juliet City Manager who recommended we give to the Mount Juliet Help Center <http://www.mtjuliethelpcenter.org/> who are constantly called upon to provide gift cards that allow those in need to purchase diapers, milk for infants and children, etc. We already have been given \$1,000 in donations and I wish to greatly increase this amount to help veterans and the youth of our community.

We participate in The American Legion's "Buddy Check Program". This ensures everyone is well or those in need of assistance can be supported.

We seek additional members for the Finance Committee, as we soon start the 2022 Budget Process.

Membership remains as our strength and ability to meet our mutual obligations to the four pillars. We currently have 244 members. We look forward to more members joining our gatherings in the future. We ask that \$45 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 at the address above. 2022 membership renewal began last 1 July. Please validate your contact data at mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Home. We are currently at the paid membership rate of 67% percent.

We welcome 23 new members in 2021:

1. *John Rossmailer, transfer from Post 2000, 21 Jan 21
 2. Carl Puels, joined 15 Feb 21 transferred from CA.
 3. *Christopher Katezenmiller, post 2000, 08 Mar 21
 4. Joshua Sims, new member 30 Apr 21
 5. Jerry Chatfield, transfer into post 11 May 21
 6. Patty Chatfield, transfer into post, 11 May 21
 7. *James Leighton, transfer post 291/IL, 3 Jun 21
 8. *Robert Steuck, transfer Post 172 MN, 13 Jul 21
 9. William Werner, transfer NJ post 344, 16 Jun 21
 10. Shawn Taylor, transfer from Post 88 TN, 16 Jul 21
 11. Charles Licari, new member, 18 Jul 21
 12. Michael Moss, new member, 18 Jul 21
 13. Joe Eaton, transfer, post unknown, 18 Jul 21
 14. Dean Gregory, transfer, post unknown, 18 Jul 21
 15. Elliott Tadych, new member 20 July 21
 16. *Don Barns, transfer from IL/post 0566, 10 Aug 21
 17. William R Adcock, new member, 28 Aug 21
 18. James Bachstein, new member, 28 Aug 21
 19. Dale Bird, new member 11 Sep 21
 20. Patti Whitmore, transfer from Post 2000, 17 Sep 21
 21. Edward Rueger, transfer Post 005 IN, 19 Sep 21
 22. Eric Larios, new member, 16 Nov 21
 23. Dennis Buchanan, new member, 16 Nov 21
- * Denotes new American Legion Database issues with joining this member.

For our new members, we have a special gift you can claim upon attending our next meeting.

It is my sad duty to report that our following members have been called from our midst and have gone to report to the Commander of all: Max Anderson, Don Baker, Frank Butcher, Dick Erdman, Frank Herzer, Robert Hraba, Earl Lane, Sam Langham, Pedro Leal, Robert Odom, and William White .

All our members are special, but these three gentleman held a special place in the heart of each of us due to their very active role in the progress of the post. Max Anderson and Sam Langham from World War II and Dick Erdman from the Korean War. We were honored to be associated with them and to consider them as Comrades. Sad to say goodbye, but we know they are all in a better place and we are happy that member Pat Unger was able to visit with them on this special day.



Please continue to keep your thoughts and prayers for our members and their families who may be ill. This includes but not limited to: George Barnes, Tom Buckton, Joe Coniglio, Pat Costanzo, Ray Forester, Lew Hightower, Bill Houston, Will Sellers, and Joe Villa. 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

HONOR GUARD
Capt Steve Wren

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 are provided to the volunteer, and transportation when needed.

On 11 Nov 2021 the Honor Guard provided a 3 round salute and played taps at the laying of the wreath for the Wilson County Veterans Day Program. I also gave a brief talk about the Post 281 Honor Guard and

encouraged veterans to join and be involved with the various military service organizations in Wilson County. The following members participated: Steve Wren, Mike Faoro, Brenda Thompson, Cary Cundall, Grady, Pat Costanzo and Bud Werner.

On 12/3/2021 the Honor Guard posted colors at the Wilson County Veteran's Museum for a program to honor Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs, Commissioner Tommy Baker. Participating members: Steve Wren, Cary Cundall, Dan Rhame and Bud Werner.

On 12/3/2021 the Honor Guard provided military honors for a veteran of the U S Navy at Mt Juliet Memorial Gardens. Participating members: Steve Wren, Dan Rhame, Cary Cundall, Mike Faoro, Pat Costanzo and Bud Werner. Shawn Taylor observed.

On 12/13/2021 the Honor Guard provided military honors for a veteran of the U.S. Army at a private family cemetery. The following members participated: Steve Wren, Cary Cundall, Dan Rhame, Brenda Thompson and Mike Faoro. David Hale observed.

On 12/18/2021 the Honor Guard provided military honors for a veteran of the U.S. Army at Hermitage Gardens. The following members participated: Steve Wren, Mike Faoro, Brenda Thompson, Bud Werner, Grady Thompson and Robert Fields.

The total military honors rendered from our 2010 inception of Post 281 and the Honor Guard Team in 2011 now stands at 414.



Mt. Juliet Christmas Parade

18 December, 2021

Despite weather delays, a bad weather forecast, scheduled-date changes, and difficult schedules for business owners on the Parade route, the Mt. Juliet Christmas parade finally occurred and witnessed a great turnout of participants and spectators from the city's community.



The American Legion Post 281 of Mt. Juliet, in cooperation with the Post 281 Auxiliary, were the grand marshals at the front of the parade, along with "volunteered" members of the 230th Sustainment Brigade of the Tennessee Army National Guard in a variety of their latest tactical transportation vehicles titled a HMMWV, known as the Hummer, and a LMTV with Armor Plating on all sides. Six vehicles were at the front of the parade, with signs that announce the specific titles to conflicts and wars our country fought. Members of Post 281 had representatives from each of those periods inside each Tennessee Army National Guard vehicle.



The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 281 Gwynne Queener, Auxiliary President

Those periods covered the Korean War, with Post member and Army Veteran Rolus Smith riding in the lead vehicle. Then Army Veteran Dick Leady, and Navy Veteran Demar Smith from the Vietnam War followed. The Lebanon Grenada War member was Navy Veteran Wayne Smith, followed by Gulf/Persian War Air Force Veteran Carl Puels. The final vehicle represented those members who fought in the Global War on Terrorism, with Post members and Army Veterans Bobby Hibbett and Terry Ward representing that period.

We attended the annual Legion Christmas dinner held at Rutland Senior Living Place. We had 5 members and their husbands attending with them. We also had our Department President, Melinda Hackney, and our Department Membership chair, Pat Wallace, attending. They really enjoyed the delicious food and the wonderful entertainment. Unfortunately, 3 of our faithful members could not attend due to illness and employment requirements. We missed them. On December 18 we participated in the Mt. Juliet Christmas parade. We had a vintage truck decorated with 50 golden stars for our Gold Star Family, as well, as red, white and blue bunting accented with red, white, and green bows. All of this was to celebrate a Patriotic Christmas. Dina McKenna, the Auxiliary Gold Star wife rode in the truck. Gwynne Queener and Kathy Leedy, Department Leadership Chairman, rode in Gwynne's SUV. It was decorated with similar bunting to the truck and Auxiliary banners noting who they were. It was a

cold misty day, but everyone who came to view the parade and all who participated in the parade had a great time. I look forward to seeing you in January at our 1st meeting of 2022.



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

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 281 continues selling bricks to build a Military Wall of Honor in Robinson Park at North Mt. Juliet Road. You can sponsor a name of any veteran, up to 18 letters. The bricks are \$40.00 each and can be purchased by picking up a brochure online: www.thatsmybrick.com/ala281, or contact ALA President Gwynne Queener at 615-773-1977 or gwynnequeener@gmail.com. Plans are to break ground in the spring of 2022.

American Legion Riders Post 281

ALR Director Keith Rowell seeks Post 281 members to join with the ALR. ALR members must be a member of Post 281, the Auxiliary, or the SAL 281. To join this unit you need a Motorcycle, Trike or Slingshot, 500ccs or greater. We socialize and participate in funeral honors for Veterans and support Post 281 events and meetings. In December the ALR had their annual Christmas party on December 4th at the Corner Pub. We had a great turnout with new and old friends. The next ALR monthly meeting will be on February 5, 2022 at the Golden Corral at 8:00am. Come show off your ride!

Post 281 Sons of the American Legion

SAL President 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>. 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 You Can Use

By Robert Hibbett, Service Officer

The Veterans Administration extends the presumptive period of chronic disabilities and illnesses for Persian Gulf War Veterans.

The definition of Gulf War Veterans:

For VA benefits eligibility purposes, the Gulf War period is still in effect. This means that anyone who served on active duty from August 2, 1990, to present is considered a Gulf War Veteran. For example, the Veterans Pension benefit requires service during a wartime period. Therefore, any Veteran who served on active military service for any period from August 2, 1990, to the present meets the wartime service requirement.

The Veterans Administration presumes that specific disabilities diagnosed in certain veterans were caused by military service. The VA has extended the Persian Gulf War Veterans period to December 31, 2026 so that they can file a compensation claim to the VA. The illnesses related to the Persian Gulf War service without regard to cause includes chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, functional gastrointestinal disorders. Also included are undiagnosed illnesses with symptoms that may include but are not limited to abnormal weight loss, cardiovascular disease, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and psychological problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders, and sleep disturbances.

Most of what was written came from the Veterans Administration.

The Veterans Affairs Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS)

If a Veteran has not enrolled in Veterans Affairs health care yet, call 1-877-222-VETS or sign up on www.va.gov, or apply in person at the Nashville or Murfreesboro VA campuses.

SCAM Alert. TVHS reports that scammers are using their main telephone number (615) 867-6000 and calling individuals, both veterans and non-veterans, about “qualifying for health insurance benefits.” The scammers are asking individuals for their name, date of birth and additional information.

TVHS will never ask or call you to sign up for health insurance. If you receive a call from the above number, ignore it and never give out your personal information.

Anytime we call veterans, we will identify ourselves.

Veterans Administration Benefits

Access the Veterans Administration website and manage your VA Benefits and Health Care benefits: <https://www.va.gov/>

Tennessee State Veteran Benefits

Tennessee Veteran Services Department provides property tax relief for disabled veterans, recreational discounts, and motor services among other benefits. The website is www.tn.gov/veteran. 615-741-2345.

Wilson County Veterans Service Office

Director ZaBrina Seay and Deputy Director Lindsey Roberts of the Wilson County Veterans Service Office and Wilson County Veterans Museum are located at 304 East Main Street, Lebanon, TN 37087. Their mission is to ensure veterans receive quality care, support, entitlements and the recognition earned in their service to the nation.

wilsoncountyttn.gov/departments/veteran-services (615) 444-2460.

New Home Loans for National Guard and Reserve Members

National Guard and Reserve members without active duty service are now eligible to receive VA home loans. The new law makes Guard and Reserve members who

have at least 90 days of service eligible for the home loan program, 30 days must have been consecutive.

TVHS Veteran Patients’ Visitors and Guest Policy.

<https://www.tennesseevalley.va.gov/news/Changes to Visitor Policy.asp>

Transportation to and from the VA TVHS at Nashville and Murfreesboro is available. Veterans Transportation Program (VTP).

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/>

Options for non-VA Rides:

Mid-Cumberland Senior Rides 800-945-4125

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

They will take you anywhere within middle TN. \$10 each way. Must call several days in advance.

Wilson Rides: <https://wilsonridesinc.org/>

Membership is required to use this service, complete a short in person, at home evaluation to insure eligibility (55 and up). Call the Wilson Rides office Gaye Lynn Wilson at 615-622-5557 for more information.

Mid Cumberland Meals on Wheels.

<http://www.mchra.com/meals-on-wheels>

Anyone age 60 and older who is home bound, or meets the needs as determined by state guidelines, is eligible for Mid-Cumberland Meals-on-Wheels. In case you were not aware, support for this program is provided via Second Harvest of Middle Tennessee with the meals distributed via Senior Citizens Centers and churches.