



## American Legion Tyler Cates Post #281

January/February 2022 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](mailto:maxwixpost281mj@gmail.com)

Adjutant, Terry Ward, 615-519-6523 [tswardpost281am@gmail.com](mailto:tswardpost281am@gmail.com)

Post meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 join us at our February 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting !***

### One of our deployed Post Members

We would like to give a big shout-out to Jason Henry, one of our post members, for his service to our country.

**Thank you for your service, MAJ Jason Henry,** and for the sacrifice your family is making without you at home each night, while you are deployed.

While calling a few members in our post with our Buddy Call efforts, I was surprised to get a text message in return for member Jason Henry.



Jason is assigned to Asad Air Base in Iraq as a medical provider to soldiers and contractors in Iraq, as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard 208<sup>th</sup> MCAS. (Medical Company, Area Support) . We hope to be a part of his welcome-home when he returns. His mailing address for those who would like to drop him a card or letter is :

Major Jason Henry  
208<sup>th</sup> MCAS Role 2E  
APO, AE 09333

### Post meeting, Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, Robert Million to discuss the services offered to Veterans through the Tennessee State Veterans Service



*Pictured above was the funeral of a homeless veteran from Murfreesboro in April of 2019, with Veterans from across Middle Tennessee attending the service to show their final respects.*

The Tennessee Department of Veterans Services maintains and manages five Veterans Cemeteries in the state, to include one in Nashville, one in Memphis, two in Knoxville, and one in Parkers Crossroads. To pre-register for burial, all you would need to do is complete the application process for the cemetery of your choice.

At our next post meeting, Tuesday Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, Robert Million, Director of Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery, will come and discuss the variety of services offered to Veterans and requirements needed to make those services available.



*Post member Joe Villa (white T-shirt) offers service as a Pallbearer*



*Post member Jack Lowery manning the entrance of the memorial service hall with our Nation's Colors.*

**Welcome new members:**

John Herko, from Mt. Juliet, transfer from Post 5  
Howard Heart, from Mt. Juliet, new member.

**Update From Commander Max Wix**

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 family members healthy and doing well.

On 8 and 9 January, Adjutant Ward, Service Officer Hibbett, member Mike Moss and I participated in the Tennessee Department Midwinter Conference held in Murfreesboro. We took part in various sessions of being presented. Our Adjutant Terry Ward is also the current TN Department Oratorical Chair. He presented the upcoming Oratorical Contest details for attendees.

This coming post meeting will feature guest speaker Robert Millon, Director of Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery (aka Pegram). Director Millon will provide information about how veterans and spouses can pre-register for burial at Veterans Cemeteries.

Your Executive Committee participated in The American Legion's "Buddy Check Program." We seek to ensure if everyone is doing OK or in need of assistance. This time we focused on 84 members that had yet to pay their 2022 Dues. All who we were able to contact said they forgot and would respond ASAP. Others will have to be notified via snail mail, if possible. We discovered a member Bryan Tobey had passed away on 22 December. Another who had a stroke over one year ago. We also discovered another member with Parkinson's and Dementia and in Hospice Care with the widow needing help in obtaining information regarding burial in a veterans cemetery. We knew nothing about any of these situations. These are examples why we must continue to do the Buddy Check every 6 months and reach out to our members and their family members.

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 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 \$45. 2022 membership renewal began last 1 July. Please validate your contact data online at [mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Home](http://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Home). The user email address 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.

Our Finance Committee has begun the 2022-2023 Budget Process. We expect to have this update for presentation to the members at the 8 March regular meeting.

Please continue with your thoughts and prayers for our members and their families who may be ill. This includes but is 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 1/5/2022 the Honor Guard provided military honors for a veteran of the U.S. Army at Middle TN Veterans Cemetery.

The following members participated:  
Cary Cundall, Pat Costanzo, Dan Rhame and Bud Werner.

The total military honors rendered from our 2010 inception of Post 281 and the Honor Guard Team in 2011 now stands at 415.

### **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. Reminder that we have our first meeting for 2022 on February 5th at 8:00 am at Golden Corral in Hermitage. We have a lot to discuss about upcoming events and officers.

### **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.

### **The 5th District Oratorical Contest in Mount Juliet**

On 22 January, the TN Department's 5th District Oratorical Chair Robert Hibbett held an Oratorical Contest at Providence Methodist, South Rutland Road, Mount Juliet.



*Left to Right:  
State Commander Larry Kersey, 5<sup>th</sup> Dist Oratorical Chair  
Bobby Hibbett, Hannah (the contest winner), Middle TN Vice  
CDR John Davis.*

The winner of the contest was a young high school student from Brentwood, Hannah Bhattacharya, who presented a convincing 9-minute speech on her views of the value of our country's Constitution, followed by a 4-minute speech on the value of the 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Hannah now advances to the Divisional Contest being held on February 19<sup>th</sup> in Manchester, TN. Potentially, she could win over \$28,000 in scholarships to the university or college of her choice by winning the next two state competitions and then winning at the national competition being held in April, in Indianapolis, Indiana. We hope to have Hannah present her speech to our post in the future.

Several Post 281 members helped as escorts, ushers, timekeepers, tabulators, and to judge the contest. As always, they did wonderful jobs. The three judges that scored her two speeches were Dan Davis, Brian Eastin, and post member Dan Walker.

**The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 281**  
**Gwynne Queener, Auxiliary President**  
615-773-1977 or [gwynnequeener@gmail.com](mailto:gwynnequeener@gmail.com)

The Women's Auxiliary is busy working on their biggest fundraiser---The Spring Tree Sale. New order blanks have already gone out to all who have previously purchased trees. If you have never purchased trees and would like to, please send a request for an order blank to [leedyk@comcast.net](mailto:leedyk@comcast.net)

The pickup date is April 2, 2022 in the parking lot of First Baptist Church on N. Mount Juliet Rd. Pickup begins at 8:00.

We are also planning on breaking ground on the Veterans Wall of Honor in the Spring. It will be located in Robinson Park, which is located on N. Mount Juliet Rd across from the Valley Center Shopping Center. If you would like to purchase a brick to honor your veteran, you can still do that at [www.thatsmybrick.com/ala281](http://www.thatsmybrick.com/ala281).



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

Just follow the directions on the site. It is very user friendly.

Finally, our service project for this month is hand warmers, sweat pants and socks, backpacks, hygiene items (travel size), and gift cards from Kroger(\$10, \$20, \$25).

### **Three-month Calendar:**

- 8 Feb 2022**, Post meeting, SAC
- 19 Feb 2022**, Division Oratorical Contest, Manchester, TN, First Baptist Church @ 10:00 AM
- 28 Feb** Executive Committee Meeting, 5:00 PM, SAC
- 8 Mar**, Regular Post meeting, 6:00 PM, SAC
- 12 Mar**, State Oratorical Contest, Hermitage, TN, Hermitage Hill Baptist, @ 10:00 AM
- 13 Mar**, DLST starts 😊
- 2 Apr**, 281 Auxiliary tree sale, FBC parking lot Mt J. (transportation day Fri, Apr 1, will need drivers)
- 4 Apr**, Executive Committee, 5:00 PM, SAC
- 12 Apr**, Regular Post meeting, 6:00 PM, SAC
- 16 Apr**, ALR and Middle TN Christian Riders Bike Blessing, Barfield Crescent Park, Murfreesboro, TN, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
- 22-24 Apr**, National Oratorical Contest, Indianapolis, IN

## **Veteran Service and Information You Can Use**

Robert Hibbett, Service Officer and Oratorical Chair

### **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](http://www.va.gov), or apply in person at the Nashville or Murfreesboro VA campuses.

### **Veterans Administration Benefits**

Access this 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](http://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](http://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](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.mchratransit.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