



# American Legion Tyler Cates Post #281

March/April 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 [twardpost281am@gmail.com](mailto:twardpost281am@gmail.com)

Post 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 during the meet and greet time

before the regular meeting starts. ***Come join us for our April 12 Meeting***

### **UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

- 2 Apr, Annual Tree Sale in support of Auxiliary Unit 281, First Baptist Church Mt. Juliet, 6:00 AM to Noon.
- 5 Apr, Executive Committee Meeting, MJSAC @ 5:00 pm
- 12 Apr, Regular Post meeting, MJSAC @ 6:00 pm.
- 28 Apr, District CDR elections, Smyrna Post 288, 6:00 pm, Supper and Meeting for EC members.
- 3 May, Executive Committee Meeting, MJSAC @ 5:00 pm
- 10 May, Regular Post meeting, MJSAC @ 6:00 pm
- 26-30 May, Honoring our American Flag, Mt. Juliet Clock Tower/Train Station,

### **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 continues to find you and your family members healthy and doing well.

At our next regular meeting on 12 April, we will be voting on new Officers for our Post for the coming year. We will accept additional nominations up until the call for the vote to take place. Following members were nominated, most by outgoing officers, from those in attendance on 8 March 2022, and agreed to serve if approved. Members cannot nominate themselves.

Commander	Max Wix (to remain)
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Dan Walker
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Robert Hibbett
Adjutant	Shawn Taylor
Finance Officer	Stephen Iles (to remain)
Service Officer	Mike Faoro
Chaplain	David Hale
Sgt at Arms	Elliot Tadych
Historian	TBD

On 8 March meeting, we had two Guest Speakers, Dan Walker, Wilson County 10<sup>th</sup> District Commissioner and Phil LaPrad, Mobility Chairmen from the Murfreesboro Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 1089 Dan Walker spoke on the current state of Wilson County and presented a number of projects being worked on. Commissioner Walker's topics included Budget Items; American Rescue Plan Grant Funds; Employee Pay Plan Review; School Board Land Approval of the purchase of a 110-acre school site at Double Log

Cabin Road and construction of a multi campus Elementary, Middle and high School campus, and approved \$250m in School Projects; and the current expansion of the County Jail - \$40M new construction project underway; and, noted was that six County Commissioner Terms are expiring, with elections to take place on 3 May 2022.

Phil LaPrad presented how his mobility team was assisting Veterans and their family members who have not yet received Veterans Administration help with mobility issues in the home and remote. His efforts include reusing existing mobility devices.

**There is no cost to veterans, nor their family member.**

Phil and his crew install chair lifts, exit/entry ramps, handicap ramps and chair lifts for vehicles, handicap beds and bathroom aids, and assemble hospital beds in homes. Phil also services used mobility scooters and installs vehicle carriers. He also helps maintain handicap equipment with follow-on servicing for veterans and their family members who cannot qualify for service by the VA. It may be a temporary solution, but if nothing else he'll do what he can until the VA can take over. Phil and his crew also collect older mobility equipment, like beds and ramps, and services them to be used by another veteran. Often, Phil and his crew provide help to veterans before the VA can get the approval process.

His team has 2 or 3 volunteers who help. Following Phil's presentation about his work, Post 281 members passed the hat and donated \$242 to help in purchasing wiring, nuts, screws, and bolts that are used to rebuild equipment, electric motors and purchase batteries for motorized units.

[www.vvachapter1089.org](http://www.vvachapter1089.org)  
[ergophil1420@gmail.com](mailto:ergophil1420@gmail.com)

**Mt Juliet JROTC Awards**

Post 281 will provide the MJROTC Programs at Mount Juliet High School and Green Hill with Certificates and Medals for Military and Academic Scholars.

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Honor our Flag Event**

I need volunteers for 4 hour shifts to cover our Annual Honor our Flag Event that takes place over the Memorial Day Weekend 26-30 May. We must cover 24

hours a day. It includes installing rebar and 200 or more flags at the Mount Juliet Train Station Clock Tower location on 26th (07:30 ish) and tear down on 30 June (after 6pm ish). Lots of slots to fill each day and we need to get as many volunteers (and supernumeraries) signed up early, IOT cover all slots and not overwhelm those who are able to help. Main job is escorting flag supporters as they place Remembrance Tag and take a photo using their phones. We "may" have some support from JROTCs overnight, but will still need supervisors.

**Membership**

Membership remains as our strength and ability to meet our mutual obligations to the four pillars. We currently have 254 members. We still need 33 to pay their dues for the current year. 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 ast 1 July. 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.

Welcome new Members (January 2022- present)

Dale Barhite, Jr	Frank Burton
Ronald Doll	Paul Goad
Howard Hart	John Herko
Tom Kovach	Earl Mathison
Robert Ricci	John Sherrill
Robert Steuck	Bobby Terrell
John Uteley	Pattie Whitmore

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, Tom Buckton, Al Cecere, Joe Coniglio, Pat Costanzo, Ray Forester, 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 3/11/2022 the Honor Guard provided military honors for Bob Neil, a member of our post, and a USAF Vietnam Veteran at Mt Juliet Memorial Gardens.

The following members participated:  
Jim Atwood, Dan Rhames, Cary Cundall, Mike Faoro and Shawn Taylor. Commander Wix and Sergeant at Arms Del Mar Smith also were in attendance at the funeral home service and at graveside.

The total military honors rendered from our 2010 inception of Post 281 and the Honor Guard Team in 2011 now stands at 416.

The Wilson County Veterans' Service Officer has been in communication with the Management of the Nashville Speedway. Post Commander Wix and Honor Guard Member Cary Cundall attended a meeting at the Speedway. Our Honor Guard has been asked to provide a "Color Guard" for Saturday 25 June at 13:30 for the starting ceremony at the NASCAR Race to be held over the weekend of 24-26 June. The Speedway and NASCAR intends to honor veterans each and every day. Additional details are forthcoming.

**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.

New ALR 2022 Officers will be sworn in at the same time as the post officers.

Director: Keith Rowell  
Asst. Director: Bob Ramsey  
Secretary: Shawn Taylor  
Treasurer: Joe Chilando  
Road Captain: Phil Friedli  
Chaplin: Pete Blinn  
Sgt of arms: Terry Ward

Our next meeting April 2nd, location TBD.

**Run For the Wall 2022**  
By Phil Friedli, RFTW Lebanon Coordinator and Past Tennessee American Legion State Rider Director

Please mark your calendars for 23 May 2022 to support the national American Legion Riders who will participate in the Annual Run-For-The-Wall. The ride starts in California and ends on Memorial Day weekend in Washington DC at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

- There will be a platoon of riders (35) arriving at the Wilson County Veterans Museum on May 23rd at approximately 1:30PM.

The main pack will eat lunch in Dickson and will arrive at Uncle Pete's Truck Stop approximately 4 :15 PM.

The break out platoon will eat lunch at the museum, provided by Mission BBQ. There will be a wreath laying ceremony. Mayors Bell & Hutto are asked to speak.

The past two years without the run has brought on many challenges but the board of directors have been working closely with the state coordinators for a smooth and safe run to DC.

- RFTW has continued to make donations to many schools and orphanages all along the routes, promoting patriotism supporting our veterans and military.

- Post 281 Legion Riders and the VVA Chapter 1004 have made their financial commitments to support their fuel stop in Lebanon All donation are much appreciated.

- Concerns this year with fuel cost average fuel cost per stop \$4500 vs \$2500. Fuel at \$4 to \$7 per gallon results in fuel stops being double over previous years

- DONATIONS are much needed this year more so than in the past, so RFTW can continue to support schools and orphanages along the way. I'll be accepting donations at Legion Meetings and at VVA or can come by homes a pick up checks also. I have yet to speak with Lebanon AL Post 15 and VFW Post 5015.

FTW is the greatest Bike Ride you will ever take part in.

### **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.

### **Department Oratorical Contest**



Pictured above are the two contestants of the American Legion Department Oratorical Contest and post members, held on Saturday the 12th of March at Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, following our unusual snow fall. The contest winner, Ashley the taller young lady in the center, receives a \$3,000.00 scholarship and advances on to the National competition next month in Indianapolis and a shot at a \$25,000.00. The runner up, Hanna, on the left with the red jacket, won \$2000.00. Their challenge was to speak on what our American Constitution means to them in a convincing manner, lasting at least 8 minutes but not any longer than 10 minutes totally from memory. Standing with our contestants a few of the post members that volunteered in making the Department Contest a huge

success. Right to left: Keith Rowell, Gloria Wix, Max Wix, Pat Chilando, and Terry Ward, A special thanks is extended to them. Not pictured but very significant in the success of the contest were volunteers Bobby Hittett and Pat Costanzo, as well.

### **Service Officer News You Can Use**

By 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>—

**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.

**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 fund raiser---The Spring Tree Sale. New Order blanks have already gone out to all who have previously purchased trees from us. If you have never purchased trees from us 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. Pick up begins at 8:00.



We are also planning on breaking ground on the Veteran’s Wall of Honor in the Spring. It will be placed 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).

The bricks are now selling for \$100.00 each. This is a change in our original pricing due to the cost of materials to build The Wall. We hope that anyone who has not purchased a brick will not be offended by the cost but will go ahead and purchase one.



**PANCAKE BREAKFAST:**

The Auxiliary will have a pancake breakfast May 14 at the Senior Activity Center from 8-11. The cost is TBD. Please put it on your calendar.

**POPPY DISTRIBUTION:**

We will be at both Kroger’s Memorial Day Saturday distributing poppies and asking for donations.





May 22 through 27, Cookville, TN

American Legion Boys State has been a program of The American Legion since 1935 when it organized to counter the Fascist inspired Young Pioneer Camps. The program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy, and Harold Card, who organized the first American Legion Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield.

The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a similar program for young ladies called Girls State.

At American Legion Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties, and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus, and recreational programs.

High school juniors are selected by local American Legion Posts to attend the program. In most cases, expenses associated with attending this program are paid by a sponsoring American Legion Post, a local business, or another community-based organization.

American Legion Boys State is currently conducted in 49 Departments of The American Legion. Hawaii does not conduct a program. As separate corporations, American Legion Boys States vary in content and method of procedure, but each American Legion Boys State adheres to the basic concept of the program - that of teaching government from the township to the state level.

Our post is sponsoring eight young men for this event, this year, but anyone can sponsor a deserving High School Junior with an above average academic record. For more information, go to <https://www.tnboysstate.org>. For applications contact CDR Wix.



**\$5,000  
Grand Prize**  
Mt. Juliet  
Senior Activity Center  
Reverse Raffle

**Event will be Virtual (Facebook Live)**

**Saturday, April 9, 2022**



**3-5 – Blowin' Smoke Food Truck  
at Senior Center  
Chicken Meal Drive Thru**  
**6:00 - Reverse Raffle Begins  
on Facebook Live**

**Tickets are \$50 and are available for  
purchase at the Senior Center.**