



American Legion Tyler Cates Post #281 October 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

twardpost281am@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 join us!**

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 23 October, Post Participates in Mt. Juliet's Annual Halloween in the Park.
- 2 November, Executive Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM, MJSAC
- 9 November, Next Regular Post Meeting, 6:00 PM, MJSAC.
- 11 November, Veterans Day – Officers/Honor Guard in Veterans Plaza Ceremony 11:00; Parade 10:00.
- 11 December – Annual Mount Juliet Christmas Parade
- 14 December – Christmas/Holiday Dinner – Rutland Senior Living Center (COVID CDC Dependent)

FROM THE COMMANDER:

Fellow Legionnaires, family, and friends

We hope that this newsletter finds you and your families healthy and doing well. We publish our newsletter following each monthly meeting to keep you better informed. We are a little late in getting this out.

To keep our focus, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. These remain our goal for your post in our community.

Membership remains as our strength and ability to meet our mutual obligations to the four pillars. We had 25 members in attendance. 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 use mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Home and validate your contact data and can renew online. The user email address must match the email address in the Legion database for your account, not a new one.

The National American Legion's recommended "Buddy Check Program" continues. This is to ensure everyone is well and see if you are in need of assistance. When you get those phone calls, you'll know why. We continue to seek volunteers to assist in this.

Tyler Cates American Legion Auxiliary Post 281 asked us to support their project with providing donations to "Operation Stand Down." See below. We need those collected by 22 Oct. Cmdr, Wix, will collect gifts and deliver them to the Auxiliary.

We seek additional members for the Finance Committee, as we will soon start the Budget Process. Balancing a checkbook and focus our future endeavors similar as we have done in the past are the only criteria.

Our Post will participate in Halloween in the Park activities at Charlie Daniels Park on 23 Oct. The candy give away starts about 10:00. Our Lead for this event is Past Commander Lew Hightower. Lew needs help in putting up the tent at 08:30 and takedown at 3:30



Honor Guard Cmdr Steve Wren represented our post at a Wilson County Veterans Advisor Council meeting discussing Veteran's Day 11/11 Program meeting in Lebanon on Oct 7th. Our Post Service Officer, Robert Hibbitt, will give the invocation. Commander Wix and all veterans organizations commanders will participate in a wreath laying ceremony at the Veterans Museum Plaza at 11:00, followed by the Post 281 Honor Guard will perform a firing detail. Following this event, the Honor Guard detail will report to the Del Webb Lake Providence Community in Mt Juliet, to participate in a Veteran's Day event at 1pm. Our Legionnaire and Service Officer Robert Hibbitt will be the guest speaker at this event.

Post 281 Christmas/Holiday dinner will be held on 14 Dec at the Rutland Senior Living Center Dining Room. Their food service will cater the meal. The Christmas dinner is \$25 per couple.



Mount Juliet's 11 December Christmas Parade. Tyler Cates American Legion Post 281 has obtained an agreement with the local Army National Guard to provide 5 HWMMV's for our five Grand Marshals from different conflict eras in the "Parade of Heroes." They are:

ERA	Backup
Korea---Rolus Smith	---Don Golden
Vietnam---Dick Leedy	---Lew Hightower, Mike Faoro and Steve Wren
Lebanon/Grenada---David Hale	---Dan Walker
Gulf War-Persian Gulf/SWA---Shawn Taylor	---Mike Moss, Carl Puels
GWOT/Iraq (OIF)/Afghanistan (OEF)	--- Terry Ward ---Tom Buckton

COVID-1 & CDC pandemic levels may influence current plans.

ALR Director Keith Rowell has commitments for 20 riders to participate. Cmdr Wix will drive the MJSAC 15 passenger van for the backups and others to participate in the parade. There may be additional older vehicles for Legionnaires who wish to ride in the parade.

Please continue to ask for your thoughts and prayers for our ill members and their families. These include the following members: Dick Erdman, George Barnes, Bill Houston, Ray Forester, and Will Sellers. If I have missed someone, please let me know.

Welcome to new members Peron Hopes and Paul Goad.

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

On 2 November, the Wilson County Sheriff's Office Senior Citizens Awareness Director Debbie Pare' will visit with our Executive Committee.

HONOR GUARD

During the 9 November regular meeting, we will be presented with useful information by Avalon Hospice Care, Lebanon representative Diana Busch.

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 our limitation of 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 is seeking volunteers to assist in Funeral Details and public functions. Uniforms are provided at no cost to the volunteer, and transportation when needed.



Since the last meeting (9/14/2021) the Honor Guard provided military honors for 5 deceased veterans.

On 9/17/2021 the Honor Guard provided military honors for a veteran of the U.S. Navy at the Mt Juliet Memorial Gardens. The following members participated: Steve Wren, Mike Faoro, Brenda Thompson and Cary Cundall.

On 9/21/2021 the Honor Guard provided military honors for a veteran of the USAF at the National Veterans Cemetery. The following members participated: Steve Wren, Mike Faoro, Dan Rhames and Cary Cundall.

On 9/26/2021 the Honor Guard provided military honors for a veteran of the U.S. Army at Wilson County Cemetery. The following members participated: Steve Wren, Brenda Thompson, Cary Cundall and Pat Costanzo.

On 9/27/2021 the Honor Guard provided military honors for a veteran of the USAF at the Cedar Grove Cemetery. The following members participated: Steve Wren, Pat Costanzo, Cary Cundall and Dan Rhames.

On 9/29/2021 the Honor Guard provided military honors for a veteran of the USAF at the National Veterans Cemetery. The following members participated: Steve Wren, Pat Costanzo, Cary Cundall and Dan Rhames.

On 10/14/2021 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, Mike Faoro, Pat Costanzo and Cary Cundall.

The total military honors rendered from our 2010 inception of Post 281 and the Honor Guard Team in 2011 now stands at 410.

Post 281 Sons of the American Legion

President Dan Rhame and Secretary/Treasurer Lew Hightower continue their membership renewal drive. SAL membership criteria are located at <https://www.legion.org/sons>. If you are a post member, and 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.

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 November we will return to the Golden Corral and a monthly ride is scheduled. Come show off your ride!

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 281

The ALA Unit 281 met Tuesday September 14, 2021 at 7:00 pm. at the Mount Juliet Senior Activity Center in the sewing room. All are welcome to attend. We are accepting donations of hygiene items for delivery to Operation Stand Down. This includes personal hygiene items, T-shirts, underwear, socks, gift cards, fuel cards, backpacks, Track Phones (and minute cards).



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. Current plans call for the Wall to be in place by Veterans Day 2021.

Service Officer News You Can Use

By Robert Hibbett, Service Officer

Veterans Administration Benefits

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

Wilson County Veterans Service Director

Wilson County Veterans Service Office and Wilson County Veterans Museum, East Main Street, Lebanon, Wilson County, TN. Their mission is to ensure veterans receive quality care, support, entitlements and the recognition earned in their service to the nation. <https://www.wilsoncountyttn.gov/departments/veteran-s-services> (615) 444-2460.

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.

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.

www.tennesseevalley.va.gov

The Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS) continues to provide CDC guidance and information on COVID-19 vaccines.

TVHS Veterans of the visitor 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/>

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. Call several days in advance.

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

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

Special Information regarding limited use of UBER for a medical appointment. POC is Yaremi Ruiz, Social Worker 615-284-6967. Once approved, you are entitled to one round trip per month, for free, and this includes one chaperone to assist you.

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.

Boy Scout Troop 150

By Scoutmaster Michelle Oakley

This month, several members of Troop 150 participated in an 11 mile hike at Montgomery Bell State Park. Who knew counting colors of mushrooms would be the highlight of the trip? Lots of our members took some time off for Fall Break. We're hoping for better weather this month for our monthly service project of delivering food boxes to our neighbors in need. Regardless, we will serve with a smile!

Backpacking trips, holiday parties, and possibly some cold weather camping will fill the next couple of months before we break for the holidays.