



# American Legion - Tyler Cates Post 281 Mount Juliet, Tennessee

## General Meeting Minutes

**COMPILED/SUBMITTED BY:** ADJ Shawn R Taylor

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - Date:** 9 Jan 2024

**Reviewed By:** CMDR Ward, POST 281, DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE

**CONVENED:** 1836 hrs. **ADJOURNED:** 2015 hrs.

**MEMBERS PRESENT: 28 VISITORS: 1 POST OFFICERS: 8 TOTAL: 37**

### ASSEMBLED

At 1800 hrs., doors of the Mt. Juliet Senior Activity Center (MJSAC) were opened. Sgt-at-Arms Elliott Tadych provided Pizza and soft drinks.

### GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

- Quilts of Valor – Joan Giltner presented QOV to John Herko and Rubin Horton.
- Elliott Tadych is presented with a plaque and certificate of appreciation for his service to the MJ community and Post 281. He is currently active-duty Air Force and is being transferred to San Antonio to teach at the Air Force recruiting school. This is his last meeting with Post 281.
- Mt. Juliet Police Chief Mike Mullins reflects on his years of service to Mt. Juliet and what the future for our community looks like, from his perspective.

### OPENING CEREMONY

At 19:00 CDR Ward called the Post to order. Chaplain David Hale offered prayer, followed by placement of the POW/MIA Flag at the designated memorial table by Sgt-at-Arms Elliott Tadych. This was followed by The Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion.

### Past Commanders and Distinguished Guests

Commander Ward recognized Post 281 Past Commander Lew Hightower, as well as Pat Unger, TN Department Constitution and Bylaws Chair, Post 281 Past Commander, and current Tennessee Detachment Commander of the Sons of the American Legion.

### New members were welcomed:

Ball caps were awarded to long-time members, who haven't been seen in a while, Dennis McElroy and Preston Funkhouser.

### READING OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

There was no motion to accept last month's meeting minutes as there was no meeting last month. Last month was the Christmas banquet.



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### OFFICERS REPORT

- COMMANDER – Terry Ward
  - A sympathy card is being passed around for the Mike Scoville family. Mike passed away on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and had been a member for 11 years.
  - John Herko is working on a calendar for the website to keep members abreast of the happenings for the post.
  - Looking for people to serve on “New Member” welcoming committee.
  - Bruno Padovani will serve as the Oratorical Chair for Post 281.
  - Inculcate – What does it mean? It’s in our preamble. It means “to train”. It is our duty to train the next generation in what is moral and right.
  - The oratorical will be going on during January, February and March.
  - ROTC Awards are upcoming.
  - Boys State – We had 18 last year. How many can we find for this year!
  - H.A.F. – is coming up. Let’s all start looking for businesses that will provide support.
  - R.F.T.W. – Coming in May.
  - National Convention – August
  - Post Picnic – September
  - Halloween in the Park – October
  - Christmas Banquet – December
  - Where do we see our post in 10 years? 5 Years? What is our vision? How about a brick-and-mortar location?
  
- 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE – John Herko
  - Buddy Check – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice recognized the members that have assisted in making the buddy check calls for the spring and fall of 2023. Pat Constanzo, Jackie Price, Delmar Smith, Wayne Smith, Terry Ward, Katie Sarazine, Max Wix and Chaz Spampinato. Those present were awarded certificates of thanks.
  
- 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE – Mike Faoro
  - He has reached out to the MJ police department and fire department to choose members of their department that the post can submit for Officer, Fire Fighter and EMT of the Year Awards.
  
- ADJUTANT – Shawn Taylor
  - Maintaining steady at around 277 members. 82% renewal so far for 2024.
  - July 1<sup>st</sup> members will be able to renew for up to 3 years at a time.
  - Dues are going up. Currently Post 281 members pay \$45 annually. The post keeps \$14, Dept gets \$12.50 and National gets \$18.50. July 1<sup>st</sup>, for 2025, National will raise their dues by \$7, to \$26.50. That will mean at the current



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rate, \$37 will go to Dept and national and the post will keep \$7 if dues are not raised by our post.

- FINANCE OFFICER – Steve Iles
  - As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, the checking was \$19,048. We also have \$20k in CDs.
  - The 2023 Christmas banquet cost \$1,800 which was offset by the cost of the tickets to attend. There were a few hundred dollars' worth of door prizes that were given.
  - The budget year ends May 31<sup>st</sup>. The new budget will take effect June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
- SERVICE OFFICER – Patti Whitmore
  - Wilson County Veteran Service Officer will be attending the February meeting.
- CHAPLAIN – David Hale
  - No phone calls were made during the holidays.
  - Assistant Chaplin Chaz Spampinato is in Florida with his wife. She, however, is in the hospital with RSV.
- SERGEANT-AT-ARMS – Elliott Tadych
  - Nothing to Report

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Honor Guard – Capt. Steve Wren**
  - The honor guard has performed 457 functions.
- **Sons of the American Legion – Squadron Commander Dan Rhame**
  - SAL adjutant, Lew Hightower, advised that their renewal is at 66%.
  - TN SAL Detachment Commander, Pat Unger, advised that the new membership year for SAL started January 1<sup>st</sup>. Please renew now.
- **American Legion Riders – Director Bob Ramsey**
  - Nothing to Report
- **Auxiliary – Shana Puels**
  - The Veteran's Wall is still in progress. They are hoping to break ground soon.
  - There is a dedication planned for July 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - Bricks are \$100 and that includes 3 lines of text.



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### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Nothing to Report

### NEW BUSINESS

- Don Barnes is being appointed as Interim Sgt at Arms in the wake of Elliott Tadych being transferred to San Antonio. He will need a debit card issued in his name from Wilson Bank and Trust under the post's account. Elliott will need to be removed from the account.

### FOR THE GOOD OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

- Nothing to Report

### MEETING ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to attend to, the closing ceremony was conducted, with closing prayer offered by Chaplain David Hale. The POW/MIA Flag was retrieved for storage. This was followed by honors to our flag and the meeting was adjourned at 2015 hrs.

### SIGNATURES

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Commander, Terry Ward

Stephen B. Iles, 1-16-2024

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Finance Officer, Stephen Iles

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Interim Sgt-At-Arms, Donald Barnes