



The Patriot



Post 15

Volume 15, Issue 2

Serving Morgan County

September 2015

Commander's Corner

Commander Roger Groves



Hello Legionnaire's,

If you were unable to attend the Post's annual membership fish-fry on August 8th, you missed a great day of fun, time to catch up with friends, and some great food. We had approximately 185 in attendance for the fish-fry and the Auxiliary's annual cake walk/auction activities. The activities were fun and everyone had a good time. I want to thank everyone that worked putting this day together along with everyone that came to enjoy it. I would especially like to thank Steve Burney, Sons of the American Legion, for his hard work on the fish fryers and for cooking of the fish. I would also like to thank Jim Larsen, Legionnaire, for the great "hush puppies" that seemed to disappear rather quickly. My special thanks to my 2nd Vice Commander, Don Smith for orchestrating the fish-fry activities and for arranging to obtain the great tasting fish that was served.

I am going to ask for your help (members) to start thinking of nominations for "Veteran of the Year" award. I will be asking for these nominations later on in the year. It is never too early to start thinking of who would be deserving of this award. Someone that goes that extra mile for our Post and Membership.

We are going to be asking for volunteers from our members to help build the Post's "Veteran's Day Float." This float is a representation for all of our groups, the American Legion, Auxiliary, S.A.L.'S and the American Legion Riders. We also want you to participate in the parade to help show off the float that everyone works so hard on. Side note, we would like to return to 1st place position from the judging seeing we were knocked out last year by the VFW, just a friendly competition.

Steve Burney, S.A.L.'S will be the designer once again, he is quite talented and does wonderful work. He designed and painted the "IWO JIMA" and the Vietnam "Three Soldiers" statue floats. Please come and help us build this float and join in on the fun and good times we have working on it. If you're interested in helping with this project please let myself or Geri Bright, Adjutant, know and we will ensure that you are notified when and where and what time we will be working on the float.

September brings us to the POW/MIA ceremony to be held on September 18th at the Morgan County Veteran's Park at Priceville Alabama. This ceremony will start at 5:00 pm and all are encouraged to attend this event.

October 4th is the 12th District meeting which will be held at Post #4, Cullman, Alabama. Lunch will be at 1:00 pm and Meeting starts at 2:00 pm. We will be taking the Post van if anyone would like to ride to Cullman, please contact 2nd Vice Commander Don Smith and let him know that you would like to ride and he will provide departure time from the Post for that event.

November brings us to the "Veteran's Day Dinner and Dance" which will be at 6:30 pm on the 6th of November. The following Wednesday the 11th will be the "Veteran's Day Parade" and ceremony in Priceville. Come join in the parade with us or just come and cheer on all of the participants but do come that day and join us.

Last but not least, please take a look at the enclosed calendars for all upcoming events that are happening at your post for times and dates. As other events become available in the upcoming months, we will send out emails to all on our email listing and we will post the events on our Facebook page and website.

www.allegionpost15.com and Facebook look for American Legion Post 15 and you will find us.

Thank you all for your continuing support of Post #15.
Roger Groves, Commander

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<http://www.allegionpost15.com/index.html>

Calendar of Events American Legion Post 15

~ September 2015 ~						
◀ August						October ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 9:00 AM Legion Riders Ride 7:00 PM Friday Night Dance 6:00 PM BINGO
6	7	8	9	10	11  7:00 PM Friday Night Dance	12 6:00 PM BINGO
13	14 6:00 PM Legion Riders Mtg.	15	16	17 6:00 PM Executive Mtg.	18  7:00 PM Friday Night Dance	19 8:00 Cmdr's Breakfast <hr/> 9:00 Riders Ride Post 310 Mtg. S.A.L. Mtg. <hr/> Bingo 6:00 PM
20	21	22	23	24 6:00PM Lady Riders Mtg.	25 7:00 PM Friday Night Dance	26 6:00 PM BINGO
27	28 6:00 P.M. <hr/> Post Dinner 7:00 P. M. Post & Auxiliary Meeting	29	30	Notes:		

Calendar of Events American Legion Post 15

~ October 2015 ~						
◀ September						November ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 9:00 AM Legion Riders Ride 6:00 PM BINGO
4 12th District Mtg. Post 4-Cullman Lunch 1:00pm Mtg.: 2:00pm	5	6	7	8	9	10 6:00 PM BINGO
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 8:00 Cmdr's Breakfast <hr/> 9:00 Riders Ride Post 310 Mtg. <u>S.A.L. Mtg.</u> 6:00 PM BINGO
	6:00 PM Legion Riders Mtg.					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				6:00 PM Executive Mtg.	7:00 PM Friday Night Dance	6:00 PM BINGO
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	6:00 P.M. <u>Post Dinner</u> 7:00 P. M. Post & Auxiliary Meeting			6:00PM Lady Riders Mtg	 7:00 PM Friday Night Dance	6:00 PM BINGO

American Legion Auxiliary



The Ladies Auxiliary Cake Walk which preceded the fish fry was more successful this year than the previous year. Members contributed more than 50 outstandingly delicious cakes. Vonnie Jackson baked more than a dozen cakes and Norma Duff, a professional cake decorator, made 3 Atomic cakes, 3 layered cakes containing pudding and fruits and iced. The cakes were topped with fresh strawberries. Proceeds almost doubled the money raised last year thanks to Jo Shafer, chairman and her committee. Don Kurbow, legionnaire, provided the music and Theresa Poff auctioned cakes remaining after the cake walk.

Membership at this time is significantly up from last year thanks to chairman, Brenda Tinger, who was assisted at the membership drive by Rebecca Rinkowski and Theresa Poff.

September 18th the Auxiliary will be represented in the annual POW/MIA ceremony which will be held at Priceville Veterans' Memorial Park. October 2nd and 3rd the Department Auxiliary Leadership Convention will be held in Montgomery and Unit 15 will be represented. At the convention Plans of Action will be distributed for the coming year and department chairmen will answer questions pertaining to their program. The Ladies' Auxiliary Yard Sale is scheduled for October 31st.

Erin Lokke is our websites chairman. She will be updating and correcting the information posted on the <http://www.allegionpost15.com/index> website shortly. Members are encouraged to submit to Erin any photographs taken during events so that she may use them on our website.

In November the Auxiliary will obtain Belk's Charity Sale tickets and will sell them for \$5.00 each. To enter the store during the special discount sale, the customer must purchase a ticket. The ticket entitles the buyer to many discounts that are not usually available. Most previous customers at the special sale are repeat customers.

Sons of the American Legion



As we start the 2015-2016 Legion year, the Sons are getting off to a good start. At our August meeting, we were pleased to already have 25 renewals and one new member, putting us at 65 members! While we have grown for the past couple years, we are down from 101 in 2011. To ease the process of renewing, we passed a Motion at our last meeting to process online renewals. SAL dues are \$15.00 a year, plus a 50¢ to cover the credit card processing cost. Given that only \$5.00 of the dues stay at the Squadron level, we hope that it is understandable why we are passing on the service fee. The URL to pay online is:

<https://squareup.com/market/alsal15>

We'd also like to take a few moments to spotlight our Sr. Vice Commander, Dr. Samuel T. King, Sr., the founder of the King James School in Downtown Decatur. The King James school is a M.I.T. Alternative School of Choice that focuses on drop outs, those that have appeared before the courts, single mothers and fathers, and children from alcohol and substance abuse dysfunctional homes. The school offers GED preparation, a pre-apprenticeship program, and court mediation services. The school's vision is:

We will raise the standard of living for all people by helping "at risk" students function as effective employees and citizens in our society. We will do this by providing an environment where attitudes can change and by addressing the physical, spiritual, emotional, and mental needs of the total person without regard for race, creed, or color. We will train and equip our students so that they will be able to attain credentials in secondary education and continue on to function at their highest levels of achievement!

Dr. King is also seeking individuals to come and speak to the students. We each have a story we could tell that would be a positive influence. The school's phone number is (256) 301-3030. You can find more information on the school online at <http://www.kingjameschool.com/>.

Also, you can now follow the Squadron on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/alsal15>.

For God and Country,
Jeremy B. Blevins
Adjutant



American Legion Riders



The Chapter 15 Riders have been taking advantage of the nice weather and riding to some exciting points of interest. In July we visited the Huntsville Veteran's Museum on Airport Road. The memorabilia and hands-on displays of military tanks, planes, trains, boats, aircraft and motorcycles are impressive and the staff is very eager to help patrons develop a better understanding of what they offer. The "briefing room" has a fascinating atmosphere and a video of one local aviator who describes the many dangerous missions and adventures he encountered during World War II.

On a more dutiful note, the Riders recently participated in several patriotic memorial activities. We stood a flag line at the funeral of a Post 15's close supporter and we stood a line at Hartselle's annual Purple Heart recognition ceremony. Some Riders participated in a procession to honor the memory of a fallen soldier as his remains were escorted across state lines. There were other escort missions for deploying Alabama Guard units, and stood with Patriot Guard riders at funerals and memorials throughout surrounding counties.

But sometimes we just hit the open road to enjoy riding with others. We recently road to Fort Payne Alabama and spent the night, touring the Little River Canyon and the beautiful countryside that part of the state has to offer.

Looking to the future, we expect to hold a fundraising dinner this fall to benefit the Morgan County Veteran's Memorial in Priceville. The memorial is a local gem that was built for residents to honor veterans of all services and we recommend you stop by to visit day or night. We will also be participating in November's veteran recognition ceremonies and parades.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Chapter 15 Legion Riders can contact the Director Bob Branin at riders@allegionpost15.com or find us at: www.allegionpost15.com/riders.html www.facebook.com/LegionRiders15



Steve Burney managing the cookers at Post 15's annual early bird event and fish fry

BINGO

Every Saturday 6 PM
Thousands in Cash Prizes



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~ November 2015 ~						
◀ October						December ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 Last Day for reservations for Veteran's Day Dinner & Dance	3	4	5	6  Veteran's Day Dinner & Dance 6:30pm	7 9:00 AM Legion Riders Ride 6:00 PM BINGO
8	9 6:00 PM Legion Riders Mtg.	10	11 	12	13 7:00 PM Friday Night Dance	14 6:00 PM BINGO
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29	30	Notes:				

Chaplain's Corner



First I'd like to say what an honor it is to serve as our Post Chaplain and tell you that I pray I can do the position the justice it deserves. I ask that you pray for me too.

The American Legion is all about fellowship with our members. The leadership at the Post knows that we only see a small portion of our membership at the Post Meetings, which makes it difficult to know the needs and problems that many members face. We truly want to help but are not made aware of needs. If you or a loved one has a special need or a prayer request, please let us know. There are several ways to get a message to me. You can email rebeccaburney@msn.com, or you can call me at 256-345-7610, or you can leave a message at the Post at 256-353-5501.

I ask you to devote a little time in your prayers for our comrades that have special needs at this time; Vaughn Harwell, Theresa Groves, Roger Groves, Willodene Curbow, Ed Owens, the families of Talmage Wallace Layton and James Stricklin, and for those who retired to Post Everlasting.

In each Newsletter I hope to share with you some soul food for thought. I plan to stay on the theme of "In God We Still Trust" and "One Nation Under God". In August of 1984, Ronald Reagan said this at a prayer breakfast in Dallas:

"Without God, there is no virtue, because there's no prompting of the conscience. Without God, we're mired in the material, that flat world that tells us only what the senses perceive. Without God, there is a coarsening of the society. And without God, democracy will not and cannot long endure. If we ever forget that we're One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

I wish you all a Blessed Day.
Chaplain Becky Burney

First Annual Field of Flags

Honoring Veterans Past, Present and Future

A Veteran's Day Field of Flags honoring our Armed Forces men and women will be held on November 11th 2015.

Anyone can sponsor an American flag for just \$10.00 and you can either specify a person to memorialize or you may choose to simply sponsor a flag and a local veteran will be assigned. Flags will be labeled with sponsor's name and the veteran being honored.

The flags will be displayed on the front lawn of Post 15 from dawn to dusk on Veteran's Day and everyone is encouraged to stop by that day to recognize the many sacrifices our Nation's heroes have made.

To sponsor a flag, please stop by Post 15 for an application or mail the following information and a check payable to The American Legion, Morgan County Post 15.

Your name (the sponsor) _____
Your address _____ email _____
Phone # _____ Veteran to be honored _____
Service branch if known _____
Era served if known _____

Mail to:
American Legion Post 15
P.O. 996
Decatur, AL 35602

**Post 15 Color Guard presenting honors
at Roselawn Gardens on Memorial Day**





Find us on the web at www.allegionpost15.com