

VOL. 26, ISSUE 2 OCT - DEC 2026

THE PATRIOT

Serving Morgan County, Alabama

Post 15 recognized some of our devoted members with continuous service certificates.
A big Thank You to everyone for your part in making Post 15 a pillar of the community.









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POST 15 COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Good Day, All,

This has been a very good quarter for our Post. Sadly, we lost two very special people, Susan McClendon and Ken Pace. They will be greatly missed, and our thoughts and prayers remain with their families and loved ones.

During this past quarter, we participated in the POW/MIA ceremony, and our Honor Guard completed several missions. I cannot thank you enough for all that each of you does for our Post.

Our Post continues to thrive because of the hard work, dedication, and efforts of our members. We successfully completed the Eagle Scout projects with the placement of the brass plaques. I hope we will be able to put the awesome new fire pit to good use in the coming months.

As we look forward to the next quarter, we have many activities and events coming up:

Post Family Picnic — October 17, 2026

Trunk or Treat (SAL Event) — October 30, 2026

Field of Flags — (Auxiliary Event) — November 11, 2026

Veterans Day Dinner — November 13, 2026

These are just a few of the activities we have planned as we head into the holiday season. Please remember to be mindful of those among us who may be less fortunate and may need a helping hand during this time of year.

Let's roll into the next quarter with the same enthusiasm, dedication, and camaraderie that we have shown throughout this past quarter.

Thank you all so very much for everything you do for our Post. Your continued support and commitment are what make our Post strong.

Fraternally,

Bill King
Commander

Online Membership Renewals

For everyone who renews their American Legion Membership online -- a new card **will not** automatically be sent to your home address. You must contact the Post 15 Adjutant who will provide an updated card.

POST 15 Senior Vice Commander's Comments

Comrades,

As we begin the second quarter of the 2026–2027 Legion year, our membership is more than 60% of the way toward our 100% goal of 258 members. Thank you to everyone who has renewed. If you have not renewed yet, there is still time. If you know eligible veterans, invite them to visit the post and learn what the American Legion is all about. We also have new officers bringing fresh ideas and activities for our Legion families to enjoy. With events such as the Commander's Breakfast, Army-Navy Tailgate party, Legion Family Picnic, and monthly membership dinner and meeting, your dues provide excellent value for the cost of your annual dues. Most importantly, remember that this is **YOUR POST**.

As always recruiting new members is important, however keeping our current members is just as essential. As of this writing, our retention rate is over 60%. Department of Alabama Senior Vice Commander Paul M. Gonthier has set a 90% retention goal for all posts this year. We are off to a strong start, and I am proud to say our post has met this goal for the past several years.

As always, if you have concerns, questions, or observations, please share them with your post officers so they can be reviewed and addressed appropriately. As part of my usual membership message, I highly recommend the PUFL (Paid Up for Life) choice, so you never have to wonder, "Did I pay my dues?" or worry when National raises dues again, I encourage all of our members to please consider it. Contact Post Adjutant David Ray for more information about the program.

I have one trivia question for this quarter:

Question: Who was instrumental in founding the American Legion?

Hint: He was a brigadier general in World War II and, at age 56, was the oldest Allied soldier to take part in the Normandy D-Day landing.

Answer: Theodore Roosevelt Jr.

Till next quarter,
BE THE ONE
John Nelson
Senior Vice Commander
American Legion Post 15 Decatur Alabama



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15

Happy Fall!!! This past quarter has been quite busy, and our members have shown up and showed out! We have been able to benefit veterans, families and members of our community!

The new officers for 2026/2027 have been settling in and we're looking forward to a great year. We showed up to assist in raising money to repair/replace the damaged monuments at the Veteran's Memorial for Morgan County. Working the fundraiser with Swamp John's in the summer heat was quite an adventure but the Auxiliary Members showed everyone how this was done! There were many compliments on our efforts, and we helped make a dent in the funds needed for this project. We helped to celebrate the USA 250th Anniversary in Hartselle with a combined effort with Post 52. We worked together aa a family to introduce the public to the amazing world of the US Military and the American Legion Family's camaraderie and dedication to our veterans and community. We worked hard together and both Post 15 and 52 had new members join. We also had Auxiliary members who attended the 103rd birthday of U S Army Veteran and POW Mr. Benjamin Roberts of Priceville. We enjoyed the opportunity to meet and celebrate with this incredible gentleman.

In August we came together for the annual Early Bird Fish Fry and were able to get our 2027 membership drive started, and I have to say we are off to a great start! Our family enjoyed the Commander's Breakfast at the end of August and had a great turnout of members to enjoy an outstanding breakfast to order and great company. September was met with excitement beginning the discussions on Field of Flags. November 11th is just around the corner, and I am including the link and QR code to reserve your spot to sponsor a flag for this event. It is a breathtaking sight! Please click on the link or use the QR code to order today! This is an opportunity to pay by card instead of check/cash, and the Zeffy company we use online allows 100% of your donation to go directly to our unit, they charge no fees.

We lost a treasured and long-time member of our ALA Family, Susan McClendon, on September 19th. Please keep Chuck, Beth and Becky in prayer.

If you or someone you know is interested in being a part of our American Legion Auxiliary, please help them contact myself, a member or the post for registration.

https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-field-of-flags-ala-unit-15-alabama

QR Code:

Thank you for all your hard work, efforts and prayers,

Marsha King,
President

American Legion Auxiliary of Morgan County, Unit 15, Decatur, AL (251)767-2446

American Legion Post 15

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Riders Group Ride BINGO 6pm
4 12th District Meeting Oneonta AL 35121	5	6	7	8	9	10 BINGO 6pm
11	12 Chapter 15 Riders Meeting 6pm	13	14	15	16 Boss's Day	17 Sons of Amer Legion Post Family Picnic BINGO 6pm
18 Riders Group Ride	19	20	21	22 Executive Committee Meeting 6pm	23	24 BINGO 6pm
25	26 Post 15 Membership Dinner 6pm Meeting 7pm	27	28	29	30 SAL Trunk or Treat 6-8pm	31 Halloween

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Saving	2	3	4	5	6	7 Riders Group Ride BINGO 6pm
8 Field of Flags Setup	9 Chapter 15 Riders Meeting 6pm	10	11 Veterans Day Field of Flags Parade 10am Ceremony 11am	12	13 Veterans Day Banquet 6:00 PM	14 BINGO 6pm
15 Riders Group Ride	16	17	18	19 Executive Committee Meeting 6pm	20	21 Sons of Amer Legion BINGO 6pm
22	23 Post 15 Membership Dinner 6pm Meeting 7pm	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28 Commander's Breakfast 8am BINGO 6pm
29	30					

December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Hanukkah begins	5 Riders Group Ride BINGO 6pm
6	7 Decatur Christmas Parade	8	9	10 Executive Committee Meeting 6pm	11	12 Army/Navy Game BINGO 6pm
13	14 Ch 15 Riders Post 15 Membership Dinner 6pm Meeting 7pm	15	16	17	18	19 Sons of Amer Legion Wreaths across America BINGO 6pm
20 Riders Group Ride	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas	26 BINGO 6pm
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

RIDING TO SUPPORT VETERANS

- **American Legion Chapter 15 Riders proudly hit the open road to honor our veterans**, ensuring no hero is forgotten and every sacrifice is respected.
- From charity rides to supporting local youth programs, Riders turn their passion for motorcycles into powerful community support.
- They serve as a shield of honor for military families, providing escorts for fallen heroes and raising vital funds for veterans in need.



Chapter 15 stood a flag line to honor and commemorate our dear friend Susan McClendon, and rallied to spotlight the sacrifices of gold star and blue star families.





Spotlight on American Legion National Legislative Priorities

Resolution No. 14: Department of Veterans Affairs Suicide Prevention Programs

Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, In their National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide report, the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) noted that in 2019, 6,261 veterans died by suicide which was a 52.3 percent higher rate than non-veterans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The rate of veteran suicide decreased in 2019 from 2018 and 2017 levels, respectively, according to VA's 2021 National Veterans Suicide Prevention Annual Report; and

WHEREAS, The current rate of veteran suicide, reflecting thousands of lives lost each year, warrants greater attention from VA, other federal agencies, state and local governments, and organizations that serve veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA is advancing a public health approach to reduce deaths by suicide among the greatest number of veterans possible; and

WHEREAS, Increased coordination of suicide prevention activities among cooperating partners could help improve services and outcomes for veterans, while making suicide prevention efforts more sustainable in the long term; and

WHEREAS, VA indicated that there remained much more to be known and understood about the dynamics and intervention factors of suicide prevention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 4-5, 2022, That The American Legion urges Congress to provide oversight and accountability of the Department of Veteran Affairs' (VA) Suicide Prevention Programs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That VA and other collaborating organizations conduct research on non-VA health care encounters for the purposes of developing, testing, informing, and evaluating community-based efforts to reach veterans outside of VA; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That VA and other collaborating organizations conduct research to evaluate the harms of current crisis responses, particularly among high-risk veteran subpopulations to identify novel solutions for responding to crises and to evaluate the effectiveness of promising new approaches; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That relevant data, including geographic or demographic data collected in the effort to identify at-risk individuals and/or facilities be shared publicly to improve the suicide prevention readiness of the surrounding community.