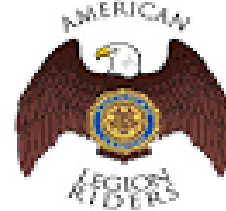


# ROLL CALL

## Clayton E. Moneymaker American Legion Post 237



## Alabama's Largest American Legion Post

Volume 24, Issue 12

December 2024

2900 Drake Ave. SW, Huntsville, AL 35805

256-883-9911



### Jerry Phelps Post 237 Commander Commander's Corner

Greetings, my fellow Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and our very own American Legion Riders chapter. This is the time of the year that we spend a lot of time with family and friends. As an American Legion Post, we can be proud to say that we love our American Legion Family and friends and enjoy spending time with each and every one of you throughout the year.

Hopefully by now, the ham, turkey and all of the side dishes have digested and now we look forward to the day that the "Big Guy in the Red Suit" comes and brings peace and joy to everyone around the world.

On that note, the Post will be closing at 6PM on Thursday December the 12<sup>th</sup> so that the officers of all our organizations, the employees, staff and volunteers can enjoy each other's company at our annual Christmas Party. Of course everyone that attends must have their 2025 dues paid. Adjutant McCoy has the 2025 membership cards available to renew before then.

Lastly, our Bingo Committee is looking for a volunteer to help with our Saturday bingo that helps to support the many programs that our Post supports. We are looking for someone to help set at the bingo table and learn to sell the bingo packs to the customers. Please reach out to me, Kimberly Smith, or Jack LaFountain for further information.

*Jerry Phelps, Post 237 Commander*

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## December Events

**December 7<sup>th</sup> 9 AM until noon - Christmas Breakfast with Santa .** \$6.00 all you can eat pancakes. Choose from blueberry strawberry or chocolate chip. Have your picture taken with Santa Claus with your phone or camera.

**December 12<sup>th</sup> 6 PM - Employee and Organization Volunteers Christmas Party and Dirty Santa.** Maximum \$20.00 gift. Food and drinks will be provided. Canteen will do last call at 5:00pm and close for the evening.

Alyse Sena will be doing **haircuts** in the meeting room from 1 PM until 5 PM on Saturday, December 7th.

**Football Saturday Lunch:** The kitchen will be open during the normal lunch hours of 11 AM until 1:30 PM.

**Sunday Fun Day:** Bar Bingo at the Post each Sunday. The doors open at 12 PM. Stop in and join in the fun! Karaoke with Howie starts at 3 PM.

**First Wednesday Steak Lunch:** On Wednesday, December 4, 2024, Carl will be cooking up ribeye steak, with a baked potato, salad, and a roll. Lunch will be served in the Canteen from 11 AM until 1:30 PM.

**Wednesday Game Nights:** Come join the Left, Right, Center dice tournament on the patio starting at 6 PM.

**Bunko Party in the Ballroom:** A Bunko Party is held in the Ballroom on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. This month Bunko will be held on December 17, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

**Bar Feud:** Saturdays 7 until 9 PM. Bring your crew and compete for prizes. Your host, Jerimy, will have you scratching your head as you try to guess the most popular answers.

**Christmas Membership Dinner:** Monday, December 16th at 6 PM. Ham, scalloped potatoes, vegetables, and salad. No meeting after the dinner.

## **Invisible Warriors**

### **Support for Female Veterans**

Invisible Warriors is a support organization for women that served in the US armed forces. Invisible Warriors goal is to assist female veterans with their unique challenges. Beginning on January 13, 2025 the group will meet monthly at Post 237 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 11 AM. All female veterans are invited.

Invisible Warriors will also screen the Netflix movie The Six Triple Eight on December 20, 2024 at 6 PM at Post 237. The movie tells the story of the only Women's Army Corps unit of color in WWII.

Contact Nancy Belcher at: 269-319-6041 or email at: [Nancy@InvisibleWarriors.org](mailto:Nancy@InvisibleWarriors.org) or visit the Post website at: <https://www.legion237.com/index.php?id=241> for more information,

## **CLAYTON E. MONEYMAKER AMERICAN LEGION POST 237**

### OFFICERS

Billy Heatherly	Past Commander
Jerry Phelps	Commander
Rob Satterwhite	1st Vice Commander
Tom Paone	2nd Vice Commander
Bob Wasniewski	3rd Vice Commander
Mary McCoy	Adjutant
Jack LaFountain	Finance Officer
Bill Pond	Chaplain
Ken Vining	Service Officer
Ken Carpenter	Historian
Cody Klinner	Sergeant-At-Arms
Billy Heatherly	Judge Advocate
Robert Barnett	1 Year Trustee
Don Pinkerton	2 Year Trustee
Brad Mayo	3 Year Trustee
Earl Hokanson	Honor Guard Cdr.
Tom Hartley	ROTC Liaison
Steve Bowling	S.A.L. Commander
Buddy Miller	S.A.L. Adjutant
Steve Bowling	Legion Riders Director
Sherry Schroen	Auxiliary President
Anna Marie Wasniewski	Club Manager

### Executive Committee

Jerry Phelps, Billy Heatherly, Rob Satterwhite, Tom Paone, Mary McCoy, Ken Carpenter, Cody Klinner, Bill Pond, Bob Wasniewski, Don Pinkerton, Robert Barnett, Brad Mayo, Jack LaFountain, Ken Vining.

### House Committee

Bob and Anna Marie Wasniewski, Ralph Miller, Colleen Copeland, Mark Utter, Joe Norman, John Schantz, Steve Bowling, Ken Reisenweber, Joyce Hampton, Beverly DuFour, and Howard Krueger.

### Finance Committee

Jack LaFountain, Jerry Phelps, Mary McCoy, Robert Barnett, Don Pinkerton, Brad Mayo. Bob Wasniewski

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Webmaster: [webmaster@legion237.com](mailto:webmaster@legion237.com)

Facebook Page:  
"The Clayton E. Moneymaker American Legion Post 237"

Newsletter Contact: [newsletter@legion237.com](mailto:newsletter@legion237.com)

Newsletter Archive:  
<http://www.legion237.com/index.php?id=126>

Printed copies of the current newsletter are available in the Social Quarters.



**Chaplain's  
Corner  
Bill Pond  
Post 237  
Chaplain**

Any member of the Post who is going in the hospital for 2 or 3 days, please contact the Chaplain at 931-209-7694 or email at: [billpond6@gmail.com](mailto:billpond6@gmail.com)



**WRITTEN** c. AD 60–62 by Luke (also the author of Acts), likely a doctor and Gentile fellow traveler with Paul, to a Gentile audience

**PURPOSE** To show Jesus as the Savior of the world who has compassion for all people.

**SUMMARY** Luke emphasizes how the good news of Jesus is for everyone. He also focuses on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit (4:14); the fact that God's kingdom is here and belongs to his children (12:32); Jesus' care and help for the poor and disadvantaged (6:17–19); and the importance of praying (18:1), as he records more instances of prayer than the other three Gospels.

The word *gospel* (meaning "good news") refers to the birth of the true king, one who came first to be a humble servant and a savior, and who will rule as the rightful king of all forever.

**OUTLINE**

- Jesus' birth and childhood (1–2)
- John the Baptist prepares the way (3–4)
- Jesus in Galilee (5–9)
- Jesus on the way to Jerusalem (10–18)
- Jesus in Jerusalem (19–24)

**KEY VERSE**

*"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."*—Luke 2:10–11

**Bible Challenge**

Who prayed in the temple for a son? *Hannah*

Who told Peter and John about Jesus' empty tomb? *Mary Magdalene*

What did God use to guard the gates of Eden? *Cherubim and a flaming sword*

Where did Stephen see Jesus standing? *At the right hand of God*

In what book do you find the Love Chapter? *Corinthians*



**From the  
Adjutant's Desk  
Mary McCoy, Post Adjutant**

American Legion National Commander wrote in September 2024, "Where Legion members apply the virtues of character, competence and commitment, The American Legion changes lives and saves lives."

Please remember.... 2025 dues are payable by December 31, 2024, to remain an active member. I sincerely hope Post 237 is meeting the needs of all members. Your feedback is important to the officers of this Post.

Commander/Adjutant office phone number is 256-397-3659.

**ZECHARIAH 4:6-10**

Do not despise these small beginnings.

[ZECHARIAH 4:10 NLT]

**"SMALL" MIRACLES**

**A**t our wedding shower, our shy friend Dave stood in a corner clutching an oblong, tissue-wrapped object. When his turn came to present his gift, he brought it forward. Evan and I unwrapped it to discover a hand-carved piece of wood containing perfect oblong concentric woodgrain circles and the engraved sentence, "Some of God's miracles are small." The plaque has hung in our home for forty-five years, reminding us again and again that God is at work even in the small things. Providing a bill. Healing a cold. All tallying up to an impressive record of God's provision.

Through the prophet Zechariah, the governor of Judah, Zerubbabel received a similar message from God regarding the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the temple. After returning from their Babylonian captivity, a season of slow progress began, and the Israelites grew discouraged. "Do not despise these small beginnings," God declared (ZECHARIAH 4:10 NLT). He accomplishes His desires through us and sometimes in spite of us. "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the LORD Almighty" (v. 6).

When we grow weary at the apparent smallness of God's work in and around us, may we remember that some of His miracles may be "small." He uses the small things to build toward His greater purposes.

ELISA MORGAN

**Where have you seen God's small miracles in your life?  
How has He used small things to provide for your needs  
and the needs of those around you?**

*Dear God, thank You for working Your small miracles in my life.  
Help me to notice all Your works!*

# The American Legion - Veterans Strengthening America

Tom Paone, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, email: [vicecdr2@legion237.com](mailto:vicecdr2@legion237.com)

The American Legion, the nation's largest veteran's organization, was founded in 1919. The following year Madison County veterans of WWI chartered the Peter Crump Post. The Post would be reorganized several times and renamed the Clayton E. Moneymaker American Legion Post 237 in 2017. Today, two additional American Legion Posts are chartered in the county and join more than 17,000 Posts and 2.7 million members in fulfilling our mission "to enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, the military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

From its inception, the American Legion has been an advocate for veteran's services while campaigning for the creation of the Veterans Administration (VA), protection of veteran's benefits, VA hospitals, and training programs. The American Legion drafted and pushed the GI Bill through Congress in 1944 and its subsequent renditions.

Post 237 located at 2900 Drake Ave. is home to over 1300 Legionnaires and also provides a meeting place for many veterans groups in our community.

The Legion Family includes spouses and family members who participate in Post activities as members of the Sons of the American Legion and the Auxiliary. The Legion Riders chapter offers comradeship for motorcycle enthusiasts who enjoy participating in rides and patriotic events.

The Post Veterans Service Officer (VSO) connects veterans and family members to local, state, and national resources and assists them with a variety of issues including dealing with the VA, suicide prevention, and emergency assistance.

The Post 237 Honor Guard is an elite uniformed unit that conducts scores of funeral services annually for veterans, leads local parades, and posts colors for community events.

County Posts host the Madison County Oratorical Contest, a constitutional speech contest that provides scholarship opportunities for high school orators. The winner of the county contest can compete at the district, division, state and national levels.

The American Legion and Auxiliary sponsor the Alabama Boys State and Alabama Girls State conventions on an Alabama college campus. The convention provides rising seniors, who are selected by their schools, the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and civic knowledge by creating mock governments and proposing and passing legislative agendas. Delegates develop life-long friendships and participate in activities aligned to the area of interest.

The Posts in Madison County support the JROTC units at eleven high schools and the ROTC unit at Alabama A&M and award the Military and Scholastic Excellence medals annually.

Founded in 1925, American Legion Baseball is designed to develop character, leadership and baseball skills and is an opportunity for players to showcase their talents. Post 237 sponsors a Varsity 19u team that competes annually for the state title. Many Post 237 baseball alum have earned college offers while playing Legion ball.

The Post 237 Social Quarters hosts weekday lunch, karaoke, trivia, Bunko, and game nights. Special events are held throughout the year in the Post Ballroom and bingo is played at the Post Annex four times a week.

Post 237 sponsors numerous scholarships and community outreach programs and donates to several local charities.

The American Legion brings together different generations of veterans and their families with a spirit of volunteerism. For further information visit our website at <https://www.legion237.com> or call the Adjutant's Office at 256-397-3659.

*Originally published in the November 2024 edition of South Huntsville Neighbors magazine.*

## Pictures from the Veterans Day Parade 2024



American Legion car leads the way!



Commander Phelps pulling the Post 237 float.



Post 237 Legion Riders.



Honor Guard Van under way!



Auxiliary, SAL, and Legionnaires on the Post 237 float.



Joe Norman cooking burgers and hot dogs.



## “THIS DAY WILL LIVE IN INFAMY”

Seven heroes you may have never heard of from the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941

**Cook Third Class Doris Miller** was stationed on the USS West Virginia battleship when the Japanese attacked. Awake at 6 a.m. Miller was collecting laundry when the attack was launched. He went to his battle station, which was an anti-aircraft battery magazine in the middle of the ship, only to find it had been taken out by a torpedo. Miller then went to the deck, where he was assigned to carry away wounded sailors before he was ordered to the bridge to help the mortally wounded Mervyn Bennion (who later received the Medal of Honor). After helping deliver ammunition to two .50 caliber Browning anti-aircraft machine gun crews, and without any weapons training, he manned one of the guns himself and fired until the ammunition was spent. “It wasn’t hard,” Miller later said. “I just pulled the trigger and she worked fine. I had watched the others with these guns. I guess I fired her for about fifteen minutes. I think I got one of those Jap planes. They were diving pretty close to us.” He received the Navy Cross for his actions, the first ever given to an African American, and the future Ford-class supercarrier CVN-81 was named after Miller. Miller was killed in 1943 while serving on the escort carrier USS Liscome Bay, which was sunk by a Japanese torpedo.

**Lt. Phil Rasmussen** was one of four American pilots able to get in the air and engage Japanese fighters during the Pearl Harbor attack. When the attack was launched, Rasmussen was still in his pajamas when he ran out to the flight line and jumped in a then old Curtiss P36A Hawk fighter plane---the only US planes the Japanese hadn’t yet taken out. Once in the air, Rasmussen shot down one Japanese Mitsubishi A6M2 Zero fighter plane and damaged another before he was targeted by two more. The two Japanese fighters shot up his plane, and took out his radio, hydraulic lines and rudder cables, but he was able to fly away and hide in the clouds before landing without brakes, a rudder or tailwheel. Rasmussen received the Silver Star for his actions.

**First Lieutenant Annie Fox** was the head nurse at the hospital at Hickam Field, which was Hawaii’s main Army field and bomber base, when the attack on Pearl Harbor was launched. Fox “administered anesthesia to patients during the heaviest part of the bombardment, assisted in dressing the wounded, taught civilian volunteer nurses to make dressings, and worked ceaselessly with coolness and efficiency, and her fine example of calmness, courage and leadership was of great benefit to the morale of all with whom she came in contact” according to the Purple Heart medal citation. Fox was the first US service woman to receive the Purple Heart, which she received for her actions during the attack. At the time. The US military awarded Purple Hearts for “singularly meritorious act of extraordinary fidelity or essential service.” When the requirement of being wounded was added, her Purple Heart was replaced with the Bronze Star, since she had not been wounded.

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**George Walters** was a civilian who operated a huge crane next to the USS Pennsylvania battleship at Pearl Harbor. He was 50 feet up in the crane when the attack was launched and was one of the first Americans to see the Japanese planes coming and alerted the sailors aboard the Pennsylvania. Walters then repeatedly swung the crane back and forth to shield the ship from Japanese fighter planes as US sailors aboard the Pennsylvania attempted to return fire. But the sailors manning the guns on the battleship had trouble seeing the Japanese planes because they were in dry dock. "The water had been pumped out, dropping their decks to a point where the high sides of the dry dock blocked most of the view," author Walter Lord wrote in his book "Day of Infamy." So, Walters used the crane's boom to point out incoming Japanese planes. "After a 500 pound bomb exploded nearby, damaging the crane and stunning Walters, he nearly fell from the crane. But Walters had moved the crane just in time to avoid a direct hit from the bomb, which left a 17-foot crater," according to the Honolulu Star-Bulletin. Walters has since been credited by many with helping save the ship.

**Commander Cassin Young** commanded the USS Vestal repair ship during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Young was in his cabin in the Vestal when the attack was launched. He ran to the deck where he organized sailors to fire the ship's three-inch guns at the Japanese planes overhead. But Young was blown overboard, along with 100 other sailors, when the forward magazine of the famed USS Arizona battleship, which was next to the Vestal was hit and exploded. The Vestal's second in command ordered the remaining sailors to abandon ship, but Young swam through the oil slick water and climbed back aboard. "Where the hell do you men think you are going?" Young yelled at the sailors abandoning ship, shouting at them to go to their stations and get the ship underway. The Vestal eventually made it out into open waters. Damaged and on fire, it ran aground. Young later received the Medal of Honor for his actions and was promoted to captain of the heavy cruiser USS San Francisco. He was killed aboard the San Francisco during the Guadalcanal Campaign.

**Chief Boatswain Edwin Joseph Hill** was stationed on the USS Nevada battleship when the attack on Pearl Harbor began. As Japanese planes fired down on the ship from above, Hill jumped into the harbor's waters and climbed ashore to release the Nevada from its mooring. He then jumped back in and swam towards the Nevada, which was moving to open water, and climbed back aboard the battleship. But with the Nevada alone in the water, the ship was an obvious target and would have blocked the harbor if destroyed. With Japanese fighters attacking the Nevada, Hill directed other sailors to take cover behind the gun's turrets. Many of the sailors later credited Hill with saving their lives. When Hill tried to drop anchor during the second wave of attack, a Japanese bomb hit the bow and he was killed. Hill was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

**Ensign Herbert C. Jones** was stationed aboard the USS California battleship during the Pearl Harbor attack. Jones had just taken over for the junior officer of the deck when the attack was launched. After a torpedo damaged the mechanical hoist that loaded the ship's anti-aircraft guns, Jones led a group of sailors to deliver the ammunition by hand. Jones was in a compartment on the third deck passing ammo up a ladder to the gun battery when a bomb struck the second deck, injuring him critically. The Nevada was taking on water and threatened with catching fire from burning oil in the water, when an abandoned ship order was given. Two sailors carried Jones from the compartment, which had caught fire, but at one point got stuck. "Leave me alone! I'm done for. Get out of here before the magazines go off." Jones said. Marine Corps Private Howard Haynes, who had been confined for a crime he committed when the attack was launched, later credited Jones with saving his life. Jones was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

***Contributed by Tom Hartley***

**Marine Corps League**

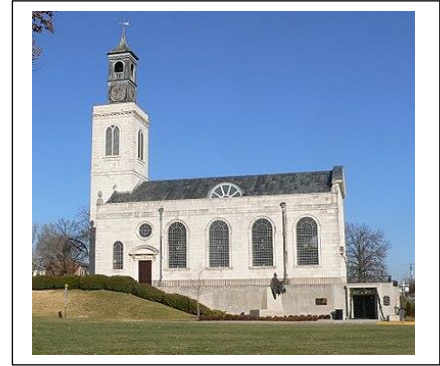
Brandon-Wilbourn Detachment #820 Marine Corps League meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Tim's Cajun Kitchen at 114 Jordan Ln NW, Huntsville. Social at 5:30pm - Meeting at 6pm. Contact Ed Becher @ 269-221-2221 for more info.



Truman and Churchill

## The Cold War Begins in Fulton, Missouri

By  
K. A. Carpenter, Post Historian



St Mary's Church

On 5 March, 1946, **Past Prime Minister, Winston Churchill delivered his “The Sinews of Peace” address on the campus of Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri.** His most quoted remark is “From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an **Iron Curtain has descended across the Continent.**” This insightful speech regarding the rising threat of Soviet expansion and communism in post-WWII Europe, and the early stages of the ideological conflict between the West and the Soviet Union, is generally considered a point of the **beginning of the Cold War.**

Arriving in January of 1946, Churchill toured the U.S. for business and pleasure, and lobbied for reconstruction loans for Britain. Through a Truman Administration Westminster alumnus, college President McCluer [sic] secured an arrangement for the visit of President Truman and for Churchill to speak for the Green Foundation Lecture series concerning international economic and social issues. The address was given in the college gymnasium which still remains as such.

As a result of this historic address, Westminster College is the home of the **America’s National Winston Churchill Museum.** The museum presents an overview of Churchill’s personal and political life including fascinating gallery rooms, the: "Admiralty, Army & Arsenal: 1914–1919" "The Gathering Storm: 1929–1939", "Churchill's Finest Hour: World War II, 1939–1945", "The Sinews of Peace" and the "Winston's Wit & Wisdom" room.

The **museum is housed** in a most remarkable structure, the **Sir Christopher Wren reconstructed (1672-1679) 12<sup>th</sup> century, Church of St. Mary, Aldermanbury.** This grand edifice was “bombed out” during the 1940 “London Blitz”. In 1961 college President Davidson developed a plan to commemorate Churchill and his “Sinews of Peace” on the campus. A Life magazine article reported on the plan to demolish war-torn Wren churches. The college intervened to stop the demolition and to reconstruct it to honor Churchill. After four years preparation, support by actor Richard Burton, and the raising of \$2 million, the removal process began in 1965. Each of the 7,000 stones (700 tons) were labeled and shipped to Fulton. Interior wood work was crafted from pre-war photographs by English woodcarvers. The organ, windows, and bells were reproduced.

The dedication ceremony for St. Mary’s and the Churchill Memorial and Library was held on 7 May, 1969. In 2009 the museum was declared “**America’s National Churchill Museum**” by the U.S. Congress. The 2011 “**Iron Curtain**” **sculpture of Churchill** making his address graces the museum entrance.

In 1990, **eight sections of the Berlin Wall** marked with “unwahr” (lies or untruths) stands on the museum campus. These 4’ wide sections were donated to the school (each section was selling for \$60,000 - \$200,000) by the East German government for a Berlin Wall monument at the site of Churchill’s 1946 speech.

**Westminster College** was established in 1851 and has a student population of 609 (2020).

*(continued on page 9)*



(continued from page 8)

Sources: Churchill and the Great Republic. [www.loc.gov/exhibits/churchill](http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/churchill)  
[wwwGov.UK](http://wwwGov.UK). [www.nationalchurchillmuseum.org/](http://www.nationalchurchillmuseum.org/)  
[wikipedia.org/wiki/National Churchill Museum](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Churchill_Museum). [www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction)

Personal Note: I had the pleasure of touring this outstanding museum and church, the Westminster campus and the charming town of Fulton (No parking meters anywhere !) in Oct. 2024.



Iron curtain sculpture



Berlin Wall Fulton, MO



Interior of St Mary's church

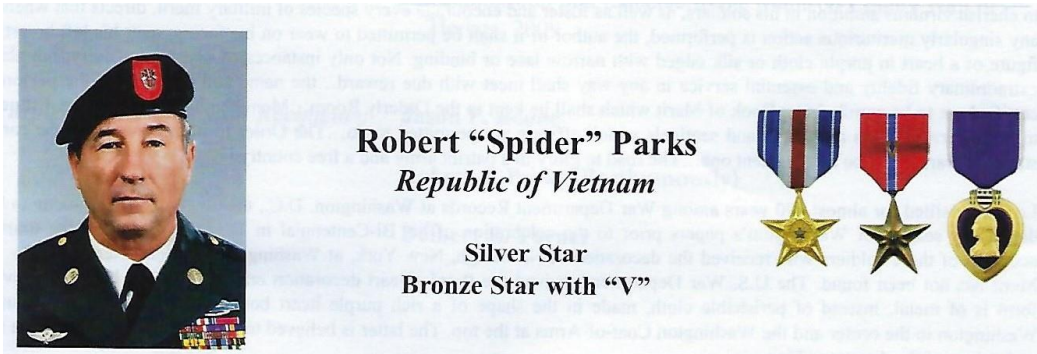


Churchill museum display

### Honor Guard Recognition

At the November Membership Meeting Honor Guard Commander Earl Hokanson displayed the plaque that was awarded to the Post 237 Honor Guard by American Legion Post 351. The award recognized the continued effort of the Post 237 Honor Guard in honoring North Alabama veterans at their funeral services and the Honor Guards' support of patriotic community events.





## **Sgt. Maj. Robert “Spider” Parks inducted into the Madison County Hall of Heroes**

*K. Carpenter, Historian*

On 8 Nov. 2024, at the North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Origination Coalition (NAV&FOC) Veterans Week dinner, Post 237’s Sgt. Maj. Robert “Spider” Parks was posthumously inducted into the Madison County Hall of Heroes by the Madison County Military Heritage Commission. In addition, he was enrolled onto that organization’s Purple Heart Honor Roll. Mrs. Lucia Parks accepted the award. In memory, and in honor, of “Spider”, the following are excerpts from CSM Parks’ obituary:

Robert “Spider” James Parks, retired Army Special Forces, passed away Sunday, October 30th, 2022, at the age of 81. ... Spider grew up in Dallas, Texas and spent most of his adolescence on an Indian Reservation, and he proudly outlined his lineage back to the Comanche tribe. He initially joined the Army Reserves in 1957. His earliest career aspiration was to become a public health official. By the time Spider went to active-duty status in 1967, he was well on his way to achieving this as he had served in every Public Health department in Dallas City and County. In 1967 he volunteered for one deployment to Vietnam and was assigned to 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group. During his time in Vietnam Spider volunteered for a highly classified unit called Military Assistance Command - Vietnam Studies and Observations Group, MAC-V SOG. Of the more than three million Americans who deployed to Vietnam, only 2,000 served in SOG. Spider would tell you his defining Army experience was in Vietnam as a member of MAV-V-SOG. Spider would go on to spend 30 years in the Army, retiring as a Command Sergeant Major (CSM), the highest enlisted rank in the U.S. Army.

After Spider volunteered to be assigned to Vietnam, he would go on to serve in 1st, 7th, and 10th Special Forces Group (SFG). One of his final assignments prior to being selected to attend the Sergeant Major’s academy was as a First Sergeant in the 82nd Airborne at Ft. Bragg, NC. After becoming a CSM he was assigned first to 3rd Battalion, 7th SFG in Panama and then to Korea as the Garrison CSM of Camp Page near Chunchon. Spider described 3-7 SFG and 1-1 SFG as the finest assignments that he had except for the assignment in Phu Bai, FOB 1, while serving in MAC-V SOG. Spiders most important priority as a leader was “saving and supporting his troops.”

After retiring Spider went on to earn his doctorate degree in Behavioral Science and served 15 years with the Department of the Army as a behavioral scientist and substance abuse professional. While studying for his doctorate, for a time Spider was the Garrison Commander of Camp Hialeah in Pusan, Korea. Though Spider had completed extensive academic course work, he would go on to say the toughest course he ever attended was Special Operations and Intelligence (O&I).

**He also served as an unofficial POW/MIA representative for a joint committee of the Special Forces Association and Special Operations Association to find the remains of American prisoners of war or missing in action in Southeast Asia, where he was prior to his passing. Spider would return numerous times to Vietnam and Laos decades after the war ended. He went in search of those SOG men that never returned and were unaccounted for or missing. He never gave up on his desire to find SFC Lane and SSG Owen. He would say that**

he could still see their faces and the only thing that ever held him back from going there, to continue his search, would be funding or health issues.

During Spiders career **he received the Special Forces Tab, Purple Heart (2), Silver Star (2), Bronze Star w/V device and oak leaf cluster, Air Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Medal, Army Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Legion of Merit, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Master Parachute Badge, Combat Diver Badge, Vietnam Parachutist Badge, and several classified awards.** (DD214)

During his retirement, Spider became an active member of the Special Forces Association, Special Operations Association, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the American Legion Post 237. **He was on the honor guard at Post 237 for over 13 years during which time he assisted with over 1300 funerals for veterans.** He also served on the **Joint Special Operations Forces POW/MIA Committee.**

Though Spider was a decorated war hero, he was a simple man who loved his family and lived his life to the fullest. He enjoyed playing the guitar, sky diving, and he even played on minor league baseball teams up into his mid-sixties. **His humble mannerism, deep respect for all service members past and present, made Spider uniquely special, just as he made all of us feel when we were with him.**

The evening's events included the presentation of the NAVFOC Veteran of the Year Award to Col.(Ret.) Larry Vannoy, Commander of American Legion Post 229, by Post 237 One Year Trustee, Robert Barnett, the recipient of the 2023 Veteran of the Year Award. The gala gathering, held at the Von Braun Civic Center Saturn Ballroom, was attended by a host of veterans and their guests, who enjoyed an elegant dinner enhanced by live chamber music. Emcees of the variety of the evening's events were Lt. Gen. Chris Mohan (U.S. Army Materiel Command), and WAFF anchor Liz Hurley. In addition to the presence of Robert and Julie Barnett, Post 237 was represented by Ed and Nancy Becher, and Ken and Deborah Carpenter.



## **A Message from the First Vice Commander, Rob Satterwhite**

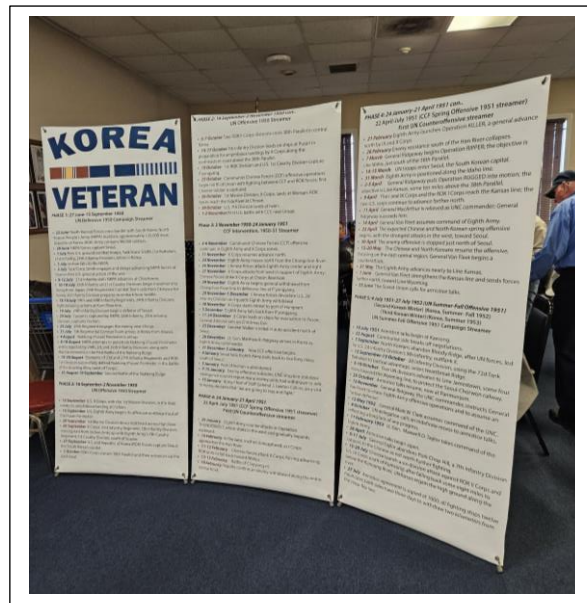
I recently spoke with a member who has a small ranch about 45 minutes from the Post. This gentleman and the Ms. own six horses. He brought my attention to an article I will link below discussing recent findings of how helpful equine/horse therapy can be in helping those with PTSD and other mental illnesses. From reading the article myself, horses have a kind of sixth sense and can have a very calming and healing effect on those suffering from PTSD. From simply brushing to gentle rides, horses have helped many with PTSD improve their overall outlook on life and eased symptoms of those who suffer. If you are in need of this type of therapy or know a veteran who is, please feel free to call Post 237 and we will be happy to pass along contact information. He and the Ms. have expressed how much they love horses and their desire to help other veterans in this way.

American Legion, Healing with Horses: <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/veterans-healthcare/2024/november/healing-with-horses>

Rutgers University Study: <https://www.rutgers.edu/news/horse-caring-helps-veterans-ptsd#:~:text=A%20study%20by%20Rutgers%20University,outlook%20and%20easing%20of%20symptoms>

# Korean War Veterans Recognition Event

On Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> Bill Pond, Post 237 Chaplain, hosted a Korean War Veteran Recognition Event in the Post 237 ballroom. Korean War Veterans along with their family members were honored at the event. Pictures from the event are below.





# Are you a SON?

## *We want you!*

*to be a member of the Sons of The American Legion*

### ***Sons of The American Legion Eligibility***

All male descendants, adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, and December 7, 1941, to date, as set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

*contact*

*BILLY PHELPS*

*(256) 244-2512*

Squadron & Telephone Number

- *Serving State & Nation*
- *Veterans & Families*
- *Children & Youth*
- *Veterans Rehabilitation (VAVS)*
- *Youth Programs*
- *Americanism*
- *Community Service*

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION





## FROM THE 3<sup>RD</sup> VICE COMMANDER

*Bob Wasniewski, Post 237 3rd Vice Commander*

Hello, my fellow Legionnaires, Sons of the American Legion, and Auxiliary members. I wanted to let you know about some of the upcoming events in December.

**Football Saturday Lunch:** We serve lunch on Saturdays during the football season. The kitchen will be open during the normal lunch hours of 11 AM until 1:30 PM.,

**Sunday Fun Day:** Bar Bingo and karaoke with Howie each Sunday. The doors open at 12 PM. Bar Bingo starts around 12:15 PM. Stop in and join in the fun! Karaoke starts at 3 PM.

**First Wednesday Steak Lunch:** Scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 2024. We will be selling ribeye steak, with a baked potato, salad, and a roll. Lunch will be served in the Canteen during the normal hours of 11 AM until 1:30 PM.

**Wednesday Game Nights:** Game night at the Post! We will be continuing the Left, Center, Right dice game on the Patio starting at 6 PM.

**Kids Christmas Breakfast:** We are going to hold a pancake breakfast on Saturday, December 7, 2024, for the kids Christmas party. We are going to serve pancakes, bacon, and sausage for \$6.00 per plate. Further details will follow in the newsletter and on our Facebook page.

**House Committee Meeting:** The House Committee meets on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 6 PM in the Meeting Room.

**Employee Christmas Party:** This year's Employee Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, December 12, 2024. The Post will close early that evening and access to the Post will be restricted. Because the party is going to be held on a Thursday night, the House Committee voted to approve paying Howard Krueger his normal fee for karaoke services for the day.

**Bunko Party in the Ballroom:** A Bunko Party is held in the Ballroom on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. This month Bunko will be held on December 17, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

**Christmas Day:** Christmas Day is Wednesday, December 25, 2024. The Post will be closed so that employees will be able to celebrate Christmas with their families.

**SMOKING POLICY:** it is still necessary to remind the membership that the bathrooms in the Post are **NON-SMOKING**. I continue to find cigarette butts in the toilet in the Men's Room which will lead to more plumbing issues. Also, the parking lot of the Post is **not an ash tray!** Take pride in the appearance of **YOUR POST**. Dispose of cigarette butts in the receptacles provided.



### **Salad Bar and Reuben Sandwiches**

On Mondays, in addition to the regular menu items, a salad bar will be available for lunch. Also, starting November 25<sup>th</sup> Jeff will be serving Reuben sandwiches on Monday nights in the Social Quarters.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### LUNCH IN THE SOCIAL QUARTERS

MONDAY – FRIDAY 11 AM -1:30 PM

Specials: Mon/Tue – Salad/Potato Bar, Wed – Philly Cheese Steak, 1<sup>st</sup> Wed – Steak, Thu – Taco Salad, Fri – Fish

### Evening and Saturday Kitchen Service

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri 5-7 PM Sat 11 AM- 1:30 PM

### KARAOKE AND BAR FEUD IN THE SOCIAL QUARTERS

THU 7-11 PM AND SUN 3-7 PM KARAOKE WITH HOWIE

SAT 7-9 PM BAR FEUD WITH JERIMY

SAT 9 PM - 12 AM KARAOKE WITH JERIMY

FRI 7 – 11 PM KARAOKE WITH JERIMY

### TRIVIA IN THE SOCIAL QUARTERS

MONDAY 7-9 PM WITH LISA AND ZACK

### BINGO AT THE POST 237 ANNEX

SUN 3:30 PM MON, WED AND SAT AT 6 PM

### MEMBERSHIP DINNER AND MEETING IN THE BALLROOM

3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAY DINNER AT 6 PM (\$7.00) , MEETING AT 7 PM

### POOL LEAGUE

SOCIAL QUARTERS - ALTERNATING THURSDAYS 7 PM

### TEXAS HOLDEM FUNDRAISER

SOCIAL QUARTERS - TUESDAY 6 PM

### BAR BINGO

SOCIAL QUARTERS - SUNDAY 12-2PM

### BUNKO PARTY

BALLROOM - 3<sup>RD</sup> TUESDAY 6:30PM

**GAME DAY** – WEDNESDAYS LEFT/RIGHT/CENTER 6PM

**HAIRCUTS WITH ALYSE** – FIRST SATURDAY – NOON – 3PM

## First Wednesday Steak Lunch

Join us for lunch: ribeye steak, baked potato, roll and salad on the first Wednesday of each month.



December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11AM- 1:30PM

## Second Sunday Pot Luck

Join us on the second Sunday of the month from 3 PM to 7 PM for a Pot Luck. Bring a dish to share and enjoy Karaoke with Howie!



## Monday Night Trivia

Join us on Monday nights at 7PM for Trivia presented by Lisa and Zack! Have fun, exercise your brain and win Legion Bucks!



## Social Quarters Hours of Operation

Monday	10:00AM – 12:00AM
Tuesday	10:00AM – 12:00AM
Wednesday	10:00AM – 12:00AM
Thursday	10:00AM – 12:00AM
Friday	10:00AM – 1:00AM
Saturday	11:00AM – 1:00AM
Sunday	12:00PM – 8:00PM

### Adjutant's Office Hours

Monday through Friday 10 AM until 4 PM  
Call 256-397-3659 to make an appointment.  
Email at [adjutant@legion237.com](mailto:adjutant@legion237.com)

### Commander's Office Hours

Monday and Tuesday 4 PM until 6 PM  
Email at [commander@legion237.com](mailto:commander@legion237.com)



## Lunch at the Legion

Monday through Friday  
11:00AM to 1:30PM

Specials:

Salad Bar – Monday

Philly Cheese Steak – Wednesday

Taco Salad – Thursday

Fish –Friday

## Smoke Free Lunch!

The area in front of the bar is smoke-free from 10AM to 2PM Monday through Friday. The area in back of the bar is open for smokers. Please be courteous and observe these restrictions.

## LAST LAUGH

### THREE DAY PASS

An Army Private is reassigned to a new unit during wartime. On his third day in his new unit the Private asks his First Sergeant for a three-day pass. The First Sergeant says, "Who the hell do you think you are? You are assigned to this unit for three days and you want a three-day pass. To get a three-day pass you must do something sensational."

The next day the Private shows up at his unit's headquarters driving an enemy tank all by himself. The First Sergeant says in amazement, "How did you capture an enemy tank?"

The Private says, "I took one of our tanks and drove toward the enemy. I saw one of the enemy's tanks coming toward me. The enemy tank stopped and an soldier came out of the tank waving a white flag. I said to the enemy soldier, "Do you want a three-day pass?" The enemy soldier said "Yes" so we exchanged tanks.

*Contributed by Tom Hartley*



### Around the Post



### Texas Hold'em Fundraiser

**Come and play in the Texas Hold'em fundraiser every Tuesday at 6 PM in the canteen. Funds raised benefit charitable and Legion project throughout the year.**

**Come on down and join in the fun!**

**The online version of the Redstone Rocket is available here:**

<https://www.theredstonerocket.com/edition/>

### Help! We are running out of jokes!

Please give us a hand. To contribute a cartoon or funny story to Humor in Uniform email to: [newsletter@legion237.com](mailto:newsletter@legion237.com)

### Upcoming Americanism Events

The Madison County High School Oratorical Contest is scheduled for February 8, 2025, at Madison City Hall.

The 88<sup>th</sup> Alabama Boys State Convention will be held at the University of Alabama Tuscaloosa campus from May 25 through May 31, 2025. The Girls State Convention is scheduled for June 1 through June 6, 2025 at the University of Alabama Tuscaloosa campus.

For further information email Tom Paone at [vicecdr2@legion237.com](mailto:vicecdr2@legion237.com)



### American Legion Riders Update

The American Legion Riders will be meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5:30PM at Post 237. For more information you can contact Steve Bowling at [stevebowling.sal@gmail.com](mailto:stevebowling.sal@gmail.com)

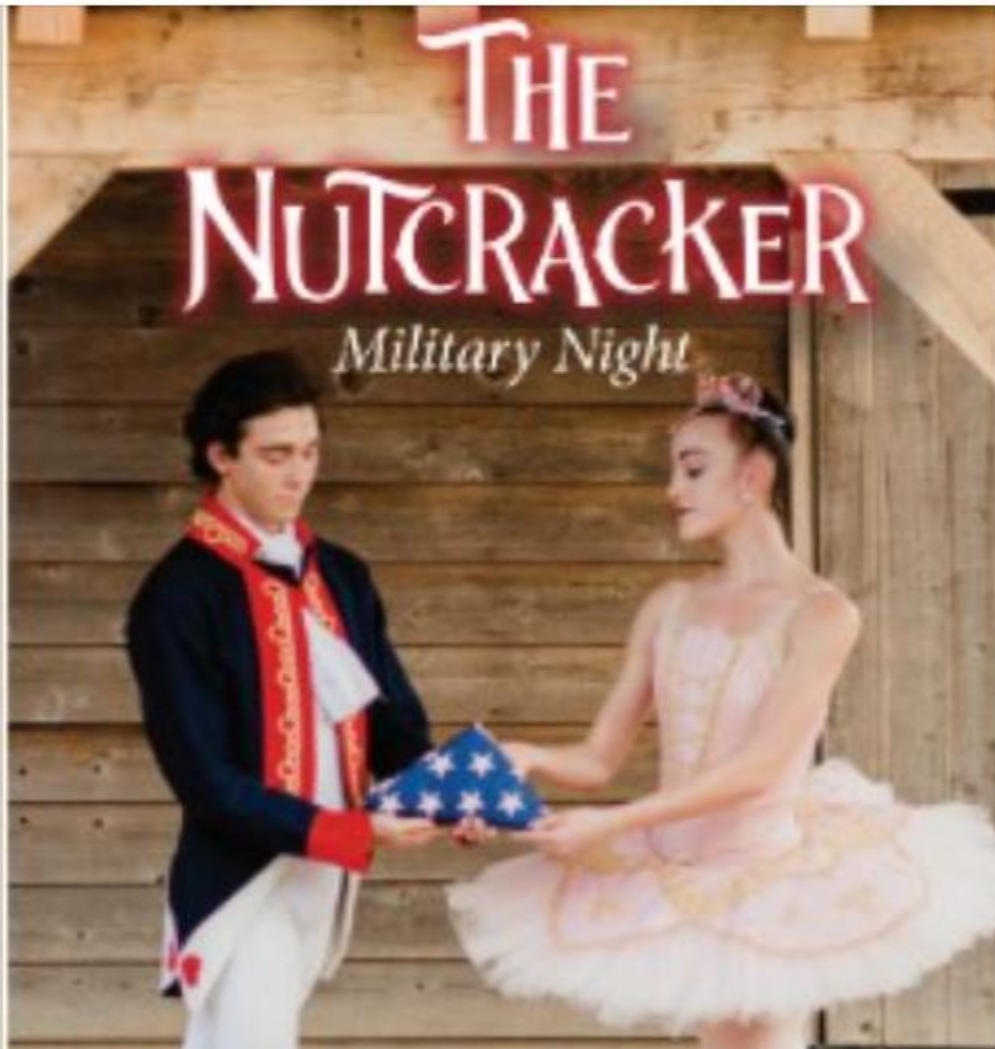
The Riders are selling poker chips for \$3 to benefit the Veterans and Children's Foundation. You can purchase them from a member or at the bar.



SSV is once again happy to partner with the [Huntsville Ballet Company](#)! We have free tickets for the December 12th showing of The Nutcracker! Doors open at 6 at the VBC and show starts at 7pm.

Stop by our office M-Th 8am-4:30pm, Friday we close by 3:30pm!

"Military Night" 🇺🇸 has become a Huntsville tradition and is possible through generous community donations. A special reception for local Gold Star Families will be held prior to the performance. Guests are welcomed by the Huntsville Master Chorale, The USMC will be collecting donations and live music is provided by the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra. The Nutcracker ushers in the perfect start to a magical holiday season 🌲





**American Legion Post 237 Bingo Annex  
3806 Colonial Park Circle SW, Huntsville, AL**

**Monday, Wednesday and Saturday**

**Doors Open at 4PM**

**Starts at 6PM**

**Sunday**

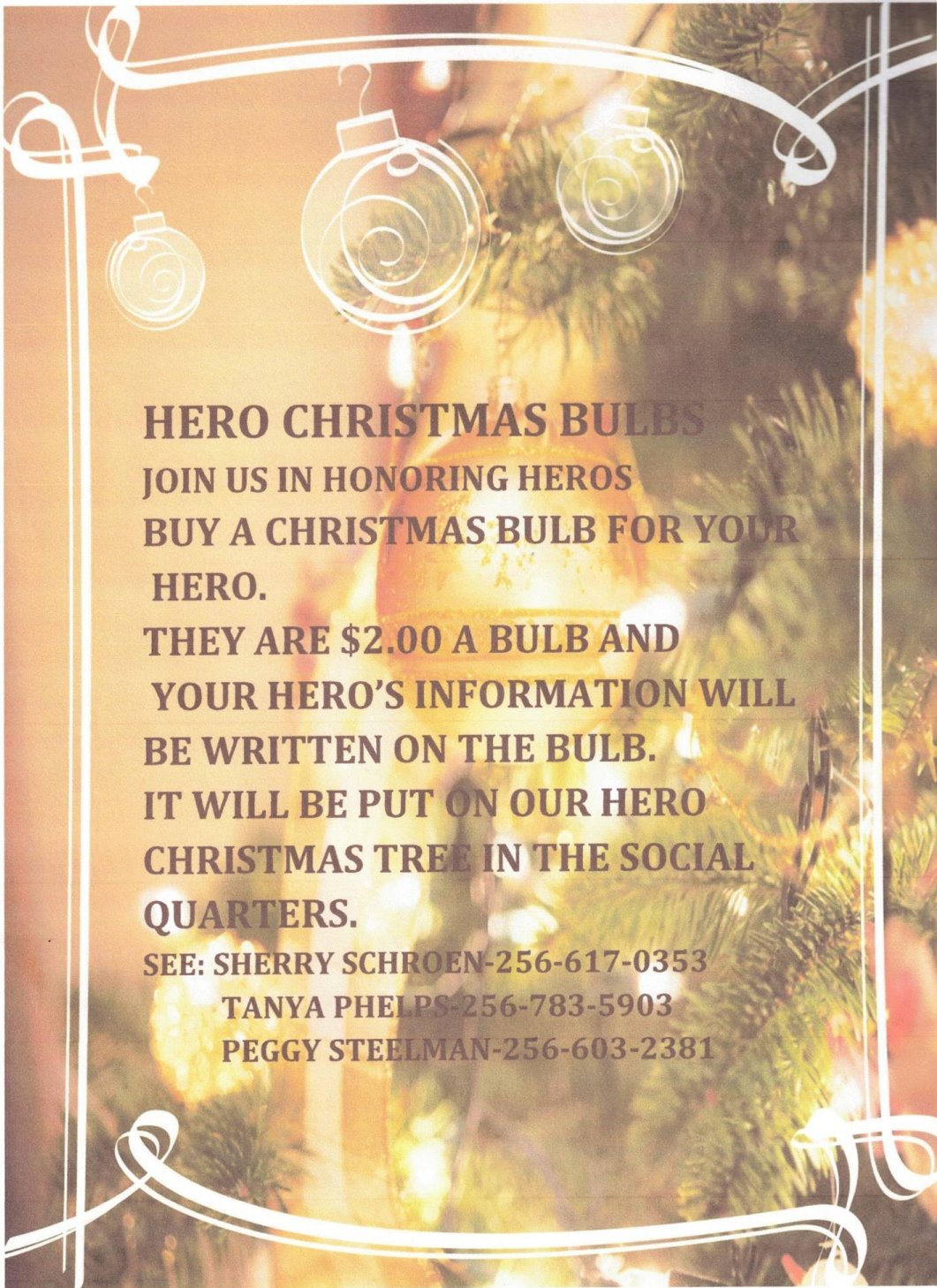
**Doors Open at 1PM**

**Starts at 3:30PM**

**Bingo supports many of our charitable programs. Legion Bingo, Sons of the American Legion Bingo, and Auxiliary Bingo fund our Boys and Girls State programs, American Legion Baseball, Veteran's Relief Fund, ROTC and JROTC support programs, scholarships and many other community and veteran related endeavors.**

**Come and join us for a fun outing at the Annex and help keep our programs strong. There is a isolated smoking section and the public is invited. Who knows, you might win a big jackpot!**





**HERO CHRISTMAS BULBS**

**JOIN US IN HONORING HEROS  
BUY A CHRISTMAS BULB FOR YOUR  
HERO.**

**THEY ARE \$2.00 A BULB AND  
YOUR HERO'S INFORMATION WILL  
BE WRITTEN ON THE BULB.  
IT WILL BE PUT ON OUR HERO  
CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE SOCIAL  
QUARTERS.**

**SEE: SHERRY SCHROEN-256-617-0353**

**TANYA PHELPS-256-783-5903**

**PEGGY STEELMAN-256-603-2381**



**YOUR AMERICAN LEGION POST 237  
PROUDLY PRESENTS**



***THE PHILIPPINE AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA, INC  
CHRISTMAS CAROLERS***



**THE GOAL OF THE PAAA CAROLERS IS TO RAISE FUNDS IN SUPPORT OF SEVERAL CHARITABLE PROJECTS, INCLUDING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR QUALIFIED ASSOCIATION MEMBER CHILDREN, PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY PROJECTS, AND PROVIDING NATURAL DISASTER FUNDING RELIEF TO VICTIMS BOTH IN THE PHILIPPINES AND IN OUR OWN COMMUNITY.**

**December 1, 2024**

**Immediately following Bar Bingo  
(approximately 2 pm)**

***Donations are encouraged but not required!***

~Post 237 December 2024 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 12p-2p Bar Bingo 3p-7p Karaoke w/Howie 3:30p-7p AUX176 Bingo	<b>2</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 6p-9:30p SAL 237 Bingo 7p-9p Trivia w/ Lisa and Zack	<b>3</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 6p-8p Texas Holdem 7p-8p 40/8 Meeting	<b>4</b> 11a-1:30p 1st Wed Steak Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 6p-9:30p AUX237 Bingo	<b>5</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-11p Karaoke w/Howie	<b>6</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-11p Karaoke with Jerimy	<b>7</b> 9a-12p Children's Christmas Party 11a-1:30p Kitchen Open 6p-9:30p AL237 Bingo 7p-12a Bar Feud and Karaoke w/Jerimy
<b>8</b> 12p-2p Bar Bingo 3p-7p Karaoke w/Howie 3p-7p Pot Luck Dinner 3:30p-7p AUX176 Bingo	<b>9</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 6p-9:30p SAL 237 Bingo 7p-9p Trivia w/ Lisa and Zack	<b>10</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 6p-7p House Comte. Mtg. 6p-8p Texas Holdem	<b>11</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 6p-9:30p AUX237 Bingo 6p-7p Exec. Board Meeting	<b>12</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 6p Employee Christmas Party	<b>13</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-11p Karaoke with Jerimy	<b>14</b> 10:30a-11:30a CVMA Meeting 6p-9:30p AL237 Bingo 11a-1:30p Kitchen Open 7p-12a Bar Feud and Karaoke w/Jerimy
<b>15</b> 12p-2p Bar Bingo 2p-3p SAL Meeting - Sons of the American Legion Meeting 3p-7p Karaoke w/Howie 3:30p-7p AUX176 Bingo	<b>16</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 6p-7p Christmas Members Dinner 6p-9:30p SAL 237 Bingo 7p-9p Trivia w/ Lisa and Zack	<b>17</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 6p-8p Texas Holdem 6:30p-9p Bunko Party in the Ballroom	<b>18</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 5:30p-6:30p ALR Meeting 6p-9:30p AUX237 Bingo	<b>19</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-11p Karaoke w/Howie	<b>20</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-11p Karaoke with Jerimy 6p Movie: the Six Triple Eight in the ballroom	<b>21 Winter Solstice</b> 6p-9:30p AL237 Bingo 11a-1:30p Kitchen Open 7p-12a Bar Feud and Karaoke w/Jerimy
<b>22</b> 12p-2p Bar Bingo 3p-7p Karaoke w/Howie 3:30p-7p AUX176 Bingo	<b>23</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 6p-9:30p SAL 237 Bingo 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-9p Trivia w/ Lisa and Zack	<b>24</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 6p-8p Texas Holdem	<b>25 Christmas</b> Post Closed	<b>26</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-11p Karaoke w/Howie	<b>27</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-11p Karaoke with Jerimy	<b>28</b> 6p-9:30p AL237 Bingo 11a-1:30p Kitchen Open 7p-12a Bar Feud and Karaoke w/Jerimy
<b>29</b> 12p-2p Bar Bingo 3p-7p Karaoke w/Howie 3:30p-7p AUX176 Bingo	<b>30</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 6p-9:30p SAL 237 Bingo 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-9p Trivia w/ Lisa and Zack	<b>31</b> 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 6p-8p Texas Holdem				

Details on Calendar items are available by clicking on the item at:

<http://www.legion237.com/index.php?id=100>

To contribute to the Roll Call Newsletter email your article to: [newsletter@legion237.com](mailto:newsletter@legion237.com)