

ROLL CALL

Clayton E. Moneymaker American Legion Post 237



Alabama's Largest American Legion Post

Volume 20, Issue 1

January 2020

2900 Drake Ave. SW, Huntsville, AL 35805

256-883-9911



Billy Heatherly
Post 237 Commander

Well here it is, a half of the Legion year gone. And for the next 6 months, it is time to get back to work after a long Holiday season. My staff and Officers have done some great work for the Post and it is our wish to finish this Legion year strong. It is also a time to think of the future, and think about elections as nominations will soon be coming up in April. Remember too, that I am still looking for Volunteers to help with many projects we have going on. I do sincerely hope to all the membership I wish you a very Happy New Year for you and your families. ❖

Volunteers Needed!

If you are a lawyer who would like to be considered for the position of Judge Advocate or if you have experience in facilities, building maintenance or construction trades and would like to help your fellow veterans by being a member of the Building Committee please email Billy Heatherly at: commander@legion237.com

A Century of Service



In 2020, Post 237 celebrates our Centennial. We can trace our roots to June 1920, when the Post was activated as the Peter Crump Post. Read the Post history in this issue! ❖

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Commander's Corner, Volunteers, A Century of Service
- 2 Post 237 Info, Membership Update, History of Post 237
- 3 History of Post 237 (continued)
- 4 Officer, Finance Reports, Building Fund
- 5 Chili Cook-off, Iraq War Heroism
- 6 Honor Guard - Why I Serve
- 7 Calendar of Events, Operating Hours, Around the Post, Mid-Winter Conference
- 8 Communications Committee, Football, Pot Luck, Commissary and Exchange Privileges Expanded
- 9 Americanism Report
- 10 Humor in Uniform, 2020 Grissom 5K Run, Bingo
- 11 Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- 12 Baseball Raffle, New Year's Eve Party, Lunch at the Legion, Smoke Free Lunch
- 13 Pictures, 2020 Oratorical Contest
- 14 January Monthly Calendar

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

OFFICERS

Billy Heatherly	Commander
Don Pinkerton	Past Commander
Roy Hall	1st Vice Commander
Tom Paone	2nd Vice Commander
Glen Vela	3rd Vice Commander
Mary McCoy	Adjutant
Bud Pagakis	Finance Officer
Jerry Creel	Chaplain
Nicholas Jones	Service Officer
Michael Kinney	Historian
Gerry Frank	Sergeant-At-Arms
Ken Reisenweber	1 Year Trustee
Dennis Atkins	2 Year Trustee
Ben Cecil	3 Year Trustee
Earl Hokanson	Honor Guard Cdr.
John Murphy	ROTC Liaison
Steve Bowling	S.A.L. Commander
Buddy Miller	S.A.L. Adjutant
Steve Bowling	ALR Director
Sherry Schroen	Auxiliary President
Channa O'Keefe	Club Manager

Executive Committee

Billy Heatherly, Don Pinkerton, Roy Hall, Tom Paone, Glen Vela, Mary McCoy, Bud Pagakis, Jerry Creel, Nicholas Jones, Michael Kinney, Gerry Frank, Ken Reisenweber, Dennis Atkins, and Ben Cecil

House Committee

Glen Vela, Gerry Frank, Billy Heatherly, Tom Paone, Bud Pagakis, Rudy Cowe, Channa O'Keefe, Joyce Hampton, and Steve Bowling

Post Address: 2900 Drake Ave. SW
Huntsville, AL 35805

Phone Number: 256-883-9911

Website: www.legion237.com
Webmaster: webmaster@legion237.com

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

Newsletter Contact: 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.

Membership Update

Our current Membership is 1005 and our goal is 1451. Please renew as soon as possible. Renew at the Adjutant's Office, weekdays 10AM until 1PM or call for an appointment. Renew online via credit card or setup Automatic Annual Renewal at: www.legion.org/renew

**The History of Clayton E. Moneymaker
American Legion Post 237**

Throughout its history, Post 237 has been a leader in the growth and development of Huntsville and Madison County, as well as supporting our Nation's military service veterans. Its membership rolls include celebrated military heroes from Madison County, distinguished city, county, state, and national government leaders, and respected leaders in civic and public service, as well as private business leaders.

Changes in Post Names and Location

From the first meetings of Peter Crump Post in 1920, and its reorganization (1925-1926) as Huntsville – Madison County Post No. 37, the Post has undergone a number of changes. The Peter Crump Post and County Post 37 first held its meetings at Riverton School near the Flint River. Throughout its early years, meetings were held in a variety of locations.

In the 1930s, meetings were held in the homes of Post members throughout the county. The hope for the construction of a War Memorial Building and an American Legion Home by a Federal government Works Progress Administration project was destroyed with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. In 1945-1946, County Post 37 was allotted a room in the National Guard Armory for its meetings.

About 1950, a Post home auditorium, costing \$20,000, was completed, with the value of the Post home and equipment at \$60,000. A Post home was established (1956-1957) at 313 South Memorial Parkway. The Post name was changed in 1965 to Cecil H. Bolton Post 37, and its home relocated to the former Parkway Country Club. In 1967, the post was re-established as Huntsville – Madison County Post No. 200, which leased a building at 202 Andrew Jackson Way at Five Points.

In 1972, Post 200 merged with Post 275 as County Post 237, located at 421 Jefferson St. With the construction of I-565, a new site was needed (since the old site became part of the Depot Museum of the Early Works Museum system). The Post 237 built its present home, which completed in 1983, at 2900 Drake Avenue.

In 2015, County Post 237 voted to change the Post name to Clayton E. Moneymaker American Legion Post 237 in honor of its distinguished past Post Commander, and Adjutant, whose years of self-less service to this American Legion Post provided an example of leadership and dedication to all who knew him.

Support of Veterans and Contributions to the Community

Starting in 1925-1926, the Post was reorganized as Huntsville – Madison Co. Post No. 37.

History - Continued on Page 3

History - Continued from Page 2

This early Post was active in securing bonuses, war risk insurance, compensation and hospitalization for veterans. It recognized Armistice Day in a grand celebration featuring later U. S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black.

A permanent charter was issued for the Post in 1926. During the 1920s, the Post maintained a country store, established a polo field, established the Voiture of 40 & 8, and hosted an American Legion Department convention whose guests included Governor Graves and Colonel Colstigan (Commander of the old 69th New York Regiment).

The Post sponsored a Boy Scout Troop; raised funds for Christmas charities, and raised thousands of dollars to fund a local infants' hospital. Post 37 led a movement for the creation of a municipal airport, and sponsored a prize fight (\$7,800.00 with 60,000 in attendance) for the development of local industry. In the 1930s, the Post sponsored a junior baseball team, recreational projects and playgrounds, a Boys Club, amateur boxing, and aided in the creation of a livestock market.

Plans for a Federal government Works Progress Administration project for the construction of a War Memorial Building and an American Legion Home were destroyed with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (7 December 1941).

During World War Two, the Post organized the establishment of air raid stations throughout Madison County, provided donations to the Red Cross, collected records of fighting men, presented American flags to schools, and sent cigarettes to Madison County men for Christmas. In addition, it appropriately donated its WWI German cannon, located at the Court House, for the wartime scrap metal drive.

Company 13, Alabama State Guard was formed for Home Guard Duty as the National Guard was called for Federal service. Participating in a War Bond Drive, the post sold \$162,500 in war bonds, receiving the honor of naming two bombers.

Following the war, Post 37 hosted a celebration honoring Cecil H. Bolton and Paul Bolden, Congressional Medal of Honor recipients from Madison County. It also sponsored a junior baseball team and Boys State. It secured the assistance of the U. S. Army for funeral salutes, secured clothing for needy families, and presented flags to local schools.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the Post continued to provide funds for local charities, such as a new hospital wing and a home for orphans. The Post supported a clothing center for underprivileged children, and contributed to the YMCA. →

They also aided veterans and their families, provided Christmas gifts to the families of deceased veterans, raised funds for handicapped children, assisted tornado victims in Fayetteville.

The Post and its members worked tirelessly in many efforts in support of our community. In the mid-1960s, the Post took an even bigger step in establishing a Post Honor Guard and their first participation was the American Legion National Convention in Dallas, TX. With the Vietnam War beginning during this period, the Post adopted the 93rd Evacuation Hospital in South Vietnam.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the Post provided copies of the American Legion Magazine to schools, the hospital, and the library; and with the Post Auxiliary, sold \$5,200 in poppies. It sponsored Memorial Day services at Maple Hill Cemetery; and distributed POW-MIA bracelets naming missing servicemen. In 1973 it held the Mike Christian Day parade (a U. S. Naval officer who was held prisoner for six years in South Vietnam). He was given a post lifetime membership, as were Medal of Honor recipients Cecil H. Bolton and Paul Bolden.

From the 1990s to the present, the Post has remained active in the support of veterans and the community. Among its many civic contributions and veterans support activities are the providing of donations to the Tut Fann Veterans' Home, and the Huntsville Police Citizens Foundation. It has continued to sponsor Boys State, and student Oratorical contests. Also, it has participated in Operation Stand Down, and in the Melinda Fike Memorial Motorcycle Run.

The Post hosts various forms of entertainment for its members and guests including bingo, live music, and outstanding food and drink service; and maintains a spacious ballroom. It supports, and is supported by, the Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Riders. In this writer's view, the most meaningful service Post 237 provides to our community is presented by The Honor Guard which conducts military funeral rites for veterans.

Source: Yim, Patrick J. and Lott, Ted. History of The American Legion, Huntsville – Madison County Post 237, 2900 Drake Ave. Huntsville, Alabama, 1920 to 2012. Submitted by Kenneth A. Carpenter, Post Historian, 2016 to 2019. Revised by Michael Kinney, Post Historian 2019. ❖



**Riverton School –
Home of the first
Post meetings in
the 1920s.**

Americanism and Scholarship Programs (Part 2)

Tom Paone, 2nd Vice Commander

Post 237 supports many programs which promote Americanism and benefit youth in our community. Much of the cost of these programs is paid for by proceeds from Bingo.

Volunteers from the entire Post 237 family pitch in to make these programs successful. The Legion and the Auxiliary each support several programs and scholarships.

In the November issue we covered Alabama Boys State, American Legion Baseball, and the American Legion Oratorical Contest. The December issue highlighted the Post support for JROTC and ROTC programs as well as the Wargo Scholarship which is administered by Post 237 and the Auxiliary. In this issue we will highlight some of the programs that the Auxiliary sponsors. If you would like more information or would like to assist with any of these programs please email: vicecdr2@legion237.com

Support for Education

This program involves activities that provide support to local schools and provides scholarships or assistance requested for educational opportunities. In most years we assist eight students with scholarships. As two students graduate we award two more scholarships. The renewable scholarships are for \$1000 per year paid at each semester half.

Alabama Girls State

Alabama Girls State is a week long program held at University of Alabama. It is designed for outstanding young women who are juniors in high school and interested in how the government works. The number of girls from each school is determined based on the size of the junior class. Once the girls are selected, the Auxiliary hosts a "Coke" party to provide the girls information on what to expect and what to take. We also have some girls that attended Girls State the previous year talk about their experience. At Girls State, the girls are assigned to a "city" and "county" and then run for offices during the week. There are many speakers and social activities during the week. Post 237 and Post 176 team up to sponsor girls from high schools in Madison County. We usually pay the registration fees for 12 girls and provide them funding for campaign material. Two girls from for the Girls State class go to Girls Nation in Washington DC.

On page 9 we have included an article further defining Americanism which was authored by Shirley Mohler, Post 237 Auxiliary 1st Vice President. ❖

From The Finance Office:

Bud Pagakis, Finance Officer

Just a quick note to wish all my fellow legionaries a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! This past year has been a real learning experience with respect to the Post's finances. I can report that we are in pretty good shape financially due to your generous support. I will be contacting each of our members in the new year asking for your continued support. Finally, I ask that we take the time to remember our past Financial Officer John Schroen. It was about a year ago that we lost John, a tireless advocate for our organization.

Email: financeofc@legion237.com



Building Fund Thermometer





LEGION CENTENNIAL CHILI COOK-OFF

**SPONSORED BY YOUR
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

**SUNDAY JANUARY 26TH, FROM
2:00 – CLOSE IN THE BALLROOM**

**\$5.00 DONATION
CHILI ENTREES GIVEN ONE TICKET FREE**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING OR FROM
SHERRY OR SHIRLEY**

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT GIRL'S STATE

**TICKET INCLUDES:
YOUR VOTE FOR BEST CHILI, ACCESS TO
ALL THE "FIXINGS", UNLIMITED CHILI
(DINE IN ONLY)**

CARE TO ENTER?

- **SIGN-UP SHEET POSTED ON
ENTRANCE FOYER BULLETIN BOARD.
OR SEND AND EMAIL TO:
newsletter@legion237.com**
- **A PRIZE WILL BE AWARDED
(PLUS BRAGGING RIGHTS) FOR BEST
LEGION CENTENNIAL CHILI.**
- **BRING CHILI IN CROCKPOT TO THE
BALLROOM ENTRANCE NO LATER
THAN 1:30 ON DAY OF THE EVENT**
- **INCLUDE AN EXTENSION CORD AND
LADLE.**



IRAQ WAR HEROISM

The United States invaded Iraq on March 20, 2003--a conflict in which 4,486 U.S. service members gave their lives and more than 32,000 were wounded. Below are the stories of the acts of heroism performed by two service members in Iraq:

Outside a house of insurgents, and facing casualties, Corporal Javier Alvarez moved toward the danger in November 2005. During this mission, insurgents shot him three times in the leg. During treatment on his leg, more enemy fire came, so Alvarez grabbed his rifle and returned fire. At this point, Alvarez heard calls of an incoming grenade. He grabbed the grenade and threw it away---saving six Marines and losing his hand in the process. "I lifted up my arm to see what had happened, and my hand was completely missing," he told Stars and Stripes in 2009. Alvarez was awarded a Silver Star for his heroism. "I didn't mourn over my losses or injuries," he said. "I had a mission to accomplish and I had other stuff that was going on. I had Marines to take care of."

Posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, Navy SEAL Michael Monsoor was defending a position of SEAL snipers with a machine gun against insurgents on a rooftop in an insurgent-held part of Iraq in September 2006. The snipers thwarted the insurgents' first attempt, but during the continued assault, an insurgent grenade reached the roof and bounced off Monsoor's chest. Monsoor immediately called, "GRENADE," and jumped on the grenade to absorb the explosion with his own body---even though he could have escaped the position. Monsoor died shortly after the explosion. He saved the lives of two other SEALs.

*Contributed by: Tom Hartley
Post 237 Communications Committee*





WHY I SERVE

John E. Carson, Honor Guard Photographer

Serving on an Honor Guard is not something everyone is called to do; after all, who would want to give up their weekends going to funerals for people they have never met?

We all serve for different reasons; some in honor of friends lost in combat, some for deeper reasons they do not talk about, and some because they want to do something to honor the service of their fellow veterans.

The Honor Guard roster changes frequently and we are always in need of new members. But why do some people serve for six months or maybe a year and others for twenty or thirty or more?

I faced that question several years ago when I had been on the roster for about two years. Because most of our details are funerals and memorial services, our members must walk a line; they must be sincere and professional at the same time. They must shield themselves and not become so overcome with emotion that they can no longer perform their tasks. And it is hard to walk that line too long.

I found myself on that line one day at Maple Hill while I was doing double duty as the Honor Guard photographer and a member of the firing squad. I had taken what pictures I could ahead of time (we provide copies free for the family and also keep copies in our Post archive. Though many people today bring their smart phone cameras to bear, they cannot get the same pictures of the Honor Guard that we can provide). I set my camera behind a headstone and joined the squad for the gun salute.→

That day the firing went perfect and twenty-one shells ejected from the seven M-1 rifles. The Honor Guard Commander presented the flag to the widow while we stood at Present Arms. As he placed the folded flag in the bag, he reached into his pocket for three of the spent shells he had picked up while walking to the family's tent; he held up each one and called out its meaning as he placed them in the pouch with the flag; Honor, Duty and Country.

After saluting the widow, he brought us to Port Arms and Left Face and marched us to the van to stow our weapons.

I went back to the site to retrieve my camera and after picking it up I saw a woman standing by with a young boy of Eight or Nine at her side. The boy's hands were clenched as if holding something. At his mother's prompting he opened his hand to reveal the shells he had collected from the firing.

"Sir," he said, looking up at me, "Can I keep these to remember my Grandfather by?"

"Young sir," I replied with a knot in my throat, "You can keep all the shells you can find."

Back in the van, I relayed the story to the other members of the team. One of them said, "That boy will remember that as long as he lives. Who knows? He may join the military or become a First Responder."

I realized then that one simple act can make a difference in someone's life and any thoughts I may have had of turning in my uniform were ejected from my mind. I was not just here for my own reasons anymore; I was here to honor the veterans and their families and make a difference in this world.

And that is why I continue to serve.

Please contact Honor Guard Commander Earl Hokanson at hongrdrdr@legin237.com if you are interested in joining us. ❖



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LUNCH

SOCIAL QUARTERS

MONDAY – FRIDAY 11AM -1:30PM

Wednesday Steak Special and Friday Fish Special

KARAOKE

SOCIAL QUARTERS

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

FRIDAY 8-12 PM WITH PAUL

SATURDAY 8-12 PM WITH CAROL

TRIVIA

SOCIAL QUARTERS

MONDAY 7-9 PM WITH PAUL

BINGO

POST 237 ANNEX

MON, WED, THU AND SAT 6 PM

COMMANDER'S BREAKFAST

BALLROOM

2ND SATURDAY 9-10 AM \$5.00 INCLUDING DRINK!

MEMBERSHIP DINNER AND MEETING

BALLROOM

3RD MONDAY DINNER \$5.00 AT 6 PM AND MEETING AT 7 PM

POOL TOURNAMENT

SOCIAL QUARTERS

THURSDAYS 7:00 PM



Around the Post District 12 Meeting and Christmas Decorations

A special thank you to Carl Conley and Channa O'Keefe who prepared the dinner for the District 12 Meeting on December 1st. They were assisted by Michael and Michele Kinney, Martha Hall, and Christie Paone.

Auxiliary members including Sherry Schroen, Juanita McJunkins, and Joyce Hampton decorated the Ballroom for the District Meeting and provided tasty desserts.

The Auxiliary also decorated the Ballroom for Christmas. Thank you to the Auxiliary for your hard work and dedication.



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 – 2:00AM
Saturday	10:00AM – 2:00AM
Sunday	12:00PM – 8:00PM

Adjutant's Office Hours

Monday	10:00AM – 1:00PM
Tuesday	10:00AM – 1:00PM
Wednesday	10:00AM – 1:00PM
Thursday	10:00AM – 1:00PM
Friday	10:00AM – 1:00PM

Or call 256-883-9911 to make an appointment

Mid-Winter Conference

The Alabama Mid-Winter Conference will be held on January 16th through January 19th at the Embassy Suites in Huntsville.

Post 237 will host a dinner for attendees on Friday, January 17th.



Communications Committee

The Post 237 Communications Committee is tasked with improving communications with our membership, amongst our Legion Family, and with our community.

Our members are: CeVin Barnes, John Carson, Michael Kinney, Tom Hartley, and Tom Paone.

The Roll Call Newsletter is our first project. We are distributing the Newsletter via email. If you did not receive it in your email please send an email to newsletter@legion237.com with your name and your affiliation with the Legion, S.A.L., or Auxiliary.

Past and current newsletters are archived on our website at: <http://www.legion237.com/index.php?id=126>

We are also working to enhance our website, so please visit us at: www.legion237.com

On October 16th Katie Skelley from the Redstone Rocket interviewed several Post 237 officers and committee members. The article ran in the October 30th Special Veterans Edition of the Redstone Rocket. You can find the article at:

https://www.theredstonerocket.com/special/page_6afb6857-9b3d-5c6b-b247-8217aca3cf7d.html

Post 237 was also mentioned by Cathey Carney in her Heard on the Street feature in the November and December 2019 issue of Old Huntsville Magazine. Old Huntsville Magazine will be writing a future article on the history of Post 237.

We appreciate your feedback on the Newsletter and any suggestions for improving communications throughout the Post. Please email your thoughts and items to include in upcoming issues to:

newsletter@legion237.com ❖

Second Sunday Pot Luck

Join us on the second Sunday of the Month for Karaoke and Pot Luck. Bring a dish to share. January 12th 3-7PM.



Football in January!

Cheer on your favorite college football team on Saturdays in January in the Social Quarters!

\$2.00 Domestic Bottled Beer



Commissary and Exchange Privileges Expanded

The Department of Defense is expanding commissary, military exchange, and morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) retail privileges on U.S. military installations as specified in the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018, included in the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019.

Starting Jan. 1, 2020, access will expand to include all veterans with service-connected disabilities, veterans who are Purple Heart recipients, veterans who are former prisoners of war, and individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible veterans under the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. While this expansion will extend eligibility to over 4.1 million new patrons, the Department expects little to no impact on current patrons in most locations. There may be some impact in areas with a high cost of living, but the Department is preparing to accommodate all new patrons. Read More at:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2015599/departement-of-defense-expanding-access-to-commissaries-military-exchanges-and-r/?source=GovDelivery>



Americanism Mid-Winter Narrative Report

Clayton Moneymaker Auxiliary Unit 237 Huntsville, AL

In the Spirit of Americanism, Unit 237 has designed a monthly bulletin board located in the club area for everyone to see. The bulletin board makes note of the memorial events in our country's history each month.

During the month of July, we encouraged Legion family members to remember the establishment of the U.S. Army Air Corps July 2nd (1926), Independence Day July 4th, the National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day July 27th, and the beginning of World War I on July 28th (1914).

In August, the bulletin board noted Air Force Day August 1st, the U.S. National Guard birthday August 4th (1790), establishment of the Purple Heart (1782) and on that same date the beginning of the Vietnam War (1964), National Navaho Code Talker Day (1982) and the Japanese surrender on August 14th (1945), National Airborne Day August 16th and woman's Equality day on August 26th.

The September bulletin board noted the birthdate of the U.S. Sea Cadet Corps on September 10th (1962) and Patriot Day and Remembrance Day on September 11th, National Anthem Day September 14th (1814) Constitution Approved 17 September (1787) U.S. Airborne Birthday 18 September (1947) P.O.W./M.I.A. Day 20th September, and Gold Star Mother Day 29th September.

In October, the bulletin board was designed to remember the Afghanistan war on the 7th (2001) the birthdate of the U.S. Navy on the 13th (1775) and Columbus Day as observed on the 24th, Navy Day on the 27th and Halloween on the 31st.

In November, the bulletin board was dedicated to the Marine Birthday on the 10th (1775), the end of the Grenada Campaign on the 21st (1983), Armistice Day on the 11th, and Thanksgiving on the 28th.

In December, we used the Four Freedoms created by illustrator Norman Rockwell, based on a speech given by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on January 6, 1941 in which the President said, "...we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. The first is freedom of speech and expression – everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way – everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way – everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want – everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear – everywhere in the world. →

That is no vision of a distant millennium. It is a definite basis for a kind of world attainable in our own time and generation."

We owe a great debt to our veterans for our four freedoms.

In addition to the bulletin board at the Post Home, Unit 237 decorated a window located at the entrance to the Huntsville-Madison County library by which literally thousands of people pass by monthly. Our theme this year was "We Are Thankful for Our Veterans." A sub-theme was "100 Years of Veterans Serving Veterans."

On November 30th, we again participated in the Christmas tree project at the library. Our tree was white with blue lights and neutrally painted boots trimmed in gold glitter with the auxiliary programs listed on boots. Around the tree, we placed a display board listing our accomplishments over the past 100 years. At the base of the tree, we placed a container with membership information. The tree will be viewed, over the next month, by the hundreds who visit the library daily.

It is our intent to continue the 100th birthday celebration for the next few months. Our plans include Auxiliary special activities each month:

January – sponsor a Centennial Chili Cook-Off

February – develop trivia game based on the Constitution to play at the monthly membership meeting

March – sponsor patriotic program associated to U.S. Presidents, at the library for elementary students during Spring Break to include food (snacks)

April – Award winner(s) of essay contest at their school

May – sponsor a Girl's State Tea for current selectees and former attendees

June – assist in preparations for Department Convention

Our bulletin board will contain Constitution facts each month and the window at the library, in late spring, will be dedicated to the Bill of Rights.

Unit 237 has a strong Americanism program. We will continue to work for God and Country.
Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Mohler,
Americanism Chairman Unit 237





HUMOR IN UNIFORM

NAVY SEALS

A U.S. Navy SEALs commander had sent a unit of his men on a highly classified mission in Columbia.

After the unit returned to Florida from this classified mission, three SEALs that had distinguished themselves during this mission were ordered to the SEAL commander's office. "Since this was a classified mission" the commander began, I can't give you any medals. I do, however, want to let you know that your heroic actions during this mission must be recognized.

What I've decided to do is to let each of you choose two points on your body.

You will be given \$10.00 for each inch of distance between those body parts.

We'll start on the left with Private Jones. Private Jones what are your body parts?"

Private Jones: "The tip of my head to the bottom of my feet, sir"

Commander: "Very good Private, that's 70 inches which comes to \$700.00."

Sergeant Brown: "The tip of the middle finger on my outstretched left hand to the tip of the middle finger on my outstretched right hand, sir."

Commander: "Even better Sergeant, that's 72 inches which comes to \$720.00."

Sergeant Smith: "The palm of my right hand to the tip of my pinky finger on my right hand."

Commander: "That's a strange but fair request Sergeant."

As the commander begins the measurement: "What!"

Commander: "Sergeant, where is your right pinky finger?"

Sergeant Smith: "Columbia, sir."

Contributed by Tom Hartley

To contribute a funny story to Humor in Uniform email to: newsletter@legion237.com

The Grissom High School JROTC will conduct the:



About the Warrior 5K

- An annual 5K to give back and engage with the veterans in our community.
- Past groups we sponsored are: Wounded Warriors, Team Red White and Blue, Semper Fi Community Taskforce, Still Serving Veterans, and got Your Six.
- Over the past 7 years we've raised over \$57,000.
- This year the 5K will be on March 21, 2020.

For more information please view the Warrior 5K slideshow at:

<http://www.legion237.com/index.php?id=143>



**BINGO AT THE ANNEX
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY,
THURSDAY AND SATURDAY
6:00PM**



If you have ever been in the Military you know that when one serves the whole family serves. Our military spouses stay behind and raise the family, take care of the day to day business, while working to help support the family. They do what parents normally do together.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day is in May, the Friday before Mother's Day. Let's show our ALA love and support to all of our Military Spouses.

If you know someone who you think has done an outstanding job being a Military Spouse please nominate them for our Military Spouse Award. All nominations should be sent in by May 1, 2020. The Award will be given out at our Past Presidents Parley Luncheon in June 2020.

I would like to nominate _____

She/He has been a Military Spouse for _____ years. She/He deserves this award because:

Please submit all nominations to me by May 1, 2020. The award will be given out at the Past Presidents Parley Luncheon in June 2020.

**Sharon Atkins
1305 4th Ave SE
Cullman, AL 35055**

**256-507-3954
satkins3954@gmail.com**



POST 237 BASEBALL RAFFLE

Winner: \$500 Cash!
Plus 3 Other Giveaways!
Trash Panda Tickets!
Dinner for Two!
\$50 Gift Certificate to
Cunningham's Outdoors!

Tickets available at the bar:

1 for \$10
2 for \$20
3 for \$25

Drawing will be held:
At the monthly meeting on
January 20, 2020

**Bring on
the
NEW YEAR!**

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST
6PM UNTIL 1AM

**CHAMPAGNE AND PARTY
FAVORS ARE INCLUDED!**

6PM HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES
MIDNIGHT BREAKFAST

KARAOKE WITH HOWIE!

\$10 PER PERSON
TICKETS ARE ON SALE AT THE BAR

LUNCH AT THE LEGION

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



Specials:

Steak - Wednesday
Taco Salad - Thursday
Fish - Friday

Smoke Free Lunch!

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

Coming Soon: Smoke Free Lunch in the
Ballroom with Big Screen TVs

PICTURES

DISTRICT 12 DINNER AND MEETING DECEMBER 1, 2019



2020 Oratorical Contest

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over \$140,000 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets a \$20,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$17,000, and third gets \$15,000.

High school students under age 20 are eligible. Competition begins at the county level on January 25, 2020 at the Madison City Hall at 10am. The community is invited and encouraged to attend.

Speaking subjects must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. Speeches are eight to ten minutes long. Following the prepared speech, contestants will be required to speak briefly (3-5 minutes) on a constitutional subject drawn randomly. The assigned subjects for 2020 along with other valuable information may be found at: www.legion.org/oratorical

Students, please express your interest in participating in the contest by sending your contact information to mckinn911@aol.com If you have questions regarding the contest or would like to volunteer to help please email Tom Paone at vicecdr2@legion237.com

~Post 237 January 2020 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day 11a-1:30p Wednesday Lunch 	2 11a-1:30p Thursday Lunch 7p-11p Karaoke w/Howie	3 11a-1:30p Friday Lunch 8p-12a Karaoke w/Paul	4 8p-12a Karaoke w/Carol
5 3p-7p Karaoke w/Howie	6 11a-1:30p Monday Lunch 7p-8p Purple Heart Mtg. 7p-9p Trivia with Paul	7 11a-1:30p Tuesday Lunch 6p-7p House Comte. Mtg. 7p-8p 40/8 Meeting	8 11a-1:30p Wednesday Lunch 6p-7p Exec. Board Meeting	9 11a-1:30p Thursday Lunch 12p-3p ALA Govt Workshop 101 (Homeschool) 5:30p-6:30p VVOA Meeting 7p-11p Karaoke w/Howie	10 11a-1:30p Friday Lunch 8p-12a Karaoke w/Paul	11 9a-10a Cmdrs. Breakfast 10a-11a AL Riders Mtg 10:30a-11:30a CVMA Meeting 12:30p-1:30p Marine Corp Mtg 8p-12a Karaoke w/Carol
12 3p-7p Karaoke w/Howie 3p-7p Pot Luck Dinner	13 11a-1:30p Monday Lunch 7p-9p Trivia with Paul	14 11a-1:30p Tuesday Lunch	15 11a-1:30p Wednesday Lunch 5p-6p Comm Cmte Mtg	16 11a-1:30p Thursday Lunch 7p-11p Karaoke w/Howie Mid-Winter Conference	17 11a-1:30p Friday Lunch 8p-12a Karaoke w/Paul Mid-Winter Conference	18 8p-12a Karaoke w/Carol Mid-Winter Conference
19 2p-3p Sons of the American Legion Meeting 3p-7p Karaoke w/Howie Mid-Winter Conference	20 Martin Luther King 11a-1:30p Monday Lunch 6p-8p Mbrs. Dinner and Meeting 7p-9p Trivia with Paul	21 11a-1:30p Tuesday Lunch	22 11a-1:30p Wednesday Lunch	23 11a-1:30p Thursday Lunch 7p-8p AL 351 Mtg. 7p-11p Karaoke w/Howie	24 11a-1:30p Friday Lunch 8p-12a Karaoke w/Paul	25 9a-2p Oratorical Contest Madison County 8p-12a Karaoke w/Carol
26 3p-7p Karaoke w/Howie 2p-8p Chili Cookoff	27 11a-1:30p Monday Lunch 7p-9p Trivia with Paul	28 11a-1:30p Tuesday Lunch 7p-8p County Meeting	29 11a-1:30p Wednesday Lunch	30 11a-1:30p Thursday Lunch 7p-11p Karaoke w/Howie	31 11a-1:30p Friday Lunch 8p-12a Karaoke w/Paul	2020 Post 237  Centennial

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