



The Patriot



Post 15

Volume 19, Issue 1

Serving Morgan County, Alabama

July-September 2019

Commander's Corner



From the Commander
Greetings Comrades.

Fellow Members of Post 15

I would like to thank you for your confidence and giving me the opportunity to lead you during the 2019 – 2020 Legion Year here at Morgan County Post 15 for the third year as your Commander.

I would also like to introduce our 2019 -2020 **LEADERSHIP** of Morgan County Post 15 to you: **Jerry Hawkins**, 1st Vice Commander. **Don Smith**, 2nd Vice Commander. **Allen Perdue**, Adjutant. **Chuck McClendon**, Finance Officer. **John Johnson**, Chaplain. **Bob Branin**, Communication Officer. **Dewayne Green**, Sergeant at Arms. **Joe McCarrick**, Sergeant at Arms. **Jim Larson**, 3 Year Trustee. **Greg Hughes**, 2 Year Trustee. **Patrick Collins**, 2 Year Trustee. **Ralph Terry**, 1 Year Trustee. **Tony Robinson**, 1 Year Trustee.

During the last Quarter April, May and June we had the following events. Under the leadership of Bob Branin, we completed the renovation of our Post. Thank you for all the volunteers that assisted.

George Marsh our Americanism Chairman held Government Day at the Morgan County Court House, with 110 Students from 8 Schools participating. We also send 41 Boys from Morgan County Schools to Boys State in Tuscaloosa AL at the end of May.

We awarded 4 Scholarships to area JROTC students in the Area and presented 8 School Awards to Decatur High School Disabled Students.

Congratulation to Mr. George Mills, a WWII, Purple Heart, and POW Veteran. He went back to Normandy France for the 75th Anniversary Celebration in June.

See our website for more.
www.allegionpost15.com

Thank you
Commander Belletete

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WWII Hero George Mills Honored on D-Day Anniversary

July 2019						
◀ June						August ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4  INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6 0900 RIDERS RIDE  1800 BINGO
7	8  1800 RIDERS MTG	9	10	11	12	13 1800 BINGO
14	15	16	17	18  1800 Executive MTG	19	20  0900 S.A.L.MTG 1000 310 MTG 1800 BINGO
21	22  1800 MEMBERS MEETING Dinner: Hot Dogs Polish Sausage Chili	23	24	25  1800 LADY RIDERS	26	27 1800 BINGO
28	29	30	31	POST CLOSED ON THURSDAYS Friday Night's Dance 1830 Hrs		

The Auxiliary Would Like To Thank

The Rising Sun Lodge Number 29 F&AM for the generous donation they made in support of our programs

Thank you!

August 2019						
◀ July						September ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
POST FRIDAY	CLOSED NIGHT	ON DANCE	THURSDAY 1830 Hrs	1	2	3 0900 RIDERS RIDE  1800 BINGO
4 12 District MTG Post 4 Cullman	5	6	7	8	9	10 1800 BINGO
11	12  1800 RIDERS MTG	13	14	15	16	17  0900 S.A.L. MTG 1000 POST 310 MTG 1800 BINGO
18	19	20	21	22  1800 EXECUTIVE MEETING	23	24 1800 BINGO
25	26  1800 MEMBERSHIP MEETING Dinner: Taco Salad	27	28	29  1800 LADY RIDERS MEETING	30	31 1800 BINGO



From the Adjutant

Greetings and Salutations Comrades. Summer is upon us, drink plenty of water and stay out of the hottest part of the day if possible.

On membership dues – Your current 2019 membership ends on December 31, 2019. If you haven't renewed for 2019, now is a great time to do just that – RENEW. Come and attend our meetings, take advantage of your dues, by enjoying a fine meal and camaraderie. If you have any questions, please contact me via email at adjutant15@legional.org, or call the post at (256) 353-5501

Post 15 held its Officer Elections during the May membership meeting. The only real change will be Jerry Hawkins was voted by membership to be the next Sr Vice Commander. Congratulations goes out to Jerry Hawkins, and I would like to thank Sr. Vice Wayne Dunkin for his support of this post in his capacity as the Sr. Vice for 2018-2019.

Now, something that has got me alarmed is the fact that our members and servicemembers are unaware of the process of getting evaluated by the VA for disability, and how one goes about fighting a denied claim. The Post, like the VFW and DAV, have members that are "Service Officers" that their organization has and are there to aid the servicemember in filling out the paperwork and helping with any questions that they might have. They DO NOT represent you in any shape or form when a claim is submitted especially when the claim is denied by the VA and the member wishes to fight the determination. That situation is for an "Accredited Service Officer". The following is a response I received a day ago concerning this matter from a representative of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs:

Representation by The American Legion is afforded by the veteran/claimant when they sign a VA Form 21-22 to allow the Legion to represent them.

Legion Representation is afforded by accredited Legion service officers. In the state of Alabama all Legion accredited service officers are employees of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs.

Accredited representatives are governed by federal law and regulation and we assume a certain degree of liability on behalf of the American Legion when we represent a claimant. It should also be noted that representation in the sense of claims work implies that you are representing the claimant from the initial claim through any potential appeal or movement of the claim to the Court of Appeals of Veterans Claims.

American Legion Post and Post Service Officers are NOT ACCREDITED, nor are they covered by any type of liability or errors and omissions insurance related to claims for any type of benefit. That being said I cannot envision a time or incident when a Legion Post or individual Post Service Officer would want to assume the legal responsibility or potential negative implications that could go along with said representation.

Accredited service officers can be found throughout the state at www.va.alabama.gov and click on the service officer link.

Post 15 Adjutant
P.O. Box 996
Decatur, Al. 35601

"Semper Fi"

Neal A. "nap" Perdue
Post 15 Adjutant

Early Bird Membership Drive and Fish Fry

On Saturday September 7th our Post will host the annual Early Bird Membership Drive, along with a Fish Fry Dinner, for Morgan County Post 15, Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, and Legion Riders.

This Fish Fry is for our members that have paid or will pay their annual 2020 membership dues on that day. If you have not already or do not intend your membership dues on that day, the dinner will be \$ 10.00 per person.

Auxiliary



The newly elected leadership of Unit 15 has been busy making plans for our upcoming year. It is our sincere desire that our choices and actions will successfully fulfill the mission, purposes, and vision of the American Legion Auxiliary. Our foremost purpose is to support the American Legion, to honor veterans and current military, educate citizens, mentor youth, and to promote patriotism and good citizenship. Throughout the year we will not only be working to grow our enrollment of new members, we will also be encouraging all our members to increase their understanding of the Auxiliary organization and its programs which offer many opportunities to serve...there is a place of service for everyone! We anticipate a great relationship as we work together with the other groups in our American Legion Family.

Susan McClendon
President
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15

Riders



The Chapter 15 Riders have taken advantage of the warm spring weather and explored the backroads of north Alabama and southern Tennessee. The group visited a local Indian heritage celebration, a natural bridge, and some uncharted roads that lead us to some losing lottery tickets across the state line. We also stood tall to represent our heroes - we were there to honor a group of World War 2 veterans who traveled to Europe for the 75th anniversary of D-Day and we stood a flag line at Rose Lawn Memory Garden in remembrance of all who have sacrificed so much for our nation.

If you are eligible to join the American Legion, The Auxiliary, or Sons of the American Legion, and own a bike, find out more about us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LegionRiders15/>.



Clockwise From Top:
Chapter 15 Riders join together for group rides to Indian Heritage Events; a trip to the Natural Bridge; honoring local WWII Heroes and wish them safe travels before a long trip to Europe; and standing a flag line during Memorial Day at Rose Lawn Gardens to honor all Veterans who have sacrificed so much for their country.



September 2019						
◀ August						October ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 	3	4	5	6	7  0900 Early Bird & Fish Fry 1800 BINGO
8	9  1800 RIDERS MTG	10	11	12	13	14  1800 BINGO
15	16	17	18	19  1800 EXECUTIVE MEETING	20  POW / MIA CELEBRATION MORGAN COUNTY VETERANS PARK	21  0900 S.A.L.MTG 1000 POST 310 MTG 1800 BINGO
22	23  1800 MEMBERS MEETING BBQ Slaw Baked Beans Salad	24	25	26  1800 LADY RIDERS	27	28 1800 BINGO
29	30	<p>POST CLOSED ON THURSDAY FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE AT 1830 Hrs</p>				



8th Annual JROTC Drill Competition



Clockwise From Top: Post 15 Commander Belletete presents awards; Comrade Groves judges cadets during the platoon formation with arms event; and congratulations to Priceville High School for winning the Grand Champion Trophy.





7 September 2019

EARLYBIRD

American Legion Post 15
2607 Highway 31 South
Decatur, AL 35603

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 858
DECATUR, AL
35602

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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