



Post 15 is accepting volunteers to serve on the area's only Veterans **Honor Guard**. Contact Tim Riggs for details about how you can be part of this distinguished team.



Auxiliary Unit 15's seasonal refresh.

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Veterans,

The world is a better place with Morgan County American Legion Post 15 in it. There are so many ways the Post serves its members, veterans, and the community at large. It certainly punches above its weight. Unfortunately, even as the Post has 300 members, most of this weight is shouldered by fewer than 30 members. Imagine what it could accomplish with just 60 members involved.

A member's involvement does not mean he/she has to become an officer. A member could serve the Post by calling on elderly veterans. Service could be something like awarding anniversary pins and patches to members. A member could spend a couple hours a month dealing with potential renters. Or perhaps performing minor maintenance projects around the Post. Maybe you have a special talent that could benefit the Post. As veterans we all know what it means to serve. Let's continue to serve our country through the activities of the American Legion.

There are also money-making opportunities with the Post. The Post is in need of some help on Saturday night with Bingo. We could use a Bingo caller, office workers, and kitchen help. Compensation is from \$45 to \$75 a night with dinner included. If you have a Saturday night or two free during the month, check out what the opportunities are.

Since the last newsletter, the Post had a successful Early Bird membership drive and fish fry. Over 100 veterans and family members attended. The Post also assisted in the Morgan County POW/MIA Day activities in Priceville. To top it off, the Post had a pizza oven installed so you may very well enjoy some world class pizza the next time you visit.

The Post has another busy quarter planned for the remainder of the year. There will be a formal Veterans Day banquet on Friday, November 10. November 11 will begin by displaying the Field of Flags in front of the Post. This will be followed up by the Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony in Priceville. In December we are planning another tailgate for the Army/Navy game on the 9th. The annual Christmas Banquet will be on the 15th. On the 16th the Post will assist the VFW with Wreaths Across America in Roselawn Cemetery. Make sure to mark you calendars with these events.

I invite all members to visit the Post's website, www.allegionpost15.com, and the Post's FaceBook page, www.facebook.com/allegionpost15/ to see the latest happenings at Post 15.

The Post is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 am to 3 pm and Saturday from 8 am to 9 pm. This is your Post so stop by for a beverage and socialize with other veterans. As a reminder, the Post meets on the fourth Monday of the month except for May and December when it meets on the second Monday. Dinner is served at 6 pm with the meeting following at 7 pm. We do offer the opportunity to attend remotely by Zoom. If anyone needs a ride to a meeting, call the Post at 256-353-5501. Bring a veteran friend. We look forward to seeing you there.

Fraternally,

Joseph Woodbury, Commander

Online Membership Renewals

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

Veterans Day and Christmas Banquets

One of the benefits of being a member of the Morgan County American Legion Post 15's family is the privilege of attending its Veterans Day and Christmas Banquets at no cost. Since the meals are relatively expensive the Post asks that members sign up to attend. This helps the Post plan and ensures that there are enough meals for all in attendance. However, please do not sign up if you are not planning on attending. Last year we had 122 people sign up for the Veterans Day Banquet. Unfortunately, only 85 attended. That means the Post had to waste 37 meals. The Post leadership has no intention of being punitive and charging members who sign up and don't come to the meal. On the other hand, it does not want to waste Post funds either.

The Post encourages all members to attend these functions. The deadline to sign up for the Veterans Day Banquet is October 23. The deadline for the Christmas Banquet is November 27. If you are certain you will make it, please sign the roster or call Violet at the Post to have her add your name. Then come to the function and enjoy yourself.



The American Legion Auxiliary, Morgan County Unit 15 offers an opportunity to honor a veteran through our Field of Flags program on Veteran's Day, November 11th.

Your honorees name, branch and your name will be included on a tag attached to a flag in our Field of Honor. The flags will be flown from sunrise to sundown on November 11th at The American Legion Post 15, 2607 Hwy 31S, Decatur, AL. All funds raised will be used to work our ALA programs for veterans, children & youth, community service, and others.

Each flag sponsorship is \$10.00, and may be used to honor a veteran family member, friend, each branch of the military, a collective group such as 'all veterans killed in the line of duty', POW/MIAs, veterans of Dessert Storm, etc. You may mail the attached form and payment to the American Legion Auxiliary, drop your form and payment off at The American Legion Post 15 in Decatur, or we offer online purchase of a sponsorship, see below and the attached flyers:

Follow this link, or use the QR code below:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en/donation-form/d47c1677-2a28-4ddf-ad72-d74923b6eae1?email=kinghome6743%40aol.com&firstName=Marsha&lastName=King&punctualAmounts=%5B%5D>



October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 12th District Meeting Post 15	2	3	4	5	6	7 Riders Group Ride BINGO 6pm
8	9 Columbus Day Chapter 15 Riders Meeting 6pm	10	11	12	13	14 BINGO 6pm
15	16	17	18	19 Executive Committee Meeting 6pm	20	21 Riders Group Ride Sons of Amer Legion BINGO 6pm
22	23 Post 15 Memebership Dinner 6pm Meeting 7pm	24	25	26	27	28 BINGO 6pm
29	30	31 Halloween				



November 2023

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



December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Riders Group Ride BINGO 6pm
3	4	5	6	7 Hanukkah begins Pearl Harbor	8	9 Army/Navy Game 1pm pregame tailgate BINGO 6pm
10	11 Ch 15 Riders Post 15 Memebership Dinner 6pm Meeting 7pm	12	13	14	15 Christmas Banquet 6:00 PM	16 Weather across America Sons of Amer Legion BINGO 6pm
17	18	19	20	21	22 Winter Starts	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa begins	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve						



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Chapter 15

The Chapter 15 Riders are taking advantage of good riding weather and promoting the principles of the American Legion Family. We had the honor of standing flag lines during the POW/MIA ceremony at Priceville Veteran's Memorial to recognize the sacrifices of our American heroes. If you are interested in learning more about the American Legion Riders, just contact one of our members or write to communications@allegionpost15.com.



SERVICE ASSISTANCE

Here's how VA is following through on toxic exposure claims.

Last year, the largest expansion of toxic-exposure benefits marked a new era for veterans suffering from the deadly effects of burn pits, Agent Orange and other poisonous substances encountered in service. Thanks to a historic law, more than a quarter of a million veterans and their survivors have completed such claims, with an 80% approval rate, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Since last August, the [Honoring our PACT Act](#) (Public Law 117–168) has added [nearly two dozen conditions](#), including cancers and respiratory diseases, to the list of ailments the VA presumes were caused by military service. That means veterans no longer have to prove their illness stems from their service if they served in eligible countries. The VA has conducted more than 3 million toxic-exposure screenings in addition to processing claims.

The VA only establishes a presumptive condition following a change in law or policy, which is why Veteran organizations advocacy in enacting the PACT Act was so crucial.

“We are thrilled to see the transformative effect this expansion of toxic-exposure benefits has had on veterans, by lifting the burden of proof off the ailing shoulders of America’s warfighters, our nation is keeping our promise to veterans when they encounter harmful substances in the normal course of their duty.”

Claims related to the PACT Act take an average of 155 days, with just under half of claims taking less than 125 days. The law has also brought more veterans into VA health care, with more than 240,000 enrolling from August last year to April this year, an increase of 36,000 over the same time the year before.

The watershed bill also establishes a dedicated fund ensuring VA health care and benefits under the PACT Act will have sufficient backing in the future.

2024 U.S. ARMY RETIRED SOLDIER HANDBOOK AND UPDATED RETIRED SOLDIER CASUALTY ASSISTANCE CHECKLIST. The new 2024 U.S. Army Retired Soldier Handbook is live on the Soldier for Life website. The Retired Soldier Handbook outlines military status after retirement, discusses retirement benefits and privileges, and provides other information which may be helpful to Retired Soldiers, surviving spouses and their families. There is also an updated fillable and/or printable version of the Retired Soldier Casualty Assistance Checklist, to assist family members in the event of a Soldier's death. Both of these valuable resources are available on the Army Retirement Services page.

https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/static/Post/Retired_Soldier_Handbook.pdf

AMERICAN LEGION

Post 15 Activities

Post 15 Activities
Photos from the
POW/MIA Recognition
Ceremony at Priceville
Veteran's Memorial.





AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 15
2023 ANNUAL FIELD OF FLAGS
HONORING VETERANS
PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

A Veterans Day tradition of displaying a Field of Flags honoring past, present, and future veterans will happen on Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11, 2023.

Everyone is invited to sponsor a flag for \$10.00 each. The sponsor may name the veteran he/she is honoring, or he may sponsor a flag and a local veteran will be assigned. Flags will be labelled with the sponsor's name and the name of the veteran being honored. Flags will be displayed as to allow sponsors to locate the flag(s) they have sponsored.

Flags will be displayed in the front yard of the American Legion Post 15 from dawn to dusk on Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11, 2023, at 2607 Highway 31 South in Decatur, Alabama. (Weather permitting)

To sponsor a flag, please complete the following information and turn in to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 at the American Legion Post 15. **Please make your check payable to The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15, or ALA Unit 15.**

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Veteran to be honored: _____

Service Branch: _____ Era served: _____

Mail this completed form and check for \$10.00 each to:

**The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15
2607 Highway 31 S
Decatur, AL 35603-1505**

Date Paid _____ Cash/Ck # _____ Added _____

Field of Flags

Veteran's Day, November 11, 2023



Sponsorship for Field of Flags is easy! Just scan the QR code below (Zeffy.com), and complete the information requested. Your donation of \$10.00 per sponsorship for our Field of Flags program helps the American Legion Auxiliary, Morgan County Unit 15 to complete their work on veterans, children & youth, Americanism and other programs.

You can honor your family member(s), friend(s), branches of the military, the fallen, disabled veterans, etc. It's your choice for just \$10.00 each. We will add a card to a flag in our Field of Honor on Veteran's Day, which will fly from sunrise to sunset. The card will include your honoree's name and branch of the military, along with your name.



Don't miss this opportunity to honor veterans!

Or use this link: <https://www.zeffy.com/en/donation-form/d47c1677-2a28-4ddf-ad72-d74923b6eae1?email=kinghome6743%40aol.com&firstName=Marsha&lastName=King&punctualAmounts=%5B%5D>