



American Legion Tyler Cates Post #281

June-July 2022 Newsletter

(Mailing) PO Box 67, Mt. Juliet, TN 37121

Senior Activity Center, 2034 N Mt. Juliet Road, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

<https://www.mtjulietalpost281.com/>



Commander, Maxie C. (Max) Wix, 615-626-4087 maxwixpost281mj@gmail.com

Adjutant, Shawn Taylor, 615-549-8351 shawntaylorpost281mj@gmail.com

- Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month 6-8 pm
- Parking and Entrance is in the rear of the building, located next door to the Church of Christ.
- Each month our Sergeant-at-Arms provides Pizzas and sodas before the regular meeting starts.

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 2-3 July, Department Convention, Marriott Cool Springs, Franklin, TN. Sign up required.
- 1-4 July, Lebanon Veterans Field of Flags Event @ Fairgrounds. Opening Ceremony 1pm, 1 July
VVA selling BBQ by the pound, and sandwiches at the Fairgrounds
- 5 July, Executive Committee Meeting @ MJSAC, 5pm
12 July, Regular Post meeting, MJSAC @ 6:00 pm
- 3 Aug, Executive Committee Meeting @ MJSAC, 5pm
- 10 Aug, Regular Post meeting, MJSAC @ 6:00 pm

FROM THE COMMANDER:

Fellow Legionnaires, family, and friends,

We hope that this newsletter continues to find you and your family members healthy and doing well.

We continue to support our community through The American Legion's founding principles of four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

We are fortunate to have the Wilson County VSO Zabrina Seay to address veteran's questions about their claims or initiate a claim during our meetings. She was at the MJSAC on 31 May 2-5 pm to assist members.

Once again, we had Mrs Cynthia Brown, 615-574-9927 from **Mid Cumberland Meals on Wheels** addressed our members. <http://www.mchra.com/meals-on-wheels> She works out of the @ Mount Juliet Senior Activity Center. Anyone age 60 and older who is home bound, or meets the needs as determined by state guidelines, is eligible for Mid-Cumberland Meals-on-Wheels. She is soliciting help in delivery of nutritious meals to home bound seniors, including veterans. Training is provided and a background check is required before starting.

If you were not aware, support for this program is provided via Second Harvest of Middle Tennessee with the nutritious meals are distributed via Senior Citizens Centers and churches throughout Middle Tennessee.

A "few" of us held a Membership Drive at Lowes on Saturday 18 June. We picked up one new member and \$250 in donations.

Please continue with your thoughts and prayers for our members and their families who may be ill. This includes but not limited to: George Barnes, Al Cecere, Pat Costanzo, Ray Forester Jr., and Bill Houston. Dan Rhame previously addressed our meeting and informed us of treatment support he is receiving from Vanderbilt. Past Chaplain Rolus Smith has recovered from Heart Surgery was in North Carolina visiting. OOH RAAH! If I have missed someone, please let me know.

May the Great Architect of the Universe bless our nation and hold us in the Palm of His Healing Hands through this trying time for the world.

Respectfully,
Max Wix, Commander

Welcome New Members

Six new members were welcomed to our post recently: Joseph Padilla, Ed Collins, Weldon Lackey, Mike Foley, Russell Hathaway and Kevin Alderson.

HONOR GUARD Capt Steve Wren

There is no greater honor we may bestow upon a fellow veteran and their family than participating in ceremonies celebrating their life and service to our nation. Many posts in our state do not offer these services. Our Post 281 Honor Guard is in high demand, but due to the limitations of some active members, we are limiting these events to Wilson County. Don't want to burn out those who can and will participate. The Honor Guard seeks volunteers to assist in Funeral Details and public functions. Uniforms and training are provided to the volunteer, and transportation is provided, when needed.

On 5/21/2022, the Honor Guard provided military honors, including position the colors, rifle 3 round volley and played taps at Dick Erdman's memorial service at Del Webb Lake Providence.

Participating members: Steve Wren, Brenda Thompson, Bud Werner, Pat Costanzo, Cary Cundall, Mike Faoro and Jim Simpson.

On 5/28/2022, the Honor Guard posted colors for Operation Song at Charlie Daniels Park.

Participating members: Steve Wren, Bud Werner, Mike Faoro and Pat Costanzo.

On 5/30/2022, the Honor Guard provided a rifle volley and taps at the Wilson County Memorial Day Program in Lebanon at the Veterans Plaza Complex.

Participating members: Steve Wren, Brenda Thompson, Cary Cundall, Mike Faoro, Jim Simpson, Grady Thompson, Bud Werner and David Hale.

On 5/30/2022 the Honor Guard provided a 3 round volley and played taps for the Memorial Day Program at Del Webb Lake Providence.

Participating members: Steve Wren, Pat Costanzo, Cary Cundall Bud Werner and Jim Cheramie.

On 6/3/2022 the Honor Guard provided military honors for Will Sellers a 75 year old US Army Vietnam Veteran , Past Vice Mayor of Mount Juliet, Founding BOD Member of the Animal Shelter, Post 281 Reverse Raffle Expert and highly regarded Tyler Cates Post 281 member at the Nashville National Cemetery.

Participating members: Brenda Thompson, Cary Cundall, Mike Faoro and Jim Simpson.

On 6/8/2022 the Honor Guard provided military honors for an 88 year old veteran of the U.S. Army at Hermitage Gardens Cemetery.

Participating members: Steve Wren, Mike Faoro, Pat Costanzo, Bud Werner and David Hale.

On 6/23/2022 the Honor Guard provided military honors for an 89 year old veteran of the U.S. Army at Hermitage Gardens Cemetery.

Participating members: Steve Wren, Pat Costanzo, Jim Cheramie and David Hale.

On 6/24/2022 the Honor Guard provided a Color Detail using the American, Tennessee and American Legion Flags at the Opening Ceremony for the Rackley Roofing 200 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Race at the Nashville Speedway,



Participating members: Honor Guard Captain Steve Wren, Adjutant Shawn Taylor, Service Officer Mike Faoro, Member Carey Cundall and Past First Vice Commander Pat Costanzo.

The total military honors rendered from our 2010 inception of Post 281 and the Honor Guard Team in 2011 now stands at 425.

American Legion Riders Post 281

Director Keith Rowell seeks Post 281 members who are Motorcycle, Trike or Slingshot riders to join the ALR. ALR members must be a member of Post 281, the Auxiliary, or the SAL Squadron 281. To join this unit you need a Motorcycle, Trike or Slingshot, 500ccs or greater. We socialize and participate in funeral honors for Veterans and support Post 281 events and meetings. The ALR Officers for 2022 are: Director Keith Rowell, Assistant Director Bob Ramsey, Secretary Shawn Taylor, Treasurer Joe Chilando, Road Captain Phil Friedli, Chaplain Pete Blinn. Sgt at Arms Terry Ward. Our next meeting is July 2nd at 8:00 am at the Golden Corral, 315 Old Lebanon Dirt Rd, Hermitage, TN.

Run For the Wall 2022

Phil Friedli, RFTW Lebanon Coordinator and Past Tennessee American Legion State Rider Director

The Annual Run-For-The-Wall (RFTW) for our area took place on 23 May 2022. This was a fundraising effort to support the National American Legion Riders who participate in the ride. The RFTW starts in California and ends on Memorial Day weekend at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall of honor, Washington DC. We appreciate donations provided by everyone.

- There was a platoon of riders (35) arriving at the Wilson County Veterans Museum on 23 May at approximately 1:30PM.
- The main pack ate lunch in Dickson and arrived at Uncle Pete's Truck Stop, approximately 4:15 PM. The "break-out platoon" ate lunch at the Wilson County Veterans Museum, provided by Mission BBQ. There was also a wreath laying ceremony. County Mayor Randall Hutto and Lebanon Mayor Rick Bell spoke. The past two years without the run has brought on many challenges but the boards of directors worked closely with the state coordinators for a smooth and safe run to DC.
- RFTW has continued to make donations to many schools and orphanages all along the routes, promoting patriotism supporting our veterans and military.
- Post 281 Legion Riders and the AVVA Chapter 1004 and individual citizens made financial contributions to support their fuel stop in Lebanon.
- Concerns this year was with fuel costs averaging \$4500 vs \$2500 per stop, being double over previous years. However with the number of riders being down from what was expected, all fuel costs were covered by the donations with zero cost to the riders.

Post 281 Sons of the American Legion

SAL President Dan Rhame, Adjutant Lew Hightower and Treasurer Joe Chilando continue their membership renewal drive. SAL membership criteria are located at <https://www.legion.org/sons>.

All male descendants adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during the period of April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918, or any time from December 7, 1941, to date, who served honorably, 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.

If you are a post member, and/or your ancestor was a member of the military, you can be a member of the SAL too. Or, if your son, who has no military service, would like to be a part of our Post's SAL, let us know.

Long-range events

- 13 Sept Regularly Schedule Post meeting
- 17 Sept - Post Picnic, Charlie Daniels Park Pavilion #3
- October, Mount Juliet's Halloween in the Park
- 11 November, Veterans Day recognition
- December, Annual Mt. Juliet Christmas parade
- 13 December, Annual Post Christmas Party

2023 American Legion Membership Drive begins, 1 July

It's that time of year, 1 July annually, to start renewing your membership for 2023. Some of you have invalid information on in the American Legion database, addresses, emails, changed phone numbers, etc. Each member needs validate this data yourself and renew your membership mylegion.com. Our preferred method of renewal is to bring a personal check for \$45 to our meetings, or mail your check to AL Post 281, PO Box 67, Mt. Juliet, TN, 37122.

Membership remains as our strength and ability to meet our mutual obligations to the four pillars. We look forward to more members joining our gatherings in the future. We currently have 254 members. We have 36 to 40 members and guests at our meeting who join us for pizza, fellowship, listen and learn from guest speakers and to also learn about ongoing support planned for veterans and our youth.

Service Officer News

By Mike Faoro

YOUR VA CLAIM

We are fortunate to have Zabrina Seay, the Director of the Wilson County Veterans Service Office and Veterans Museum Complex as a member of our Post. She and her staff is available to help veterans and their families with their VA Claims. If you already have a VA claim they can provide you status on your claim. Zabrina and her staff had set aside a day on May 31 from 2-5 PM at the Mt. Juliet Senior Citizens Center to assist members of our post, but only one person showed up. This is our fault for not explaining what we are telling you below as well. They have access to all government records and are the right people to contact. Even better, their service is free, so there is no out of pocket cost to you or your family. They are here to help and support veterans of Wilson County.

So what if you do not have a VA claim? You may be entitled to have a disability that you do not know of or was not noted on your DD-214. You may be suffering today from something that happened on the base or ship that you served on during your active or reserve years. Perhaps the ship you were on was discovered to have asbestos on board and today you have a cough and see a doctor for that cough. Those stationed at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina are now eligible for a disability due to contaminated drinking water that was recently announced. Those types of incidents could make you eligible for a disability that you never knew of previously. There are many more situations that could allow you to have a disability and receive a payment from the VA or the branch of the service you were a member.

So how do you find out? Make an appointment with Zabrina or her staff at the Wilson County Veterans Service Office at 615-444-2460. They will make an appointment for you.

Wilson County Veterans Service Office

The Wilson County Veterans Service Office and Wilson County Veterans Museum are located at 304 East Main Street, Lebanon, TN 37087.

wilsoncountyttn.gov/departments/veteran-services (615) 444-2460.

Department of Veteran Affairs

Veterans may enroll in Veterans Affairs Health Care at 1-877-222-VETS or sign up on www.va.gov, or apply in person at Nashville or Murfreesboro campuses. Access this Veterans Administration website and manage your VA Benefits and Health Care benefits.

The Veterans Affairs Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS)

Tennessee Veteran Services Department provides property tax relief for disabled veterans, recreational discounts, and motor services among other benefits. The website is www.tn.gov/veteran. 615-741-2345.

New Home Loans for Active Duty, Retired Military, National Guard and Reserve Members

<https://www.va.gov/housing-assistance/home-loans/eligibility/>

Transportation to and from the VA TVHS at Nashville and Murfreesboro is available. Veterans

Transportation Program (VTP). Veterans have to make an appointment with the VA in order to participate in these rides. You must call "during the last full week of the previous month (October for an appointment during November)." One day prior, you will receive a re-verifying call and confirm pick up time. 615-225-5616.

<https://www.dav.org/veterans/i-need-a-ride/>

Mid-Cumberland Senior Rides 800-945-4125

<https://www.mchransit.org/schedule-a-ride>

Wilson Rides: <https://wilsonridesinc.org/>

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit 281

Gwynne Queener, Auxiliary President

615-773-1977 or gwynnequeener@gmail.com

ALA Unit 281 has ended our year on a very busy note. In May we had our Poppy Distribution at both Kroger stores in Mt. Juliet. It was very successful. We participated in the West Wilson Exchange Club and American Legion Post 281 and ALA Unit 281 with the Honor Our Flag Event displaying 300 American Flags over the Memorial Day weekend. We were able to register several new ladies to our Unit 281.

We sent 9 girls to Girl's State this year and 4 of our Auxiliary members attended the Girl's State Luncheon. We are so proud of our Mt. Juliet girls. Kaitlyn Stake was elected a commissioner for her city and also elected as

Deputy to the Governor. Mary Hickman was elected Mayor of her city, Ava Foley was elected as Counselor to the Governor and also elected as 1 of 2 to attend Girl's Nation in Washington, D.C.; Alliese Bonner was elected Best Citizen and was in the Chorus; Makayla Barshaw (Jr. member of our Unit), was elected as escort for the State Auxiliary President.

In July we will be participating in the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Incorporation of the City of Mt. Juliet. We will have the drawings of the Veteran's Wall of Honor we are going to build. There will be music, fun, games, presentation of the plaque for the new bridge, burial of the time capsule, fireworks and special guest Darryl Worley and our own Cedar Creek Band. It will be so much fun!

The American Legion Convention is being held in Cool Springs at the Marriott. We will be sending 1 delegate. We have enough members to send 7 delegates but that is July 4th weekend and most of the rest of us will be out of town on vacation(s). We are sorry to miss all that fun and the presentation of awards, which we expect to win a few. We will update you next time on what we won.

We are still accepting Brick Donations for the Veteran's Wall of Honor. It will be located in Robinson Park, which is located on N. Mount Juliet Rd across from the Valley Center Shopping Center. Purchase a brick to honor your veteran at www.thatsmybrick.com/ala281.



Concept of Mt. Juliet's "Future" Military Wall of Honor

United Services Organization (USO) at Nashville International Airport (BNA) and the Nashville Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS)

<https://fortcampbell.uso.org/nashville-meps>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1vnBsywnpY>

Devilyn Boyles, Director of BNA and MEPS USO sites seeks volunteers to support transient active duty and military retirees. 703-586-2112.