



American Legion Tyler Cates Post #281

May 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, Terry Ward, 615-519-6523 twardpost281am@gmail.com

Post 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 during the meet and greet time before the regular meeting starts.

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 10 May, Regular Post meeting, MJSAC @ 6:00 pm
- 21 May, Dick Erdman Memorial Service, Del Web Community on the Point @ 11:00
- 22-27 May, Boys State at Tennessee Tech, Cookeville and Girls State at Lipscomb
- 23 May, 281 ALR support of Run For the Wall, 1300 until complete
- 26 May, Honoring America's Flag Event rebar install. Bring work gloves and a Sledge Hammer.
- 27-30, HOAF coverage, see attached time sheet, Mt. Juliet Clock Tower/Train Station,
- 27 May, Blood Drive with Blood Assurance collection group and Vanderbilt Hospital.
- 31 May, 2-5 pm, Wilson Co Veterans Service Officer will host premade appointments at MJSAC
- 7 June, Executive Committee Meeting at MJSAC, 1700
- 14 June, Regular Post meeting, MJSAC @ 6:00 pm includes Guest Speaker: Wilson Rides
- 25 June, Honor Guard and support team American Flag event, Nashville Motor Speedway
- 1-2 July, 2022 Department Convention, Marriott Cool Springs, Franklin TN.

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 were fortunate to have the Wilson County VSO Zabrina Seay will answer veteran's questions and addressed others with their claims. She will come back to the MJSAC on 31 May 2-5 pm and address more claims for our members.

We had two guest speakers from Meals on Wheels. Mrs Cynthia Brown, 615-574-9927 and Mrs Dottie Critchlow from Meals on Wheels. They work out of the @ Mount Juliet Senior Activity Center and solicit help.

Mid Cumberland Meals on Wheels.

<http://www.mchra.com/meals-on-wheels>

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

BNA and MEPS USO

We also were honored to have Devilyn Boyles, Director of BNA and MEPS USO sites address us on efforts to support transient active duty and military retirees. 703-586-2112. He too was seeking volunteers.

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 Will Sellers. Dan Rhame addressed our meeting and informed us of

treatment support he is receiving from Vanderbilt. 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

Post 281 Leadership Team for the 2022-2023

7:00 pm Commander opened regular stated meeting with Prayer; POWMIA Ceremony and Pledge of Allegiance. He then introduced Officiating Official, Pat Unger, American Legion TN Department Constitution and By-laws Chair and Past Commander, Tyler Cates Post 281. The Commander called for Sgt at Arms to announce the new Officers of the Post to be sworn in. Ask all new Officers to assume a position in front of the assembled members.

Commander	Max Wix
1 st Vice Commander	Dan Walker
2 nd Vice Commander	Robert Hibbett (on Tvl)
Adjutant	Shawn Taylor
Finance Officer	Stephen Iles
Service Officer	Mike Faoro
Chaplain	David Hale
Sgt at Arms	Elliot Tadych

(A short resume of each leader is below, as pictured from Left to Right)



Max Wix has been the Commander of Tyler Cates American Legion Post 281, Mount Juliet since May of 2020 and begins his third year as Commander. Max brings a wide variety of talent and experience to our post. A native Tennessean, Max graduated from Allen County High School, Scottsville, KY, and was drafted into the Marine Corps in 1969. After 29 years of active-duty, Max retired in 1998 as a Master Gunnery Sergeant (E-9). He served in every facet as a Logistics and Supply

Support Marine with the infantry, aviation, combat arms, air-control and air-defense, and deployed combat logistics support. He served on Embassy Duty, was a Recruiter, and at MCRD San Diego and other special-duty assignments. His final tour was as the Senior Enlisted Advisor and Action Officer for the Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics, at Headquarters Marine Corps. From 1998 until his second retirement in 2013, Max was an Independent Consultant to DOD in the Northern Virginia/Washington DC Metro Area providing Subject Matter Expertise on Program, Acquisition and Logistics policy. From 2005 - 2013 he worked remotely out of the Quantico, VA, fielding combat equipment systems. Max received numerous decorations for his service and dedication. Max has proven himself as a tireless worker for the American Legion and Post 281 as well. We were fortunate to have Max as our leader during the COVID Pandemic and beyond. Max holds a BBA (1983) from National University, San Diego. Gloria, his wife is a member of our post and they live at Del Web here in Mt. Juliet.

1st Vice Commander Dan Walker entered the Navy after high school. He was trained as an Electricity and Electronics Mate. His first fleet assignment was on the USS Constellation CV-64 and he worked a variety of duty positions, from power shops, in the engine room for all electrical generation and for the aviation elevator gear. He qualified as the plant operator of the USS Constellation's entire 1200 PSI electrical plant. His second duty station was at NVCOMSTA Nea Makri Greece which delivered message traffic to the fleet in the Mediterranean. He was then assigned to Charleston, SC to attend minesweeper electrician school. During the liberation of Kuwait his unit deployed remote "SAMs" (Self-propelled Acoustic Minesweepers) to clear the Kuwait City beachhead of mines for a Marine landing zone. Now retired, he lives in Mt. Juliet Dan Walker and served as the District 10 County Commissioner for the past 8 years. Dan has also served on the following committees: Finance, Public Works, Cable TV, Steering, Back Tax, and others. He enjoys giving back to the community and has been a member of both the Lebanon Noon and Mt Juliet Breakfast Rotary Clubs.

Robert Hibbett, (*missing from the picture*) steps up to our 2nd Vice CDR position with a wide variety of experience and training. From having his own private practice of law in Knoxville, to being Assistant District

Attorney General, 15th Judicial District in this area. Bobby, as he likes to be called, started his professional civilian education at the University of Tennessee at Martin and then went on to receive a University of Tennessee College of Law Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1985. He was a member of the American Bar Association, Board of Governors, Tennessee Bar Association, and the 15th Judicial District Bar Association. Currently he volunteers his time as a counselor with Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He has also been on the Wilson County Advisory Board and a Wilson County Fair board member along with many local advocacy programs. In his military career he was the Commander of a RAOC (Rear Area Operations Center) in Iraq. Bobby has a distinguished record of military assignment and accomplishment. He retired with the rank of Colonel from Joint Forces Headquarters of the Tennessee Army National Guard. Throughout his military career, he has earned the respect and admiration of all around him. Without question, Bobby is a humble person who is proud of his American Legion heritage passed on to him from his father, and he is dedicated to the programs we offer to our local community and to fellow veterans.

Adjutant Shawn Taylor graduated high school early from Kalkaska, Michigan in 1991. He joined the Marine Corps and served as a Signals Intelligence manual morse operator and light armored vehicle crewman and later as vehicle commander from 1991-1995. His first assignment was to the 1st Radio Battalion, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit stationed in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Shawn deployed aboard the USS Essex, LHD-2, participating in training exercises in the Persian Gulf and Kuwait. In February 1995, the MEU sailed to the coast of Africa and conducted an amphibious assault onto Somali soil and executed a relief-in-place that covered the withdrawal of United Nations forces in an operation known as United Shield. Shawn received numerous awards for his active-duty service in the Marine Corps. SGT Taylor left active duty from the Marine Corps in late 1995 to follow in his father's footsteps as a police officer, who served as a police officer for 26 years in Jackson, Michigan. Shawn moved to Nashville and joined the Metro Nashville Police Department in 1996 where he has remained for his 26-year career. Shawn is currently a motorcycle officer in Davidson County. Shawn has been a resident of Mount Juliet since 1998. He is the Junior Vice Commandant of the Marine Corps League Music City Detachment 378 in Nashville and a member-at-large of the VFW of Tennessee. Shawn

joined our post less than a year ago, and as the Marine motto exclaims, he faithfully continues to serve.

Finance Officer Stephen Iles has served as the Post 281 since July 2019, after the passing of the previous and highly regarded Finance Officer, George Cooper. Stephen served in the USAF as an aircraft mechanic and in various NCO leadership positions from 1977 to 1997, retiring in 1997 after twenty years of service. He served during the Gulf War conflict and during Operation Enduring Freedom. He had two tours in Korea and had many temporary duty assignments in the Far East.

Service Officer Mike Faoro entered the USMC in 1963 between college years. He was assigned to the 1st Marine Corps jungle warfare training with troops for Viet Nam. Before his unit was deployed in 1964, he received a change of orders to be assigned to the HQ Staff at HDMC, assigned to be an auditor over non-appropriated financial funds and attached to multiple base's General's staff. While stationed at Cherry Point, NC, he received a flight certification. He was discharged in 1966 as an NCO. Mike graduated from St. Joseph's College in Indiana and attended Nashville Law School. Mike joined Post 281 seven years ago and took an active role in our post as a member of the Honor Guard too. Mike retired in 1995 from CNA Insurance after 25+ years in the executive management of the insurance industry and subsequently retired from Caterpillar as an officer of their insurance companies in 2015, earning special designations and licenses. He also has a Real Estate License and is available to help families of veterans meet their real estate needs.

Chaplain David M. Hale enlisted in the Marine Corps in December of 1975. He attended recruit training aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina. He attended Artillery Training School at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where he was assigned the MOS of 0811. He served in the 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan as an artilleryman, followed by selection for training at the Marine Security Guard School, Quantico, Virginia. He soon was assigned to the American Embassy, San Salvador, El Salvador, followed by an assignment to the American Embassy, Guatemala City, Guatemala. He then became a recruiter, assigned to recruiting Station Omaha, Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska, then reassigned as the NCOIC of recruiting Substation, Aberdeen, South Dakota. Following his recruiter time, Staff Sergeant Hale was transferred to Oscar Battery, 5th Battalion,

10th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, where he served as a Section Chief and Battery Gunnery Sergeant. He left active duty in September 1987.

Sgt-at-Arms, Elliott Tadych was born in Lincolnton, NC. Upon graduating from West Lincoln High School, he joined the United States Air Force as a Fire Protection Apprentice in February 2011. His military career has taken him to Ramstein AFB, Germany 2011-2013 and Shaw AFB, SC 2013-2021. He was deployed twice overseas, first in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan in 2013, and his second deployment was in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in 2014 in the American military actions to defeat ISIL. He now serves as an active-duty Air Force recruiter here in Mount Juliet, Tennessee.

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit 281
Gwynne Queener, Auxiliary President
615-773-1977 or gwynnequeener@gmail.com

The ALA Poppy Distribution will be at both Kroger's in Mount Juliet on 28 May.

Following is a list of members who have won awards and honors this spring.

ALA Unit 281 was awarded a grant in the amount of \$1760 from the ALA Foundation Mission in Action Grant to further our brand in the community.

One of our junior members: Makayla Barshaw, won the American essay contest from the ALA from the Department.

Dina McKenna, one of our Gold Star wives, applied to Tunnel 2 Towers foundation for help with her mortgage. She was chosen to have her mortgage paid off. She will be honored in a nation-wide celebration at the Wild Horse on Friday May 13, 2022. There will be local and National press as well as national TV coverage.

Jocelyn Hess from Seymour, TN has been chosen by National Headquarters to be the TN recipient of the National Children of Warriors Scholarship. She will receive \$5000 toward her college education.

On Saturday 14 May 8-12 the ALA Unit 281 held a Pancake Breakfast at the Mount Juliet Senior Activity Center. Proceeds from this day will go towards building the Veterans Wall of Honor.

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

Just follow the directions on the site. It is very user friendly.

Our service project for this month is socks and gift cards from Kroger and WalMart (\$10, \$20, \$25).

National Oratorical
Article provided by Terry Ward
Oratorical Chair for TN Dept of The American Legion

INDIANAPOLIS (April 24, 2022) – A junior from Alabama School of Fine Arts in Birmingham capped a busy weekend of competition in Indianapolis by earning a \$25,000 college scholarship and first place in The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – “A Constitutional Speech Contest.” Emma Noble’s winning prepared oration was titled “The Power of the Executive Order: Because I said so.”

Noble, who lives in Birmingham, started the weekend as one of 50 state or department champions in the 83rd annual contest. She advanced to the championship through three rounds of intense competition. Noble was sponsored by American Legion Post 555 in Pelham, Ala.

Tennessee’s Ashley Tuell, a senior from Johnson City, TN, earned a \$22,500 college scholarship with a second-place finish. When combined with her \$3,000 for winning the Department contest, her efforts earned her over \$25,500. Kentucky’s Jackson Boone, a 12th grade student from Calvert City, Ky, earned \$20,000 and third place in the competition. The scholarships account for a small portion of post-secondary scholarships that The American Legion, the nation’s largest veteran’s organization, awards annually.



Pictured above are Ashley Tuell and Past National Commander Bill Crawford.

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 are provided to the volunteer, and transportation when needed.

On May 14, 2022 the Honor Guard provided military honors for a 74 year old veteran of the U. S. Coast Guard at Sellars Funeral Home in Mt Juliet.

The following members participated:
 Brenda Thompson, Mike Faoro, Dan Rhame, Bud Werner, Pat Costanzo, David Hale, Jim Simpson and Jimmy Cheraie.

The Honor Guard will participate in the memorial service for Dick Erdman on May 21, 2022. Upcoming events include the Memorial Day events at the Wilson County Veterans Plaza and at the Annual Del Webb "On the Point" and Mount Juliet's Honoring America's Flag Event 26-30 May and presenting colors at the Nashville Superspeedway NASCAR race in June 2022.

The total military honors rendered from our 2010 inception of Post 281 and the Honor Guard Team in 2011 now stands at 417.

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 Asst. Director: Bob Ramsey Secretary: Shawn Taylor Treasure: Joe Chilando Road Captain: Phil Friedli Chaplin: Pete Blinn Sgt of arms: Terry Ward. Our next meeting is June 4th, location TBD.

Run For the Wall 2022

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

RFTW for our area will take place on 23 May 2022. This is a fundraising effort to support the National American Legion Riders who will participate in the Annual Run-For-The-Wall. Ride starts in California and ends on Memorial Day weekend in Washington DC at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Appreciate donations.

- There will be a platoon of riders (35) arriving at the Wilson County Veterans Museum on May 23rd at approximately 1:30PM.
- The main pack will eat lunch in Dickson and will arrive at Uncle Pete's Truck Stop approximately 4:15 PM. The break out platoon will eat lunch at the museum, provided by Mission BBQ. There will be a wreath laying ceremony. County Mayor Hutto and Lebanon Mayor Bell are asked to speak. The past two years without the run has brought on many challenges but the boards of directors have been working 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 made financial contributions to support their fuel stop in Lebanon.
- Concerns this year with fuel cost average fuel cost per stop \$4500 vs \$2500, being double over previous years.

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>. 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.

Membership

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 average about 36 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. If your membership dues card does not say paid for 2022, you are in arrears. We still need 33 to pay their dues for the current year. We ask that membership dues be paid during our monthly meetings in person by cash or check. You may also pay by mailing dues payments to our PO Box 67 address above. Dues are \$45. Membership renewal for 2023 begins 1 July. Please validate your contact data online at mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Home. The user email address for the member must match the email address in the Legion database for your account, not a new one. If you have questions about the email address on your account, please call your Commander or Adjutant at the phone numbers above.

Service Officer News

By Mike Faoro

The Veterans Affairs Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS)

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.

Veterans Administration Benefits

Access this Veterans Administration website and manage your VA Benefits and Health Care benefits: <https://www.va.gov/>

Tennessee State Veteran Benefits

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.

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.

Zabrina Seay, VSO, will be at MJSAC 2-5pm 31 May.

New Home Loans for National Guard and Reserve Members

National Guard and Reserve members without active duty service are now eligible to receive VA home loans.

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/>