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**Gautier-Vancleave Post 1992 American Legion, Inc.**  
3824 Old Spanish Trail, (Mail address: Post Office Box 682, Gautier, MS 39553)  
**Newsletter May-June 2016**  
Post Phone # (228) 497-6422

*Freedom Isn't Free*

## Post 1992 Commander

Greetings to Our Legion Family

This will be my last newsletter to put out being that we are in the process of selecting new Officers for our American Legion Post 1992. I have enjoyed being your Commander for the last three years and it is something that I will remember forever. As I leave our Post as your Commander I can only say thank you to all the hard working men and women that helps to set our Post apart from others. Our Post is in great shape and it will continue to thrive under the new leadership. I ask that you get involved with our programs and help our new Commander to take the Post to even greater heights. We have lived up to all the programs that the American Legion has requested from us. We have one of the most hard working; get involved; and get things done Posts in the State of Mississippi.

As you know this past month we have had the Southern Area Districts Conference and The American Legion Auxiliary National President at our post. "It just don't get any better that" and that is a reflection of who we are. Let's continue all the fine work that we do and always Support the Post. Again, I thank each of you for making our American Legion Post such a wonderful organization for our State, community and thank you for all you do for our veterans and our country.

Things Coming Up:

We have 2016 Magnolia Girls State which will be held at the University of Southern Mississippi. We also have 2016 Boys State which will be held at the University of Mississippi. Boys State is the premiere leadership program for rising high school seniors in Mississippi. Delegates are challenged to not just learn about Government, Leadership, and Service; but to put their knowledge into practice. Along the way, Delegates hear from elected state leaders, prepare for college, and make friendships that will last a lifetime.

We also have Memorial Day coming up and once again we will hold it at Gautier's MS Veterans Tribute Tower and continue our Avenue of Flags program. For more information on our Avenue of Flags programs, I ask that you contact our Post.

State Convention 2016:

Our Department of MS Convention this year will be held in Flowood, Mississippi starting on July 22nd running until the 24th.

One last thing to bring up is your membership dues. Please get your dues paid up if you haven't already done so. We exist because of our members. Remember...Membership, Membership, Membership. Ask someone to join and lets grow our post. Again, thank you for a great three years as your Post Commander and always remember what we are about!

Thanks for all you do.

*For God and Country*  
Bill Whatley

## Post 1992 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

I would like to thank all who have participated in the many events throughout the past year. Support and participation are the back bone of the American Legion. We look forward to a full summer of activity starting with Memorial Day at the Tribute Tower. I would like to take this time to remind everyone that elections for Officers is upon us once again. Your support and your vote matters, let your voice be heard, through your nominations and your vote. See you at the Post.

Veterans Helping Veterans

*For God and Country*

Flo Hendrickson

## Post 1992 Adjutant

***NOTICE TO LEGIONNAIRES:*** *Effective 2 January 2016 American Legion Renewal Dues are \$35 for the remainder of the 2015/2016 membership year and following years.* Several years ago the Executive Committee voted to waive the Post's portion of the dues as a "late in year" incentive. ***New members recruited in April, May and June are only required to pay \$30 for 2016 membership.***..Those who have not yet paid their 2016 dues are delinquent and on 30 June they will forfeit their American Legion membership. Please, **you are all valued members** and your dues all goes towards good causes. Additionally, keeping our American Legion membership numbers up gives our National Commander the strength in numbers when he goes before Congress as an advocate fighting for Veteran's Causes

I am now accepting your renewal dues for the 2016/2017 membership year and the new membership cards should be out about mid-June. You can help the Post in getting recognition at the 2016 Dept. Convention for Early Bird renewals by paying your dues prior to 21 July 2016 either by renewing at the Post or by mail. You can also renew on-line at [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew) (with a credit card) on or after 1 July (you'll still be an Early Bird through 20 July 2016).

The Post's Legion membership total for 2015 & 2016 is currently 419 members. However we have 61 members who still owe their 2016 dues and became delinquent on 1 February 2016.

Please join me in welcoming our new members in March: Woodrow Deihl, Jr, and Roberta Hults, and in April: Larry Johnson, and Steven Sloan. We all thank each of you for your service to our great Country and now you have made a commitment to continue to serve other veterans; their families, the community; and the nation. I'd also like to thank the recruiters of the above members: Shane Helms, George Hults, Scott Mitchell and Howard Tupper for their support of The American Legion and for growing our membership rolls. We need all members to actively recruit new members to get our membership numbers up to make up for normal attrition of non-renewals.

Please keep the Post informed of changes to your mail, phone number and eMail addresses so that you will continue to receive our communications. Also The American Legion National has sent a request for email addresses to be filled out on the back of the dues reminder sent to each member. The Adjutant will update The American Legion National database records and Department address lists (for Legion and SAL members) insuring you'll continue to receive your membership renewal notices, Legionnaire, and the Legion magazine. Also if you provide me with your e-mail address, if you haven't already, you will receive any significant updates to the Calendar of Events and Newsletter.

Our Post Newsletter and Calendar of Events are only distributed electronically by e-mail and posted on the Post's web site. A limited number of hard copies will be printed as needed, locally on our printer for pick up in the lounge. To be added to electronic distribution by email [deveaujr@bellsouth.net](mailto:deveaujr@bellsouth.net) directly, call me at 228-471-5042, or dropping a note with your name and e-mail address in the membership dues box in the lounge, requesting to be placed on the Newsletter eMail distribution. This Newsletter and the Calendar of Events are, as I said earlier, published on our post website at: <http://www.alpost1992.org>. Our electronic distribution currently reaches ONLY 46% of Legion Family members.

It is required that our Legion membership records contain evidence of discharge or release under honorable conditions during one of the recognized war eras. The most recognized evidence is: your latest DD214; Certificate of Discharge/Release or for Reserves or Guard components, evidence of being deployed under Federal Orders.

*For God and Country*

John Deveau.

## Post 1992 2nd Vice Commander

Hello to all my fellow Legionaries. We've had a lot of visitors this month with the National Commander, National President, State Commander, State President and many, many others. We always have a good turnout and thanks to everyone that helped out and brought food.

We also had our annual drawdown which was a great success.

We have Memorial Day coming up on May 30th. We will have our ceremony at the tribute tower and don't forget if you have a relative you want to honor you can bring a flag or order one through the post. These flags will be placed on the walk of flags every year after in memory of your relative,

June 14<sup>th</sup> is Flag Day. We will be having a ceremony at the post for flag retirement, so if you have any flags that need retirement bring them in. You can bring them that day or drop them off at the post any time before then.

We have 4 application from Vancleave High School so far for Boys State. We will be getting a few more from Gautier High soon.

Looking forward to seeing everyone around the post.

*For God and Country*

Joe Randolph, Sr.

## Post 1992 3rd Vice Commander

Thanks to all who come out and support our functions: Karaoke; Steak nights; and Fish Nights. We have Nimblefeet. Stewart Douglas the return of Doug Persor, the Johnny Cash Man. Also May 7<sup>th</sup> the SAL will be holding a Family Appreciation Day and on May 21<sup>st</sup> there will be a Crawfish Cook-off held at the Post watch for further details on the Post bulletin board/flyers.

Without proceeds from Entertainment and Lounge pay all our post operating expenses so come out if you can, even if it's just one Friday, and have some fun.

I'm honored to serve you as Third Vice and I'll see you around the Post.

*For God and Country*

Tim Honeycutt

## Post 1992 Chaplain

Hello again Post family!

The year is passing quickly and we have already experienced some painful losses and have had many of our brothers and sisters suffer in sickness and degrading health. Please keep them in your prayers as we move into the summer and take the time to offer well wishes to all as we know tomorrow is not a promise.

Remember that we always have those who suffer in silence. Whose ails we never know, until it's too late. Let's all try and make extra efforts to contact those whom we have not seen, think about those who have not been around as of late and show that we do keep family in mind and heart.

Don't forget that May is "Military appreciation month"!! Ya'll come by the post and enjoy some food, drink and fellowship with your fellow vets!

"Don't be afraid to try something new. The ark was built by amateurs, and the Titanic was built by experts!"

*For God and Country*

Scott Mitchell

## Post 1992 Judge Advocate

Since I don't see all of you on a regular basis, I'm taking this opportunity to thank those of you that not only wished me a Happy Birthday, but, provided me with plenty of "well wishes". [This Post is really .... FAMILY !!]

Reminder: If You're a Member in Good Standing with your Department of the American Legion you are eligible for

LegionCare; \$5,000.00 in Accidental Death Insurance at NO COST TO YOU if a covered accident occurs while traveling on official Legion business\*, or \$1,000.00 at NO COST TO YOU for all other covered accidents.

NOTE to ALL Legion Family Members: Effective 1 January 2015, the above program benefit is also available to The American Legion Auxiliary and The Sons of the American Legion (ages 18 and older.) You can sign up for it on-line at <https://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare> or see the attached application at the end of this newsletter, or See the Judge Advocate; contact the Adjutant; or pick up an application in the Post Hall of Honor.

Reminder: The Post is still offering Memorial/Donor Bricks for sale. A two-line brick is still \$40, and \$43.50 for three lines

*For God and Country*

Bob Backel

### **Amateur Radio Club – (Call-sign K5TAL)**

The American Legion Amateur Radio (ARC) (call sign K5TAL) meets at 6:30 monthly before the General Membership meeting. Everyone is invited to join us.

K5TAL has been granted Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) Official Club Affiliation.

K5TAL will be providing communications support on June 4th for the Legion Riders Poker Run and will have operators at each of the 5 “landing zones”.

We will be joining the Jackson County Amateur Radio Association at the “Safe Room” in Vancleave for the June ARRL Field Day operation.

K5TAL been asked to serve as Net Control Station for at least 2 hours of the Veterans Day Special Event and will be operating as K9TAL the American Legion Amateur Radio Club.

*For God and Country*

Robert “Don” Rand,  
ARC President

### **President Unit 1992 American Legion**

With Summer, we are winding down our year as July is the start with new officers.

By the time this newsletter is out, we will have selected our scholarship recipients giving \$600 each up to five with another two supported by the Legion. We’ve also selected eight young high school women to be Girls State Delegates in June.

Thanks very much to all of you who supported our Ride 2 Recovery lunch stop. If you were there, you’d probably agree it’s one of the most meaningful things we do when you meet the recovering warriors who ride both regular and custom adapted bikes for those with physical limitations. I’m proud we support this worthwhile program that limited administrative costs to 9% of received donations in 2015.

At Easter, we donated to the City’s Easter Egg Hunt and also hosted a Parents-Night-Out with movie, snacks, Easter egg decorating and the Easter Bunny at Sandhill Landing (the military housing facility in north Gautier).

We are proud to be hosting our National Auxiliary President Sharon Conaster with an April 26 dinner in her honor; followed by a Homecoming for State Commander Robert Endt and State Auxiliary President Anita McAllister co-hosted by Post and Unit 42 , Ocean Springs.

Be sure to proudly wear a poppy in honor of Memorial Day May 30<sup>th</sup>. You’ll find them offered at the Post and Bar.

Election of officers takes place Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup> (6:30 p.m.)

We value all our members and urge you to renew in the coming year or recruit someone new so that we can continue to support the Post and outreach to veterans, our community, children and youth , education and lots more.

*For God and Country*

Cindy Harper

## Post 1992 American Legion Riders (ALR)

The AK47 was won by Billy Simpson during the Legion drawdown.

Our next project is D-Day poker run. This is on June 4<sup>th</sup>. We will also be raffling off a Remington Versa MAX. One ticket is \$10 and three tickets are \$25. The shotgun will be given away

July 4<sup>th</sup>. The raffle is to raise money for the post.

May is time for election of officers. Our next meeting will be May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The riders purchased the track lighting for the stainless steel insignias in the lounge. Check it out, it looks great!!!!

Be safe!!! Live to ride another day.

*For God and Country*

Billy Simpson,  
ALR Director

## Post 1992 Bingo Supervisor

For those of you that are not aware bingo is our Post's major source of income. The problem is that there is only a hand full of members volunteering to help with bingo. If can spare a few hours a month to help with bingo call the post (228-497-6422) and leave a message for Bill McKee or Gary Coon.

*For God and Country*

Bill McKee

## Squadron 1992 Sons of the American Legion (SAL)

Welcome to the month of May and the end of another successful year. As some of you know, I will not run for or accept nomination as Commander of the SAL Squadron 1992 for 2016/2017.

I would like to thank all officers and members who have contributed time and effort to make us the best of the best in the state bar none. We should continue this effort by nominating and electing a board of officers in May and June respectively to carry us forward. Mr. Randy Auth is nomination/election chairman and may be contacted @ 228-383-4913 or your nomination can be made at the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Post.

I would suggest if you have not paid dues for the 2016 membership year you do so as soon as possible. Otherwise you are still delinquent and will forfeit your membership in the SAL on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016..as always your input and participation is needed to continue to support our Legion Family.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve

*For God and Country*

Mike Riser,  
Squadron Commander