



## OUR LEGION FAMILY

### Gautier-Vancleave Post 1992 American Legion, Inc.

3824 Old Spanish Trail, (Mail address: Post Office Box 682, Gautier, MS 39553)

### Newsletter May - June 2019

Post Phone # (228) 497-6422

*Freedom Isn't Free*

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

Hello Again comrades!!

Just a few notes on upcoming events at our post. Things are looking up and the House is doing an exceptional job of taking care of our lounge and post home!! If you get an opportunity Show Greg, the house chairman, your appreciation! He is doing a great Job!!

My apologies for not being as engaged as I would like to be—lots going on, but we have a great team of folks focused on events planning and upkeep of our post. I am working on engaging the Cal Ripkin baseball league to get involved again with sponsorship of our team. Please make an effort to get out to a game once we get a schedule and support these fine young people in playing or national pastime game and learning those team lessons—Last year they did a great job and I think they will do even better this year.

Our Elections are upon us and we need all of you to make our post successful Please get involved and if you think you would like to run for any office get with Wes Bright, Bill McKee, or Herb Edmonds and put your name in the hat! Nominations will be at the next general meeting and our elections are in June so please plan to attend and cast your vote! Hope to see more new names on the staff as we move into a new post year!

Get out and push membership for us!! Our roles are diminishing, and we need to let folks know that our post is the place to be and go to support our vets!

Thanks, Y'all – Looks to be an eventful summer so keep an eye out for new and fun events and get out to the post!!

*For God and Country*

Scott Mitchell

#### Post 1992 Adjutant

#### **Remember: “It's Not the Price You Pay to Belong, But the Price You Paid to Be Eligible to Belong”**

2019 dues were payable by October 20th, 2018. IAW American Legion are now DELINQUENT. Please renew your membership as soon as possible to protect your continuous years of American Legion membership. Dues can also be paid on-line at <https://www.members.legion.org/renew> using your credit card and the Adjutant will be notified and will mail or deliver your new 2019 ID card.

We currently have 400 – 2018/2019 members in our Post. There are 333 who have paid their 2019 dues and 63 who are delinquent renewing their membership for 2019 and 5 who paid their 2019 dues but not their 2018 dues.

Sadly, in April we lost a valued veteran member, Abraham Sherrod (Vietnam war era) and in May we lost a valued veteran member, Michael W. Washum (Panama war era), who transferred to The Post Everlasting: May they rest in peace. Our deepest sympathies go out to their families and loved ones.

Please join me in welcoming our New, Transfer and Returning members. In **March:** Mark Hechter, Robert Roos, Mark Troups and Lewis Vroom **April:** Mark Lake, Ronald Obranovich and Daniel Tobias. We 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: Robert Boman, Sherman Mabins, Scott Mitchell and Bill Whatley for their support of The American Legion and for growing our membership rolls. We

need all members to actively recruit at least one new member to get our membership numbers up to make up for deaths and normal attrition of Post members.

Note that 08 April through 13 May is the time our Post is soliciting nominees for 2019/2020 Post Officers and will be announced at the 13 May General Membership Meeting. For 2019 paid up members please consider stepping up and contacting a Nomination Committee member and sign up for an office. You'll then have input as to how to set the agenda for the Post operation. Don't sit back and say you don't like something about the Post operation. The Nomination Committee members are Wesley Bright, Bill McKee and Herb Edmonds. If you need to contact one of them, free to contact me (John Deveau) at [deveaujr@bellsouth.net](mailto:deveaujr@bellsouth.net) or 228-627-6546 and I'll get you in touch with one of them.

The 2019/2020 Election will take place on 10 June 2019' General Membership meeting. You must be a paid-up 2019 Legion member, no later than 07 June, and have your 2019 membership card with you.

Please keep the Post informed of changes to your mail address, phone number and eMail addresses so that you will continue to receive The American Legion and our Post communications. Also, The American Legion National has sent a request for email addresses to be filled out on the due's 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 your e-Mail address, if you haven't already, you will receive any significant updates to the Calendar of Events and Newsletter.

Our bi-monthly Post Newsletter and Calendar of Events are only distributed electronically by e-mail and posted on the **Post's web site**: <http://www.alpost1992.org>. A limited number of hard copies will be printed as needed, at the Post for pick up in the lounge. To be added to electronic distribution simply drop a note with your name and e-mail address in the membership dues box in the lounge, requesting to be placed on the distribution list. Our electronic distribution currently reaches ONLY 67% 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. The American Legion National requires Date of Birth, Phone No. and eMail Address be provided.

*For God and Country*

John Deveau for Scott Mitchell

### **Post 1992 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander**

We have a great start to our summer Legion days. Our annual crawfish cookoff sure to create some great mud bugs competition and fun for all.

Crush returns to rock the lounge for May steak night as well as our old friends Scott Mitchell and Eddie McDaniel Singing Rockers and Tearjerker for our Friday night faithful. Come on down for some great food music and help support our charities for our many Veteran, Veteran Families, Youth & Community causes.

*For God and Country*

Tim Honeycutt

### **Post 1992 Chaplain**

Teach us to use our freedom to help to preserve and strengthen the freedom of all; By respecting and upholding its laws; By supporting our law enforcement agencies; By informing ourselves on current issues; By voting regularly and wisely; and by honoring the rights of other people. *Amen.*

- Please keep the family of Abraham Sherrod in your thoughts and prayers following his passing.
- Please keep the family of Michael W. Washum in your thoughts and prayers following his passing.
- Please keep the family of SAL member Bennie Fontan in your thoughts and prayers following his passing.
- Please keep the family of SAL member Charles Reynolds, "Goat", in your thoughts and prayers following his passing.
- Continue to pray for Tom Vickery as he battles Alzheimer's disease.
- Continue to pray for Joe O. Watrous, Glen Deveau, Ricky Noble (Son-in Law of Buzzy Shimp) as they battle cancer.

–Continue to pray for Howard Tupper as he continues to recover from several health problems.

–Continue to pray for Tonia Harris' daughter, Ladonna Budke, and Patricia Fox, in your thoughts and prayers as they battle through illness and recovery.

*For God and Country*

L. Flo Hendrickson

## **Post 1992 Judge Advocate**

It is time to select new officers. If you want to apply for any office, please read the requirements in the Post Officers Guide book located in the office.

If you are a member in good standing at the American Legion you are eligible for Legion care. This is for \$5,000 in accidental death insurance at NO COST TO YOU if a covered accident occurs while traveling on official Legion business, or \$1000 at NO COST TO YOU for all covered accidents. These benefits are available to the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion. You can sign up for it on line at <https://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare> or you can pick up an application at the post.

The Post is still offering memorial donor bricks for sale. A three-line brick is \$40.00.

*For God and Country*

Billy Simpson

## **President Unit 1992 American Legion**

Reports are done and have been sent in by e-mail and hard copies provided. The Southern Area Conference went great, over 33 Unit and Department ladies attended the conference. Great numbers!!!! Officers were elected and installed, reports were given by the Unit Presidents, candidates running for Department offices introduced themselves, and prizes were drawn and received. Dinner provided by the Post was very enjoyable, thank you Greg and Cheryl Bierman for taking such good care of all the members.

### **Elections for Unit 1992 Officers**

Elections will soon be taking place; all Unit members are encouraged to attend the meetings to learn more about those running for office and make your voice heard by ensuring you are at the meeting to cast your vote. Only You can make a difference by voting and participating as an active member within the Unit. Your ideas and support are important to the success of the Unit

### **ALA Dues:**

The dues for the Auxiliary are &25.00. For our members who received a notice from the Department of MS, please remit the difference to make up the \$25.00. These payments are to be directed to Unit 1992, Gautier-Vancleave American Legion Auxiliary, P.O. Box 682, Gautier, MS 39553 Attention June

There was an error made when dues notices were sent out; all errors have been corrected and next year you will receive the proper amount due.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter. For questions or concerns please contact Unit 1992 Membership Chairman, June Crosslin

Want to learn more about the American Legion Auxiliary? The ALA is providing all members with the tools they need to help grow the organization as a team. ALA Academy is designed to help members learn as part of a process that includes learning the information, sharing it with others, practicing new skills, and, eventually, making those new skills a habit. Classes now available: *ALA 101*, an introductory course to the ALA; *ALA Communication Methods*, an introduction to how the ALA uses e-communication; *ALA Leadership: Living Our Motto of Service Not Self*, which discusses how to be an effective leader; *ALA Branding and Why It Matters to Me*, where branding is more than just a logo; and *Establishing an ALA Culture of Goodwill*, a thought-provoking course designed to help ALA members better understand how to serve our mission

*For God and Country*

L. Flo Hendrickson

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

The months of May and June are what we (hams) call Radio Active months. In mid-May somewhere close to 20,000 hams and families will descend on Xenia, Ohio for what is called Hamvention. TALARC and the American Legion HQ personnel will man a booth handing out pamphlets about TALARC and The American Legion.

May also should bring the final stages of our Comms Trailer as we hopefully will be "wrapped".

Then in June hams world-wide hold what is called Field Day. Where radio stations throughout the US, Canada, and the world are set up in outdoors settings where people can see the operation, and even get on the air themselves. We hope to be setting up at the Communications Trailer right at the Post. We continue operating every Wednesday at 6:30 on 3.829 MHz for the K5TAL Net. You can listen to us by going to N4DKD.com and entering the frequency and LSB. This is a free service and can be used as much as you want. 73 (shorthand for best wishes.)

*For God and Country*

T. Lee Johnston/Don Rand

## **Post 1992 SAL Commander**

Our Squadron is sad to report that members Ben Fontan and Charles "Goat" Reynolds passed away on April 4th and 6th, 2019, respectively. Ben was a six-year member and Goat was a member for fourteen years. Memorial services for Goat was held in the Post Lounge on April 9th, and for Ben at the Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Home in Vancleave, MS, delivered by Post Chaplain Flo Hendrickson. A brief follow-on service for Ben was held at our Post and included a small repast.

Many thanks to member Paul Fox for delivering supplies to tornado-stricken Beauregard, AL (near Opelika and Auburn).

Steak Nights were held on March 29th and April 26th - both were smashing successes. The next Steak Nights will be held May 31st and June 28th, respectively. Refer to the May-June Post Calendar of Events for scheduled entertainment, or, watch the "white board" adjacent to the bar.

The SAL-sponsored Hardhead Catfish Tournament is full steam ahead, with a specific date of September 7, 2019. "Seed" money has been allocated. The SAL tournament committee are Wes Bright, Shane Helms, Scott Mitchell, Robert Baughman, Jerry Foster and Dave Waller. The tournament will be held at our Post.

We pushed hard to attain another 100% membership again this 2019 year but have been unable to see the light at the end of the tunnel, despite acquiring 5 new members. Several members have opted to not renew their dues for various reasons and we currently have 11 members who have not yet paid their dues, nor do we have points of contact for them. Of our obligated 78 members we currently have 68 (including 5 new members), giving us 87.17% of our goal. In the 2018 year we paid for 14 members, giving us over 100%, but during our April meeting it was decided that we would not pay the dues for those 11 members.

Our Squadron has been discussing developing its own constitution and by-laws. A draft is in work and those results may become reality in the next couple of months.

Just a brief reminder that Post Family nominations for offices for the 2020 year are scheduled in May, with elections scheduled in June. Officer installations will be held the weekend following the Department (State) convention 18-21 July.

*For God and Country*

Wesley Bright