



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

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

### **Newsletter November-December 2016**

Post Phone # (228) 497-6422

*Freedom Isn't Free*

#### **Post 1992 Commander**

“ISN'T IT GREAT TO BE AN AMERICAN”, Thank you Mary Liles. November is headed our way in full force and there will be a lot going on.

Just a reminder that November is the time to get out and vote. Elections are important to our republic. As citizens of this great nation, it is our duty and responsibility to exercise this right of franchise by casting our ballots on Election Day and to encourage others to do so as well. It was on this premise that The American Legion's “Get Out the Vote” program was initiated shortly after the organization's inception. Today it is as important as it was in elections past.

All Legionnaires are encouraged to renew their commitment for continued service to this country by being politically active as individuals. By working together as an organization, we can make a difference by promoting an informed populace, participation in our government, and involvement in its electoral process. We cannot forget that in this country, our government is “of the people, by the people and for the people.” It cannot survive as a democratic republic unless the people participate. That is our task.

November 11 the Post will present a ceremony for Veterans Day at the Veterans Tribute Tower in Gautier, MS, in front of City Hall. The ceremony will begin at 1100. Post 1992 will be serving lunch following the ceremony. Join us in celebrating our veterans from all wars.

November is a time of giving thanks, we are proud to give back, November 16th the Post will host a Thanksgiving dinner for the VA. The Auxiliary will be serving dinner from 11am until 1pm. You are invited to come out and visit with our VA veterans.

November 24th, Thanksgiving Day dinner will be served for members and families, active duty military, and families of the deployed. EVERYONE is invited, those who can assist with traditional (or non-traditional) thanksgiving dishes are encouraged to give the Post a hand in creating a beautiful Thanksgiving spread. There will be a sign-up board for dishes located in the lounge. You can help with the dinner by calling the Post with the number of guest you will be bringing.

The SAL is in full swing with Toys for Tots. Everyone is encouraged to contribute to the children of Jackson County. Bikes, sports equipment (i.e. footballs, basket balls, tents, badminton, etc.), dolls, etc. There will be Toys for Tots boxes coming soon, watch for them. You may also bring donations to the American Legion Post 1992, 3824 Old Spanish Trail. Ensure your donation is unwrapped.

The third week of November is National Family Week and during this time we are encourage to communicate with local military families about the needs they may have if a loved one is deployed. As the nation's largest veteran's service organization, our commitment to the men and women of our armed forces and their families never wavers. Together, we must act to ensure that no military family endures unnecessary hardships caused by service to their country. By doing so, we ensure that The American Legion is serving its veterans, service members and their families.

The Legion's National Executive Committee passed Resolution 8 during Spring Meetings in May to reinforce the continued operation of the Legion's Family Support Network and remind Legionnaires to stay active in their local military communities.

For immediate assistance, military family members can call The American Legion toll-free at (800) 504-4098 and staff members will coordinate immediate help. Assistance can also be requested online at [www.legion.org/familysupport/assistance](http://www.legion.org/familysupport/assistance).

Calls are referred to The American Legion department, or state, in which the call originated. Departments relay the collected information to the local American Legion post and the post then contacts the service member or family to see how assistance can be provided.

Advocate, participate, and donate to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation and be part of a new tradition of generosity! It's a simple idea. Just after Thanksgiving, we have a day for giving thanks and two for getting deals. #GivingTuesday, Nov. 29, is a global day dedicated to giving back. Donate to the ALA Foundation on #GivingTuesday to help ensure our worldwide mission of service to veterans, military, and their families endures. Your support leads to job training, shelter, physical and mental health services, and so much more.

ALA social media hashtags: Share your posts and photos with us on social media @ALAforVeterans!

#MyAuxiliaryMagazine Post a photo of yourself reading the latest Auxiliary magazine

#LegionFamily Post a photo of you/your unit volunteering with Legion Family members in branded attire

#ALARockStars Share FB posts, tweets, and photos of ALA members working the mission.

The Mullet festival was a fun time and a success! Several veterans have found their way to the Post and we are excited in the prospect of new members.

The Post, ALA, ALR, and the SAL are working on raising scholarship funds and support funding for American Legion programs for 2017. Check in with any of the Post family to learn more on how you can help support these programs.

Be on the lookout for the calendar! November and December are full of activity; we need you to make it fun and interesting!

“Veterans Supporting Veterans”

*For God and Country*

Flo Hendrickson

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

Hello again fellow Legionnaires! We are quickly moving out of the summer and into the fall season. As Thanksgiving and Christmas ease their way towards us please take some time to remember those who are no longer with us to celebrate as well as those fighting for freedom and are not able to be with their families. Get involved and do something extra for those families and our homeless vets.

Just a quick note – we are still waiting on some to pay their dues for the upcoming year—Please help keep our numbers up and get your dues in and work to get some new members in the coming year! We have a fantastic Post filled with great folks! Let's get some more!!

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Cdr. is working hard at getting some more variety in our entertainment to draw more folks to our post. Get the word out! Let folks know what we do and what our post has to offer! Bring'em in and get'em a beer! If you have any suggestions or ideas to increase our patronage, please get with one of the post officers and let's turn them into action!! Every little bit helps!

SEE YOU AT THE POST!! ☺.

*For God and Country*

Scott Mitchell

## Post 1992 Adjutant

### 2017 Dues... RENEW – RENEW – RENEW !

2017 dues were payable by 20 October 2016 and are delinquent IAW Post By-Laws. You can mail your dues, drop them off at the Post or renew on-line at [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew) (using your member ID and a credit card,) Please renew your membership as soon as possible to help the Post meet its membership goal.

The Post's Legion membership total membership for 2016 & 2017 is currently 378 members. There are currently 100 members who still owe their 2017 dues.

Sadly, we lost a valued WWII veteran in October. Mr. Thomas A. Galle transferred to the Commander of us all and the Post Everlasting. His presents will be sorely missed by all his veterans and members of Post 1992.

Please join me in welcoming our new members in September: Whaley Cherry; Pamela Coghill; Jeffery Gualandi; Zackery Page; Joseph Simek; Theresa Rand and Dale Spicer and in October: Eric J. Green; Douglas Honeycutt; Robert Mayberry and Adam W. Santalla. 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: David Baird; Stan Cantrell; Lois Hendrickson; Tim Honeycutt; Don Rand; Bill Whatley and Bob Yake 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 address, 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 47% 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**

Fall is finally here and November is upon us. We have several things coming up. Clocks are set back one hour on November 6. Gautier High School breakfast for veterans is November 7. Tuesday, November 8 is voting day. Don't forget to vote!!!! November 10 is the Vancleave breakfast for veterans. Come out and enjoy these two programs. Your heart will be touched. November 11 is Veterans Day. There will be a celebration at the Tribute tower at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served at the post after the program. November 25 is Thanksgiving Day. We have much to be thankful for.

December 2 is post 1992's twenty fifth birthday. December 7 is Pearl Harbor day. Remember, Christmas is a time for giving to those in need.

*For God and Country*

Billy Simpson

### **Post 1992 3rd Vice Commander**

We have a variety of events and music scheduled the next couple months Amanda Jones returns for November Steak Night. Veterans Day will feature Deuces Wild for seafood night. Bayou Boogie Band returns for December steak night. Join us for our Thanksgiving meal a great event that gets better every year. We have something to offer everyone pick up a calendar; review it in your email or on-line at <http://www.alpost1992.org> and come on down. Looking forward to seeing you around the post.

*For God and Country*

Tim Honeycutt

## Post 1992 Chaplain

Well, we are getting into the holiday season with a lot of things going on. This is the time of year when people get together and do a lot of celebrating and a lot of traveling. I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Let us also remember those who are alone, this is also a sad time for a lot of people. Please take a little extra time to remember those who may be feeling depressed. God bless and please keep safe.

Contact information: David Wicker, [dpwicker@yahoo.com](mailto:dpwicker@yahoo.com) , (228) 219-0475

*For God and Country*

David Wicker

## Post 1992 Judge Advocate

As most/all of our Legion Family is aware, our Post is self-insured, meaning that our only insurances are general liability, liquor liability and workers compensation. The previous, overall coverage we once had became too exorbitant for us to maintain. We are still striving to reacquire total coverage as we had in the past; however, the requests for proposals have been painstakingly slow. And, since we did not carry wind coverage in the past, despite not having any wind damage from Hurricane Katrina, we are attempting to include such coverage, if it is affordable (our state's wind pool.) During the interim, we will continue to carry the above coverages

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 pick up an application from most locations within the Post, 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

## Post 1992 Historian

As I grow into this position as your historian, I will ask everyone involved with every project and special occasion to keep me informed of your efforts. I will try to keep abreast of things and ask you pertinent questions, but I am not always successful doing that.

There are three reasons for my request:

1. Good work and dedication should always be recognized. Some folks feel that talking about what they do is just tooting their own horn. But this is not the case. Everything you do as a member is a valuable example to the rest of our Legion family. It is simply saying, "If I can do it, you can do it." To have a record of what you are doing fulfills 2. and 3. as follows.

2. Every year, we are expected to send documentation of our Legion activities and community involvement to National Headquarters known as the Consolidated Post Report. What I have so far is a bit thin. I will be asking around for more information to round it out.

3. The most important benefit of knowing the stories behind what you do is the acquisition of tribal knowledge. As an example, if you found yourself responsible for a post or a project you've never worked on before, you'd be grateful for a record of anyone who might have done so before you. If I do my job well, and gain your support, in a year or two, anyone in the post should be able to take on any recurring duty and have a wealth of information at their fingertips. They would simply our records and possibly seek the help of the Adjutant. Also, new Legion posts around the country can look to national and perhaps find documentation of successes we have had, making their way a bit easier.

As I mentioned at the October Executive meeting, I will be looking for short military and personal biographies from post officers - a photo would be nice as well - for the Post's annual history. I will also be approaching hard-working members each month, one at a time, to be featured as Legionnaire of the Month in the same history.

*For God and Country*

Matt Jordan

## **President Unit 1992 American Legion**

It's time to renew your dues, if you have not already done so. We are at about 50% of membership goal of 110 members. Your \$20 dues helps support or contributions to veteran's programs, scholarships to local students, Girls State Delegates, children, and many local community events. If you've already renewed – Thank You!

We are extremely proud that our Vancleave High School delegate Cailin Sims was selected as one of two Mississippi Senators to participate in Girls Nation in Washington D.C. where she ran for president. Camella Edmonds made us proud with 13 outstanding delegates last summer!

Our Auxiliary was busy in October with the Mullet Festival, Trunk or Treat at MGCCC, the OS Veteran's Day Parade, and children's Pumpkin carving. November and December will bring other opportunities to volunteer with the GES canned food guide collection and sorting then distribution to food banks and Christmas Food Baskets for our local community and the Biloxi VA Christmas gift shop.

When observing Veterans Day (Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>) please wear a poppy. The bright red flower is a tribute and remembrance since 1921. If you want the full story and poem "In Flanders Field" you'll find it on a bookmark designed and made by Daisy Randolph alongside the baskets of poppies in the Lounge.

Please take a chance of one of our two raffles – a wine basket and a liquor basket. Tickets are available at the lounge or from Auxiliary members. The winning ticket will be drawn Pearl Harbor Day, December 7<sup>th</sup>.

*For God and Country*

Cindy Harper

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

Raffle Ticket Sales continue and have recently picked up. Since there are only 200 tickets available, we are hoping to have them all sold long before the December General Membership meeting/drawing. If they are all sold before the December Meeting, the drawing will be held at the first meeting after the last ticket is sold. This is a \$1,564.95 gold coin for \$20. Quite a Christmas Present!!

K5TAL will be activated on 11-11 and will operate as a special event station from 9:00 AM till 4:00 PM. Also, as noted above, the drawing for the COIN will take place on 12 December at the General Membership meeting.

As always, the Trailer continues to be worked on as funds are available. If anyone has an excess of countertop material, or flooring (not carpet) we always accept donations.

*God and Country*

Robert "Don" Rand, "KA5DON"

## **Post 1992 Bingo Supervisor**

Nov 20<sup>th</sup> Bingo Aux will be giving away a turkey and ham.

The Toy for Tots Bingo Is on the Dec 4<sup>th</sup>. Bring an unwrapped and gift worth \$10 and get a free bingo card to with a chance at winning \$50 dollars.

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> Bingo Legion is giving away a turkey and ham.

NO BINGO ON CHRISTMAS DAY. We will be having Bingo on January 1st 2017.

*For God and Country*

Bill McKee

### **Post 1992 Sons of the American Legion**

“The Sons” had a great turnout of cars, spectators and participants at its September Car show, and would especially like to thank all the support our Legion Family and outside activities provided.

We also worked the Veterans Administration Fall Festival, slinging and putting together hamburgers and hot dogs. Again, thanks to all who assisted.

Our next major event is the Toys for Tots Program, to be held in our Post Hall on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. Efforts are already in the works to match or exceed last year’s event. Anyone wishing to help/assist, please contact SAL member Shane Helms.

At the end of the day of Toys for Tots, the SAL will draw the lucky winner of a Ruger 270 Rifle with a Vortex Scope and a Hard Case, and, an Ol’ Man Tree Stand. Tickets are still available from the Lounge Bartenders, or, most SAL Members

*For God and Country*

Bob Backel *for*

Tony Bankston