



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 2017

Post Phone # (228) 497-6422

Freedom Isn't Free

Post 1992 Commander

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are heading into the summer months and as usual there is a lot going on and more to do. The Post Officer Elections are to be held in June, the Election Committee has been identified, Jerry Walters is the Election Committee Chairman. He will be working with John Deveau and Steve Meredith. All Post positions are open, only you can make a difference in your Post. Decide today to support your Post and sign up for the position of your choice. All candidates must be paid up to date members in good standing with the Post. Look to The American Legion Officers Guide for more information.

Holidays in May give us the opportunity to remember those who gave their lives for our country and to even let our brothers and sisters know how we feel about them! And holidays in May are also a time to remember and honor others, like Memorial Day, and Peace Officer Memorial Day.

May seems like a big circle of life. Make the most of it!

May also brings us the birthstone, the Emerald, and the flower, Lily of the Valley.

May 1: Law Day/Lie Day/Loyalty Day/May Day/Save the Rhino Day

May 2: Brothers and Sisters Day

May 8, 1945 – The US and her Allies formally accepted the unconditional surrender of Germany, known and celebrated as V-E Day or Victory in Europe Day.

May 13: SAL Veterans and Emergency Responders Celebration at the Post Hosted by the Sons of the Legion (May 13th the SAL will be honoring the military and first responders at the Post. I hear that they have a grand time planned for all of us and the children. Join us on May 13th for the celebration!)

May 14: Mother's Day (Tradition is for the Legionnaires to cook breakfast. Volunteers are needed to ensure all the lovely ladies are given a beautiful rose and treated to a wonderful brunch. Watch for the time.)

May 15: National Chocolate Chip Day/Peace Officers Memorial Day

May 15, 1942 - The Women's Army Corps (WAC) was founded. Starting as the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), it became a branch of the Army as the WAC in 1943. Approximately 150,000 women signed up and were the first women other than nurses to serve with the Army. It was disbanded in 1978.

May 20: Armed Forces Day (Armed Forces Week begins the 2nd Saturday in May and ends on the 3rd Sunday of May, 05/20/17)

May 22: National Maritime Day

May 25: National Missing Children's Day

May 27: Volunteers are welcome to assist in putting new flags on the graves of our departed this Memorial Weekend. We will be gathering at the Post around 8:30 to collect flags and depart to the sites in Gautier and in Vancleave.

May 29: Gautier-Vancleave Post 1992 is planning the Memorial Day Service at the Tribute Tower in front of Gautier City Hall. We look for your support and participation in joining us in the remembrance of our departed family and comrades.

Lunch will be served at Gautier-Vancleave Post 1992 following the service.

Boys and Girls State is coming together nicely. Some of our Auxiliary Members will be going for training as counselors for the young ladies. Good Luck ladies. Many thanks to the efforts of Bill Whatley, Gordon Gollott, Camilla Edmonds, and the Auxiliary.

In June summer has arrived and with it - those glorious holidays in June. The birthstone for June is the Pearl and the flower is the Rose.

To cast your vote in June at the general meeting you must be a member in good standing with paid to date membership card. You will be asked to show your American Legion Membership card prior to casting your ballot.

June 1: Stand for Children Day

June 3: ALR Poker Run

June 6, 1944 - D Day, the Invasion of Normandy during World War II.

June 14: Flag Day (The Post will conduct a Flag Burning Ceremony at 5:30 PM. this day.)

June 18: Father's Day (The Auxiliary will be cooking breakfast for the gentlemen on this day. You must come out and see what other surprise may be waiting for you.)

June 21: First day of summer or Summer Solstice

June 22, 1942 – The Pledge of Allegiance was officially recognized as the official national pledge.

June 28, 1919 – The Treaty of Versailles was signed to end World War I.

Have a wonderful, safe summer. We are here should you need our support, we are here to talk, we are here as friends. Come by and check in with us on a regular basis – we will keep the door open.

For God and Country

Flo Hendrickson

Post 1992 1st Vice Commander

HOOYAH!!! SHIPMATES!!! Spring is upon us!!! Third vice has a bunch of great entertainment coming up!!! And it looks like I will be trying my hand playin again for seafood night 12 May! Yall make it a point to hit the post and check out what's going on! It's that season again getting warmer outside, food is good and beer is cold! So come on out and Enjoy!!!

Don't forget that we also have elections coming up and would like to see as many folks as possible step up to the challenge. Let's get our ideas together and continue to make Post 1992 the best in Mississippi!

We need to get our membership up as well so if you know folks around you that are eligible and are not yet members lets pull em in and buy em a drink! Show them that this is where they want to be!!

When ya get a chance, give a big BZ to our bartenders! They work tremendously hard to make sure we all have a great time and keep our post rollin! They are the heart beat!! 😊

SEE YOU AT THE POST!! 😊

For God and Country

Scott Mitchell

Post 1992 Adjutant

If you have not renewed 2017 Dues, your membership in The American Legion is about to be **forfeited (06/30/17). So please **RENEW – RENEW – RENEW !****

2017 dues were payable by 20 October 2016 and are delinquent IAW Post By-Laws. The easiest and fastest way to renew is on-line at www.legion.org/renew (using your member ID and a credit card,) you also: mail your dues or drop them off at the Post. Please renew your membership as soon as possible to help the Post meet its 2017 membership goal and for you to protect your continuous years of membership.

The Post's Legion membership total membership for 2016 & 2017 is currently 385 members. But there are currently **50** members who have not yet renewed membership for 2017. That is 16% of last year's membership.

Sadly, we lost three members who transferred to The Post Everlasting. In February, James C. Jackson; in March, Robert B. Wilson; and in April, Stephen L. Howell. These Veterans will be sorely missed by all their fellow veterans and members of Post 1992.

Please join me in welcoming our new and transfer-in members in March: Caleb Maggart and Michelle Wade, and in April: Jeffery Carroll, Sandra Carroll, Calvin McCown, Jr., Bryan Smith and Timothy Tafe. 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: Bob Backel, Tony Bankston (SAL), Jennifer Belasky (ALA), Billy Kirkpatrick, Bill Whatley and David Wicker for their support of The American Legion and for growing our membership rolls. We need all members to actively recruit at least one new members to get our membership numbers up to make up for normal attrition of Post members.

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, at the Post for pick up in the lounge. To be added to electronic distribution by email 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 list. 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 57% 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 3rd Vice Commander

We have a good entertainment lineup for May and June including our old friend Truitt Williams bringing the band back for steak night. We have food every Friday to include Seafood Night and Steak night. Please come out and enjoy a good meal and music.

For God and Country

Tim Honeycutt

Post 1992 Chaplain

Greetings, I would like to remind everyone of some important dates that we should keep in mind:

May 14th, Mother's Day May 20th, Armed Forces Day May 29th, Memorial Day

June 14th, Flag Day June 18th, Father's Day

Please remember in your prayers all that are battling illness and all that have departed.

"Memorial Day isn't just about honoring veterans, its honoring those who lost their lives. Veterans had the fortune of coming home. For us that's a reminder of when we come home we still have a responsibility to service. It's a continuation of service that honors our country and those who fell defending it." PETE HEGSETH

For God and Country

David Wicker

Post 1992 Judge Advocate

You may have read the following, in part, by other Post Officers, above. But this might be somewhat different. It's May, already, and time to consider nominees for the 2018 (2017-2018) operating year, All Legion Family entities will be conducting these nominations at their respective General Membership Meetings. The Legionnaires will be conducting theirs on Monday, May 8, 2017. The "Family" will hold their respective elections in June, with Installation of Officers to be conducted, en masse, in July 29th following the Department Convention.

I will not seek reelection for Judge Advocate, nor seek election for any other position, and, I will no longer be the Post Insurance Representative; however, I will act as emeritus/advisor for the above positions until such time as those individuals become comfortable in their positions. The only tasks I would like to retain are Post Everlasting and Donor Bricks, subject to the approval of the Incoming Executive Committee.

While I'm not the busiest person in the Post, I consider myself no longer capable in performing my primary and "collateral" duties. I feel that it may be an age thing.

Lastly, I would like to thank the entire Legion Family for their cooperation and support over the last 10-11 years; your inputs and advice have been invaluable. I feel as though I've made many friends and have treated everyone equally and with respect. It has been an experience that I couldn't have found anywhere else.

Reminder: If you're a Member in Good Standing with our Department of the American Legion, you are eligible for LegionCare: \$5,000 in Accidental Death Insurance at NO COST TO YOU if a covered accident occurs while traveling on official Legion Business, or, \$1,000 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 all 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 several locations within the Post, or contact the Adjutant, Judge Advocate 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. Order forms can be obtained from the Duty Bartender, Adjutant or Judge Advocate.

For God and Country

Bob Backel

President Unit 1992 American Legion

Our American Legion Family have given their time and money to veterans, the community and education. Chairmen have compiled their reports for the State Department to share our accomplishments.

For veteran's, ALA members have hosted ice cream socials at the Biloxi VA monthly. The Unit and Post have contributed to the VA Christmas Gift Shop so that hospitalized veterans can select and send gifts to their loved ones (at no expense to themselves). Locally, we've given lap quilts to veterans in nursing homes. We've supported education with donations of back packs and school supplies, and teaching the POW/MIA table ceremony to school children. We are giving scholarships to Veteran's children and grandchildren and sending young women to Girls State to learn about citizenship. With the Legion, SAL and Riders we picked up over 2000 canned goods and distributed those in Christmas baskets and to food banks. One food bank volunteer told us they would have run out of food over the Christmas Holiday if they had not received our donation. With the Post, we also gave a donation to the GHS band for travel expenses for a competition.

We helped community college students register to vote and helped set up a mock election at an elementary school. Santa and Mrs. Claus visited with children at the Post Home and the Easter Bunny posed for pictures after hiding eggs at Sand Hill Landing, visiting with active military parents and their children. We supported Ronald McDonald House charity with a large donation of aluminum pop tops to be recycled for cash. We honored women veterans in a ceremony. A field of poppies was planted at the north end of the Post property and should be in bloom soon.

Those are just a few of the projects we completed this year; NONE of it would have been possible without the dues, monetary donations and volunteer hours given by you, the ladies of the American Legion Family.

We were honored to host Mrs. Mary E. Davis, National ALA President. Thank you all for giving her a big Southern Gautier Mississippi welcome. This was the 3rd time we were honored to host a National ALA President.

Elections are soon. Rosi Fontan has been nominated as president, Cindy Harper as 2nd vice president, Teresa Roberts as chaplain, Beverly Cottam Pugh as secretary/treasurer, Jo Tisbury, Diane Cantrell, and Christy Tisbury as executive committee. As of yet, candidates to 1st vice president and historian were not named. Members may nominate the officers of their choice at the May 1st meeting, with elections to follow on June 5. Your support of ALA officers and programs is truly appreciated. I have been elected to District Nine vice president and am looking forward to working with units all along the Coast and as far north as Hattiesburg.

For God and Country

Cindy Harper

American Legion Riders Chapter 1992

It's Spring Time and time to ride! We are looking forward to setting up some fun rides and doing some charity event rides as well. Remember that the D-Day Poker Run is just over a month away. Our committee is working hard to ensure this event is a success. Thank you to those who have and are volunteering! Don't forget that nominations for the 2017-2018 Officers are 1 May.

For God and Country

David Belcher

President Amateur Radio Club – (Call-sign K5TAL)

The trailer is finally, almost finished. The counter top and shelves are installed, and the electrical wiring is completed. Just a few touch-up items to take care of, and hopefully we can call it done. We have had a wonderful offer to paint the trailer if we do the masking and buy the paint. The Fishing Trip Raffle is continuing. Proceeds of this raffle go to scholarships for Boys and Girls State. The tickets are \$5.00 so please step up and help this wonderful cause and have a chance to win a 4-hour fishing trip with Captain Wild Bill of Reel Outlaw Charters in Biloxi. Reeloutlaw16.com is his web site. The drawing will be held May 31.

Nominations for officers of the K5TAL Club will be held at the May meeting with election of officers at the June meeting. K5TAL has also started a weekly radio net every Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM. We have seen the fruits of our work already as one veteran from Heidelberg, MS joined the Legion on the 6th after our first net and will join TALARC (The American Legion Amateur Radio Club). Weekly reports are being sent to National HQ in Indianapolis and are included in the National Commanders weekly report. Watch for an article in The Legion Magazine on both the Trailer, and our Net operations.

As we say in Ham Radio speak, 73 (Best Wishes).

God and Country

Robert "Don" Rand, "KA5DON"

Post 1992 Bingo Supervisor

As you should already know, Sunday Bingo is Post 1992's biggest single revenue generators to support what the Post does for veterans, veteran's families, school programs and the community. It is a large task and takes volunteers to run and administer. Thus far it is supported by just a few volunteers and it only takes four or five hours per week, but it gets old when the same few people have to do it every week. Please step up and devote at least one Sunday afternoon a month to assist by volunteering to help YOUR Post.

For God and Country

Bill McKee

Post 1992 SAL Commander

The Sons of American Legion Post 1992 (S.A.L) will host their 2nd Annual Appreciation Day Luncheon on Saturday, May 13, 2017 from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the American Legion Post 1992, 3824 Old Spanish Trail Gautier, MS.

If you are a veteran, active duty military, first responder, or someone who supports their efforts you are invited to the 2nd annual appreciation day lunch. The lunch is hosted by the Sons of American Legion Post 1992. This event is to show appreciation for your service.

Last year's event was a great success! We served fish plates (Hamburgers & Hot Dogs) with all the fixings to our Veterans, Active Duty Military, Police Officers, Fire Fighters, EMTs, and others. Some agencies took meals to those on duty that could not leave their post. It is a casual affair like a back-yard fish fry. We want everybody to feel comfortable as we express our appreciation.

We hope to see you at Appreciation Day!

We also want to recognize our sponsors for their generosity helping make this event possible.

We hope to see you at Appreciation Day!

We also want to recognize our sponsors for their generosity helping make this event possible:

- Keesler Federal Credit Union
- M & M Bank

- Gautier Men's Club
- A-Sonshine Bail Bonds
- Blossman Gas
- Family Frozen Foods

Please feel free to contact me for any additional information or questions at 228-238-0815.

- *For God and Country*

Chris Watrous, S.A.L. Adjutant
Appreciation Day Chairman