



The Triple Nickel

Published Exclusively for the Members of American Legion & Matthew Blount Post 555

Volume 8-Issue 3
March 2020

Post 555 Host Pro Rodeo

"In God We Trust"

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JOIN US TO BENEFIT
THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 555

PRO RODEO CHARITY FUNDRAISER

Barrel racing Bronco riding Bull riding Calf roping
Steer wrestling Bouncy houses Vendor booths And more

MARCH 27 - 28
2000 BALLPARK ROAD
PELHAM, AL 35124

ADULTS: \$15
CHILDREN 6-12: \$10
5 YEARS & UNDER: FREE

GATES OPEN AT 5 PM
RODEO STARTS AT 7 PM
PUBLIC PARKING IS FREE



Sponsorship Information:
Jerry McClain,
Event Chairperson

(206) 412-3548
rangermac@gmail.com
www.alpost555.com



The American Legion Post 555 will host the Triple Nickel Pro Rodeo Charity Fundraiser benefiting veterans, local youth and community programs to be held on March 27 & 28, 2000 in Pelham, AL next door to the Pelham Library at 2000 Ballpark Rd off Pelham Parkway. Gates will open at 5:00 pm, Parking is free. Food will be available for purchase.

Sponsorships are welcome and much appreciated to support our veterans. Contact Jerry McClain at 206-412-3548 for more information.

Adjutant Area

March Newsletter 2020

Adjutant Area



Again, be reminded that your 2019 membership expired on January 1, 2020. Check your American Legion Membership Card to confirm you have renewed for 2020. If not, you can renew either online at www.legion.org or mail your renewal fee of \$45 payable to “Matthew Blount Post 555”. Mail to *American Legion, Matthew Blount Post 555, 50 Racquet Club Parkway, Pelham, AL 35124.*

The Post is getting closer to its 100% membership/renewal goal. Current 2020 membership is at 93%. Bring a veteran to the next member and encourage them to join or transfer membership to Post 555. Membership applications are available on Post website www.alpost555.com. Select the “Join” button on the Home Page to access application.

The 2019-2020 year is passing rapidly with the 2020-2019 Officers elections coming up in April. If you are interested in being involved in a leadership or committee position, contact a member of the nominating committee, C John Zeiss, Chuck Kiser or Wayne Curtis. Contact information can be found in the Post Directory distributed with monthly newsletter. Elected positions are: Commander, First Vice Commander, Second Vice Commander, and one Trustee position. Other officer and committee positions are appointed. The more individuals involved, the more the Post can do for veterans, community and youth.

You can always contact me at ron.koonce@alpost555.com if you have questions about any of the above.

For God and Country

Ron Koonce

Adjutant

For God and Country

Ron Koonce,

Adjutant

Free online American Legion Training

A new mobile-friendly online training program for members of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion and Auxiliary is now available free of charge, replacing the former American Legion Extension Institute.

“Basic Training” is a five-part lesson housed on the The American Legion Education Institute site at www.legion.org/training. Topics covered are History & Organization, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

A 40-question exam is provided. Graduates can download and print a certificate of completion and order a Basic Training Graduate pin from Emblem Sales.

All officers and members are encouraged to complete the training.



*Join the American Legion Family
Helping Veterans and Troops
Serving the Community and Youth*

Matthew Blount Post 555

Auxiliary Unit 555

*Sons of The American Legion
Legion Riders*

visit our website

*alpost555.com
facebook.com/alpost555*

*Contact
Ron Koonce, Adjutant
Ron.Koonce@alpost555.com*

Oratorical Scholarship Report

Richard Kaster
Oratorical Committee Chair



Post 555 Host 23rd District Oratorical



The three contestants/place winners are from left to right: Ashley F. Wolfe, 2nd place winner a Junior from Home School Assn., Dominic Fanella, 3rd place winner a Senior at Pelham High School, Will Sawyer, 1st place winner, at Senior at Oak Mountain High School.

The 23rd District winners also won the 2nd Division Oratorical Contest on February 15th and will go on to compete in the Department of Alabama Oratorical finals. The Department finals will be held Saturday, 14 March 2020, at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, 624 Washington Ave Montgomery, AL 36130, 10 am sharp. All post members, family, and friends are invited to attend.



Post 555 Legionnaires that supported and conducted the 23rd District Oratorical Program

Judge Advocate

Greetings Comrades;



Just a reminder, our next meeting, March 5, is when the Post 555 Nominating Committee will present their slate of candidates for our elections on April 2, 2020. It is essential to understand, the names presented by the Nominating Committee are not an endorsement of the individual candidate, only a confirmation the candidate is a member in good standing and is willing to service if elected.

While it should go without saying, I will point out how important these elections are for the continued leadership and growth of Post 555. During this meeting we will be nominating candidates for the four officers we elect: Commander, First Vice-Commander, Second Vice-Commander. Three year Trustee. There is no limit to the number of candidates for any office.

Additionally, as per our newly amended Constitution and Bylaws, nominations from the floor for elected offices, shall also be accepted at this meeting. Nominations from the floor only require the nominee be present at the meeting and they agree to serve in the position for which they are nominated if elected. No nominations from the floor will be accepted at the Post meeting on April 2, 2020, the day of the elections.

I hope all of you are present March 5 to participate in our nominating process.

Larry Strayer
Judge Advocate

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Please continue to stand with the American Legion in supporting fellow veterans, today's service members, their families, communities and our nation.

The numerous discounts you receive as a member of the American Legion are a great bargain. They are undoubtedly worth many times the modest cost of your annual membership.

Second Vice Commander



Happy March to all! I hope this month brings you good health and keeps you out of your doctor 's office. I went TWO TIMES in the last two months to my local "urgent care" for upper respiratory "stuff" and I am getting VERY tired of it. Not sure where all of this is coming from, but at least I am not contagious!!! So, please feel free to say hi if you come to the 05 Mar 20 General Membership Meeting. I will hopefully have my voice back by then.....

March brings our nominations for elected positions, so I look forward to the possibility of remaining your 2nd Vice Commander. It has been fun, and I look forward to it continuing to be fun in the next year if all goes well with the elections in April. We are also working hard for the Pro Rodeo Charity Fundraiser, so put 27-28 Mar 20 on your calendars to attend. Should be a ton of fun!!

As far as February is concerned, we were as busy as ever with the highlight being the 01 Feb 20 Open House. We had a fair turn-out, but it was our first year so if this continues, we hope to have a larger attendance in future years. Chaplain Tom McMahon won one of the door prizes, so he must be "living right". Good for him!! We also had a good number of Post members donate blood in the LifeSouth Bloodmobile, so thanks for that! I was a successful donor, and was pooped by the end of the day. Must be getting old... February also had two School Award Medal Program presentations for Alabaster and Chelsea students, as well as the 23rd District Revitalization on 31 Jan - 01 Feb 20 and the 23rd District Oratorical Scholarship Contest. They were both hosted by Post 555 at the Pelham Senior Center.

Comrade Tom Long, President of the Blue Star Salute Foundation, will be speaking at the 05 Mar 20 General Membership Meeting. Should be a good opportunity to see what he and his organization do for Veterans and families.

If you are not already a member of the RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), please let me know and I will give you an application to complete. RSVP is an organization that records volunteer hours from all Volunteers through Shelby County, and the more hours we have, the more chance we have of reaching our next goal which is 10,000 total hours. We surpassed 5,000 not too long ago, so please complete an application for me and record your hours every month. Thanks.

Thank you all for your service to our great country, and for your Volunteerism for us as well as any other organizations. I look forward to seeing you on 05 Mar 20!!!

*Nancy Waller
Second Vice Commander*

Auxiliary



Hi to All,

Thank you so much for allowing me to be part of a great group of people.

We are off and running trying to make the Auxiliary a very active part of the Legion. We need your help. As you know we agreed to chair the hospitality committee, however that does not mean we are going to do all the work. We need people to sign up and help out. There is room for "food Pickup," "setup," and especially "after dinner cleanup." We cannot facilitate this on our own. We are here as a member of the Post Family to assist the Post but can not do it without the members being a part of the Hospitality Team. The more that can help, the less any one individual has to do.

Please contact me at carolinejculpepper@gmail.com to join the team for the March meeting . Thank you in advance for your support.

Right now we are working on getting our constitution and bylaws, and our standing rules in place. We will be voting in March for our officers. If you are a member please come, we need you.

Blessings to All,
*Caroline J. Culpepper
President Unit 555*

Coming Events

Nancy Waller



Thursday, March 5, 2020 6:15 pm

What: Post Meeting

Sunday, March 15, 2020

What: American Legion Birthday!!!

Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 8:30 a.m.

What: Shelby County Character In Action and American Legion School Medal Program

Where: Family Connection, 2 Walker Run, Alabaster, AL 35007

Chairperson: Founding Commander, Barry Blount

Co-Chairperson: Comrade Alan Miller

Volunteers Needed: No, but everyone is welcome to attend the event to see these wonderful students throughout Shelby County.

Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28, 2020, Time TBD

What: Post 555 Southeastern Pro Rodeo Fundraiser

Where: 2000 Ball Park Road, Pelham, AL 35124

Chairperson: Jerry McClain

Co-Chairperson: TBD

Volunteers Needed: Yes! Contact Jerry McClain for a lot of Volunteer positions to help before, during, and after the rodeo.

Wednesday, April 15, 2020, Time TBD

What: Shelby County Character In Action and American Legion School Medal Program

Where: Family Connection, 2 Walker Run, Alabaster, AL 35007

Chairperson: Founding Commander, Barry Blount

Co-Chairperson: Comrade Alan Miller

Volunteers Needed: No, but everyone is welcome to attend the event to see these wonderful students throughout Shelby County.

Saturday, May 16, 2020, Time TBD

What: 6th Annual Pelham Palooza in the Park

Where: Field behind the Pelham Recreation Center, 300 Ball Park Road, and Pelham Park Middle School.

Chairperson: TBD

Co-Chairperson: TBD

Volunteers Needed: In past years, we have had our information table with travel flags and our Riders' motorcycles which always draw visitors to our area. When the details are available and a chairperson steps forward, I will put more details out for Volunteers needed.

Guest Speakers / Programs at Upcoming General Membership Meetings

March 5th: Tom Long (Post 555 Member), President of Blue Star Salute Foundation
(confirmed)

April 2nd: Post 555 Officer Elections (no guest speaker or program)

May 7th: Installation of Newly Elected Officers (no guest speaker or program)

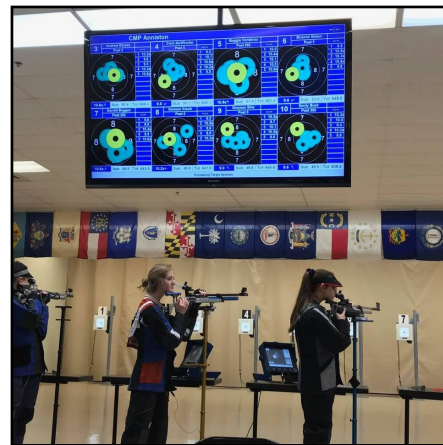
Triple Nickel Shooters

Triple Nickel Shooters compete in the annual American Legion Commander's Cup



When: Saturday, March 7th, 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
(observe for a couple of hours)

Where: CMP Range, 1470 Sentinel Drive, Anniston, fff



Matthew Blount Post 555
50 Racquet Club Parkway
Pelham, AL



Meets first Thursday of the month.
Next Meeting March 5, 2020
Meal served at 6:15pm
Meeting at 7:00 pm

Key Coming Activities

Monthly Post Meeting
 Pelham Senior Center
 Pelham, AL 35124
 March 5, 2020, Time: 6:15 pm

**Alabama American Legion
 Commander's Cup Shooting
 Match**
 3/7/2020 -8:00 am-4:00 pm
 Anniston CMP Facility
 1470 Sentinel Dr, Anniston, AL
 36207

**State Oratorical Scholarship
 Competition**
 3/10/18
 Montgomery State House
 10:00 am

Post 555 Southeastern Pro Rodeo
 Fundraiser 2000 Ball Park Road,
 Pelham, AL 35124
 Saturday, March 27 and 28, 2020,
 Time TBD

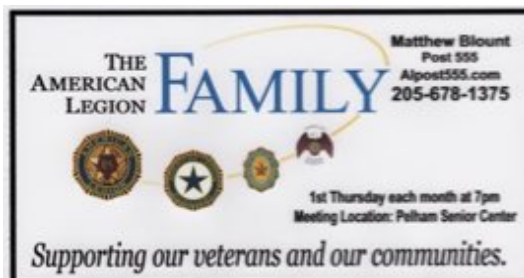
Post 555 Pro Rodeo
 March 27-28, 2020
 2000 Ballpark Road
 Pelham, AL

Boys State
 May 31- June 6, 2020
 University of Alabama
 Registration Deadline
 April 1, 2020

**Welcome Post 555
 New Members**

Karry L. Anderson
 Javier Jerez
 Harold Nale
 Charles Carroll
 Eric Hunley
 Paul Jensen
 Marc Louis
 Mark May
 Terry Swanger
 Jack Turner
 Christopher Young

Welcome Aboard !



Post Leadership

Post Commander Kenneth Paschal	Post Trustees Bill Blank
1st Vice Commander Jerry McClain	Frank Lakotich
2nd Vice Commander Nancy Waller	Robert Horsley
Adjutant Ron Koonce	Auxiliary President Caroline Culpepper
Judge Advocate Larry Strayer	Historian Shaun Hadley
Financial Officer Joe Starne	Sons Commander Jon Freeman
Chaplain Tom McMahan	Legion Riders Director Jeff Monday
Sergeant-At-Arms Derek Winters	Flag Team Coordinator Shauna Hadley
Post Service Officer Jerry McClain	Webmaster Ron Koonce
Historian Shauna Hadley	Triple Nickel Editor Yolanda Rancher
Public Relations Officer Vacant	Photography Chic Cecchini Ron Koonce Frank Chacon

The Triple Nickel

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 Matthew Blount Post 555.
 50 Racquet Club Parkway
 Pelham, AL 35124
 205-678-1375

commander@ALpost555.com

Items for publication are accepted on
 Executive Committee approval and
 available space.
 Submit articles prior to the 10th of the
 month for publication the following month.
 We reserve the right to edit any submission
 for the purpose of publication.

Letters to the Editor must include name,
 address & telephone number. Names will
 be withheld upon request.

Send email to:
Editor@alpost555.com

*Photos by Chic Cecchini /Ron Koonce
 Post 555*

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 American Legion Post 555



From the Commander's Desk



Court Judge, and the Shelby County
Children's Policy Council.

What's happening in March along with the Triple Nickel Pro Rodeo?

- Post 555 nomination committee report
- March 7th: American Legion Commander's Cup. Come root the Triple Nickel Shooters on! See website for times and details.
- March 18th: Shelby County Character In Action/American Legion School Award Medal presentation at Family Connection Inc. at 8:30 am.

Areas of interest contact:

- Hospitality Committee volunteer opportunities: Caroline Culpepper
- Post Flag Replacement Team status: Flag Team Coordinator, Shana Hadley
- Buddy Checks: Tom McMahan

Remember, working together, we can achieve more!

Communication – the importance of belonging: I ask all members and their guests to greet each other and share one thing with each other during the next Post meeting. Direct contact with veterans is a guaranteed way to boost membership and find out the concerns and issues that they have, creating a cohesive environment.

For God and Country!

Kenneth Paschal
Commander

For God and Country! Congratulations to Comrade Chuck Kiser for receiving the Post 555 Commander's Membership Award lapel pin during our February 6th Post meeting. Also, congratulations to Comrade Mac Braid for receiving the National Commander's Recruitment Pin of Excellence. Membership is the key ingredient to our success.

Join me in welcoming Comrade Derek Winters as the newly appointed Triple Nickel Sergeant-at-Arms. Another key position need filling is the SAL Advisor. If interested, please let me know as soon as possible.

February at a glance:

- February was filled with a lot of behind the scenes activities to prepare for the Triple Nickel Pro Rodeo Charity Fundraiser which is March 27-28th. Special thanks to the Post Pro Rodeo Charity Fundraiser Jerry McClain and Planning Committee for facilitating the many moving parts.
- February 8th, Post 555 was the hosting site for the AL 23rd District Oratorical Scholarship Competition. I appreciate the 23rd District Commander and Post Oratorical Chair Richard Kaster for facilitating a great turnout.
- February 10th: Members of the Post Awards and Recognition Committee recognized five students from Alabaster City Schools "Character In Action" award recipients with an additional recognition offered by The American Legion through The American Legion School Award Medal Program. On February 19th the committee recognized four students from Calera Schools "Character In Action" award recipients with The American Legion School Award Medal. Great job by chairperson, Past Post Commander Barry Blount and co-chair Alan Miller.
 - The "Character In Action" Award program is a **county** program the American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555 was invited to joint in partnership among local school systems, the Shelby County District Attorney's Office, the Shelby County Juvenile

*March Meeting Meal Provided
by*





Did You Know?

- The 18 resolutions passed by delegates during the 101st American Legion National Convention in Indianapolis in August are now available to view in the Legion's Digital Archive.

<https://archive.legion.org/discover>

Triple Nickel Riders



It's never too cold to ride.

The Triple Nickel Riders braved the cold weather in February.

Sunday 2/8/20 funday!! KSU at Pelham Starbucks, for a short ride that ended at Twins Peaks in Hoover. A day to hangout!!! 72 and rain, 37 and snow, 28 and Sun, Cabin fever!! Leather, chaps, masks and more!

The TNR met on 2/13/2020 at the HOD Hog Room, for the TNR meeting at family members and friends night.

Daytona 500 Day!! Ride before the Big one!! took place on Sunday 11:45 @ Pelham Starbucks, KSU 12:45 for a short ride, then hung out to watch racing at Twin Peaks!!

First Vice Commander



The month of February has been an all out effort to plan and execute the post annual fundraiser, Triple Nickel Pro Rodeo on March 27th and 28th, 2020.

Currently as of 02/24/20 the planning committee has collected \$8900 in the bank, \$600 check in hand, \$7850 signed commitment and \$8500 pledged from the rodeo company.

- I would like to acknowledge the legionnaires who have been paramount in helping us to reach most of our goals and objectives thus far: I would like to thank the Post commander Kenneth Paschal for his untiring devotion to the attention to details and computer skills to put plans and actions into print, charts, visuals, schematics and PowerPoint. I also acknowledge the Commander for his tenacity in approaching businesses to support our community veterans and our Americanism programs. Your hard work has been fruitful and I thank God for your support.
- I want to thank Comrade Bill Blank for taking time to make multiple sponsorship packets and gave them out at events, businesses and to members of our Post. Many of those businesses have pledged to support the Triple Nickel Pro Rodeo. Father, thank you for Comrade Bill.
- I want to thank Comrade Ron Koonce for all the behind the scenes administration of collecting monies, making deposits, coordinating website changes and providing insights for a marketing strategy. I thank God for your help!
- I want to thank Comrade Chris Vonderau for soliciting his company to sponsor the Triple Nickel Pro Rodeo event. Thank you Chris and God's best to you!
- I want to thank Comrade Ron Gofourth for getting his company to support the Triple Nickel Pro Rodeo. Thank you Ron and God Bless!
- I want to thank Comrade Gretchen DiFante for choosing the Triple Nickel Pro Rodeo as the group project for The Leadership Shelby Team. Your team analysis, processes, research, projections, advertising and professional expertise has been incredibly helpful.
- I want to thank Civilian Debbie Navez for her incredible Event planning foresight to know the ingredients necessary to make an event like the triple nickel pro rodeo come together. I also want to thank you for the \$2500 Center Gate sponsorship. I thank God for your support.
- I want to thank Civilian Buffy Murphy who came on board recently to help us with volunteers, ticket prep, ticket sales and other administrative duties. Thank God for your help!

We are not at the finish line just yet! A \$400 sponsor is in reach for any member of our post. Make a donation in your own name or in the name of a loved one. This is the American Legion Post 555 with 266 members, and more than 9 people should be participating in this effort. "Let'er Buck"

Jerry McClain
First Vice Commander

American Legion Triple Nickel Pro Rodeo Charity Fundraiser Sponsors as of 2/29/2020

