

Legion News

The Official Publication of the American Legion Department of North Carolina



September - October 2011

Vol. 74, No. 5

USPS 009812

HAPPENINGS

SEPTEMBER

Don't Forget To Get Your Sweepstakes Tickets by Contacting your Headquarters

- 2nd Japan Signs Surrender 1945
- 5th Labor Day
- 11th Patriot Day
- 16th The American Legion Day & POW/MIA Recognition Day

OCTOBER

- 10th Columbus Day
- 14th & 15th Fall Conference N Raleigh Hilton DJ @ Friday Night Dance
- 15th Sweepstakes Drawing
- 23rd Beirut Bombing 1983 Grenada Invasion 1983
- 27th Navy Day
- 31st Halloween

Don't forget to VOTE November 1st ELECTION DAY

Shelby's Legion World Series Tops All-Time Attendance Mark

By Joe DePriest
Published in: SPORTS
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER,
August 17, 2011
Reprinted with Permission

SHELBY— As the American Legion World Series prepared to wrap up its first tournament in its new home of Shelby Tuesday night, the event had already landed in the record books.

Organizers expected large turnouts, but not the 80,000 to 86,000 fans who actually came to 5,500-seat Keeter Stadium.

On Sunday, Day 3 of the five-day tournament, attendance topped 60,000, shattering the all-time record set in Spartanburg in 1938. Games on Monday and Tuesday sent the total attendance figure even higher.

The 15-game series brought overflow crowds at night, averaging 5,900 people per session, officials said. Attendance figures were based on pre-sale tournament passes for all 15 games, walk-up tickets and VIPs, umpires and tournament staff, according to officials.

"It's sort of a stunning situation," said Eddie Holbrook, Cleveland County commissioner and co-chair of the series. "It's been a major event, which is what we dreamed of making it. This is not just a world series. It's a festival the community could buy into."

The kickoff came Aug. 11, when Grammy Award-winning country singer Ronnie Dunn performed for 6,000 people at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds. Series action swept into town the next day.

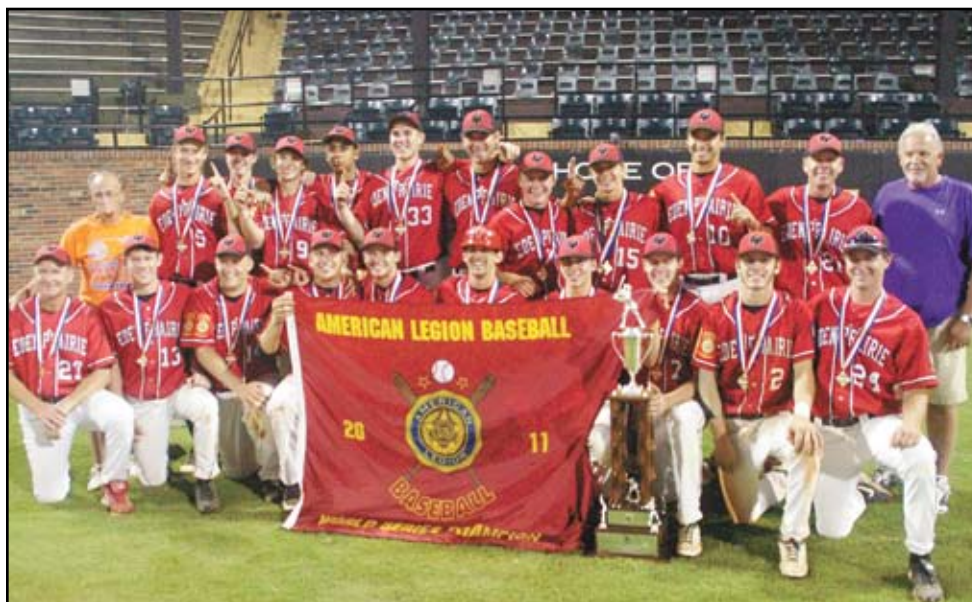
Vehicles with out-of-state license plates zipped along the streets - from Illinois and New Hampshire, New Jersey and Nevada. Businesses hung out banners greeting visitors. Restaurants and motels were packed. ESPN3 showed the entire series online. It was the biggest game in Shelby, population about 21,000, 50 miles west of Charlotte.

"When you were on the street, people walked up to you and said, 'We're glad to have you here. Welcome,' " said Jim Quinlan, national program coordinator for American Legion Baseball. About 500 volunteers "were there to meet and greet and host the kids," he said.

The Hawaii team was eliminated on Saturday but couldn't fly out until Wednesday. Quinlan said the host group took players to Carowinds, an Atlanta Braves game and generally "entertained them."

'A Really Big Deal'

The Indianapolis-based American



After 13 nail-biting innings, Eden Prairie, Minn., edged out Tupelo, Miss., 5-4 in 13 innings August 16, to capture the 2011 crown.



Commander Ben Lee takes a moment to talk with two national guardsmen at the World Series in Shelby.

Legion is the nation's largest veterans service organization. The baseball program, which begins play every June, has 5,000 teams with 95,000 teenage players.

In the early days, the world series went to big cities. But for the last 20 years, the emphasis has been on medium-sized communities. Those towns don't have big-time ballclubs and the legion play gets more attention.

In 2002, Shelby hosted legion baseball's Southeastern regional and, in 2008, the world series. For each event, a committee raised money to upgrade the Shelby High School stadium, built in 1976. More than \$3 million eventually went into the stadium makeover.

After nine years of work by a community committee, Shelby became the first permanent location for "legion ball's" premier event in its 85-year history.

The series was expected to bring in 40,000 people, along with a more than \$4 million boost to the local economy.

Michael Chrisawn, president of the Cleveland County Chamber, said an economic impact study is planned, but he estimated local restaurants had an overall 20 percent increase

in business.

"I think the local people supported the games pretty doggone well," Chrisawn said. "Others said they liked the town, that it was easy to get around in. And they said it was easy to fly into Charlotte."

'We hate to leave'

It's a feel that four visitors from Tupelo, Miss. picked up on right away. Don and Mary Ruth Roberts and friends David and Pam Alford rolled into Shelby around 2 a.m. Friday, anxious to see their sons play on the Tupelo team last weekend. Between games, they headed out on what Don Roberts called "our adventures."

From sampling catfish and livermush at local restaurants to taking in the scenery at Lake Lure, Chimney Rock and Saluda, they crammed in as much as possible.

"I can sum it up in one word - great," Don Roberts, 52, said Tuesday over a late breakfast at the Shelby Café. "It's been like a dream. We hate to leave."

Holbrook said the event will seek even more success next year.

"Next year, we'll go for 100,000 attendance. We've worked too hard to start coasting."





**ADJUTANT'S
CALL**

FRANK STANCIL
Department Adjutant



**Blueprint to the
21st Century**

Purpose: Service to our veterans, their families and their communities is as solid today, in a period of epoch-making change, as it was in 1919, when the founding fathers of The American Legion met in Paris, France. They were visionaries.

Much of The American Legion's success rests on its understanding that the fight for veterans' rights; past, present or future, is never ending. While our purposes may remain unchanged, our capabilities must not. The environment is changing and we must stay in front of these changes to be the nation's advocate for all veterans.

Since our founding fathers gave us a sound, clear focus, we need to build on this direction as we seek every opportunity to excel in growth and membership in the next century. Every American Legion member must focus on service to the veteran, to their families and to the communities as their number one priority. Legion officers at every level should lead the way in reinforcing this vision.

Communications is a must! We all must set the example in establishing clear and concise lines of communication with members and non members alike. Through communications and personal contact, The American Legion can cross all race, gender and age barriers on its way to providing quality service to our veterans and

See Adjutant, Page 8

**CHAPLAIN'S
CORNER**

RANDY CASH
Department Chaplain



Chaplain

"Where were you when the world stopped turning on that September day"? These words from the Alan Jackson song once again reverberate throughout our nation as Americans commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

The intense feelings of grief, anger and making sense of the senseless that washed over us and carried us along during those early days, weeks and months following the attacks have receded as the normal currents of our lives have returned. Time heals. And we survived. But what lessons have we learned?

What did we learn by watching helplessly as maniacs we do not know slipped into our nation and our neighborhood to slaughter thousands of innocent men, women, and children, to destroy prominent symbols of cooperative endeavor, to rend the fabric of a free and peaceful society, and then to escape into the dark sanctuary of death?

What do we learn from the news
See Chaplain, Page 8

**The Code of
Sportmanship**

I know many of you followed the American Legion World Series either "up close and personal" at the ball park in Shelby or on the web. What a great show the young men put on for the record-breaking crowds over the five days of multiple games. Not only did the players excel, but the people of the city of Shelby, of Cleveland County and the surrounding area were unbelievably gracious and super hospitable.

They set a standard of welcome absolutely beyond belief. You really had to be there to experience what this great Legion program (played in fifty two Departments) is all about and what it means to the almost 100,000 players who participate nationally each year on approximately 5,000 teams!

For my money however, the real value of the program lies not in the number of games a team wins or loses and certainly not in the opportunities to travel as tournament time rolls around. Rather it is in the intangibles the young men acquire over their playing years which are much harder to measure. I refer to good sportsmanship, respect for

**Membership
and Training**

We can talk membership all year long but more than likely just talking won't help us much. If we don't put that talk into action we are not going to grow as a Post or as a Department. Now how do we do that exactly? Well we start by learning how to do membership. One big part of membership is recruiting new members. As Mr. President Larry Robbinette says you just have to ask, and he must be right he's been both silver (25) and a gold brigade (50) recruiter. The big part of recruiting new

**Changes to a Post
Constitution and
Bylaws Requirements**

To assist the local Posts in the future as to the requirements for the Department to consider any modification to a Post's Constitution and or Bylaws, we will need each Post to send us the following before we can consider approving and filing their request for approval of a new or modified Constitution and or Bylaws.

1. A copy of their current Constitution and Bylaws so we can determine if all requirements have been met in their Old Constitution and or Bylaws to amended their current Constitution and or Bylaws. The current Constitution and or Bylaws must be filed at the Department. If not, then under our Department Constitution, the Post must use the Department's Constitution and Bylaws as interpreted by the Department Judge Advocate and those requirements.

2. A copy of the Post written minutes from the Post Executive Com-

**COMMANDER'S
COMMENTS**

BEN LEE
Department Commander



authority coaches, umpires, etc. appreciation for the rules of the game, discovering the good things that can happen when people work together as teammates, and on and on.

The Code of Sportsmanship is recited by the players before every game just before the teams take the field and reminds the young men of what the American Legion Baseball Program expects of them. The high honor of leading the players as they recited the Code before game nine was given to me and I was deeply moved indeed!!

As I share the below, I ask that you read the words closely so you get a feel for the high standards the Legion expects of the program participants.

I Will:

- Keep The Rules
- Keep Faith with My Teammates
- Keep My Temper
- Keep Myself Fit
- Keep a Stout Heart In Defeat
- Keep My Pride Under In Victory
- Keep A Sound Soul, Clean Mind

**MEMBERSHIP
REPORT**

JIM MAYHEW
Membership Chairman



members is knowledge of your product; in this case that's The American Legion. The team was in Shelby NC last month at the American Legion World Series with a recruiting booth. Eddie Price came over to help us at the booth and we were talking about what it took to recruit members. I want to share what he told me. First you have to have Attitude; be proud

**THE JUDGE
SPEAKS**

GAITHER KEENER JR.
Department Service Officer



mittee approving the recommended changes to the current Constitution and or Bylaws to the members of the Post as to the proposed changes to the Post's Constitution and Bylaws.

3. A copy of the notice of the meeting, giving members at least 30 days notice, to the Post members advising the Post members of the meeting to vote on the changes that are for consideration. The meeting can not be a special meeting under our Constitution and Bylaws but must be a regular schedule meeting. A copy of the proposed changes shall be forward to each member of the Post.

4. A copy of the minutes of the Post indicating the membership approved the new Constitution and or Bylaws with the required quorum need for such action.

Then we can consider the documents for review and filing.

and A Healthy Body

No Commander's column would be complete without some words on the critical subject of membership, the lifeblood of any organization. We're off to a great start, thanks to you, and about on pace with the overall membership target we've been given by our national headquarters.

Our membership team, headed by Jim Mayhew, the other officers including Division and District Commanders and vice-chairmen, and Post Commanders-- are working with but one thought in mind --- use the last four months of calendar-year 2011 to have current members renewed, DMS members contacted and transferred to local Posts and to reach out to eligible veterans and invite them to join the Legion family.

The membership team and I are anxious to lend a hand where ever needed, just call on us. Jim's contact info is (919)-605-8590, jimmayhew@charter.net, and mine is as follows: (919)-616-6775, bnbsouth@atmc.net.

Thanks for all you do, each day, for the youth of your area, the veterans in need - and their families - and for the men and women in uniform serving on our behalf in countries all over the globe. Please keep them in your prayers.

to be an American Legion member and show that pride. Second you need to Sell your product; tell them of our programs and how we help veterans, families of veterans and the youth of our country. Let them know what benefits they and their families are entitled to. Now the third thing is Knowledge; read up on The America Legion, know the history, the programs and the benefits. OK let's recap what he said Attitude, Sell, Knowledge what does that spell ASK!

Don't be afraid to ASK someone if they are a veteran, then you ASK when they served our country, finally you ASK if they belong to The American Legion and if not go into your knowledge of our organization and sign them up. We were talking to Past National Commander Marty Conaster from Illinois about their

See Members, Page 8

**The North Carolina
Legion News**

Ben Lee
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

W. Frank Stancil
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Articles may be submitted for consideration to be published in The North Carolina Legion News, PO Box 26657, Raleigh NC 27611-6657.

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Photo, Standard Laconic

Walstonburg Legion Post 332 Helps in Relief Efforts

William Galloway (left) financial officer, and Commander Ray Holloman, both of American Legion Post 332 in Walstonburg, present a \$1,000 check to American Red Cross volunteer Tonya Furtado for disaster relief in Greene County following the devastating tornadoes of April.



Pictured, left, Post Commander Steve Blizzard presents plaque and certificate to Legionnaire of the Year recipient Jim Starkey.

Post 203 in Newport Honors Legionnaire of the Year

American Legion Post 203 legionnaire Jim Starkey was awarded the Post 203 Legionnaire of the Year for 2010 for his dedicated performance as athletic officer of the post and his leadership in organizing the Jr. American Legion Baseball program with the post. He has been an inspiration to the ball players, coaches and parents as well, guiding the team to the finals of conference play in the first 2 years under his guidance. Mr.

Starkey has played a vital role in the growth of the revitalization of Newport Post 203 by his active participation in the community and his dedication to The American Legion. Having been diagnosed with a serious health problem and having to endure radiation treatments did not deter him for performing his tasks at a high level of professionalism. It was an overwhelming pleasure for the post to present him with this award.



Beaufort County Veterans Benefit Fair

On June 30, Commander Roy C. Tucker of Washington Post 15 and Jerry Cobb, a representative of Beaufort County Job Link, hosted a "Beaufort County Veterans Benefits Fair." There were 85 veterans served that day. Event participants included the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, local American Legion posts, Durham VAMC Rural Health Initiative, Asheville Medical Center, and other veteran organizations. Aid and assistance to veterans in need, benefits, education, training, life insurance and headstone markers were the main topics covered.



From Left to Right: District Commander James Moore, Commander Jasper Jones, and Commander John Lindsey.

Jasper Jones Elected Commander Post 536

Newly formed American Legion Post 536 of Snow Hill, North Carolina held its first Change of Command Ceremony on Monday, June 20, 2011. The ceremony was held at the Post Headquarters.

Pictured above is District Commander James Moore, Commander John Lindsey (Founder of Post 536), passing the gavel to incoming Commander Jasper Jones. Commander Jones served as Vice-commander since the post was formed

in 2009. Over forty Legionnaires attended the ceremony and wished Commander Jones well.

A new Executive Board was also installed. The purpose of the Executive Board is to oversee the activities of the post. The Executive Board helps ensure the post remains stable, healthy, and that viable programs and activities are implemented that provides a positive experience for veterans and citizen in the community.

SWEEPSTAKES 2011

For the American Legion Department Of North Carolina

- Grand Prize: \$10,000,**
- 2nd Prize: \$5,000,**
- 3rd Prize: \$2,500,**
- 4th-8th Prizes: \$500**

Tickets donation of \$10.00 each or 3 Tickets for \$20.00

DRAWING: October 15, 2011

during the Fall Conference at the

N. Raleigh Hilton Winners need not be present to win.

All donations are much appreciated.

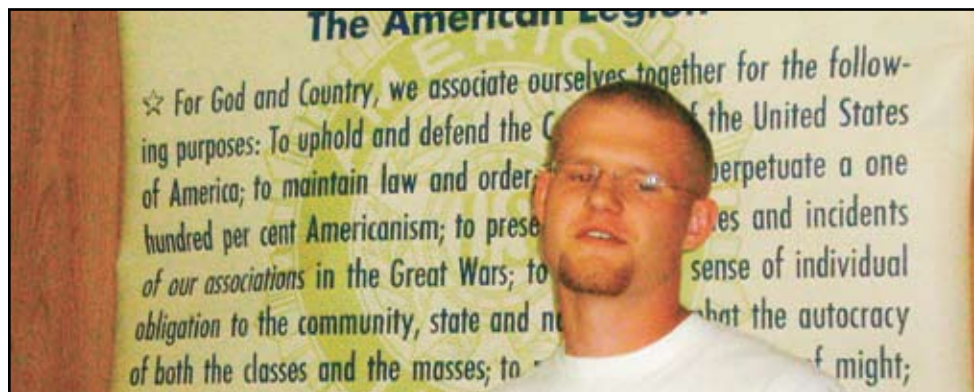
Extra tickets may be requested from Department Headquarters

PO Box 26657

Raleigh NC 27611

919-832-7506

Thank all of you for supporting The American Legion.



Student Trooper

Jami Vuolo recently participated in The American Legion's Student Trooper Program in Raleigh, NC. Jami is pictured here speaking to members of Post 138 in Roxboro about his experiences during the week long program. He also thanked the post for sponsoring him. Jami's parents, Ken and Deborah Vuolo, were also present.



Pictured is Specialist 4 Deans receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from Post 138 Commander Richard Vining and DAV Commander and Legionnaire Johnny Langford.

Welcome Home

Post 138 in Roxboro participated in the "Welcome Home" celebration of Specialist 4 Adam Deans returning home from Afghanistan on August 4th. The celebration was held at the Post 138 home. Also partici-

pating was Person County Chapter #72 of the Disabled American Veterans, friends and family of Adam, members of the local Rotary Club. News coverage was provided by the Roxboro Courier-Times.



Pictured left to right, Post Commander Bill Nelson, Past commander Jud Lamphear, and Post Adjutant Frank Justis.

Winston Salem Post 55 Honors Past Post Commander

At the July meeting of Winston-Salem Post 55, Past Post Commander Jud Lamphear was presented a Legion life membership. The presentation was in recognition of seven years of dedicated service as Post Commander. Past Commander Lamphear served in that capacity from 2004 until 2011. He is currently serving the post as 1st vice Commander. Lamphear's wife Elizabeth was also presented with a dozen roses in recognition of the support she extended to her husband during his tenure as Commander.



Play Ball!

There is no better way to start the summer than with a relaxing evening eating popcorn while watching a baseball game featuring High Point-Thomasville's team called Hi-Toms. That is unless the game is opened with the I.T. Mann Post 87 American Legion Color Guard Team from High Point, NC. Members of Post 87 presented the Colors during a game in High Point on June 1, 2011. The Hi-Thom team has for many years proudly displayed American Legion Post 87 on their jerseys. Featured in the attached photo's are from left to right: Guard Jack Williams, American Flag bearer Bill Ball, Post 87 Flag bearer Commander Kaney Joyner, POW Flag bearer Dan Scott, and Guard Jim Tauben.



Mebane's American Legion Post 95 Commander Bobby Stone (right) presents USO Director Stephanie TerMaath a donation from the chapter in March 2011. (Photo by Karen Carter/Mebane Enterprise)

Veterans Give Back to Soldiers

Published in the Mebane Enterprise on March 30, 2011
By KAREN CARTER
Enterprise Editor

Every year Mebane's veterans do something to honor one of their own, giving back to the men and women in uniform who are currently serving in the military.

Bob Hope made the USO famous with his entertainment to troops overseas.

Last week, the USO center at its new facility in the Raleigh-Durham Airport received a generous donation from the American Legion Post 95 in Mebane.

On behalf of the veterans, Commander Bobby Stone presented a check in the amount of \$1,200 to USO Director Stephanie TerMaath at their monthly meeting last Thursday evening at the American Legion building on Clay Street.

American Legion member Ron Devine, of Mebane, said that the new location of the USO at the airport is a "nice facility." He visited it recently one Saturday morning.

A volunteer every other Saturday morning at the USO Center at the airport, American Legion member Lezlee A. Rutchka, of Mebane, said that over 275 volunteers work the USO, open twenty-four hours a day.

The USO honor team meets every cassette that goes through the Raleigh-Dur-

ham Airport, offering dignity and honor to the fallen and their families.

The USO at the airport operates with a full facility, including a kitchen, computers, play area for kids, as well as plenty of rest and relaxation with good cheer for the soldiers who use it.

Funded by volunteers, the non-profit organization receives no government funds, said TerMaath. Generous donations like the one from Mebane's service organization of veterans keep it going.

Sending packages overseas, collecting food, the USO participates in a number of things to help the troops have a "home away from home."

"They like homemade cookies," said TerMaath, about the military that stay for awhile at the USO Center at the airport. "We are always looking for people to drive the soldiers to Ft. Bragg, too expensive for a taxi or shuttle," said TerMaath.

TerMaath said that the average number of soldiers who go through the USO center each month averages about 1,000. During the holidays, this number could go up to 4,000. There they enjoy a family atmosphere and care.

TerMaath said that both of her parents were in the Air Force. "Anything we can do to make their lives better for what they have given to us, we do it," she said about the service of the USO.



J.C. Price 107 Cleanup Project

The Legionnaires and Auxiliary of J.C. Price American Legion Post 107 adopted a community and cleaned up the streets behind the Wilco Hess on a Saturday in July, as part of the city's ongoing Adopt-A-Street program. The program is sponsored by the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission. Post 107 members participating included; Gary Hall, Daniel Haddock, John Woods, Elijah Carraway, Leonard Hall and Commander O. Mae Carroll. Auxiliary members included, Terry Love and Debra Turnbull. Jaquan Clark, Legionnaire Hall's grandson, was also present. Pamphlets from the appearance commission were distributed and placed in mailboxes along the route. The Auxiliary had cleaned up the Institute areas the previous week.



Fall Conference North Raleigh Hilton Raleigh, NC
October 13-15, 2011

Tentative

NOTE: Chairs may not pick up Their CMTE Folders until after 10:00 AM, Fri. October 14, 2011

Thursday – October 13, 2011

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Registration Grand Registration Desk

Friday – October 14, 2011

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Registration		Grand Registration Desk
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Administrative Committee	Ben Lee	Grand Ballroom 1
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Service Officer Workshop	Cajun Comeau	Salon E
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Resolutions Committee	Coley Hunsucker	Salon D
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	JROTC Committee	Joel Lipsey	Grand Ballroom 2
	National Legion College Committee	Rora Kellis	Judicial
12:00 Noon- 1:30 PM	Time and Place	David Shore	Salon C
	Boy Scout Committee	Cary McMasters	Salon AB
	POW/MIA Committee	Curtis Leary	Judicial
	Oratorical Contest & Education	Harry Flynn	Salon D
	Law and Order Committee	E.C. Toppin	Grand Ballroom 1
	Sons of The American Legion	Morris Dale	Grand Ballroom 2
	Voluntary Hospital Services	Mae Carroll	Grand Ballroom 3
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Baseball Hall of Fame	Clayton Sutton	Salon D
	Colon Furr Scholarship	R.E. Collier	Salon C
	Leadership Development	Milton Woodle	Grand Ballroom 2
	Drug and Alcohol Abuse	Joel Lipsey	Judicial
	Rehabilitation Committee	Hank Gotard	Grand Ballroom 3
	Legion Riders Committee	Wally Higgins	Salon AB
1:30 PM - 2:15 PM	AL National Convention Corp of NC, Inc.	Jerry Hedrick	Grand Ballroom 1
2:15 PM - 3:30 PM	Committee to Study FY11-3-FC	Jerry Hedrick	Grand Ballroom 1
3:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Baseball Committee	Roy Waters	Salon AB
	Public Relations Committee	Lou Cook	Grand Ballroom 3
	Veterans Employment & Preference	Kenneth Siragusa	Salon C
	Community Service	Fannie Young	Grand Ballroom 2
	Constitution and By-Laws	Ed Jones	Judicial
	Boys State Program	J.E. Woodard	Grand Ballroom 1
	Membership Post Activities	Jim Mayhew	Salon D
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	Internal Affairs Commission (Division/District Commanders)	David Desmond	Salon D
5:30 PM	SAL DEC Meeting	Christopher Byrd	Oakwood
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM	20 & 4	Helen Kellis	Judicial
8:30 PM - 12:00 AM	Dance Registration Badge Gets Couples In (Cash Bar)		Grand Ballroom 1-3

Saturday – October 15, 2011

8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon	Registration		Grand Registration Desk
8:00 AM	Joint Memorial Service	Randy Cash	Grand Ballroom 1-3
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Americanism Commission	Bill Oxford	Salon AB
	Children and Youth Commission	James Ford	Salon C
	Legislative Commission	Jeff Joyner	Salon D
	National Security Commission	Dick Neville	Judicial
	Veterans Affairs & REHAB	Shuford Edmisten	Boxwood
	Internal Affairs Commission	David Desmond	Salon E
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	CHAPLAIN'S CONFERENCE	Randy Cash	Oakwood
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION CONFERENCE	Christopher Byrd Detachment Cmdr.	Dogwood
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Resolutions Committee	Coley Hunsucker	Oakwood
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Administrative Committee (Resolutions Only)	Ben Lee	Sandalwood
11:00 AM - 12:00PM	Division I Caucus	Paul Reid	Judicial
	Division II Caucus	Michael Braswell	Salon AB
	Division III Caucus	Terry Chatfield	Salon D
	Division IV Caucus	Dean Haywood	Sandalwood
	Division V Caucus	Tony Sherrill	Salon E
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM	DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	Ben Lee Department Cmdr	Grand Ballroom 1-3

**Heroes Homecoming
Receives Veterans Day Honor**

Heroes Homecoming has just been designated as an official Veterans day Regional Site for the celebration of veterans day 2011. The selection was made by Governor Perdue on behalf of the US Department of Defense. Heroes Homecoming is Fayetteville/Cumberland County's 10 day celebration giving Vietnam veterans the welcome home they so richly deserve but never received.

More than 50 events recognizing the service and sacrifice of our veterans are planned so far for Heroes Homecoming. Some of these events will showcase Vietnam era photographs, artifacts and stories that pay tribute to veterans. The Save the Montagnard People event will take place on Friday, November 11 and Saturday, November 12th at 8:00 pm on Hay Street. It is estimated that approximately 40,000 Montagnards served alongside American troops as scouts.

To learn more about Heroes Homecoming and to view a full list of events, please visit HeroesHomecoming.com. Or contact Leah Knepper at 910-397-5355 or Iknepper@rubberneckmedia.com

Legion High School

We will be having formal training for the Post level members. Most of you are familiar with our Legion College that we hold in July. The past few years it's been held in Clemmons NC. Your Leadership and Development Committee has come up with what is being called "Legion High School", training for Post officers and members. This training is one day of classes in Public Relations, Internal Affairs, Post Commander, Post Adjutant, Membership and General Discussion.

The day starts in the morning with registration from 8:00 to 8:30, three classes from 8:30 - 11:30, one hour for lunch, three classes from 12:30 - 3:30 and wrap up to end the day 3:30 - 4:00.

Division I will hold training on Saturday October 1st 8:00 AM at Wilson Post 13, 2035 US Hwy 301S Wilson, NC (next to the fairground). For information call Division Commander Paul Reid at (252)-239-9112(H) or (252)-363-2655(C).

Division II will be held on Saturday September 24th 8:00 AM at Wallace Post 156 203 N Teachey Rd Wallace, NC. For information call Division Commander Mike Braswell at (910)-270-1297 (H) or 910-619-9656 (C).

Division III training is to be held Saturday September 24th 8:00 AM at Durham Post 7 406 E. Trinity Rd Durham, NC. For information call Division Commander Terry Chatfield at (919)-661-1850 (H) or (919)-265-8558 (C).

Division IV, call Commander Dean Haywood at (704)-843-3366 (H) or (704)-574-7196 (C).

Division V, call Commander Tony Sherrill at (828)-865-9254 (H) or (704)-616-2002 (C).

Please come to this training with an open mind and a willingness to learn. Also, do not hesitate to come up with some good questions. Just remember the instructors only have so much time to get the material out to all in the class. So jot down your question to remember them, and if they don't get answered during the class, ask them at the end. We ask you to give us honest feedback during the wrap up portion of the class. This will help us improve on how we provide training at the Post level.

Thanks and we will see you in class.

100% Posts!

At the date of this writing – August 18th – we are two months into the membership year and

the following Posts have already reached their membership goal for 2011-2012!!

I hope you join me in congratulating them and I know many of you will join their ranks soon. Ben

Bessemer City Post	538
Fair Bluff Post	204
Marshville Post	446
New Bern Post	539
Newport Post	203
Wingate Post	431



JROTC Battalion Receives End of the Year Medals



W. Dudley Robbins Post 165 was at hand at the Heide Trask High School to present end of year medals to the JROTC battalion. (From L-R): Post Adjutant Andrew Pfeil, Military Excellence award winner Cadet SFC. Matthew Burke, Academic Achievement award winner Cadet SFC. Aj Lugmao, and Post Commander Lonnie Davenport.



W. Dudley Robbins Post 165 squadron Commander Matt Burke presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Cadet LTC. Robyn Neil of the Heide Trask High School JROTC on behalf of the American Legion Family at W. Dudley Robbins Post 165. The Trask Battalion has supported Legion ideals and works tirelessly For God and Country.



Pictured from left, Boys' State Delegates, kneeling -- Andrew C. Steele (Millbrook Sr. High School), Robert A. Wright (Enloe High School), Michael E.P. Jones, III (Enloe High School), Jerry D. McLean (East Wake High School); Standing: Legionnaire Bennie A. Manning (Commander, Charles T. Norwood American Legion Post 157), Legionnaire Freddie Kelly; Legionnaire John T. Atkins, Jr., Legionnaire Atlas Kelly; Legionnaire Equilla D. Hightower; Legionnaire Willie Morgan, Jr., Legionnaire Joseph H. Holt, Jr. Not pictured: James T. Stephens (Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School), and Michael Glenn Morrison (Northside High School, Jacksonville) also attended the event.

Raleigh Students Attend Week Long Government Program at Tar Heel Boys State

Six local high school students spent a week in June at Catawba College in Salisbury for the "Tar Heel Boys' State" event. The event is a weeklong program sponsored by the American Legion of North Carolina. During the program, Boys' State citizens organize a mock government by nominating and electing candidates for city, county and state offices. Each delegate was assigned a city, county, and state agency to represent. Males who have successfully completed their

junior year of high school and have at least one semester of high school remaining are eligible to attend. The six young men represented Charles T. Norwood American Legion Post 157 in Raleigh. Others in attendance were boys representing American Legion Posts from throughout the state for the week-long civic lesson. The goal was for each young man to come away from the experience with a better understanding of how government works.



Legion Post Delivers Baby Items to Fort Bragg's Airborne Attic

Members of the Walter E. Cole American Legion Post 187 recently delivered a trailer load of newborn baby items for distribution to returning soldiers from the conflict in Afghanistan. Pictured above are three local member and associates as they unload the items. From left to right are; Martin DiOrio, Cindy Grosskopf, (also a Blue Star Mother) and Monica Cash.

The Airborne Attic was established on Fort Bragg, NC as a location intended

to assist soldiers with free household goods. Legion Post 187 has been assisting the Attic for over two years with monthly deliveries of household goods donated by local citizens. The Director of the Attic asked for baby items because of the increase in births at the Fort. The truckload of baby items was a direct result of the generosity by the Legion Post and the people of Wake Forest and surrounding areas.



Pictured L to R: Cliff Morgan, 1st Vice Commander – Bonnie Kunath, Mother – Michael Kunath, Winner – Mike Sayers, Commander – Patricia Harris, 2nd Vice Commander.

Apex Boys State Delegate Recipient of Samsung Scholarship Award

Michael Kunath of Apex was the recipient of the 2011 American Legion Samsung Scholarship Award, presented to one delegate in each state who attends the Boys State Programs.

Each state recipient then has the opportunity to be selected for the National Samsung Scholarship Award. American Legion Post 124 in Apex is proud to have been his sponsor.

Memorial Service Held

On Sunday, May 29, American Legion Post 255 participated in a memorial service at Clearview Baptist church in Lexington, NC. During the ceremony young local marines assisted in the laying of the wreath. Taps was played by legionnaire Woody Bowman. Post members participating were Louis Hargrove, Herman Carr, Wade D. Taylor and Darrell Taylor.



From The American Legion, Department of North Carolina

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President's Message

As we struggle to deal with the heat wave currently enveloping much of America, remember that our troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan face considerably higher temperatures daily. Less humidity for sure, but a far more dangerous environment confronts their efforts to defend the principles that we too often take for granted. It is up to us to honor their service by doing whatever we can to give aid to their families and provide as best we can for their needs should they return from deployment in need of medical care and/or counseling.

Our year began well, with a great

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SUE GOOCH
Department President



turnout for Legion College, many being new attendees. It was good to see the new faces eager to learn more about what we do and how we do it. It was a great training session for future leaders and a solid refresher course for those with experience.

What we learned can be applied to our community service projects as we strive to work in harmony for the benefit of our service men and women and their dependents at home. Remember, the troops do not slack off because of heat and danger; we must

not waver in our dedication. Let us energize our membership so that our projects can be very successful and call attention to our mission.

National Convention is fast approaching and I look forward to seeing many of you there. Upon our return, the Division meetings will be about to begin. Please make plans to attend your Division meeting! It is a wonderful opportunity to meet the "movers and shakers" in your part of the state, make new acquaintances, share ideas and expose yourself to the enthusiasm that can catapult us to even more success.

Keep in mind that "Honoring their Service" is more than a National motto; it is an attitude that leaves a lasting impression and translates into work that is genuinely needed by those to whom we owe so much.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

JOYCE WILLIS
Aux. Department Chaplain



Chaplain's Message

As we all are busily planning and organizing our work for this new year we're in, we must all be mindful that we are not here for ourselves and the accolades that our successes might bring. We are here to work for our veterans and their families, and if we're ever in doubt about how to do a certain project, we should remember how many members we have out there that have been serving this great organization longer and ask for some advice.

Sharing our knowledge and experiences lovingly and gladly is the best way for our organization to thrive. We should also remember that while we may not always agree with one another, we should respect each other's opinions and beliefs. Serving our country is a privilege to all of us in this wonderful free world we live in, and we should always strive to honor those who gave so freely to bestow such riches on us. Remember the words of this poem that I really like to share...

*Do good to all and kindness show
That's what God's Word commands;
For when we're serving in His name,
We are His feet and hands...
...Fitzhugh*

There is a wealth of experience in our American Legion Auxiliary and there is no rank among us, so let's all work together for the betterment of our aims and purposes. Please remember to keep me aware of any one you know that needs an uplifting message so I can call or send a card. My home phone is no longer operational so please call my cell, 252--676-0908. May God Bless our country and you and your loved ones.

Honor the Service

I'm honoring the service of my husband, Dennis E. Ward. He was a proud member of the United States Air Force from 1961 to 1964. He served in Vietnam in 1963-64. He introduced me to the American Legion Family.

In September, we honor their service with responsibility. Accepting responsibility as a leader requires that we accept responsibility for the choices we make, how we feel, what we think, what we do, and decisions we've made to initiate change. We show responsibility to our Veterans in all the activities we participate in.

In October, we honor their service with diversity. We should show our understanding that each indi-

HONOR OF SERVICE

MARY WARD
Membership Chairman



vidual is unique. In moving beyond simple tolerance to embracing and celebrating the rich dimensions of diversity contained within each individual, we show our welcoming spirit to our communities.

In September, wish upon a star as you collect renewals and sign up new members. Be sure to thank members for paying their dues and invite them to a meeting. Have an open house barbeque or cookout with the community and Legion family. Involve local school music groups and turn it into a fundraiser for the school, as well as a membership drive for the Unit. Don't forget Patriot's Day (11) and Constitution

Day (17).

In October, plan for Education Week activities. Contact all members that haven't renewed their membership. Contact local schools and offer help with Literacy, supplies, and veterans in the classroom programs. Have a Halloween party and sign up new Junior members. Invite eligible educators to join. Be sure to take Education information to your high schools.

We've gotten off to a good start! Our first target is 55% by September 29, 2011. Get your "Go Getters" on the job, they need 10 Senior renewals and 1 new Junior or Senior. We all joined the American Legion Auxiliary for different reasons. Use all of the resources available to recruit new members and reenergize returning members. Pay your Treasurer's Bond and VA&R Fair Share.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Division meetings and Fall Conference. Please let me know how I can be of service. My committee members are Brenda Brewer and Frances Oxford.



Pictured is Mazie Ellis unit member and Bettie Woodard President of Robert B. Anderson Unit 13

Celebrating 64 Years of Service

On July 5, 2011 at the Robert B. Anderson Post 13 and Auxiliary meeting, Bettie Woodard, President of Unit 13, presented Mazie Ellis a certificate for 64 years of service in the American Legion Auxiliary.

Frank Stancil, American Legion Department Adjutant and wife Judy were present to see his Aunt receive this award.



A New Commander at American Legion Post 266

Ms Wendy Elliott was installed as Commander of American Legion Post 266 in Stanley. Commander Elliott is an Army veteran who attended the local Stanley schools. She has served as Post Adjutant and Post Finance Officer for the past 6 years. Post 266 has been remodeled after a \$100,000 loss due to water damage. A grand re-opening is planned for the near future. Pictured is Past Department Commander Roger Melville with Commander Elliott.



Chaplain

From Page 2

that others like them are still planning and preparing to do the same — and worse — to us, and may succeed, despite our best efforts to stop them?

I think there is much to learn, and we may, in fact, learn best from our suffering. The most important lessons I have learned relate to the value of America, and to its limitations, and to the all-sufficiency of God. September 11th, 2001, found me already — by choice and by inclination — a loyal and patriotic American.

The savage events of that day and the varied reactions to them around the world — even within our own borders — have caused me to re-examine the role and purpose of America — in the world and in my life. And I remain thoroughly convinced that America is a miraculous gift of God. It is not the new Israel, or the Kingdom of God on earth. But, at the same time, it is too unlikely to be an accident, and too wonderful to be our

own doing.

Surely no nation in history has provided such opportunity for both individual freedom and quality of life to all its citizens. And just as surely, no nation in history has given so much and been of such positive benefit to the other nations of the world. America's very existence proclaims the vision of, and protects the possibility that freedom and peace may be experienced throughout the world.

Those who would subject the people of the world to their inhumane control must first block the light of freedom and hope that shines so brightly in us and from us to those sorely oppressed. The determination of our enemies to attack us, to knock down our towers (and by doing so to cripple our inspiring American influence), is actually their twisted acknowledgement of America's great and enduring value to the world.

I have learned anew, from the suffering that came on and after September 11th, the incalculable value of America.

But I have also learned something of America's limitations. The destruction of lives and property in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania destroyed the illusion of American invulnerability, as well. For all our military power, America cannot guarantee that you and I will not die an untimely death. America cannot guarantee that we will not be the innocent victims of vicious enemies. As the concrete and steel came crashing down, so, too, did our illusions.

No longer can we think we know what tomorrow holds in store for us, or that tomorrow holds only the fulfillment of our dreams because, "After all, this is America." America will survive — if we serve her best interests and protect her from the harm others would do her. And I believe God would have us do just that. But there is no guarantee that preserving America will not require more from us than it will provide to us, whether in life, liberty, property, or happiness.

As we remember those lost on Sep-

tember 11th — and on the battlefields that terror has spawned around the world — as we give thanks for and renew our commitment to America and all the positive things America represents — we still find that it is God alone who provides the ultimate security, because only God can offer an eternal security. Only God is able to keep us from falling when our world is crashing down around us.

As was shown by justice being done in the case of Osama Bin Laden, the success of our military has been impressive, but limited. Yet there is no place — in this world or the next — where the eye of God cannot see and the hand of God cannot reach. And no one will escape God's judgment. We know the truth; we've known it for a long time.

Now we need it like we've never needed it before. We can save America from terrorists, and should, but America cannot "save" us, in this world or the next. Only God can — and He will, if we put our ultimate trust in him.

Members

From Page 2

methods of recruiting in his state; here is what he told us. He strikes up a conversation and finds out this person is a veteran and during the conversation finds out when they served. Then he gets out an application and writes in the veteran's name and asks what his or her address and phone number is. He already knows the war era so he asks what branch of service, if that has not already come up. Next he lets them know

how much the dues are and hands over the application to have them sign it, and he's done. All that's left is to thank them very much and say a hardy welcome aboard. That brings up another time to ASK. Find out how others recruit new members and incorporate that method or portion into your recruiting skills.

Let's not forget we need to carry all three applications in our pocket. So once you have them signed up, let's tell them about The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of

The American Legion. We are in this as a family!

Let's talk training. We have set up in each Division, training dates for what we are calling Legion High School. For Division One it will be on Saturday October 1st starting at 8:00 AM. All other Divisions will be on Saturday September 24th starting at 8:00 AM. This is Post level training. Look for more information to come out on locations of these classes.

Adjutant

From Page 2

their communities. All District Commanders should visit every post within their jurisdiction. This provides you with an awareness of their needs and growth potential. Communicate, educate and support one another through all mediums available to you whether its newsletters, e-mail and/or direct contact. Our success was laid out for us by our founding fathers. What we do with it will dictate the future of The American Legion. You and I, can make a difference!



American Legion Post 208 Awards Local Businesses For Contributions

Post 208 (Waxhaw) Commander James Grainger presents Certificates of Appreciation to Maxwell's Tavern owners Cindy and Kat Balatsias for their contribution of \$100.00 to the post over the 4th of July Holiday, 2011, and to Mike Heffner, owner of Iron Horse Motorcycles in Monroe, for their contribution to the Legion Riders Poker Run held on June 13th, 2011. The Poker Run started at Iron Horse and Mike contributed \$100.00 to the event. Brian Whitley, Legion Riders and Sons of the American Legion member joined the Commander to present the certificate. For more information contact James Grainger, Commander Post 208 at jgrainger002@carolina.rr.com



Family Spring Fling Day

On June 11th the American Legion, William Johnson Post 534 in Eden held its annual Family Spring Fling Day. There was plenty of FUN and FOOD for all to enjoy. The Post used this as a recruiting tool and gained two new members from the event.



Officers Installed at Asheville Post 526

2010-11 Division V Commander Bill Richard installed the new Officers for Post 526 in Asheville on Tuesday, May 17, at their regular meeting. He also awarded 10 members with the Richard Raiders coin for recruiting 5 new members. John Mitchell from Senator's Burrs office also spoke on the importance of our Veterans.