



THE PATRIOT

AMERICAN LEGION NEWSLETTER

Ira Weaver Post 121

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JAN 2019

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**** IMPORTANT ****

The cost of mailing through the United States Post Office is becoming prohibitive. If you receive this NEWSLETTER by US Mail please provide us with an email address in order to receive the full version of this NEWSLETTER. NEWSLETTERS PROVIDED BY US MAIL ARE AN ABBREVIATED VERSION OF THE FULL EMAIL VERSION.

CALENDAR 2019



- JAN 1 NEW YEARS DAY ó FLY THE FLAG
- JAN 9 1030 HRS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ó SAMMI SUBS
- JAN 15 1730 FELLOWSHIP at VETERANøS BUILDING
- 1830 MONTHLY AL MEETING at VETERANøS BUILDING
- 1830 MONTHLY AUXILLARY MEETING at VETERANøS BLDG.
- JAN 21 MARTIN LUTHER KING JRøS BIRTHDAY ó FLY THE FLAG

EDITORS NOTE: Editor must receive any information to be published in the newsletter NO LATER THAN the 15th of the previous month in which it is to be published. If you have calendar dates, event details, matters of interest to members and/or Veterans in the community please send them to the Executive Committee c/o the newsletter. Thanks, Dan Navin, Editor, Jr. Vice Cmdr. - EMAIL: fnave@windstream.net

COMMANDER'S CALL

The American Legion will occupy a prominent position in the 130th annual Tournament of Roses Parade Jan. 1 in Pasadena, Calif. The American Legion will have the third float in the parade, directly behind the Marine Corps band.

National Commander Brett Reistad, Sons of The American Legion National Commander Greg øDocø Gibbs and Auxiliary National President Kathy Dungan will be among those riding the float. Four Medal of Honor recipients ø Hershel øWoodyø Williams, Ron Rosser, Walter øJoeø Marm and Britt Slabinski ø will also be riding the float.

In the days leading up to the parade, a delegation of American Legion Family members and youth program participants will decorate it. On Dec. 30, the float will be judged along with others in the parade.

Also on Dec. 30, American Legion Post 13 in Pasadena will host a special black-tie event where Reistad, the four Medal of Honor recipients, other American Legion Family leaders, youth champions and others will be present. The event begins at 7 p.m. at the Legion post, 131 N. Marengo Ave. in Pasadena. For ticket prices and more information, call 626-792-2158 or email oldtownpost13@gmail.com. To register, please visit [here](#). The Rose Parade will be broadcast live beginning at 8 a.m. PST. The parade is televised on ABC, NBC, Hallmark Channel and others. Check your local broadcast listings for more information or visit www.tournamentofroses.com.

Hoping everyone had a Merry Christmas and wishing you a Happy New Year. Look forward to seeing all of you at the next regular meeting on Jan 15, 2019 - Mike Ayers, Cmdr.

SR. VICE COMMANDER'S CORNER

LOCAL BLAIRSVILLE MEMBERS - PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO ATTEND AT LEAST ONE MEETING EACH 6 MONTHS. CARRYING ON THE BUSINESS AND EVENTS FOR A POST THIS LARGE REQUIRES MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION. PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTERING TO HELP A FEW HOURS FOR AT LEAST ONE EVENT. THANK YOU

Looking for help - need a member to be the legion historian after 1st of the year. Contact Senior Vice Cmdr.
Looking for a member to be the legion event coordinator after 1st of the year. Contact Senior Vice Cmdr.

If we are going to continue to grow and be a positive influence in the community we need your help.
Thank you - Steve Stratman, Sr. Vice Cmdr.

ADJUTANT'S CORNER

At the January meeting, I will be telling the story of the Montagnard friendship bracelets. The story will feature the original of the most recent American Special Forces, the late movie star John Wayne, and my memorial bracelet. After two times that I was supposed to tell this story, the Commander has promised that I can go first before all of the long winded characters take up all of our time. This is a very interesting story, told by a Historian. You will be sorry if you miss it.

Renewals are pouring in. Remember, you need to have your dues for 2019 paid before December 31, 2018 to remain in good standing. If you are receiving invoices to pay Post 121, you can pay online with a credit or debit card. This is much easier for everyone. Go to www.legion.org, then toward the upper left of the home page, click on renew. Then on the next page, enter your Legion Id number and your last name. On the next page, confirm your information. Then on the next page enter your card information. After this, you will go to a page that you can print out as a temporary Id card, although you don't need to do that. Let me know at tpd127.jack@gmail.com you paid on line, and I will mail your Id card to you.

There are a number of awards that individual legionnaires and our post can win for recruiting people, both new members and people transferring from other posts. Please carry one or two copies of our application, and if you give one to someone, put your name on the bottom where it says, "Recruited by:" I want to start keeping track of our recruiters to apply for these awards.

Once again, we need DD214, a Record of Enlistment and Service, or an Honorable Discharge from as many of our members as possible. If you have not sent a copy of yours to me please do so at the Post's address, P. O. Box 247, Blairsville, GA 30514. If you don't have a copy of your DD214, get in touch with me and I will help you get a new one from the Archives.

WWII Vets: The post will pay the dues for all World War II veteran members. If you are a WWII era member, or know of someone who is a WWII era veteran, please send me an email at tpd127.jack@gmail.com.

If you have paid your dues and have your ID card, and you are still receiving reminders from Legion Headquarters, please let me know. Send your name and ID number to the email address above so that I can check to see if there is any problem with your membership. Jack Waters, Adjutant

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2018 MEETING

Blairsville, Georgia

**NO MEETING IN DECEMBER
NEXT MEETING 15 JAN 2019 1830**

CHAPLIN'S CORNER

It is my honor to serve you as the Chaplain and I am always open for comments or suggestions. It has been my desire, and I believe, responsibility to serve you and your family in any way you would look to your pastor, priest, deacon or rabbi for prayer and spiritual support. Of course I am not full time, but will always do my best to meet your need. Prayer for you or a family member is always a priority for me and your request will always be at the top of my list. In addition to the nursing home visits I currently do monthly I would like to add any home-bound veterans or hospital patients that are members of Post 121. If you know of anyone who fits into either of those groups please notify me. If you feel there is a special need or function not currently being provided by your chaplain, please speak to me or e-mail/text.

During our November visit to UCNH we met and spoke to our first confirmed female WWII veteran resident since I started monthly visits. Her name is Shirley Sonnenfeld, U.S. Navy veteran. She was stationed at U.S. Navy HQ in Washington, D.C. during the war. I'm in the process of obtaining the necessary information to add her to our membership roles. We also introduced ourselves to another new resident, Dick Williams - U.S. Army. Philip (Phil) Gatlin 678-232-1771 - nasa428@windstream.net

NORTH GEORGIA HONOR GUARD - NGHG

The North Georgia Honor Guard is an autonomous organization separate from all Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) and comprised of volunteer members from the various VSOs including the American Legion Ira Weaver Post 121. The Blairsville, Union County area is part of the East Division Commanded by Wayne Roshaven, assisted by Sr. Vice Cmdr. Walter Scott and Jr. Vice Cmdrs. Jack McCorkle and Ken Sampson. The NGHG provides Military Honors at Veteran funerals and other services to assist at local Veteran related ceremonies. Cmdr. Roshaven welcomes all Veterans interested in becoming a member of the North Georgia Honor Guard to contact him for further information at 706-400-9095 or wroshaven@yahoo.com.

North Georgia Honor Guard participated in numerous Veteran Funerals/Memorial Services/Veteran Events in the month of December.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Donald McIntyre	07	Sidney Thompson	14	Gary Kellman	14
Thomas Reichling	16	Roy Johnson	19	Marion Israel	19
Henry Roder	21	Michael Miller	22	Randy Reynard	22
Richard Helsley	23	Glen Henderson	25		

We hope you have a great day and wish you many more happy and healthy Birthdays !!
If any birthdays are incorrect or missing please notify the Adjutant.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

ADVERTISING - We are in the process of soliciting advertisers for this newsletter which has a substantial circulation of members and non-members and growing rapidly. Our rates are extremely reasonable and for a limited time we are offering a Baker's Dozen of 13 months for the price of 12 months of business card size. The American Legion Post 121 is also accepting sponsorships for various Veteran events and activities around the community. If you know of anyone interested in advertising or event sponsorship or offering a Veteran Discount to the Veteran Community please contact the Editor with the information.

SAL of The Sons of The American Legion was created in 1932 as an organization within The American Legion. The S.A.L. is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents; grandparents; Stepparents or Step grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion. If you know someone who fits this profile and wants to join the SAL please forward and email to smstratman@legionpost121.org

RIDERS - Questions and next meeting dates concerning ALR or SAL please contact Steve Stratman at SMSTRATMAN@legionpost121.org or call 912-856-7951.

SERVICE OFFICER UPDATE

As part of a multi-year digital modernization effort, VA has reformatted VA.gov to consolidate information about VA programs. The consolidated website enables veterans to use their HealtheVets, DS Logon, or ID.me account to track the status of benefits and claims, refill prescriptions, message their doctors, and request a Veterans ID Card. Visit the [new website](#).

The Department of Defense announced annual cost of living adjustments that will benefit military retirees and survivors during calendar year 2019. Most military retirees will receive a 2.8 percent increase to their retired pay beginning with the pay they receive on Jan. 1, 2019. Likewise, survivors of members who died on active or inactive duty, or survivors of military retirees who participate in the Survivor Benefit Plan, will, in most cases, see a 2.8 percent increase to their annuities beginning in January.

Robert Spaulding, Post Service Officer of rspaulding@state.ga.us of 706-745-6341

MIAP MONTHLY UPDATE **(Missing in America Program)**

In its ten-year history, the Missing in America Project volunteers have visited 2,111 funeral homes, locating 15,145 unclaimed cremated remains of which 3,459 were Veterans and eligible dependents.

Without these hard-working volunteers, the Veterans cremains would languish on shelves in funeral homes and crematoriums for who knows how long. - Harvey Schwartz - GA. LOCAL MIAP Volunteer 404-617-0443

Veteran Discount

Support the businesses that support you! Always ask the business staff if a discount is offered to Veterans. Be sure to thank the business staff for the discount and pass the word to your fellow Veterans.

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FROM THE WEBMASTER: If you are having any problems with the website or email, please contact the assistant webmaster Nic Harwood at nharwood@legionpost121.org to get the matter taken care off.