



# **THE PATRIOT**

AMERICAN LEGION NEWSLETTER

## **Ira Weaver Post 121**

P.O. Box 247, Blairsville, Ga. 30512

Mike Ayers, Commander 678-378-4663

Dan Wickersham, Sr. Vice Cmdr. 828-342-7164

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Dan Navin, Jr. Vice Cmdr. 727-441-5253

Phil Gatlin, Chaplin 706-835-1215

APR 2019

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### **\*\* IMPORTANT \*\***

**Please provide the Post with an email address in order to continue to receive the full version of this NEWSLETTER. Thank you in advance for helping the Post save expenses.**

### **CALENDAR APR 2019**



APR 1	APRIL FOOLS DAY
APR 8	1030 HRS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 6 SAMMI SUBS
APR 14	AIR FORCE RESERVE BIRTHDAY
APR 15	FEDERAL INCOME TAX DAY
APR 16	1730 FELLOWSHIP at VETERAN'S BUILDING
	1830 MONTHLY AL MEETING at VETERAN'S BUILDING
	1830 MONTHLY AUXILLARY MEETING at VETERAN'S BLDG
APR 21	EASTER
APR 22	EARTH DAY
APR 23	ARMY RESERVE BIRTHDAY
April 24	0830 FUNERAL ESCORT FOR MIAP SOLDIER - SEE MIAP BELOW

***EDITORS NOTE: If you have calendar dates, event details, matters of interest to Members or Veterans in the community please pass them on to the Executive Committee c/o the newsletter. Thanks, Dan Navin, Editor, Jr. Vice Cmdr. - EMAIL: [ALPOST121@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ALPOST121@GMAIL.COM)***

### **COMMANDER'S CALL**

I am enclosing a current listing of events we will be a part of this year. Some of the dates may change, but this is what I have to go on at the moment. We will need volunteers to help us by working a shift. Some of the events will be us recruiting members for all the Legion Family to include the Legion, Legion Riders, Son of the American Legion, and the Auxiliary. We will be selling flags, accepting donations and answering questions. The Ramp festival and golf tournament are first and on the same day. We will need several helpers on that day. The Ramp festival last year was a success and we had folks at the booth all morning. The tournament nets us

over a \$1000 dollars last year. This money goes toward our scholarships and helps us help others throughout the year. We partner with the VA Clinic here in Blairsville by donating food at Thanksgiving and Christmas to help needy Veterans. We also donate to Shop with a Cop to help needy kids at Christmas. We will update the dates and events as we get them. Thanks all of you for your help at these events

Date	Event	Legion	ALR	SAL	Aux
5/4/2019	Golf Tournament	X			
5/4/2019	Ramp Festival	X	X	X	X
5/17/2019	Evening Dinner Cruise on Lake Nottely				
5/29/2019	Memorial Day Parade	X	X	X	X
07/20-21/2019	Butternut Creek Festival	X	X	X	X
7/00/2019	Green Bean Festival Downtown	X	X	X	X
09/01-02/2019	Mountain Heritage Festival	X	X	X	X
10/5-6/2019	Indian Summer Festival	X	X		
10/12-12/2019	Sorghum Syrup Festival Meeks Park	X	X	X	X
10/19-20/2019	Sorghum Syrup Festival Meeks Park	X	X	X	X
10/25/2019	Afternoon Leaf Cruise on Lake Nottely	X			
11/00/2019	Mistletoe Market North Ga Tech School				X
11/2/2019	Salute to Veterans at Farmer's Market	X	X	X	X
11/11/2019	Veterans Day luncheon	X	X	X	X
12/7/2019	Kris Kringle Market				X
12/7//2019	Christmas Parade				

**IMPORTANT 6 YOUR POST ADMINISTRATION NEEDS YOUR HELP**

**Election time is coming shortly and we will have a couple of openings. If you are interested in serving please let me know. We are also in need of various committee chair and committee members. The following positions are immediate critical need - Public Relations (information officer), Volunteer coordinator, Event Coordinator and Newsletter Editor. If you have an interest in any position in the Post or assisting with any position please contact one of the officers right away.**

If you are or know of a WWII Veteran, let us know, we will pay their annual dues on their behalf. We have a number already.

See you on April 16 for our Monthly meeting.

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 volunteering to help a few hours for at least one event. Looking for help: Legion Event Coordinator; Volunteer Coordinator. If we are going to continue to grow and be a positive influence in the community we need your help.

## ADJUTANT'S CORNER

Fellow Legionnaires: We need some more people to step up and get involved. Our post has grown and continues to grow. The more people that join the more work there is to do. If you can spare a few hours per week to help out, please call the commander or me. We have a few members who have still not paid their dues for 2019. We are quickly approaching the time when unpaid dues will lead to suspension of membership and a month later to cancelation. If you have not paid, please do so.

## **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

### NEW Membership Incentive Program

December 1, 2018 through May 8, 2019 National Commander Reistad's new membership incentive program offers rewards for both departments and posts. Departments will receive \$2,500 if they achieve 100% of their 2019 membership goal by the Armed Forces Day target date on May 8th, and an additional \$5,000 will be awarded to each department that hits 105% of their goal by the Delegate Strength target date. Posts will receive \$5.00 for each 2014, 2015, 2016 expired member who renews at their post for membership year 2019

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. This is to support our "not for profit" status in case of an IRS audit. 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](mailto: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.

If you ask someone to mail something to you via the Ira Weaver Post Office Box, ask them to address it to the Post, with attn: your name on it. The Post Office has a new procedure where they want the name of everyone who receives mail in our PO Box listed. This has not been a problem, but just in case. Do not have mail sent to our PO Box address to your name. Let me know if you are expecting something, and I will make sure it gets to the right party. As far as I know, this has not been a problem in the past.

Jack Waters, Adjutant

## MINUTES OF MARCH 2019 MEETING

**Ira Weaver American Legion Post 121**

**Blairsville, Georgia**

**Date: 19 MAR 2019**

Call to Order: Commander Mike Ayers called the regular monthly meeting of the Ira Weaver Post to order at 1930 hours.

Officers: Commander: Mike Ayers U.S.A.

Senior Vice Commander: Dan Wickersham U.S.A.

Junior Vice Commander Dan Navin U.S.A.

Finance Officer: Ron Tanner U.S.A.F.

Adjutant: C. J. [Jack] Waters U.S.A. [Absent]

Judge Advocate Roy Bateman U.S.N. [Acting Adjutant]

Chaplain: Phil Gatlin U.S.A.F.

Post Service Officer Robert Spaulding; U.S.A.F. [Absent]

Sergeant at Arms: Roger Harkins U.S.M.C. [Absent]

Historian/P.I.O.: N/A

Webmaster N/A

**Prayer by Chaplain Gatlin**

**Pledge to the flag**

**Reciting of the American Legion Preamble**

**In the absence of Adjutant Waters the minutes are taking by acting adjutant Bateman.**

**There was no roll call taken but a quorum was present.**

**Financial Report – Finance Officer Tanner Approved as printed. A copy is available.**

**Name Tags was discussed with permanent tags to be available in the future.**

**Introduction of Dan Wickersham as the new Sr. Vice Commander who introduced Jack Payne who spoke on the battle for Iwo Jima along with the showing of a painting of the USS Texas which took part in the bombardment of the island. His father was an 18 year old sailor aboard this ship. Speech was well received by those present.**

**Sr. Vice Wickersham updated the post of the May 4<sup>th</sup> Golf Tournament.**

**Scholarship Committee Chairman Cataldo updated the post on this year's scholarships**

**Chaplain Gatlin updated the post on his visits with WWII Veterans in the Nursing Home and Stonehenge.**

**New Business:**

**Commander asked for volunteers to assist with the Ramp Festival May 4, 2019 at the Farmer Market, Memorial Day Parade , May 29, 2019.**

**Announcement: There will be 2 Lake Nottely Cruises this year, a dinner Cruise, May 17, 2019, cost \$40.00 per person and a Leaf Cruise on October 25, 2019 cost \$30.00, no dinner served**

**Commander Ayers reported that the post has 4 positions that leadership**

- 1. Historian**
- 2. Membership Coordinator**
- 3. Events Coordinator**
- 4. P/R Person**

**Building Committee Chairman Hoibraten updated the post with announcements where veterans can receive assistance. A Veterans day celebration to take place at Trackrock Campgrounds on June 1, 2019, all veterans and families are welcome. A veterans day parade was announced to take place on the Saturday before veterans day in Murphy, NC.**

**Chaplain Gatlin led in prayer to end the meeting.**

**There being no further business to come before the post Commander Ayers adjourned the meeting at 17:30 PM hours.**

Mike Ayers Commander

Roy Bateman, Acting Adjutant

### CHAPLIN'S CORNER

Your chaplain is very pleased to announce that William (Montana) and Joy Mormur have volunteered to assist me in expanding the availability and services of the Post 121 Chaplain's duties. They have already made hospital and home-bound visits and their enthusiasm is exciting and appreciated. We are now a "team" and our desire is to serve the members of Post 121. We would like to hear from you with any suggestion(s) you may

have on what we can do to expand and/or improve our service to the membership. Once again, please welcome Montana and Joy as their desire is to serve you and allow the Chaplain's office to meet the varied needs (prayer, visits, counseling, etc.) of our veterans.

**VETERAN MEMBER OF OUR POST IS IN IMMEDIATE NEED**

Our very own Sgt. at Arms, Roger Harkins is in URGENT NEED of assistance moving some personal items from his house in order to make the house more accessible for his wife who is seriously ill. Anyone who has a pickup truck and can help him ASAP please call Roger directly at 706-487-4187. Roger would be very grateful.

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.

Philip (Phil) Gatlin 678-232-1771 - [nasa428@windstream.net](mailto: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](mailto:wroshaven@yahoo.com).

**North Georgia Honor Guard East Division participated in numerous Veteran Funerals/Memorial Services/Veteran Events in the month of January.**

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Clyde Gurley	01	Larry Martel	02	Richard Lamarre	03
Jack Reeves	07	Elmer Maddox	10	Gary Vandergrift	11
Larry Fenton	12	Hubert Jones	14	Brenda Johnson	14
Donald Sullivan**	16	Anthony Turek	17	Larry Maes	17
Bill Kolb	18	Charles Killian	20	Charles Ferrara	25
David Haynes	29	Roger Harkins *	29		

\*\* Past Cmdr. \*Sgt. At Arms

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**

**9<sup>th</sup> District Annual Convention – Duluth Post 251:**

The 2019 9<sup>th</sup> District Convention to be held in Duluth and currently set for **Sunday May 5th at 10:00 am**. We will elect the 2019-2020 District Officers and Delegates to the 2019 National Convention in Indianapolis.

**District 9 Membership:**

We are currently at 88% of our goal. We are some 700 members short of making our 100% goal. Please continue to get those renewals and new members.

**POST 121 LAKE NOTTELY CRUISE EVENTS 2019**  
**SAVE THE DATES**

**Make your reservations early**

**POST 121 LAKE NOTELY SPRING FLING CRUISE – only \$40 per person**

**MAY 17 Evening Cruise – Leaving from Nottely Marina – rain date to be determined**

**Board at 5:45 PM (1745 hrs) – Leave the dock at 6:00 PM (1800 hrs) - Return at 8:30 PM (2030 hrs)**

**Sandwiches, chips and soft drink or water included.**

**Nottely Marine, Inc. is providing 6 boats (54 passengers), ice and fuel at no cost to the Post**

**We will cruise from the Marina to the Dam, stopping to eat, and returning to the Marina.**

**POST 121 LAKE NOTTELY AUTUMN COLORS CRUISE – only \$30 per person**

**October 25 Afternoon Cruise – Leaving from Nottely Marina – rain date October 26**

**Board at 12:00 Noon (1200 hrs) - Return at 3:00 PM (1500 hrs) – Water only - NO FOOD**

**Nottely Marine, Inc. is providing 6 boats (54 passengers) and fuel at no cost to the Post**

**We will cruise from the Marina to near the Dam and returning to the Marina.**

**Thank you Moriah, Nottely Marine Inc.**

**Letter from Geoff Toman, former Dist. 9 Commander**

Hi Mike,

I'm writing to let you and your Post members know that my wife and I are moving to a Retirement Community in Columbus, NC (just south of Asheville) on May 7th. I also want to thank everyone for their service to the American Legion. I have enjoyed visiting with you at every meeting I ever came to. From the very first Commander I met, Richard Hoibraten all the way to you it has been exciting to see the success of Post 121. Even today you are 30 members over goal and 126%. Jack must be beating the bushes for members.

I also want to give you some Legislative news. Take a look at Senate Bill 504 and HR Bill 1641. Introduced by Senator Kyrsten Sinema, a Democrat from Arizona these bills have to do with eliminating the war time period dates that veterans must have served in to be eligible to belong to the American Legion. Once these bills pass eligible dates will go from 1915 all the way to today. Those veterans previously ineligible to belong can now join up.

You can help make this a reality. We are asking members to contact their Senators and Congressmen and ask them to become co-sponsors of this legislation. A simple phone call will do, or a letter will certainly go a long way to get them to join on. These are exciting times and once complete will swell the membership of our organization.

Best wishes to everyone and thanks again for making me feel so welcomed at Post 121 all these years.

Geoff Toman,  
Jr Vice Commander  
Dept of Georgia

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

All Veterans, Veteran Organizations and patriotic individuals are invited, to be part of the internment, with Full Military Honors, for Unclaimed Cremains of 1 United States Air Force Veteran. His remains will be escorted to the Georgia National Cemetery.

All motorcycles and vehicles are invited to participate.

**Wednesday April 24, 2019**

Staging Area: Mountain View Funeral Home,  
119 Murphy Hwy, Blairsville, GA 30512

Arrive no later than 8:15 am, Ride Briefing 8:30 am

Funeral escort will depart at 9:00 am for Georgia National Cemetery

**1080 Scott Hudgens Dr, Canton, GA 30114**

Arriving at Georgia National at approximately: 10:30 am

Funeral Service will commence at: 11:00 am

You are welcome to meet at the cemetery, no later than 11:00 am

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. - Daniel J. Poirier (770-377-2377) Georgia State Coordinator-Missing In America Project.

For more information, please contact:

Daniel Poirier, Georgia State Coordinator MIAP

770.377.2377. or email [miaga30512@gmail.com](mailto:miaga30512@gmail.com)

For any time changes please check our Website: [MIAP.US](http://MIAP.US)

**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 [alpost121@gmail.com](mailto:alpost121@gmail.com)

**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 HealthVets, 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 ó rspaulding@state.ga.us ó 706-745-6341

### **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.**



### **WHO WE ARE:**

\*The American Legion was founded in March 1919 in Paris, France, by U.S. World War I military personnel stationed there who were dedicated to four pillars of service and advocacy: veterans, military personnel, youth and patriotic values.

\*The American Legion today consists of 55 departments in each of the 50 states as well as the District of Columbia, France, Mexico, the Philippines and Puerto Rico. There are approximately 13,000 local posts worldwide.

\*Current national membership is about 2 million. Combined with the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion, membership in what is known as the American Legion Family exceeds 3 million.

\*American Legion membership is open to military personnel and veterans who have served their nation on active duty during wartime. Eligibility has been open to all who have served on active duty since Aug. 2, 1990, the beginning of continuous U.S. armed conflict in the Middle East and other locations around the planet.

\*The Legion has been instrumental in the creation of a number of major institutions of American society, including formation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, creation of U.S. Flag Code, passage of the GI Bill and more.

### **WHAT WE DO:**

American Legion posts annually:

\*\*Donate more than 3.7 million hours of volunteer service in their communities

\*\*Provide assistance on more than 181,000 VA benefits claims and cases

\*\*Donate more than 80,000 pints of blood to collection centers nationwide, which makes the Legion the nation's single largest blood donor

\*\*Awards more than 8,000 medals to Junior ROTC students

\*\*Sponsors more than 2,500 Scouting units serving more than 64,000 young people

\*\*Awards more than \$4 million in college scholarships

The American Legion is marking its 100th anniversary with a 15-month celebration running from the national convention in August 2018 through Veterans Day 2019.



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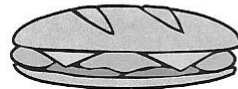
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**AMERICAN LEGION POST 121**  
**Blairsville, GA**

Call or Email the Editor for advertising information and Special Events Sponsorships

**FROM THE WEBMASTER:** If you are having any problems with the website or email, please contact the Webmaster alpost121@gmail.com to get the matter taken care off.

**2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL  
AMERICAN LEGION  
POST 121  
GOLF TOURNEMENT**



MAY 4, 2019 - 9 AM START TIME ó Best Ball ó Shotgun Start

**OLD UNION GOLF COURSE**

78 Scores Point, Blairsville, GA 30512

706-745-4653

CALL TO RESERVE A PLACE FOR YOU OR YOUR TEAM

\$65 per player or \$260 4 player team

Includes lunch and gift bag

Proceeds assist Union County veterans and provide scholarships for children of Union County veterans

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\$200 SECOND PLACE  
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CLOSEST TO THE PIN  
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Come out enjoy the day, play golf,  
spend time with friends AND HELP VETERANS

American Legion Post 121, PO Box 247 78 Old Blue Ridge Highway,  
Blairsville, GA 30512