

2024 Post 237 Events

A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner of the slide, consisting of several overlapping, parallel lines in shades of blue and grey, creating a sense of depth and movement.

Outdoor Patio Completion



Left: Picture of the new outdoor patio. Fans are hung, tables and chairs and heaters are ready to go!

Right: Commander Jerry Phelps and 3rd Vice Commander Bob Waszniewski assembling heaters for the new outdoor patio.

Backpacks for the Homeless

The 2023 Backpacks for Homeless Veterans project has concluded. The Post collected items and filled over 100 backpacks with essential cold weather and personal hygiene supplies to help our homeless brothers and sisters survive the winter months. Some backpacks were shared with other Posts in District 12 so they could be handed out to homeless veterans in nearby North Alabama communities. Club Manager, Anna Marie Wasniewski, and a team of volunteers from Post 237 including Colleen Copeland, Carolyn Decker and Christie and Tom Paone distributed backpacks, tarps, blankets, shirts, jackets underwear and various other items to Huntsville homeless at First Stop on Stokes Ave. and at the homeless camp on Derrick Street. The recipients were very grateful for the generosity of our Post membership.



500th Funeral Service for Earl Hokanson

Earl Hokanson Thank You!

We are very appreciative for the leadership that Earl Hokanson has provided as the Commander of the American Legion Huntsville Alabama Post 237 Honor Guard. On January 13th Earl participated in his 500th funeral service honoring veterans who have passed on.



Volunteers of America Donation

Volunteers of America Donation

At the end of 2023, while we were busy collecting, sorting and packing items in backpacks for our homeless brothers and sisters an urgent request was brought to our attention by one of our members Ms. Miriam Umbaugh. The Volunteers of America home in Scottsboro was in desperate need of towels, washcloths, and personal hygiene items for its residents. We were fortunate to have a surplus of body wash items and some surplus towels among the homeless collection but not near enough to address the needs of the VOA residents. So, moneys were collected via 50/50 drawings at bar bingo and other venues and Anna Marie Wasniewski bought the required items. Miriam and Brenda Holden delivered the items before Christmas! Below is a heartfelt thank you note to the Post from Miriam.

The License Plates Are Back

Since the COVID shutdown when the license plates were taken down they have been boxed up in storage. Third Vice Commander, Bob Wasniewski, decided it was time to put them back on the wall. There are currently 280 to 290 license plates that have been collected from other American Legion Posts and Legion dignitaries. Bob cleaned and hung the plates on the walls around the pool table and behind the big TV on the backside of the Canteen. They look great and many of our longtime members who were involved in collecting the plates are very happy with the results. Bob also recently installed new blinds on the windows in the Canteen. Thank you Bob for all the hard work you are doing to improve our Post.



Improvements: Paving the Annex Road, Recovering Pool Tables, New Electronic Bugle

Sometimes it is difficult to keep up with all the improvements that are taking place at Post 237. The pool tables were getting ragged and Ralph Miller requested that the club get them recovered. It was completed this week.

Thanks to Councilman Bill Kling and some persistent hounding by Jerry Phelps and Brad Mayo the city finally repaved Cobb Road and Colonial Park Circle leading to the Bingo Annex.

The electronic bugle that the Honor Guard uses for funeral and flag ceremonies was in poor condition and a new one was needed. Randy Gray and Mark Utter raised funds through a half and half drawing at Bar Bingo to purchase a new \$580 bugle. Pictured below are the newly paved Colonial Park Circle and the new electronic bugle on the recovered pool table.



2024 Madison County Oratorical Contest

The Madison County Oratorical Contest was conducted on February 10, 2024. Winners were: Thomas Fleming (1st place \$500), Emily Dutton (2nd place \$300), Ausjua Wilson (3rd place \$200). Other contestants were: Vachan Karcki and Mary Katherine Fleming.. Tom Hartley, Brad Mayo, and Jack Lafountain, judged the county contest, Tom and Thad Paone served as tabulators, and Jerry Phelps served as an escort. The District 12 contest will be conducted on March 2nd at 10 AM at Madison City Hall on Hughes Rd. Division contest is scheduled for March 24th, Department Contest is March 30th. Pictured below are the contestants, parents, and guests at the Madison County Oratorical Contest.



American Legion Birthday



Above: Auxiliary President Sherry Schroen cuts the American Legion Birthday cake at the March Membership Meeting.

Auxiliary Craft Fair

**Saturday April 20, 2024
10AM until 3PM**

**American Legion Post 237
2900 Drake Ave. SW, HSV**



Vendors Welcome!

Display and sell your crafts. \$20 per table.

To reserve a table call:

Tanya Phelps 256-783-5903

Setup at 8:30AM.

Come and support your Auxiliary!

**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**

Haircuts by Alyse Sena

Alyse Sena, one of our Legionnaires and an accomplished hair stylist, has volunteered to provide free haircuts on the first Saturday of each month from noon until 3PM at American Legion Post 237. So, whether you need a little trim or a full-fledged haircut come by on April 6th and Alyse will fix you up!



The Madison County Oratorical Contest was conducted on February 10, 2024. Winners were: Thomas Fleming (1st place \$500), Emily Dutton (2nd place \$300), Ausjua Wilson (3rd place \$200). Other contestants were: Vachan Karcki and Mary Katherine Fleming. Danny Marr served as emcee. From Post 237, Tom Hartley, Brad Mayo, and Jack Lafountain, served as judges, Tom and Thad Paone served as tabulators, and Jerry Phelps served as an escort.

The District 12 contest was conducted on March 2nd at 10 AM at Madison City Hall. Alan Chambers, Division 1 Commander, served as contest emcee. First place was awarded to Thomas Fleming, second place was Vivian Grace Moody, and third place was David Hooker. From Post 237, Jerry and Tanya Phelps served as timekeepers and Jack Lafountain and Tom Paone served as tabulators.

Thomas Fleming won the Division 1 contest on March 16th and will compete in the Department of Alabama Contest on March 30th. Prizes at the department level are \$2500, \$1500, and \$1000 for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. The National contest is at Hillsdale College May 17th through May 19th. Prizes at the national level are \$25000, \$22500, and \$20000 for first through third places and \$2000 for each certified state winner.

Pictured below are the contestants and parents at the District 12 Oratorical Contest.



District 12 Oratorical
Contest

**Pictures from the
Vietnam Veterans Pinning Ceremony
March 30th, Redstone Arsenal**



Girl Scout Cookie Care Package Donation

April 10, 2024 GIRL SCOUT COOKIE CARE PACKAGE(S)

Jean Downs of AMERICAN LEGION POST 229 AUXILIARY donated nine cases of Girl Scout Cookies from her Madison Service Unit for deployed military soldiers care packages. The cookies were delivered to Post 237 Adjutant for distribution assistance.

Andralee Norman, daughter of Post 237 SAL Joe Norman, volunteered to deliver the cookies to her National Guard Unit, 490th CBRN Battalion, Anniston, Alabama on April 13, 2024. The First Sergeant will oversee the shipment of Girl Scout Cookies to 287th Transportation Company currently in Poland and 414th Chemical, Company, currently in Syria.

Reported by Mary McCoy, Post 237 Adjutant



Cinco de Mayo meets Bar Bingo

Bar Bingo has become a favorite **social** activity for many of our members. Along with the many **fabulous prizes** and the assistance of the **Bingo Babes**, patrons enjoy sharing some of their favorite **snacks** and **drink specials**. On Easter Sunday bingo players dressed in their Easter bonnets and bunny ears and earned extra bingo cards. Come out and join the fun on Sundays from noon until 2PM for free Bar Bingo! Celebrate Cinco de Mayo at Bar Bingo. Wear Mexican garb and get extra bingo cards!



Department of Alabama High School Oratorical Contest

The Department of Alabama American Legion announces the winner of the 2024 State Oratorical Scholarship, Prattville High School senior, Mr. Caden Walker. The contest was held on Saturday, March 30th, at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Competing against finalists from Hoover and Huntsville, Alabama, Walker displayed exceptional oratory skills securing his spot as the state champion. Mr. Walker impressed the judges with his prepared oration, "The Constitution- Literated, Lived and Learned". Securing second place was Ms. Baylin Murphy and placing third was Mr. Thomas Fleming, the 2023 Boys State Governor from Huntsville.

Mr. Walker now advances to the national stage, where he will represent The Department of Alabama against the best and brightest orators from across the nation and six foreign countries. The winner will receive \$25,000 scholarship.

The American Legion National Oratorical competition is scheduled to take place at Hillsdale College, Hillsdale Michigan, May 17-19, 2024.

Pictured below are the Department contestants and Commanders Marsh and Madden..





Pictures from the
VSO Open House
April 27, 2024

Comedy Show and Dinner

Arizona Lou performed his Veterans Appreciation Tour Comedy Show on Saturday, May 25th at 7PM in the non-smoking Ballroom. The few folks that attended enjoyed some laughs and a delicious fried chicken dinner.





PFC Noah C. Reeves

PFC Noah C. Reeves, 26, of Lawrence County finally returned home to North Alabama after 80 years. PFC Reeves was 25 years old and serving as a forward scout when he was killed in action on December 6, 1944, in Vossenack, Germany during World War II. His remains were recently identified and returned home to his family on Thursday, April 25, 2024. Mr. Reeves' remains were met at the Birmingham airport by Honor Guard members from North Alabama American Legion Posts and were escorted to Lawrence Funeral Home in Moulton. Veterans posted an Honor Guard for PFC Reeves' remains as he laid in state until his funeral on Monday, April 29, 2024. Sam Scruggs represented Post 237 at this most solemn observance.



Van Donation

Commander Phelps presenting the Title, Bill-of-Sale and keys to Post 114, and 13th District Commander Kenneth Cook, to our old Honor Guard Van.



Memorial Day 2024

Well over 100 Legion Family members visited the Post on Memorial Day, Monday May 27th. Hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, and baked beans were provided by the Post. Seating was available in the canteen and the patio as well as the non-smoking ballroom. The Post 237 Honor Guard and Post Commander participated in the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in downtown Huntsville. More pictures on page 15.



2024 Alabama Boys State



Boys State is a unique summer program designed to train our youth in the ideals and objectives of American government through hands on experience and participation in a model state government. Along with the educational, leadership, and social benefits that Boys State offers, there is a long list of college scholarships available to participants.

Male students enrolled in high school or home school are eligible at the conclusion of their junior year. Students must have the approval of their school administration.

The 2024 Alabama Boys State Convention was held at Troy University, Troy, Alabama, May 26 through June 1, 2024. The Madison County Boys State Orientation was held at the Post 237 Annex on May 16th. Yancy Mitchell, Dean of Boys State Counselors, Thomas Fleming, Governor, Landon Bruski, Lt. Governor, and Matthew Heiliger from the 2023 Boys State class provided commentary on how to prepare for the convention. We appreciate the efforts of the following volunteers who assisted with the orientation: Jerry, and Billy Phelps, Christie, Kim, Thad, Erin and Jacob Paone, Alyse Sena, George Nobles, William Sundquest, and Brad Mayo,

This year Post 237 sponsored 5 Madison County students in need of financial assistance. We also provided round trip bus transportation for delegates to and from the Boys State Convention. Legionnaire Gordon Benton assisted us by obtaining a cost-effective option for bus transportation from his employer, First Student, this year.

Contributed by Tom Paone



Pictures from the VSO Open House April 27, 2024



Memorial Day at Post 237



INSTALLATION OF 2024 – 2025 OFFICERS

At the June 17th Membership meeting the following Post Officers were installed by Past Post Commander Billy Heatherly:

Jerry Phelps	Commander
Rob Satterwhite	1st Vice Commander
Tom Paone	2nd Vice Commander
Bob Wasniewski	3rd Vice Commander
Bill Pond	Chaplain
Ken Carpenter	Historian
Cody Klinner	Sergeant-At-Arms
Robert Barnett	1 Year Trustee
Don Pinkerton	2 Year Trustee
Brad Mayo	3 Year Trustee

The following Officers were appointed by Commander Jerry Phelps:

Mary McCoy	Adjutant
Jack La Fountain	Finance Officer
KenVining	Service Officer
Billy Heatherly	Judge Advocate
Tom Hartley	ROTC Liaison





Honor Guard Van

Due to the generous donations, the Honor Guard was able to get a new van. The new van is a 2019 Ford Transit 150 Wagon. We received many donations, but the two largest benefactors were Frank Williams from Landers McCarty Dodge and Landers McCarty Subaru along with the Redstone Federal Credit Union. Barnes Signs put a wrap on the van, noting the American Legion Honor Guard Post 237. Also, our two largest benefactors' names are noted on the van. We also want to thank Tom Hartley who sent out dozens of letters asking for donations. Due to those letters, we received donations which helped to purchase the van.

Post 237 American Legion Baseball Season

Post 237's U19 American Legion Baseball Team for 2024 concluded their season as Alabama state runner-up. Coach Rick Bragg's team competed in the American Legion State Tournament from July 19th through July 21st and was defeated by Troy Post 70 by a score of 7-3 in the final game. This is the first year that Post 237 fielded a team at the U19 level and have several younger player who are 15 and 16 years old.

Over the June 28th through June 30th weekend the Post 237 Baseball team won the Smokies Summer Slam at Smokies Stadium by scores of 7-1, 6-5, and 12-0 and won the final game by a score of 7-2. Riley Friend, Finn Steeles, and Ethan Johnson led the way at the plate, batting over .500. Evan Nelson lead pitchers with 9 strikeouts and the defense was on point. Congratulations on a great season!

2024 Season Schedule:

Jun 4 6/8:30PM @ Central High Florence, AL
 Jun 11 6/8:30PM Post 31 @ John Hunt Park
 Jun 14-16 TBD @ NE Mississippi Community College
 Jun 18 6/8 PM @ Red Bay HS
 Jun 19 6/8 PM vs. Post 229 @ John Hunt Park
 Jun 21-23 TBD Troy University Showcase Troy, AL
 Jun 25 6/8 PM @ Colbert Tuscumbia, AL
 Jun 28-30 TBD @ Smokies Stadium Kodak, TN
 Jul 1-8 OFF – Possible Workouts
 Jul 9 6/8 PM vs. Red Bay @ John Hunt Park
 Jul 10 6/8 PM @ Post 229 Bob Jones HS
 Jul 12 TBD @ John Hunt Park Huntsville, AL
 Jul 19-21 State Tournament Tuscaloosa, AL



2024 Post 237 Team at Alabama State Tournament

2024 Team Roster

- 0 Skyler Jean
- 1 Evan Nelson
- 2 Trey Perkins
- 3 Riley Friend
- 4 Nolan Walker
- 5 Peyton Haskins
- 8 Evan Russell
- 10 Dustin Zebrook
- 11 Finn Steele
- 12 Samuel Novak
- 14 Ethan Towry
- 16 Cloe Clinard
- 17 Alex Cook
- 19 Austin Uptain
- 20 Ethan Johnson
- 23 Auden Kohler
- 24 Cael Coufal
- 32 Salem Lee
- 55 Nigel Tatum

Manager: Rick Bragg
 Coaches: Dewayne Friend
 Tyler Lowman
 Austin Miller



Coach Bragg with 2024 Alabama Runner Up Trophy



Meeting on the mound.



Smokies Summer Slam Champions!

Thank You to
First Student Inc.



At the August Membership Meeting First Student Inc. representatives along with Legionnaire Gordon Benton were presented with plaques in appreciation of their support of the Madison County Boys State program.

Carport for Honor Guard Van



The Huntsville Alabama Post 237 Honor Guard has purchased and installed a carport to protect their new van. The carport is located along the back row of the Post 237 parking lot.

Thank You Jodie Spears



Post Commander Jerry Phelps honored Jodie Spears with a plaque commemorating his many years of support for Post 237 and for our veteran community. **Thank you Jodie!**

Honor Guard Donation



At the September 16th Membership Meeting Robert Barnett, Post 237 1 Year Trustee and Post 237 North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition (NAVFOC) representative, awarded a check for \$500 from NAVFOC to Earl Hokanson, Commander of the American Legion Huntsville Alabama Post 237 Honor Guard.

Lunch on
Football
Saturdays!

Around the Post



College football season is off to a big start. We are cooking up lunch in the social quarters on Saturdays from 11:30 until 1PM. Watch an early game then stick around for the headliners later in the day. On September 28th a large crowd watched the Auburn vs. Oklahoma game and then "tailgated" indoors for the Alabama vs. Georgia contest.



**American Legion
Riders 237 Capture
Decatur Post 15
Plaque**

On Saturday, October 26th
the Post 237 Riders
Squadron captured the
Decatur Post 15 Riders
Plaque. The Post 237
Riders are pictured to the
left.

Pictures from Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 5th



Flat Top Jones Band



Flat Top Jones, featuring lead singer Ariel Bumbalough, performed in the ballroom on Tuesday, October 11th. A large crowd was in attendance and everyone enjoyed the show.

Veterans Day 2024



American Legion car leads the way!



Commander Phelps pulling the Post 237 float.



Post 237 Legion Riders.



Honor Guard Van under way!



Auxiliary, SAL, and Legionnaires on the Post 237 float.



Joe Norman cooking burgers and hot dogs.

Honor Guard Recognition

At the November Membership Meeting Honor Guard Commander Earl Hokanson displayed the plaque that was awarded to the Post 237 Honor Guard by American Legion Post 351. The award recognized the continued effort of the Post 237 Honor Guard in honoring North Alabama veterans at their funeral services and the Honor Guards' support of patriotic community events.



Korean War Veterans Recognition Event

On Sunday, November 17th Bill Pond, Post 237 Chaplain, hosted a Korean War Veteran Recognition Event in the Post 237 ballroom. Korean War Veterans along with their family members were honored at the event.



Pictures from the Post 237 Christmas Party - December 21st



**Holiday Fun at
the Employee
and Volunteer
Christmas Party
12/12/24**



Children's Christmas Pancake Breakfast with Santa

Santa and elves Alyse and Erin visited the Post on Saturday, December 7th to pass out toys and share pancake breakfast with good little girls and boys and their parents and grandparents. Thanks to all of Santa's helpers who helped make this event a success including Anna Marie and Bob Wasniewski, Justin Gragg, Thad and Erin Paone, Alyse Sena, Christie and Tom Paone, Beverly Du Four, and Colleen Copeland.



The Philippine American Association of Alabama Christmas Carolers directed by Lizeth Benton sang beautiful holiday favorites at Post 237 following Bar Bingo on December 1st and again at the Employee and Volunteer Christmas Party on December 12th. They are a fun loving and talented group who introduced the audience to Pasko Na Naman (It's Christmas Time Again) a Filipino favorite. The audience joined in singing different parts of the Twelve Days of Christmas.



