# ROLL CALL

## Clayton E. Moneymaker American Legion Post 237

*Alabama's Largest American Legion Post*

**Volume 26, Issue 6** **June 2026**

**2900 Drake Ave. SW, Huntsville, AL 35805** **256-883-9911**

## Commander's Corner

### Turn the Page

In two weeks Post 237 will install a new cadre of officers who will lead us into 2027 and beyond. I am excited about the talented Legionnaires who are assuming new offices at the Post and I hope each will write a short article in a future newsletter introducing themselves and laying out their vision for their office. Here is a glimpse into what I know of these dedicated Legionnaires.

Jack Lafountain, our new Commander, has served as the Post Finance Officer for the past several years. He has a firm grasp on the business side of our Post and vigorously supports veterans and our community.

Doyle Combs, our new First Vice Commander is a transfer from Florida where he served as Post and District Commander. He is already brainstorming with other Legionnaires on how to attract younger veterans to the Legion.

Alyse Sena is moving from Service Officer to Third Vice Commander, Her enthusiasm and energy will continue to make the canteen a fun and welcoming environment.

Chris Whisenant was elected Three Year Trustee. Chris is involved in the Legion Riders and he volunteered to run security at the annex when the Post was still doing bingo. ->

Linda Jennings will be taking on the finance office. Linda has an accounting education and years of managerial experience. She has been working as Assistant Finance Officer preparing for a smooth transition.

The new officers will be bolstered by our incumbant officers including the Second Vice Commander, Sergeant At Arms, Historian, Chaplain, and Trustees. Commander Lafountain will also be tasked with appointing the Adjutant, Judge Advocate, and Service Officer.

It is up to us as Legion family members to get to know, assist, and stand behind these individuals who commit their time and invest in the future of our Post.

I want to thank each of you for your support over the last year and would especially like to thank the officers who served with me and the employees and staff of our Post for their dedication and hard work.

*Tom Paone, Post 237 Commander*

### Membership Dinner and Meeting

**Beginning June 15, 2026, the monthly Membership Dinner will start at 5 PM and the Legion General Membership Meeting will start at 6 PM. The time change is a result of Amendment 1 to the Post Constitution and By-Laws which allowed the membership to set the time of the monthly meeting and the unanimous vote for the time change at the May meeting.**

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## Post Election Results

The Legion election was held on May 18th, and installation will occur at the June 15th Membership Meeting. The 2026-2027 elected officers are:

| | |
|---|---|
| Commander | Jack Lafountain |
| 1st Vice Commander | Doyle Combs |
| 2nd Vice Commander | Kim Smith |
| 3rd Vice Commander | Alyse Sena |
| 1 Year Trustee | Brad Mayo |
| 2 Year Trustee | John Szelich |
| 3 Year Trustee | Chris Whisenant |
| Historian | Ken Carpenter |
| Chaplain | Bill Pond |
| Sergeant At Arms | Cody Klinner |
| Finance Officer | Linda Jennings |

## Flag Pickups

5/30 0900 Maple Hill Cemetary
5/30 1100 Huntsville Memory Gardens

## CLAYTON E. MONEYMAKER AMERICAN LEGION POST 237

| | |
|---|---|
| Jerry Phelps | Past Commander |
| Tom Paone | Commander |
| Brian Stephens | 1st Vice Commander |
| Kim Smith | 2nd Vice Commander |
| Bob Wasniewski | 3rd Vice Commander |
| Mary McCoy | Adjutant |
| Jack LaFountain | Finance Officer |
| Bill Pond | Chaplain |
| Alyse Sena | Service Officer |
| Ken Carpenter | Historian |
| Cody Klinner | Sergeant-At-Arms |
| Tom Hartley | Judge Advocate |
| Don Pinkerton | 1 Year Trustee |
| Brad Mayo | 2 Year Trustee |
| John Szelich | 3 Year Trustee |
| Tom Hartley | ROTC Liaison |
| Steve Bowling | S.A.L. Commander |
| Thad Paone | S.A.L. Adjutant |
| Steve Bowling | Legion Riders Director |
| Tanya Phelps | Auxiliary President |
| Anna Marie Wasniewski | Club Manager |
| Earl Hokanson | Honor Guard Commander |

### Executive Committee

Jerry Phelps, Tom Paone, Mary McCoy, Ken Carpenter, Cody Klinner, Bill Pond, Brian Stephens, Tom Hartley, Bob Wasniewski, Don Pinkerton, John Szelich, Brad Mayo, Jack LaFountain, Alyse Sena, and Kim Smith.

### House Committee

Bob and Anna Marie Wasniewski, Ralph Miller, Colleen Copeland, Mark Utter, Joe Norman, John Schantz, Steve Bowling, Ken Reisenweber, Joyce Hampton, Beverly DuFour, and Howard Krueger.

### Finance Committee

Jack LaFountain, Tom Paone, Mary McCoy, John Szelich, Don Pinkerton, Brad Mayo, Bob Wasniewski, and Anna Marie Wasniewski.


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"The Clayton E. Moneymaker American Legion Post 237"

**Newsletter Contact:** newsletter@legion237.com


**Newsletter Archive:**
http://www.legion237.com/index.php?id=126

**Printed copies of the current newsletter are available in the Social Quarters.**

## Auxiliary Update

The 2026-2027 election was held on Monday, May 18th. The new unit officers are:

| | |
|---|---|
| **President** | **Sherry Schroen** |
| **Secretary/Treasurer** | **Joyce Hampton** |
| **Sgt at Arms** | **Sherry Hokanson** |
| **Chaplain** | **Peggy Steelman** |
| **Members at Large** | **Sheila Lemley** |
| | **Rita Mayo** |
| | **Susie Bowling** |

## Upcoming Meetings

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6/3 | Finance Committee | 2 PM |
| 6/4 | Sons of the American Legion Meeting | 6 PM |
| 6/7 | District 12 Meeting – Cleveland, AL | 1 PM |
| 6/9 | House Committee | 6 PM |
| 6/10 | Executive Committee | 6 PM |
| 6/10 | Communications & Americanism Cte. | 7 PM |
| 6/15 | Membership Dinner | 5 PM |
| 6/15 | Membership Meeting | 6 PM |

The online version of the Redstone Rocket is available here:
https://www.theredstonerocket.com/eedition/

## Haircuts at the Post

Alyse Sena will be doing haircuts in the meeting room on the first and third Saturdays, 6/6 and 6/20, 1pm-4pm.

## Texas Hold'em Fundraiser

**Come and play in the Texas Hold'em fundraiser every Tuesday at 6 PM in the canteen. Funds raised benefit charitable projects throughout the year.**

**Come on down and join in the fun!**

## From the Adjutant's Desk

**Mary McCoy**
**Post Adjutant**

**ADJUTANT OFFICE HOURS:**
**Monday through Friday**
**11:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.**

Dues Year 2027 begins July 1, 2026. Dues paid by October 19th General Membership Meeting will qualify for the Free Early Bird Dinner at 5:00 p.m. General Membership Meeting starts at 6:00 p.m.

General Membership Meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Monday evenings. This time is your opportunity to express your opinion on how your Post provides you, the members, and your family, a place to enjoy good food and good company. Post By-Laws, Article II, Section 4 state: "the final and ruling voice of authority in all management affairs pertaining to the Post shall be the general membership…".

Volunteers are needed to support The American Legion Americanism Programs by performing Buddy Checks via phone call or emailing 10 members (or more) of the American Legion Post 237 to say hello, how are you doing, and is there any way we may assist you. One thing you may ask them is to provide a missing phone number, email address or date of birth for their membership records.

**Join us for Bunco Night on June 16th at 6:30 PM in the ballroom.**

# UGLY WALK

**Hosted by The Clayton E. Moneymaker American Legion Post 237**

🗓️ **Date: June 13, 2026**
⏰ **Time: 5:00 PM**
📍 **Location: American Legion Post 237**

Get ready for the most outrageous, hilarious, and unforgettable night!

Come laugh, support a great cause, and embrace the ugly

## Don't miss it... because honestly...
## IT IS WHAT IT IS

Prizes for "Ugliest Outfit"
Music & Entertainment
Food & Drinks Available

BBQ Plates will be available from noon until 4 PM,
Price will be $8.00

***No contestant can contribute more than $20 to their jar!**
**NO PHOTOS SHARING!!!!!**

📞 **Contact:**
**Lana: (256) 426-4050**

## 2027 Legion Riders Chapter 237 Officers

| | |
|---|---|
| **Director:** | **Jason Connelly** |
| **Assistant Director:** | **Steve Bowling** |
| **Chaplain:** | **Gene Hagelin** |
| **Secretary/Treasurer:** | **Brad Mayo** |
| **Road Captain:** | **Alan Alexander** |
| **Sgt-At-Arms:** | **Chris Whisenant** |

## SAL Squadron Meeting Time Change

Post 237 Sons of the American Legion Squadron has voted to change their monthly meeting to 6 PM on the first Thursday of each month. The next scheduled meeting will be held on June 4th at 6 PM. The nomination of and election of 2026-2027 officers will also be held at that meeting.

# 2026 Alabama Boys State

The American Legion Posts in Madison County are pleased to announce the conclusion of the 89th Alabama Boys State Convention. 2026 Boys State offers an opportunity for rising senior boys who are outstanding students and leaders in their schools to experience democracy at work, enhance their leadership skills, develop new friendships, and learn from Alabama political and business leaders.

The 2026 Boys State Convention was held at the University of Alabama Tuscaloosa from Sunday, May 24, 2026, to Saturday, May 30, 2026.

Madison County delegates attended the Madison County Boys State Orientation on Thursday, May 7, 2026, at the Post 237 Annex. Yancy Mitchell, Dean of Boys State Counselors, and delegates from the 2025 class discussed what to expect and how to get the most out of the Boys State experience.

Post 237 sponsored 2 delegates from Sparkman and 2 delegates from Columbia High Schools.

For questions regarding Boys State, please contact Kim Smith at 256-694-5440.

**Madison County Delegates at the Boys State Orientation on May 7, 2026**

# Flag Day

On June 14th we will honor one of our nation's most powerful and enduring symbols -----our American flag.

Each year on this date we pause to observe Flag Day, commemorating the day in 1777 when the Continental Congress officially adopted the Stars and Stripes as the flag of the United States. More than just a piece of fabric, our flag stands for something far greater------it represents the ideals upon which this great nation was built **liberty, unity, sacrifice,** and **hope.**

These ideals were certainly at the forefront of President Truman's thoughts as he stood at attention watching the U.S. flag being raised in Berlin, Germany on July 20, 1945. He wasn't observing the hoisting of just any flag; however, it was the same flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol on the day the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Truman committed that the same flag would soon be raised over Tokyo.

"We are here today to raise the flag of victory over the capital of our greatest adversary," Truman said. "In doing that, we must remember that in raising that flag we are raising it in the name of the people of the United States, who are looking forward to a better world…. a world in which all the people will have an opportunity to enjoy the good things in life. Let us not forget that we are fighting for peace, and for the welfare of mankind."

True to his word, that same flag would be hoisted high once again on the mast of the USS Missouri in Tokyo Harbor on September 2, 1945, while the Japanese signed the surrender of World War II.
It was one of the many iconic flags in American history. There was the flag placed by Marines under fire at Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

On display at the Smithsonian is the battle-torn flag from the Revolutionary War which inspired Francis Scott Key to pen the poem, "The Defense of Fort McHenry," –also known by its more famous title, "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Americans were deeply moved in 1963 when 3-year-old John F. Kennedy, Jr. saluted the flag-draped casket of his World War II veteran father. It is not uncommon for burial flags to become the most treasured possession of a veteran's next of kin, as symbols of the loved one's service and sacrifice.
It is during tragic and challenging times that people are most inspired by the sight of Old Glory. Who can forget the image of three New York City firefighters raising the flag in the middle of the rubble and ash of the World Trade Center after the 9/11 attacks.

Let us also take a moment to recognize that Flag Day is not just about remembering ---- it's also about renewing. It's about renewing our commitment to unity in a time that often feels divided. It's about teaching the next generation not just how to fold the flag, but how to live by the principles it represents. As we look upon our flag today, whether it waves in the wind or hangs silently in ceremony, may we be reminded that freedom is not free. It was earned with sweat, defended with blood, and preserved through the collective will of people determined never to take it for granted.

This Flag Day is particularly significant, as it is also observed on the 250th anniversary of the United States Army. A flag is only as strong as the people it represents, and our Army has bravely protected and defended the world's greatest force for freedom.

Let us resolve to pass this legacy on to those who will come after us ----he next generation of soldiers, mothers, fathers and leaders ---so that they may carry the flag with the same pride and devotion with which we do today.

***Contributed by Tom Hartley***

# Rocket City Young Marines

## Building Tomorrow's Leaders Today

In the heart of Huntsville — proudly known as "Rocket City" — a group of dedicated youth and adult volunteers are helping shape the next generation of leaders through discipline, service, teamwork, and character development. The Rocket City Young Marines has been making a difference in the lives of young people since the unit was chartered in 1995.

The Rocket City Young Marines are part of the national Young Marines organization. The program is open to boys and girls ages 8 through high school graduation. The Young Marines program focuses on the mental, moral, and physical development of youth while promoting leadership, teamwork, self-discipline, and a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The Rocket City Young Marines participate in a wide variety of activities designed to challenge and inspire young people. From drill instruction and physical fitness to community service projects and veteran support activities, the program gives youth the opportunity to grow into confident and responsible citizens.

Over the years, the Rocket City unit has earned recognition both locally and nationally for its commitment to youth development and Drug Demand Reduction efforts, including honors connected to DEA anti-drug education initiatives and the prestigious Kiki Camarena award program.

Young Marines nationwide are taught the core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment while participating in hands-on leadership development, outdoor activities, teamwork exercises, and community engagement opportunities.

What makes the Rocket City Young Marines especially unique is the dedication of its adult volunteers. The program is entirely community-based and depends on caring mentors who are passionate about investing in young people.

For many families, the Rocket City Young Marines becomes more than just an extracurricular activity — it becomes a second family built on shared values and mutual respect.

**To learn more about the Young Marines program or find out how to join or volunteer, visit: https://youngmarines.org/**

# Homeless Veteran Finds a Home

Jacob Paone, Joe, and Eddie Massey take a break from moving furniture.

Teamwork is a concept that most veterans are familiar with and learned to rely on. It is an important factor in getting homeless veterans off the street and into permanent housing in Huntsville. There isn't a playbook that defines how the city and volunteer and veteran's organizations work together to identify and ultimately house these individuals. However, this is what I've learned having been involved in recent efforts. The City of Huntsville has an individual who is charged with finding housing for homeless veterans. In most cases he starts by identifing and vetting the individual.

The next step involves either placing the veteran in a group home or an apartment. If the veteran is going to an apartment, then Priority Veterans, an organization that is affiliated with the VA and with United Way, is engaged. Priority Veterans provides funding for renting a place for a homeless veteran to live; however, they can't provide immediate help with furniture, food, houseware etc. That is when the American Legion gets the call.

We have a special Veteran's Relief Fund that was supplemented in 2025 by the City of Huntsville thanks to the support of Concilman Bill Kling. This fund allows our Post to quickly respond to requests for veterans in need. We also have some awesome volunteers at the Post who donate items and their time to make sure the veteran is comfortable in their new home.

We have also identified dedicated charitable organizations such as the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) and Thin Line Support that are ready to assist with household items and furniture.

Our latest collaboration involved a wheelchair bound Vietnam Veteran named Joe who was sleeping on a matress behind a local gas station. Joe had been in a local homeless shelter where he was assaulted and his leg and hip were broken. When he was released from the hospital he was prohibited from reentering the shelter because he had been involved in a fight.

The City of Huntsville found Joe and engaged Priority Veterans. They rented a clean first floor unfurnished apartment for Joe in Southwest Huntsville and placed him on Thursday. Leslie at Priority Veterans contacted us and asked for help finding Joe a bed and household items.

I contacted Thin Line Support and SVDP. On Friday, Rudy Chavas delivered a kitchen table and chairs from SVDP to Joe's apartment and our Post also delivered and set up a new air fryer/toaster oven and food boxes that were donated by Post 237 family members. On Saturday, Eddie Massey and Jacob Paone and myself met Mark and Kathy Hooper from Thin Line Support at several of their storage units and we loaded a new sectional couch, mattress, bedding, TV stand, TV table, end table, handicap equipment, boxes of kitchenware and other items and Thin Line delivered them to Joe's apartment. Our team unloaded and set these items up. On Monday, we delivered clothing and pots and pans donated by Bob and Anna Marie Wasniewski, towels and washclothes donated by Martha Hall, food boxes which were donated by various Post 237 members. We also delivered and installed a new TV and OTA antenna.

The first pillar of the American Legion is Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, and it encompasses a wide range of veteran related support. At the Post level, I believe the assistance that we can provide veterans in need in our community is the most important service we can offer. Rehabilitation requires that the veteran is housed in a safe and supportive environment. I have worked with each of these organizations and individuals over the past year. They are determined to help us in our mission to support our veteran community, and I thank each of them for their selfless dedication.

***Contributed by Tom Paone***

## Chaplain's Corner

**Bill Pond**
**Post 237 Chaplain**

Any member of the Post who is going in the hospital for 2 or 3 days, please contact the Chaplain at 931-209-7694.

The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the grey head. Proverbs 20:29

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. 1 John 4:11

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. John 15:5

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Isaiah 40:29

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:6

If you would like to read more text for this month, visit our website at:

https://www.legion237.com/files/June_2026_Chaplains_Message.pdf

Seth Burton speaks at the Post 237 membership dinner.

## May 18th General Membership Dinner and Meeting

Prior to the May 18th Membership Meeting Seth Burton, US Senate candidate and 30-year retired Navy submarine commander and Huntsville native, spoke to the dinner audience about his career as a naval officer, submarine technology, national security, and leadership. (pictured bottom left)

Members of Scout troop 7156 posted the colors at the start of the May General Membership meeting. (above)

Kathy and Mark Hooper accepted a $500 check from Post 237 to Thin Line Support. Thin Line Support has been crucial in assisting Post 237 set up housing for homeless veterans. Based in Hazel Green, they are a non-profit organization that collects, stores, and distributes household goods and furniture for veterans and first responders throughout the Southeastern US. (pictured above)

# ROTC Awards

Post 237 Trustee Don Pinkerton presents the American Legion Military Excellence Award to Hazel Green JROTC Cadet Ensign Syrus Morgan-Wold on May 6th.

On the left, Post 237 JROTC/ROTC Liaison Officer Tom Hartley presents the American Legion Scholastic Excellence Award to Cadet Donivan Mendiola and on the right, Mr. Hartley presents the Military Excellence Award to Cadet Martin Watson at the Alabama A&M ROTC awards ceremony on April 23rd.

On the left, Post 237 Trustee Don Pinkerton presents the American Legion Scholastic Excellence Award to JROTC Cadet Major Alexander Petrukhno and on the right, Mr. Pinkerton presents the Military Excellence Award to Madison County JROTC Cadet First Sergeant Jackson Hamley on May 1st at the Madison County JROTC awards ceremony.

Sam Scruggs presents the Military Excellence Award to Cadet First Sergeant Jacob Cox at Grissom High School on April 29th.

# American Legion Post 237 Baseball

**P.O. Box 1176**
**Huntsville, AL 35807**

Do you know what 89 members of the Baseball Hall of Fame including Bob Feller, Yogi Berra, Frank Robinson, Chipper Jones, Greg Maddox, Justin Verlander, Ted Williams, Albert Pujols, Dusty Baker, Roy Campanella and more than half of today's MLB players have in common? You guessed it, they played American Legion Baseball!

American Legion Baseball was formed in 1925. In its 101 years there have been millions of young ballplayers who have enhanced their baseball and leadership skills and fostered their appreciation for their country while playing Legion ball. American Legion baseball has allowed these players to showcase their talents and develop friendships with other young men that last a lifetime.

Post 237 has sponsored an American Legion baseball team for many years. Rick Bragg, Post 237 coach and former high school and college coach, has led our program for 29 years. During his tenure, his teams have won three Alabama State Championships, and 42 players have been awarded college baseball scholarships. Many of Rick's former players are coaching baseball at various levels.

As you might imagine, this program is expensive. Unlike other 'travel teams' our coaches are all volunteers, and we work hard to keep the registration fee as low as possible so that players who could not otherwise afford to play summer ball get that opportunity. The average cost of an out-of-town tournament is approximately $2200 including registration, hotels and travel. We try to play five tournaments a year including the state tournament. Expenses for an average season exceed $20,000 including uniforms, equipment, insurance, field rental, umpires, travel, etc.

If you would like to help the baseball program with a monetary donation, please send a check to the address above and note American Legion Post 237 Baseball, in the memo line. We will send you a receipt noting that your tax-deductible charitable donation was for American Legion Post 237 Baseball a program of the Clayton E. Moneymaker American Legion Post 237, a 501(c)19 not-for-profit organization. Your interest and support of the Post and of our programs is greatly appreciated!

## 2026 Post 237 Baseball Schedule

| Day | Opponent | Location | Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wed., 6/3 | Post 49 | Jemison HS | 5 PM and 7 PM |
| Sat., 6/6 | Pulaski TN | Sam Davis | 2 PM and 4 PM |
| Wed., 6/10 | Post 165 | Jemison HS | 5 PM and 7 PM |
| Sat., 6/13 | TBD | TBD | TBA |
| Wed., 6/17 | Post 229 | Jemison HS | 5 PM and 7 PM |
| Fri.-Sun., 6/19-6/20 | TBD | Cleveland State | TBA |
| Tue., 6/23 | Post 165 | Hackleburg | 5 PM and 7 PM |
| Fri.-Sun. 6/26-6/28 | TBD | Pelham | TBA |
| Thu., 7/2 | Post 555 | Pelham HS | 5 PM and 7 PM |
| Wed., 7/8 | Post 31 | Jemison HS | 5 PM and 7 PM |
| Thu., 7/9 | Post 49 | Ardmore HS | 5 PM and 7 PM |
| Fri.-Sun., 7/10- 7/12 | TBD | Columbia State | TBA |
| Tue., 7/14 | Post 11 | Wilson HS | 5 PM and 7 PM |
| Wed., 7/15 | Post 11 | Jemison HS | 5 PM and 7 PM |
| Mon., 7/20 | TBD | Jemison HS | 5 PM and 7 PM |
| Thu.-Sun.,7/23-7/26 | State Tournament | TBD | TBA |
| | | | |

# FROM THE 3RD VICE COMMANDER

*Bob Wasniewski, Post 237 3rd Vice Commander*

Hello, my fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and Sons of the American Legion. I wanted to let you know about some of the upcoming events in June.

**Sunday Fun Day:** Bar Bingo and karaoke with Howie each Sunday. The doors open at 12 PM. Bar Bingo starts around 12:15 PM. Stop in and join in the fun! Karaoke starts at 3 PM.

**First Wednesday Steak Lunch:** The 1st Wednesday Steak Lunch is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026. We will be selling ribeye steak, baked potato, salad, and a roll. Lunch will be served in the Canteen during the normal hours of 11 AM until 1:30 PM.

**House Committee Meeting:** The House Committee meets on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 6 PM in the Meeting Room.

**Membership Dinner:** The membership dinner will be on Monday, June 15th at 5 PM. Meeting will start at 6 PM this month.

**Bunco Party in the Ballroom:** A Bunco Party is held in the Ballroom on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. This month Bunco will be held on June 16, 2026, at 6:30 PM.

**Benefit for Michael and Sherrie McConnell:** Sunday June 14th from Noon until 7 PM in the canteen. Silent auction, 50/50 raffle, bake sale, potluck supper, Bar Bingo at Noon and Karaoke at 3 PM.

**Memorial Day Flag Pickup**: Huntsville Memory Gardens 11 AM on May 30th.

**Ugly Walk:** Signup for the Ugly Walk on June 13th. BBQ Plates will be available from noon until 4 PM, Price will be $8.00. Family packs of BBQ, coleslaw, baked beans and rolls will be on sale for $25. Preorder at the bar.

## Veterans Memorial Park – Memorial Day Wreath Laying

Sam Scruggs, Earl Hokanson, Tom Paone, and Jack Lafountain with the Post 237 wreath.

Jack and Tom placing the wreath (above). The Post 237 wreath in place (below).

Ken Carpenter at a veteran's memorial.

The Clayton E. Moneymaker American Legion
Post 237. Huntsville, AL

AMERICAN LEGION

## Benefit for Michael and Sherrie McConnell

Bring a Friend or 2 to join the fun...

- Begins at 12:00 Sunday June 14, 2026 until 7:00PM
  - Silent Auction
    (New Items, Restaurant and Services Gift Cards)
  - 50/50 Raffles
  - Miscellaneous Raffles
  - Bake Sale
  - Potluck Supper
  - Karaoke at 3 PM

* Please donate NEW ITEMS for the Silent Auction BEFORE June 12 and receive a Bingo Card

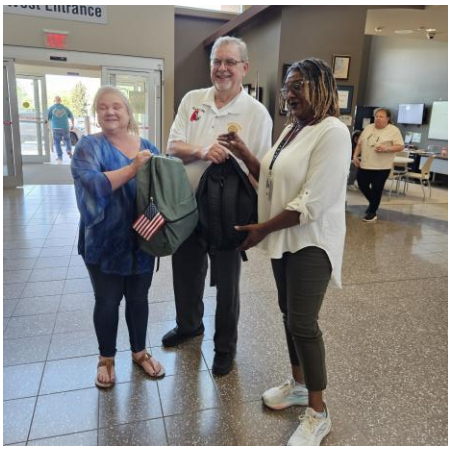
** Please donate baked goods for Bake Sale

Contact: Monica Duncan (256-468-9792)

## Post 237 Honor Guard at the Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day

### Memorial Day Flag Placement

On May 16th several Post members joined Robert Barnett in his annual mission to decorate veteran's graves with flags at Huntsville Memory Gardens on Highway 72 West. Pictured on the left are Oliver and Cody Klinner, Doyle Combs, Doug Patrick, and Robert Barnett. Tom Paone is taking the photo. Flag pickup is May 30th at 11 AM. Please come out and give us a hand.



# Backpacks for Homeless Veterans

Post 237 Legionnaires and Auxiliary Unit 237 are teaming with the Huntsville VA Clinic to provide a backpack for a female and male veteran every month. The VA will award the backpack to a homeless veteran when she/he comes into the clinic for an appointment or treatment. Danny Marr is coordinating this effort. The donation bin is in the ballroom, and a list of suggested donation items is included below. Pictured to the left is Tanya Phelps, Auxiliary President and Tom Paone, Post Commander handing over the first set of backpacks at the VA clinic.

**American Legion Post 237's 2026 V.A. Clinic Veterans' Care Packs**

| *Month Packed* | Suggested Mens Items | Legion Member's List Remarks | *Month Packed* | Suggested Ladies Items | Auxiliary's List Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Auxiliary Provided Back Pack | 1 Each Month | | Auxiliary Provided Back Pack | 1 Each Month |
| | Shaving Cream | Small Can | | Ladies Skin Cream | Small Container |
| | Men's Shaving Razor [1] | 2 Each | | Ladies Shaving Razor | 2 Each |
| | Undershirts | M, L or XL Size | | Soap | Bar or Pump |
| | Men's Underwear | M, L or XL Size | | Ladies Underwear | |
| | Paper Towel Roll | 1 Each | | Paper Towel Roll | 1 Each |
| | Socks | Size 6-11 | | Socks | Ladies |
| | Soap | Bar or Pump | | Towel | Face |
| | Towel | Face | | Antiseptic Hand Cleaner | 1 Bottle or wipes |
| | Antiseptic Hand Cleaner | 1 Bottle or wipes | | Letter Writing Paper | Small Pad |
| | Letter Writing Paper | Small Pad | | Post-It Note Pad | 1 Each [1] |
| | Post-It Note Pad | 1 Each [1] | | Pencils (Sharpened) | 2 Each [1] |
| | Pencils (Sharpened)[1] | 2 Each [1] | | Pens | 2 Each |
| | Pens | 2 Each | | Tampon or pads | |
| | Forever Stamps | Two [1] | | Forever Stamps | Two [1] |
| | Envelopes (Legal & Reg) | 1 Each Size [1] | | Envelopes (Legal & Reg) | 1 Each Size [1] |
| | Sun Screen | Small Can/Bottle | | Sun Screen | Small Can/Bottle |
| | Peppermints | 3 Each [1] | | Peppermints | 3 Each [1] |
| | Deodorant | Trial Size | | Deodorant | Trial Size |
| | | | | | |
| | *Dan provides items marked (1)* | | | *Dan provides items marked (1)* | |

**(Note:2026 suggestions only but any item(s) to fill 2 back packs per month for 6-Month trial. )**

***Drop off items during operating hours in marked bins in the main hall of Post 237. Thank You!***

## Marine Corps League

Brandon-Wilbourn Detachment #820 Marine Corps League meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Tim's Cajun Kitchen at 114 Jordan Ln NW, Huntsville. Social at 5:30pm - Meeting at 6pm. Contact Ed Becher @ 269-221-2221

## Calendar of Events

**Lunch in the Social Quarters**

Monday – Friday 11 AM -1:30 PM

Specials: Mon – Salad Bar, Wed – Philly Cheese Steak, 1st Wed – Steak, Thu – Taco Salad, Fri – Fish

**Evening Kitchen Service**

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri 5-7 PM

**Karaoke in the Social Quarters**

Thu 7-11 PM and Sun 3-7 PM Karaoke with Howie

Fri 7 – 11 PM Karaoke and Bar Bingo with Jerimy

**Trivia in the Social Quarters**

Monday 7-9 PM with Lisa and Zack

**Bingo at the Post 237 annex**

Sun 3:30 PM Sat and Wed at 6 PM

**Membership Dinner and Meeting in the Ballroom**

3rd Monday Dinner at 6 PM ($8.00) , Meeting at 7 PM

**Pool League**

Social Quarters - Alternating Thursdays 7 PM

**Texas Holdem Fundraiser**

Social Quarters - Tuesday 6 PM

**Bar Bingo**

Social Quarters - Sunday 12-2PM; Friday 7PM

**Bunco Party**

Ballroom - 3rd Tuesday 6:30PM

**Game Day –** Wednesdays Left/Right/Center 6PM

**Haircuts with Alyse** – 2nd and 3rd Saturday 1PM – 4PM

## Social Quarters Hours of Operation

| | |
|---|---|
| Monday | 10:00AM – 11:00PM |
| Tuesday | 10:00AM – 11:00PM |
| Wednesday | 10:00AM – 11:00PM |
| Thursday | 10:00AM – 11:00PM |
| Friday | 10:00AM – 11:00PM |
| Saturday | 11:00AM – 11:00PM |
| Sunday | 12:00PM – 8:00PM |

## Adjutant's Office Hours

**Monday through Friday 11 AM until 5 PM**
**Call 256-397-3659 to make an appointment.**
**Email at adjutant@legion237.com**

## Commander's Office Hours

**Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 11 AM until 2 PM**
**Email at commander@legion237.com**
**Call: 256-656-4952**

## First Wednesday Steak Lunch

Join us for lunch: ribeye steak, baked potato, roll and salad on the first Wednesday of this month.

**June 3, 2026**
**11AM – 1:30PM**

## Second Sunday Potluck

**Join us on the second Sunday of the month from 3 PM to 7 PM for a Potluck. Bring a dish to share and enjoy Karaoke with Howie!**

## Monday Night Trivia

**Join us on Monday nights at 7PM for Trivia presented by Lisa and Zack! Have fun, exercise your brain and win Legion Bucks!**

## Lunch at the Legion

**Monday through Friday**
**11:00AM to 1:30PM**
**Specials:**
**Salad Bar – Monday**
**Philly Cheese Steak – Wednesday**
**Taco Salad – Thursday**
**Fish –Friday**

## Smoke Free Lunch!

**The area in front of the bar is smoke-free from 10AM to 2PM Monday through Friday. The area in back of the bar is open for smokers. Please be courteous and observe these restrictions.**

# Memorial Day. Let's Talk About the Women Who Gave Everything.

Today we line the streets.

We hang the flags.

We say the words.

"Thank you for your service."

And we mean it. At least, we think we do.

But here's what we're not saying.

Women have served in every war this country has fought. From the Revolutionary War to Iraq and Afghanistan. You bled on the same ground. You carried the same weight. You came home — and this country didn't know what to do with you.

And on the one day we set aside to honor the fallen and the brave — most people don't even picture a woman.

That is not accidental. That is a pattern.

The image of a veteran in this country is male. It has always been male. The VA was built for men. The statues are mostly men. The stories we tell are mostly men.

You raised your hand anyway.

You signed on the dotted line. You said you would give your life for this country. You meant it. You did it.

Some of you didn't come home.

And those of you who did? You came home to employers who didn't recognize your service. Communities that looked right past you. A system that was never built to hold you.

We see you.

Invisible Warriors is built by women, for women, with the understanding that belonging is not soft. It is everything. We believe that peer connection — women helping women — is one of the most powerful forces in the world. Not a program. Not a checklist. A community that knows your name before you finish your sentence.

You don't need saving. You need what you earned.

Respect. Honor. A seat at the table that's been at the head of this country's defense since the beginning.

Memorial Day is not just for the men. It never was.

So this year, when you hang your flag and say your words — look a little further. Learn a name you don't know. Support an organization fighting for women who served. Write a check. Show up.

Because "thanks for your service" is the beginning. Not the end.

It's time we showed our gratitude with something deeper than words.

Visit us at invisiblewarriors.org.

## New Post 237 T-shirts

The new Post 237 t-shirts have arrived. We have all of the sizes and the price is $20. Proceeds from t-shirt sales will benefit the baseball program.

# LAST LAUGH

## THE BOX

When Bill and Mary first got married, Bill said, “I am putting a box under the bed. You must promise never to look in it.”

In all their 25 years of marriage Mary never looked. However, on the afternoon of their 25th marriage anniversary, curiosity got the best of her and she lifted the lid of the box and looked inside.

In the box were two empty beer cans and $42,380.50 in cash.

She closed the box and put it back under the bed. Now that she knew what was in the box, she was doubly curious about what was in the box and why she was not permitted to look in it. That evening they went out for a special dinner. After dinner, Mary could no longer contain her curiosity and she confessed, saying,
“I am so sorry. For all these years I kept my promise and never looked into the box under the bed. However, today the temptation was too much and I gave in. But now I need to know, why do you keep the cans in the box?”

Bill thought for a while and then said, “I guess after all these years you deserve to know the truth. Whenever I was unfaithful to you, I put and empty beer can in the box under the bed to remind myself not to do it again.”

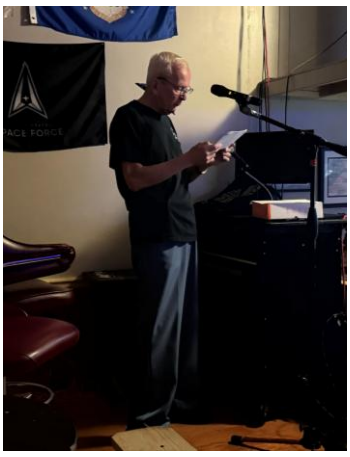
Mary was shocked, but said, “Hmmmmmm, I am very disappointed and saddened but temptation does happen and I guess that two times is not that bad considering the years.” They hugged and made their peace. A little while later Mary asked Bill,
“So, why do you have over $40,000 in cash in the box?”

Bill answered, “Well, whenever the box filled up with empty beer cans, I took them to the recycling center and redeemed them for cash.”

***Contributed by Tom Hartley***

# Around the Post

## Memorial Day at Post 237



A large crowd (above) enjoyed burgers and dogs cooked up by Bob Wasniewski, Ralph Miller and Joe Norman (below). Tom Hartley delivered a memorable Memorial Day commentary (left).

Bingo supports many of the Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and American Legion programs, scholarships, and charities.

Come and join us for a fun outing at the Annex and help keep our programs strong.

There is a snack machine, an isolated smoking area and the public is invited.

Who knows, you might just win a big JACKPOT!

**American Legion Post 237**
**Bingo Annex**
**3805 Colonial Park Circle SW**
**Huntsville, Al 35805**

**<u>Wednesday and Saturday</u>**
**Doors Open at 4 PM**
**Start at 6 PM**

**<u>Sunday</u>**
**Doors Open at 1 PM**
**Start at 3:30 PM**

## ~ Post 237 June 2026 ~

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>7p-9p Trivia w/ Lisa and Zack | 2<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>6p-8p Texas Holdem<br>7p-8p 40/8 Meeting | 3<br>11a-1:30p 1st Wed Steak Lunch<br>2p-3p Finance Committee Mtg.<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>6p-9:30p AUX237 Bingo | 4<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>6p-7p Sons of the American Legion Meeting<br>7p-11p Karaoke w/Howie | 5<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>7p-11p Karaoke and Bingo with Jerimy | 6<br>6p-9:30p SAL 237 Bingo<br>1p-4p Haircuts with Alyse |
| 7<br>12p-2p Bar Bingo<br>3p-7p Karaoke w/Howie<br>3:30p-7p AUX176 Bingo | 8<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>7p-9p Trivia w/ Lisa and Zack | 9<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>6p-7p House Comte. Mtg.<br>6p-8p Texas Holdem | 10<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>6p-9:30p AUX237 Bingo<br>6p-7p Exec Committee Meeting<br>7p-8p Comm & Americanism Cmte Mtg | 11<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>7p-11p Karaoke w/Howie | 12<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>7p-11p Karaoke and Bingo with Jerimy | 13<br>10:30a-11:30a CVMA Meeting<br>5p-9p UGLY WALK<br>6p-9:30p SAL 237 Bingo |
| 14 Flag Day<br>12p-2p Bar Bingo<br>3p-7p Karaoke w/Howie<br>12-7p McConnell Fundraiser<br>3:30p-7p AUX176 Bingo | 15<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>5p-7p Mbrs. Dinner and Meeting<br>7p-9p Trivia w/ Lisa and Zack | 16<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>6p-8p Texas Holdem<br>6:30p-8p Bunco in the Ballroom | 17<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>5:30p-6:30p ALR Meeting<br>6p-9:30p AUX237 Bingo | 18<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>7p-11p Karaoke w/Howie | 19<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>7p-11p Karaoke and Bingo with Jerimy | 20<br>1p-4p Haircuts with Alyse<br>6p-9:30p SAL 237 Bingo |
| 21 Father's Day<br>12p-2p Bar Bingo<br>3p-7p Karaoke w/Howie<br>3:30p-7p AUX176 Bingo | 22<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>7p-9p Trivia w/ Lisa and Zack | 23<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>6p-8p Texas Holdem | 24<br>11p-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>6p-9:30p AUX237 Bingo | 25<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>7p-11p Karaoke w/Howie | 26<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>7p-11p Karaoke and Bingo with Jerimy | 27<br>6p-9:30p SAL 237 Bingo |
| 28<br>12p-2p Bar Bingo<br>3p-7p Karaoke w/Howie<br>3:30p-7p AUX176 Bingo | 29<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>7p-9p Trivia w/ Lisa and Zack | 30<br>11a-1:30p Lunch<br>5p-7p Evening Kitchen<br>6p-8p Texas Holdem | | | | |