ROLL CALL

Clayton E. Moneymaker American Legion Post 237

Alabama's Largest American Legion Post

Volume 26, Issue 3 **March 2026**

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

Commander's Corner

Springtime

Spring is a busy time at Post 237! Coach Rick Bragg is scheduling tournaments, scouting players, and practicing for the upcoming American Legion baseball season. Second Vice Commander Kim Smith is raising funds for the baseball and Americanism programs, working on the county and division oratorical contest, and coordinating the Madison County Boys State recruitment and orientation. ROTC Liaison Tom Hartley is coordinating with the ROTC and JROTC cadre throughout the county and arranging for Legionnaires to award the Scholastic and Military Excellence medals to outstanding cadets. Adjutant Mary McCoy is encouraging our delinquent members to pay their 2026 dues and writing reports for the end of the Legion year.

Last month I wrote about our upcoming Post elections. There are 8 offices up for election. At least three of the incumbents will not be running for re-election including Commander. Finance Officer is critical to the operation of our Post. It is a position that requires understanding our Post programs and Post and canteen operations. In the past we have had an assistant who could step in when the Finance Officer was absent. Currently we are seeking an Assistant Finance Officer who may have an interest in running for the Finance Officer position in May and would be able to work alongside our current Finance Officer to learn the ropes. If you are interested in any of the Post officer positions, give me a call and we can discuss.

Helping a Veteran

Several times a week we receive phone calls or visits from veterans or their family members who need assistance. Our Councilman, Bill Kling, was instrumental in obtaining a grant from the City of Huntsville to supplement our Veterans Relief Fund so that we can respond to more of these heart wrenching situations.

Unfortunately, we lack the resources to aid some of these veterans. Over the past several months I've learned of other organizations who can aid in circumstances where we can't help. I've been documenting the contact info and capabilities of those concerns, and I intend to pass them onto my successor in June.

This week, I spoke with a Navy veteran who is struggling with cancer. Her vehicle is down and the repairs are estimated to be over $4000. She needs transportation to doctor's appointments and ongoing treatment sessions.

If you have a spare vehicle that is in good running condition and you have been trying to figure out what to do with it, this is a great opportunity to get it out of the driveway and make an impact on the life of a fellow veteran. Our Post cannot take possession of your vehicle, but we can help facilitate the transfer of your car to this veteran. If you feel that you can help, please give me a call and we'll make it happen.

My phone number is 256-656-4952.

Tom Paone, Post 237 Commander

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Wargo Scholastic Scholarship Program

If you a descendant of a United States military veteran and plan to attend college or vocational school, then the Wargo Scholastic Scholarship may be for you!

The Wargo Scholarship is a $2000 award paid directly to the educational institution for tuition and fees.

Application must be made before April 30, 2026. Additional information and the application form are available on the Post 237 website: www.legion237.com Select Wargo Scholarship.

The direct link is: http://www.legion237.com/index.php?id=127

Questions regarding the Wargo Scholarship can be emailed to: wargo@legion237.com

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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Webmaster: webmaster@legion237.com

Facebook Page:
"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

Some of the members from The American Legion Auxiliary are planning to attend a birthday party for March Birthdays. It will be held at Floyd E "Tut" Fann state Veterans home on Friday March 27th @ 2pm.
We would appreciate any volunteers and or donations such as cups, drinks, cupcakes, and ice cream cups. If you have any questions, you can contact Tanya Phelps: 256-783-5903.

The Auxiliary had a raffle drawing on Sunday Feb 22nd for the Mardi Gras basket. The proceeds were split evenly and went to help the Boys and Girls State scholarships. Each program received $217.50. We appreciate everyone's effort.

Tanya Phelps, Auxiliary President

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 for more info.

Haircuts at the Post

Alyse Sena will be doing haircuts in the meeting room on the first and third Saturdays, 3/7 and 3/21, 1pm-4pm.

Upcoming Meetings

3/4 –	Finance Committee	2 PM
3/10 –	House Committee	6 PM
3/11 –	Executive Committee	6 PM
3/11 –	Communications and Americanism Committee	7 PM
3/16 –	Membership Meeting	7 PM

From the Adjutant's Desk

Mary McCoy
Post Adjutant

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

National American Legion 2025 dues year ended December 31, 2025. Unpaid members were granted a one-month grace period, January 1st through January 31st, to pay their dues and remain an active member. Effective February 1st, an unpaid Legionnaire became an inactive member. Inactive members lose their total years of membership record and start over with a new one-year status.

Door key cards are disabled as of December 31st each year for unpaid members. Legion members cards will be reactivated when dues are posted on the national website. SAL and Auxiliary members please notify me when you have paid your dues so I can update your key card record.

Join us for Bunco Night on March 17th at 6:30 PM in the ballroom.

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

Protecting the Promise: State Retirement Credit for Prior Military Service
By D. Anthony (Tony) Mastando

Many members of the Post have served for years in the National Guard or Reserve — often balancing civilian careers with drill weekends, annual training, mobilizations, and occasional periods of active duty. For some Alabama public employees, that service now raises an important retirement issue.

Alabama law allows members of the Teachers' Retirement System (and other general state employee systems, such as State Troopers, Corrections Officers, Health Care Professionals and Social Workers) to purchase up to four years of credit for prior active military service, provided statutory requirements are met. See Ala. Code § 16-25-3(e). However, the statute includes language often described as a "no double-dipping" provision. It states that retirement credit cannot be granted if the member is receiving military retirement benefits based on that same period of service.

That restriction directly conflicts with federal law governing Reserve retirement.

Congress enacted 10 U.S.C. § 12736 as part of the Reserve Component Retirement System. That federal statute provides that no period of service used in determining eligibility for non-regular (Reserve or National Guard) retired pay may be excluded when determining eligibility for any other annuity or pension under another law — so long as the service is otherwise properly creditable under that system.

In practical terms, this means a state may not deny civilian retirement credit simply because that same period of military service counts toward Reserve retirement.

Federal courts have recognized this principle. In *Cantwell v. County of San Mateo*, the Ninth Circuit invalidated California's similar "no double-dipping" rule as applied to Reserve retirement benefits, holding that federal law preempted the state restriction.

This issue may affect members who:

- Served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces for four years or more, and
- After leaving active duty, started careers as State employees or public school teachers in Alabama; and
- Continued to serve part-time in the National Guard or Reserve while working as State employees or public school teachers.

Importantly, Reserve retirement often includes a combination of drill service and limited active-duty periods. Federal law was specifically designed to ensure that continuing part-time service would not penalize members in their civilian retirement systems.

If Alabama's "no double-dipping" language is successfully challenged under federal preemption principles, affected members could be entitled to full state retirement credit without losing their Reserve retirement benefits. Some members could also retire up to 4 years earlier than they otherwise might have.

If this situation may apply to you, I encourage you to contact me at 256.532.2222 to review your individual circumstances. The details of your service history and retirement status matter. Our Reserve retirement system was intended as an incentive for continued service, not a barrier to benefits you have earned.

A founding partner of Mastando & Artrip, LLC, Tony has been a practicing attorney since 1996 and is a combat veteran of Desert Shield and Desert Storm, serving in the United States Army (and Reserves) as a Military Intelligence Analyst and Linguist. He and his wife Teri can frequently be found walking their two Australian Shepards and competing in local triathlons.

RIB FUNDRAISER WITH TEXAS ROADHOUSE

Help support our American Legion baseball team with Texas Roadhouse's fall-off-the-bone ribs!

Full rack of cooked and chilled ribs, a 3oz cup of BBQ sauce, and a free appetizer voucher for only $20.00!

Post 237 baseball profits $8 from each rack sold!

Enter your information on the sign-up sheet at the bar. Payment is due at time of ordering.

Order by Monday, March 16, 2026.

Pick up on Friday, March 27, 2026, at the Post.

Thank you for your support!

A Message from First Vice Commander Brian Stephens

Hello fellow Legionnaires! This month, after Lisa Woods' excellent presentation, I wanted to continue rolling out some news about the VA that is a direct impact to all veterans. First, is the announcement that they are going to end the horrible decades old rule implemented under former President Obama, which reported veterans to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Instant Criminal Background Check System as "prohibited persons" only because they need help from a fiduciary in managing their VA benefits. It was a backdoor to red flag laws that would severely restrict a veteran's rights under the 2nd Amendment. The news of it roll back was welcomed across the country as long overdue. To read more on that, go here: https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-undoes-decades-old-wrong-and-protects-veterans-second-amendment-rights/

Secondly, in recent days the VA had announced new rules that would have taken into account the effects of medications on veterans when applying for their disability ratings. This would have caused many veterans to have to choose between managing their health and applying for benefits. Fortunately, due to the overwhelming outcry, the VA has since rescinded the rule restoring the ratings process to its previous state. The story can be found here: https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/2026/02/19/va-halts-implementation-of-controversial-disability-rating-rule-following-backlash/

These are just two of the stories of concern to veterans. I urge you to stay on top of the news and keep track of changes that will affect yours and your survivors, benefits.

Spring is right around the corner. Looking forward to warmer weather and more visitors to the canteen!

2026 Alabama Boys State

The American Legion Posts in Madison County are pleased to announce the 89th Alabama Boys State Convention. 2026 Boys State provides 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 will be held at the University of Alabama Tuscaloosa starting Sunday, May 24, 2026, and ending Saturday, May 30, 2026.

We strongly encourage that each prospective delegate review the Alabama Boys State website at: http://alboysstate.org.

All applicants are required to submit a Boys State Application to the Department of Alabama by May 1, 2026. Also, Madison County applicants should submit the 2026 Madison County Boys State Information Sheet by May 1, 2026, indicating if he wishes to attend the Madison County Boys State Orientation on Thursday, May 7, 2026, at the Post 237 Annex at 3806 Colonial Park Circle SW, Huntsville, AL 35805. Yancy Mitchell, Dean of Boys State Counselors, and delegates from the 2025 class will discuss what to expect and how to get the most out of the Boys State experience. We will also review the logistics and rules. Because of seating restrictions, we ask each family to limit attendance at the orientation to the student and his parents.

HACKSAW RIDGE

During World War II, over 70,000 men were designated conscientious objectors, mostly men whose religious beliefs made them opposed to war. Some refused to serve, but 25,000 joined the US armed forces in noncombat roles such as medics and chaplains. Desmond Doss of Lynchburg, Virginia was one of those men, though he personally shunned the title of conscientious objector.

Doss, born in 1919, was raised with a strong belief in the Bible and the Ten Commandments, and attended a Seventh-day Adventist church. He held particularly strong views against killing and working on the sabbath, which as a Seventh-day Adventist, he observed on Saturday. When the United States entered the war, Doss was working at the Newport News Naval Shipyard. It would have been easy in 1942 for Doss to apply for a deferment, and many would have expected as much from someone who refused to bear arms against another. Doss, however, felt a calling to serve his country and to help his fellow man. When he was drafted in the spring of 1942, Doss did not refuse enlistment on the grounds of being a conscientious objector. In fact, he believed the war was just and desired to do his part, but for him that meant saving lives, not taking them, and thus Doss was known to describe himself as a "conscientious cooperator."

In spite of his conscientious objector status, Doss was required to undergo the usual basic training. He was allowed to forego weapons training and even received a pass to attend church on his Saturday Sabbath. Although Doss was a willing participant and felt himself to have a great sense of duty as any man in his unit, boot camp was not an easy time for him. He was verbally harassed, with warnings such as, "Doss, when we get into combat, I'll make sure don't come back alive." Boots and other items were sent flying his way as he prayed at night. Ostracized by his unit and bullied by both enlisted men and his commanding officers, Doss held on to his faith and was an exemplary soldier.

Several attempts were made to remove the man they felt was a coward and a detriment to the unit. His commanding officers attempted to have him discharged for mental illness, but he refused to accept, stating he could not agree to a discharge due to his religion. Doss' commanding officers eventually gave up, realizing that such a discharge would never be approved at higher levels.

In 1944, Doss shipped out, bound for the Pacific as a member of the medical detachment of the 307th Infantry Regiment, 77th Infantry Division. Although Doss would become known for his actions on Okinawa, the bloody battle there was not his first. The 77th landed in Guam in July 1944. The men who had threatened to kill Doss in boot camp quickly realized the value of their bible-carrying medic. For his bravery in treating wounded men under fire during the fighting in Guam, Doss was awarded a Bronze Star for valor. He later at Guam received his second Bronze Star.

By the time Doss arrived with his unit on Okinawa, any reservations his fellow soldiers had about him had turned too respect. They knew that Doss was there for them and would run into enemy fire to save them at the risk of his own life. The 307th Infantry Regiment moved into the line on Okinawa on April 29, on the top of the Maeda Escarpment known as Hacksaw Ridge. The Japanese had spent years entrenching their soldiers, creating a maze of tunnels in the hill. After A Company's near annihilation in taking the escarpment, the remainder of A Company, plus B Company, of which Doss was a part, climbed cargo nets to the top on May 2, 1945.
(continued on page 8)

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The escarpment where the men were fighting was a cliff roughly 400 feet high. The top 35 feet created a overhang, where the cargo nets had been necessary for the men to reach the top. For days, men of the 307th held out, fighting against heavily entrenched Japanese forces. Japanese machine gun fire was so intense that Doss' fellow soldiers were dropping all around him. Doss treated the wounded under the intense enemy fire. Over the next several days, Doss continually put himself in mortal danger to aid his fallen comrades.

By May 5, the fighting intensified to the point that all men were ordered to retreat. Doss refused. An estimated 75 men remained behind, too wounded to retreat under their own power. He would not leave them behind. Doss successfully rescued 75 men trapped at the top of the escarpment by lowering them with a special knot he knew. He had miraculously not been wounded and stayed in the fight with B Company.

On May 21, Doss was wounded several times by grenade fragments and a sniper's bullet through his arm. Due to his extensive wounds, Doss was evacuated in late May. He returned home, spending years recovering from his wounds and from tuberculosis.

On October 12, 1945, President Truman presented Doss with the Medal of Honor at the White House. Doss was the first—and only conscientious objector to receive the Medal of Honor.

Contributed by Tom Hartley

VA Benefits & Eligibility Presentation

Durning the membership dinner on Monday, February 16th at 6:15 PM, Lisa Woods Post 237 Legionnaire and Veterans Administration representative presented a program on VA Benefits and Eligibility. The presentation was very informative and educational.

Unserviceable Flag Ceremony

Prior to the membership dinner on February 16th Post officers Mary McCoy, Cody Klinner, Kim Smith, Brian Stephens, and Tom Paone conducted the American Legion Unserviceable Flag Ceremony. (pictured on the left) Brad Mayo filmed the ceremony and posted it on the website at: https://legion237.com/2026-post-237-events

Upcoming Vote - By-Laws Amendment: General Membership Meeting Time

The existing Post 237 By-Laws specify the frequency, day of the month, and time for the general membership meeting. The Executive Committee has discussed a proposal to change the 7 PM start time to better accommodate some of our older members and to allow members who play trivia on Monday night the opportunity to attend the dinner and meeting as well.

The resolution which is attached below would amend our By-Laws to allow a vote of the membership to modify the time of our monthly membership meetings. It also allows for a three-month moratorium on a motion to change the time once it has been altered. We plan to introduce this resolution as a motion at the general membership meeting on Monday, March 16, 2026, at 7 PM. If this resolution is adopted, then it will be posted as an amendment to our Post By-Laws and will allow a member to propose a change in the start time for our future meetings.

I fully support this resolution, and I also support the notion of changing the time of our monthly general membership meetings from 7 PM to 6 PM for the reasons stated in the resolution. Please come out to the March meeting and express your opinion on this subject.

Tom Paone, Commander Clayton E. Moneymaker American Legion Post 237

C&BL Resolution March 16, 2026 - General Membership Meeting Time

Introduction: The Post 237 Constitution and By Laws dated August 18, 2025, state that the Post general membership meeting will be held on the third Monday of each month at 7 PM except for the month of December. This resolution proposes that the time for the meeting be set by a 2/3 vote of the general membership and that notification of the change shall be communicated to the membership via newsletter, social media and should be posted in the canteen.

Whereas: The Post 237 By-Laws Article VII, Section 1, dated August 18, 2025, state that the Post general membership meeting will be held on the third Monday of each month at 7 PM except for the month of December.

Whereas: The attendance at the membership dinner and meeting is at an all-time low.

Whereas: The Post general meeting is currently scheduled alongside other activities in the canteen (i.e. trivia, music, etc.) and noise from these other activities can be disruptive to the meeting.

Whereas: The Post membership is ageing, and many members are accustomed to eating dinner earlier in the evening and many of our elderly members avoid driving after dark.

Resolved: That the membership of the Clayton E. Moneymaker American Legion Post 237 shall revise the By-Laws to allow the membership to change the time of future membership meetings by a 2/3 vote of the members present at a general membership meeting.

Therefore: Be it approved by the membership following a discussion by the Executive Committee, that the Clayton E. Moneymaker Post No, 237 Department of Alabama By-Laws, adopted and approved on August 18, 2025, be amended as follows:

By-Laws

Article VIII, Section 1 (Remove) The regularly scheduled Post general membership meeting shall be held at the Post home on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM, except for the December meeting which may be changed by the membership in the November meeting.

Article VIII, Section 1 (Replace) The regularly scheduled Post general membership meeting shall be held at the Post home on the third Monday of each month, except for the December meeting which may be changed by the membership in the November meeting.

The time of the meeting shall be determined by a 2/3 vote of the members present at a general membership meeting. A motion to change the Post general membership meeting scheduled time cannot be brought to a vote any earlier than three months since the last schedule change was approved.

Notification of the change in schedule shall be communicated to the membership via newsletter article, social media, and shall be posted on the bulletin board in the canteen.

AMERICAN LEGION

POST 237

HONOR GUARD

YOUR HONOR GUARD NEEDS YOUR HELP

As a military veteran, somewhere down the road, when you pass away your family may request that due to your honorable military service that you receive the military honors at your funeral that you deserve. If so, and you are buried locally, there is an excellent likelihood that those military honors will be provided by your American Legion Post 237 Honor Guard.
American Legion Post 237 is very proud of its Honor Guard and what it has accomplished throughout the years and will continue to accomplish to support the military veterans and their families in Madison County and surrounding communities. In order for our Honor Guard to continue performing its invaluable mission **your support is requested and necessary**.
HONOR GUARD MISSION: To provide military funeral honors for veterans who have served honorably in the United States military. The funeral honors consist of the folding of the U.S. casket flag, presentation of the flag to the next of kin, firing of rifle volley and bugle playing of Taps.
SERVICE AREA: The Honor Guard services veterans in Northern Alabama and Southcentral Tennessee. From January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2026, the Honor Guard supported 138 veteran's funerals and community patriotic events traveling 3327 miles to do so. As the funeral services provided by our Honor Guard become more widely publicized, the number of funerals and mileage driven to support them will significantly increase.
OPERATING EXPENSES: The annual cost of outfitting Honor Guard members with uniforms, weapons and Honor Guard van maintenance, gas and insurance for the van, burial flags and other supplies in 2025 was $5,270.00. Those expenses were paid for from donations.

THE HONOR GUARD'S OPERATING EXPENSES ARE PAID FOR ONLY FROM DONATIONS

DONATIONS: Donations are the lifeblood of the Honor Guard. Without donations the Honor Guard would not exist and would be unable to honor the requests of families to provide military funeral honors for their veteran family members.
On behalf of the Honor Guard, I humbly ask that you do us the honor of providing a donation to allow our Honor Guard to continue performing its vital mission in 2026. **Any amount you provide will be greatly appreciated.**
Tax free donations to the 501(c)(3) Honor Guard can be made by:

- Mailing a donation to: Post 237 Honor Guard, PO Box 1176, Huntsville, AL 35807
- Bringing your donation to Post 237 at 2900 Drake Avenue in Huntsville

NOTE: Please make checks payable to: Post 237 Honor Guard
If you have any questions, contact Tom Hartley at (256) 497-0426 or tomandlouiss@yahoo.com
Our Honor Guard's dedicated efforts to provide patriotic support to deceased military veterans and their families can be best verbalized in the following quote:

"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."

President Harry S. Truman

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 February.

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, March 4, 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.

St. Patrick's Day Lunch: On Tuesday, March 17th from 11 AM until 1:30 PM Carl O'Conley will be serving his famous corned beef, cabbage, and cooked carrots lunch for $10.95.

Wednesday Sip & Paint Night: Kim Smith will be hosting a Sip and Paint Night in the Ballroom. $25.00 per person donation required. Proceeds will support our Americanism programs including the Oratorical Contest, Boys State, ROTC, and Legion baseball. Space is limited, so please sign up early at the bar.

House Committee Meeting: The House Committee meets on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 6 PM in the Meeting Room.

Membership Dinner: The membership dinner menu on Monday, March 16th at 6 PM will be spaghetti, salad, and garlic toast.

Bunko Party in the Ballroom: A Bunko Party is held in the Ballroom on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. This month Bunko will be held on March 17, 2026, at 6:30 PM.

Texas Roadhouse Rib Sale for Post 237 Baseball: The Post is sponsoring our annual Texas Roadhouse Rib sale to support our American Legion Baseball program. Order your fall-off-the-bone rack of cooked and chilled ribs, 3 oz. cup of BBQ sauce, and free appetizer voucher for $20. Ribs can be ordered at the bar between now and Monday, March 16th. The ribs will be ready for pickup at the Post on Friday, March 27th.

Wednesdays: Live Music in the Canteen

On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month Brett Carlisle will play from 6 pm until 9 pm in the Canteen. On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month Brad Thomas will play from 6 pm until 9 pm in the Canteen.

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!

2026 High School Oratorical Contest

The Department of Alabama's 2026 American Legion High School Oratorical Contest is under way. This contest challenges high school students to develop leadership and public speaking skills with a focus on the U.S. Constitution, offering participants the chance to earn college scholarships. The American Legion awards over $200,000 in scholarships annually. The state level contest will be held at the Department of Alabama Archives and History building in Montgomery on March 21, 2026, at 10 AM. Finalists receive $2,500, $1,500, and $1,000, plus an extra $2,000 for the state champion. The state winner's travel and lodging for the National Finals at Hillsdale College (May 15-17, 2026) are covered, where the national winner can earn up to $25,000.

The Madison County Oratorical Contest is the first step toward the state event. The county contest was held on February 7, 2026, at Madison's Meeting Hall. Seven students participated and the scholarship winners for the county competition were:

1st place, Grace Drown, $600
2nd place, Lyn Brinkley, $400
3rd place, Grace Claxton, $300

Post 237 members who assisted at the county competition are pictured above. They are Danny Marr, Thad Paone, Kim Smith, Tom Paone, and Tom Hartley.

The District 12 contest was conducted on Saturday, February 21st at Post 15 in Decatur. Grace Drown won the district contest. The 1st Division contest is scheduled for March 7th at 10 AM at Post 237. If you are interested in volunteering to assist at the division contest, please contact Kim Smith.

From Service to Sisterhood: Finding Your Tribe After the Uniform

If you're a woman veteran who feels alone, disconnected, or wondering where you belong now—reach out. Join us at Invisible Warriors or connect with your local American Legion post. Your next battle buddy is waiting, and together, you'll rediscover the camaraderie and purpose you've been missing. You served with honor. Now let us serve alongside you.

Women veterans face unique and urgent challenges after leaving military service. Research shows that 59% report losing connection with their military community, and 56% describe losing their sense of purpose and camaraderie. These feelings of isolation aren't just uncomfortable, they're dangerous. The suicide rate for women veterans is 92% higher than for civilian women, and many struggle with depression, relationship challenges, and difficulty navigating systems that weren't designed with them in mind. Between 2020 and 2021 alone, female veteran suicide rates increased by 24%, underscoring the critical need for immediate intervention and support.

Peer support and community connection offer powerful solutions to these challenges. When women veterans connect through organizations like Invisible Warriors or veteran service organizations, they find people who understand their experiences without explanation. Studies demonstrate that veterans participating in peer-based programs report measurably lower isolation levels, reduced PTSD and depression symptoms, and greater willingness to seek help when needed. This peer connection serves as a protective factor against the mental health decline that too many women veterans experience in isolation. These connections provide more than emotional support—they offer practical navigation help for VA benefits, career transitions, and mental health resources from women who've already walked that road.

Women veterans have served in every conflict while often navigating gender bias, sexual harassment, and the constant pressure to prove they belonged. When they come home, they deserve communities that recognize their service and welcome them fully into post-military life.

Perhaps most importantly, peer networks help women veterans rediscover the sense of mission and purpose they thought they'd lost when they took off the uniform. By building community together and supporting one another, women veterans find they're still serving—just in a different way. Their service didn't end; it simply evolved into a new chapter filled with connection, belonging, and sisterhood.

Nancy Becher

Executive Director and Founder, Invisible Warriors

269-319-6041 | InvisibleWarriors.org

Linktr.ee/nancybecher

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140 Research Blvd., Madison, AL 35758

Proverbs 16:3 —3 Depend on the Lord in whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

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 and Bar Feud in the Social Quarters

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

Sat 7-9 PM Bar Feud with Jerimy

Sat 9 PM - 11 PM Karaoke with Jerimy

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

Live Music – Wednesdays 6PM-9PM in Canteen

Haircuts with Alyse – 1st 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.

March 4, 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.

LAST LAUGH

A guy driving a Kia pulls up at a stoplight next to a Rolls Royce

The driver of the Kia rolls down his window and shouts to the driver of the Rolls, “Hey, buddy, that’s a nice car. You got Wi-Fi in your Rolls? I’ve got Wi-Fi in my Kia.”

The driver of the Rolls rolls down his window and says, “What did you say?”

The driver of the Kia says again, “That’s a nice car. You got Wi-Fi in your Rolls?”

The driver of the Rolls looks over and says, “Yes I have Wi-Fi.”

The driver of the Kia says, “Cool! Hey, you got a fridge in their too? I’ve got a fridge in the back seat of my Kia!”

The driver of the Rolls, looking annoyed, says, “Yes, I have a refrigerator.”

The driver of the Kia then says, “I’ve got a television in my Kia. Do you have a television in your Rolls?”

The driver of the Rolls, looking very annoyed by now, says, “Yes, I have a television, a Rolls Royce is the finest luxury car in the world!”

The driver of the Kia says, “That’s a very cool car! Hey, you got a bed in their too? I’ve got a bed in the back of my Kia.”

Upset that he did not have a bed, the driver of the Rolls Royce sped away. He went straight to the Rolls Royce dealer, where he promptly ordered that a bed be installed in the back of his Rolls.

The next morning, the driver of the Rolls drove around all day looking for the Kia.

Finally, late that night, he finds the Kia parked, with all the windows fogged up from inside. The driver of the Rolls gets out of his car and knocks on the Kia’s window.

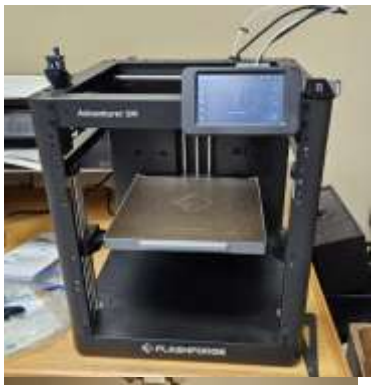
At first there is no answer, then the owner sticks his head out, soaking wet.

“I now have a bed in the back of my Rolls Royce,” The driver of the Rolls said arrogantly.

The driver of the Kia says, “You got me out of the shower to tell me that?”

Contributed by Tom Hartley

Around the Post



3D Printer

Mario and Charlie Graxirena donated a 3D printer to the Post. Kevin Smith set up the printer and loaded the design software on the minicomputer in the Computer Resource Center. Come by and try it out.

Thank you, Mario and Charlie!

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 March 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 12p-2p Bar Bingo 3p-7p Karaoke w/Howie 3:30p-7p AUX176 Bingo	2 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-9p Trivia w/ Lisa and Zack	3 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 6p-8p Texas Holdem 7p-8p 40/8 Meeting	4 11a-1:30p 1st Wed Steak Lunch 2p-3p Finance Committee Mtg. 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 6p-9:30p AUX237 Bingo 6p-7p Live Music	5 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-11p Karaoke w/Howie	6 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-11p Karaoke and Bingo with Jerimy	7 1p-4p Haircuts with Alyse 6p-9:30p SAL 237 Bingo 7p-11p Bar Feud and Karaoke w/Jerimy
8 Daylight Saving Begins 12p-2p Bar Bingo 3p-7p Karaoke w/Howie 3p-7p Pot Luck 3:30p-7p AUX176 Bingo	9 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-9p Trivia w/ Lisa and Zack	10 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 6p-7p House Comte. Mtg. 6p-8p Texas Holdem	11 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 6p-9:30p AUX237 Bingo 6p-7p Exec Committee Meeting 6p-7p Live Music 7p-8p Comm & Americanism Cmte Mtg	12 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-11p Karaoke w/Howie	13 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-11p Karaoke and Bingo with Jerimy	14 10:30a-11:30a CVMA Meeting 6p-9:30p SAL 237 Bingo
15 12p-2p Bar Bingo 3p-4p SAL Meeting - Sons of the American Legion Meeting 3p-7p Karaoke w/Howie 3:30p-7p AUX176 Bingo	16 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 6p-8p Mbrs. Dinner and Meeting 7p-9p Trivia w/ Lisa and Zack	17 Saint Patrick's Day 11a-1:30p St. Patrick's Day Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 6p-8p Texas Holdem 6:30p-8p Bunco	18 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 5:30p-6:30p ALR Meeting 6p-9:30p AUX237 Bingo 6p-7p Live Music	19 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-11p Karaoke w/Howie	20 Spring Begins 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-11p Karaoke and Bingo with Jerimy	21 1p-4p Haircuts with Alyse 6p-9:30p SAL 237 Bingo 7p-11p Bar Feud and Karaoke w/Jerimy
22 12p-2p Bar Bingo 3p-7p Karaoke w/Howie 3:30p-7p AUX176 Bingo	23 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-9p Trivia w/ Lisa and Zack	24 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 6p-8p Texas Holdem	25 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 6p-9:30p AUX237 Bingo 6p-7p Live Music	26 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-11p Karaoke w/Howie	27 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-11p Karaoke and Bingo with Jerimy	28 6p-9:30p SAL 237 Bingo
29 12p-2p Bar Bingo 3p-7p Karaoke w/Howie 3:30p-7p AUX176 Bingo	30 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 7p-9p Trivia w/ Lisa and Zack	31 11a-1:30p Lunch 5p-7p Evening Kitchen 6p-8p Texas Holdem	Notes:			