



THE POST

GEORGE LEE POST 532 inc

APRIL 2023

VOL 16 NO 4



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Come Carry An American Flag

Pictures from Last Month's Meeting

JSSP Challenge to You

Why Be the One is personal

***25 Riverside Circle
HAYESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA***

GEORGE LEE POST #532 OFFICERS

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1ST VICE COMMANDER..... Rondal Brown
2ND VICE COMMANDER.....Joe Buckner
3RD VICE COMMANDER.....Bill Christy
ADJUTANT/TRAINING OFC.....Sommer Rector
FINANCE OFFICER Floyd Phillips
CHAPLAINCarl Maxwell
SERGEANT-AT-ARMSDwight McClure
HISTORIANPatriot Pete
JUDGE ADVOCATEJack Greve
POST SERVICE OFFICER Phil Cantley

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Ricky Breed, Tommy Hooper, Bobby Rogers,
Michelle Stegner, Jordan Rudin

SUPPORTIVE STAFF

ORATORICAL CONTEST: RONDAL BROWN
BOYS STATE PROGRAM: BOB BONDS
POST SAL REP. & COMMANDER: PHIL CANTLEY
JSSP: BILL CHRISTY
POST CALENDAR/: JACK GREVE
VET. MISS. COUNC. / ANNUAL VET. APPREC.: CARL MAXWELL
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COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR: SOMMER RECTOR
SOCIAL COMMITTEE/ FUNDRAISER: MICHELLE STEGNER



Post 532 WEBSITE
<http://www.post532.org>
Patriot Pete, Webmaster

Robert Seibert, EDITOR/PUBLISHER of this newsletter for the
Legionnaire community, solely non-profit.

Email: patriotpete532@gmail.com or Ph: (cell): 828-644-8497

**THIS IS A POST NEWSLETTER AND COMMENTS, ITEMS TO
INCLUDE, ETC ARE WELCOME FROM MEMBERSHIP**

Contents of this newsletter may be used but would appreciate
being informed of such.

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***MEETING: LAST TUESDAY OF EACH
MONTH AT 7:00PM***



COMMANDER'S CORNER

Robert Seibert

I want to thank everyone who participated and attended our Four Chaplain service. We had great attendance.

I am happy we honored those who help start the Tri-State Chaplains Corp Veterans Missions Council. We are truly blessed to have this group and I hope we can encourage others to follow their example and establish others throughout the country.

If you haven't heard, we are looking for a post home that is ours to do with as we want. Since the renovation of the community room we have been limited to only putting things on the front wall. This limits what can even be put up. We also are limited in planning events since we do not control the schedule of the community room. Along with this, our office space for keeping records, honor guard supplies and other things has been greatly reduced. If you know of a

building that could house us or of land we could build on, or just someone who needs to get rid of money, please let me know.

You may or may not know, but my wife and I adopted 6 boys years ago. Of the six, three have been in the military and a fourth is in the process of enlisting. The first son enlisted in the Marines. Even though we told the recruiter he had bad knees, the recruiter said, "Let's let the find that out." They did. Due to his knees it took him over month longer in basic due to being placed on light duty. Once finished with basic he finished his 4 year career on light duty and was medically retired. He said the only time his knees didn't hurt was when he was drinking. New Year's eve, 9 years ago, he drank himself to death. The next son also joined the Marines. I'm not exactly sure why he was discharged because he's never given a straight answer. At some point he got into drugs,

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Pastor Rondall Brown

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Email: pheasantr77@gmail.com

again not exactly sure when. After a divorce and rehab he found a friend who became his wife. Then, this passed Christmas something happened and he decided to kill himself. The first attempt was unsuccessful because the gun wasn't loaded. His wife sold the gun the next day. So the second attempt was to drive off in the creek and drown. We a lot of alcohol for courage, he wasn't sober enough to drive the last 100 feet. Blessed by God I found him. The third son joined the Army. He is a combat veteran medic. Two years ago he called to let us know he just got out of the hospital, because his roommates found him with his gun to his head. I'm not going to tell you the military was these boys only problems, it wasn't. However, this gives you an idea of why the Be the One campaign is important to me. We need to bring suicide awareness out in the open. We need to help veterans / people understand it is ok to ask for help, it is okay to get help, help is available and it is not unusual

to need help. On April 29 we are having a 2.2 mile walk to raise awareness. Please consider what part you can play in helping to make this a success. If you want more information contact myself, Phil or Michelle.

I hope you are planning to be at our next post meeting. Rob Holder, whose late father-in-law was a past post commander in New Orleans, will be helping us have a low country cookout.



Don't worry, we will also have pulled pork as well. If you want extra time of fellowship arrive early. The JSSP has issued a challenge you will see later in the newsletter and you can sit around and enjoy the cooking.

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Post Member of the Month

Rondall Brown

BRIAN “GUNNY” VAN BUSKIRK

“Gunny”, Brian Van Buskirk was from up North Andover, Massachusetts way. Shortly after graduating from high school Gunny joined the Marine Corps in ‘75 and his life was forever changed being filled with adventure and accomplishment. Gunny’s adventure began by enjoyed boot camp in a lovely vacation spot know as “Paradise” Pairrs Island. Upon completion of boot camp, he received orders to First Battalion Second Marines, Camp Lejeune. Gunny began an extensive training program honing his skills, mastering multiple weapons systems including anti-tank weapons, multi shot flame weapon, LAAW rockets, M106 recoilless rifle and demolitions. Proficient in these skills, Gunny received orders for a relaxing 3-month cruise to Viegas PR, San Juan and Saint Thomas in the Caribbean on a luxurious amphibious Navy ship with all

the amenities of a “Gator Freighter”. Completing this cruise, Gunny was off to Forth Drum, for a grueling six weeks of Cold Weather Training, then back to MCAS Cherry Point for Search and Rescue school training (SERS), then back to Camp Lejeune for a Battalion (BN) march from Camp Lejeune to Fort Bragg, fortunately the BN, was transported back to Camp Lejeune by truck. Gunny was promoted to the rank of Corporal, got married and received orders to recruiter school in San Diego CA. Upon completion of Recruiter’s School, he was stationed in the Boston area for recruiting duty. Gunny’s career and training spans an immense array of knowledge and skills. He was assigned to MCB Pickle Meadows in the beautiful High Sierra in CA, Mountain and Cold weather Training Base. Gunny quickly mastered many skills and became an instructor in mountain climbing, cold weather survival, skiing, combat in cold



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weather and mountainous terrain, and later at 29 Palms for training in desert terrain and multiple weapons systems. Gunny has been stationed across the U. S. and deployed around the world on multiple missions as well as to international hot spots such as Beirut Lebanon, Mogadishu Somalia, etc. Gunny's extensive career was vast and multifaceted with never a dull moment. Upon retirement from the Marine Corps Gunny began another career working for the Cherokee County School system until retirement. Gunny is an avid military historian and enjoys conducting presentations with static displays of military uniforms,

weapons, service members personal equipment, and memorabilia from all eras' of the nation's military.

Gunny is truly from a military family, his grandfather, a WWI veteran, serving in the Canadian Army (1914-1918) was wounded twice. His father served in the U. S. Army during the Korean War.

Gunny, a **TREMENDOUS THANK YOU**, to you and your families service defending freedom and democracy around the world. The Post is honored have you as a member and to sever with you as you continue to care for veterans and their families. Thank you for continuing to **STANDING THE WATCH** for God and Country.



April Meal is being provided by the wonderful ladies from the Auxiliary.



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February Meeting

Supper

Selected Readings by Brenda Kay Ledford

Andrew Rutigliano

Peer Support group for survivors of suicide loss

Post Meeting



**Poor Man's
Supper**

COME CARRY AN AMERICAN FLAG

Walk 2 .2 Miles

Suicide Prevention Campaign

April 29, 2023

8am – 2pm

Rain or Shine

Clay County Rec Center

American Legion Post 532

For info contact Michelle @ 828-361-1156

End the Stigma
Be The One to Save a Veteran



 **Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**



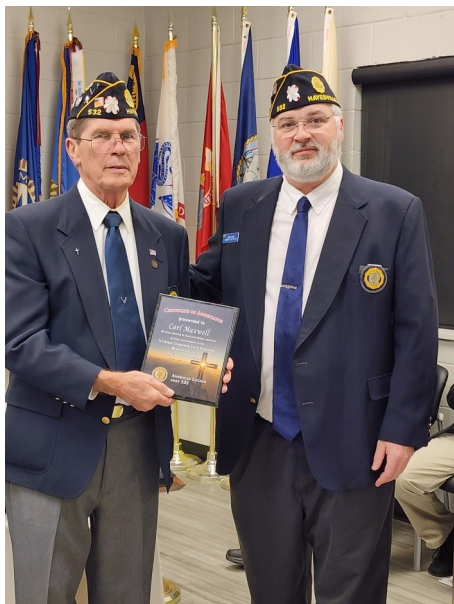
Chaplains Corner

Carl Maxwell



I hope everyone is doing well. This month I am going to write about something very important to all of our men , **CANCER !** Prostate and Colon cancer are the two most common types of cancer in men and they are both very curable, especially if they are detected early. Please get your annual check ups. Prostate cancer is detected by a rise in your PSA. This is checked with a simple blood draw from your arm. If your doctor tells you to get a colonoscopy, do it. They have changed for the better for the prep. Most are using Miralax powder now that you can mix with almost anything. I mixed mine with tea. It is a much easier process now than it was just a few years ago. Cancer, if detected, is much easier to treat when caught early. On another note, South Korea is sending four hundred missionaries to the United States in May. One group is coming to Clay county

May third. Our friends over seas think as many of us here that we are living in the last days and we need revival before the Rapture comes. Thanks to those of you who call and visit our veterans. Remember to pray for one another. For God and Country, Carl



Thank You Car for all you do with the Mission

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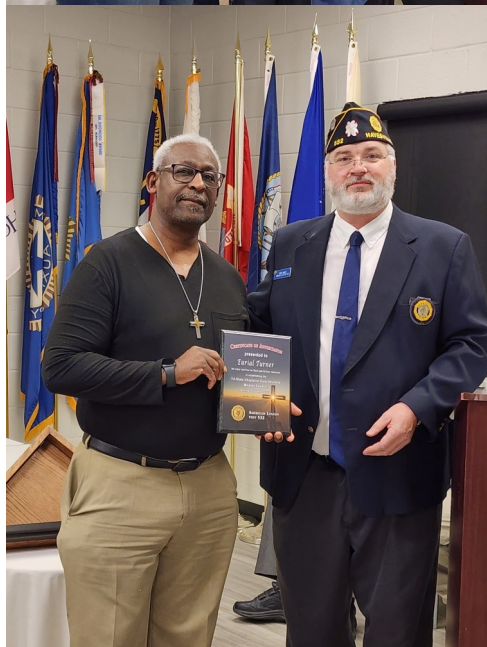
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BE THE ONE

American Legion Post 532, Hayesville, NC, will host a Challenge 2.2 Walk to raise awareness aimed at reducing the rate of veteran suicide. The American Legion is leading a nationwide effort - Be the One - to eliminate the stigma related to mental health treatment, and in turn, lower the number of veterans who die by suicide every day.

The number of veterans who die by suicide every day is estimated between 17 and 22. The American Legion has elevated Be the One to be its top priority, empowering veterans, service members, their family members and civilians to act appropriately when a veteran may be at risk. This event intends to bring more awareness to the problems

while providing resources to those who may be able to help save the life of a veteran.

April 29, 2023

Rain or Shine

Clay County Rec Center

8am – 2pm

The 2.2 mile walk will start at the Clay County Rec Center (behind Black & Gold) and Proceed around the Beautiful Downtown Hayesville, NC, then back to the CC Rec Center with the Placement of the American Flags in a Template of 22 to call Awareness to 22 veteran suicide awareness.

**For more information contact:
Michelle @ 828-361-1156**

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Drawing when all tickets sold.

You do not have to be present to win.



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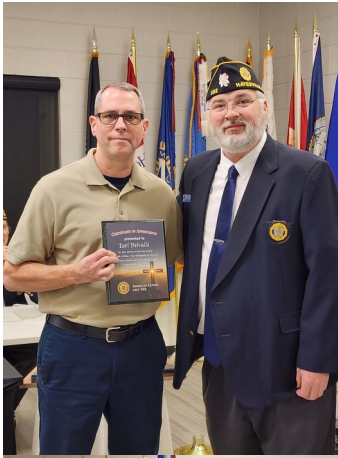
JSSP Bill Christy



JSSP Challenge: If you believe our amphibious friends, every Marine is a rifleman. Truth be told, the other branches of service produce some pretty good marksmen as well. If you

would like to meet some very nice young people and test your rifle skills against these developing shooters, take the JSSP Challenge – report to the range at 1500 prior to our monthly meetings for some friendly competition.





**February
Post Meeting
&
Four Chaplains
Service**



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February Post Meeting Minutes

1. 1800hrs meal started with Chaplain Maxwell praying.
 2. 1900hrs Commander Seibert opened with this special meeting with the Four Chaplains Ceremony and special guests. (Travis Souther dressed in WWII uniform) Pastor Tim Lee representing the Methodist Chaplain, Dan Wickersham from Franklin representing the Jewish Rabbi, Jim Craig representing the Catholic Priest.
 3. Chaplain Maxwell led/directed this service. Maxwell began give a background of the ceremony.
 4. Honor Guard, led by Commander McClure, Posted the Colors. Honor Guard placed the POW/MIA Flag on empty chair.
 5. Commander Seibert led in Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Seibert sang the National Anthem.
 6. 1st Vice Commander Brown led in prayer.
 7. Poem: Four Special Chaplains by George E Williams read by Comrade Randy Fletcher.
 8. A description of the events on February 3, 1943, read by Commander Seibert.
 9. To honor each Chaplain Post 532 Auxiliary will place a rose at each Chaplain's picture, reading their biography and lighting a candle as the bell is tolled.
 10. Cathy Parker placed a rose for Chaplain Fox, Pastor Lee read biography lights a candle.
 11. Cathy Parker placed a rose for Chaplain Goode, Mr Wickersham read biography and lighted a candle.
 12. Cathy Parker placed a rose for Chaplain Pooling, Mr Richard Broughton read biography and lighted a candle.
 13. Cathy Parker placed a rose for Chaplain Washington, Mr Jim Craig and lighted a candle.
 14. Taps was played by Teresa McClure.
 15. Lone Guard retrieved the Flag.
 16. Honor Guard Retire the Colors.
 17. Chaplain Maxwell concludes the Four Chaplains Ceremony by leading in prayer.
- Recognition of Special Guests:** Commander Seibert presented a certificate to Chaplains who were present: Mr Earl Devos, of Clay County Sheriff's Office, Mrs Loise Nicholson and family for Kelsey Nicholson for helping to establish the Tr-State Chaplain's Corps Veterans Mission Counsel, Mr Eurial Turner, for helping to establish the Tr-State Chaplain's Corps Veterans Mission Counsel, Mr Floyd Phillips, for helping to establish the Tr-State Chaplain's Corps Veterans Mission Counsel, Carl Maxwell, for helping to establish the Tr-State Chaplain's Corps Veterans Mission Counsel. Commander Seibert dismissed guests in preparation for Post business meeting.

Post Business Meeting:

1945hrs: Commander Seibert:

Advance the colors, 3rd Vice Commander, Christy placed cover on POW/MIA Chair, Commander Seibert led the Pledge of Allegiance, Chaplain Maxwell led in prayer, Commander Seibert led in reciting the Legion Preamble.

Adjutant report: Mr Randy Fletcher, Commander we do have a quorum. Motion made to approve minutes of last meeting as presented in the email and newsletter. Seconded and approved without opposition. Commander Seibert recognized Commander Mike from the Blairsville Post for their help with the Four Chaplains Ceremony.

1. Announcements: Friday night is Post fundraiser "Poor Man's Supper"

2. March 25 District meeting in Highlands. Let the Commander know if your

3. 1st Vice Brown: no report

4. Finance Officer: Phillips, made motion to accept the report as presented. Seconded Motion approved without opposition.

5. Chaplain Maxwell: I have information on the VAs Home Based Critical Care program.

6. SAL Squadron: Cantley, SAL collected 245lbs of pull-tabs and cans for Ronald McDonald House. Received about \$54.00.

7. JSSP 3rd Vice Christy: The program is up and running. We have some great shooters and sponsors.

8. Membership Retention Team: Dempsey, members renewed

196.

9. Fund Raiser/Social Events: Stegner, this is biggest group in a long time with 46. American League National HQ has set April 29 as National Family Day. We will be doing a 2.2 Mile walk starting at the Black-n-Gold building. Theme is "Come Carry America's Flag", we will have flags for everyone. Looking for volunteers and you can contact Ms Stegner to volunteer. March is Legion 104th Birthday and we will have cake to celebrate during the March Post meeting.

Good of the Legion:

1. Sang Happy Birthday to member Tommy Hooper.

2. Commander???? from Blairsville provided information concerning a Youth Speakers program.

3. Commander McClure thanked the Honor Guard for their commitment.

4. Next Executive Committee Meeting March 26 here at the Post starting 0730. Next Post Meeting is March 28 2023 at 1800hrs/6:00pm with a **Low Country Cookout**. Post business starts at 1900hrs.

5. Chaplain Maxwell closed with prayer.

Commander Brown recovered POW/MIA cover from chair.

1955hrs. Sargent-at-Arms retire the Flag.



Commander Sergeant-at-arms *Dwight McClure*

Honor Guard / Sgt at Arms Update

The Honor Guard provided support through military honors for twelve veteran funerals from January to date..

A Thank You to honor guard members Ricky Breed and Tommy Hooper for helping with the Four Chaplains Service held at the February Post meeting.

We have also updated our equipment to include a complete setup for the new Space Force flag.

We could not offer support to veterans, their families and the community without the help of our dedicated honor guard attendees. Thanks much to Chaplain Carl Maxwell, Bob Bond, Ricky Breed, Rondall Brown, Joe Buckner, Phil Cantley, Randy Fletcher, Bob Haas, Tommy Hooper,

Leon Parker, Floyd Phillips, Trevor Sellers, Mitchell Shields, Bill Thurman, Greg Utech along with Auxiliary honor guard members Kathy Parker and Teresa McClure.

As always, we welcome new recruits. Please contact me for more information on serving.

Dwight McClure
Guard Commander
828 389-6120

“For God & Country”



April Post Calendar

DAY	TASK-ACTIVITY	UP-DATES	POINT OF CONTACT
15 - 29	SPRING LITTER SWEEP	NCDOT Biannual Cleanup	ncdot.gov/littersweep
9	Easter	Info Item	Info Item
18	SAL	Post Meeting Room 6 PM (Officer Nominations and Election)	Phil Cantley, Commander/ Adjutant
22	Executive Meeting	7:30 AM--Post Meeting Room or via phone	Randall Brown 1 st Vice CMDR
25	Post Meeting Nominations for Post Officers	Post Meeting Room 6 PM Dinner 7 PM Meeting	Robert Seibert Commander Jack Greve Judge Advocate





County Service Officer *Rex Ledford*

North Carolina Veterans Council

Approved Legislative Priorities 2022 – 2023

NCVC, with collaboration and deliberation of members of its Legislative Committee, proposes these legislative initiatives (in no particular order of preference) to better synergize our collective efforts to influence, guide and affect improvements for NC Military, Veterans & their families.

SHORT TERM INITIATIVES (More immediate in nature):

A) The establishment of Veterans Treatment Courts in ALL NC counties & jurisdictions, and the increase of funding to adequately address Veterans Suicide Prevention programs at local community levels.

B) Veterans, Military & Spouse preferences for NC State Licensing Compacts; similar to recent passage of HB 791 for Licensed Counselors Compact, proper licensing agreements / compacts for professional services remove employment barriers for military families; And... NC State Veterans, Military Spouse employment preferences to better mirror Federal preferences; such

preferences should be considered for employment at our state levels commensurate with Federal guidelines.

C) Adjustments & Improvements to NC Property Tax language and exclusions – update language to reflect current 38 CFR guidance for Veterans / Widows:

This requires only a technical change to the NC General Statutes, and subsequent eligibility updates on the NCDVA Form 9. There are many surviving spouses across North Carolina who are negatively impacted financially because the NC General Statute does not conform with current 38 CFR eligibilities for VA Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC). The current property tax exclusion up to the first \$45,000.00 valuation for a 100% disabled Veteran does not properly account for current economic impact, and completely ignores other Veterans with significant disability ratings (like HB 1076 / SB 821).

D) Fully fund the NC Department of Military & Veterans Affairs at levels allowing complete and adequate

staffing, management, maintenance and provided care in the state Veterans homes (like HB 772), state Veterans cemeteries, and war Veterans scholarship programs (like HB 767):

This includes proper establishment of a state cemetery trust fund, and necessary capital to acquire additional properties for expansion of existing cemeteries, and / or creation of new state cemeteries. This will require 6 new full-time employees, but these positions will be fully funded by cemetery receipts. Proposed language allows the Veterans Cemeteries Trust Fund to be used for maintenance and operations of the state veterans' cemeteries and directs responsibility to the Secretary of the Department, eliminating the annual distribution from the Veterans Home Trust Fund to the Cemetery Trust Fund and creates additional funding sources.

E) The creation of specific programs and support for Military Sexual Trauma (MST) veterans who have suffered that abuse. Pressure support to modify existing laws, more effectively sentencing during the punishment phase those found guilty of committing the sexual assaults.

F) Increase pressure on our elected officials to quit delays on HB 746; pass this legislation concerning the respectful placement of the POW / MIA flag on state buildings and schools.

LONG TERM INITIATIVES
(deliberate in nature):

These priorities may include Legislation that did not survive previous considerations, or items that will need presentation to a member of the North Carolina General Assembly for the creation of a Bill to support the issue(s):

LT Priority #1 – Ask the Question DoD campaign

LT Priority #2 – Toxic exposures effects in Veterans'

dependents / children LT Priority #3 – Veterans' homelessness /

Affordable Housing / Gender specific issues LT Priority #4 –

NCNG Pension Survivors Benefits Plan

LT Priority #5 – Coast Guard members payment authority

equal to other branches of service LT Priority #6 –

Hunting / Fishing Permits cost reduction for eligible Veterans

LT Priority #7 – Improvements to SAD / USPHS / NOAA

(These are numbered for recognition only, but are not intended to be addressed in any particular order)

**Meeting
Date:
March
28**

**Meeting
location:
Community
Services
Building

**Upstairs
Meeting
Room
25 Riverside
Circle
Hayesville,
NC
(brick
building
below the
Hayesville
Post Office)**

**Menu:
TBA
(Food
provided
by the
Post)**

**Meal at
6:00pm**

**Meeting at
7:00pm**

The National Executive Committee adopted the present Mission and Vision statements of the American Legion Auxiliary in March 2008.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to serve veterans, their families and their communities.

Vision Statement

The American Legion Auxiliary enriches the quality of life of those we serve and our members.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES INFO
(AUXILIARY dues ONLY)**

2023 Mbrshp Year: July 1, 2022—June 30, 2023

You can mail your \$23/Senior or \$10/Junior AUXILIARY dues to Treasurer, Donna Crowell, ALA Unit 532, P.O. Box 72, Hayesville, NC 28904 or bring them to any monthly auxiliary meeting.

Members can also pay dues online. Go to <https://www.legion-aux.org/renew> for instructions to pay online, or call National Headquarters at (317) 569-4570 with your member ID ready.

Delinquent Memberships require payment for 2021 and 2022 in order to be current. Memberships become delinquent status January 1, 2023.

Prayers & Concerns

Marie Leduc's husband, George, Rehab

Paula Walters' husband, Bob,
March 1 Neck surgery

Julie White's husband,, Wayne,
Kidney surgery recovery

Kathy Breed, broken wrist

Shirley Epperson's husband, Bob, Health issues
Patricia Hooper, Hip replacement & rehab





April Birthdays

9	Brenda Kay Ledford
18	Mary Kathryn West
23	Donna Crowell
24	Priscilla Richardson

Dates to Remember . . .

March

Happy Birthday to The American Legion & Auxiliary

April Meeting

Auxiliary will be providing the food for the meeting.

Auxiliary Fundraiser:

Summer Concerts on the Square

Begin May 26

(Entertainer schedule will follow in a later newsletter
when we get closer to the date)

June 24

Auxiliary Sponsored

Casey Davis Memorial Golf Tournament

(Benefit: HHS Student scholarship)

Chatuge Shores Golf Course

WELCOME !!!

New Member, Mary Nicholson

Mary is joining the auxiliary as a Junior member. She is the daughter of Grant & Karen Nicholson. She is also the granddaughter of Auxiliary member and Unit Assistant Chaplain, Lois Nicholson and deceased post member, Kelsey Nicholson. Mary ranks 6th in her class of 83 seniors at HHS.

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