

THE POST

GEORGE LEE POST 532 inc

FEBRUARY 2023

VOL 16 NO 2







Commander report on happenings

Breakfast & Bingo

Wreath Across America

22 too many

February Calendar

HAYESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

GEORGE LEE POST #532 OFFICERS

COMMANDER	Robert Seibert
1ST VICE COMMANDER	Rondal Brown
2ND VICE COMMANDER	Joe Buckner
3RD VICE COMMANDER	Bill Christy
ADJUTANT/TRAINING OFC	Sommer Rector
FINANCE OFFICER	Floyd Phillips
CHAPLAIN	Carl Maxwell
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Dwight McClure
HISTORIAN	Patriot Pete
JUDGE ADVOCATE	Jack Greve
POST SERVICE OFFICER	Phil Cantley

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

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

HONOR GUARD COMMANDER: DWIGHT McCLURE

ASST. ADJUTANT/ ASST. FINANCE OFC: MITCHELL SHIELDS

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

Table of Contents

Commander's Corner	4
Post Member of the month	6
JSSP	7
SAL	7
District Report	8-10
Judge Advocate—constitution and by laws	11-12
Wreaths Across America	13
Chaplains Corner	14
A Veteran's Life	15-17
Shotgun Raffle	18
Upcoming Meetings	19
Pact Act Awareness	20
Post Calendar	21
Auxiliary	22-23

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

COMMANDER'S CORNER Robert Seibert

meet there, but it is time to be answering "home." Make your plans to be listening at the regular post meeting.

It will be good to be Cherokee post. If for you other back at the post reason you should have been Truett Baptist is a great building there for a great breakfast. The and generously allowed us to Commander did a great job questions and to of concerns members.

Mid-Winter conference is right around the corner and I am very excited. Our newsletter will be competing, our web page will be competing, we have a drug and scrapbook alcohol abuse competing, we sent in our resolution about the Tri-State Chaplains Corp, we submitted Prints Plus for the Patriotic small business award and we have submitted the Clay County Progress for news media award.

WE NEED TO FINISH UP OUR **MEMBERSHIP** RENEWAL EFFORTS. We are well into 2023 and should all have paid He also reminded us of the fact our renewal dues.

Department

that 22 veterans a day commit suicide. This is unacceptable. Commander We need to be in contact with Donnelly held a breakfast at the all our post members and make

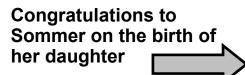




sure we are doing our Buddy Check



Mark your calendars for Feb. 11th. We are going to have Breakfast and Bingo at the post. Breakfast will be provided and the bingo will be free. This will be a great opportunity during the daylight hours for some of you to get out and visit with I'm thinking others. eggs, biscuits. gravy, sausage, pancakes and who knows what else. We hope to have prizes for the bingo winners.











<u>Post Member of the Month</u> Rondall Brown

GARY DEMPSEY

Gary was born and raised in Ipswich, Massachusetts. In 1968, Gary left Ipswich and was off to Navy boot camp at Great Lakes, in the lovely city of Chicago. Upon graduation from boot camp, Gary attended training as an Electronics Technician (ET) (or better

known as an extraterrestrial). After completing his training as an ET, he continued on to Fort Monmouth, NJ, for advanced training in Electronics. He served in the Atlantic Fleet in broadcasting

and transmitters and receivers repairs. Returning to Fort Monmouth after a tour in Scotland, he again attended school, this time for satellite communication operations and repairs. During his time in the Navy, from 1968 to 1977, Gary served tours in Scotland, Ethiopia and Hawaii. After military service, Gary began working for Ford Aerospace at the Air Force Tracking Station in New Boston, NH, for 5 years. He then moved to Johnson Space Flight Center, in Houston Texas. After working at JSC for 3 years, he accepted a position

at Marshall Space Flight Center, in Huntsville, AL, to help start up their own Operations Center, working in the space shuttle program. During his employ of 35 years working at Marshall Space Flight Center, he was awarded the Silver Snoopy award (Astronauts' Personal Achievement Award) for

"outstanding support in space flight safety and mission success". Also, during his time at MSFC, Gary was awarded the Distinguished Public Service Medal for "outstanding technical leadership in the HOSC Shuttle

Engineering Support Center". After visiting and vacationing in this area for over 30 years, Gary and his wife, Charlotte, came to retire in Clay County (Shooting Creek, Eagle Fork). Gary and Charlotte have been married for 52 years and have 3 sons and 5 grandchildren. A TREMENDOUS THANK YOU, to you and Charlotte, for your faithful service to our great nation. The Post is honored to serve with you as you continue to care for veterans and their families. Thank you, as you continue to STAND THE WATCH for God and Country.



<u>JSSP</u> Bill Christy

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is a gun safety education and marksmanship program that encompasses the basic elements of safety, education, enjoyment and competition. Shooters use

SHOOTING

the .177 caliber air rifle. Both males and females can participate, through Legion sponsorship; disabled youth are encouraged to join, as competitive shooting is a sport that creates an equal playing field for all competitors.

Air Rifle Competition

The annual 3-Position Junior Air Rifle National Championship is a tournament that begins with postal matches. State and/or regional champions are determined and advance to a qualification round (also a postal match) to determine the athletes who will earn expense-paid trips to compete in the national

championship. The national championship is a shoulder-toshoulder match held each July at the USA Shooting range facilities at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

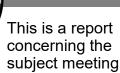


Sons of the American Legion Philip Cantley

We are always looking for more members. Please contact me if you are interested or know of someone who qualifies.

All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I or since December 7, 1941, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership.

District Report Jack Greve



hosted by Brevard, Post 88 with a meal provided at 12 noon and the formal meeting at 1 PM on December 10, 2022. The meeting was called to order with prayer by District Commander Shannahan. Roll call of the posts in the district was taken and the following are the results:

Brevard Post 88 – Present

Canton Post 61 - Absent Cherokee Post 143 - Absent Franklin Post 108 - Present Hayesville Post 532 - Present Highlands Post 370 - Present Murphy Post 96 - Absent Robbinsville Post 192 - Present Sylva Post 104 - Present Waynesville Post 47 - Absent The only Officer in attendance from our post was Jack Greve. No other Officers or post members volunteered to attend or were otherwise committed elsewhere. This does not show well for our post. A total of approximately 18 Legion members from District 25 were in attendance which made a quorum.

CMDR Shannahan then recognized present and past

officers in attendance. Each post present was then given the opportunity to give a short dissertation of their post activities. The report given by Judge Advocate Greve for our post is provided at the end of this memo for your information There being no further new or old business, CMDR Shannahan called for discussion items under 'Good of the Legion'. Other items discussed during the meeting were directed to the membership drive, attendance at various Department functions, various drives conducted by the Department, upcoming Legion College, and the need by posts to participate in the various awards offered by the Department and National Headquarters.

Division Commander Jim McGill then took the floor. He commended Post 370 Highlands for reaching 100% in membership and encouraged the other posts to continue their drive to reach their goals. He then commented the concern at the Department regarding posts completing their annual 990's to the IRS and the lack of EIN numbers. At present out of all posts in the State 40 have not filled their 990's and are lacking

EIN numbers. The present status of these posts is they have been placed on temporary SUSPENSION until these problems are resolved. This means they can only function in the capacity of collecting dues, filing back taxes and filing for an EIN number. No other activities by these posts are allowed until these problems are resolved. Jim then reminded everyone of the upcoming increase in dues of \$5.00 per member beginning on January 1, 2023 stating that this is the first increase by the Department in 23 years. Other information provided by CMDR McGill is unknown at this time as I requested to be excused (approximately 1:14 PM) due to a physical health issue. To the best of my knowledge the meeting was adjourned around 2:15 PM. Please be assured our post was recorded as present and a written report provided to the District Commander as required.

END OF REPORT

ATTACHMENT (Report given by Post Judge Advocate and copy provided to District Commander) POST 532 ACIIIEVEMENTS AND PLANS 10-13 to 12-10- 2022

(NOT IN ANY STANDARD CRONOGICAL ORDER)

Funerals and Memorial Services

• Post Honor Guard with Murphy Post 96 performed an estimated 47 funerals and memorial services since the first of the year and as of the October last district report. This is an estimated count as an accurate count is not available at this time.

Other Activities

- Post Membership continues to stand at active members of 209 with 145 or
 68 4% presently new or
- 68.4% presently new or renewed as o this report.
- Ronald McDonald pull tab program continues with service Officer Phil Cantley heading up efforts.
- Post Veterans Day Program held with guest speaker Dept. National

Committeeman David Shore followed by veterans family day.

- SAL Squadron active and supporting Post programs
- Held Children's Santa Program (3PM) followed by Post Christmas social (5PM) December, 3rd.
- Membership Retention Team and Buddy Checklist activities continue to contact all post members and solicit membership renewals.
- Department Commander Mike Donnelly attended our October Post Meeting

and updated us on Department activities. He also stressed the importance of meeting our membership post requirements.

- Officers and post members participated in middle school Veterans Day program.
- Attended annual Dept. Fall Conference in October with 2 post officers attending.
- As a result of our outside financial audit, an in depth review of our present Constitution and By-Laws was made and completed. A review by our

Executive Committee was made and changes, deletions, and additions were made and approved. Action now

underway to provide for the entire

membership acceptance in accordance with Department regulations. Once post approval is completed (30 day requirement) a new edition will be sent to the

Department for acceptance.

 Participated in special County Veterans program at the Dept. of Social Services.

- Held standard Execute Committee meeting with a quorum present.
- Held usual post Meeting November 29th with a quorum present.
- Special separate birthday programs held honoring the Navy and Marine Corps.
 Upcoming Activities (December 10, 2022 to January 2023)
- Post members will attend Commander Donnelly breakfast at Cherokee Post 143 on December 17th.
- Post 532 will not hold a Post meeting in December nor will there be an

Executive Committee meeting for December.

- Plans being considered by the Executive Committee to attend Department annual mid-winter conference.
- Post will be participating in Hayesville Christmas Parade 6
 PM December 10th
- National Wreaths Across America - Post participation still to be determined.





Judge Advocate Jack Greve



CONSTITUTION & BY-LAW CHANGES FOR POST 532

In order to bring our present document up to date the following additions and changes have been approved by our Post Executive Committee and are in accordance with our Constitution and By-Laws and the required procedures as set fort by our Department. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the following individuals within the next 30 days.

CONSTITUTION CHANGES; Article V – Officers

Section 1. The administrative affairs of this Post of the American Legion Shall, except as may be otherwise provided by the By-Laws, be under the supervision of an Executive Committee which shall consist of all Post Officers, plus three additional Executive Committee members at large. -

BY-LAWS CHANGES

Article I

Section 2. The Executive
Committee shall consist of all
officers of the post plus three
additional Executive
Committeemen. - - - - - All
elected officers and the at large
executive committeemen (3)
shall be by ballot, show of
hands, or acclimnation - - - - - -

Article III --- Post Executive Committee

Section 4. The Executive
Committee shall authorize all
other designated accounts for
the purpose of transacting
Post busnines. The
chairperson of each program
shall maintain their
checkbook for their specific
program/account. Each
program shall chair shall
provide monthly expense and
income totals to the Post
Finance Officer. Each



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account chair or desingee is authorized to sign required checks. The Post Finance Officer shall receive monthly totals from each chair and maintain the combined financial books for all Post programs. Surety bonds will be provided by the Post in such a sum as shall be fized by the Post Executive Committee.

shall be fixed by the Post.

When you review the above changes be advised that those changes in **GREEN** are additions to our present Constitution and By-Laws Third Edition August 2020. Those in **RED** ae being deleted from this document.

Article IV—Duties of Officers

Section 1.----- The
Commander may choose to
authorize the Finance Officer
to disperse up to \$150.00 per
item whithout approval of the
Executive Committee for the
general maintenance of the
post financial affairs and
notify the Executive
Committee by E-mail of said
action. ----

Section 4. - - - - The Finance
Officer shall sign all checks
distributing the moies of the
Post, and shall furnish such
surety bonds in such sum as



Remember to check out our web page.

PRINTS PLUS 828-389-7190 ppnc1124@gmail.com



Moss Memorial Baptist Church

Rev. Charles Shelton Pastor

828.389.4112

P.O. Box 1198 • Tusquittee Road • Hayesville, NC 28904



Post Meeting Menu January 31 at 6pm

Sliders

Marie Leduc and Michelle Stegner, were part of the Wreaths across American, at Waynesville, NC They joined up with the Patriot Guard with presenting the American Flag. Waynesville, NC has a large number of Veteran plaques and/or tomb stones. 700 wreaths were place on these Veterans stones. Roughly over 100 folks braved the cold day with high winds. It was a great honor to be part of this program and been going on since 1992.





Carolina Christian Academy

259 Tusquittee St. Hayesville, NC



<u>Chaplains Corner</u> Carl Maxwell

Happy New Year to all. I hope everyone had a

good Christmas. Our Welcome Home Veterans event is coming to Clay county this fall.

Obviously we will not have large aircraft on display like we did at the airport, but we will make this years event more veteran oriented. We are in the very early planning stages and I will keep everyone updated as time progresses. As we always do, our post will have our Post Everlasting ceremony at our post meeting on January 31. In February will be our Four Chaplains programs. I hope we

can get our students for the program this year. As of today, January 9, Larry Sams is in Murphy Medical .He is improving and will probably get to go home this week. Please take time to visit or call each other. Our post is up in age and most members are going through some kind of problems. It is always good to hear from each other or to see if there is anything we can do to help. Remember to pray for one another.

For God and Country, Carl



Patriot Pete says,

Make sure you have paid your renewal fees.

A Veteran's Life

It was quite the eye opener. My son was deployed to Afghanistan, we went to see him off and were there when he returned. I was in the military when Desert Storm began, but I was never deployed to an area of action. This was not the case for my son. He came home changed in many ways. Like many combat veterans, he did not want to talk about it.

After some months, he called and told us he had just gotten out of the hospital. Shocked, we asked why. He said, "My roommates came in my room and found me with my gun to my head." Shocked was no longer how we felt; we were heartbroken. It comes as no shock to me to hear that 22 veterans a day commit suicide, and half of them are women. Since my son was young, he carried on about how he was getting old and falling apart. When he started telling

me things wrong with him, I didn't really pay attention. Now, he is medically retired. He came home for Christmas, and things he had told me were more evident. The trouble with the knees could be seen, and there was the hearing aid. Soldiers are supposed to wear hearing protection when riding in helicopters, but medics have to be able to communicate, so he didn't, and his hearing paid the price. While he didn't pay the ultimate price for our freedom, I feel honored to call him my son. I am humbled by his protecting my freedom.

All of our veterans need support in a wide range of areas from a wide range of people. As a nation, we need to continue to support each of these men and women. We need to pressure congress to ensure they are cared for. Are you wondering what you as an individual can



do? Here are a few suggestions. Thank a veteran every chance you get. Show your support by attending patriotic events. It is sad when a town can't get but a handful of people to show up for Memorial Day, MIA day, and Veteran's day. If you're a veteran, make sure you join other veterans in groups like the American Legion.

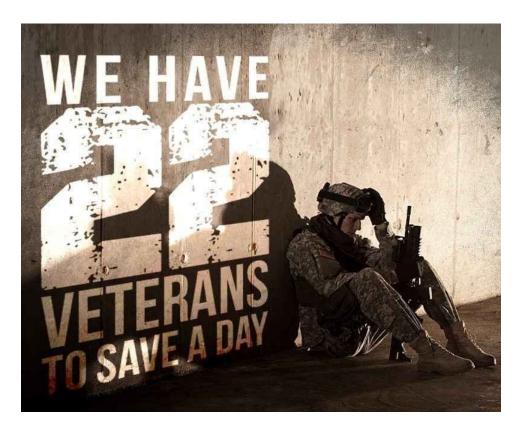
So, what about my son? He was blessed to be able to get mental help and is doing well. I'm not ashamed of his actions. I don't love him less. Scars, especially mental or emotional scars, take a long time to heal and some never heal at all. When you lay your head down on your pillow tonight in the freedom of your own home in the land of the free, take a moment to say a little prayer for the men and women who have provided your freedom and have paid a price to do so

If only it was the end of my story. This was not the only

realization of what others are going thru. My son and I were visiting his brother, also a veteran, this Christmas. We dropped off gifts and gave quick hugs because his wife and children were sick. As we drove back home and were about and hour and half from the second son's home his wife called me. They had a fight, he left and sent a text that he was going to kill himself. I immediately turned around He had said he was going to his grandparents farm, where his veteran brother was buried. The police were called but no one had seen him. By the time I returned to town he still was not found. Led by God I decided to check the boat ramp a mile from the farm. I found him. He was drunk, but alive. The plan was to drive into the creek and drown. I found out he had tried the night before, but the gun wasn't loaded

We must be vigilant to help our fellow veterans. Don't be afraid to seek help, it is available.









ONLY 200 TICKETS BEING SOLD

See Robert at Prints Plus
or a member of Hayesville Post 532 American Legion
Drawing when all tickets sold.

You do not have to be present to win.



January Meeting



Donna McClure-Allen a Social Worker with the CGVAMC Home Based Primary Care Program will explain the details of the VA Home Based Primary Care Program, the various disciplines involved in the program, and explain/discuss any questions participants may have.

February Meeting

4 Chaplains Ceremony





BE VIGILANT OF PACT ACT SCAMS

On August 10, President Biden <u>signed the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson</u>
Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act (PACT Act) into
<u>law</u>. This law helps millions of Veterans and their survivors by:

- Extending VA health care eligibility for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 (Post-September 11, 2001) eras
- Expanding benefits eligibility for Veterans exposed to toxic substances and their survivors





Tips to Avoid PACT Act Scams

Scammers are taking advantage of new opportunities to commit fraud. There's been an increase in PACT Act-related phishing (email), vishing (phone), and social media scams targeting Veterans to access their PACT Act benefits or submit claims on their behalf.

Veterans should be cautious of anyone who guarantees a lucrative financial benefit or service.

Do's

- You may submit your application securely online via VA.GOV or in person at any Regional Office. You may file your claim directly with VA and then, VA will assist in gathering evidence necessary to support it. There are no costs or hidden fees to apply.
- Be cautious of companies who advertise VA benefits can only be obtained with their help. These companies may not be recognized by VA and may be attempting to charge illegal fees.
- Be cautious of aggressive companies who may try to pressure you to sign their contract through frequent communications or by insisting "you must act now or lose your chance for benefits."
- Be cautious of companies who claim to be contacting you on behalf of VA or to have a special relationship with VA. Contact VA at 1-800-827-1000 if you are unsure about the authenticity of any message received.
- Validate: If you are interested in working with a Veteran Service Organization (VSO), agent, or attorney, use the Office of General Counsel <u>Accreditation tool</u> to confirm and validate their credentials.

Don'ts

- Do not sign a contract agreeing to pay an unauthorized company a percentage of your benefit payment in exchange for their assistance with your VA claim. If you need help filing a claim, there are representatives of VSOs, agents, and attorneys who have been accredited by VA to assist you.
- On not sign a blank form for someone else to complete later.

 Always review the completed form before signing and keep a copy for yourself.
- Do not be fooled by companies who advertise they have special relationships with medical professionals and can guarantee your benefits award. If they are defrauding the Federal government, you could be held responsible for paying those benefits back.
- Do not provide your social security number, medical records, or other personally identifiable information to anyone offering claims assistance before confirming their credentials using the Office of General Counsel Accreditation tool.
- Do not sign forms that are not <u>VA generated</u> or third-party authorization for someone to provide "behind-the-scenes" claims assistance.

www.VA.gov/PACT is the official source of PACT Act information.

We want Veterans and survivors to apply now for their PACT Act-related benefits.

To report suspected scams, please contact the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) Hotline (va.gov). File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission. Visit the Cybercrime Support Network for additional resources to help Veterans, service members, and their families combat cybercrime.



Learn more and sign up at <u>VA.gov/PACT</u>
Download the <u>VA Health and Benefits App</u>
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at <u>VA.gov/find-locations/</u>

February Post Calendar

	Task – Activity	Up-Dates	Point of Contact
3	Four Chaplains Day	Info Item Legion Calendar	Info Item Legion Calendar
11	Breakfast and Bingo	Post Meeting Room 9 AM	Robert Seibert Commander
14	Forever Harts Dinner	Post Meeting Room 5 PM For widows and widowers	Robert Seibert Commander
16-18	Department Mid Winter Conference	Raleigh Hilton National Commander Dillard will be attending as the VIP	Open for attendance by any post member.
25	Division 5 Oratorical Contest	Lenore High School Lenore, NC Time -TBD	Debbie McGill Chairperson Jack Greve Support
25	Executive Meeting	8 AMPost Meeting Room (Or via Teleconference)	Rondall Brown 1st Vice CMDR
27	Four Chaplains Practice	Post Meeting Room 6 PM	Carl Maxwell Chaplain
28	Post Meeting	Post Meeting Room Dinner – 6 PM Meeting – 7 PM	Robert Seibert Commander
28	Four Chaplains Ceremony	Post Meeting Room (During regular meeting)	Carl Maxwell Chaplain

Unit 532 AUXILIARY NEWS JAN/FEB 2023

Meeting Date: January 31

The
January
Meeting will
include a
Post
Everlasting
Ceremony
& Auxiliary
Memorial
Service

Meeting location: Community Services Building

Menu:
Sliders
(Food
provided
by the
Post)

FEB.
MEETING
DATE:
Feb. 28

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

Post Member George Leduc, Rehab Auxiliary member, Mary Shelton, Cancer treatments

Paula Walters' husband, Bob, continued health improvement

Speedy recovery to all those who have been recently sick with flu, cold, covid, etc.



February Birthdays

- 8 Emma Buckner
- 18 Judi Bouchard
- Shirley EppersonCecelia Phillips
- 26 Audrey Ray

Dates to Remember . . .

January 31st Meeting

Since a Post Everlasting Ceremony will be held during the meeting, the ladies are asked to participate in escorting family members of the deceased post member and placing a rose.

We will also be remembering deceased auxiliary member, Nell Woodard, during the service.

February— Four Chaplains Service

Please contact Teresa McClure if you would like to help, 828 389-6120 or tbmcclure@brmemc.net

Have a Blessed 2023!



GEORGE LEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 532 inc. PO BOX 22 HAYESVILLE, NC 28904

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