



THE POST

GEORGE LEE POST 532 inc
MARCH 2023

VOL 16 NO 3



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HAYESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

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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
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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
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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

We had a
meaningful Post

Everlasting service and I want to thank all who were present. We were able to follow the service with a quick and efficient post meeting.

If you missed the breakfast and bingo you will see pictures in this newsletter for the great food donated by Ingles. The bingo had prizes donated by Carlotta's Cajun restaurant and Tri-County office supplies. We will be planning another one of these. Let us know what you think.

We continue to work on getting all our membership dues in. Sadly, this should have been completed by Oct. 1 but we are still running short.

We continue to need to find new members, especially younger veterans to be a part of our post.

Why do we not have more

members at our post meetings?

Some said it is too formal or military like. We are trying to reduce all the saluting and formality.

Some have said it is too long. We are trying to reduce the length and keep the meeting short by knowing what reports need to be made ahead of the meeting.

Some have said it's dark or they can't drive. If you want to attend and can't because of transportation, please let me know, we may be able to help.

I want to encourage you to try to attend our meetings and develop friendships with fellow veterans.

While we are back at "our post" at the community building we need to think about the future. We work on a shoe string budget and have to arrange with

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Ed Cantrell Rick Cantrell

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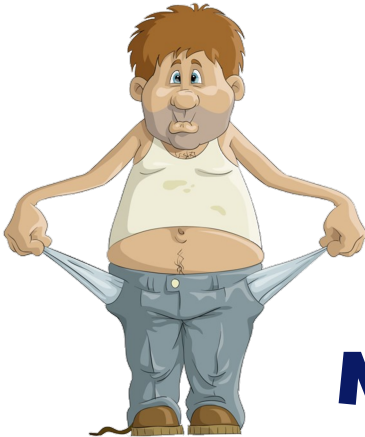
Pastor Rondall Brown

Cell: 828-361-6939
Email: pheasantr77@gmail.com

the county for event we want to host at our post. We need to think about the future of our post. How can we achieve a permanent home? How can we create an income to fund our programs? How can we become known as an asset for our community?



Poor Man's Supper



March 3
Truett Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall
5pm—7pm

Phone: 828-389-2168

Fax: 828-389-4827



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Post Member of the Month

Rondall Brown

John William (Bill) Thurman

Nestled in the mountains of the Old North State, Clay County is a bit of heaven which we all think is great. Bill, a native of Clay County, was still in his teens, even before his high school days were done, when he received an invitation from his Uncle Sam to join up for a great adventure in life. So, in January '64, Bill departed this bit of heaven and descended down to the rolling hills of the Piedmont to Fort Bragg for boot camp. Fort Bragg was originally established in 1918 as an artillery training ground. Camp Bragg was renamed Fort Bragg, to signify becoming a permanent Army post, on September 30, 1922. Upon completion of boot camp, Bill began his training for artillery and he became one of the Army's most outstanding "cannon cocker's". Upon completion of Artillery training, Bill was assigned to the mighty **18th Corps Artillery**. However, Bill was one of the adventurous types and wanted to soar

through the heavens. He attended paratrooper training at Fort Benning and became a member of the elite "**SKY DRAGONS**" of the **18th Air Borne Corps**. The **XVII Airborne Corps** was first activated in 1942. The Corps participated in many famous battles in WWII, Korea and Vietnam wars.

Completing his dynamic adventures in the Army, Bill attended college and ventured into the civilian life as an educator and worked for the Clay County School system for 33 years.

Bill and his wife Sharon have been married for 55 years and have 2 lovely children, and 4 fantastic grandchildren. **A TREMENDOUS THANK YOU**, for your stalwart service to our great nation and being a faithful member of Post 532. The Post is honored to serve with you and Sharon caring for veterans and their families as you continue to **STAND THE WATCH for God and Country**.



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BUICK





Sons of the American Legion *Philip Cantley*

We want to thank SAL member Tom Carnahand for helping the Commander prepare breakfast for the Post at the Breakfast and Bingo event.

This year's collection of Pull Tabs and Cans for the Ronald McDonald House has been completed.. Thanks to the Clay County Progress, Clay County Chamber, The American Legion Post 532,

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 0532, and everyone from the Hayesville Community who help make the years collection a success.

We collected 113 lbs. of pull tabs and 132 lbs. of cans that gave us a total of 245 lbs. We received \$54.65 to be sent to Ronald McDonald House.

Again a job well done, let's do this again next year. Start bringing in those tabs to the progress, chamber. or call me and we can pick them up.





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Chaplains Corner *Carl Maxwell*



What to do before a veteran dies. This information was copied from an American Legion publication available at www.Legion.org 1 One of the eventualities in life that spouses and families of veterans face is the death of their loved one who served America in uniform. To help ease the burden on loved ones, veterans can make preparations in advance.

Important records The first step is to make certain the family has easy access to important documents such as: • The veteran's discharge certificate (DD form 214). • VA documents, if any, indicating a VA claim number. • A copy of all marriage certificates and divorce decrees (if any previous marriages). • Insurance policies, including beneficiary designation. • A copy of the family will (not required for VA benefits). • Location of safety deposit boxes (not required by VA). • Business address, email address, office and cell phone numbers for local American Legion service officer.

(Cherokee County NC 828-835-8663 ext 1899; Clay County NC 828-389-6301) VA burial and memorial benefits Veterans

who die on active duty, or with discharges that are other than dishonorable, are entitled by law to: • A gravesite in any national cemetery with available space, opening and closing of the grave. • A government headstone, marker, urn, or medallion • in a national and/or private cemetery. • A government-issued U.S. flag to drape over the casket, and for presentation to the surviving spouse or next-of-kin. • A Presidential Memorial Certificate signed by the president of the United States. Burial in a VA national cemetery Every eligible veteran who is entitled to burial in a national cemetery as long as space is available and the following conditions are met: • Veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. • Veteran was not subsequently convicted for offenses involving prohibited weapons of mass destruction, genocide and international terrorism. What to do before a veteran dies. This information was copied from an American Legion publication available at www.Legion.org 2 • With certain exceptions, service beginning after Sept. 7, 1980, as an

enlisted person and service after Oct. 16, 1981, as an officer must have served for a minimum of 24 months or the full period for which the person was called to active duty. For a description of requirements: www.cem.va.gov Burial benefits in a VA national cemetery include the following: gravesite, headstone, marker or medallion, opening and closing of the grave, and perpetual care of the grave site. Many national cemeteries have columbaria or gravesites for cremated remains. Gravesites in national cemeteries cannot be reserved. Many national cemeteries are closed to new casket interments. Funeral directors or others making burial arrangements must apply at the time of death. Spouses and minor children of eligible veterans and of servicemembers may also be buried in a national cemetery. If a surviving spouse of an eligible veteran marries a nonveteran, and remarriage was terminated by death or divorce of the non-veteran, the spouse is subsequently eligible for burial in a national cemetery. Visit the National Cemetery Administration website at www.cem.va.gov for a listing of all national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries. Send questions on benefits eligibility to VA at

public.inquiry@mail.va.gov. Headstones and markers VA provides headstones and markers anywhere in the world for the unmarked graves of veterans who died before Sept. 11, 2001. For the marked graves of veterans who died on or after Sept. 11, 2001, double marking is authorized. Flat bronze, flat granite, flat marble, upright granite and upright marble type are available to mark the grave in a style consistent with the cemetery. Niche markers are also available for urns. When burial is in a national cemetery or state veterans cemetery, the headstone is ordered by the cemetery, which will place it on the grave. When burial occurs in a private cemetery, the headstone must be applied for from VA. The headstone is then shipped at government expense. VA does not pay the cost of placing the headstone on the grave. The cost is borne by the veteran's family or other party. These charges may be included in many prepaid funeral packages. VA Form 40-1330 (application for headstone) can be obtained from most funeral home directors, through veterans service officers, or through VA. This form may also be downloaded and printed out by visiting www.cem.va.gov/hmm/. VA rules allow for custom inscriptions on headstones.

Belief symbols such as Christian Crosses, Stars of David, Islamic Crescents and others are available. However, VA has limited other graphics such as logos, military decorations and fraternal organization marks.

The best way to assure that you get the desired stone or plaque is by obtaining and filling out VA Form 40-1330 (Application for What to do before a veteran dies. This information was copied from an American Legion publication available at www.Legion.org 3 Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private or State Veterans Cemetery) and filing it with other documents. When a spouse or child is buried in the same grave as a veteran, VA will have a contractor inscribe the reverse side of the headstone. Twenty-year reservists are eligible for a headstone or marker. Specific steps must be taken for authorization from The American Legion to affix an American Legion emblem onto the headstone. Burial flags A U.S. flag is provided, at no cost, to drape over the casket or

accompany the urn of a deceased veteran who served honorably in the U. S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a veteran's military service. Eligibility for former members of Selected Reserves were added by Section 517 of Public Law 105-261. The flag will be issued once only for burial purposes and will not be replaced if lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed. National cemeteries with avenues of flags, and many state veterans cemeteries, accept donations of burial flags for mass display on Memorial Day, Veterans Day and other occasions. The standard issue burial flag is made of cotton and will not withstand continuous outdoor display. Burial flags may be obtained at VA regional offices, national cemeteries and most local post offices. Overseas, U.S. flags can be obtained from U.S. embassies or consulates VA will furnish a burial flag for veterans who served during wartime, died on active duty after May 27, 1941, who served after Jan. 31, 1955, peacetime veterans who were

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discharged or released before June 27, 1950, certain people who served in the organized military forces of the commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S. Armed Forces, and who died on or after April 25, 1951, and certain former members of the Selected Reserves. Burial and plot-interment allowance You may be eligible for a VA burial allowance if all of these conditions are met:

- You paid for a veteran's burial or funeral.
- You have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased veteran's employer.
- The veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met. The veteran:
- Died because of a service-related disability.
- Was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death.
- Was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay.

What to do before a veteran dies. This information was copied from an American Legion publication available at www.Legion.org

- 4 • Died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility.
- Died while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to or from a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care.
- Had an original or reopened claim pending at the time of death and has been found entitled to compensation or pension from a date prior to the date of death.
- Died on or after Oct. 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA-approved state nursing home. How much does VA pay? For a veteran's service-related death: If the death was due to his or her service connected disability, VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses occurring on or after Sept. 11, 2001. For a veteran's non-service related death since Oct. 1, 2011: If the death occurred while hospitalized by VA, it will pay up to \$700 toward burial and funeral expenses. If a

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veteran's death was not due to a service-connected disability and the veteran was not hospitalized by VA, the veteran must meet at least one specific condition to receive up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot-interment allowance. Time requirements for filing a claim Applications for payments must be filed within two years after the burial. If the application is incomplete at the time it is originally submitted, VA is required to notify the applicant of the evidence necessary to complete the form. If such evidence is not received within a year from the date of notification, no allowance may be paid. How to apply The applicant can apply by filling out VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits and attach a copy of the veteran's military discharge document (DD 214 or equivalent), death certificate, funeral and burial bills. The applicant must prove the burial expenses have been paid. Downloaded the form at www.va.gov/vaforms To obtain

assistance in filing a claim, find an American Legion Department Service Officer at www.legion.org/serviceofficers or call 202-861-2700. Payment for transporting veteran remains to a VA national cemetery Service-related deaths: If the death is related to a veteran service-connected disability, and the veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed. Non-Service Related Deaths: If the death was not related to a veteran's service connected disability and the veteran was hospitalized at a VA facility, or at a non-VA facility at VA expense, or under VA contracted nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting the veteran's remains may be reimbursed. What to do before a veteran dies. This information was copied from an American Legion publication available at www.Legion.org 5 Presidential Memorial Certificates Presidential Memorial Certificates express the nation's

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recognition of a veteran's service. Certificates bearing the signature of the president are issued honoring deceased veterans with honorable discharges. Eligible recipients include next-of-kin and other loved ones. The award of a certificate to one eligible recipient does not preclude certificates to other eligible recipients. To establish honorable service, a copy of a document such as a discharge (form DD-214) must accompany requests for a certificate. A Presidential Memorial Certificate is issued when a headstone or grave marker is issued. If the certificate is lost, stolen or destroyed, a new one may be issued if requested in writing. VA regional offices can assist in applying for original or replacement certificates. Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery is under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Army. Eligibility for burials is more limited than at other national cemeteries. For information on Arlington burials, write to Superintendent, Arlington

National Cemetery, Arlington, VA 22211, or call (877) 907-8585. Visit the website at arlingtoncemetery.mil. Military funeral honors As of Jan. 1, 2000, all eligible veterans, including military retirees, are entitled to military funeral honors. The funeral honors ceremony will include the folding and presentation of the U.S. flag and the playing of Taps. At least two uniformed military personnel, in addition to a bugler, if available, shall perform the ceremony. If a bugler is not available, a high-quality recording may be used. DoD has contracted for a ceremonial bugle that does not require a trained bugler. For information, visit www.ceremonialbugle.com. One of the uniformed military personnel will be from the deceased veteran's parent military service and will present the flag to the next of kin. The military services may provide additional elements of honors and may use additional uniformed military personnel or other authorized providers, such as members of a veterans



Carolina Christian Academy

**259 Tusquittee St.
Hayesville, NC**

organization, to augment the funeral honors detail. The appropriate individual must request the funeral honors. DoD policy calls for funeral directors, rather than next-of-kin, to

contact the military. This toll-free number, (877) 645-4667, has been set up for funeral directors. See www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh for details.



JSSP *Bill Christy*

We were able to present a certificate of appreciation to Gunther Kreiger for his donation of a new air rifle. He informed us with the great news his others companies would be donating an additional two new riffles.

Our junior shooters continue to improve in their marksmanship.

We want to give a big shout out to our coaches: Greg Utech, Larry Parker, Dwight & Teresa McClure, & Marsha Christy.

If you are interested in helping please contact me.





Breakfast and Bingo





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January EC meeting quick review

EC Meeting quick review

COMMANDER COMMENTS – Robert Seibert

Randy Fletcher, a fairly new member has volunteered to trained as Adjutant. Reported awards the Post has submitted: News Media Competition, Honor Guard, Web Page, Newsletter, Resolution to recognize Post 532 Chaplains Tri-State Veterans Mission, a drug awareness book.

OFFICER REPORTS:

3RD VICE COMMANDER – Bill Christy, Gunther Kreiger will join us for our monthly meeting. Another volunteer has received training for her CDL-S to drive an Activity Bus.

FINANCE OFFICER – Floyd Phillips: summarized monthly finance report. (available to all members when requested) EC voted/approved the audit process Audit to be completed in January for the past year. Post fiscal year is Jan-Dec.

CHAPLAIN – Mr. Carl Maxwell

1. Health and Welfare report. Larry Sams, Mark Runge, Harry Methfessel and wife are having a very difficult time.

2. Welcome Home- moving event to CLAY County for 2023. Event will be smaller without an airshow. Refocusing on veterans verses high

attendance.

HISTORIAN – Acting Historian CDR. Phil Cantley, working to complete the book for 2021-22.

SGT AT ARMS/ Honor Guard – Commander Dwight McClure:

1.3 funerals last month, replaced flags at Hayesville Mayors office (picture in the Progress). Attended the renaming ceremony for the Murphy Konehete Park to Konehete Veterans Park.

2.All veterans have been invited to attend the Iwo Jima remembrance ceremony on February 20 at 10:00am at Foster Park in Hiwassee.

3.Cherokee county has placed road signs recognizing PURPLE HEART. Commander Seibert made motion to ask Clay County VSO to investigate how to place signs in Clay County. Motion seconded and approved without opposition. McClure and Seibert will ensure VSO has information.

4.Discussion (Seibert): who is responsible for adding the flag for the new Space Force? McClure will order and Post will reimburse McClure from the general fund. The set will be about \$120.00. Motion made by Cantley for Post to purchase flag set for new Space Force. Motion seconded and approved



Robert Seibert, Phil Cantley, Marsha Christy,
Harry Flynn, Jack Greve, Bill Christy

Convention Results

Newsletter - 1st place

Mass Media - Clay County Progress 1st Place

Still to be judged due to lack of quorum:

Drug Scrap book, Honor Guard, Patriotic Business

Resolution– more information requested



without opposition.

SERVICE OFFICER – Mr. Phil Cantley: received notice of new MIA remains identified and will make complete report to Post.

JUDGE ADVOCATE – Mr. Jack Greve

1. Final stage for Post By-Laws and Constitution update and will be voted on at the January Post meeting.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Each committee should have submitted a budget to Finance Officer.

2. Home schoolers participating with JSSP. Response from Christy: no further information at this time.

3. Insurance for JSSP.

4. Deposit 10% of general fund

to Post Savings Account, .

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Standing & New)

FUNDRAISERS

COORDINATOR –

Fund Raiser – Poor Man's Supper, Tickets available for shot gun – 80 tickets remaining.

JSSP 3ND VICE

COMMANDER – Mr. Bill Christy, recognized Dwight McClure for building a rifle rack

ANNUAL VETERANS'

APPRECIATION DAY – Mr. Carl Maxwell / Mr. John Bandy Status of Financial Position of the Veteran's Welcome Home Program / check book returned to American Legion/ Location of the event for 2023?



Commander Sergeant-at-arms *Dwight McClure*

The Honor Guard provided support to the Hayesville Mayor's Office recently by installing a new flag at the Town Hall. Thank you Mitchell Shields and Ricky Breed for helping with this request.

Thanks also goes out to honor guard members Ricky Breed, Phil Cantley and Tommy Hooper for helping with the Post Everlasting Service held at the January Post meeting.

It was an honor to assist the Auxiliary Unit with replacement of the POW-MIA flag at the Clay County Care Center as part of their ongoing veteran outreach at the local care centers. Appreciate honor guard member Mitchell Shields' help with installing the new flag.

As seen in our local George Lee Post 532 and Auxiliary, the American Legion is committed to advocating patriotism and honor, mentoring youth and sponsoring

wholesome programs in our communities, promoting a strong national security, and continued devotion to fellow service members and veterans.

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

Dwight McClure
Guard Commander
828 389-6120



Membership Dues Confusion

Due to no fault of ours, there is great confusion about membership dues. According to National, we begin collecting next years dues in July and are suppose to have all collected by Oct. 1 according to Department. Nationals' goal is to have all collected by Jan. 1. While we collect beginning in July, the dues are for the year starting the following January.



March Post Calendar

Day	Task – Activity	Up-Dates	Point of Contact
6	Department Oratorical Contest		Department Chairman INFO ITEM
11	District Mtg	Highlands	Robert
13	Daylight Saving Time	Info Item	Info Item
15-17	LEGION BIRTHDAY		
26	Executive Meeting	7:30 AM-- Post	Rondall Brown 1 st Vice CMDR
26	Post Board of Directors	After EC meeting adjourns	Robert Seibert Commander
29	Post Meeting	Post 6 PM Dinner 7 PM Meeting	Robert Seibert Commander



County Service Officer *Rex Ledford*

The Patriot Foundation has supported the educational goals of military and Veteran families through scholarships since their founding in 2003. In 2020, Patriot Foundation and the North Carolina Legislature entered a public/private partnership. The allocations from the State allow Patriot Foundation to increase scholarship support of North Carolina military families attending North Carolina post-secondary institutions. Patriot Foundation administers two scholarship programs using NC state and federal funds.

THE NC PATRIOT STAR FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM and the NC PATRIOT STAR FAMILY RECOVERY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM are available to the children and spouses of fallen or disabled Veterans, children of injured active-duty service members, and qualifying disabled Veterans. Applicants must be NC residents accepted to or attending NC post-secondary institutions. Disabled Veterans must have a VA disability rating of at least 50%. Scholarships for the STAR Program are up to \$3,250 per semester and up to

\$5,000 per semester for the RECOVERY Program. Funds may be used to cover up the cost of attendance. Applicants must have qualifying expenses not met by other grants, stipends, or scholarships. The scholarship application cycle for the 2023-2024 academic year is April 1, 2023 - May 31, 2023. Applications can be completed online at patriotfoundation.org. Also, the information on these scholarship programs can be accessed at this website.

Veterans Service Office
Rex Ledford
Email: rledford@claync.us
(828) 389-6301



Post Everlasting



A Shout Out to those who attended and participated in the Post Everlasting Ceremony. We would also like to thank the Auxiliary for their participation and providing the roses. The Legion is a family and all meant to work together as one.

**Meeting
Date:
February
28**

**The
February
Meeting will
include a
Four
Chaplains
Service**

**Meeting
location:
Community
Services
Building**

**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

Post Member George Leduc, Rehab

Auxiliary member, Mary Shelton,
Recovery/broken ankle

Paula Walters' husband, Bob,
March 1 Neck surgery

Julie White, Surgery (pending)

Kathy Breed, broken wrist



March Birthdays

2	Paylen Denton
9	Lois Nicholson
18	Linda Bond
18	Frances Dyer

Dates to Remember . . .

February 17—18 Mid-Winter Conference/Raleigh

February 28 Meal & Meeting

Since a Four Chaplains Ceremony will be held during the meeting, the ladies will help with placing roses prior to the auxiliary meeting.

March

Happy Birthday to The American Legion
& Auxiliary

June 24

Auxiliary Sponsored

**Casey Davis Memorial Golf Tournament
(Benefit: HHS Student scholarship)
Chatuge Shores Golf Course**

WELCOME !!!

New Member, Dalal Green

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