# A black and gold postcard with a blue and yellow emblem AI-generated content may be incorrect.40

### Volume 2, Issue 4 **"FOR GOD AND COUNTRY!**” 12 April 2025



 **35TH DISTRICT – COMMANDER – AL LOTT – 334-441-6580**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| POST | NEW | PUFL | REG | TRANSF | TOT | GOAL | % |
| 82 | 1 | 8 | 40 | 8 | 57 | 54 | 105.56 |

POST OFFICERS

COMMANDER

J. Elaine McLeod

334-465-0067

VICE COMMANDER

Travis Parker

ADJUTANT

John Blackburn

[post82al@gmail.com](mailto:post82al@gmail.com)

CHAPLAIN

Sam Williams

SGT. AT ARMS

TBD

UPCOMING POST EVENTS

*MONTHLY MEETINGS*

0800 hrs, 03 May 25

0800 hrs, 07 Jun 25

0800 hrs, 0 5Jul 25

***DISTRICT MEETING***

18 May 25

## **Department Conventions**

## ​​June 19 - June 22, 2025 Renaissance Mobile, Al Room Rates $149.00 - Reservation Deadline May 22, 2025. Call 800-468-3571

POST FACEBOOK SITE

<https://www.facebook.com/Post82OzarkAL>

POST WEBSITE

https://alkob.net

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Post**  **82** | **DISTRICT**  **35th** | **DIVISION**  **3rd** |

**DEPARTMENT**

**ALABAMA**

**Please mark your calendar and plan to attend Veteran’s Supper every Friday 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the fellowship hall, Westgate United Methodist Church, 512 Camilla Ave, in Ozark, Alabama.**

A cake with candles on top

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April’s Birthdays

**RETURN TO SENDER – UNABLE TO DELIVER/FORWARD**

**Fred G Hoagland III Tellas D Johnson**

**303 Eve Ct, 602 Morris Street**

**Campbellsville, Ky 42718 Dothan Al 36301-3754**

**-----------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**Arriane M MacArthur David Roussin**

**196 Chestnut Drive 210 Lenord Street**

**Ozark, Al 36360-2868 Newton, Al 36352**

**-----------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**Ronald Staley**

**637 County Road 36, Ozark, Al 36360**

**If you know of the current address for the above individuals, please let the Post Adjutant.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | | |
| **NAME** | **DAY** | **AGE** |
| Andrews, Norman | 2-Apr | 81 |
| Thomas, Wayne | 15-Apr | 88 |
| Williams, Sam | 15-Apr | 80 |
| Jordan, Richard | 23-Apr | 85 |
| Brown, Kerry | 29-Apr | 71 |

**American Legion 2025 Legislative** **Priorities**

**We often say that the American Legion needs us all, and the United States active military and veterans need the American Legion.**

**In March, our National Commander and our National Legion officers will be in D.C meeting with our elected representatives to ensure that veteran causes are at the top of their agendas. Last year, two of our members had privilege to join in a joint Armed Services session. It was clear that the Senators and Representatives present were listening and engaged with our national leadership. Check out the American Legion 2025**

**Legislative Priorities Booklet.**

**Membership Report**

**We have surpassed our 2025 goal of 54 active members. If you’ve already renewed your membership, THANK YOU!**

**For those who have not renewed yet, If you are among the members who have not renewed yet, please stop reading and renew now at Legion.org. You can also opt for automatic renewal or choose to renew for the next three years at the current rate of $55.**

**If computers aren’t your thing, you can mail or drop off your dues to the Adjutant. Be sure to include your membership number in the memo section of your check. If you have any questions or need assistance with your renewal, feel free to reach out.**

**From the Adjutant’s Desk**

**In Memoriam**

**A tombstone with a rose

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**Dear Fellow Legionnaires,**

**It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our esteemed fellow Legionnaire, Mr. Bruce Robert Williamson, Jr., a resident of Ozark, died early Tuesday morning, March 4, 2025, in a Dothan hospital. He was 95. In keeping with the wishes of the family, there are no public services planned at this time. Bruce’s contributions to our community were countless, and his legacy of service and compassion will be remembered by all who knew him. Bruce embodied the spirit of our organization and was a pillar of support for many and a friend to all.**

**Everyone always looked forward to one of Bruce’s jokes, after a dinner of fellowship and fun. Always delivered with a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face, you were always kept in suspense until the very end.**

**Details regarding Bruce’s memorial services are still being arranged, and we will provide updates as soon as they are available. We encourage all members to join us in honoring Bruce’s memory and to support her family during this difficult time.**

**Let us come together to celebrate the life of a remarkable individual who gave so much to The American Legion.**

**In solidarity,**

**Sincerely,**

**John Blackburn   
Adjutant  
Post 82**



**Post 82’s Historian Corner**

**Please share details and photos of Post 82 Legion Family events with me at** [**post82al@gmail.com**](mailto:post82al@gmail.com)**.**

**The Meanings Behind Rituals for Military and Veteran Funerals**

**Why is the casket of a veteran or active military serviceperson covered with an American flag? When did “Taps” become a regular part of a veteran’s memorial service? What’s the significance of the 21-gun salute and the 13 precise folds of the American flag during a military funeral?**

**Covering the Casket with a Flag**

**Covering the casket with the flag became a custom In the earliest days of cannon and firearm use, the British National Salute was recognized as being comprised of seven guns. during the Napoleanic wars (1796-1815). The dead carried from the field of battle on a caisson were covered with a flag, so that each side could identify their own dead. Draping the flag of a nation over a military service person’s or veteran’s casket serves to remind the living of that person’s service and sacrifice for that country.**

**Members and Membership**

**New Members:  If you know anyone who qualifies for membership and might be interested in joining the Legion, bring them to one or more of our upcoming activities so they can see what we do. Use the rest of the summer to recruit new members.**

**Sick Call:  If you know of a member (or any veteran) who is ill or in need, contact Chaplain Lapierre (698-1762) or Service Officer Stevens (698-7400) and make them aware of the situation.**

**April:**

* **5 April:**[**Gold Star Wives Day**](https://veteran.com/gold-star-spouses-day/)
* **14 April:** [**Air Force Reserve Birthday**](https://americangimuseum.org/air-force-reserve-birthday/)
* **23 April:** [**Army Reserve Birthday**](https://americangimuseum.org/army-reserve-birthday/#:~:text=Today%20is%20the%20Army%20Reserves,predecessor%20of%20the%20Army%20Reserve.)

**MAY:**

* **Monthly Post Meeting (1st Saturday of the month), May 3rd, 2025, 8:00 am**
* **Mother’s Day (2nd Sunday of the month), May 15th 2025, All Day**
* **Military Affairs Meeting (1st Saturday of the month), May 15th 25, 10:00 am**
* **Armed Forces Day (3rd Sunday of the month), May 18th 2025, All Day**

**JUNE:**

* **Monthly Post Meeting (1st Saturday of the month), June 7th, 2025**

**A colorful banner with white text

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**Post Election Day is approaching quickly. Please make sure that you watch for the slate of officers for the Post.**

**VOTE! It’s your right, vthe Post needs you to be involved!**

**FREE 2027 DUES**

**Recruit ten new Legion members (Veterans) between 1 July 2025 through June 39th, 2026 and your 2027 dues will be paid by the Post.**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **POST ELECTIONS The story behind the Ballot** |  |

**I/A/W Post 82’s By-laws, Post Elections are held at our May General Membership meeting and take office at the following meeting.**

**Elections are the most important event for the post.  It is when we gather together and select our new leaders.  Leadership selection is not a reward, it is earned.  Post Leadership is an immense task and a post needs talented men and women to guide the post through a year that includes a considerable number of events that require a lot of work to make it a success.  The American Legion Officer Guide and Manual of Ceremonies contains the step-by-step process and the reason behind the process. The duty of each officer is covered and explained.**

**Here is the process briefly.  Each year members will consider the candidates for office in the upcoming post year.**

**Current officers are individually contacted and asked about their plans for the coming year.  They are asked if they want to hold their position or switch to another role?”  Some existing officers may decide to step down from an officer’s role.**

**The next step is critical, at the April meeting a slate of officers will be established and agree on.  The process is similar to that of military boards for promotion selection.  A majority vote is required for each position.  *Age and length of time as a member are not considered*.**

**The Slate of Officers is a list that many consider as the best-qualified person for service in each office.  Their report is presented in April.**

**At the May General Membership Meeting, the Slate of Officers is presented to the general membership. It is at this time that additional names may be nominated for a position.  This is done by the Chair announcing a position listed on the Slate of Officers.**

**The Chair then asks, “Are there any other nominations from the floor.”  This is not the time to throw a name out without thoughtfulness.  *Nominations from the floor do not have to be seconded, but the nominated member should be present to affirm that they accept or decline the nomination and that they will serve, if elected*.**

**After the Chair announces, “Are there any other nominations from the floor” the Chair pauses for a period and, if there is no response, the Chair repeats the call for further nominations a second time.  And, as before there is a pause, and a third announcement.  After making the call for further candidates three times, and hearing no response, the Chair announces, “Having heard no further nominations, the nomination for ( \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) are closed and then strikes the gavel once.  This process is repeated for all Post Officer Positions.**

**Once the nominations call results in a gavel action, nominations cannot be reopened unless a motion is made and passed by a majority vote.  On election day, no nominations are authorized from the floor.**

**Write-in votes may be made to the official ballot on election day.   A simple majority of the cast votes determine the winning candidate.**

**As you can see, there is a lot of effort that goes into just preparing for an election.  The actual Post Elections process is a significant event in itself.  If you have the leadership and management skills to help our post grow, you are encouraged to get involved with our many committees.  Here, leaders are developed.  They learn parts of the puzzle that is known as “Post Operations and Procedures.”  There are rules of the American Legion, state and federal laws governing non-profit charities (that is an IRS 501(c)(19) Veterans Organization).**

**Election Day – May 3, 2025,  8:00 am  
Election day is also the Post’s Annual Member Meeting. It is a special time. The only business normally conducted is the election.**

A black and white logo with a person's head in a circle

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**Good friends. A few years later I ran into a buddy of mine from my old unit. While catching up he asked if I had heard about “Spottedbird”. I told him No, what? He then tells me that Bird had been killed, but his body hadn’t been recovered.**

**Although it was tragic to hear, I can still think of my friend with a smile. Fly High My Old Friend.**

**POW/MIA CORNER**

**A place to share a memory of a**

**lost military buddy.**

**In 1974, I had the privilege of**

**meeting a fellow soldier who would become a great friend. His name was Spotted-bird, I never learn is full name, everyone just called him “Spottedbird (his last name), a lucky few of us just called him Bird. He was a full-blooded Cherokee Indian who grew up on the reservation, or the “Res” as he would tell us.**

**Bird was a great friend, a person who was always there for you. Ready to party all the time or the person who saw you having a rough day and he would grab your ruck, give you the “Bird” smile. A smile that told you “It’s going to be Ok, Ole Bird is here and I have your 6.**

**But as a soldier you knew that assignments were short and you were always moving on to the next post.**

**A few Years later, Bird moved on to his new post and I to mine, different countries, but still friends/a buddy of mine from my old unit**

**Have you talked to a Buddy Lately**

A graphic of soldiers helping veterans

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A close-up of a document

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A calendar with many different colored notes

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A calendar with a flag and text

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A calendar with a few days of the week

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