

September



American Legion Riders Post 231, Pottsboro, TX

September 2016 Newsletter

www.alr231.com

MISSION STATEMENT: Promote the aims and purposes of the American Legion and its programs.



Meeting Times:

AUX 9/10 10am VFW Pottsboro
Legion 9/10 11am VFW Pottsboro
Honor Guard – 9/10 12pm VFW
Pottsboro
ALR 9/11 12:30pm Anchor's Up
Abate 9/18 1pm AmVets Sherman

September Events:

10th Teddy Bear Run KSU 1pm Anchor's
16th POW/MIA Ceremony Durant VFW
17th State Abate Meeting
22nd-24th BBB Fayetteville, AR
30th-1st ALR 62 Garage Sale

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

5th James Kirkpatrick
7th Carl Fleming
15th Sherry Watson
21st James and Michele Caldwell Ann.
26th David and Susan Bridges Ann.
29th Teresa "Mama T" Fleming

Coming Events:

10/1 – Lou Garza Benefit at Anchor's
10/15 - Ride for Lefty at Holly's
10/22-23 4th District Convention
Greenville Post 17
11/12 – Abate Freedom Run
12/17 – National Wreaths Across
America

2016 – 2017 ALR OFFICERS

Director – Joe "Whitey-Bo" White
Asst. Director – Don "Pappy" Papin
Secretary – Shellie White
Treasurer – Gary "Thumper" Winters
Judge Advocate – John "Hoss" Watson
Sgt at Arms – open
Asst. Sgt at Arms – Scott Thundercloud
Run Coordinator – James "Bones" Kirkpatrick
Historian – Donna "Dizzy" Duncan
Membership – Sherry "Weezy" Watson
Chaplain – Steve "Dunk" Duncan
Public Relations – Shelli "Sis" Bailey
Legislative – open
Communications – Eileen "Rose" Knowles



THE RIDERS CREED

Rider dedicate themselves to the success of the American Legion. I know that through my efforts I can make a difference.

I Alone am responsible for myself and to my fellow riders. I will conduct myself with the highest degree of integrity and honor.

Deeds not words create change. I will persevere against any and all things that prevent my success. My resolve and strength will overcome all obstacles.

Each rider is first a member of the American Legion family. I will actively participate in and willingly support their endeavors.

Reasily will join other riders in activities and events which support missions. I will do so gladly knowing I volunteered to be an American Legion Rider.

Success is the only acceptable conclusion. I will allow nothing to dissuade me or impede me from service to my family community country and especially to our Veterans.

Riders Lead The Way !

Director – Joe “Whitey-Bo” White

I would like to assure the American Legion Riders family my intent to be a good Director. I will dedicate myself to the success of the American Legion and its programs. I will work hard to protect the integrity and honor of the American Legion family.

The elected officers and I strive to improve our communication and accountability to our fellow riders. I thank them for their time and efforts. It will be through ALL of our efforts that we will be successful.

I am looking forward to a good year!

Ride Safe!!

Joe White
Director

Post Commander – Gary “Thumper” Winters

As a member of The American Legion riders, we are first members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary or The Sons of The American Legion. We should take pride in our membership. We need to make it a point to attend the meetings of the organization we belong to.

When we are in public wearing vests, we need to remember that we are representing not only The American Legion Riders but also The American Legion MIA Post 231. We must always conduct ourselves accordingly to give everyone a good impression of our organization.

Gary Winters
Commander
American Legion
MIA Post 231

National Disaster Preparedness Month

September is recognized as National Preparedness Month (NPM) which serves as a reminder that we all must take action to prepare, now and throughout the year, for the types of emergencies that could affect us where we live, work, and also where we visit. The American Legion works with the Department of Homeland Security in the promotion of disaster preparedness and response. The four pillars of The American Legion are national security, veteran’s affairs and rehabilitation, Americanism, and children and youth. By leading and participating in a community disaster preparedness program, we can fulfill needs in all these areas.

We know that emergencies can happen unexpectedly in communities just like yours, to people just like you. As commendable as they may be in their profession of assisting those in need, police, fire and rescue may not always be able to reach you quickly in an emergency or disaster. The most important step you can take in helping your local responders is being able to take care of yourself and those in your care for at least a short period of time. The more people who are prepared the quicker the community will recover.

With just a few simple steps, you can be prepared yourself by knowing your risk, taking action and being an example in your community.

Know your risk - emergencies can happen anywhere, at any time. It is important to understand potential risks where you live. Stay informed by adding a weather.gov bookmark and sign up for your local emergency alerts.

Take action - make sure that you and your family are prepared for an emergency. Ensure that you can go for at least three days without electricity, water service, access to a supermarket, or other local services by preparing a disaster supply kit with at least three days of food and water (see sample list below).

Be an example - be a positive influence on your community by sharing your preparedness story with friends and family.

Basic Disaster Supplies Kit

- [Water](#), one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- [Food](#), at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to [shelter-in-place](#)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to [turn off utilities](#)
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

Go to ready.gov for a more complete list.

Assistant Director: Don "Pappy" Papin

I want to thank you for putting your trust in me to act as your Assistant Director. I am honored to work with Whitey-Bo in representing this fine organization. We have some things already in the works with services for Lefty on the 11th, Honor Guard has been requested. There is also a veteran's appreciation day in Hugo, OK on the 9th of Sept. The Honor Guard may be requested for this. If not we can do it as a ride and set up a donation table with the DAV sharing the donations. The 16th of Sept is POW/MIA day in Durant on the square, at 7pm, it would be nice to attend as a group. I will try to keep you, and our run coordinator, informed of rides and event I know of so we can get out and get some wind together. Unfortunately at my age I do not do night rides so most of the stuff I can participate in are day events and I run the Veterans bus for the Texoma area to the VA, not many days are free either. We all just do what we can, again I am proud to represent you and be safe out there.

Communications Officer: Eileen "Rose" Knowles

I joined the AL 231 as a member first and then as a rider because of the people within. I do not live close to our Post as many do, I have quite a ride/drive to get there. I choose to and am honored to be a part of our Post and The American Legion Family.

From day one I stepped foot in the Post Lakeside I knew it was the place for me. I wanted to be a part of it, participated in events before I ever joined!

So many people have welcomed me with open arms! I continue to feel at home at Lakeside with my brother and sister riders and the Legion Family!

It is my hope that we as riders will come together to not only abide by our riders creed but to become better family members of our great organization!

REST IN PEACE BROTHER!!



JIMMY "LEFTY" THOMAS

A memorial service will be held September 11, 2016 at 2pm at the VFW Post 7873 in Pottsboro, TX.

Secretary: Shellie White

When I joined The American Legion, I wasn't aware of the organizations beliefs, goals, and history. But I am the inquisitive type so I started asking questions. Everyone told me to check out legion.org. I did and I was hooked for life!! I decided that I really wanted to get involved.

I didn't know that The American Legion was so involved in legislation to advocate for veterans like me, my parents and now my husband. I wasn't aware of their many programs that support veteran's organizations, communities and youth programs.

I found out that The American Legion was founded on four pillars: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation; National Security; Americanism; and Children and Youth. These were all things that I felt strongly about but never thought I could make a difference in the world until I joined The American Legion.

We can make a difference but we can't do it alone. We need the help of everyone that believes in making this country great again (no that is not a campaign for Trump ☺). I think people out there have lost their faith in America and have lost their Patriotism. I was one until I joined The American Legion.

As a veteran it is my right to salute the flag but I was so disgusted by what our government had become and how it seemed that Americans were just passively sitting and watching that I refused. I didn't feel like it represented MY America anymore. Then a true friend, Travis "Sam Crow", asked me why I didn't salute the flag and I told him. He enlightened me as to the true meaning of the Flag. It doesn't represent the Government. It represents every veteran who lost their life for it and the ones who are still fighting for it and every American veteran or not that still believes in it. I had stopped believing. Now I salute it proudly but I needed that reminder. It is MY Flag not theirs!

My hope is that my story will inspire YOU again to believe and not give up hope or the fight to make America a country to be respected again. I completely believe that the way to do that is by supporting The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, The Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Riders. WE can make a difference.

National American Legion Riders Legacy Run

For the third straight year The American Legion Legacy Run has raised more than \$1 million in scholarship money for the children of fallen military personnel and disabled veterans.

The 11th annual charity motorcycle ride, sponsored by USAA, raised \$1,155,363 for The American Legion Legacy Fund. The Legacy Fund provides college money for the children of U.S. military personnel killed on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, as well as the children of post-9/11 veterans with a VA disability rating of 50-percent or higher.

Nearly 300 Legion Riders and their passengers left Indianapolis on Aug. 21, 2016 and traveled 1,300 miles through seven states in five days – traveling through Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia before ending up outside of Cincinnati. More than \$555,000 was raised before or along the ride, while another \$600,000 was donated Aug. 30 on the floor of The American Legion National Convention in Cincinnati.

“Deeds not words create change”

September 1st I was sitting in the drive-thru line at Starbuck’s. I had placed my order and waited in the line until I made it to the window. When I handed the barista my money, she informed me that the lady in the car in front of me had already paid and said “I hope you have a good day”.

Has someone done something like this for you or have you done it for someone else. We want to hear your stories. If you want to be kept anonymous, please let me know. Send your story to shelliek.white@gmail.com

American Legion Post 231 Honor Guard

The American Legion Post 231 now has an Honor Guard. Meetings will be the second Saturday of every month at noon right after the American Legion meeting at the VFW in Pottsboro. If you would like more information, please contact Pappy at 580-317-7418 or pappy@windyglen.net. You do not have to be an American Legion member or veteran to join.

LOL (Laugh Out Loud)

Sep 2, 2016, I got off work early on Friday before a 3 day weekend to get a shelf for my room/closet so I could try to get it organized. I stopped off at Lowe’s and found the one I wanted but of course it is on the top shelf and wedged between a whole lot of the ones that I didn’t want and an assembled one that was bolted to the shelf.

I stood on the bottom shelf to see if I could get it out alone but it was wedged in there pretty good and wouldn’t budge. So I walked to the end of the aisle and looked around, waited a minute to see if anyone would show up to help me. Walked to the other end of the aisle and did the same thing. Nothing. So

I went back to the shelf I wanted sizing it up to figure out how to get it down on my own. I thought that if I moved a few of the little ones I might be able to get my fingers around it enough to move it out enough for me to grab it.

I moved one to the left side and two in front of the assembled shelf. Even the small ones were pretty heavy and remember I am standing on the bottom shelf in order to reach. So I can finally get to the one I want but it is still wedged between one of the small shelves and the assembled shelf. So I look around for something to pry it up with in order to get my fingers under it. The only thing I could find was a metal paper towel holder. It worked! I got my fingers under it and after several tries I finally got it out enough I could grab it with both hands. I decide to pull it out but I can only reach the very bottom of it and when I pull as hard as I can it decided to come top first against the other two that are just leaning against the assembled shelf and all three come toppling down. I put my arms over my head and prayed for the best. When nothing happened, I looked up and the wire across the shelf held all three. I never even noticed that wire until then! So I get the shelf down and in my basket with just a little more struggle.

The next obstacle which you would think wouldn’t be that difficult is to grab a couple of the basket cubes that fit inside the shelf. When I reach down to grab a couple, the box that was holding them falls over and spills out into the next aisle knocking over a metal trash can. I bend over and look through to the next aisle expecting someone to be looking back but there isn’t. So I grab my little cubes and walk away ... laughing out loud.

Advertising

If you know anyone who would like to advertise their business in our monthly newsletter, please have them contact Shellie at 580-775-8736 or shelliek.white@gmail.com.

From the Editor

We want your stories of why you joined The American Legion, why you became a rider, funny stories, inspirational stories, or whatever you got. Send them to shelliek.white@gmail.com. Please let me know if you want to be kept anonymous.

