

American Legion Post 112

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“Blessings for a Happy Thanksgiving”

November 2016

Commander

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John Wilson
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James E. Stafford
706-671-3381

Junior Vice Commanders

Gary Benson
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Starling Hammontree
706-271-5628
Bob Oxford
706-260-5279
Ed Shiver
706-847-6344
Larry Swanson
706-695-4096

Finance Officer

Rudy Desmond
706-428-4746

Service Officer

Jerry Manning
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Chaplain

Harrison Parker
706-695-5301

Sergeant-At-Arms

Larry Swanson
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Historian

Beth Wingfield
706-508-5612

Judge Advocate

Joe Evans
706-629-4966

SAL Commander

George Lo Greco, Sr.
706-259-0072

Auxiliary President

Charlotte Moss
706-313-1769

Happy Thanksgiving

As noted in last month's newsletter, we will not have a regular member's meeting in November (**we will have the Executive Board meeting on November 10**). We hope everyone has a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving – an expression of gratitude, especially to God. In many American households, the Thanksgiving celebration has lost much of its original religious significance; instead, it now centers on cooking and sharing a bountiful meal with family and friends. Turkey, a Thanksgiving staple so ubiquitous it has become all but synonymous with the holiday, may or may not have been on offer when the Pilgrims hosted the inaugural feast in 1621. Today, however, nearly 90 percent of Americans eat the bird - whether roasted, baked or deep-fried - on Thanksgiving, according to the National Turkey Federation. Other traditional foods include stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. So try with all your might, not to eat too much and don't forget to give thanks to God for your many blessings.

Our Christmas dinner/meeting will be held on **December 3rd**, beginning at **6:00 pm**. The entertainment will be the Mountain Cove Blue Grass Band. They are a group of young guys that will surely be worth your time to hear. **As an added bonus, it would be very much appreciated if you could bring some canned goods, which we would donate to the Food Bank.**

Reminder about FREE Life Insurance through the LegionCare program. Go

online to enroll (one time enrollment) at www.thelit.com/legioncare2 or call **1-800-235-6943**. There is absolutely NO COST to you. The LegionCare program will cover you for \$1,000 AD & D coverage. If the accident loss occurs when on official Legion Family business, you are covered for \$5,000 of AD & D coverage. This a no-brainer; you cannot beat the cost.

American Legion will turn 100 years of age in 2019. The official kick-off of the 100-year celebration will begin at the National Convention in Minneapolis, MN, on August 29, 2018. It is not too early to begin thinking about how we want to contribute to the celebration. Let me know if you would like to serve on Post 112 Centennial Celebration committee. This is a big deal; think about it – One Hundred Years!

For God and Country,

Lee Oliver
Commander

VOTE - American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt encourages posts to promote voting - "It's our duty and responsibility to vote."

VETERANS DAY PARADE

November 12 is our Veterans Day Parade. Show your support! For ways you can help, Contact Shell Underwood at 706-508-9290

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- November 5, SAL College, Ellijay Post 82
- November 8, VOTE
- November 10, 5:30 pm, Executive meeting American Legion; 6:00 pm, Ladies Auxiliary
- November 11, 7:00 am, Place flags at courthouse lawn
- November 12, Veterans Day Parade
- November 17, 6:00 pm, Regular meeting, SAL
- November 19, Seventh District Meeting, Post 42, Cartersville
- NO REGULAR MEETING THIS MONTH



BINGO - 7:00 pm every Monday, Tuesday and Friday (Open to the public - Tell all your friends)
SPECIAL BINGO - First Friday night of each month.

VETERANS IN CRISIS

(By VA Undersecretary of Health,
Dr. David Shulkin)

The topic of suicide is a difficult conversation to have, but preventing Veteran suicide is a conversation that our experts at the Department of Veterans Affairs have every day. Our work is constant and our commitment to our **Veterans in crisis** is 24-hours-a-day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Last year, the **Veterans Crisis Line** dispatched emergency responders an average of 30 times daily and made 80,000 referrals to suicide prevention coordinators at **VA medical centers**. We know that we are saving thousands of lives. For us, this is no cause for celebration because it tells us that we continue to have too many Veterans struggling, and we have more work to do. Even one life lost is one life too many and it grieves us, especially our dedicated employees, many of whom are Veterans themselves, who spend late nights and holidays away from their own families to serve and save the lives of their fellow Veterans who are in need.

Several media outlets have recently chronicled the challenges of the Veterans Crisis Line, reporting that calls to the Veterans Crisis Line were rolling over and were being ignored or unanswered. That is simply untrue.

What *is* true is that VA, like other organizations that operate crisis or life lines, do rely on back up centers. But VA's back up centers are not like call centers as many in the general public might understand it.

We are currently strengthening the Veterans Crisis Line, doubling it in size, opening a new hub in Atlanta and using best-in-class business practices to improve capacity and our effectiveness as a life-saving resource. This will allow us to soon answer all calls to the crisis line with trained VA responders. Much is being done but more is needed.

To our Veterans who feel they are at the brink with no place to turn, please know that we are here for you and will always be there to answer your call.

If you are a Veteran or the loved one of a Veteran experiencing a crisis, VA provides universal access to 24/7 emergency care through our Emergency Departments and VA's Veterans Crisis Line. Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, text to 838255 or chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net.

Plenty of opportunities!

November 5th we will go to Ellijay Post 82 for SAL College. The Van will leave at 7:00 am. Lunch will be provide and after lunch is the National American Legion College.

November 10th, 6:00 pm (the Marine Corps Birthday) will be the next CERT Academy at the Bandy Center, Dalton State campus.

November 11th at 7:00 am we place flags at courthouse lawn and November 12th is the Veterans Day Parade - line up at 9:00 am and start at 10:00 am. Flags will be taken down at 5:00 pm.

November 19th is the Seventh District meeting at Post 42 in Cartersville. Any one have any ideas about anything else? PLEASE talk to me.

In His service and at Your Service,

George La Greco Sr.

Commander Squadron 112



LADIES AUXILIARY

Parking was made a lot easier by lining the field and markers put up by the Whitfield County Recreation Department, Leo Whaley and Lenard Whaley. Also, a big thank you to everyone who helped with parking - your dedication and hard work is much appreciated.



Volunteers are needed to carry biscuits to the VA in Chattanooga, contact Wanda Tibbs, 706-694-3440

For any information, contact Charlotte Moss, Auxiliary President at 706-313-1769