



American Legion Post 290

Newsletter edited by Siegfried Gates



The Friendliest Place in Virginia!

Stafford, Virginia

December 2024

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Commander's Call to the Post 290 American Legion Family:

Greetings!

The holidays are upon us and I want to personally wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving and wonderful Christmas season!

The 290 club dinner was a big success, having over 160 people in attendance. Let's look forward to the next one in April.

Holiday food baskets are our big event in December, along with the children's Christmas party. If you have time, we'd love to have you join us and help out. Please take time to review the newsletter for all events coming up in the next few months.

Don't forget to give this holiday season, even if it's just your time!

Happy Holidays,

Rick Schultz
Commander, Post 290

From the 2nd Vice:

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope everyone has safe travels this holiday season and returns home safe and ready for the New Year.

Many thanks to the Scouts, Scout Leaders, and Legionaries who helped with the clean up at the Annex on October 26th. I would like to personally thank the following Scouts: Kayce, Alison, Abby, Joslynn, Nat, Mckenna, Mackenzie, Cadie, and Leah. Also, the following Scout Leaders: Amanda, Melonie, and Sharon. From the Legion there was Marty Partridge, Tammy Mintler, Rob Webster, Kathy Payne, and Mike Patrick. The main focus of our efforts was to clean up the flower bed in front of the Annex and get rid of some of the rotten timbers. Additional efforts will be taken to remove the remaining timbers and replace them. The Scouts will continue to maintain the flower bed. We planted some mums along with a few other flowers. More will be done in the spring time.

Greg Nilges, who has been helping me with the rentals at the Annex and maintaining the rest of the building will be stepping down in January 2025. He has helped me since November 2023 and has been a tremendous asset. I will be sorry to see him step down and will sorely miss his help. I would like someone who is willing to take on the functions he did and assist me with the Annex. If you are interested in helping you can reach me at my email: john4post290@gmail.com or you can phone or text me at: 540-809-8337.

John Patrick
2nd Vice

The Veterans Crisis Line HOT LINE is live! Dial 988 then Press 1.



Post Everlasting

By Darren King

Comrades: It is always with great sorrow when I must announce the transfer of any Legionnaire to Post Everlasting:

NO REPORT

If you know of any member of Post 290, Unit 290 or Squadron 290 who transferred to the Post Everlasting, please contact me at darren@northstaffordbaptistchurch.com, (816) 550-5228 or 111 Van Horn Lane, Stafford, VA 22556 .

Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Darren King

The holidays are upon us and as American Legion members we have a unique opportunity to make a positive impact on our community and brighten the lives of those in need. By embracing the Legion's core values of service, patriotism, and loyalty, members can engage in a wide range of charitable activities to spread joy and goodwill. Our Post 290 hosts a food drive, toy collection through the Riders, and other programs that provide essential support to families facing financial hardships. By volunteering your time and resources, you as a Legionnaire can help ensure that even those struggling to make ends meet can experience the warmth and togetherness of the holiday season.

In addition to providing tangible assistance, American Legion members can also offer emotional support during the holidays. For many veterans, the season can be a time of reflection and solitude, especially for those who are separated from family or struggling with mental health challenges. Host a lonely veteran this holiday season or simply reach out to check on fellow veterans. Help combat the isolation and foster a sense of camaraderie and belonging. The Legion's commitment to strengthening bonds within the veteran community ensures that no one has to face the holidays alone.

Finally, the American Legion's focus on youth can play a pivotal role in making the holidays brighter for the next generation. Members can lead by example and instill in youth the values of kindness, generosity, and respect for others. You can help foster a spirit of giving in young people that extends well beyond the holiday season. Through these efforts, we as Legionnaires will contribute to building stronger, more compassionate communities that are united by the joy of giving and supporting one another. Go in the grace of God.

BINNACLE LIST

If you know of any other member of Post 290, Unit 290, Chapter 290 or Squadron 290 who is ill, and/or hospitalized, or if you have updates on any of the above issues, please contact me, Darren King at darren@northstaffordbaptistchurch.com or call me at (816) 550-5228 (cell), or mail me at Darren King, 111 Van Horn Lane, Stafford, VA 22556.

The Veterans Crisis Line HOT LINE is live! Dial 988 then Press 1.



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 290 News

By Marilyn Butters

.ATTENTION: If you are interested in attending the December 1st annual Community Children's Christmas Party, be sure to register via the Post 290 Facebook page. Kathy Payne has done another stellar job preparing for this wonderful event, designed to bring joy to children throughout the county. The party starts at 2 pm with Kevin the Magician performing, followed by a special guest arriving from the North Pole – he welcomes family photo opportunities so get your phone camera ready!

We are sad to report that our Unit lost a 19 year member in November. Nina Scullin, mother of past 290 Commander Mike Scullin and grandmother to Junior member Sienna Scullin passed away on November 5th. Nina was an officer and active Children and Youth Chairperson, responsible for starting the tradition of an event at the Children's Christmas Party. For many years, Nina contracted with a puppet show company she was familiar with from her working days. They provided new, fun shows for many years. Nina was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery with her husband, Mike.

The Craft Fair plans continue, thanks to Mary Schelin. Mary has already secured the Post for a spring craft fair-look at the article next month for the date. The recent October craft fair brought our Unit some new member interest as shoppers with Veteran ties learned from Mary and Ginger that day how they could join.

We hope to see many members at the Post's Annual Food Drive, being held the second week of December. Look for exact dates and times in this newsletter. Another shout out of thanks to member Kathy Payne who is coordinating this event as well. Many hands are needed so when you come to volunteer, bring a friend!

Membership dues of \$35.00 are now due. Please drop your check by the Post any Wednesday or Friday or mail it to Attention ALA Unit 290, Box 125 Stafford, VA 22555

Eagle Eye of the Month for November 2024

John Humphrey was the Eagle Eye Spotter for November 2024. In the SAL News, on page 7, procedure is missing an e in paragraph 2.

The Veterans Crisis Line HOT LINE is live! Dial 988 then Press 1.

American Legion Riders Chapter 290 News

By Marty Partridge

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays Post 290!

Your Riders have been very busy this fall. Here are just some of the highlights.

On Saturday, Saturday, October 18th, Rob Webster and I helped out with the Annex Fall Clean Up. The Second Vice put us to work disassembling a portion of the front landscape bed to remove rotten timbers, and then re-assemble it re-using the best timbers. Lots of hard labor, and wrestling with some serious iron spikes. Whomever built that decades ago, had every intention of it lasting for a very loooooong time. All in all, it came out pretty good, albeit shorter than when we started. The Riders held our annual End of Year Rider's BBQ later that afternoon at the Post, and we had another great time. Thanks to our Assistant Director, Mike Miller, for once again leading the charge on organizing the event, and this year also worked the grill like a pro.

The Riders held our 4th Annual Riders Bingo on Saturday, November 2nd, 2024. Many of the Posts' regular Bingo players showed up, as they know the proceeds go to the many worth causes the 290 Riders support each year. We had 67 Players, and we offered free breakfast as a "Thank You" for showing up to support us. Like years past, Juanita Partridge coordinated donations from the Riders, purchased supplies, and made Bingo Bags (the player love these) for our Basket Raffle. We conduct this each year to go along with our Bingo. Every year this has proven to be a big hit with the Players, and others that participate, and this year was our best year yet. We raffled off 11 Baskets and Bingo Bags. This year's successful Bingo fund raiser, will allow the Riders to support many well deserving causes in 2025. A Big Thank You! to the Regular Bingo Staff that supported us, as we could not do it without them: Bingo Manager, Pam Good, Bingo Caller, Heather Kittrell, Finance Officer, Bob Ponzo, Pull Tab Window, Lee Owens, Dobber table, Bill Clarke, and Point of Sale, Carrol McGowan We also had special guests from Fairfax Legion Riders 177, Bruce and Elsie Mersereau. Elsie played Bingo, and won one of our baskets. Bruce worked the floor selling pull tabs. Thank you, Bruce & Elsie!

Once again, 290 Riders set out on a blistery cold morning (well it wasn't really that cold) to deliver Toys-for-Tots on Saturday, November 9th 2024 to the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Quantico, VA. Our 290 Rider of the Year (*bonus ego boost*), Donald "Double D" Dillon led the efforts as he has since we started this, to plan and coordinate the event. This year he started a few months out selling ice cream scoops at the Post during the new Movie Night (first Friday of the Month, at 8pm) and made a few extra bucks. The Riders donate \$766, and many Riders provided an additional personal donation. His daughter, "Little Miss" did the shopping for us. All in all, the 290 Riders donated \$1,666.00 in Toys this year

Riders showed up in force for the Post 290's Veteran Day Wreath Laying Ceremony, held at the Post Flagpoles this year. Another great ceremony with the Department and Post 290 Honor Guard! Following the ceremony, the Riders headed to the Paradise Diner on Route-17 for a Veterans Day Brunch, and conducted our monthly meeting.

The Riders will be having their Annual Holiday Party on December 7th at 1600. We will also hold our monthly meeting at the same time.

Keep the rubber-side down!

Marty Partridge

ALR-290 Director



November 9, 2024 – Members of The American Legion Riders 290 at the National Museum of the Marine Corps for the ALR-290's annual Toys for Tots run (Photo by Unknown).

American Legion Riders Chapter 290 News

By Marty Partridge

Veterans Day Memorial Dedication

By Mike Miller

On Veterans Day, November 11, 2024, I along with about 200 others from the small town of Lafferty, Ohio, had the privilege of attending the dedication ceremony for a new Veterans Memorial to replace the town's former monument that was destroyed some 60 years ago when a car wrecked into the wooden and glass structure.

The new memorial was the brainchild of Boy Scouts of America Troop 59 member Jonathan Dubiel as his Eagle Scout project. Through several fundraisers and donations, he was able to raise the nearly \$40,000 it took to erect the memorial. Lafferty residents John and Kim Kelly donated the land where the memorial now sits because the parcel was previously owned by Pearl Harbor survivor and 20-year Navy veteran Edward "Ski" Szwab – my grandfather.

The new memorial consists of three granite slabs with the names of veterans from Lafferty who served from World War I through the present day. There are currently about 600 names on the monument with space for more in the future. The stone in the center is dedicated to the town's one Pearl Harbor survivor veteran, Edward "Ski" Szwab.



November 11, 2024 – American Legion Rider 290 Assistant Director and U.S. Army Colonel (Retired) Mike Miller with (Left) Eagle Scout Jonathan Dubiel and (Center) daughter Rachel Miller at the new Veterans Memorial in Lafferty, Ohio. (Photo by unknown).

SAL INFO

by Fargo Wells

Greetings SAL members and your families! I hope everyone is well and safe.

Members can login into their myLegion.org account and renew directly or via the quick renew website: legion.org/SAL-Renew.

The procedure for modifying the current dues in the system is the submission of a Squadron Data Report (SDR) that is available at the Sons of The American Legion website under Publications and Forms. The SDR should be sent to the detachment and the email address Post and Squadron Reports (postsqdnupdates@legion.org) for processing.

If you have any questions please contact Kevin Mook the National SAL Liaison at kmook@legion.org

The SAL has not had a dues increase in many years.

However, we have to send a portion of the dues to the Department and a portion to Nationals.

The Nationals Dues have increased, therefore we will need to increase the amount that we collect from our members to \$20.00.

If I can help you out with anything. Text, e-mail or call

Fargo Wells, Commander Sons of the American Legion Squadron 290 Stafford

(703) 362-8277 call, text or write rfargowells@hotmail.com .

Thank you,
Fargo Wells

FIREWOOD STILL AVAILABLE FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

The Stafford Post 290 BSA Venture Crew Scouts are conducting a community service project to deliver firewood to families, in need, in Stafford County. The Venture Crew will also cut up and remove wood from properties that may have fallen after a storm or wood that individuals are willing to donate.

To date the Venture Crew's Firewood donation program for those in need: has delivered 96 cords of wood, to needy Stafford residents who heat primarily with firewood. Mike Robinson could always use volunteer support.

The Venture Crew is accepting monetary donations to help in this project or to support the Venture Crew.

If wanting to volunteer to help cut and split wood, or help stack or deliver firewood for this project, please call Mike Robinson, (540) 760-3255.

A cord is a unit of cut firewood which equals a stack of 4x4x8 feet or 128 cubic feet.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

ALL TASKS ARE HELD AT THE
POST 290 ANNEX, 1204 AMERICAN LEGION RD

MONDAY, DEC 9 — PICK UP BOXES

volunteers meet at 8:00am

*Pick up collection boxes from Stafford County Public Schools
pickups, vans, and trailers are helpful, but not necessary*

MONDAY, DEC 9 - THURSDAY, DEC 12 — SORTING

8:00am - until task is completed

FRIDAY, DEC 13 - SATURDAY, DEC 14 — PACKING

8:00am - until task is completed

SATURDAY, DEC 14 — DISTRIBUTE BOXES

1:00 - 5:00pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 — DISTRIBUTE BOXES

volunteers to arrive starting at 10:00am

staffordpost290.org / HOLIDAY FOOD BASKET
post290foodbasket@gmail.com

*Schedule updates will be posted on staffordpost290.org &
American Legion Post 290 Members Facebook Page*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

You're invited to a Stafford County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver Demonstration

All are welcome!



Project Lifesaver is the premier search and rescue program operated internationally by public safety agencies, and is strategically designed for "at risk" individuals who are prone to the life threatening behavior of wandering. The primary mission of *Project Lifesaver* is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children with the propensity to wander due to a cognitive condition.

Members of *Project Lifesaver* will wear a personalized bracelet that emits a constant locating signal. Each transmitter has a unique radio frequency enabling specially trained Deputies to positively locate and identify a missing individual. The Stafford County Sheriff's Office works with other local and national law enforcement agencies to provide citizens with this high-tech tool in an effort to save lives and bring peace of mind to loved ones and caretakers.

Scan QR code for an informational video.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025 @ 2PM

**Stafford American Legion Post 290
1141 Mountain View Rd in Stafford County**

hosted by

**Surgeon Lawrence Brooke Society
Children of the American Revolution**

For more info about the event, contact: Kathy Payne, Senior Society President at slimzeke@aol.com

DECEMBER 2024 HIGHLIGHTS AT POST 290

December

Universal Human Rights Month

- Dec 01 - Children's Christmas Party, 1400hrs (2 pm)
- Dec 06 - Stafford County Tree Lighting Festival, 1800hrs, 1300 Courthouse Road
- Dec 07 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony followed by showing of "Pearl Harbor" the movie.
- Dec 14 - Post 290 Oratorical, 0900 Judges show time; 1000 hrs START
- Dec 14 - Army Navy Football Game, Commander's Field, Landover, MD, 1500hrs
- Dec 25 - Christmas Day
- Dec 25 - Hanukkah begins at sunset
- Dec 26 - Jan 01 Kwanzaa
- Dec 31 - New Year's Eve

CONSTANT BEARING, DECREASING RANGE

(ITEMS ADDED AS THEY COME TO THE EDITOR'S ATTENTION)

2025

January 2025

National Blood Donor Month, National Glaucoma Awareness Month

- Jan 01 - New Year's Day HAPPY NEW YEAR! WISHING YOU AND YOURS A PROSPEROUS, HEALTHY 2025!
- Jan 03 - Hanukkah Ends
- Jan 04 - District Oratorical Contest, at Post 295, 1000hrs START
- Jan 12 - Project Lifesaver Demonstration, 1400hrs
- Jan 20 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday/Presidential Inauguration Day
- Jan 25 - Robert Burns Night
- Jan 29 - Chinese/Lunar New Year - Year of the Dragon

February 2025

Black History Month

- Feb 01 - Regional Oratorical Contest Post 176, 1000hrs START



**YOUR ELECTED POST
290 OFFICERS**

Commander Rick Schultz
 1st Vice Lewis Bunch
 2nd Vice John Patrick
 3rd Vice Brandy Fitzgerald
 Adjutant Mike Scullin
 Finance Robert Ponzo
 Service Ofc. Jim Richey
 Chaplain Darren King
 Sgt at Arms VACANT
 JAG Garry Briggs
 PAO Cliff McDaniel
 Historian VACANT



**YOUR AUX UNIT 290
ELECTED OFFICERS**

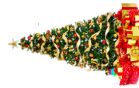
President Ginger Brigs
 Vice Pres Mary Schelin
 Sec/Treas Marilyn Butters
 Chaplain Dale Seward
 Historian Mary Schelin
 Sgt at Arms Teresa Hardisty

**STAFFORD AMERICAN
LEGION POST 290**

**We are on the Web
www.staffordPost290.org**



December 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Children's Christmas Party, 2:00PM	2	3	4 BINGO	5	6 BINGO Stafford County Tree Lighting, 1800hrs	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
8	9 Pick up Holiday Food Basket boxes ALR Monthly Meeting	10 General Members Mtg. Sort Food Boxes	11 BINGO Sort Food Boxes	12 Sort Food Boxes	13 BINGO Pack Food Boxes	14 Post 290 Oratorical Contest; ARMY-NAVY FOOTBALL GAME, 1500hrs Distribute Food Boxes
15 Distribute Holiday Food Boxes	16	17	18 BINGO	19	20 BINGO	21
22	23 Executive Committee Mtg. 1930	24	25 Christmas Day Hanukkah begins at sunset	26 Kwanzaa Day 1	27 BINGO	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 January, 2025 BINGO	2	3 BINGO	4