



# American Legion Post 290 Newsletter

edited by Siegfried Gates



The Friendliest Place in Virginia!

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Stafford, Virginia

March 2025

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

Comrades,

Hope everyone is staying warm and safe as we make our way through these winter months! Though the cold may linger, we have plenty of exciting events on the horizon to lift our spirits.

March is arriving with a roar, bringing us a month full of camaraderie and celebration. One of the highlights is the Legion's birthday, to be celebrated on March 15th! All are invited to join us for a delicious meal and an evening filled with great conversation, laughter, and the company of good friends. This is a special time to honor our community and the legacy of the Legion—so don't miss out!

Mark your calendars—Steak Night has been rescheduled for March 22nd, and we're turning up the fun with a lively karaoke night afterward. Whether you're a seasoned singer or just love to cheer on your friends, it's sure to be a night of music, laughter, and unforgettable moments. So warm up those vocal cords and come ready to shine!

We're also opening nominations for Post officers and are looking for new dedicated members to step up and help lead us into the 2025/2026 term. If you've ever considered getting more involved, now is the perfect opportunity to make a difference and contribute to our incredible community.

We appreciate each and every one of you, and we can't wait to see you at the Post soon! Stay safe, stay warm, and let's welcome March with open arms!

Thanks again and see you soon!

Rick

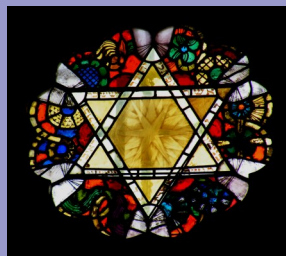
From the Second Vice Commander:

I'm looking for volunteers to help with a clean up day (9:00 am to 12:00 pm) on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the main building. This is the weekend before our Family Day event on April 26<sup>th</sup>. All help would be appreciated.

John Patrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander

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

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## Post Everlasting

By Darren King

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

No reports.

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](mailto:darren@northstaffordbaptistchurch.com), (816) 550-5228 or 111 Van Horn Lane, Stafford, VA 22556 .

## Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Darren King

As members of the American Legion, we celebrate it's the Legion's birthday, marking its pivotal role in supporting veterans and advocating for their rights. This annual celebration is meant to bring us together as members, their families, and the community to honor the history and legacy of our great organization. The event commemorates not only the establishment of the American Legion but also its ongoing commitment to veterans' welfare, the community, and the nation.

The March celebration is an opportunity for the Legion to reflect on its accomplishments in the community and the nation. It is also a time to renew the organization's mission of promoting patriotism, community service, and the well-being of military personnel and their families. Each year, our local post hosts a dinner, and it is a great opportunity for all post members to come together in unity around the shared values of the American Legion.

Let us join together, whether it be at a Legion birthday dinner or carrying out one of the many activities of the post, in promoting and celebrating the American Legion and promoting the good of one another as we promote the good of our community and nation. Together we can accomplish much just as the Preacher in Ecclesiastes wrote so many years ago, "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil."

### BINNACLE LIST

No report.

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](mailto: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

What has been happening lately in our ALA Stafford Unit 290?

-On February 2, 2025, Post 290 held the annual Four Chaplains/Post Everlasting ceremony to honor members who passed during the past year.

-Plans were made to run the kitchen two Wednesdays a month if we can get more volunteers to assist. Please consider devoting 4 hours a month to help us out as we support Post 290's Bingo by cooking for players.

-Membership-thanks to the devotion of our president, Ginger, we have 100 paid members as of our January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please remember to renew your membership. You can mail a check to Box 125 Stafford, VA 22555 Attn: Auxiliary or drop by the Post during open hours-Bingo is each Wednesday and Friday and someone is there starting at 2 p.m.

-Kathy shared a detailed report regarding the December Children's Christmas Party: 101 registered, 68 attended. We delighted 33 children under the age of 10 with entertainment by Kevin the Magician, snacks and of course, a visit with our favorite December celebrity, Santa. Hand crafted Stockings containing gifts and snacks were provided for all attendees. Fourteen families from Head Start attended. Volunteers set up, and 30 volunteers assisted at the party from the American Legion Family. Kathy did not report the number of hours she devoted to the party but it had to have been in the hundreds, starting 11 months in advance. How fortunate our Post (and our Auxiliary) is to have her (and her family).

-Our Chaplain, Dale reported that two cards were sent to members. If you know of any members who may be ill, need a word of cheer or who have had a family loss, please let Dale know.

-Girls State-Our chairperson extraordinaire, Sheri, has been hard at work getting applications to the schools and contacting school contacts. As you may know, each applicant is interviewed. Interviews will be held on Sunday, March 16, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. and your help is needed. Please consider coming to help on the 16<sup>th</sup>. You can contact Sheri or any officer to let us know you can help.

-Donations-Our Unit recently donated \$100,00 to the American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Relief Fund for North Carolina and California floods and wildfire relief. The AEF was created to help ALA members who have suffered significant financial setbacks as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis when no other source of aid is readily available. We also donated to Samaritan's Purse to assist with California Wildfires needs. We also donated \$50.00 to the Stafford High School After Prom Party.

We hope to see you at our next monthly meeting, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

### Eagle Eye of the Month for February 2025

John Humphrey was the Eagle Eye Spotter for January 2025. In the ALR report. There is a 'be' where there should be a 'we'.

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



## American Legion Auxiliary Unit 290 News



# 2025 CRAFT SHOWS

**MAY 3, 2025**  
**2025**

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**OCTOBER 11,**

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m



*Fall – Holiday*



**Craft Show**

[Unit290poppies@aol.com](mailto:Unit290poppies@aol.com)

Indoor, original crafts, no admission fee, door prizes, and more

*It's never too early to Shop for Celebrations, Holidays, or treating yourself.*

[Staffordpost290.org](http://Staffordpost290.org)

# Election of Post Officers for the 2025-2026 Term

By Mike Scullin

Fellow Legionnaires,

Post 290's Nomination Committee is starting to put together a slate of nominations for Post Officer positions to serve the 2025-2026 term. If you have the time and interest or want to see things done differently/better at the Post, I encourage you to submit a nomination or nominations to serve as a Post Officer.

Any Post Member in good standing is eligible and encouraged to submit his/her nomination for ANY position, even if an incumbent has expressed an interest in continuing to serve in that position.

Once submitted, the nominations will be added to the 2025-2026 Officers slate, which will be presented to the General Membership at Post 290's April 2025 General Membership meeting. The General Membership will then vote on nominees at the May 2025 General Membership meeting with Officer installations to occur in June 2025. The term of service for Post Officers is June 2025 – June 2026. Two Executive Committee Members' three-year terms will be completed in June 2026. So, if a Post Member is elected to fill one of the two Executive Committee Member positions, that Member's term will end in June 2028.

Here is a list of Post Officer positions and current slate for 2025-2026

<b>Position</b>	<b>Candidate</b>
<b>Commander</b>	Rick Schultz (Incumbent)
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander</b>	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander</b>	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander</b>	
<b>Adjutant</b>	Michael Scullin (Incumbent)
<b>Finance Officer</b>	
<b>Service Officer</b>	
<b>Chaplain</b>	
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	
<b>Historian</b>	
<b>Public Affairs Officer</b>	
<b>Sergeant-At Arms</b>	
<b>Executive Committee Member (3-year term)</b>	
<b>Executive Committee Member (3-year term)</b>	

A detailed description of Legion Officers' duties and responsibilities can be found at this location:

<https://www.legion.org/getmedia/23795e1c-6847-4c67-a1b4-10710de19e6a/27ia1123-officers-guide.pdf>

## Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year Nominations

By Mike Scullin

Stafford County Sheriff's Office Deputy Xavier D. Bates was selected as Post 290's 2025 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. His packet was submitted to Richmond for consideration for the Department of Virginia's 2025 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Post 290 will present Deputy Bates with the Post's award at the American Legion Birthday Dinner held at the Post on Saturday, 15 March 2025 at 7:00pm. The dinner will be preceded by at social hour at 5:30pm



Deputy Xavier D. Bates

Stafford County Fire & Rescue Department's Technician Mark Dera was selected as Post 290's 2025 Firefighter/EMT of the Year. His packet was submitted to Richmond for consideration for the Department of Virginia's 2025 Firefighter/EMT of the Year award. Post 290 will present Technician Dera with the Post's award at the American Legion Birthday Dinner held at the Post on Saturday, 15 March 2025 at 7:00pm. The dinner will be preceded by at social hour at 5:30pm.



Technician Mark Dera

## SALE OF POST 290 ANNEX

By Mike Scullin

At the 18 February 2025 General Membership meeting, the Membership unanimously voted to allow a commercial real estate broker to put the Annex on American Legion Road on the market and list it for sale. The decision was made after a study of two years of operational expenses for the Annex indicated that the Annex costs Post 290 \$2,622.00 every month to keep open. Despite the best efforts of Greg Nilges to keep the Annex rented out, the Annex ultimately ran a \$41,482.50 deficit for the two-year period. Post 290 cannot financially afford to keep the Annex open at a \$31,000.00 loss every year. Therefore, the Membership decided to have a real estate broker list the Annex on the market and solicit any bids. Should Post 290 receive a bid(s), the Post will put out a separate announcement informing the Membership of the time & place to vote on the sale of the Annex. Should the Membership approve, the proceeds from the sale will be used to pay down the principle on the Post's current mortgage (\$1.4 million) with the intent of bringing the Post some relief on its current monthly mortgage payment.

## 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](http://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](mailto:postsqdnupdates@legion.org)) for processing.

If you have any questions please contact Kevin Mook the National SAL Liaison at [kmook@legion.org](mailto: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](mailto:rfargowells@hotmail.com).

Thank you,  
Fargo Wells

## FIREWOOD 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.

## MARCH 2025 HIGHLIGHTS AT POST 290

### March

Women's History Month

- Mar 01 - Wolverine Color Guard Drill Team Competition, 0900hrs, North Stafford High School
- Mar 01 - Begin Ramadan with Ramadan Moon
- Mar 03 - National Anthem Day - Start Spangled Banner adopted in 1931
- Mar 08 - International Women's Day
- Mar 09 - Daylight Saving Time (Set Clocks AHEAD ONE HOUR) 0200hrs
- Mar 14 - Pi Day (3.14)
- Mar 14 - Purim
- Mar 15 - 16th District Spring Conference, 1000hrs, Middleburg Post 111
- Mar 15 - American Legion Birthday Dinner, 1900hrs, Social Hour 1730hrs
- Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 20 - Vernal Equinox - First Day of Spring!
- Mar 23 - Girls State Interviews, 1300hrs
- Mar 24 - Boys State Interviews, 1800hrs
- Mar 29 - National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- Mar 31 - Eid al Fitr with Shawwal Moon

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## CONSTANT BEARING, DECREASING RANGE

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

### April

Month of the Military Child

Parkinson's Awareness Month

- Apr 12 - Stafford Shredding Event, 0900-1100hrs, Stafford Courthouse
- Apr 12 - Spring 290 Club, 1730hrs
- Apr 19 - Post 290 Clean up day
- Apr 20 - Easter Sunday
- Apr 26 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Post 290 Family Day (open to the public) 1100 - 1600hrs

### May

National Skin Cancer Awareness Month

- May 03 - Poppy Patch Craft Show, 1000-1500rs
- May 28 - Blood Drive, at the Annex





**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

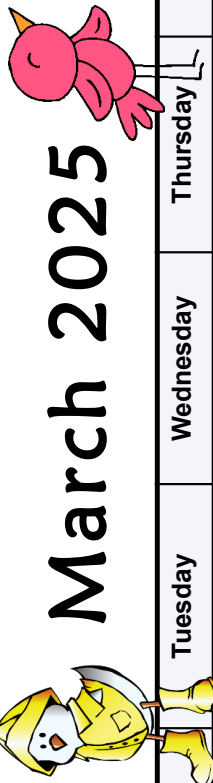


**YOUR AUX UNIT 290  
ELECTED OFFICERS**


President Ginger Briggs  
 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**



# March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Women's History Month			BINGO		BINGO	1 Ramadan begins @ Ramadan moon Dept. Spring Conference NSHS Drill Team Competition
2 Dept. Spring Conference	3 National Anthem Day	4	5 BINGO	6	7 BINGO	8 International Women's Day
9 Begin Daylight Saving Time. Set clocks AHEAD ONE HOUR	10 ALR Monthly Meeting	11 General Members Mtg.	12 BINGO	13 Purim begins @ sunset	14 National Pi Day BINGO Purim ends	15 16 <sup>th</sup> District Spring Conference, Post 111 American Legion Birthday Dinner, Social Hour 1730hrs
16	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18	19 BINGO	20 First Day of SPRING!	21 BINGO	22 Steak Night, 1630 Karaoke Night, 1900
23 Girls State Interviews 1300hrs /30 Eid al Fitr @ Shawwal Moon	24 Boys State Interviews 1800hrs Executive Committee Mtg. 1930 /31	25	26 BINGO	27	28 BINGO	29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day