



# American Legion Post 290

## Newsletter edited by Siegfried Gates



The Friendliest Place in Virginia!

Stafford, Virginia

July 2024

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

Greetings fellow Legionnaires and friends,

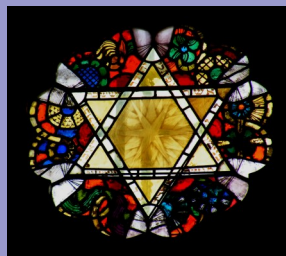
Here we are already halfway through the year and another year with me as your Post Commander. First, let me say thank you to those that came to the installation of officer's event. Your support of the new slate of officers at your post is much appreciated. We all need to start thinking about what small step we can take to say, "I care", with everyone giving just a couple of hours volunteering. We could make things much, much better around the Post and take off a little stress from those that seem to be volunteering for everything.

Don't forget about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July flag ceremony and flag disposal starting at 10 a.m. We would like to see all of you show up and support Ole Glory, as well as the flags being properly disposed of by the Honor Guard. Look forward to any help we can get from all our Post members this year.

Looking forward to seeing you  
Rick Schultz  
Commander, American Legion Post 290

***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 Post Everlasting:

Post 290 Chaplain Emeritus Glen Schelin reported to the Post Everlasting on Sunday, 16 June, 2024 after a brief illness. His easy going manner, his smile and the twinkle in his will be missed by all who knew him, however briefly. He was a true gentleman who never had a bad word for anyone, and as a Legionnaire served as Post 290 Chaplain continuously for over a decade years.

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

### The Birth of American Independence

July 4, Independence Day, is the official day that we celebrate the birth of our nation. On July 2, 1776 the Continental Congress voted for Independence, and on July 4 they adopted the Declaration of Independence (and started signing it on August 2). Since then July 4 has been celebrated in many different ways by many different people.

It is a long time since July 4, 1776. It is easy to forget that Independence Day is more than BBQ and fireworks. It is a time of thankfulness for the freedom and liberty we have. It is easy to take it for granted. It is easy to think that freedom and liberty will always be ours. Such a mindset is dangerous for you are no longer watchful and ready.

One way to avoid taking our liberty for granted is to celebrate it every chance we get. This will keep the importance of it in the forefront of our minds. Another way is to thank God Almighty for it. It is after all the Father of Lights from whom every good and perfect gift comes. So celebrate, and give thanks. It will be a good thing to do this July 4.

### 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](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.



## American Legion Auxiliary Unit 290 News

By Marilyn Butters

The Poppy Craft Fair brought in close to \$ 1,200.00 to be donated to the MK9s Service Dogs Organization supporting Veterans through Service Dogs. Mark your calendar now as a 2<sup>nd</sup> craft fair is planned for Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to Mary Schelin for the many hours she worked in coordinating these craft fair events while acting as Poppy Chair, Unit Historian and Vice President, and weekly Bingo volunteer. We are so fortunate to have Mary in Unit 290!

We had a lovely Installation dinner in June. Thank you to Susan Lee, a Past Department President, who installed our Unit's officers. Her creative ways made for a fun installation as she crowned officers while emphasizing the important work they all do.

We are pleased to report we currently have 123 members. Thank you, Ginger, for all the work you do as Membership chair! Wouldn't you like to become more involved? There are numerous opportunities for service-things you can do at home, events you can coordinate and attend, and numerous service opportunities. Our Unit can only be as strong as its active members. Here are the committees we have. Be a committee chair and bring your ideas and your gifts to our Unit 290. We'd love to have you attend our meetings, held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Join us! We have 117 members but only a few are active.

### Open Committees:

Americanism	Leadership
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Legislative
Children & Youth	Membership
Community Service	National Security
Constitution & Bylaws	Past Presidents' Parlay
Education	Poppies
Junior Activities	ROAR & Citations
VA & R	

### Here are your Auxiliary Officers for 2024-2025.

President	Virginia Briggs (Ginger)
Vice President	Mary Schelin
Sec/Treasurer	Marilyn Butters
Chaplain	Dale Seaward
Sgt-at-Arms	Theresa Hardisty
Historian	Mary Schelin

## Eagle Eye of the Month for June 2024

Eagle Eye spotter June 2024 was Tom Dale. The misspelled word was on page 2. It was "Binacle". It should have been "Binnacle". Have a close look at the July issue and remember: malapropisms don't count.

## American Legion Riders Chapter 290 News

By Marty Partridge

Greetings Post 290!  
Well Done Post 290!



The American Legion Riders 290 (ALR-290), and Legion Riders from across Virginia participated in the 2024 Virginia Legacy Run, June 13-15<sup>th</sup>. This year's ride was a bit different than the previous six years, as we broke the ride into three Regions (East, North and West). The Northern Region was supported with many Riders but ALR-290 certainly had the greatest participation in both leadership positions and number of Riders/Passengers. ALR-290 members on the Leadership team consisted of: Regional Director Brandy Fitzgerald, Chief Road Captain Donald Dillon, Chief Assistant Road Captain and Law Enforcement Coordinator Marty Partridge, Chief Tail Gunner Denver Steele, Chaplain John Humphrey, Packet Coordinator Juanita Partridge, ALR-290 Road Captain Greg Nilges, Assistant Road Captain Tammy Mintler, and Tail Gunner Doug Sivigny. Special thanks to Laura Werner (ALR-1976) for coordinating our Hotels and Dinners, Derice Steele for assisting with Packets/Check-In, and Paul Vroegindewey Sr. for volunteering for the Advance Team. And a big Thank You to all of our members that participated and supported this event.

The Northern Region Ride started as we all converged on Winchester Post 21 on Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm for Dinner and the All-Riders Brief. Thank you to Post 21 for feeding us a delicious meal and getting us off to a great start. On Friday morning, June 14<sup>th</sup> we received a Safety Brief from the Frederick County Sheriff's Office and we had Kick Stands up at 8:00am on our first Leg of the trip. We rode through some wonderful country scenery to our first rest stop in Haymarket. We then continued on our second Leg to our lunch stop at Café Charm in Rhoadesville. A HUGE THANK YOU to Stafford Post 290 members John and Noel Lowery for their generous donation and sponsorship of the Northern Region Lunch. It was very good, and I encourage all Post 290 members to check out the Café Charm. Our third Leg then took us to Gum Springs for our Gas stop, where our Advance Team did a tremendous and efficient job of topping off our tanks quickly. Great Work Advance Team! Finally, we took off on our fourth and final Leg, which was nearly all Interstate I-64 and I-295, but it went very smoothly, and all our Northern Region Riders made it to our end point in Richmond Safely.

From there, the Virginia Legacy Run Coordinator, Randy Gunn, took over and provided a great experience beginning with Friday night entertainment from "The Worlds Only Biker Comedy Hypnotist" Gary Michaels. That show was HILARIOUS and you'll need to ask some of our Riders if you want to know more. Just don't ask Doug Sivigny, because he doesn't remember – LOL!

On Saturday we met at the Department of Virginia Headquarters, for the Parade of Donations. Rider Chapters and other organizations, and individuals from across Virginia made donations to the Department Commander, Sonnie Dickerson. **Your Stafford American Legion Post 290 and American Legion Riders 290 made a combined donation of \$10,912.00!** Congratulations and Well Done! All donations are in support of The American Legion Veterans and Children's Foundation and will be presented to the National Commander in August. In total (as of June 19<sup>th</sup>) the Virginia Legacy Run has collected \$93,942.00, during this year's Ride, and we continue to take donations through August 11<sup>th</sup>.

From the Department Headquarters we headed out in one big group of over 200 motorcycles through the Hollywood Cemetery to the Virginia Capital for a picture, and then on to the Virginia War Memorial for the final and most important event of this year's ride. The 2024 Virginia Legacy Run Honored Vietnam Veterans, with all our Vietnam Veteran Riders being our Honorary Road Captains. A Vietnam Veteran Pinning Ceremony was conducted at the War Memorial where we recognized 18 Vietnam Veterans, presenting them with a special Virginia Legacy Run Vietnam Veteran Pin. Among those recognized were the following Stafford Post 290 Members: Thomas Kittrell, Doug Sivigny (ALR-290), Paul Vroegindewey Sr. (ALR-290), Robert (Bob) Ponzo, John Humphrey (ALR-290), Daniel (Danny) Oliver Sr. and Lee Owens. We thank all of them for their Service to Country and Honor them for their Defense of Freedom!

*Keep the rubber-side down!*

Marty Partridge  
ALR-290 Director



## American Legion Riders Chapter 290 News

By Marty Partridge



June 15, 2024 – American Legion Riders 290 and Stafford American Legion Post 290 Vietnam Veterans and Families following the Vietnam Veteran Pinning Ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Virginia. Left to Right (**Bold** indicates Honored Vietnam Veteran).

First Row (sitting): **Doug Sivigny**, **Paul Vroegindewey Sr.**, **Robert (Bob) Ponzio**, Tammy Mintler, Tori Kelly, Sabrina Oates, **Daniel (Danny) Oliver Sr.**

Second Row: Raegan Kittrell, Kim Sivigny, Natalie Ponzio, Paul Vroegindewey Jr., Keleigh Dillon, Fred Santiago, Justin Goemmer, Lee Oates, Derice Steele, Daniel (Danny) Oliver Jr., Daniel Oliver III.

Third Row: **Thomas Kittrell**, Sherry Kittrell, Heather Kittrell, Hailey Kittrell, Juanita Partridge, Laura Werner, Donald Dillon, Greg Nilges, Erin Fox, **John Humphrey**, Denver Steele, Katharine Owens.

Fourth (back) Row: Travis Kittrell, Mike Miller, Marty Partridge, Patrick Fox, **Lee Owens**.  
(Photo by Mike Johnson).



June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Members of American Legion Rider 290 (ALR-290) present a combined Stafford American Legion Post 290 and ALR-290 Donation of \$10,912 to Department of Virginia Commander, Sonnie Dickerson (center), during the 2024 Virginia Legacy Run Parade of Donations in support of The American Legion Veterans and Children's Foundation. (Photo credit unknown).

# American Legion Riders Chapter 290 News

By Marty Partridge



June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Northern Region Director, Brandy Fitzgerald (center) presents John and Noel Lower (left) and Café Charm Owner, Renee Zarella (right) with Certificates of Appreciation for their generous support. (Photo by Marty Partridge).

## 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 16 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.



## Department of Virginia American Legion Leadership College

Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Richmond-Midlothian, Richmond, VA.

August 02 to August 04, 2024

### Registration Form

**One registration form per individual please.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: American Legion \_\_\_\_\_ Post \_\_\_\_\_ SAL \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron \_\_\_\_\_  
ALR \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ ALA \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

### Friday Afternoon Session

(Will you be attending the afternoon session on Friday, August 02, 2024 from 4:00 –9:00 PM?)  
(DINNER will be from 5:00-6:00 PM- American Legion Leadership College doesn't cover)

Program	Attending
Friday Afternoon Session (See program)	Yes/No

### Programs

(Please select one that you will attend on Saturday, August 03, 2024- For program details see Agenda)

Sponsor	Attending
American Legion Programs	Yes/No
SAL Programs (TBA)	Yes/No
ALR Programs (TBA)	Yes/No
ALA Programs (TBA)	Yes/No



## Registration Fee \$100.00

(includes Saturday breakfast and lunch, for this attendee only)

**Registration Forms received after the July 15, 2024 will not receive meals on Saturday.**

Registration fee (Check only) must be submitted with completed form. Make checks payable to THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA. Registration Form and Fee must be received at Department Headquarters no later than MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024

Mail completed form and check to:

The American Legion  
The Department of Virginia  
P.O. Box 11025  
Richmond, VA 23230

ATTN: LEADERSHIP COLLEGE 2024

### Lodging

Lodging will be at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Richmond - Midlothian, 1021 Koger Center Boulevard, Richmond, Virginia, 23235. Phone number for reservations is (855) 610-TREE (8733) or you may call the hotel directly at (804) 379-3800.

**Each College attendee is responsible for making his/her own hotel reservations. Hotel Reservations must be made no later than MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024.**

When making your reservations, be sure to identify yourself as part of The American Legion Department of Virginia Group. The hotel rate is \$125.00 per night, single/double, per room, plus tax. (We can not provide you the tax rates at this time due to pending legislation).

All lodging reservations and special lodging requests must be arranged with the hotel by each attendee.

### ***SPECIAL EVENTS***

**Friday Night**, August 02- Joint Opening Session- 7:00-7:30 PM

**Guest Speaker- National Security-** 7:30-8:30 PM

**Saturday Morning**, August 03- Guest Speakers FEMA- 11:00-12:00 PM

**Sunday Morning**, August 04- Religious Service and Formal Graduation -  
830 AM -1000 AM

## JULY 2024 HIGHLIGHTS AT POST 290

### July

National Parks Month (Disabled Veterans are eligible for lifetime free admission passes)

July 01 - Annual Legion Dues increase becomes effective (+\$5.00)

July 04 - Post 290 4th of July Celebration and Flag Retirement, 1000 hrs

July 10 - 15 Department Convention, Dulles Washington Convention Center

July 15 - Leadership College 2024 Hotel Reservation Deadline

July 15 - Leadership College 2024 Registration Deadline

July 25 - Blood Drive at the Annex

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## CONSTANT BEARING, DECREASING RANGE

(ITEMS ADDED AS THEY COME TO MY ATTENTION)

### August

National Immunization Awareness Month

Aug 02 - 04 - American Legion Leadership College, Double Tree, Midlothian

Aug 23 - 29 - American Legion National Convention, New Orleans, Hampton Suites

### September

Sep 01 - SAL Chili Cook-off

### October

Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness Month (SBI recommends annual mammogram begin at age 40)

Oct 01 - National Night Out, Stafford Market Place

Oct 09 - Blood Drive at the Annex

Oct 12 - Poppy Craft Fair Sponsored by Auxiliary



**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**



# July 2024



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	National Parks Month – Disabled Vets can get free lifetime pass	1 Legion Annual Dues Increase Effective - +\$5.00	2	3 BINGO	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 	5 BINGO	6
7		8 ALR Monthly Meeting	9 General Members Mtg. and Election of Officers – 1930	10 BINGO Department Convention 10-15 July	11	12 BINGO	13
14		15 Leadership College Registration/Hotel Deadline	16	17 BINGO	18	19 BINGO	20 Return of Steak Night followed by Karaoke
21		22 Executive Committee Mtg. 1930	23 1953 Korean War Ends	24 BINGO	25 Blood Drive at Annex	26 BINGO	27
28		29	30	31 BINGO	August 1	August 2 BINGO	August 3