THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 175

8700 Bell Creek Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116-3867
Phone: (804) 789-8667 Web: www.Post175.org E-Mail: info@post175.org

November and December 2025
VETERANS SERVING VETERANS

LEADERSHIP

Commander
Warren Rice
(804) 852-8108

1st Vice Commander (Membership)
Kelly L. Schips
(804) 519-9932

2nd Vice Commander (Hall Rentals)
William (Bill) Todd
(804) 402-6636
(Rental Line)

Adjutant
Robert (Bob) White
(804) 240-4220

Building & Grounds
Anthony (Tony) Nelson
(804) 295-2673

Chaplain
Arthur (Art) Aumock
(631) 807-2979

Finance Officer
Lyn M. Spencer
(804) 334-9036

Historian
Doug Snell
(804) 441-4114

Judge Advocate
Jack Barbour
(804) 690-1863

Legion Riders (ALR)
Jack Barbour
(804) 690-1863

Sergeant-at-Arms
Myrtle Starling
(540) 809-2861

Service Officer (VSO)
Andre Hunt
(804) 613-8405

Sons of The American Legion (SAL)
Jim Oliver
(804) 754-5860

News Highlights:

A “Government Shutdown Resources” sheet is posted on the main page of the Post website. A link to the latest “Virginia Legionnaire” magazine is also available on our website.

Old Dominion Honor Flight (ODHF) news and other video and pictures are also posted.

On Sunday, October 5th, two members of our Post received a special invitation via our Department Vice Commander to attend a ceremony celebrating the Navy’s 250th year at Naval Station Norfolk. Post Commander Warren Rice (who is also 13th District Commander) and Post Adjutant Robert (Bob) White (who is also 13th District First Vice Commander) were able to attend. Also attending was 13th District President of The American Legion Auxiliary, Elizabeth Navas. Speakers at the event included Secretary of the Navy John Phelan, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, First Lady Melania Trump and President Donald J. Trump.

Americanism / Youth Programs:

MIDDLE SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST: One page handwritten essays composed by middle school students with the topic of "I like living in America because…” are due at Post 175 by December 15, 2025. Each Hanover County middle school should submit their best essay. The Post will select the winner of the Homeschool essays and then select the winner of all entries. A homeschooler won last year. Contact Doug Snell at 804-441-4114.

BOYS STATE: High school male juniors practice state government at the 2026 Boys State which is scheduled for June 21-27 at Radford University. Hanover County candidates are selected and sponsored by Post 175 (or Post 90) in early May 2026. Contact Doug Snell at 804-441-4114.

ORATORICAL CONTEST: The first round of the District 13 American Legion Oratorical Contest may be held in early January 2026 (probably at Beaverdam Post 90). Students present their four minute speech on the duties and obligations of citizens and a four minute speech on a topic related to the Constitution. An Atlee High School student won last year. Interested students should contact Douglas Snell at 804-441-4114.

YOUTH POLICE ACADEMY: High school male and female juniors drive police cruisers, shoot pistols, and enjoy athletic competition at the 2026 Virginia Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Academy held at the Virginia State Police Training Facility in Chesterfield on June 15-20. Hanover County candidates are selected and sponsored by Post 175 in early May 2026. Contact Doug Snell at 804-441-4114.

If you have an e-mail account, are not receiving our electronic messages but would like to, send a message to: **Info@Post175.org** to be added to the distribution list.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (SAL)

We have completed all of the school visitations that were scheduled so far for this year. Eight schools allowed us to visit and present our flag education and Pledge of Allegiance program while two more schools accepted our program materials. This is the most acceptance we have received in several years. I want to thank all of the Legion and Auxiliary members that participated so far to help make this program a success. I will reach out to the remaining four county elementary schools again to offer our program and materials.

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We are adding air pistol to our Junior Shooting Sports program. I have submitted a grant proposal to the NRA Foundation for air pistols and related materials. We have a member that is a certified handgun instructor that will be the lead coach for this program.

Please don't forget to contact myself, Art Aumock, or Jack Barbour to pre purchase fish fry tickets for the Friday, Nov. 14 dinner. Proceeds from these dinners pay for the flag education and JSSP programs.

Thank you all for your support of the Son's efforts to help the post and I wish you all a happy and safe upcoming holiday season.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Well! Your ALR175 Riders have been busy. We have been riding after Tuesday coffee/donuts to different lunch locations making our Post being noticed in the community. On October 18th, we had the Honor of Escorting Old Dominion Honor Flight (ODHF) to their first stop of their tour. After we left them we went to the Garrisonville Mission BBQ for lunch.

We have several other escorts coming up soon. We are also making plans for another batch of our delicious Brunswick Stew soon. Keep an ear out for more info on that. Several of our members have completed the ALR QUEST of visiting all 59 Rider Posts in the state, while others continue to finish this task.

As 2025 fades into the past, we look forward to welcoming 2026! Stay healthy and keep visiting the Post!

President
Fayth Heath
(540) 809-2454

Vice President
Janice White
(804) 730-1775

Chaplain
Janice White
(804) 730-1775

Historian
Patricia Edmunds
(804) 401-3423

Membership
Lynn Barbour
(804) 614-5085

Secretary
Lynn Barbour
(804) 614-5085

Sergeant-at-Arms
Doris Sydnor
(804) 221-4224

Treasurer
Jeannie Rummel
(804) 310-7200

IN THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE, NOT SELF

From the Unit President:

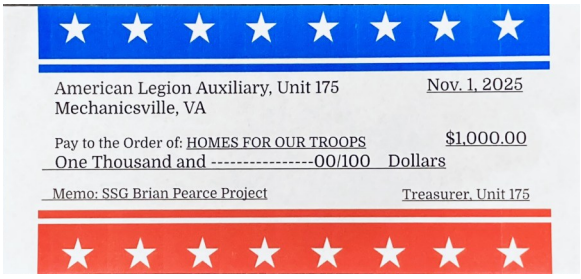
As the holiday season approaches, we look back at our many reasons to celebrate our blessings. Our ALA has had a wonderful year of growth, exciting events and participation in many of our Legion Family's programs which further the valuable missions for our Veterans, Military and families as well as our community.

We thank you all for supporting us and our events such as Winter Fest, Four Chaplains Honors, fund-raising meals and events, Poppy Day and our Luau.

We thank you for inviting us to participate in your events such as Flags for First Graders, Memorial Day and Veteran's Day Ceremonies, fund-raising for Virginia Legacy Run, monthly Community Breakfasts, Old Dominion Honor Flight.

By year's end, we will have celebrated 23 of our Post's Veterans with our Honorable Veteran program. It will be our privilege to continue our Honorable Veteran recognition program in the coming year.

Toys for Tots is growing strong and Christmas for our Veterans is kicking off shortly. Every two weeks we make donations to Pappy's Pantry feeding our neighbors and a generous donation was made to Homes for Our Troops building a usable home for a disabled vet. Currently we are collecting books and magazines for residents at the VA. It's been an exciting year in VA&R.


American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 175
Mechanicsville, VA
Nov. 1, 2025
Pay to the Order of: HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS
$1,000.00
One Thousand and ----------00/100 Dollars
Memo: SSG Brian Pearce Project
Treasurer, Unit 175

Let's end our calendar year with a wonderful Christmas Party with our Legion Family on Thursday, December 18th with social hour at 5:00 pm and dinner served at 6:00 pm. Please join us.

Local heroes (First Responders) welcome our military heroes from their day with Old Dominion Honor Flight (ODHF) Mission 9. More pictures and videos can be found on our Post website.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS:

31 October (Friday) to 02 November (Sunday) - Department Fall Conference, Williamsburg

NOVEMBER

02 (Sunday) - Daylight Savings Time (DST) ends
06 (Thursday) - Veterans Appreciation Event, 12:00-2:30 pm, Atlee Library (includes lunch). Must pre-register.
10 (Monday) - The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) and Marine Corps (USMC) Birthdays
10 (Monday) - Veterans Appreciation Event, 9:00 am, Oak Knoll Middle School (OKMS)
11 (Tuesday) - Executive Committee (ExCom) Meeting suspended
11 (Tuesday) - Heritage Green Flag Folding Ceremony, 10:30 am. (Honor/Color Guard Special event)
11 (Tuesday) - **Veterans Day Public Ceremony**, 2:00 pm, Hanover County Veterans Memorial (Wayside Park)
12 (Wednesday) - Veterans Appreciation Event, 8:30 am, Pole Green Elementary School
12 (Wednesday) - Pot Luck Dinner, 6:00 pm, Member Social Quarters
14 (Friday) - **Fish Fry Fundraiser**, 5:00-6:30 pm, Post Main Hall. Eat-in or Dine-out. Tickets required.
15 (Saturday) - **District 13 Conference**, 10:00 am-2:30 pm, Post 128, Stanardsville (All members invited)
25 (Tuesday) - Membership Meeting, 7:00 pm (Main Hall)
27 (Thursday) - Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER

07 (Sunday) - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
07 (Sunday) - Mechanicsville Christmas Parade, 11:30 am, Post parking lot. Transportation provided
09 (Tuesday) - Executive Committee (ExCom) Meeting, 7:00 pm, Post Social Quarters
10 (Wednesday) - Pot Luck Dinner (Tentative)
13 (Saturday) - **Wreaths Across America (WAA)**, 11:00 am, Cold Harbor Cemetery
13 (Saturday) - National Guard Birthday
13 (Saturday) - Army-Navy Football Game, 3:00 pm, Baltimore, MD (Televised)
18 (Thursday) - Christmas Social and Dinner, 5:00-9:00 pm, Post Social Quarters (All members invited)
23 (Tuesday) - No Membership Meeting (Christmas Social and Dinner on 18th in lieu of meeting)
25 (Thursday) - Christmas Holiday

LOOK AHEAD

31 January (Saturday) - Community Breakfasts resume, 7:30-10:00 am. Post Main Hall. $ Public Invited.
27 February-01 March - Department Spring Conference, Portsmouth
28 February-04 March - Washington, DC Conference (National Commander Testimony to Congress)
14 March (Saturday) - The American Legion College (Northern Region), 8:00 am-5:00 pm. Post 176, Springfield