



# The American Legion



Walter H. Burt Post 30

P.O. Box 71551, Albany, Georgia 31708

www.legionpost30.org

ADJUTANT'S OFFICE

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COMMANDER: (229) 881-9426

AMERICAN LEGION HOME  
2916 Gillionville Road, Albany, GA 31721

## January 2023

### IMPORTANT DATES (in January)

- Jan 1 (Sun)-Holiday, New Year's Day**
- Jan 2 (Mon)-Legion re-opens from holiday**
- Jan 4 (Wed)-Monthly breakfast, 9 am**
- Jan 5 (Thur)- PTSD group meeting 12-1 pm**
- Jan 5 (Thur)-Executive Board, 6:30 pm**
- Jan 12 (Thur)-Auxiliary meeting, 5:00 pm**
- Jan 12 (Thur)-Membership dinner, 6:30 pm**
- Jan 12 (Thur)-Bassin Buddies meeting, 7 pm**
- Jan 16 (Mon)- Holiday, MLK Day**
- Jan 18 (Wed)-NARFE luncheon, 11:30 am**
- Jan 19 (Thur)-40&8, 6:30 pm**
- Jan 21 (Sat)-Day Lily Society, 11:30 am**
- Every Wed- Coffee & donuts**

### POST EVERLASTING

Post 30 had the following deaths in the month of December:

- 12/4: Thomas "Barney" Knighton, U.S. Navy (Vietnam)
- 12/20: Mike Henderson, U.S. Air Force (R)
- 12/21: Jesse Middlebrooks, U.S. Navy
- 12/23: Alan Orosz, U.S. Marine Corps
- 12/29: Richard "Rick" Turner, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force (R)

### ADJUTANT'S COMMENTS (Gary Fowler, Post 30 Adjutant)

I hope each of you had a very Merry Christmas and are looking forward to the possibilities we have to help our veterans and families this coming year. Our membership renewal numbers are not where we would like them to be. If you have not paid your dues yet; please get them in during the month of January. The benefits we receive by being a member far exceeds the small amount we have to pay in dues. Our Wednesday monthly breakfast will be January 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. Come out and enjoy the food, fun, and fellowship for only \$5.00. Remember to join us on the following Wednesday mornings for donuts and coffee. Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> is our monthly dinner and program, starting at 6:30 pm. Come and listen to a great speaker on an interesting topic. You will get a wonderful meal for only \$10.00 as well as hear what is going on in our post. It is also a good time for you to give your input into the activities and programs for our Post 30, the best post in South Georgia. See you at the post!

*For GOD and Country.*

### Important dates in December:

**Jan 1, 1776:** American Revolution General George Washington unveiled the Grand Union Flag, the first national flag in America.

**Jan 12, 1991:** Congress authorized President George Bush to use military force against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait. The war started four days later, on January 16, as Allied aircraft began a major attack against Iraqi air defenses. The air raid was broadcast live to a global audience by CNN.

**Jan 20, 1945:** Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated to an unprecedented 4th term as President of the United States.

**Jan 23, 1968:** The American ship USS *Pueblo* was seized by North Koreans in the Sea of Japan amid claims the Navy ship was spying.

**Jan 28, 1985:** The U.S. space shuttle Challenger exploded, killing 7 persons.

**Jan 28, 1915:** The U.S. Coast Guard was created by Act of Congress.

**Jan 30, 1968:** Beginning of the Tet Offensive in Vietnam.

### HISTORIAN'S CORNER (Dan Brewer, Historian)

#### **Kenn Berggren, U.S. Marine Corps**

Kenn Berggren was born in Muskegon, Michigan and went to school just outside Muskegon. He graduated from Reeths Puffer High School in 1968. Five months after graduation, Kenn enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He left Michigan and went to San Diego for basic training. Following basic, he went to aviation electronic school in Millington, Tennessee and stayed for several months. Upon graduation as an aviation electronic technician, specifically for the F4 "Phantom" jet, he transferred briefly to Marine Air Station. Beaufort, South Carolina for less than a year, and then to Kaneohe Air Station, Oahu, Hawaii. In Hawaii, Kenn worked on the flight line on F4 and A6 aircraft. He was discharged from the Marine Corps in 1972, after serving four years. He stayed in Hawaii for the next eight years. While there he attended the University of Hawaii and worked at the Pearl Harbor shipyard. He also met his future wife (Teresa) in Hawaii, at the university, and married in 1975. They both graduated from the university, with Kenn getting an associate degree in applied trades (electrical specialty). He also did electrical training at Pearl Harbor, thanks to the GI Bill. In 1980, he transferred to the Marine Corps Logistic Base in Albany, doing electrical maintenance work at the base. Kenn stayed until his retirement in 2003. Since retirement, he stays busy "fixing" things. Additionally, he has spent 21 years building handicap ramps. Together, he and his wife have three adult children, all girls, and seven grandchildren. In addition to being a member at the American Legion, he is also active in the Exchange Club of Albany.

*Thank you, Kenn, for your service*

**CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE (Dr. Doc Williams,  
Post 30 Chaplain)**

**A New Year**

"Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.'" **Revelation 21:5** (NKJV)

This passage is from the Revelation of John the Apostle while he was exiled on the Island of Patmos off the coast of modern-day Turkey. He spoke of a new heaven and earth as shown to him by God. This revelation was of things to come. What are the things to come in the New Year? What will 2023 hold for me, you and this country? How will we handle what comes to us in 2023? It seems God is doing a new thing. I'm certainly not sure what He is doing, but something is going on in our human drama. God is acting behind all the actors on the earthly stage to accomplish His plans for humanity. His plans are described in scripture, though mysteriously at times. Maybe God wants His people to live in faithful expectation of His actions in our human history. I want to stretch my faith in God's promises in this New Year. I want to look for God in my life in the New Year. I want to see Him acting on my behalf and in the lives of those who have trusted in Jesus Christ for their salvation. I want to see God answer my prayers. Join with me as we trust in God to bring His promises to fruition this next year. God help us to expect His advent in our lives at any moment. *Amen*

**AUXILIARY UNIT 30 (Barbara Norvell,  
Auxiliary President)**

It's the beginning of a new year. Hope you all had a good Christmas and a great time with the family and friends. We will start the new year off with a visit to the VA Hospital at Milledgeville in January (no date set yet). In February, we will have a District meeting in Macon and learn of all the changes in the Auxiliary. We are planning a Card party sometime later this year, as we have not had one since 2019 due to COVID. We will meet in January for our monthly board meeting on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm, then go to the dinner and program afterwards. Hope to see you at the meeting.

*Love and prayers for God and Country*

**COMMANDER'S MESSAGE (Dr. Daniel R. Brewer,  
Post 30 Commander)**

Well, the legion is back to business after the holiday season, and we'll resume our normal monthly activities this month, including the breakfast on the first Wednesday and the dinner and program on the second Thursday of each month. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year's holiday.

During the holidays, we were able to distribute 38 Christmas gifts, which included a \$25 gift card to Walmart, thanks to DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution), as well as five \$100 gift cards from Food Lion. We appreciate their generosity to our local veterans and will be sending them thank you cards this Month.

December was a hard month for the legion as we lost five legion members (Barney Knighton, Mike Henderson, Jesse Middlebrooks, Alan Orosz, and Rick Turner), plus we have two in the hospital not doing well (Denzell Harrell and Riley Williams). I hope all will pray for the families of those who passed and for the two in the hospital.

During our January 12<sup>th</sup> monthly dinner and program, we will have Post 30 member Robert Gerbert as our guest speaker. Robert will talk about the Albany Amateur Radio Club. He has been a member of the club for years and will tell us a little about its history and how we can get involved, if interested. But basically, the Albany Amateur Radio Club provides emergency communication operations to our local area during times of emergencies, such as floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc. Additionally, the club promotes interest in amateur radio, encourages persons to become licensed amateur radio operators, provides skill, knowledge and training to amateur radio operators, and provides wholesome recreation to members and their friends. You should find Robert's presentation interesting, so I hope you come to hear it.

In February (February 9), we will have Miss Ashleigh Kelly, who is with the Friends of Chehaw. She will come and tell us what is going on at Chehaw Park and bring a couple of her little "critters" for entertainment. I know you will find her "live" presentation worth listening to.

*Duty, Honor Country is what we stand for*

**Commander**

Dr. Daniel R. Brewer

**Senior Vice Commander**

Richard Stowe

**Junior Vice Commanders**

Henry Alward  
Jerry Garrett  
Scott Hemmings  
Ron Langston  
Sonny Martin

**Auxiliary**

Ms. Barbara Novell, *President*  
Ms. Deanna Nicholson, *Vice President*  
Ms. Deanna Nicholson, *Chaplain*

**Past Commander**

Nick Nicholson

**Officers**

Gary Fowler, *Adjutant*  
Dr. Dan Brewer, *Service Officer*  
Ben Adler, *Buildings, Insurance*  
Dr. Doc Williams, *Chaplain*  
Nick Nicholson, *Color Sergeant*  
Ted Wright Jr. *Finance Officer*  
Jerry Garrett, *Grounds*  
Dr. Dan Brewer, *Historian*  
Nick Nicholson, *Judge Advocate*

**Executive Committee**

Ben Adler  
Tom Brown  
James Eppler  
Gary Fowler  
James Ivey  
Joe Najjar  
Jim O'Hare  
Denis Plette  
Gil Stokes