



# American Legion Post 290

## Newsletter edited by Siegfried Gates



The Friendliest Place in Virginia!

Stafford, Virginia

January 2024

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

.Dear Comrades,  
Greetings All,

Well, here we are in January 2024 and I'm pleased to say that volunteers stepped up this past month. Between the children's Christmas party, Oratorical contest, and the food basket program, we actually had more volunteers than ever before. All of the programs were a complete success and I only hope that this will continue into and during the new year.

Bingo is still struggling and I hope that some of you will find a little extra time to help a night or two with Bingo. The kitchen on Wednesday and Friday has been going well, thanks to the Auxiliary for doing their part. We've also had outside vendors filling in for the nights we don't have any volunteers, and that seems to be liked by the players and the food is good.

Thanks again and I truly hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday season! Happy New Year!

Rick Schultz

,

Rick Schultz  
Commander, Post 290

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



## Post Everlasting

Darren King

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

NOTHING TO 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 bsuking@yahoo.com, (816) 550-5228 or 111 Van Horn Lane, Stafford, VA 22556 .

### Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Darren King

#### *The American Legion Motto and Mission*

Did you know that the mission of the American Legion is “*The American Legion: Veteran’s Strengthening America.*” The second part also serves as our motto: *Veteran’s Strengthening America.* This begs the question, how can we as veteran’s strengthen America?

Let us look at one value that is stated in our value principles and also in our preamble: *Selfless Service.* As one of our value principles it means the American Legion “*celebrates all who contribute to something larger than themselves and inspires others to serve and strengthen America.*” In the preamble to the American Legion Constitution, it says, “*To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation.*”

Selfless Service to individuals, community, state and nation is what will strengthen America. As we start this new year of 2024, think about how you can serve the individuals around you. How can you serve your neighbor and community? What can you do to serve our great state of Virginia and this great nation?

This goes along with a biblical principle stated by Jesus, “*It is more blessed to give than to receive*” (Acts 20:35). As you start off the new year, strive to know the blessing of giving, of serving others, of strengthening family, and neighbors, and community, and state and nation.

To give through service can be as simply as showing up in the time of need. Or of walking through the difficulties of life with another veteran. It doesn’t just have to be programs and events and community service. So this new year, make giving of yourself in service to individuals and community and state and nation your resolution for the year. You truly will be blessed.

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#### BINNACLE LIST

NOTHING TO 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 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 annual Children's Christmas Party was a delightful event, thanks to the efforts of member Kathy Payne, who planned for months to assure attendees would have a fantastic time. 45 children were treated to a wonderful magic show by Kevin the Magician, who made sure all the children who wanted to come up on stage with him and help him spread holiday cheer through his amazing activities were able to – it seemed the pulling of a real rabbit out of Kevin's hat was the most popular part of the show, but so many other of Kevin's amazing feats were excellent entertainment, even for the over 50! volunteers who came to support the event. Thanks to the Auxiliary, the hall was decorated for the holidays and the backdrop for our very special visitor, Santa Claus, was lovely. Santa took his time with each child, listening intently to their requests and smiling big for all the family photos that were taken. Santa even noted that a young girl forgot to take her coat off for photos, he called her back for a 2<sup>nd</sup> one so her pretty holiday outfit could be seen. Thanks, Santa! Kathy stuffed dozens and dozens of handmade stockings, designated by age, full of small toys and snacks. The children couldn't have been happier! Thanks again to the members who assisted in donating fabric and sewing these lovely stockings. All attendees enjoyed snacks and water bottles, and even the Grinch came for the day! The new registration process made for easy check in.

Other thank yous needed as we reflect on Unit 290's activity during 2023 include kudos to our devoted president, Ginger Briggs. Ginger has tough shoes to fill with the loss of Linda Altsteatter, but she rises to the occasion and encourages members with a kind nudge to get more involved. Ginger also runs the Bingo kitchen, now just twice a month. Ginger is thorough and conscientious and assures all Bingo players, whether buying a cup of ice or a meal for their entire table, are satisfied with the Auxiliary's kitchen efforts. Thank you, Ginger.

Another thank you to member Mary Schelin, our Unit Historian, who always does a wonderful job with poppy distribution in the spring. Mark your calendars now for weekends in May as you can be sure Mary is scheduling with local businesses to let our Unit and Post distribute poppies and the poppy message to our community.

Speaking of marking your calendar, our Unit is sponsoring a CRAFT FAIR in May at the new post building on Mountain View Road. Mary Schelin is coordinating this fund raiser and we hope you will consider renting a space if you are a crafter, or coming to support the day. More information coming next month.

How about thanks to Shari Pierce, our Virginia Girls State Coordinator? We sent 13 girls to Longwood University in 2023 and Shari is already hard at work on 2024. We are so fortunate to have a coordinator with the organizational skills that Shari has!

Additional thanks to member Kathy Payne, who, on the heels of the Children's Christmas Party, coordinated the Food Basket Program for the Legion! Kathy, you and BJ are amazing! Thank you to members who helped Kathy.

Membership news: We are almost 3/4<sup>th</sup>s of the way to meeting our membership numbers from the close of 2023. Please renew your membership now. Bring your \$ 35.00 check by the Bingo on Wednesdays or Fridays or mail it to Box 125, Stafford, VA 22555

## American Legion Riders Chapter 290 News

By Marty Partridge

Happy New Year!

What a busy month December has been for the Post and the Riders!

The Riders kicked off the month with our Holiday Party on 2 December, and boy did we have fun!

Our guests included Post Bingo Staff that helped us with our Riders Bingo, the President of the Band of Brothers USMC Motorcycle Club, and the Virginia Legacy Run Coordinator, Randy "BB" Gunn. We kicked it off with a social hour, took a short break to conduct our abbreviated (20mins) monthly Rider's Meeting, and went back to party mode.

The potluck style dinner provided a variety of food and dessert items, and it was all delicious, so everybody had plenty to eat. Then came the real fun when we started the White Elephant Gift Exchange. It started off slow for a bit, and then there was some stealing of gifts. Poor Denver must have had his stolen a dozen times, but somehow, he managed to get out of there with a bottle of the good stuff. You've heard of the book "*Who Moved My Cheese?*" well Reggie couldn't give his cheese away, but then he managed to somehow "convince" Mr. Glen to take it off his hands so he could trade for something else.

The most interesting gifts came at the end, we had two particular gag gifts that I can't mention here, since Sig tells me I have to keep the newsletter input at a "PG" level, but I can tell you those two gifts were the talk of the night...and still are.

Several Riders provided support for the Post events throughout December, including the Unit 290 Children's Christmas Party on 3 December, the Oratorical, and the Post's 75<sup>th</sup> Year of the Holiday Food Basket Program.

The Riders wish all members of the Post 290 Family a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year!

We look forward to supporting many more Veteran, Community and Post events in 2024.

*Keep the rubber-side down!*

Marty Partridge

ALR-290 Director

## Post 290 December Events

By Siegfried Gates

This past December Post 290 hosted and supported three of the most signature events of the annual activities calendar.

The **Children's Christmas Party** spearheaded by Kate Zarembo Payne was held on 3 December. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the Post 290 Children's Christmas Party. We had more than 50 volunteers and the entire Post 290 Family represented. We also had an impressive group of youth volunteers including Jr Auxiliary, Post 290 Bombers, MVHS JROTC, and the Surgeon Lawrence Brooke Society Children of the American Revolution. A special thank you to Fargo Wells, AKA Santa, and Greg Nilges, AKA the Grinch.



The Annual American Legion **Post 290 Oratorical Contest** followed closely on the heels of the Christmas Party on 9 December championed by Erin Fox. The following Supervisors of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors served as Judges: Meg Bohmke, Falmouth District; Tom Cohen, George Washington District; Darrell English, Hartwood District.



The **Annual Holiday Food Basket** drive, collection, sorting and distribution was run by Brian "BJ" Payne assisted by Kate Zarembo Payne. They were hard at work from just before Thanksgiving to Dec. 17th.



The events were all a smashing success due in no small part to the volunteers who showed up to bear a hand. Were it not for the Post 290 cadre of volunteers who do the heavy lifting Post 290 would have no programs. On behalf of Stafford American Legion Post 290 Leadership THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!!!

## 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.

## JANUARY 2024 HIGHLIGHTS AT POST 290

### January

**Jan 01 - NEW YEAR'S DAY HAPPY 2024!**

Jan 08 - Blood Drive at the Annex 1000-1600

Jan 13 - 16th District Oratorical Contest hosted by Post 290, 1000 start

Jan 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan 16 - Virginia Religious Freedom Day, per Virginia General Assembly vote in 1786

Jan 27 - Holocaust Memorial Day

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## CONSTANT BEARING, DECREASING RANGE

### February

Feb 17 - 16th District Spring Conference, Middleburg, VA

### March

Mar 01 - 03 Department Spring Conference, Portsmouth, VA

Mar 10 - Apr 8 - Ramadan followed by Eid

Mar 16 - Legion Birthday Dinner, Start Time TBD

Mar 31 - Easter Sunday, Children's Easter Egg Hunt (Tentative, details TBD)

### April

April 22 - April 30 - Passover



**YOUR ELECTED POST  
290 OFFICERS**

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

**CORPORATION OFFICERS**

Michael Flanagan, Chair  
 John Cox, Secretary  
 Brian "B.J." Payne, Director  
 Steve Albertson, Director  
 Lester Wood, Director



**YOUR AUX UNIT 290  
ELECTED OFFICERS**

President Ginger Briggs  
 Vice Pres Sherilyn Pierce  
 Secretary Marilyn Butters  
 Treasurer Frances Shelton  
 Chaplain Dale Seward  
 Historian Mary Schelin  
 Sgt at Arms Teresa Hardisty

**STAFFORD AMERICAN  
LEGION POST 290**



**January 2024**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day! Happy New Year!	2	3 BINGO	4	5 BINGO	6
7	8 ALR Monthly Meeting 1800-2000	9 General Members Mtg. - 1930	10 BINGO	11	12 BINGO	13 16 <sup>th</sup> District Oratorical Contest at Post 290, 1000 Start
14	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	16 National & Virginia Religious Freedom Day	17 BINGO	18	19 BINGO	20 Honor Guard Sea Food Night 1630-1900 Karaoke 1900-2200
21	22 Executive Committee Mtg. 1930 USS Pueblo (AGER-2) captured	23	24 BINGO	25	26 International Holocaust Remembrance Day BINGO	27
28	29	30	31			

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