



American Legion Post 290

Newsletter

edited by Siegfried Gates



The Friendliest Place in Virginia!

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Stafford, Virginia

October 2025

From the Commander's Desk, American Legion Post 290

Dear Members and Friends of Post 290,

October is here, and it's shaping up to be a busy and exciting month for our Post. I'm proud to say that our calendar is full of meaningful events and opportunities to come together as a community.

We kick off the month with Stafford Sheriff's Night Out on October 7th, a fantastic event that brings law enforcement and the community together. I encourage you to come out and show your support.

On October 13th, our Auxiliary Craft Fair will take place at the Post. This is always a great event to support local crafters and enjoy some early holiday shopping. Be sure to stop by, shop, and say hello!

During our General Meeting on October 14th, we're honored to welcome participants from Boy's State and Girl's State. These bright young individuals will be joining us to share their experiences and insights from the programs. Please join us to hear their valuable perspective; you'll be inspired.

Later this month, on October 23rd, we will be hosting a Blood Drive at the Post. Donating blood is a powerful way to serve our community, and your contribution could help save lives.

As always, volunteers are needed and appreciated. Whether it's helping out at events like Bingo, lending a hand with set-up, or just being present to welcome guests, your time makes a real difference. Even just stopping by for a visit can lift spirits and strengthen our bonds. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Post 290. Let's keep moving forward, together.

In service,

Rick Schultz
Commander, Post 290

THE NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION HOT LINE is live!
VETERANS Dial 988 then Press 1

FROM THE DESK OF THE FIRST VICE COMMANDER (TALKING ABOUT MEMBERSHIP ISSUES)

by Greg Nilges

Legionnaires, by the time you read this, there will only be a couple of months left in 2025. Can you believe it? How time flies. It sure seems to go faster the older I get, but I digress. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2026, I ask you to do so as soon as possible. If you have already renewed, thank you very much!

Here are some membership stats as of 4 September

- The Department of Virginia is a 56.80%
- District 16 (the district that 290 is in) is at 59.17% (3rd overall in the Department)
- Post 290 is a 57.45% of the goal Department has set
- Post 290 renewals are at 55.42%. I really think we can do better than that.

There are a number of ways to renew your membership. You can mail it in to the Post, but you can save yourself the cost of a stamp (can you believe how much they cost now?); by dropping it off at the Post and ask someone to put it in my inbox, or you can renew online at mylegion.org. If you renew online, you don't need to let me know. I check online renewals often. If you would like to renew for more than a single year, you can only do that online. I am unable to process multi-year renewals. Also, if you would like to become a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member, that can only be done online as well.

If you have renewed your membership (or recently transferred to 290) and have not received your new membership card, please let me know and I will look into it. If you have lost your card and need a replacement, I can do that for you as well. You can email me at Post290.1ST.Vice.CDR@gmail.com.

As always, I encourage each of you to actively recruit Veterans to join the Legion. My sales pitch is I believe in "supporting who supports you". The American Legion is the largest Veterans organization and numbers matter when it comes to fighting for Veteran's Rights and benefits at the National level.

I would love to meet each and every one of you and hear your thoughts on how I can do a better job as your 1st Vice Commander or ideas you may have on improving the Post. I'm often at the Post on Bingo nights and I'll be at Steak Night this month (20 Sep) as well, and hope to see you there. If you do come by, please look for me and introduce yourself.

Yours in service,
Greg Nilges
Post 290 First Vice Commander

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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, (816) 550-5228 or 111 Van Horn Lane, Stafford, VA 22556

Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Darren King

National Night Out: A Call to Community

Friends, our neighborhoods are only as strong as the connections we build with one another. National Night Out, which takes place here in Stafford on October 7 at Stafford Market Place, is a simple yet powerful reminder that when we come together—neighbors, families, veterans, and local leaders—we create safer, healthier, and more caring communities. Taking just one evening to meet those who live around us can spark friendships, deepen trust, and remind us that none of us are alone.

The American Legion shares this very heartbeat. From its founding, the Legion has been committed to serving others, caring for veterans, and strengthening the places we call home. When our members show up at community gatherings like National Night Out, we bring with us not only our service backgrounds, but also a willingness to listen, to encourage, and to be present. These small acts of showing up are what turn ordinary neighborhoods into real communities. Showing up allows us to make connections with other service organizations, religious organizations like churches, government entities, and so on.

Now is the time to lean in and make community connections. Relationship connections. Imagine what could happen if each of us took the initiative to step out, introduce ourselves, and build bridges where they are missing. Whether it's a handshake at this great community event, volunteering with the American Legion, or simply checking on a neighbor, these moments matter. Together we can renew the spirit of unity, strengthen the bonds that hold us together, and make our neighborhoods places where everyone feels they belong, and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Finally, when we participate in events like National Night Out and take the time to get to know the people and organizations that make up our community, it is hard to think badly of those people, to hate those people, to wish those people harm. We have too much of that in our world today and National Night Out and events like it help stem the tide of disunity and disintegration. Through simple events like it, we don't have to give into evil but can overcome evil with good. The goodwill of one neighbor to another. May God be gracious to us.

BINNACLE LIST

Mike Robinson continues to recover from surgery.

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.

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American Legion Auxiliary Unit 290 News



2025 CRAFT SHOWS

OCTOBER 11, 2025

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



Fall – Holiday



Craft Show

Unit290poppies@aol.com

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

Shop for Celebrations, Holidays, or treating yourself.

Staffordpost290.org

American Legion Riders

By Marty Partridge

Happy Fall Post 290!

On August 15 -21, 2025, seven members of the American Legion Riders (ALR) – 290 (Marty and Juanita Partridge; Denver and Derice Steele, Justin and Tori Goemmer, and Don Dillon with Laura Werner (ALR-1976) participated in the Virginia Fun Run “Ride to the Ride” and the National Legacy Run. Springfield Post 176 hosted the start of the Fun Run and graciously provided dinner on Friday, August 15th and breakfast on Saturday, August 16th prior to heading out. The Fun Run started at 8:00am on Saturday and was a one-day ride to American Legion Post 8, South Boston, VA to meet up with Riders from across the country for the start on the National Legacy Run. Virginia Riders showed up in great numbers and demonstrated their Legacy Run support.

The National Legacy Run started on Sunday, August 17th at Post 8, and took us to Fayetteville, NC on day-1; Myrtle Beach, SC on day-2; Beaufort, SC on day-3; Jacksonville, FL on day-4; and ended in Tampa, FL on day-5. There were over 300 Bikes, and 400 participants/support personnel to manage the ride. All in all, it was a great time. On day-3, our group of eight did our own ride, which gave us a later start and time to enjoy Myrtle Beach, before heading to Beaufort, SC to meet up with the large group in the late afternoon. What a great day that turned out to be. In total our group accumulated 1,488 miles on the ride. However, we took the Amtrak Auto-Train from Sanford, FL to Lorton, VA for the return trip – and it was worth it.

The National Legacy Run was a huge success in raising funds for The American Legion Veterans and Children’s Foundation. Virginia donated a total of \$72,000 on the ride, and retained \$34,000 for Veterans and Children’s fund within the state of Virginia. A total of \$108,000 so far. In June during the Virginia Legacy Run, Post 290, ALR-290 and Unit 290 collectively donated \$8,500 in direct funds, plus the costs of registrations, raffles and T-shirts, exceeded \$10,000.

While not all were able to participate in the National Legacy Run, Riders here at home participated in the Marine Band of Brothers annual Poker Run in support of their Richmond McGuire VA Hospital support fund. Several ALR-290 members showed up and we donated \$250 in addition to registrations.

Keep the rubber-side down!

Marty Partridge
ALR-290 Director



August 18, 2025 – American Legion Riders 290 and 176 at the U.S.S. North Carolina during the National Legacy Run. From left to right: Marty and Juanita Partridge, Denver and Derice Steele, Laura Werner, Don Dillon, and Tori and Justin Goemmer (Photo by Unknown).

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American Legion Riders

By Marty Partridge



August 23, 2025 – Members of ALR-290 at the Marine Band of Brothers Poker Run. From left to right: Kim Sivigny, Alex Johnston, Fred Dixon, Doug Sivigny (holding the vest) Scott Henderson, Greg Nilges, Mike Sheirich and Tommy Gimble. (Photo by Austin Sutton, ALR-290 also on the ride).

American Legion Riders

By Marty Partridge

SATURDAY



OCT 4TH

STAFFORD

POST 290

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT



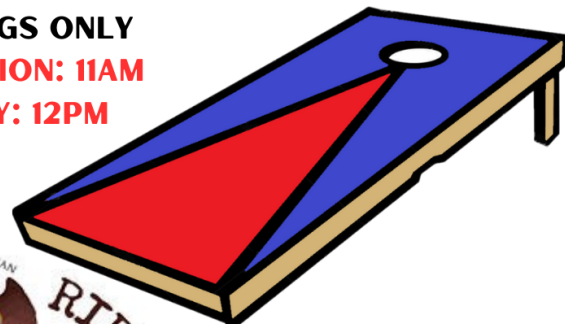
**2 PERSON TEAMS
SINGLE ELIMINATION**

**\$10 REGISTRATION FEE PER PERSON
PARTNERS WILL BE RANDOMLY DRAWN**

HOUSE BAGS ONLY

REGISTRATION: 11AM

BAGS FLY: 12PM



PRIZES*

1ST PRIZE: \$125

2ND PRIZE: \$50

3RD PRIZE: \$25

***REQUIRES MINIMUM 10 TEAMS**



10/4/2025

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
1151 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD
FREDERICKSBURG, VA
22406**

**FOOD AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE**

Trick or Treat Halloween Party

Free Event

Come out and enjoy a night full of fun
games, candy, food and prizes at

The Stafford American Legion Post 290

Annual Halloween Party

Thursday, October 30, 2025

5:30-7:30pm

Parking Lot

Costume Contest at 7pm

American Legion Post 290

1141 Mountain View Road

Stafford, Virginia

Ages: Under 13

See website for updates

<https://www.staffordpost290.org/>

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HOLIDAY FOOD BASKET PROGRAM

by BJ Payne

Tis the Season to Prepare for the Annual Holiday Food Basket Program

The Post 290 Holiday Food Basket (HFB) Program has evolved over the years, but the mission to support our community in need has remained the same. Furthermore, Post 290 continues to be a registered community sponsor of the Stafford County Department of Social Service's (DSS) Holiday Program, which provides Christmas (or Thanksgiving) assistance to families by matching businesses, churches, and community groups with those in need. DSS families who qualify are invited to register with the Stafford County DSS for food and gifts through this Holiday Program. As a community sponsor, Post 290 collaborates with DSS and is matched with approximately 100 or more of these local families to provide food assistance during the Christmas season.

Post 290 has supported the Stafford County community in need for more than 70 years and presently the HFB is the Post's largest community outreach project. Today's HFB Program focuses on providing food boxes of non-perishable fruits, vegetables, grains, and proteins to the local families in need. Post 290 also distributes a loaf of bread and a restricted gift card so that these families can choose either a ham or turkey and whichever produce is best for their particular situation.

FOOD COLLECTION at POST 290

During BINGO on Wednesdays & Fridays

Please, NO glass containers or expired food—including past "best by" dates.

NEW LOCATIONS FOR TASKS & DISTRIBUTION!

SORTING & PACKING:

MOUNTAIN VIEW RESCUE SQUAD, 1268 Mountain View Rd

DISTRIBUTION:

POST 290, 1141 Mountain View Rd



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FOOD BASKET PROGRAM

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE *(subject to change)*

Wednesday, Nov. 5 @ 8:00 AM
Deliver collection boxes to SCPS
Meet in the Post 290 lower Sports Complex parking lot

Monday, Dec. 15 @ 8:00 AM
Pick up filled collection boxes from SCPS and begin sorting
Meet at the new location at the MOUNTAIN VIEW RESCUE SQUAD, 1268 Mountain View Rd

Tuesday, Dec. 16 @ 8:00 AM
Sort food
Meet at the new location at the MOUNTAIN VIEW RESCUE SQUAD, 1268 Mountain View Rd

Wednesday, Dec. 17 @ 8:00 AM
Sort food
Meet at the new location at the MOUNTAIN VIEW RESCUE SQUAD, 1268 Mountain View Rd

Thursday, Dec. 18 @ 8:00 AM
Pack food boxes
Meet at the new location at the MOUNTAIN VIEW RESCUE SQUAD, 1268 Mountain View Rd

Friday, Dec. 19 @ 8:00 AM
Pack food boxes and load trailer
Meet at the new location at the MOUNTAIN VIEW RESCUE SQUAD, 1268 Mountain View Rd

Saturday, Dec. 20 — 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Volunteers arrive at 10:00 AM
Distribute boxes to families
Meet at POST 290, 1141 Mountain View Rd

Sunday, Dec. 21 — 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Volunteers arrive at 10:00 AM
Distribute boxes to families
Meet at POST 290, 1141 Mountain View Rd

Visit this link for more information about the:
[Stafford County Department of Social Services Holiday Program](#)

Contact Information: post290foodbasket@gmail.com

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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.

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.

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.

UPDATE: Venture Crew 84's firewood donation program has cut, split, delivered and donated 25 cords of firewood this season (24/25) to needy households (\$7,000 value of donation)

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OCTOBER 2025 HIGHLIGHTS AT POST 290

October Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Oct 01 - Yom Kippur Begins at Sunset
 Oct 04 - Riders' Corn Hole Tournament, 1100 Registration, 1200 Bags Fly
 Oct 07 - Stafford County "National Night Out", 1700hrs, Stafford Marketplace (Target parking lot)
 Oct 11 - Auxiliary Craft Show, 1000-1500
 Oct 13 - US Navy 250th Birthday, 1775
 Oct 13 - Columbus Day
 Oct 13 - Indigenous Peoples' Day
 Oct 18 - Stafford Shredding Event, 0830-1100, Stafford County Government Center Parking Lot
 Oct 18 - Steak Night followed by Karaoke, 1600hrs
 Oct 23 - Blood Drive, 1400-1600
 Oct 23 - Beirut, Lebanon Marine Corps Barracks Bombing, 1983
 Oct 30 - Children's Halloween Trick or Treat at Post 290 Parking Lot, 1730-1930 Children under 13 ONLY

CONSTANT BEARING, DECREASING RANGE

(EVENTS ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO POSTPONEMENT OR CANCELLATION)

Nov Native American Heritage Month

Nov 01 - American Legion Riders Post 290 Chapter Bingo
 Nov 02 - Daylight Saving Time Ends, the Return of the Dark Ages
 Nov 04 - Election Day
 Nov 05 - Distribute Food Collection Boxes to Stafford County Public Schools, 0800 Start
 Nov 08 - 16th District Fall Conference
 Nov 10 - USMC 250th Birthday, 1775
 Nov 11 - Veteran's Day, Courthouse Wreath Laying, 0900
 Nov 15 - Steak Night followed by Karaoke, 1600
 Nov 27 - Thanksgiving Day

December Universal Human Rights Month

Dec 07 - Children's Christmas Party, 1400hrs (2 pm)
 Dec 07 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
 Dec 11 - Hanukkah begins at sunset
 Dec 13 - Wreaths Across America
 Dec 13 - Army Navy Football Game, 1500hrs
 Dec 15 - Pick Up Food Collection Boxes from Stafford County Schools, 0800 Start, Bring to Mountain View Fire & Rescue
 Dec 16 - Sort Food at Mountain View Fire and Rescue, 0800 Start
 Dec 17 - Sort Food at Mountain View Fire and Rescue, 0800 Start
 Dec 18 - Pack Food Boxes at Mountain View Fire and Rescue, 0800 Start
 Dec 19 - Pack Food Boxes at Mountain View Fire and Rescue, 0800 Start
 Dec 20 - Distribute Food Boxes From Post 290, 1100-1700
 Dec 20 - Steak Night followed by Karaoke, 1600
 Dec 20 - Space Force Birthday, 2019
 Dec 20 - Steak Night followed by Karaoke
 Dec 21 - Distribute Food Boxes from Post 290, 1100-1600
 Dec 21 - First Day of Winter, Winter Solstice (Shortest Day)
 Dec 22 - Hanukkah ends at sunset
 Dec 25 - Christmas Day
 Dec 26 - Jan 01 Kwanzaa
 Dec 31 - New Year's Eve

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YOUR ELECTED POST 290 OFFICERS

Commander Rick Schultz
 1st Vice Greg Nilges
 2nd Vice John Patrick
 3rd Vice Brandy Fitzgerald
 Adjutant Mike Scullin
 Finance Robert Ponzo
 Service Ofc. Jim Richey
 Chaplain Darren King
 Sgt at Arms John Cox
 JAG Garry Briggs
 PAO Cliff McDaniel
 Historian VACANT



YOUR AUX UNIT 290 ELECTED OFFICERS

President Mary Schelin
 Vice Pres Kathy Payne
 Secretary Grace Ocasio
 Treas Marilyn Butters
 Chaplain Dale Seward
 Historian Pearl Nelson
 Sgt at Arms Teresa Hardisty

**STAFFORD AMERICAN
LEGION POST 290**

We are on the Web
www.staffordPost290.org

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Breast Cancer Awareness Month			1 BINGO Yom Kippur	2	3 BINGO	4 Riders' Corn Hole Tournament – 1100 Registration, 1200 Bags Fly
5	6	7 Stafford National Night Out, 1700	8 BINGO	9	10 BINGO	11 Auxiliary Craft Show, 1000-1500
12	13 ALR Monthly Meeting Columbus Day Indigenous People's Day Navy Birthday- 1775	14 General Members Mtg	15 BINGO	16	17 BINGO	18 Stafford Shredding 0830-1100 Steak Night and Karaoke Night 1600
19	20	21	22 BINGO	23 Blood Drive, 1400-1600 Marine Corps Beirut Barracks Bombing Anniversary, 1983	24 BINGO	25
26	27 Executive Committee Meeting	28	29 BINGO	30 Children's Halloween Party, 1730-1930	31 BINGO Halloween	