



American Legion Post 290 Newsletter

edited by Siegfried Gates



The Friendliest Place in Virginia!

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Stafford, Virginia

February 2025

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

Comrades,

Hope all is well and everyone had a great holiday season.

Just a couple things to note. First, we have Post Everlasting and 4 Chaplains ceremonies on February 2nd at the Post at 1400hrs. Also, we have the Honor Guard steak night on February 15, so bring your sweetheart for a nice steak dinner for Valentine's date.

As always, try to give a little volunteer time to your Post. This can give a break to those that volunteer at every event. Just a couple of hours would make a huge difference in helping your Post succeed.

Thanks again and see you soon!

Rick

STAY INFORMED!

If you are wondering what's going on at the Post, remember you have three (3) sources of information:

1. This Newsletter
2. The Post's website - <https://www.staffordpost290.org/>
3. Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALPost290>

The Newsletter is a snapshot in time effective at date of publication. Updates can be found at numbers 2 and 3. Don't be part of "the ten percent that never gets the word".

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 the Post Everlasting:

Robert (Bob) Gibbons reported to the Post Everlasting on 17 January, 2025. Bob was an Air Force veteran, served on the Stafford County Board of Supervisors Rock Hill District, the Planning Commission, the VRE Board and was a member of Post 290 for 51 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, (816) 550-5228 or 111 Van Horn Lane, Stafford, VA 22556 .

Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Darren King

On February 2, at 2 pm we will once again honor those legionnaires who passed away last year with a Post Everlasting ceremony. One of those Legionnaires was Glen Schelin who passed away last June. Glen was one of the first Post members to reach out to me when I transferred to the post several years ago and he encouraged me when I became the Chaplain.

Glen had served for over a decade as the Post 290 Chaplain and made sure, along with John Humphrey, that I had what I needed to be successful. He was always ready to visit and to ask how I was doing. He had a true servant's heart and displayed the self-less service of a legionnaire.

Come out for out the Post Everlasting and Four Chaplains ceremony. It is a great time each year to remember those who have passed away and those who have demonstrated the great values of the American Legion and this great country.

BINNACLE LIST

No 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.

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



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 290 News

By Virginia Briggs

As President of Unit 290 I want to wish my Post 290 family a happy, safe and prosperous 2025. Thanks to all my Auxiliary sisters and brothers for being patient, helpful and supportive of me throughout the past few months.

We have suspended working the kitchen for Bingo in Dec and Jan. I hope to start back in Feb. but it depends on you. I need 4 people to work the kitchen. Only 2 Wednesdays a month for 4 to 4 1/2 hours. We start prepping at 4:30 and leave between 8:30 and 9. It is not hard work if we have enough people to for all jobs. Please give me a call if you can work (540-659-3880).



2025 CRAFT SHOWS

MAY 3, 2025
2025

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



OCTOBER 11,

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



Unit290poppies@aol.com

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

It's never too early to Shop for Celebrations, Holidays, or treating yourself.

Staffordpost290.org

Eagle Eye of the Month for January 2025

John Humphrey was the Eagle Eye Spotter for January 2025. In the ALR report. There is a 'be' where there should be a 'we'.

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

The Food Basket Program 2024

Every year, around Christmas time, Post 290 engages the Stafford community by providing holiday meals for families. This year was no exception. Every year Stafford County Social Services registers more and more families to receive food boxes for the holidays. This year, Post 290 provided meals for 531 mouths through our Holiday Food Basket Program. This historic program is fulfilling a vital need to support members of our community experiencing food insecurities.

The Food Basket Program is active for most of the year prior to December. Once schools resume instruction in the Fall, liaison work begins to gather support from the county's schools to host collection boxes for food items. Early in November (Nov 4 this year) the Program kicks into high gear with the distribution of cardboard boxes to the schools who earlier have agreed to support the program. The boxes are filled with donations by the students and collected (Dec 9 this year) to the Post 290 Annex where their contents are inventoried and sorted (Dec 10-13) into smaller boxes each of which contain the supplies to provide a meal for the whole family. Distribution took place on Dec 13 and 14. Recipients are referred to Post 290 by Stafford Head Start & Stafford County Social Services. S.E.R.V.E. picked up the glass, expired, and extra food that was not picked up by families. Nothing is allowed to go to waste.

Of course no project of this size can be attempted without the support of volunteers and Post 290 wants to thank them all. Leading the charge was BJ Payne. Supporting volunteers included members of Post 290, (Auxiliary, American Legion Riders) Venture Crew 84, Post 290 Bombers, Junior Shooters, Stafford County Sheriff's Office Cadet Program, Mountain View HS (Learn & Serve, NHS, JROTC), Stafford HS (HOSA, Learn & Serve, NHS), Fredericksburg Christian School, Stafford Middle, Dixon Smith (NJHS), Surgeon Lawrence Brooke Society, C.A.R., and many other volunteers from the community. They packed 373 boxes for 531 adults, children, and babies in need.



American Legion Riders Chapter 290 News

By Marty Partridge

Greetings Post 290!

The 290 Riders had an awesome 2024 and we're off to a great start for 2025! We held our first meeting on January, 12th, and we were happy to see our Treasurer, Tricia Miller, was able to come to her first meeting in quite a while. Welcome back Tricia! She presented our 2024-year end statement, and I'm happy to report to the Stafford American Legion Post that the Riders contributed nearly \$11,000 to Veteran, Post 290 and Community charitable causes. We also approved our 2025 Annual Budget, so we are set for another great year.

We started 2025 off with a \$510 donation to sponsor 30 wreaths with Wreaths Across America during their January drive when they also match our contribution. Our contribution is made through the 290 Bombers link, which then also contributes \$5.00 for each wreath to the Bombers which is also matched. On Sunday, January 12th, we also donated \$500 (in addition to the Post's \$500 donation) to the Stafford County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver. This is the 3d year we've done this, and it's one we'll continue to support each year.

Our Road Captain and Events Committee will be busy in the coming month or so planning our year, but mark your calendars now for April 5th for our Annual Bike Blessing and Dart Tournament. All are welcome to attend either or both. Watch for details.

Stay Warm!

Keep the rubber-side down!

Marty Partridge
ALR-290 Director

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 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) for processing.

If you have any questions please contact Kevin Mook the National SAL Liaison at 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.

Thank you,
Fargo Wells

FIREWOOD STILL 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.

FEBRUARY 2025 HIGHLIGHTS AT POST 290

February 2025

Black History Month

- Feb 01 - Regional Oratorical Contest Post 176, 1000hrs START
 - Feb 02 - Four Chaplains/Post Everlasting Sunday
 - Feb 08 - Friends of the Legion Mtg., Colonial Heights Post hosting
 - Feb 14 - Valentine's Day
 - Feb 17 - President's Day
 - Feb 28 - Mar 02 - Department of Virginia Spring Conference, Portsmouth, VA
-

CONSTANT BEARING, DECREASING RANGE

(ITEMS ADDED AS THEY COME TO THE EDITOR'S ATTENTION)

2025

March

Women's History Month

- Mar 01 - Begin Ramadan
- Mar 09 - Daylight Saving Time (Set Clocks AHEAD ONE HOUR) 0200hrs
- Mar 14 - Purim
- Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 20 - Vernal Equinox - First Day of Spring!
- Mar 23 - Girls State Interviews, 1300hrs
- Mar 24 - Boys State Interviews, 1800hrs
- Mar 29 - National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- Mar 31 - Eid al Fitr

April

Month of the Military Child
Parkinson's Awareness Month

- Apr 12 - Spring 290 Club, 1730hrs
- Apr 20 - Easter Sunday
- Apr 26 - 3rd Annual Post 290 Family Day (open to the public) 1100 - 1600hrs

May

National Skin Cancer Awareness Month

- May 03 - Poppy Patch Craft Show, 1000-1500rs
- May 28 - Blood Drive, at the Annex



**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

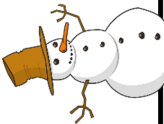


**YOUR AUX UNIT 290
ELECTED OFFICERS**



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**



February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			BINGO		BINGO	1 Regional Oratorical Contest, Post 176
2 Four Chaplains /Post Everlasting Observance, 1400hrs	3	4	5 BINGO	6	7 BINGO	8
9	10 ALR Monthly Meeting	11 General Members Mtg.	12 BINGO	13	14 Valentine's Day BINGO 	15 Steak Night, 1630 Karaoke Night, 1900
16	17 President's Day 	18	19 BINGO	20	21 BINGO	22
23	24 Executive Committee Mtg. 1930	25	26 BINGO	27	28 BINGO Dept. of VA Spring Conference	