



Samuel G. Cooke
 American Legion Post 267
Legionnaire Express



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“Celebrating Excellence”

Commander’s Message

Greetings Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL members:

I want to wish each of you a joyous holiday season. The holiday season can be very depressing to some of us for different reasons. Veterans who have no family or friends to provide support and comfort during the holiday season-remember your Legion family-we are here for our veterans. Your Legion post will remain open during the holidays. So if you feel that you need a friend or just want to be with others, please come out. I want to welcome our new members to the American Legion. As Commander, I am glad that you chose to be a member of Post 267. You are encouraged to attend the General membership meetings. The 2009 membership cards will expire on December 31, 2009. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so before the end of the year. I am very proud of this year’s administration for all the hard work and dedication they are putting towards keeping the Post the best Post in the State. Before closing, I want to recognize Legionnaire James Newton, because of health problems, he doesn’t get out as much, but he still supports all post programs and fund raisers. I just want to say thanks to him and that we are just a phone call away if he needs us.

For God and Country
 Walter “Eddie” Saffold
 Commander



From the Squadron Commander

Greetings Members:

Here’s wishing all of you a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year. We are nearing the end of the year again without our 100%. It is not too late to renew. Your 2009 card will expire on December 31, 2009. Be sure to get your new card before it expires. As SAL members, you are authorized to attend the Monthly Post Membership meetings on the Third Sunday at 4:00p.m. You are an integral part of the American Legion Family. Again, stop by the post and renew your membership as soon as possible.

Thanks again for all your support.

Freddie Green
Squadron Commander

From the Senior Vice Commander

I would like to thank all members of the Post, Unit and Squadron for their concentrated efforts on membership. We all must understand that without membership, there is no voice for the veteran, the flag amendment, and most, the influence of our future - which is our youth. We are currently at 1172 members. We are seeking and striving for 100% by December 31, 2009. Our membership goal is 1720 and with every Legionnaire’s help, we can make this goal.

We are running a membership special from December 1-31, 2009:

Renewals/New - \$20.00;
 New Active Duty - \$13.50.

Let’s go out and show everyone that the SR Vice Commander’s target of 100% can be reached and is attainable by December 31, 2009. I am leading the way to this target by action. We will set up behind the door every Thursday and Saturday in December for easy access to renew your membership and sign up new members. I want to thank all of you who are helping the Post to reach our goal. It is your Post, take pride in it.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our Annual Christmas Party on December 20, 2009. After the meeting has adjourned, the Post will close and reopen at 8:00 p.m.

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SR Vice Commander Cont...

You must have a current membership card (2009 or 2010) and each member is authorized to bring one guest (NO EXCEPTIONS). Our New Years Eve Celebration will be December 31, 2009. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale for members from 1-15 Dec and for others 16-30 Dec. Tickets are \$15.00 each or \$25.00 per couple. Party favors, champagne and breakfast will be served. You must have a ticket to enter. In the event, tickets are available at the door, \$20.00 per person and \$30.00 per couple. **This is strictly a coat and tie affair (NO EXCEPTIONS).** Wishing each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For God and Country

Sr Vice Commander
Nathaniel King

PARTY PARTY PARTY

Don't forget about the New Year's Eve Party on Thursday December 31, 2009. Ticket sale for members will be 1-15 December.

They will be on sale to all others from 16-29 December. Advanced donations are \$15.00 per person or \$25.00 per couple. Donations at the door will be \$20.00 single or \$30.00 per couple.

Post Managers Al Abraham and Nathaniel King have the tickets.

Breakfast, Champagne and party favors will be available

Chaplain's Corner

As I began this article, I would like to ask a question: Have you prayed for Post 267 or for their members lately?" It's easy to pray for friends and/or acquaintances but it's hard to pray for someone you don't know. I challenge each of you to take my sick-call/condolence list and if you don't pray, just think about each name. Strength comes in numbers and faith in God makes it happen.

I would like to start off my sick call/condolence list off with the Pough/Kimball family. Ms Janice Pough mother of Legionnaire Idell Kimball regressed in health and Mr Toney Pough, Idell's brother was in a serious car accident, both are in Intensive Care at the Medical Center. Others that are ill include Legionnaire Michael Watts, Mrs Valerie Brown, wife of Past Commander Arthur Brown, Ms Beatrice Wood, sister of our lounge manager Legionnaire Al Abraham. Legionnaire David Chestang lost his brother and Legionnaire Thomas Brown lost his father.

Ain't God Good!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Always say a Prayer
Brenda Harris
Chaplain

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Greetings Members:

Thanks to all the members who helped to make our Halloween activities a success. Special thanks to the members who assisted with the decorations and all the members who donated candies for trick or treat.

It's that time of year again as we prepare for our Annual Children's Christmas Party. We are soliciting your support for donations of bicycles for children ages 1 – 10 years; toys for children 1-10 years of age as well as monetary donations. We know times are hard for some families and we want to help out as much as we can at Post 267. You can contact me at (706) 326-6210 or any member of the Children & Youth Committee. Please help us to make some child happy for Christmas.

Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jeff McBride
Chairperson, C&Y

RAFFLE

Don't forget about the Post Raffle. The Post is raffling a 52 inch Plasma TV on 20 December 2009. Tickets are only \$10.00. See any member for tickets.

Super Cruise IV

October 23-30, 2010

To San Juan, St Thomas & Grand Turk
Deposit is only 250.00 per person.
For more information, contact
Aubrey Batts @ 706-366-9567.

Greetings from your President:

As the Christmas holiday quickly approaches, I would like to wish each and everyone a safe and joyous season. We should take time To reflect on the events of the past year and commit to making changes for the better.

I would like to salute the Auxiliary members who took time out of their busy schedules to support the hotdog sale, Thanksgiving baskets and Auxiliary birthday. Also special thanks to Legionnaires Freddie Green, Edgar Johnson and Willie Patrick for the support given during our birthday celebration. We have the responsibility of managing the door every 5th Sunday for the remainder of the Legion year. We need all Auxiliary members to support our day.

The Children and Youth's Christmas party is December 19, 2009, and they will need our assistance. I know times are hard for some of us, but this when we MUST support each other by monetary donations, toys, or our time and special talents. Remember it's all about the young people.

We still have work to do to reach our 100% goal for 2009.

2010 Cards are on sale and can be purchased for \$12.00

The Post celebrates monthly birthdays every 3rd Sunday, please submit your birthday so you can be recognized.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Vanessa Jackson
President

Watch Night Services

Many of you who live or grew up in Black communities in the United States have probably heard of "Watch Night Services," the gathering of the faithful in church on New Year's Eve.

The service usually begins anywhere from 7 p.m. To 10 p.m. and ends at midnight with the entrance of the New Year.

Some folks come to church first, before going out to celebrate. For others, church is the only New Year's Eve event. Like many others, I always assumed that Watch Night was a fairly standard Christian religious service -- made a bit more Afro centric because that's what happens when elements of Christianity become linked with the Black Church.

Still, it seemed that predominately White Christian churches did not include Watch Night services on their calendars, but focused instead on Christmas Eve programs.

In fact, there were instances where clergy in mainline denominations wondered aloud about the propriety of linking religious services with a secular holiday like New Year's Eve.

However, there is a reason for the importance of New Year's Eve services in African American congregations.

The Watch Night Services in Black communities that we celebrate today can be traced back to gatherings on December 31, 1862, also known as "Freedom's Eve." On that night, Blacks came together in churches and private homes all across the nation, anxiously awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation actually had become law.

Then, at the stroke of midnight, it was January 1, 1863, and all slaves in the Confederate States were declared legally free.

When the news was received, there were prayers, shouts and songs of joy as people fell to their knees and thanked God.

Black folks have gathered in churches annually on New Year's Eve ever since, praising God for bringing us safely through another year.

It's been 145 years since that first Freedom's Eve and many of us were never taught the African American history of Watch Night, but tradition still brings us together at this time every year to celebrate "how we got over."

Happy belated birthday
Deron Johnson who
celebrated his birthday on
November 28.

Happy Birthday to the have
birthdays during the month of
December:

James Wright	1
Inge King	2
Robine Bush	3
Willie Ford	3
Anson Bowers	
5Robert Giles	5
Oscar Maxwell	5
Castillo Rivers	5
Charles Ramsey	6
Ruth Carpenter	8
Rochelle Taylor	8
Willie Dowdell	9
John E. Smith	9
James L. Curry	10
Terrance Hartman	10
Timothy Foxworth	11
Kathy Scott-Lykes	12
Kenneth Brown	14
Devon Burton	15
Willie Johnson	15
Maurice Jackson	15
Christopher McLean	16
Angela Foxworth	19
Franklin Elliott	19
Orlando Tripplett	22
Olivia Blount	24
James Shinard	24
Janlardea Jackson	25
Van K. Boyd	27
Lantre Williams	28
Martin Pace	28
Vicente Sampson	29
Dwayne Wiltshire	29
Kathy A. Johnson	31
Bennie Swint	31
Gerald Williams	31



Happy Birthday to the
following Legionnaires who
have birthdays during the
month of January:

Belvin Millner	1
Coninyah Dew	1
Oscar Hill	1
Stacy Penn	3
Lakeesha Perry	3
Abel King	5
Akiyah Shrader	8
Lamar Geddis	8
Chris Greene	9
Kirk Elliott	10
Norman Patterson	10
Robert Cline	10
Roy Parker	11
Loviet Connor	12
Oscar Jordan	13
Barbara Hughes	14
Freddie Paige	15
Melvin Shorter	16
Demetrius Cullers	17
Leon Carpenter	17
Ricky Ware	18
Moses Brinson	19
Gail Thompkins	19
Stanley Thomas	25
George Scott	26
Derrell Peterson	26
Robert Griggs	27
Robert Gilbert	30
James Billingsley	31
Elijah Nash	31



CHRISTMAS

Christmas also referred to as **Christmas Day**, is an annual holiday celebrated on December 25 that commemorates the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. The day marks the beginning of the larger season of **Christmastide**, which lasts twelve days. The nativity of Jesus, which is the basis for the anno Domini system of dating, is thought to have occurred between 7 and 2 BC. December 25 is not known to be Jesus' actual date of birth, and the date may have been chosen to correspond with either a Roman festival or the winter solstice.

Modern customs of the holiday include gift-giving, Church celebrations, exchange of Christmas cards, and the display of various decorations—including the Christmas tree, lights, mistletoe, nativity scenes, and holly. Santa Claus (also referred to as Father Christmas, although the two figures have different origins) is a popular mythological figure often associated with bringing gifts at Christmas for children. Santa is generally believed to be the result of a synchronization between Saint Nicholas and elements from pagan Nordic and Christian mythology, and his modern appearance is believed to have originated in 19th century media.

U.S. Army's First, Last and Only ALL Black Airborne Ranger Company in the Korean War 1950-51. Authored by MSG (Ret) Edward L. Posey. This book is a piece of Black History. It is on sale by Ranger Batts @ a cost of \$22.00. He can be reached @ 706-366-9567.

Upcoming Events

December

- 9 Executive Board Meeting
- 13 Veterans' Christmas Party
- 19 Children's Christmas Party
- 20 General Membership Meeting/Monthly Birthday Celebration/ Christmas Party for Members & guest
- 25 Christmas Day
- 27 Patron's Christmas Party
- 31 New Year's Eve
- 31 New Year's Eve Dance/Party

January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 13 Executive Board Meeting
- 16 Veterans Visit
- 17 General Membership Meeting/Monthly Birthday Celebration
- 18 MLK Birthday

February

- 10 Executive Board meeting
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 President's Day
- 20 Veteran Visit
- 21 General Membership Meeting/Monthly Birthday Celebration/Black History Program

March

- 1-31 Women's History Month
- 10 Executive Board Meeting
- 20 Veteran Visit
- 15-17 American Legion Birthday
- 21 General Membership Meeting Monthly Birthday Celebration

Martin Luther King, Jr.

(January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was an American clergyman, activist and prominent leader in the African-American civil rights movement. His main legacy was to secure progress on civil rights in the United States and he is frequently referenced as a human rights icon today. King is recognized as a martyr by two Christian churches. A Baptist minister, King became a civil rights activist early in his career. He led the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott and helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957, serving as its first president. King's efforts led to the 1963 March on Washington, where King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. There, he raised public consciousness of the civil rights movement and established himself as one of the greatest orators in U.S. history.

In 1964, King became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his work to end racial segregation and racial discrimination through civil disobedience and other non-violent means. By the time of his death in 1968, he had refocused his efforts on ending poverty and opposing the Vietnam War, both from a religious perspective. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977 and Congressional Gold Medal in 2004; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was established as a U.S. national holiday in 1986.

Gold Brigade Recruiters

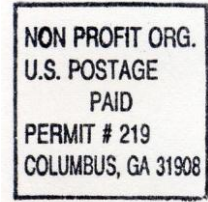
Congratulations to the following recruiters who have gotten off to a good start. Thanks to all of you who have taken the time to renew your 2010 membership as well:

Nathaniel King	400
Al Abraham	39
Vickie Dikes	31
Jeff McBride	26
Willie Patrick	25
Hazel Taylor	20
Patricia Liddell	17
Sue James	10
Arthur "AJ" Jackson	10
Eddie Saffold	10
Shevon Thomas	9
Carl Nelson	7
Freddie Green	6
Edgar Johnson	5
Deborah Colon	5
Gregory Kelly	3
Robine Butler	2
Alvin McEady	2
Martin Pace	2
Deidre Crowell	1
Ruth Carpenter	1
Nathaniel Gamble	1
Brenda Harris	1
Bennie Northern	1
James Overstreet	1
Rosie Reynolds	1
Prince Rawls	1

Please see the SR Vice/Adjutant/ Assistant Adjutant to get details on recruiting incentives. Recruit 50 new members to become a Gold Brigade member. Recruit 25 new members to become a Silver Brigade member. There are other incentives you can earn as a recruiter.



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Return Service Requested



The Adjutant's Desk

Happy Holiday Members:

We are almost at the end of another year and all is well. I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I also encourage everyone to be safe. Thanks to all the members who have purchased and returned their ticket stubs and monies. We still have some out and it is not too late to return them or get extra tickets by calling me at 706-536-3387. The lucky ticket will be drawn on December 20, 2009, at our Annual Christmas Party. Due to changes at the Post Office, we have many newsletters returned to the Post due to incorrect addresses. If you move, please submit a change of address. Special thanks to Legionnaires Green, Johnson and Patrick for a spectacular breakfast for our Annual Veteran's Day Program. It was a great program and well

attended. Thanks to all the other members who assisted. Some of the special events that are happening this month include:

Raffle of 50' flat Screen television
Donation \$10.00 per ticket
Drawing to be held on Dec 20, 2009.

Membership Special will be held
1-31 December 2009

Renewals \$ 20.00
New, not currently on Active Duty
\$20.00

New Active Duty \$13.50

This will be last special of the year.

The Post Christmas party will be on Dec 20, 2009. Must have current Membership card and can invite one guest.

Please keep our deployed Soldiers and their families in your prayers.

Don't forget to visit the website.
www.americanlegionpost267.org

Hazel B. Taylor
Adjutant

