



## **American Legion Post 178 – March 2026 Newsletter**

**AMERICAN  
LEGION  
BIRTHDAY**



## **Celebrating The American Legion Turning 107 Years Old**

**The American Legion's birthday is March 15, 2026  
The American Legion is turning 107 on Saturday, March 15 – the  
day in 1919 when the first American Legion caucus, held by  
members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in  
Paris.**



# AMERICAN LEGION

## *CARTER BURDELL HAGLER-POST 178*

### *Department of Georgia*

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 178 MONTHLY MEETINGS**  
 AL HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING....1<sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY 6 PM  
 AL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING....1<sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY 7 PM  
 AL GENERAL MEMBER'S MEETING...2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY 7 PM

**AUXILIARY UNIT 178 MONTHLY MEETINGS**

AUXILIARY UNIT 178 GENERAL MEMBER'S MEETING....2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY 2 PM  
 AUXILIARY UNIT 178 JR'S GENERAL MEMBER'S MEETING....3<sup>RD</sup> SATURDAY 2 PM

**SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION (SAL) SQUADRON 178 MONTHLY MEETINGS**  
 SAL SQUADRON 178 GENERAL MEMBER'S MEETING...2<sup>ND</sup> THURSDAY 6:30 PM

**AMERICAN LEGION CHAPTER 178 RIDERS MONTHLY MEETINGS**

AL CHAPTER 178 RIDERS EXECUTIVE MEETING....2<sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM  
 AL CHAPTER 178 RIDERS GENERAL MEMBER'S MEETING....3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY 2 PM



**POST OFFICERS**

COMMANDER..... GRANT WHITELEY  
 SENIOR VICE CMDR..... BRUCE EARLY  
 1ST. JUNIOR VICE CMDR..... CLARISSA WETHERBEE  
 2ND.JUNIOR VICE CMDR..... ROBERT CARUSO  
 3RD JUNIOR VICE CMDR..... JAMES BRENDLE  
 JUDGE ADVOCATE..... HENRY WALTERS  
 ADJUTANT..... THERESA BRISKER  
 FINANCE OFFICER..... DAVID MYER  
 SERVICE OFFICER..... TBA  
 SGT-AT-ARMS.....MALCOLM DAVIS  
 CHAPLAIN..... JOHN ELLIS  
 I.T. OFFICER..... TBA

*Executive Committee Officers*

PAUL ANDERSON, SR. PAST CDR OSCAR SIMS  
 RAYMOND JOHNSONHENRY KING



**LEGION RIDER OFFICERS**

DIRECTOR.....DONALD HUFFMAN  
 ASSIST. DIRECTOR.....DAVID A HIGGINBOTHAN  
 SECRETARY.....MARY VERRET  
 TREASURER.....JULIE HUFFMAN  
 ROAD CAPT.....LEE GARCIA  
 ACTIVITIES.....JOSEPH SHORES  
 SAFETY OFFICER..... LEE GALLOWAY  
 HISTORIAN.....DAVID VERRET  
 CHAPLAIN..... BRUCE A. EARLY  
 SGT-AT-ARMS..... CLARISSA WETHERBEE  
 JUDGE ADVOCATE.....JESSICA SPARKS  
 WEBMASTER.....KRIS NICHOLAS



**AUXILIARY OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT.....TERIANN BENZEL  
 1ST. VICE PRES..... HEATHER STEWART  
 2ND. VICE PRES..... CARRIE LeBLANC  
 SECRETARY.....CLARISSA WETHERBEE  
 TREASURER.....JULIE HUFFMAN  
 SGT-AT-ARMS..... FRANCES BOWMAN  
 & IRENE HACKLEY  
 CHAPLAIN..... DENISE WIDENER  
 HISTORIAN.....MIRIAM STEIN  
 PARLIAMENTARIAN.....AMANDA TURLINGTON



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION OFFICERS**

COMMANDER..... WAYNE STEWART  
 1st VICE CMDR..... DONALD HUFFMAN  
 2nd VICE CMDR..... DAVID A HIGGINBOTHAN  
 ADJUTANT.....STEPHEN BENZEL  
 FINANCE OFFICER.....JEFF AWAIT  
 JUDGE ADVOCATE.....JACOB MCRAE  
 SGT-AT-ARMS..... ROBERT CARLTON  
 HISTORIAN.....BRIAN KNUTSON  
 CHAPLAIN.....STEVEN "BUCKY" ROGERS



# Commander's Message



**Membership – New Cards** – The 2026 cards are waiting for renewal. **At the present time we have 313 members paid to date which brings our membership percentage to 95%.** Remember the Post Dues are **\$45.00** per member, per year. There are still members out there who have not paid their dues in a couple of years. That could help the post to 150% along with the new members. Please submit your dues either through the Post or on-line. **Renew your membership today and be part of the growing American Legion Family!**

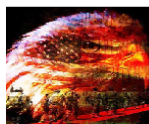
**VA Shakes Things Up with Three Big Changes** - The VA is making significant moves to improve how it serves families of deceased veterans. They've rolled out a three-part plan to cut through frustrating red tape and provide survivors with the benefits they deserve. Here's what's new in these latest news updates from Veterans Affairs. **1. Office of Survivors Assistance Gets a Promotion** - The Office of Survivors Assistance (OSA) is now positioned for greater impact. The Biden administration moved OSA directly under the VA Secretary, a significant structural change. This move, where the administration moved OSA, signals a higher priority for survivor issues and means less bureaucracy and more direct action. **2. White Glove Treatment for Survivors** - The VA is establishing a specialized team to guide survivors through the often, complex claims process. This "White Glove Survivor Outreach Team" will offer personalized assistance. Think of them as your dedicated VA liaisons, there to help you every step of the way in managing your VA disability benefits claims after the loss of a veteran. **3. Robots to the Rescue** - The VA is leveraging automation technology to accelerate claims processing for certain VA benefits. This isn't science fiction; it's Robotic Process Automation (RPA) being used for practical purposes. This technology assists with tasks like data entry and initial verification, which can significantly speed up the initial stages of a claim.

**Why These Changes Matter** - Dealing with paperwork and bureaucratic processes is incredibly difficult, especially during a time of grief. These updates are focused on making life easier for survivors by simplifying access to vital support. The goal is to get help to people more quickly when they need it most, acknowledging the sacrifices made by service members. **Breaking Down the Benefits** - When we discuss survivor benefits, several key types of assistance are available from Veterans Affairs. These VA benefits are designed to provide financial stability and support to eligible family members. Understanding what is available is the first step for many. **Who's Eligible?** - Eligibility for survivor VA disability benefits can involve specific criteria, but generally, it includes certain family members of deceased veterans. The veteran's service history and cause of death are key factors. It is important for potential applicants to understand these general guidelines. **Conclusion** - These major Veterans benefits updates represent a significant step forward in supporting the families of our nation's heroes. They are designed to make it easier for survivors to access the help and VA disability benefits they rightfully deserve. The emphasis is on streamlining the claims process, providing personalized assistance, and leveraging technology signals a positive shift.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE POST** - If you are interested in volunteering, then contact the Post Commander Grant Whiteley at 706-793-1724. I am always grateful to all my officers, our management, the Ladies Auxiliary, the SAL and the Riders for all the time and energy they have dedicated into helping the post, the veterans and the community. If possible, all officers need to attend both the executive board meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month and along with the members, the membership meeting on the Second Tuesday of each month. We need a volunteer for Service Officer. Please step up to the plate and support us. **Thank You! Website: (gapost178.org)**

**GBW!**

"WE THE PEOPLE"



**RENEW YOUR LEGION MEMBERSHIP TODAY!**

The American Legion  
 Carter Burdell Hagler Post #178  
 3219 Richmond Hill Road  
 Augusta, Georgia 30906-4713

Non-Profit Org.  
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 Augusta, GA  
 Permit No. 86

## Events Calendar March 2026

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
1	2 <u>SR/VICE BRUCE EARLY BIRTHDAY</u> 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM	3 <u>House Committee Mtg</u> 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM <u>Post 178 Exec Meeting</u> 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	4	5	6 <u>AL Steak Night</u> 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	7
8 <u>11th District Meeting</u> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM <u>Daylight Saving Time Changes</u> 10:00 AM - 11:00 PM <u>Voiture Local 719 40&amp;8 Promandes CANCELLED</u> 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM <u>Auxiliary Gen Mbr Mtg</u> 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	9	10 <u>POST 178 Mbrship Mtg</u> 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	11 <u>Chapter 178 Riders Exec Mtg</u> 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	12 <u>SAL GEN MBRSHIP MTG</u> 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	13 <u>Auxiliary Steak Night</u> 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	14
15 <u>AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY</u> 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM <u>RIDERS GEN MBR MTG</u> 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	16	17 <u>ST PATTY'S DAY</u> 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	18 <u>AUXILIARY DINNER</u> 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM	19 <u>GA WAR BINGO</u> 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM <u>E-B Henry E King Sr BIRTHDAY</u> 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM	20 <u>Chapter 178 Riders Steak Night</u> 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 <u>SAL Steak Night</u> 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	28
29 <u>VIETNAM DAY</u> 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM	30	31				