

# AMERICAN LEGION

## CARTER BURDELL HAGLER-POST 178

### FEB - 2026 NEWSLETTER

3219 RICHMOND HILL ROAD  
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA 30906  
Phone: (706) 793-1724  
Conf: (425)-650-1385  
[Code: 811322]



#### POST OFFICERS

COMMANDER.....GRANT WHITELEY  
SENIOR VICE CMRD.....BRUCE EARLY  
1ST. JUNIOR VICE CMRD.....CLARISSA WETHERBEE  
2ND. JUNIOR VICE CMRD.....ROBERT CARUSO  
3RD JUNIOR VICE CMRD.....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  
CAROL WHITLOCK RAYMOND JOHNSON  
HENRY KING

AL MEMBERS MEETING.....2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY - 7:00 PM  
AL EXECUTIVE MEETING.....1<sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY - 7:00 PM  
AL HOUSE COMMITTEE.....1<sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY - 6:00 PM  
AL AUXILIARY MEETING.....2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY - 2:00 PM  
SAL MEMBERS MEETING.....2<sup>ND</sup> THURSDAY-6:30 PM  
AL RIDERS MEETING.....3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY - 2:00 PM  
AL AUX JRS MEETING.....3<sup>RD</sup> SATURDAY - 2:00 PM



#### 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



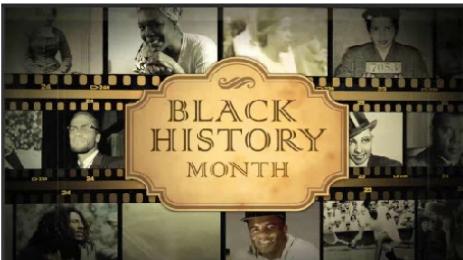
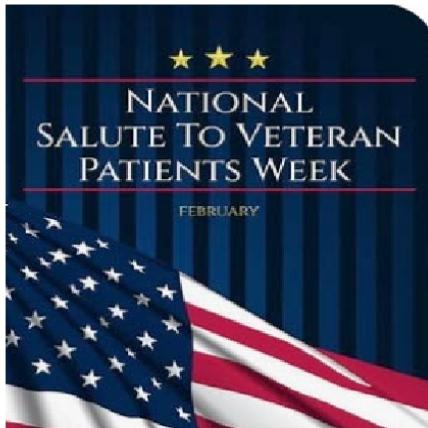
#### SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION OFFICERS

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



#### 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



AMERICAN  
LEGION

BE THE ONE



RENEW YOUR LEGION MEMBERSHIP TODAY!



# Commander's Message



**Membership – New Cards** – The 2026 cards are waiting for renewal. At the present time we have 280 members paid to date which brings our membership percentage to 78.8%. 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!**

**Extreme Winter Weather Information for Veterans** - We understand that your area may be impacted by extreme winter weather. Please know that VA is here for you. Please see the helpful information below and stay safe! Due to the conditions, we recommend you call your facility before driving to an appointment to confirm status. Check the status and operating hours of your local VA facility [here](#). In the event of an emergency, please call [911](#). If you need VA assistance, please call us at [1-800-MyVA411 \(1-800-698-2411\)](#) and press 0 to speak with someone immediately. For assistance regarding homelessness, please call: [1-877-4AID-VET \(1-877-424-3838\)](#). Are you a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one? Please call [988](#) and press 1 for the Veterans Crisis Line.

**Social Security Update: First 2027 COLA Estimate Is In — Why Seniors May Get Less** - The Senior Citizens League released its first 2027 Social Security cost-of-living adjustment estimate this week, pegging it at 2.5%—a drop from 2026's 2.8%. That means roughly \$52 more per month for the typical retiree, lifting average benefits to around \$2,123 starting January. League analysts track inflation trends monthly, but the real number hinges on third-quarter CPI-W data Social Security Administration crunches each October. Payments adjust automatically for living costs, shielding fixed incomes from price swings, though critics say the index misses seniors' realities. Finance expert Michael Ryan dismissed early calls as guesswork. CPI-W leans on urban wage earners and clerical workers, ignoring elderly spikes in healthcare and housing. Medicare Part B premiums jumped 9.7% this year alone, swallowing most of the COLA before it hits pockets. Ryan notes forecasters chased last year's data too, missing the final 2.8% bump. "Predictions lag reality," he told Newsweek—plan for flux through summer. Alex Beene from University of Tennessee sees moderation ahead. Post-pandemic inflation cooled; expect tame hikes barring fresh pressures. Seniors juggle payments dated by birthdate—early filers got January checks already, others wait. Offices handle walk-ins limited; Buffalo NY spot trends amid appointment backlogs. No taxes on benefits stir buzz under Trump promises, but timelines stay vague.

**Prayer for the Day** - Father God, as I step into February 2026, I thank You for the gift of life and mercy. Let Your will speak clearly over my days and let every step I take align with Your purpose for me. Lord, I pray that February will be a month of growth for me. Help me mature in faith, character, and understanding of Your ways. Amen!

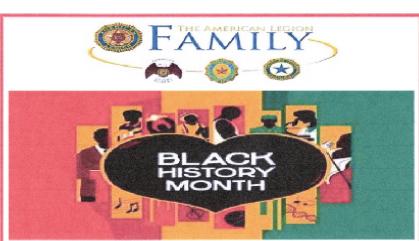
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE POST** - If you are interested in volunteering, then contact the Post Commander Grant Whiteley at 706-793-1724. I am always grateful to all my officers, **our management, the Ladies Auxiliary, the SAL and the Riders** for all the time and energy they have dedicated into helping 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! GBW!**

"WE THE PEOPLE"



RENEW YOUR LEGION MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

# American Legion Post 178 Events



**February 26, 2026**

Come and join the American Legion Family as we celebrate Black history Month recognizing the contributions of Black military personal. We will also honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The King Center's 2026 strategic theme: Mission Possible II: Building Community, Uniting a Nation the Nonviolent Way. We encourage you to take time on this day to celebrate, gain knowledge and share with others in the community.

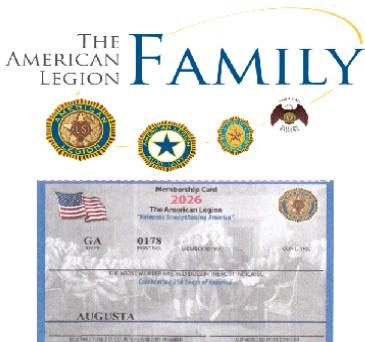
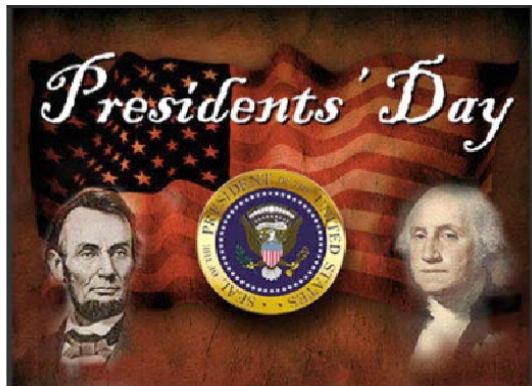
Time: 5:45 PM Meet & Greet

6:00PM-7:00 PM Black History & MLK Remembrance Celebration

7:00PM - 8:00 PM Meal of MLK Favorite Foods & Fellowship

Carter Burdell-Hagler American Legion Post 178,  
3219 Richmond Hill Rd, Augusta, GA 706-793-1724

**MLK DAY**  
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY



3219 Richmond Hill Rd. Augusta, GA. 30906

JOIN OR  
**RENEW**  
TODAY



AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT of GEORGIA  
11TH DISTRICT and POST 178  
*Will Host a Memorial to*

*The Four Chaplains*



**February 8, 2026**

Opening Ceremony at 1pm

The 11th District Chaplains will be performing Memorial Service for members transferred to Post Everlasting.

Four Chaplains Service at 2pm

3219 Richmond Hill Road, Augusta, GA

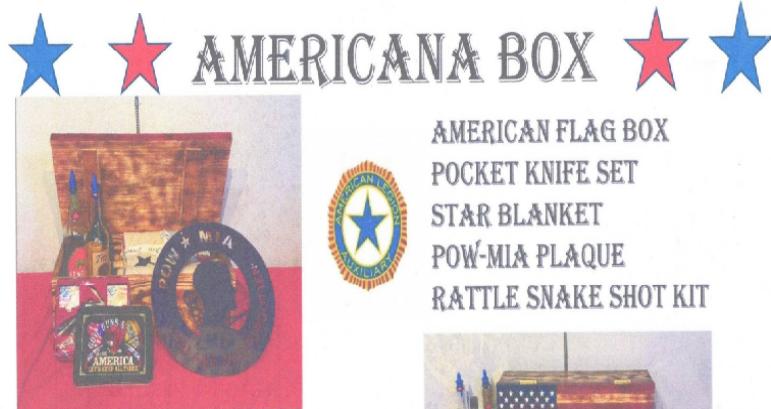


**FEB 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**  
Dinner from 4 PM  
Until 7 PM or Sold Out



**\$12**  
LAZAGNA  
Salad, Bread & Butter, Dessert

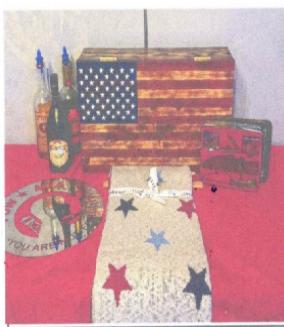
**\$12**



**DRAWING DATE: FEB 28, 2026**

**TICKET PRICING**

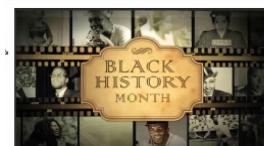
1 FOR \$5  
3 FOR \$10  
7 FOR \$20



**AMERICANA BOX**  
AMERICAN FLAG BOX  
POCKET KNIFE SET  
STAR BLANKET  
POW-MIA PLAQUE  
RATTLE SNAKE SHOT KIT

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

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Augusta, GA  
 Permit No. 86



## Events Calendar February 2026



Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
<b>1</b> <u>GA Mid-Winter Conference in Duluth, GA, 9:00 AM</u> <u>Voiture Local 719 40&amp;8 Promades 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM</u>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <u>House Committee Mtg 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM</u> <u>Post 178 Exec Meeting 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM</u>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <u>SAL CHARTER ANNIVERSARY 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM</u> <u>AL Steak Night 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</u>	<b>7</b> <u>POLAR BEAR RIDE 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM</u>
<b>8</b> <u>11th District, The Four Chaplains Ceremony 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM</u> <u>Auxiliary Gen Mbr Mtg 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM</u>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <u>POST 178 Mbrship Mtg 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM</u>	<b>11</b> <u>Chapter 178 Riders Exec Mtg 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM</u>	<b>12</b> <u>11TH DISTRICT D.E.C. MEETING 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</u> <u>SAL GEN MBRSHIP MTG 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM</u>	<b>13</b> <u>Auxiliary Steak Night 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</u>	<b>14</b> <u>Valentine's Day 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM</u>
<b>15</b> <u>RIDERS GEN MBR MTG 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM</u>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <u>Judge Advocate Henry Walters Birthday 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM</u>	<b>18</b> <u>CHARTER 178 BIRTHDAY 1952 (12:30) 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM</u> <u>AUXILIARY DINNER 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM</u>	<b>19</b> <u>GA WAR BINGO 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM</u> <u>PRESIDENT'S DAY (12 NOON) 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM</u>	<b>20</b> <u>Chapter 178 Riders Steak Night 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</u>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <u>SAL Steak Night 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</u>	<b>28</b>