

## AMERICAN LEGION, POST 36, HOLIDAY ISLAND, AR

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**PRELUDE:** In order for veterans' rights to be addresses properly at the national level, we need "all" veterans to join our cause. If you are eligible and not a member.....Why aren't you? Think of this. All of us have, or are currently benefiting, from the efforts of those veterans that preceded us that joined such organizations, such as the American Legion. The GI bill, among others, have been extremely beneficial to "ALL" of us. What if they had not gotten involved? What if they decided that they just wanted to be left along and was too busy to work for such veterans benefits? Would the absence of such benefits been okay with you? Is your life better off because of their involvement? Do you care? If you do care and would like to help us, please contact us at the email address provided at the bottom of this article to get more information.

### EVENTS THAT OCCURRED IN APRIL

We continued selling tickets to the NWA Naturals baseball team's tribute to the American Legion to be held on the 19th of May.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### MAY

Our color guard will post colors for the Holiday Island Singers on the 1st and 3rd of May. Some other members will fill in to represent their branches of service during this ceremony.

NWA Naturals tribute to the American Legion - 19 May - We will participate in this event and will continue to sell tickets to local residents up to the 11th of May. For the past 2 years we have participated in this events and sold more tickets than any other Post in NW Arkansas. Come and help us keep up this record.

We will install new officers during our meeting on the 21st of May.

Memorial Day: 25 May 2015 - We will have our ceremony in the Pavilion at the Memorial Park. The ceremony will begin at 9 AM. Our color guard will pay special honors during the end of this ceremony. This ceremony usually last from 30 to 45 minutes. So please come and join us to honor those that have given so much to keep our country free.

#### JUNE

Flag Day, 14 June 2015 - We will support the Elks' Flag Day ceremony in whatever capacity they request. The Elks have always had a outstanding ceremony for this day and we are proud to participate. Our Color Guard has been requested to post colors.

#### JULY

Independence Day - 4<sup>th</sup> of July - Our post will participate if asked to do so by the coordinator representing the Chamber of Commerce.

#### AUGUST

Nothing scheduled during this month.

#### SEPTEMBER

Patriot Day, 11 Sep 2015 - Details regarding the tribute during this day will be contained in newsletters during the months of July and August. This day is also been used to dispose of unserviceable flags.

## OCTOBER

Nothing scheduled during this month.

## NOVEMBER

Veterans Day Ceremonies, including our Golf Tournament - More details will following starting in July's newsletter.

## DECEMBER

Nothing scheduled during this month.

### WHAT THE AMERICAN LEGION DOES IN GENERAL:

The American Legion is a congressionally chartered mutual-aid veterans organization of the United States armed forces founded to benefit those veterans who served during a wartime period as defined by the United States Congress. The American Legion was founded in 1919 by veterans returning from Europe after World War I.

In addition to organizing commemorative events and volunteer veteran support activities, the American Legion is active in U.S. politics. Its primary political activity is lobbying on the behalf of veterans and service members, including support for veterans benefits such as GI Bill, pensions and the Veterans Affairs hospital system.

At the state level, the American Legion is organized into "departments", which run annual civic training events for high school juniors called Boys State. Two members from each Boys State are selected for Boys Nation. The American Legion Auxiliary runs Girls State and Girls Nation. The American Legion also hosts many social events.

### Eligibility Requirements for American Legion Membership

If you are currently on active duty, serving the United States honorably, anywhere in the world, or have served honorably during any of the following eligible war eras, we invite you to become a member of The American Legion.

- April 6, 1917 to Nov. 11, 1918 (World War I)
- Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946 (World War II)
- June 25, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1955 (Korean War)
- Feb. 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 (Vietnam War)
- Aug. 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 (Lebanon / Grenada)
- Dec. 20, 1989 to Jan. 31, 1990 (Panama)
- Aug. 2, 1990 to today (Gulf War / War On Terrorism)

### AMERICAN LEGION POST 36 HOLIDAY ISLAND, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

**Meetings - Every 3rd Thursday each month** at the ELKS Lodge, 6 PM.

**Memorial Park** - Bricks for Memorial Park, \$100 each. Honor one or more of your veterans by purchasing a brick/s for display on the wall at the flag display. Forms located at the Memorial Park Monument flag display.

**Honor Guard** - Services for veterans' funerals and other special events. Please let us know if you need these services.

**Flag program** - Members go to schools and are dedicated to educating our children on the history and honoring "Ole Glory". This year we provided this service at schools in Berryville and Green Forest.

**Disposal of the American Flag** - Holiday Island Fire Department has graciously allowed us to use Fire Station 1 as a staging area for collecting tattered, ragged and worn out flags. We will provide a receptacle for such flags from individuals or businesses that need proper disposal of their flags. Please do not just throw them away.

**American Legion Riders** - The types of things that these groups are doing are far too many to mention in this article, but here are a few examples:

1. Participation in the annual POW/MIA Rally held each Memorial weekend in Washington D.C. known as "Rolling Thunder".
2. Sponsoring or participating in local Charity events.
3. Raising money for such organizations as local VA Hospitals, Battered Women and Children's Center, Varied Children and Youth programs, a School for Blind Children, Veterans Relief, Needy families and many, many others.
4. Sponsoring or participating in motorcycle "Runs" to benefit numerous charities, including charities for underprivileged children and medical research, just to name a few.
5. Participation in memorial ceremonies and community parades.

**Auxiliary** - Supports our veterans by (but not limited to) periodically collecting money at Cornerstone Bank parking lot; selling poppies to raise money as a fund raiser; providing gift boxes for our troops overseas; and, volunteers as vital helpers at our Veterans Day ceremonies and any other Post 36 events.

If you have any questions, or want to join this illustrious organization, contact Clint Miller at [wcmiller@cox.net](mailto:wcmiller@cox.net)