



HISTORY OF PIKE COUNTY

AMERICAN LEGION

POST 197

Zebulon, Georgia

From 1 May 2023 to 30 April 2024

By Bryan D. Richardson

Post Historian

Bryan D. Richardson
American Legion Post 197

Historian

1067 Strickland Road

Concord, GA 30206

Phone #: 678-764-2611

Email Address: rich5060@bellsouth.net

Table of Contents

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Page</u>
Table of Contents / Abbreviations	3
1 - Introduction	4
2 - Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion	6
3 - 2023-2024 Post Officers	7
4 - 2023-2024 Committees and Chairpersons	8
5 - One Year Post Chronicle: May 2023 - April 2024	9
6 - Post Activities: May 2023 - April 2024	26
7 - Post Awards and Citations Received	84
8 - Post Awards and Citations Presented	85
9 - Post Roster of Members: May 2023 - April 2024	88
10 - Officers, Appointees to Outside Post American Legion Activities: May 2023 - April 2024	95
11 - Past Post Officers: 2008-2024	93
12 - Newspaper Articles: 1 May 2023 – 30 April 2024	96
13 - Post 197 History	97

Acronyms/Abbreviations used:

ADJ	Adjutant	AL	American Legion
ALA	American Legion Auxiliary	Cdr	Commander
Chap	Chaplain	Cont	Continued
EC	Executive Committee	FO	Finance Officer
GA	Georgia	JA	Judge Advocate
Jr	Junior		
Post 197	Pike County American Legion Post 197		
POW/MIA	Prisoner of War/Missing in Action		
Sgt	Sergeant	SO	Service Officer
SAL	Sons of the American Legion		
Sqdn	Squadron	Sr	Senior

Chapter 1

Introduction

On 2 May 1946, The American Legion Post 197 of Pike County, Georgia was officially chartered. For nearly fifty years, Pike County Post 197 remained active in the community and state; and then in 1994, it had its charter revoked. In 2008, a group of Pike County Veterans met at the Pike County Court House Square to discuss the restoration of the Veteran's Monument. Three months later, Pike County American Legion Post 197 was reestablished. On 12 June 2013, the Post became incorporated to protect individual members from liability in the event of litigation against the Post.

It is very important for Post 197 to provide information to Veterans that reside in Pike County and neighboring counties about the importance of joining a Veteran's organization that truly cares for and understands the concerns of Veterans and their families. Pike County Post 197 is proud to assist "All Veterans and their families", regardless of American Legion affiliation. It is Post 197's mission to make sure all Veterans know about the assistance it and the American Legion can provide. Post 197 also commits itself to honoring, and conducting events and activities within the community that help to "never forget" our Veterans as well as educate the community on Veteran's affairs.

Key Post 197 Information



Photo taken on 19 May 2023 provided by Bryan Richardson: Post 197 facility.

Commander: Paul R. Chatterton

C: 762-207-8327; Email address: paul.chatterton69@yahoo.com

Adjutant: Stephen A. Golias

C: 404-790-6609; Email address: sagaocc@yahoo.com

Acting Service Officer: Paul R. Chatterton

Post Mailing Address: P.O. 781, Zebulon, Ga 30295

Post Location: 645 Meansville Street, Zebulon, Georgia

Chapter 2

Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

- To uphold and defend the Constitution
of the United States of America;
- To maintain law and order;
- To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
- To preserve the memories and incidents
of our associations in all wars;
- To inculcate a sense of individual obligation
to the community, state and nation;
- To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
- To make right the master of might;
- To promote peace and goodwill on earth;
- To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles
of justice, freedom and democracy;
- To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship
by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Chapter 3

2023-2024 Post Officers

Commander	Paul R. Chatterton
Adjutant	Stephen A. Golias
Finance Officer	Bryan D. Richardson
Senior Vice Commander	Ronnie Griffin Resigned 6 Apr 2024 Vacant
Junior Vice Commander	Nikki E. Ellard
Junior Vice Commander	Marcus E. Weldon
Judge Advocate	Ronnie Griffin Resigned 6 Apr 2024 Bryan Richardson
Chaplain	Theodore A. Gustin Resigned 6 Jul 2023 Benjamin R. Maxedon Resigned 16 Dec 2023 Vacant
Service Officer	Paul R. Chatterton
Historian	Bryan D. Richardson
Sargent-at-Arms	Stefan R. Huckaby
Executive Committee Members	Timothy H. Dukes William D. Weekley Benjamin R. Maxedon (Resigned 20 July 2023) Jeffrey A. Sheriff

Chapter 4

2023-2024 Post Committees and Chairpersons

Americanism	Bryan D. Richardson
Children & Youth	Nikki E. Ellard
National Security	Stefan R. Huckaby
Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation	Paul R. Chatterton
Finance	Bryan D. Richardson
Membership	Ronnie Griffin (Resigned) Stephen A. Golias
House & Entertainment	Nikki E. Ellard & William D. Weekley
Sons of American Legion (SAL)	Paul R. Chatterton
Public Relations	Paul R. Chatterton
Religious Emphasis	Theodore A. Gustin (Resigned) Benjamin R. Maxedon (Resigned) Vacant
Boy Scout Troop 465G Liaison Officer	Darryll W. Kipp

Chapter 5

One Year Post Chronicle: 1 May 2023 – 30 April 2024

May 2023

1 May: Beginning of report period.

2 May, 12:00 pm, Post 197 hosted the Prayer on the Square at the Veterans Memorial. In attendance were AL members Tim Dukes, Steve Golias, Chaplain Ted Gustin, and Bryan Richardson; and guest Chairman of the Board of Commissioners Briar Johnson for a total of 5. Chaplain Gustin offered a scripture readings and prayer.

4 May, 6 pm, Post 197 Chaplain Ted Gustin represented Post 197 at the Pike County National Day of Prayer held at the Pike County Courthouse Square.

4 May, 7:00 pm, Post 197 conducted its monthly General Membership Meeting and Post 2023-2024 Post Officer Elections. Officers present were:

Commander	Paul Chatterton	Excused
Sr. Vice Commander	Damian Bryan	Absent
Jr. Vice Commander	George Richardson	Excused
Jr. Vice Commander	Ron Griffin	Present
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Present
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Timothy Dukes	Excused
EC Member/Sgt-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby	Present
EC Member/JA	Benjamin Maxedon	Absent
Chaplain	Theodore Gustin	Present

Meeting attendees present were 5 Officers, 2 members, 1 guest to member, and 1 guest for a total of 10. A quorum was obtained. Ken Eagle was voted in as a new member. General fund currently at \$3,806.92. Post 197 conducted its annual election of 2023-2024 officers. The elected officers are:

Commander	Paul Chatterton
Sr. Vice Commander	Ron Griffin
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard
Adjutant	Stephen Golias
Finance Officer	Bryan Richardson
EC Member	Tim Dukes
EC Member	Ben Maxedon
EC Member	Bill Weekley

7 May, 3:00 pm, AL Bryan Richardson represented Post 197 at the Troop 37 Eagle Scout Ceremony for Elijah Mobley, provided comments, and presented Elijah with the American Legion Good Citizenship Award.

13 May, 1:00 pm, AL Bryan Richardson represented Post 197 at the Troop 37 Eagle Scout Ceremony for Timothy Lane. Richardson provided comments and presented Timothy with the American Legion Good Citizenship Award.

15 May, Organization sign installed on Post 197 building for all to see providing a permanent advertisement of the American Legion and Post 197. See page 5 above.

18 May, 6:00 pm, Post officers conducted the Monthly Executive Committee Meeting.

Commander	Paul Chatterton	Present
Sr. Vice Commander	Damian Bryan	Absent
Jr. Vice Commander	George Richardson	Excused
Jr. Vice Commander	Ron Griffin	Excused
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Present
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Timothy Dukes	Present
EC Member/Sgt-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby	Present
EC Member/JA	Benjamin Maxedon	Absent
Chaplain	Theodore Gustin	Present

6 Officers present, three officers elect, and one guest Wayne Richardson for a total of 10. A quorum was obtained. General Fund status currently at 3,842.84. Due to the Commander being away for two months, the Installation Ceremony for the new 2023-2024 elected and appointed officers were conducted earlier than usual. Past Commander Bryan Richardson installed Commander Paul Chatterton. Commander Chatterton installed the remaining officers. Officers present were:

Commander	Paul Chatterton
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon
Adjutant	Stephen Golias
Finance Officer	Bryan Richardson
EC Member	Tim Dukes
EC Member	Bill Weekley
Chaplain	Ted Gustin
Historian	Bryan Richardson
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby

Officer not present were:

Sr. Vice Commander	Ron Griffin
EC Member	Ben Maxedon
Judge Advocate	Ron Griffin

26 May, 3 - 6:00 pm, Post 197 conducted its annual Memorial Day Weekend Fundraiser on the Square. Volunteer fundraising team consisted of Tim Dukes, Steve Golias, Stefan Huckaby, Ron Griffin, Bryan Richardson, Jeff Sheriff, and Bill Weekley. Joining the group to count donations was Nikki Ellard. Total donations collected \$1,791.94 for the general fund.

29 May, 10:00 am, Post 197 hosted the Pike County Memorial Day Observance Program at the Pike County Courthouse Square. See Chapter 6 for details and Photos.

June 2023

1 Jun, 7:00 pm, Post 197 conducted its monthly General Membership Meeting.

Officers present were:

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Excused
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Ron Griffin	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Present
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Present
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Excused
EC Member	Ben Maxedon	Present
EC Member	Bill Weekley	Present
Chaplain	Ted Gustin	Excused
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby	Present

Meeting attendees present were 8 Officers, and 2 guests for a total of 10.

A quorum was obtained. General fund currently at \$5,462.75. Past Commander Bryan Richardson installed Ron Griffen as Senior Vice Commander and Judge Advocate; and Ben Maxedon as Executive Committee Member at Large.

3 Jun, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, Post 197 attended the Peachtree Aerodrome Vintage days Festival in Williamson, GA. The Post provided a Veteran/Legion Information booth and fund raised with its two bounce houses. Donations collected for the Post's Veteran and community programs amounted to \$611. See Chapter 6 for details and photos.

4 Jun, 6:00 pm, Post 197 hosted the annual Legion Family Memorial Service and Post Everlasting Ceremony at the Post facility. Post 197 honored and conducted Post Everlasting Ceremony for deceased Post member Michael Brooks. It also honored Leonard Wheat, a US Citizen WWII British Veteran and Sandra Germain, an American Legion Auxiliary. See Chapter 6 for details and photos.

6 Jun, 12:00 pm, Legion Family conducted Prayer on the Square at the Veterans Memorial. Chaplain Gustin provided a scripture reading and a prayer.

10 Jun, 7:30-10:00 am, Post 197 hosted the 2023 Zebulon 5K/10K Fun Run/Walk Fundraiser. The event was conducted at the Post. See Chapter 6 for details and photos.

10 Jun, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Post 197 conducted an organization day for the general membership and their families. See Chapter 6 for details and photos.

14 Jun, Flag Day Observance and Flag Program postponed due to inclement weather. Event moved to 10 July 2023:

15 Jun, 6:00 pm, Post officers conducted the Monthly Executive Committee Meeting.

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Excused
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Ron Griffin	Late arrival
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Absent
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Present
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Present
EC Member	Ben Maxedon	Present

EC Member
Chaplain

Bill Weekley
Ted Gustin

Present
Excused

6 Officers present, A quorum was obtained. General Fund status currently at \$5,757.90. Committee worked on the Post 197 By-Laws.

17 Jun, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm, Post 197 set up a Veteran/Legion information booth at the 2nd Annual Pike County Juneteenth Celebration. Post 197 provided a special Pike County Memorial Exhibit of the shadow contents of the five inducted Pike County Memorial Annex African American service members who died in the line of duty. See Chap 6 for photos and details.

24 Jun, 1000 am - 2:00 pm, Post 197 assisted in the Spalding County Animal Shelter Benefit and Pet Adoption Day by providing a bounce house. Post 197 took advantage of the event and provided a Veteran/Legion Information Booth. See Chapter 6 for photos and details.

24 Jun, 4:00 am to 9:00 pm, Post 197 supported a Back the Blue Benefit at the Post 197 facility. The Post meeting room was converted into a concert hall with its stage for the band. This event consisted of band also offering Karaoke. The benefit supported those Law Enforcement with financial issues. Post 197 also provided a bounce house for kids, and Troop 465 provided hot dog and hamburger meals. Volunteers supporting this event were Nikki Ellard, Ron Griffin, Stefan Huckaby, and Darryll Kipp.

30 Jun, Long time member of Post 197 Ralph C. Williams passes away.

30 Jun, 1:00 pm, Representatives of Post 197 attended the memorial service and graveside service for Veteran Bobby Crosby. Representing Post 197 were Nikki Ellard, Steve Golias, Ron Griffin, Ted Gustin, Stefan Huckaby, and Bryan Richardson.

July 2023

2 Jul, 8:00 am - 12:30 pm, Post 197 Honor Guard provided a Veteran escort with United States and POW/MIA flags with two rifle bearers for the three Sunday services at the Christ Chapel Community Church in Zebulon, GA. See Chapter 6 for photos and more details.

4 Jul, 12:00 pm, Post 197 conducted Prayer on the Square at the Veterans Memorial. In attendance were AL members, Paul Chatterton, Tim Dukes, John Ellis, Steve Golias, Ron Griffin, Chaplain Ted Gustin, Stefan Huckaby, Bryan Richardson, and Bill Weekley. Guest was Carol Griffin. Chaplain Gustin provided a scripture reading and offered a prayer.

6 Jul, 7:00 pm, Post 197 conducted its monthly General Membership Meeting.

Officers present were:

Commander/SO

Paul Chatterton

Present

Sr. Vice Cdr/JA

Ron Griffin

Excused

Jr. Vice Commander

Nikki Ellard

Present

Jr. Vice Commander

Marcus Weldon

Present

Adjutant

Stephen Golias

Present

Finance Officer/Historian

Bryan Richardson

Present

EC Member

Tim Dukes

Present

EC Member

Ben Maxedon

Absent

EC Member	Bill Weekley	Present
Chaplain	Ted Gustin	Present
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby	Present

Total meeting attendees present were 9 Officers, 1 member and 4 guests for a total of 14. A quorum was obtained. General fund currently at \$4,988.26. Two new members Richard Moen and James Potts were voted into the Post. SAL nominations and elections were conducted. During the meeting, Ted Gustin formally resigned as the Post Chaplain due to a greater calling. Squadron 197 2023-2024 officers are Cdr: Paul Chatterton, Adj: Steve Golias, FO: Bryan Richardson, Jr. Vice Cdr: Stefan Huckaby; and Sgt-at-Arms (appointed): Jason Patten. Old and new Sqdn 197 Cdr Chatterton installed all the officers.

8 Jul, 10:00 am - 4:30 pm, Post 197 supported the Molena Bigfoot Stomp Festival by providing a bounce house, Veteran/Legion Information Booth, Flag Folding Ceremony, and Flag Retirement Ceremony. See Chapter 6 for details and Photos.

10 Jul, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Troop 465 conducted a Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Post 197 pavilion and fire pit. Post 197 provided support to the event. A record 607 flags were honorable retired. See Chapter 6 for more details and photos.

11 Jul, 2:00 pm, Post member Estelle Collins was awarded a Quilt of Valor by the Quilt of Valor Foundation. Post 197 nominated Estelle for the award. Representing Post 197 at the Award Ceremony at the Collins residence was Tim Dukes, Nikki Ellard, John Ellis, Ron Griffin, Stefan Huckaby, Steve Golias, and Bill Weekly. Jason Patten represent Squadron 197 and Melissa Patten represent the American Legion Auxiliary. See Chapter 6 for more details and photos.

20 Jul, 9:00 am, Post 197 installed a temporary aluminum handicap ramp for Jeff Sander's, a retired firefighter. See Chapter 6 for more details and photos.

20 Jul, 6:00 pm, Post officers conducted the Monthly Executive Committee Meeting.

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Excused
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Ron Griffin	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Excused
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Present
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Present
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Present
EC Member	Vacant	
EC Member	Bill Weekley	Present
Chaplain	Ben Maxedon	Excused

6 Officers present, A quorum was obtained. Ben Maxedon was installed as the Post Chaplain by Ron Griffin, Sr. Vice Cdr. General Fund status currently at \$5,757.90. Committee worked on the Post 197 By-Laws.

28 Jul, Post 197 rented out its two bounce houses to the Rebo Nazarene Church.

August 2023

1 Aug, 12:00 pm, Post 197 conducted Prayer on the Square at the Veterans Memorial. In attendance were AL members, Tim Dukes, Nikki Ellard, Steve Golias, Ron Griffin, Chaplain Ben Maxedon, Bryan Richardson, Dennis Tea, and Bill

Weekley. Guest was Carol Griffin. Chaplain Maxedon provided a scripture reading and offered a prayer.

3 Aug, 7:00 pm, Post 197 General Membership Meeting was cancelled due to severe weather.

5 Aug, Ron Griffin, Post 197 Senior Vice Commander provided support in the construction of a handicap ramp for fellow Post members Matt Germain and Dan Bond; and Dan's wife Margaret. All live in the same house and will all benefit from the new ramp.

17 Aug, 6:30 pm, The monthly Post 197 General Membership Meeting was conducted in lieu of monthly Executive Committee Meeting. Officers present were:

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Present
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Ron Griffin	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Excused
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Absent
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Present
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Excused
EC Member	Vacant	
EC Member	Bill Weekley	Present
Chaplain	Ben Maxedon	Present
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby	Present

7 Officers present, 2 members, and one guest for a total of 10. A quorum was obtained. General Fund Status as of 3 August: \$4,696.17 and as of 17 August: \$4,741.27

31 Aug, Representing Post 197, Legionnaire Ben Maxedon presented twelve flags and hangers to the 9th Grade Academy and Zebulon High School. See Chapter 6 for photos and more details.

September 2023

5 Sep, 12:00 pm, Post 197 conducted Prayer on the Square at the Veterans Memorial. In attendance were AL members, Paul Chatterton, Tim Dukes, Stefan Huckaby, Chaplain Ben Maxedon, Bryan Richardson, Dennis Tea, and Bill Weekley. Chaplain Maxedon provided a scripture reading and offered a prayer.

7 Sep, 7:00 pm, Post 197 conducted its monthly General Membership Meeting and Annual Awards Ceremony.

Officers present were:

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Excused
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Ron Griffin	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Excused
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Present
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Present
EC Member	Vacant	
EC Member	Bill Weekley	Present
Chaplain	Ben Maxedon	Present

Sergeant-at-Arms Stefan Huckaby Present
8 Officers present, 4 members, and 2 guests for a total of 12. A quorum was obtained. General Fund Status as of 7 September: \$4,937.06.

Award Ceremony:

Legionnaire of the Year - Steve Golias
Volunteer of the Year - Bryan Richardson – 486.0 hours
Legion Family of the Year - Patten Family (Melissa ALA and Jason SAL)
Core Volunteer Award (for over 100 volunteer hours)
 Stefan Huckaby - 297.7 hours
 Steve Golias - 257.7 hours
 Bill Weekley - 153.9 hours
 Tim Dukes - 113.1 hours
Continuous Membership Award
 5 year - Garrett Pourron
 10 year - William H. Walker
 15 Year - Albert R. Martin
 15 Year - Harold E. Sawyer
 30 Year - William L. Huckaby
Spouse Support Award
 Autumn Chatterton
 Carrol Griffin
 Dawn Golias
 Kathy Richardson
 Myrna Dukes
Special Post 197/Community Awards
 Freshway Markets
 Post 197 Legionnaire Darryll Kipp
 Boys Scouts of American Troop 465G

8 Sep, 10:00 a.m., Post 197 Honor Guard Team participated in the Joseph Maxwell Cleland - Atlanta Veterans Affairs Medical Center Renaming Ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia. See Chapter 6 for more details and photos.

10 Sep, 4:00 - 7:00 pm, Post 197 participated in the Christ Chapel Festival with a Veteran/Legion information booth and two bounce houses fundraiser. See Chapter 6 for more details and photos.

11 Sep, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, Post 197 recognized National Patriots Day with a 9-11 static display memorial at the Pike County Courthouse Square for the public to view. See Chapter 6 for photos and details.

12 Sep, From designated donations collected from membership and concerned citizens, Post 197 helped a fellow member in medical and financial need upgraded the electrical requirements to ensure the electrical safety and usage within the Veteran's house. The cost of this upgrade was \$2,500. Davis Electrical Solutions owned by a Veteran provided an in-kind donation/discount of \$1,300 and Post 197 provided \$1,200. Project completed on 12 Sep.

12 Sep, 6:00 pm, Post 197 Director Bryan Richardson of the Pike County Memorial Annex Program briefed the Zebulon City Council a request to relocate the

memorial items within the current Pike County Memorial Annex to the Pike County City of Zebulon City Hall. Also from the Post in attendance was Nikki Ellard and Bill Weekley. Present from the County was the Chairman Briar Johnson and member James Jenkins from the Pike County Board of Commissioners. The Council unanimously approved the relocation of the memorial items to the Zebulon City Hall. The name of the hallway will be the Pike County Memorial Hall of Heroes.

15 Sep, 10:00 am.-12:00 pm, Pike County Post 197 recognized National POW/MIA Recognition Day at the Pike County Courthouse Square with a static POW/MIA Memorial Display and POW/MIA Table Setting. Post 197 provided Table and Chair set-up by item and description ceremony for the public to view. See Chapter 6 for photos and details.

18 Sep, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Post 197 moves all memorial items from the Pike County Memorial Annex to the Zebulon City Hall and begins positioning items on floor and walls of the Pike County Memorial Hall of Heroes.

20 Sep, 0900 am - 2:00 pm, Post 197 continues positioning items in the Memorial Hall. See Chapter 6 for details and photos of the project.

21 Sep, 6:00 p.m., Post officers conducted the Monthly Executive Committee Meeting.

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Late
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Ron Griffin	Excused
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Excused
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Excused
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Present
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Present
EC Member	Vacant	
EC Member	Bill Weekley	Present
Chaplain	Ben Maxedon	Present

6 Officers present, A quorum was obtained. Ben Maxedon was awarded the American Legion 15-Year Continuous Membership Certificate by Commander Chatterton. General Fund status currently at \$5,603.67. Committee worked on the Post 197 By-Laws.

October 2023

3 Oct, 12:00 pm, Post 197 conducted Prayer on the Square at the Veterans Memorial. In attendance were AL members, Nikki Ellard, Chaplain Ben Maxedon, Bryan Richardson, Dennis Tea, and Bill Weekley. Patti Maxedon, Chaplain Maxedon wife also attended. Chaplain Maxedon provided a scripture reading and offered a prayer.

5 Oct, 7:00 pm, Post 197 conducted its monthly General Membership Meeting.

Officers present were:

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Present
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Ron Griffin	Absent
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Present

Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Present
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Present
EC Member	Vacant	
EC Member	Bill Weekley	Present
Chaplain	Ben Maxedon	Present
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby	Present

9 Officers present, 3 members, and 2 guests for a total of 14. A quorum was obtained. General Fund Status as of 5 October: \$6,272.28. Jeff Sheriff accepted the appointment to fill the vacant Executive Committee Member at large. Membership approved the appointment. SAL Jason Patten and ALA Melissa Patten received Certificates of Appreciation from the Post Commander Chatterton for their steadfast support to Post.

7 Oct, 10:00 am -1200 pm, Members of Post 197 attended the family visitation and Memorial Service for ALA member Margaret Bond at the Moody Daniel Funeral Home. Those in attendance were Dan Bond, Matt Germain, Nikki Ellard, Steve Golias, Ron Griffin, Stefan Huckaby, Ben Maxedon, Bryan Richardson, Bill Weekley, and SAL Jason Patten. Melissa Patten represented the ALA. Post 197 presented a condolence plaque to the Bond family.

9 Oct, 9:00 am, Volunteers from Post 197 traveled out to Jeff Sanders, a retired Battalion Firefighter Chief, and disassembled a temporary ramp. Ramp was returned to the Post to support the next person in need of a ramp. Volunteers were Tim Dukes, Steve Golias, Stefan Huckaby, and Bryan Richardson.

11 Oct, 6:00 am, Post 197 hosted the annual 2023 Pike County 1st Responders of the Year Award. Receiving awards were Deputy Sheriff William Walker – Pike County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Pike County Fire Chief George Lane – Firefighter of the Year. See Chapter 6 for photos and detail.

17 Oct, 1:00 pm, Post 197 members attended the family visitation and memorial service for Annette Brock. Annette was an American Legion Auxiliary Unit 197 member and past President, widow of past Post 197 member Lawrence Brock, and mother of SAL member Bart Brock. Representing Post 197 were Nikki Ellard, Stefan Huckaby, Chaplain Ben Maxedon, Peggi Payton, and Bryan Richardson. Representing Squadron 197 was Jason Patten. The Post presented the family with a plaque honoring Annette Brock.

19 Oct, 6:00 pm, Post officers conducted the Monthly Executive Committee Meeting.

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Excused
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Ron Griffin	Excused
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Absent
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Present
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Present
EC Member	Jeff Sheriff	Absent
EC Member	Bill Weekley	Present
Chaplain	Ben Maxedon	Present

6 Officers present, A quorum was obtained. General Fund status currently at

\$6,192.45.

20 Oct, 2:30 pm, Post 197 Senior Vice Commander Ron Griffin representing the Post presented Jacob Case the American Legion Military Commitment Certificate and the parents the American Legion Blue Star Family Certificate. See Chapter 6 for photos.

21 Oct, 8:00-10:00 am, Post 197 hosted the 2023 Concord 5K/10K Fun Run/Walk Fundraiser. See Chapter 6 for details and photos.

21-22 Oct, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Post 197 participates in the 50th Anniversary of the Concord Jubilee with a Legion/Veteran Information booth and a bounce house fundraiser. See Chapter 6 for details and photos.

24 Oct, Post 197 long time member George L. Scott passes away.

30 Oct, Post 197 long time member Roy Hughley, Sr. passes away.

November 2023

2 Nov, 7:00 pm, Post 197 conducted its monthly General Membership Meeting.

Officers present were:

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Present
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Ron Griffin	Excused
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Present
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Excused
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Present
EC Member	Jeff Sheriff	Present
EC Member	Bill Weekley	Present
Chaplain	Ben Maxedon	Present
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby	Present

9 Officers present, 2 members, and 3 guests for a total of 14. A quorum was obtained. General fund status as of 2 November: \$6,593.30. Guest was Brent Beal, Veteran, Army, Infantry, and combat Veteran of the Global War on Terrorism.

3 Nov, 3:00-6:00 pm, Post 197 Honor Guard Team provides Casket Guard for Veteran and Post member Roy Hughley. See Chapter 6 for more details and photos.

4 Nov, 1:00 pm, Post 197 Honor Guard Team conducted a Flag Line at the entry of the Mt Hope Baptist Church in Zebulon, GA. Post 197 provided representation and the reading (Legionnaire Bryan Richardson) of Roy Hughley's military biography at the Memorial Service, and Honor's Cordon at the Moody-Daniel Memorial Garden, Zebulon, GA Burial Service. Honor Guard Team members for this event consisted of Cdr Paul Chatterton, Nikki Ellard, Tim Dukes Ron Griffin, Stefan Huckaby, Ben Maxedon, and Bryan Richardson.

7 Nov, 12:00 pm, Post 197 conducted Prayer on the Square at the Veterans Memorial. In attendance were AL members, Tim Dukes, Nikki Ellard, Chaplain Ben Maxedon, Bryan Richardson, Jeff Sheriff, Marcus Weldon, and Bill Weekley. Guests were Patti Maxedon and Veteran William Bell. There was a total of 10 attendees. Chaplain Maxedon provided a scripture reading and offered a prayer.

7 Nov, 7:30 pm, Post 197 Pike County Memorial Hall of Heroes Program Director

Bryan Richardson attends the City of Zebulon Zoning/DRC Committee regular monthly meeting at the Zebulon City Hall. Richardson submitted a request to for a Marque sign on Hwy 19 in front of the Zebulon City Hall, sign at the front entrance, and a dedication plaque also at the front entrance. The Committee quickly and unanimously approved the request.

10 Nov, 9:00 am, Post 197 Honor Guard Team consisting of Ron Griffin, Stefan Huckaby, and Bryan Richardson traveled to the Atlanta Veterans Affairs Medical Center and supported their Veterans Day Celebration by Presenting the Colors.

10 Nov, 11:00 am, Legionnaire Tim Dukes represented Post 197 as the Taps player and Guest Speaker for Post 25 in Barnesville, GA Veterans Day Program. See Chap 6 for photo and more details.

10 Nov, 3:00-5:30 pm, Post 197 conducted its annual Veterans Day Weekend Fundraiser on the Square. Volunteers working the US 19/GA 18 square intersections were Paul Chatterton, Tim Dukes, Nikki Ellard, Stefan Huckaby, Bryan Richardson, and Bill Weekley. SAL Jason Patten also provided support. After the fundraising, the team was joined by Ron Griffin and Ben Maxedon to help count and verify donations received.

11 Nov, Senior Vice Commander Ron Griffin represented Post 197 as the Guest Speaker for the Post 186 Veterans Day Service in Greenville, GA. See Chap 6 for photos.

11 Nov, 11:00 am, Post 197 sponsored the Boys Scouts of America Troop 465G host a Veterans Day program for the Veterans in the Pike County community at the Pike County Community Center. Post 197 helped support the Troops initiative of conducting this ceremony. See Chapter 6 for details.

14 Nov, Post 197 long time member John Ellis passes away.

16 Nov, 6:00 pm, Post officers conducted the Monthly Executive Committee Meeting.

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Excused
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Ron Griffin	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Excused
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Present
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Excused
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Late
EC Member	Jeff Sheriff	Excused
EC Member	Bill Weekley	Excused
Chaplain	Ben Maxedon	Present
Sgt-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby	Present

6 Officers present, A quorum was obtained. General fund status currently at \$7,540.46.

17 Nov, 1:00 pm, AL Bryan Richardson represented the Post 197 and Honor Guard at the funeral memorial and graveside services for Post 197 member John Ellis. The Memorial Service was conducted at the St. Peter The Rock Catholic Church Thomaston, GA, and the Graveside Service followed at the Oak Hill Cemetery in Griffin, GA. Richardson read John Ellis' military biography at the graveside service.

December 2023

2 Dec, 1:00pm, Post 197 hosted the annual Pike County Memorial Hall of Heroes Induction Ceremony. Four from Pike County who died in the line of duty were inducted. The four were Marine Private Lee R. Todd - WWI, Army Technician Fifth Grade - WWII, Martin Eppinger - Korean War, and Investigator Sherry Williams-Lyons - Atlanta Police Department. Due to the relocation from the School Annex to the Zebulon City Hall Post 197 also hosted a Rededication Ceremony and a Name Changing/Grand Opening Ceremony. A Reception in the City Hall followed the ceremony. See Chapter 6 for more details and photos.

5 Dec 12:00 pm, Post 197 conducted Prayer on the Square at the Veterans Memorial. In attendance were AL members, Tim Dukes, Nikki Ellard, Chaplain Ben Maxedon, Bryan Richardson, Jeff Sheriff, and Bill Weekley. There was a total of 6 attendees. Chaplain Maxedon provided a scripture reading and offered a prayer.

7 Dec, 7:00 pm, Post 197 conducted its monthly General Membership Meeting.

Officers present were:

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Present
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Ron Griffin	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Absent
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Excused
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Excused
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Excused
EC Member	Jeff Sheriff	Present
EC Member	Bill Weekley	Present
Chaplain	Ben Maxedon	Present
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby	Present

7 Officers present, no members, and 2 guests for a total of 9. A quorum was obtained. General Fund Status as of 5 December: \$6,851.78. New members Paul Mulkey and Brent Beal were accepted into the Post.

14 Dec, 6:00 pm, Post officers conducted the Monthly Executive Committee Meeting.

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Present
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Ron Griffin	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Absent
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Present
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Present
EC Member	Jeff Sheriff	Late
EC Member	Bill Weekley	Present
Chaplain	Ben Maxedon	Present
Sgt-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby	Present

10 Officers present, A quorum was obtained. 5 Guests were invited for a meeting total of 15. General Fund status currently at \$5,919.81.

16 Dec, Ben Maxedon requested his resignation as the post Chaplain, and Commander Chatterton accepted.

17 Dec, 10:00-5:00 pm. Post 197 as part of its Christmas gift to the Community supported the non-profit Angel Ministries Christmas Gifts for children in need Program. The Post provided the use of the entire Post facility, a bounce house for children, and refreshments for parents and their children. See Chapter 6 for details and photos.

21 Dec, 2:00-7:00 pm, Post 197 supported the Angel Ministries' Angel Tree Benefit for needy children/families at the Post facilities. See Chap 6 for more details and photos.

January 2024

2 Jan, 12:00 pm, Post 197 conducted Prayer on the Square at the Veterans Memorial. In attendance were AL members, Cdr Paul Chatterton, Tim Dukes, Nikki Ellard, Ron Griffin, Bryan Richardson, Jeff Sheriff, and Bill Weekley. Guest was Carol Griffin. There was a total of 8 attendees. Legionnaire and Reverend Griffin offered the prayer.

4 Jan, 7:00 pm, Post 197 conducted its monthly General Membership Meeting.

Officers present were:

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Present
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Ron Griffin	Excused
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Excused
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Excused
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Present
EC Member	Jeff Sheriff	Present
EC Member	Bill Weekley	Excused
Chaplain		Vacant
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby	Present
Service Officer		Vacant

6 Officers present, 2 members (Daneille and Patrick Kelly), and 2 guests (Melissa and Jason Patten) for a total of 10. A quorum was obtained. General Fund Status as of 4 January: \$6,213.74. New members Alexander Anderson, Marlena Doyle, James Doyle, Gail Johnson, Danielle Kelly, Patrick Kelly, Mark Schubert, Terry Singletary, and Barry Smallwood were accepted into the Post.

5 Jan, Post 197 Cdr and Honor Guard Team attempted to honor Spalding County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Marc McIntyre killed in the line of duty and US Army Veteran at the 1300 Memorial Service at the First Church of God in Griffin, GA. See Chap 6 for details and photos.

8 Jan, 1:00 pm, Post 197 hosted along with the staff and residents of Pike Manor, a birthday party for Robert Walther, a 99-year-old WWII Veteran and James Cook, a 93-year-old Korean War Veteran, and both are members of Post 197. See Chapter 6 for more details and photos of the event.

12 Jan, 1:00 pm, Post 197 supported the Pike County Historical Society in transporting newspaper books from the Barnesville Herald Gazette office to the Historical Society's facility. See Chapter 6 for details and photo.

18 Jan, 6:00 pm, Post officers conducted the Monthly Executive Committee Meeting.

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Present
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Ron Griffin	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Excused
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Present
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Late
EC Member	Jeff Sheriff	Present
EC Member	Bill Weekley	Present
Chaplain	Vacant	
Sgt-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby	Present
Scout Troop Rep	Darryll Kipp	Present

9 Officers present and Scout Rep, A quorum was obtained. General Fund status currently at \$5,02.09.

20 Jan, 2:00 pm, Honor Guard Team represented Post 197 at Veteran John Vaughn's memorial Service at the Burden Funeral Home. See Chap 6 for details and photos.

February 2024

1 Feb, 7:00 pm, Post 197 conducted its monthly General Membership Meeting.

Officers present were:

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Excused
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Ron Griffin	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Excused
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Absent
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Present
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Present
EC Member	Jeff Sheriff	Present
EC Member	Bill Weekley	Present
Chaplain		Vacant
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby	Present
Service Officer		Vacant

7 Officers present, 4 members (Brett Beal, Fred Caraway, Ben Maxedon, and Barry Smallwood), and 3 guests (Chad Eller, Melissa and Jason Patten) for a total of 13. A quorum was obtained. General Fund Status as of 1 Feb: \$4,723.29. Guest Chad Eller provided the GM with VA claims information.

2, 5, 6, 9, 15, and 22 Feb, Post 197 disassembled a condemned wood utility shed and erected a metal shed for the Pattens (deceased Veteran's family). See Chap 6 for details and photos.

4 Feb, 2:00 pm, Post 197 hosted the American Legion Four Chaplains Program at the Mount Gilead Baptist Church in Griffin in Pike County. See Chapter 6 for more details and photos.

6 Feb, 12:00 pm, Post 197 conducted Prayer on the Square at the Veterans Memorial. In attendance were AL members Nikki Ellard, Stephen Golias, Ron

Griffin, Stefan Huckaby, Ben Maxedon, Bryan Richardson, Jeff Sheriff, and Bill Weekley. Carol Griffin attended as a guest. The Reverend Ron Griffin provided a scripture reading and Chaplain Maxedon offered the Prayer.

15 Feb, 6:00 pm, Post officers conducted the Monthly Executive Committee Meeting.

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Present
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Ron Griffin	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Excused
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Present
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Present
EC Member	Jeff Sheriff	Present
EC Member	Bill Weekley	Present
Chaplain	Vacant	
Sgt-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby	Present
Scout Troop Rep	Darryll Kipp	Excused

9 Officers present. A quorum was obtained. General Fund status currently at \$4,666.70.

March 2024

5 Mar, 12:00 pm, Post 197 conducted Prayer on the Square at the Veterans Memorial. In attendance were AL members Paul Chatterton, Nikki Ellard, Stephen Golias, Ron Griffin, Ben Maxedon, Bryan Richardson, Jeff Sheriff, and Bill Weekley. Carol Griffin attended as a guest. The Reverend Ron Griffin provided a scripture reading and Chaplain Maxedon offered the Prayer.

7 Mar, 7:00 pm, Post 197 conducted its monthly General Membership Meeting.

Officers present were:

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Excused
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Ron Griffin	Excused
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Absent
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Present
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Present
EC Member	Jeff Sheriff	Present
EC Member	Bill Weekley	Present
Chaplain	Vacant	
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby	Present

7 Officers present, 0 members and 2 guests (Melissa and Jason Patten) for a total of 9. A quorum was obtained. General Fund Status as of 7 March: \$3,915.90. Historian Bryan Richardson read the military biography of a new confirmed POW, WWII James B. Dukes from Molena, GA. Dukes was added to the previous list of six former POWs from Pike County.

16 Mar, 10:00 am, Members of Post 197 Honor Guard Team represented Post 197 at the A Company, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment deployment Send-off Parade. Team members Stefan Huckaby, Bryan Richardson and SAL Jason

Patten position themselves at the United Bank on S. Hill Street Griffin and honored two unit buses with the US and Post 197 colors as the police escorted buses passed by. The unit is deploying to Egypt.

21 Mar, 6:00 pm, Post officers conducted the Monthly Executive Committee Meeting.

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Present
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Ron Griffin	Excused
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Excused
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Absent
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Present
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Present
EC Member	Jeff Sheriff	Present
EC Member	Bill Weekley	Present
Chaplain	Vacant	
Sgt-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby	Present
Scout Troop Rep	Darryll Kipp	Excused

7 Officers present. A quorum was obtained. General Fund status currently at \$4,056.57.

April 2024

2 Apr, 12:00 pm, Post 197 conducted Prayer on the Square at the Veterans Memorial. In attendance were AL members Tim Dukes, Nikki Ellard, Stephen Golias, Ron Griffin, Ben Maxedon, Bryan Richardson, and Bill Weekley. Carol Griffin attended as a guest. The Reverend Ron Griffin provided a scripture reading and Chaplain Maxedon offered the Prayer.

4 Apr, 7:00 pm, Post 197 conducted its monthly General Membership Meeting.

Officers present were:

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Excused
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Ron Griffin	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Absent
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Present
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Present
EC Member	Jeff Sheriff	Excused
EC Member	Bill Weekley	Present
Chaplain	Vacant	
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby	Present

7 Officers present, 1 member Ben Maxedon, and 2 guests (Melissa and Jason Patten) for a total of 9. A quorum was obtained. General Fund Status as of 4 April: \$3,932.21. Post officer nominations for 2023-2024 were conducted.

Nominations:

Commander: Paul Chatterton
 Senior Vice Commander: None
 Junior Vice Commander: None
 Junior Vice Commander: Nikki Ellard

Adjutant: Stephen Golias

Finance Officer: Bryan Richardson

Two of Three Executive Committee Members: Stefan Huckaby and Bill Weekley

Current Senior Vice Commander Ron Griffin verbally resigns due to increased work commitments.

5-6 Apr, Post 197 conducted a Veteran/Legion information and voter registration booth, and inflatables fundraiser at the Williamson Wisteria Festival.

See Chapter 6 for details and photos.

18 Apr, 6:00 pm, Post officers conducted the Monthly Executive Committee Meeting.

Commander/SO	Paul Chatterton	Present
Sr. Vice Cdr/JA	Vacant	
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard	Present
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon	Absent
Adjutant	Stephen Golias	Present
Finance Officer/Historian	Bryan Richardson	Present
EC Member	Tim Dukes	Present
EC Member	Jeff Sheriff	Present
EC Member	Bill Weekley	Present
Chaplain	Vacant	
Sgt-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby	Present
Scout Troop Rep	Darryll Kipp	Excused

7 Officers present. A quorum was obtained. General Fund status currently at \$3,155.25. B. Richardson appointed as Post Judge Adjutant and approved by the EC.

30 Apr: End of report period

Chapter 6

Post Activities: May 2023-April 2024

Monthly Prayer on the Square:

Each month on the first Tuesday at 12 noon, Post 197 hosts a community-wide public Prayer on the Square. The objective is to identify who in the Post, community, state, nation, Veteran and military and their families, and national, state, and local leadership need Prayer. This year the program was initially led by Post 197 Chaplain Ted Gustin and continued on by Post 197 Chaplain Ben Maxedon. During Prayer on the Square sessions, the Chaplain generally offers relative scripture readings and a prayer. When

a Post Chaplain is unavailable, members fill in to offer the Prayer.



Top photo provided by AL John Ellis: A Prayer on the Square session on 4 July consisting of from left to right AL Tim Dukes, Post Commander Paul Chatterton, AL Ron Griffin and his wife Carol, AL Bill Weekley, Chaplain Ted Gustin, AL Steve Golias, AL Bryan Richardson, and AL Stefan Huckaby.



Bottom photo provided by Patty Maxedon: A Prayer on the Square session on 7 November consisting of from left to right Guest William Bell, AL Marcus Weldon, AL Jeff Sheriff, AL Nikki Ellard, AL Bill Weekley, AL Ron Griffin, AL Tim Dukes, Post Chaplain Ben Maxedon, Guest Patty Maxedon, and AL Bryan Richardson

Post 197 Installation of Officers: At the 18 May 2023 Executive Committee Meeting, Due to the Commander being away for two months, the Installation Ceremony for the new 2023-2024 elected and appointed officers was conducted. Past Commander Bryan Richardson installed Commander Paul Chatterton. Commander Chatterton installed the remaining officers. Officers present were:

Commander	Paul Chatterton
Jr. Vice Commander	Nikki Ellard
Jr. Vice Commander	Marcus Weldon
Adjutant	Stephen Golias
Finance Officer	Bryan Richardson
EC Member	Tim Dukes
EC Member	Bill Weekley
Chaplain	Ted Gustin
Historian	Bryan Richardson
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stefan Huckaby
Officer not present were:	
Sr. Vice Commander	Ron Griffin
EC Member	Ben Maxedon
Judge Advocate	Ron Griffin



Top left photo provided by Steve Golias: Past Commander Bryan Richardson on the right swearing in current Commander Paul Chatterton.

Top right photo provided by Steve Golias: Commander Chatterton swearing



in 2023-2024 Post Officers from left to right – Nikkie Ellard, Marcus Weldon, Steve Golias, Bryan Richardson, Bill Weekley, Tim Dukes, Ted Gustin, and Stefan Huckaby.

Bottom photo provided by Bryan Richardson: Senior Vice Command Ron Griffin swearing in Executive Committee At-Large Ben Maxedon at the 15 June 2024 Executive Committee Meeting.

Memorial Day Observance Program: On a beautiful 30 May, starting at 10:00 am, Post 197 hosted the 2023 Pike County Memorial Day Observance Program for the community in front of the Pike County Courthouse. The theme of the Program was “Our Flag – A Sacred Memorial.” Highlights of the program were a POW/MIA Tribute, arrival of Sheriff’s Office escorting a hearse with U.S. Flag draped casket pallbearers consisting of the Multi-organizational Honor Guard of Post 197 Honor Guard Team members Tim Dukes, Steve Golias, Ron Griffin, and Stefan Huckaby, Sheriff’s Office Deputies Deangelo Smith and Hannah Gardner, Pike County Emergency Services Deputy Fire Chief Doug Neath and Lieutenant Tim Lane from the Meansville Voluntary Fire Department. A secondary theme was “The youngest generation. Highlights of the program included the singing of the National Anthem, Amazing Grace, and America the Beautiful by Millie Smith; program theme remarks by Bryan Richardson; the Pledge of Allegiance by representatives of Pike County youth organizations, a Tribute to Fallen Pike County Veterans by Post 197 Talena Smith and her daughter Millie; a Special Memorial Day Prayer by Post 197 Chaplain Ted Gustin, a simulated Three Round Volley by Post Honor Guard Team member Ron Griffin, the playing of Taps by Will Busby, casket flag folding by Post 197 Honor Guard Team members Steve Golias and Stefan Huckaby and flag presentation by Steve Golias to Zebulon Mayor, Joe Walter; and the posting of a memorial wreath at the casket by State Representative Beth Camp, Mayor Walter, and the multi-organizational Honor Guard Team. Following the Program, the new name of WWI Private Lee Roy Todd was unveiled on the Pike County Veterans Memorial.



Left Photo provided by Jeff Sheriff: Audience prior to the start of the Program

Right Photo provided by Jeff Sheriff: Multi-organizational Honor Guard/Pallbearer escorting the flag draped casket. Honor Guard from left to right Deputy Sheriff Hannah Gardner, AL Ron Griffin, Dep Fire Chief Doug Neath, Deputy Sheriff Deangelo Smith, AL Tim Dukes, Fire Chief Joe Wiley, and AL Stephan Huckaby. Moody-Daniel Funeral Home hearse detail consisted of Terrell Moody and Gracie Booker.

Memorial Day Observance Program (Cont):



Top left photo provided by Jeff Sheriff: Leading in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance are representatives of the Youngest Generation from left to right are Marrisa Ferral (Troop 465), Eli Butler (Troop 37, Savannah Smith (American Heritage Girls), Ryan Crawford (Pack 17), and Anna (FAA and 4-H), Abigail (Pike Youth Sports) and Madelyn (4-H and Pike Youth Sports) Bottoms.

Top right photo provided by Tim Dukes: Post 197 Honor Guard Stefan Huckaby and Steve Golias walking to the Pike County Veterans Memorial to post the memorial wreath.



Bottom photo provided by Tim Dukes: Post Historian Bryan Richardson reading the resolution adding the name of Pike County

WWI native Lee Roy Todd to the Veterans monument. In the background are Post 197 Honor Guard members Ron Griffin and Tim Dukes preparing to raise the flags to full staff.

Peachtree Aerodrome Vintage Days Festival: On 3 June, from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm Post 197 attended this festival at Candler Field in Williamson, GA. The Post provided a Veteran/Legion Information booth and fund raised with its two bounce houses. Funds collected for the Post's Veteran and community programs amounted to \$611. AL members present were Tim Dukes, Steve Golias, Stefan Huckaby, Bryan Richardson, Bill Weekley, and Marcus Weldon; and SAL Jason Patten. All photos on this page provided by Bryan Richardson.



Top photo: Post 197 information booth with AL Steve Golias in the foreground and Stefan Huckaby, bounce house, and the Duece in the background.



Center photo: AL Bill Weekley and SAL Jason Patten.



Bottom photo: Duece in the foreground, information booth and bounce house in the background.

Peachtree Aerodrome Vintage Days Festival (Cont)

All photos provided by Steve Golias



Top left photo:

AL Tim Dukes and his wife Myrna. SAL Jason Patten on the right.



Top right photo:

Post 197 members from left to right are Stefan Huckaby, Bill Weekley, and Marcus Weldon.



Center photo:

Two families needing shade on a hot sunny day and a place to eat lunch under the Post 197 information booth.



Bottom photo: Post 197 Legion/Veteran information booth with members Bryan Richardson on the left and Bill Weekley on the right.

Memorial Service and Post Everlasting Ceremony: On 4 June at 6:00 pm, Post 197 hosted its annual Memorial Service and Post Everlasting Ceremony honoring those from the Legion family who passed away since Memorial Day 2022. The memorial service was for American Legion Post member Scott Brooks, British WWII Veteran/US Citizen Leonard Wheat, and American Legion Auxiliary Sandra Germain. The Post Everlasting Ceremony was for Legionnaire Scott Brooks. Since the family did not get military honors, Post 197 provided a simulated 3 round volley, taps, folding of a casket US flag, and presentation to next of kin. The Brooks family received a Post Everlasting Certificate, and the Wheat and Germain/Bond family receive special certificates. All photos provided by Jeff Sheriff.



Top left photo: Memorial Table from left to right photo of Scott Brooks, US flag to be refolded and presented to next of kin, and Post Everlasting Certificate; photo of Leonard and special certificate for next of kin; and photo of Sandra Germain and special certificate for next of kin.



Top right photo: Legion Family Color Guard (from left to right: AL Steve Golias, AL Stefan Huckaby, AL Tim Dukes, ALA Melissa Patten, and SAL Jason Patten) just prior to the National Anthem. Chaplain Ted Gustin, Master of Ceremonies on the far left.



Center left photo: Post 197 Color Guard Team member posting the POW/MIA flag as it joined the other flags as part of the POW/MIA Tribute. AL Bryan Richardson and Chaplain Gustin on the left.

Center right photo: Chaplain Gustin providing the Program's spiritual remarks.

Bottom photo: US Casket Flag being folded by AL S. Golias and AL Stefan Huckaby.

Memorial Service and Post Everlasting Ceremony (Cont):



Top left photo: Past Cdr Richardson presenting US Casket Flag honoring AL member Scott Brooks to Betty Brooks next of kin.



Top right photo: Chaplain Ted Gustin presenting a special certificate honoring Leonard Wheat to next of kin Gillian Appleton.



Center left photo: ALA Melissa Patten giving the Germain and Bond families a special certificate honoring Sandra Germain to Matt Germain a member of Post 197.

Center right photo: Past Cdr Richardson receiving the piece of paper representing the Post 197 records of Scott Brooks to be submitted to Adjutant, Post Everlasting.

Bottom photo: Post 197 Honor Guard Team members Stefan Huckaby on the left and Steve Golias on the right posting the memorial wreath as they honor Brooks, Wheat, and Germain.

Pike County Juneteenth Celebration: On 18 June from 11:00 am-4:00 pm, Post 197 set up a Veteran/Legion information booth at the 2nd Annual Pike County Juneteenth Celebration. Post 197 also provided a special Pike County Memorial Exhibit of the shadow box contents of the five inducted Pike County Memorial Annex African American service members who died in the line of duty. These five are U.S. Army Privates Green Blackman, John G. McLendon, and Ben L. Scott from WWI; Eddie R. Parks from WWII; and US Navy Chief Petty Officer Willie L. King from the Vietnam War. Event Volunteers were Tim Dukes, Steve Golias, Stefan Huckaby, Bryan Richardson, and Bill Weekley. SAL Jason Patten represented Squadron 197.



Top photo provided by Tim Dukes: From left to right are AL Bryan Richardson, AL Bill Weekley, AL Tim Dukes, SAL Jason Patton, and AL Stefan Huckaby manning the Veteran/Legion Information Booth.



Center photo provided by Bryan Richardson: From left to right are AL Tim Dukes, AL Bill Weekley hidden, SAL Jason Patten, and AL Stefan Huckaby.



Bottom photo provided by Bryan Richardson: Pike County Memorial Annex African American Inductees Exhibit shadow box contents of the five service members from Pike County killed in the line of duty.

Spalding County Animal Shelter Benefit and Pet Adoption Day: On 24 June from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Post 197 assisted in the benefit event by providing a bounce house. Post 197 took advantage of the event and provided a Veteran/Legion Information Booth. Post Volunteers at this event were Tim Dukes, Nikki Ellard, Steve Golias, Bryan Richardson, and Bill Weekley. All photos provided by Bryan Richardson.



Top photo: Post 197 Veteran/Legion Information Booth with bounce house in the background. From front to back are AL members Bill Weekley, Tim Dukes, Steve Golias, and Nikki Ellard.

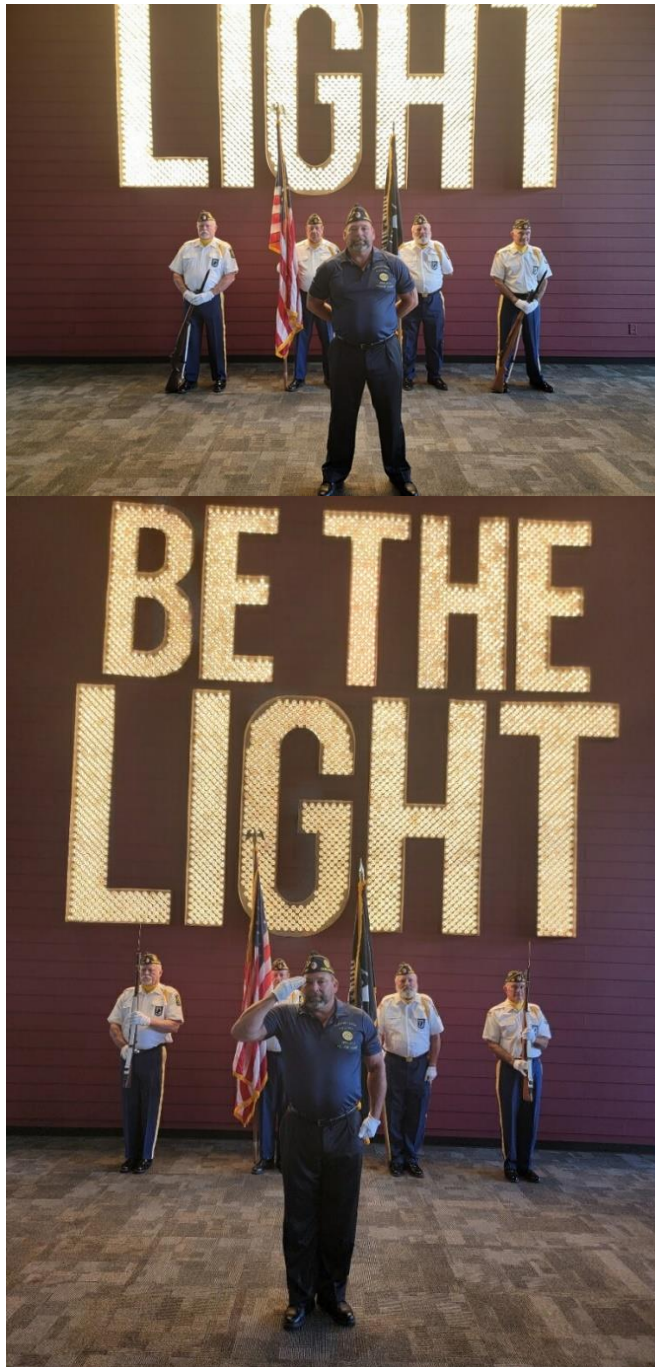


Center Photo: Post 197 event team from left to right are Bill Weekley, Tim Dukes, Steve Golias, Nikki Ellard, and Bryan Richardson.



Bottom Photo: Info Booth with Bounce House. From left to right AL Post members: Bill Weekley, Tim Dukes, Steve Golias, and Nikki Ellard by the slide.

Christ Chapel Veterans Recognition Services: On 2 July at the Christ Chapel Community Church in Zebulon, the Post 197 Honor Guard provided a Veteran escort with United States and POW/MIA flags with two rifle bearers for the three Sunday services. Cdr Paul Chatterton was the Honor Guard lead. Stefan Huckaby and Tim Dukes carried the US and POW/MIA flags, and Steve Golias and Bryan Richardson carried M1 rifles with bayonets. A total of approximately 90 Veterans were escorted up to the stage for church recognition. During the three services approximately 3,000 people attended. It was televised to several states and other countries.



Both photos provided by AL Steve Golias.

Photos: From left to right – Steve Golias, Stefan Huckaby, Cdr Paul Chatterton, Tim Dukes, and Bryan Richardson

Molena Bigfoot Stomp Festival: On 8 July from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, Post 197 supported the Molena Bigfoot Stomp Festival by providing a bounce house, Veteran/Legion Information Booth, Flag Folding Ceremony, and Flag Retirement Ceremony. During the Flag Folding Ceremony, AL Bryan Richardson defined the folds as AL Steve Golias and Stefan Huckaby folded the flag. Then Post Honor Guard Team members consisting of Tim Dukes, Steve Golias, Stefan Huckaby, and Bryan Richardson conducted a Flag Retirement Ceremony for the City of Molena. Volunteers from Post 197 were Tim Dukes, Nikki Ellard, Steve Golias, Stefan Huckaby, Bryan Richardson, and Bill Weekley.



Photo provided by Bryan Richardson: All AL Post members (from left to right), Bryan Richardson, Tim Dukes, Nikki Ellard, Bill Weekley, Steve Golias, and Stefan Huckaby.

Flag Retirement Ceremony: On 10 July from 6:30 to 8:30 pm., Troop 465 augmented with Cub Scout Packs conducted a flag retirement ceremony at the Post 197 pavilion and fire pit. Post 197 provided support to the event. A record 607 flags were honorable retired. The original 14 June Flag Day and Flag Retirement Ceremony was postponed due to inclement weather. It was a hot and humid day and the fire was super-hot. This event was a scaled down to just a flag retirement ceremony. Post 197 Volunteers were Nikki Ellard, Steve Golias, Stefan Huckaby, Bryan Richardson, and Bill Weekley, Jason Patten from the SAL, and Melissa Patten from the ALA.



Top left photo provided by Bryan Richardson: A portion of the attendees.

Top right photo provided by Bryan Richardson: From left to right AL Bill Weekley; Scouts Alaina Simpson, Leigha Harper, Marissa Ferrell, and Sophie Thomas; AL Darryll Kipp in the background as the Ceremony MC, Scouts were conducting a special flag retirement of a 30 x 20 foot US Flag as each piece was defined.

Center right photo provided by Bryan Richardson: Scout Leigha Harper retiring the blow portion of the 30 x 20 U.S Flag as part of the special ceremony.

Bottom right photo provided by Darryll Kipp: From left to right Scout Alaina Simpson, Sophia Thomas, Marissa Ferrell, and Leigha Harper. Ruby Kipp (daughter) and AL Darryll Kipp in foreground

Bottom right photo provided by Bryan Richardson : Scout Leigha Harper on the left and AL Steve Golias on the right.

Flag Retirement Ceremony (Cont.): All photos on this page provided by Darryll Kipp.



Top left photo :
AL Darryll Kipp
receiving flag
from Scout
Leader Dan
Stewart.

Top right photo:
From left to right
– AL members
Darryll Kipp,
Stefan Huckaby,
and Bryan
Richardson
prepping a
second 30 x 20
foot flag for
retirement.



**Bottom left
photo:** Scouts
Mattie and Jaxon
Harris on the left
and AL Bryan
Richardson on
the right retiring a
flag. Ruby Kipp
in the foreground.

**Bottom center
photo:** AL Darryll
Kipp on right and
AL Stefan
Huckaby on the
right.

Bottom right photo: AL Stefan Huckaby retiring a flag.

Quilt of Honor Award Ceremony: On 11 July Post 197 member Estelle Collins was awarded a Quilt of Valor at her residence. AL Jeff Sheriff provided the nomination requirements to AL Bryan Richardson who fill out the nomination form on Estelle Collins and submitted to the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Estelle Collins is a 101-year-old WWII and Korean War era Veteran. Attending the award ceremony from Post 197 were Tim Dukes, Nikki Ellard, John Ellis, Ron Griffin, Stefan Huckaby, Steve Golias, and Bill Weekly. Jason Patten represent Squadron 197 and Melissa Patten represent the American Legion Auxiliary. All photos provided by AL John Ellis.



Top photo: Group photo with awarded quilt from left to right – Quilts of Valor Foundation (QVF) Nancy Stafford presenter from the Lake Oconee Quilts Guild, AL Tim Dukes, AL Stefan Huckaby, QVF Sarah Lanier Jackson Quilt Guild, SAL Jason Patten, AL Bryan Richardson, AL Bill Weekley, QVF Deb Tutsin for the Jackson Quilt Guild, AL Estelle Collins, AL Nikki Ellard, ALA Melissa Patten, and AL Ron Griffin.



Center photo: Group photo from left to right – AL Estelle Collins, AL Bryan Richardson, AL Bill Weekley, AL Tim Dukes, AL Nikki Ellard, AL Ron Griffin, ALA Melissa Patten, SAL Jason Patten, AL Stefan Huckaby, and Myrna Dukes (Tim's wife).



Bottom photo: From left to right – Marcia Collins (Estelle's daughter), Deb Toney (Estelle's care taker), AL Estelle Collins, AL Bryan Richardson, and AL Bill Weekley.

Sander's Ramp Project: On 20 July, from 9:00 until 1130 am, Post 197 installed a temporary aluminum handicap ramp for Jeff Sanders, a retired firefighter and Battalion Commander. Ramp project was conducted at 518 Sunnyland Dr, in Thomaston, GA. Volunteers working the project were Tim Dukes, Steve Golias, Stefan Huckaby, and Bryan Richardson.



Top left photo provided by Nathan Ford: Area prior to the ramp.

Top right photo provided by Bryan Richardson: Final temporary ramp.

Bottom left photo provided by Bryan Richardson: Post 197 volunteers from left to right Stefan Huckaby, Steve Golias, Tim Dukes and Bryan Richardson.

Bottom right photo provided by Bryan Richardson: Recipient of the temporary ramp – Jeff Sanders.

Flag Presentation: On 31 August, Post 197, Legionnaire Ben Maxedon presented twelve flags and hangers to the 9th Grade Academy and Zebulon High School. Along with the flags, Ben Maxedon provided a card that stated “Thank you for allowing us to serve our schools by providing the U.S. Flags for the classrooms. As Veterans, we know how important it is to honor the symbol of our great nation. We continue to serve, American Legion Post 197, Zebulon, Georgia.”



Photo provided by Ben Maxedon: Legionnaire and Post Chaplain Ben Maxedon and Julia Kempson, Office Manager for the 9th Grade Academy and Zebulon High School.

Annual Award Ceremony: On 7 September at 7:00 pm at the Post in conjunction with the Monthly General Membership Meeting, Post 197 conducted its Award Ceremony. Award Ceremony. The awards and recipients are

Legionnaire of the Year - Steve Golias

Volunteer of the Year - Bryan Richardson – 486.0 hours

Legion Family of the Year - Patten Family (Melissa ALA and Jason SAL)

Core Volunteer Award (for over 100 volunteer hours)

Stefan Huckaby - 297.7 hours

Steve Golias - 257.7 hours

Bill Weekley - 153.9 hours

Tim Dukes - 113.1 hours

Continuous Membership Award

5 year - Garrett Pourron

10 year - William H. Walker

15 Year - Albert R. Martin

15 Year - Harold E. Sawyer

30 Year - William L. Huckaby

Spouse Support Award

Autumn Chatterton

Carrol Griffin

Dawn Golias

Kathy Richardson

Myrna Dukes

Special Post 197/Community Awards

Freshway Markets

Post 197 Legionnaire Darryll Kipp

Boys Scouts of American Troop 465G

Jason Patten

Melissa Patten

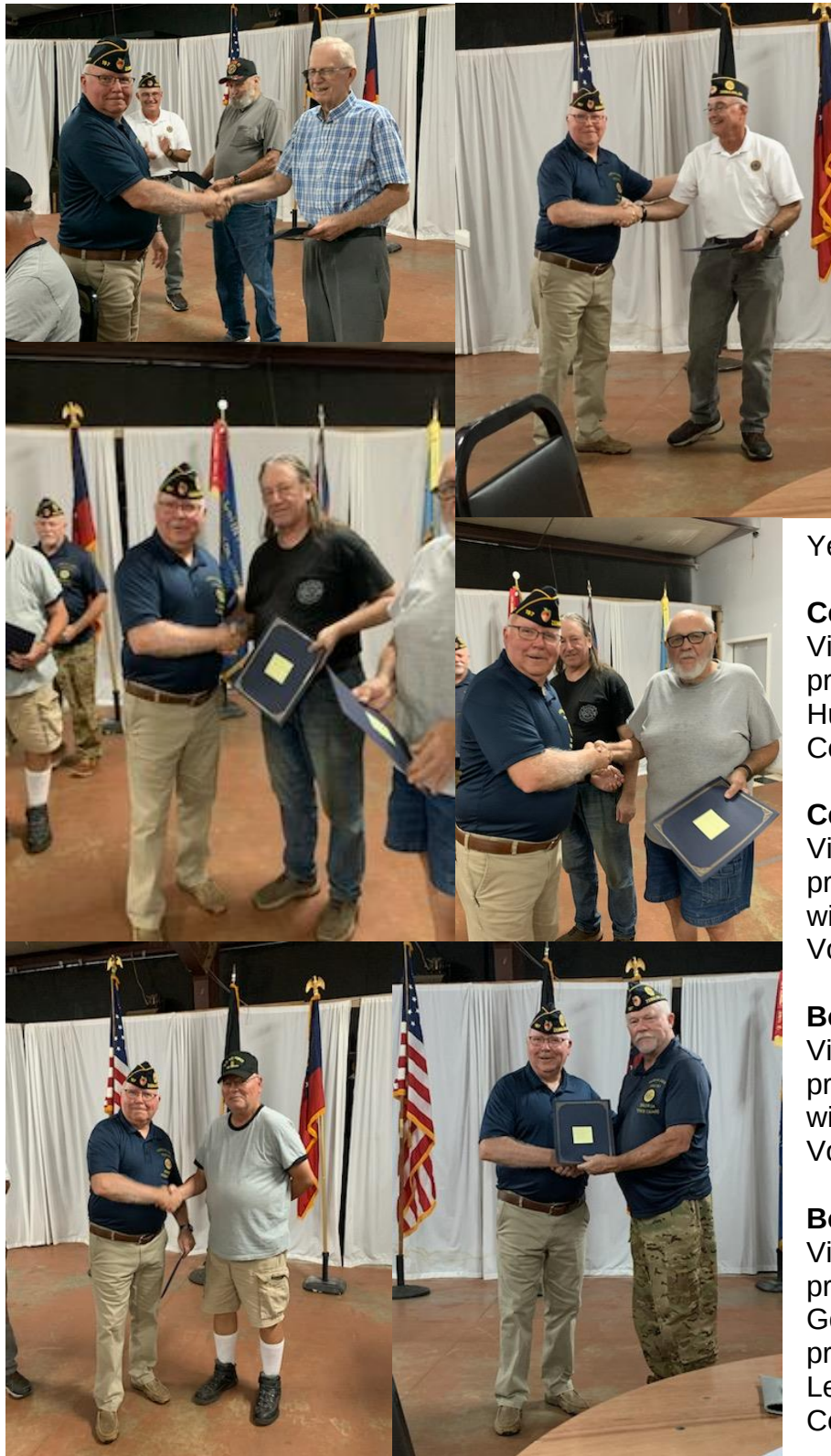
All photos of the ceremony below are provided by Carol Griffin.



Left Photo: Historian Bryan Richardson assisting Senior Vice Commander Ron Griffen with the presentation of award certificates.

Right Photo: Sr Vice Cdr Griffen presenting SAL Sqdn 197 member Jason Patten a Post 197 Certificate of Appreciation.

Annual Award Ceremony (Cont):



Top left photo: Sr. Vice Cdr Griffin presenting American Legion Continuous Membership Certificates to Garret Perron and Randy Martin. AL Richatrdson in the background.

Top right photo: Sr. Vice Cdr Griffin presenting AL Bryan Richardson with Post 197 Volunteer of the Year Certificate.

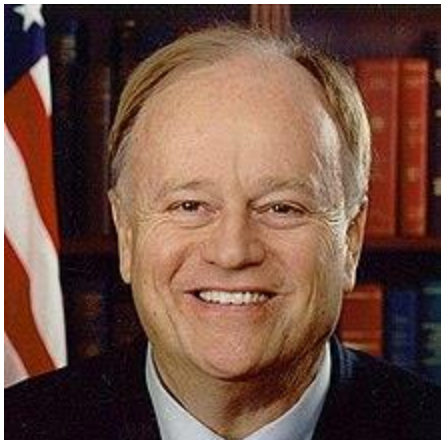
Center left photo: Sr. Vice Cdr Griffin presenting AL Stefan Huckaby with Post 197 Core Volunteer Certificate

Center right photo: Sr. Vice Cdr Griffin presenting Bill Weekley with Post 197 Core Volunteer Certificate.

Bottom left photo: Sr. Vice Cdr Griffin presenting Tim Dukes with Post 197 Core Volunteer Certificate

Bottom right photo: Sr. Vice Cdr Griffin presenting AL Steve Golias with the prestigious Post 197 Legionnaire of the Year Certificate.

Atlanta VA Renaming Ceremony: The Pike County American Legion Post 197 Honor Guard was invited to post the colors to help kick off the ceremonial program to rename the Veterans Affairs (VA) facility to the Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Veterans Affairs Medical Center. On Friday, 8 September 2023, the Post 197 Honor Team traveled up to the VA hospital in Decatur, Georgia for a 10:00 am program start. The Post 197 Honor Guard Team consisted of Tim Dukes, Steve Golias, Ron Griffin, and Bryan Richardson. The ceremony was hosted by Anna Brown the Director of the Atlanta VA Health Care System. Guest speakers were Jared McKinley of behalf of Representative Nikema Williams, US Senators Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock, Emily Foster on behalf of the Cleland Family, and Secretary of the Veteran Affairs Denis McDonough. Also in attendance were friends and relative of former VA Secretary and US Senator Max Cleland as well as representatives of several Veterans Organizations and members of the secret service. All photos provided by Steve Golias.



Top left photo: Joseph Maxwell "Max" Cleland.



Top right photo: Post 197 Color Guard ready to Post the Colors.



Bottom left photo: Stefan Huckaby and Bryan Richardson waiting for the Program to start.



Bottom right photo: Post 197 Honor Guard Team Members (from left to right) Steve Golias, Stefan Huckaby, Tim Dukes, Ron Griffin, and Bryan Richardson

Atlanta VA Renaming Ceremony (Cont):



Top left photo: Post 197 Color Guard at present arms during the singing of the National Anthem.

Top right photo: A view of the attendees of which several represented Veteran's organizations.



Bottom left photo: Dignitaries present and providing remarks during the ceremony (from left to right) Senator Raphael Warnock, Senator Jon Ossoff, Mr. Jared McKinley, Director Ann Brown, program master of ceremonies, Secretary of the Veteran Affairs Denis McDonough.



Bottom left photo: Max Cleland's son Jason Cleland and a family friend.

Christ Chapel Festival: On 10 September from 4:00 to 7:30 pm, Post 197 participated in the Christ Chapel Festival providing a Veteran/Legion Information booth and two bounce houses fundraiser. Post 197 Volunteers were Paul Chatterton, Nikki Ellard, Steve Golias, Stefan Huckaby, Bryan Richardson, and Bill Weekley. Post 197 receive \$92 in donations from the bounce houses. All photos provided by Steve Golias.



Top left photo: Commander Paul Chatterton.

Top right photo (from left to right): SAL Jason Patten, AL Bryan Richardson, and Cdr Chatterton, Post 197



Bottom left photo: Post member and Sheriff's Office Deputy Bill Walker and AL Bryan Richardson

Pike County National Patriot Day (9-11) Observance: On 11 September from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on the Pike County Courthouse Square in Zebulon, GA, Post 197 set up an elaborate 9-11 Memorial Display for the public to view as they entered and exited from the Courthouse. Volunteers were AL members Steve Golias, Ron Griffin, Stefan Huckaby, Bryan Richardson, and Bill Weekley. ALA Melissa Patten and SAL Jason Patten also supported the event. The Memorial Display contained the US and appropriate flags; emergency medical service, firefighter, law enforcement and military representative sub-display items, POW/MIA Table and Chair as many of the victims of 9-11 are “missing”, 9-11 related prints, Memorial Wreath, and a 9-11 Significant Facts Board. All photos provided by Bryan Richardson.



First four photos: Views of the Pike County static 9-11 Memorial Display honoring the 2,977 individuals killed on 9-11 to include sub-displays honoring the 8 Emergency Medical Technicians, 343 firefighters, 60 law enforcement officers, and 55 military service members.

Bottom photo: AL Steve Golias entertaining members of the public observing the 9-11 Memorial.

Pike County National POW/MIA Recognition Day Program. On 15 September starting at 10:00 am and ending at 12:00 pm, Post 197 recognized the National POW/MIA Recognition Day at the Pike County Courthouse Square with a static POW/MIA Memorial Display and POW/MIA Table and Chair Set-up Ceremony. The POW/MIA Memorial consisted of the US and POW/MIA flags and other appropriate flags, Soldier Memorial, POW/MIA Table and Chair, and the biographies of the four current Pike County missing in action and the seven confirmed former US prisoners of war from Pike County. During the POW/MIA Table and Chair set up Ceremony, Commander Chatterton described the significance of each piece as it was placed on the table and chair. Setting the table and chair items were Post 197 Honor Guard consisting of Tim Dukes, Steve Golias, Stefan Huckaby, and Bryan Richardson augmented with Post member Nikki Ellard and Ben Maxedon, and SAL Honor Guard Jason Patten. Post 197 Chaplain Ben Maxedon offered a special POW/MIA Prayer during the ceremony. The ceremony was conducted at 10:45 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. All photos were provided by Steve Golias.



Top left photo: POW/MIA Canopy decorated with the colors with the biographies of Pike County's known former POWs and current MIAs.

Top right photo: Program participants from left to right: AL members Stefan Huckaby, Steve Golias, Bryan Richardson, Nikki Ellard, Cdr Paul Chatterton, and Tim Dukes; SAL member Jason Patten; and AL member Ben Maxedon.

Bottom photo: Cdr Paul Chatterton and Program Director Bryan Richardson going over the program script.

Pike County National POW/MIA Recognition Day Program (Cont):



Top left photo (From left to right): SAL Jason Patton; AL Tim Dukes, Stefan Huckaby, and Nikki Ellard in between POW/MIA Full Tribute showing.

Top right photo: Soldier Memorial and POW/MIA Table and Chair.



Bottom left table: AL Nikki Ellard.

Bottom right photo: AL Ben Maxedon.

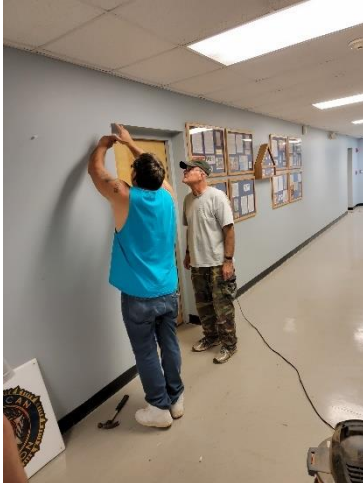
Relocation of the Pike County Memorial Hall of Heroes: On 18 September, members of Post 197 moved 36 shadow boxes, one show case, and other wall picture frames, signs, and plaques from the Pike County School's Memorial Annex to the Zebulon City Hall. Post 197 received approval to permanently relocate all the memorial items to the rear hallway of the City Hall. On 20 September, Post 197 finished mounting all the memorial items. Total volunteers during the two days were AL Cdr Paul Chatterton, Stefan Huckaby, Steve Golias, Ron Griffin, Bryan Richardson, Jeff Sheriff, and Bill Weekley, ALA Melissa Patten, and SAL Jason Patten.



Top photo provided by B. Richardson: View of hall without any memorial items.



Center photo provided by Jeff Sheriff: Volunteers prior to the start of mounting the memorial items on the first day from left to right: Bryan Richardson, Stefan Huckaby, SAL Jason Patten, ALA Melissa Patten, Paul Chatterton, Bill Weekley, and Steve Golias. Not shown are Jeff Sheriff, and Ron Griffin.

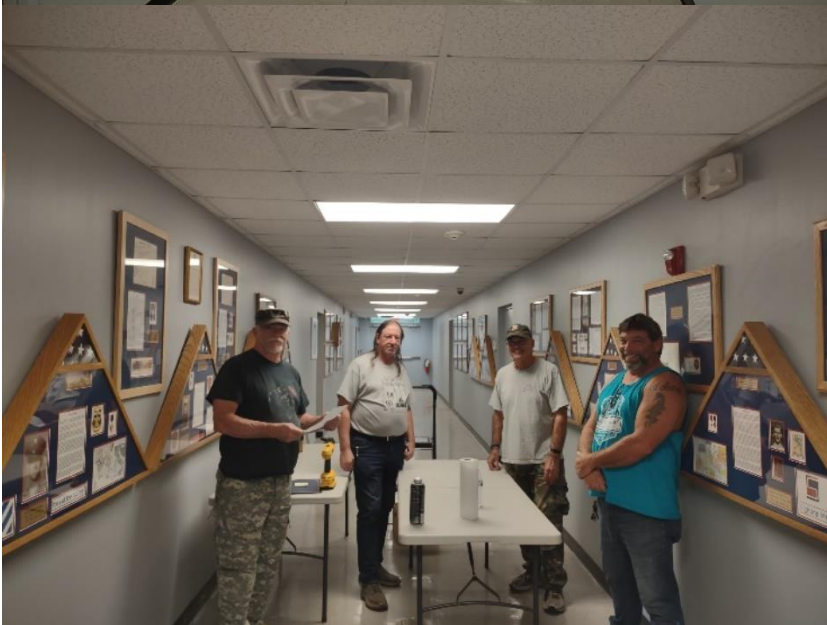


Bottom photo provided by S. Golias: Chatterton and Richardson preparing to mount the American Legion logo sign.

Relocation of the Pike County Memorial Hall of Heroes(Cont):



Top photo provided by Jeff Sheriff: Finishing up the mounting of shadow boxes. From left to right Bryan Richardson, Stefan Huckaby, Steve Golias, Cdr Paul Chatterton



Bottom photo provided by Jeff Sheriff from left to right: Steve Golias, Stefan Huckaby, Bryan Richardson, and Cdr Paul Chatterton

Pike County 1st Responders of the Year Awards Ceremony: On 11 October at 6:00 pm, Post 197 hosted the annual 2023 Pike County First Responders of the Year Award Ceremony. Deputy William Walker from the Pike County Sheriff's Office received the Pike County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Deputy Fire Chief George Lane from the Meansville Volunteer Fire Department received the Pike County Firefighter of the Year. No nominations were submitted for the Emergency Medical Technician Award. To be eligible for the award, one must be currently serving in a law enforcement organization (Sheriff's Office, City Police Department, GA Department of Public Safety, GA Bureau of Investigations, or GA Department of Corrections), firefighting organization (County or City Fire Department or Volunteer Fire Department), or Emergency Medical Service or Fire Department Paramedic organization/team. Candidates must either reside or serve in Pike County. All photos provided by Steve Golias.



Left photo from left to right: Master of Ceremonies – AL Bryan Richardson, County Manager Brandon Rogers, Assistant Chief Tim Lane, and Meansville Mayor Virlon Rachels.

Right photo from left to right: B. Richardson, B. Rogers, AL and Deputy Bill Walker, and Sheriff Jimmy Thomas.

Pike County 1st Responders of the Year Awards Ceremony:



Top right photo: Post 197 Chaplain Ben Maxedon offering the opening prayer.



Top left photo from left to right: 1st row: Venida Lane, Tim Lane, Issac Lane, Wyatt Cochran; 2nd row: Teri Totten, Debbie Fleming, Josh Watson, Samantha James



Bottom left photo from left to right: Sheriff Thomas, Major Neal, and Deputy Bill Walker.



Bottom right photo from left to right: Dwayne Walker, Bill Walker, and Bill's mother Katherine Hall.

Military Commitment Ceremony: On 20 October at 2:30 p.m., at the Pike County High School, Senior Vice Commander Ron Griffin represented the Post 197 at the Military Commitment Ceremony for Jacob Case entering into the U.S. Marine Corps. Ron Griffin presented Jacob Case the American Legion Military Commitment Certificate of Appreciation and Jacob's parents the American Legion Blue Star Family Certificate of Appreciation. Both photos provided by Liz Fordham.



Left photo: Ron Griffin reading and presenting Military Commitment Certificate of Appreciation to Jacob Case. Marine Corps Recruiter, Griffin Station observing.

Right photo: Jacob Cases' parents, Jacob Case, and Recruiters.

Concord 5K/10K Fun Run/Walk Fundraiser: On 21 October from 8:00 to 10:00 am, Post 197 hosted a 5K/10K Fun Run/Walk Fundraiser in the City of Concord as part of the kick-off the 50th Anniversary of the Concord Jubilee. The weather was perfect. The Pike County Chamber of Commerce, Pike County Times, and Pike County Journal Reporter helped promote this event. Village Photography produced a unique T-shirt incorporating the American Legion, 50th Anniversary Concord Jubilee, and City of Concord logos. The event had a total of 33 local sponsors to include in-kind sponsors. For this fundraiser business logos were added to the Sponsor Board which was displayed during the 2-day Concord Jubilee.

Event sponsors included Patriot (Highest) Level Sponsors: Promo Vision Advertising and Davis Electrical Solutions; Blue Level Sponsors: Barbara Richardson, Concord Manor & Winery, Family Medical & Urgent Care Clinic-Zebulon, Kindrick Law Office, Magnolia Farms Equestrian Center, McLeRoy Realty, Middle Georgia Fleet Services, MM&B Dentistry-Zebulon, ReMax Southern-Griffin, Southern Rivers Energy, The Wood Yard, The Narrow Path Ministries, and in memory of Lawrence and Annette Brock; Red Level Sponsors: A Novel Experience, Marcia Callaway-Ingram-Chief Magistrate, Pike County Chamber of Commerce, Pike Propane, Shears to You, SIA Insurance & Financial Services, Stefan Huckaby, and Village Photography; White Level Sponsors: City of Concord, Hilltop Community, Perkins Towing and Recovery, Pike County Journal Reporter, Pike County Times, Prosperity Real Estate Group, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, United Bank-Zebulon Branch, Van Dyk Mortgage, Venessa Wilkins, and Virginia Terry.

Post 197 honored a record high of thirteen Veterans: Marshall H. Callaway, Jr., Johnathon F. Davis, James Huckaby, Robert L. Huckaby, Timothy J. Odell, Robert E. Oxford, Gerald A. Richardson, Donald R. Rogin, Paul A. Saylor, Glenn Terry, Franklin D. Thrift, Jack Turner, and Milledge Wilkins, Sr. on the back of the event T-shirt. Post 197 event volunteers were AL Bryan Richardson – Event Director, Tim Dukes, Steve Golias, Ben Maxedon, Stefan Huckaby, Bill Weekley and Marcus Weldon; and SAL Bart Brock and Jason Patten.



Left photo provided by Steve Golias: SAL Jason Patten and AL Stefan Huckaby setting up a Run/Walker caution sign.

Right photo provided by Steve Golias: AL Stefan Huckaby, and SAL Bart Brock and Jason Patten setting up a Run/Walk caution sign.

Concord 5K/10K Fun Run/Walk Fundraiser (Cont):



Top left photo provided by Steve Golias: AL Stefan Huckaby and Bryan Richardson setting up a Run/Walker caution sign.

Top right photo provided by Bryan Richardson: The Run/Walk Registration/Refreshment area and start of the 5K and 10K courses.

Bottom photo provided by Bryan Richardson: Run/Walk Fundraiser Sponsor Board

Concord 50th Anniversary Jubilee: On 21 and 22 October for 9:00 am – 5:00 pm each day, Post 197 participated in the 50th Anniversary of the Concord Jubilee with a Legion/Veteran Information Booth and both Bounce Houses. After deducting vender fee and generator fuel, the bounce house donations for both days grossed \$450.54. The volunteers involved with both the information booth and bounce houses located in separate areas of the festival were AL Steve Golias, Stefan Huckaby, Bryan Richardson, Bill Weekley; and ALA Melissa Patten, and SAL Jason Patten. All photos provided by Bryan Richardson except were annotated differently.



Top left photo: Post 197 Information Booth.

Top right photo provided by Steve Golias: AL Ben Maxedon working the crowd for Post membership prospects.

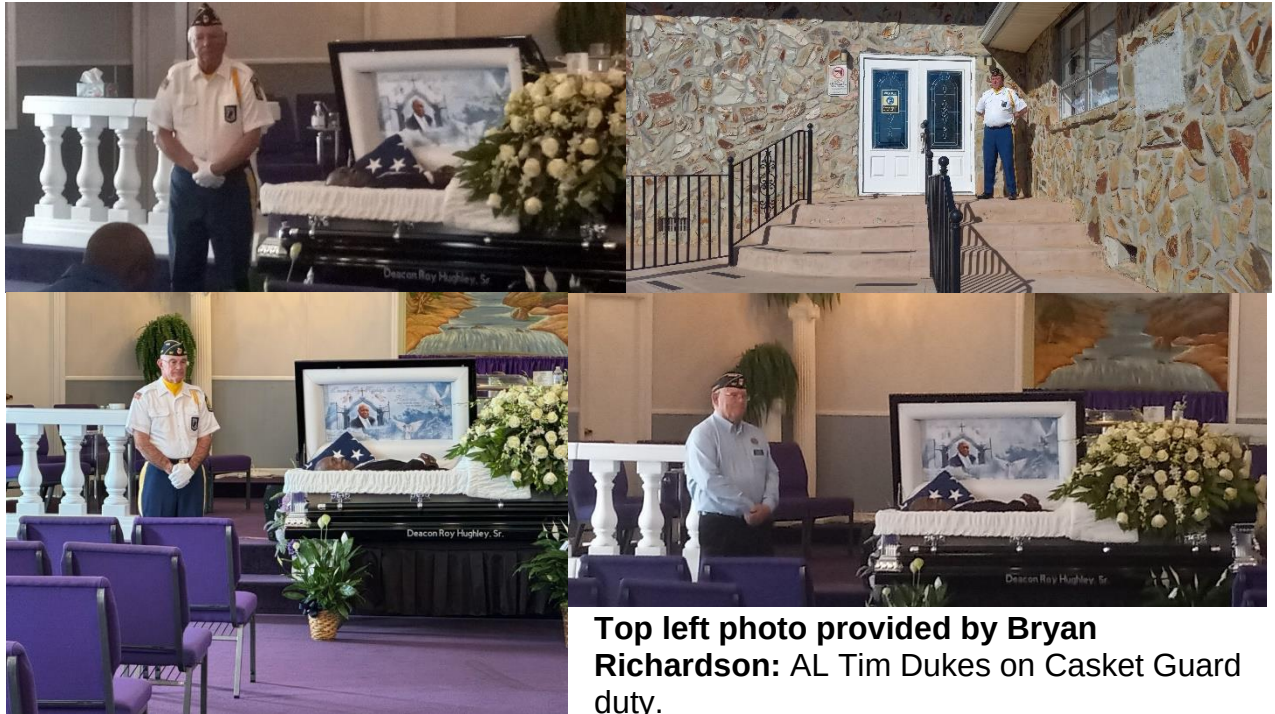


Center left photo from left to right: AL Bill Weekley, Stefan Huckaby, and Steve Golias working the Legion and Veteran Information Booth.



Bottom photo: SAL Jason Patten and ALA Melissa Patten working the Bounce House fundraiser.

Roy Hughley – Family Visitation: On 3 November from 3:00 to 6:00 pm, Post 197 Honor Guard Team provided Casket Guard for Veteran and Post member Roy Hughley. Members of the Honor Guard Team consisted of Tim Dukes, Stefan Huckaby, Ben Maxedon, and Bryan Richardson.



Top left photo provided by Bryan Richardson: AL Tim Dukes on Casket Guard duty.

Top right photo provided by Bryan Richardson: AL Stefan Huckaby on Funeral Home door guard duty.

Bottom left photo provided by Ben Maxedon: AL Bryan Richardson on Casket Guard duty.

Bottom right photo provided by Bryan Richardson: AL Ben Maxedon providing Casket Guard duty.

Roy Hughley – Memorial Service: On 4 November at 1:00 pm, Post 197 Honor Guard Team conducted a Flag Line with the Patriot Guard at the Mt Hope Baptist Church in Zebulon, GA entry. Honor Guard Team members for this event consisted of Cdr Paul Chatterton, Nikki Ellard, Tim Dukes Ron Griffin, Stefan Huckaby, Ben Maxedon, and Bryan Richardson. During the service, the Post Honor Guard Team represented the Legion and Veterans. AL Bryan Richardson read Roy Hughley's military biography. After the service, the Honor Guard honored the Roy Hughley's flag draft casket with a Cordon at the burial service at the Moody-Daniel Memorial Garden, Zebulon, GA. All photos provided by Paul Chatterton.



Top photos: Views of front of Mt Hope Baptist Church with Patriot Guard lead motor cycle and hearse.

Bottom left photo: Honor Guard Team members Stepan Huckaby on the left and Tim Dukes on the right.

Bottom right photo from left to right: Honor Guard Team Members Nikki Ellard, Stefan Huckaby, Tim Dukes, and Ron Griffin.



AL Post 25/VFW Post 6542 Veterans Day Program: On 10 November at 11:00 am Post 197 Jr. Vice Cdr Tim Dukes represented Post 197 as the Veterans Day Guest Speaker for the American Legion Post 25/Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6542 hosted program in Barnesville, GA. Dukes also play Taps on the Post 197 Ceremonial Bugle. All photos provided by Tim Dukes.



Top left photo:

Photo:

AL Tim Dukes prior to the playing of Taps.

Top right photo:

AL Tim Dukes providing the Program guest speaker remarks.



Bottom right photo:

AL Tim Dukes enjoying the rest of the Program.

AL Post 186 Veterans Day Program: On 11 September at the Post 197 hosted Veterans Day Program, Sr. Vice Cdr Ron Griffin represented Post 197 as the Guest Speaker for the Post 186 Veterans Day Service in Greenville, GA. All photos provided by Ron Griffin.



Top left photo:
View of the gathering and the Program.



Top right photo:
Ron Griffin receiving Certificate of Appreciation from the Post 186 Commander on the left and Sr. Vice Cdr on the right.



Bottom Photo: Ron Griffin providing the Program guest speaker remarks.

Pike County Veterans Day Observance Program: On a rainy Saturday, 11 November 2023 commencing at 11:00 am, the Boys Scouts of America Troop 465G provided a Veterans Day program for the Veterans in the Pike County community at the Pike County Community Center. The program recognized and honored America's military Veterans and paid tribute to all deceased Veterans. The theme for this year's program was "What Veteran's Day Means" from representatives of America's Youngest Generation. Scout Marionna Favors and Scout Coordinator Darryll Kipp were the Programs Master of Ceremonies. Millie Smith an 11th grader and Will Busby, a 10th grader both from the Pike County High School were the guest speakers and provided their thoughts on what Veterans Day meant to them. A special ensemble was organized from several of the Pike County school bands. The ensemble played the National Anthem and the Armed Forces Medley. The Armed Force Medley helped introduce and recognize the Veterans in attendance as their branch of service song was played. The ensemble was directed by Dr. Gary Sorrell, Director of the Middle School Band, The Junior Players consisting of Lyla Bishop, Parker Jones, Millie Smith, and Brooklyn Strader sang "Here Comes the Sun", "From Now On", and "America, the Beautiful. The Junior Players are co-directed by Rebekah Hanson and Georgia Hanson Thaxton. Sophia Raynie provided the opening and closing prayers. A wreath was posted by the Troop 465G Color Guard consisting of Scouts Marionna Favors and Sophia Raynie, followed by a Moment of Silence, and the playing of "Taps" by Will Busby. A highlight of the Program was the announcement of the Pike County Veteran of the Year. John Ellis, a Pike County resident since 2004 was selected as this year's Pike County Veteran of the Year. Bryan Richardson introduced John Ellis with a condense version of his nomination request. Chairman Briar Johnson of the Pike County Board of Commissioners, along with Outgoing and Incoming Pike County Veteran of the Year {Program Directors Tood Childs and Bryan Richardson, respectively, and Paul Chatterton, Commander of the Pike County American Legion Post 197 presented the award to John's granddaughters Kelsey Beam and Austin Allred as John could not make it due to medical issues.



Photo provided by Bryan Richardson: View of the program attendees to include the Pike County Schools Veterans Day Ensemble in the back of the room.

Pike County Veterans Day Observance Program (Cont):



Top left photo provided by Tim Dukes: Master of Ceremonies Scout Marionna Favors and Scout Coordinator Darryll Kipp reviewing the Program script.

Top right photo provided by Bryan Richardson: Pike County Junior Players from left to right: Brooklyn Shrader, Millie Smith, Lyla Bishop, and Parker Jones.

Center photo provided by Bryan Richardson: Millie Smith providing Veterans Day remarks.

Bottom photo provided by Bryan Richardson: Preparing for the Veteran of the Year Award Presentation from left to right: Outgoing Pike County Veteran of the Year Program Manager Todd Child, Pike County Board of Commissioners Chairman Briar Johnson, Post 197 Commander Paul Chatterton, and incoming Program Manager Bryan Richardson.

Pike County Veterans Day Observance Program (Cont):



Top left photo provided by Tim Dukes: Will Busby and Millie Smith as Program guest speakers and Maronna Favors as a Program master of ceremonies about to receive an American Legion coin from Cdr Paul Chatterton for their outstanding contributions to the Program.



Top right photo provided by Bryan Richardson: Bryan Richardson observing, Chairman Briar Johnson presenting the Veteran of the Year Award to Kelsey Beam and Austin Allred on behalf of their grandfather Veteran John Ellis who could not be present due to medical reason. Sadly, a member of Post 197, John Ellis passed away three days later.

the Year Award to Kelsey Beam and Austin Allred on behalf of their grandfather Veteran John Ellis who could not be present due to medical reason. Sadly, a member of Post 197, John Ellis passed away three days later.

Bottom photo provided by Rebekah Hanson: Pike County Junior Player attendees from left to right: Georgia Hanson Thaxton - Co Director, Lyla Bishop - Program singer, Brooklyn Strader Jones - Program singer, AL Bryan Richardson, AL Cdr Paul Chatterton, Millie Smith - Program singer, Parker Jones - Program singer, Fresnelle Petga - Tech Team member, and Rebekah Hanson - Director.

Pike County Memorial Hall of Heroes Induction Ceremony: On Saturday, 2 December 2023 at 1:00 pm at the Zebulon Fire Station and City Hall, Georgia; the Pike County American Legion Post 197 hosted the 2023 Pike County Memorial Hall of Heroes Induction Ceremony, Rededication Ceremony, and Name Changing Ceremony. The City of Zebulon rededicated their City Hall to house the Pike County Memorial Hall of Heroes, the new facility name officially changed from the Pike County Memorial Annex to the Pike County Memorial Hall of Heroes. All the ceremonies were conducted in the Fire Station. The ceremonies concluded with the official grand opening of the Memorial Hall. Pike County inducted and honored Marine Private Lee R. Todd, WWI, Killed in Action; Army Technician Fifth Grade Grier H. Blankenship, WWII, Killed in Action; Army Private First Class Martin Eppinger, Korean War, Killed in Action; and Atlanta Police Department Investigator Sherry E. Lyons-Williams, Killed in the Line of Duty. All inductees have resided in Pike County. Lyons-Williams was the first female inducted into the Hall of Heroes. Highlights of the Program included a POW/MIA tribute, brief history of the Memorial Annex and cumulative facts on the inducted members, introduction and biography readings of the four inductees and the unveiling of each inductee's shadow box which are now permanently mounted in the Memorial Hall for the public to view, the posting of a memorial wreath, and the playing of "Amazing Grace", "Last Call/Federal Call" and "Taps" in honor of the four inductees. The Memorial Annex Class of 2023 joined 37 other previous inductees. Interesting statistics and highlights of the 41 inductees were provided to ensure the community never forgets those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. There was a reception at the City Hall that followed the ceremonies.



Left photo provided by Jeff Sheriff: Master bagpiper Dave Gillespie proving pre-program bag pipe music as the Multi-Organizational Color Guard rehearses.

Center photo provided by J. Sheriff: View of the program attendees during the Program introduction.

Right photo provided by J. Sheriff: Another view of the program attendees during the Posting of the Memorial Wreath.

Pike County Memorial Hall of Heroes Induction Ceremony (Cont): .



Top left photo provided by Rachel McDaniel: Chaplain Ben Maxedon offering the opening prayer.
Top right photo provided by J. Sheriff: Multi-

organizational Color Guard posting the Colors. Color Guard members from left to right are PC Sheriff's Office Deputy Michael Fox, Zebulon Police Department Corporal Mike Bailey, PC Sheriff's Office, Deputy Samantha Minut, Atlanta Police Department Senior Patrol Officer Keech Boyd, and Post 197 Tim Dukes. Program Director and Master of Ceremonies Bryan Richardson in the foreground.

Center left photo taken by J. Sheriff: Post 197 Honor Guard Ron Griffin posting the POW/MIA flag following Cdr Chatterton's reading of the POW/MIA (center person). B. Richardson is to the left of Cdr Chatterton.

Center right photo taken by R. McDaniel: AL Ron Griffin reading the military biography of WWI Private Lee Roy Todd.

Bottom left photo taken by J. Sheriff: Post 197 Marcus Weldon reading the military biography of WWII Grier Blankenship.

Bottom right photo taken by R. McDaniel: Deputy Michael Fox reading the biography of Investigator Sherry Lyons-Williams.



**Pike
County
Memorial
Hall of
Heroes**

**Induction
Ceremony
(Cont):
Top left photo
provided by
R. McDaniel:
Posting of the
wreath by
Deputy Fox
representing
law
enforcement
and Cdr
Chatterton**

representing the military.

Top right photo provided by R. McDaniel: D. Gillespie playing “Amazing Grace”.

Center left photo provided by R. McDaniel: AL Tim Dukes playing Taps following “Last Call/Federal Call.

Center left photo provided by R. McDaniel: Unveiling of the City of Zebulon Dedication Plaque during the Rededication Ceremony. From left to right: Cdr Chatterton, City of Zebulon Mayor Joe Walters, and B Richardson.

Pike County Memorial Hall of Heroes Induction Ceremony (Cont):

All photos on this page provided by R. McDaniel .



Top left photo: Vincent Williams holding shadow box of his late spouse Sherry Lyons-Williams.

Top right photo: AL Bill Weekley and Nikki Ellard manning the refreshment tables during the reception.

Center two photos: Views of the left and right sides of the Memorial Hall.

Bottom photo: View of the Memorial Hall entrance with the new sign.

Angel Ministries' Angel Tree Benefit: On 15 and 16 December 2023 from 2:00 to 7:00 pm and 10:00 am to 5:00 pm respectively, Post 197 helped support Angel Ministries (AM) in their Angel Tree Christmas Benefit for needy children and their families at the Post facility. The Post offered their facility on 15 December for toy drop-off, off-load, and set-up. This is a program where AM works with other organizations such as Toys for Tots collecting their gifts for issue to families in need. As organizations are collecting toys and gifts throughout the local communities, AM works on identifying children and matching the collected toys to their "wish list". AM does an awesome job doing this. This year, approximately 245 bags of toys and 6 bikes were collected for 117 children. On 16 December, the families arrived to the Post. While the parents pick up their child's designated bag of toys, Post 197 along with Santa and Mrs. Claus entertained the children. Post 197 provided an indoor bounce house and Santa and Mrs. Claus provided photo opportunities. Post 197 also provided refreshments for parents and children. Volunteers from Post 197 for the two days were Cdr Paul Chatterton, Nikki Ellard, Stefan Huckaby, and Bryan Richardson; ALA Melissa Patten and SAL Jason Patten. All photo provided by Bryan Richardson.



Photo: From left to right - 1st Row Robby and Toletta Kendrick as Santa and Mrs. Claus. 2nd Row: Amy White, ALA Melissa Patten AL Nikki Ellard, and SAL Jason Patten. Top row: Felicia Lupton, Paul Chatterton, AL Bryan Richardson, AL Bill Weekley, AL Stefan Huckaby.

Angel Ministries' Angel Tree Benefit (Cont):



Top photo from left to right: ALA Melissa Patten, AL Cdr Chatterton, AL Nikki Ellard, AL Bill Weekley, and SAL Jason Patten.

Center Photo: Bounce house set up in the Post for kid entertainment.

Bottom Photo: Last three on the right are Amy White, Toletta and Robby Kindrick.

Sergeant Marc McIntyre Funeral: On 5 January, Post 197 Cdr and Honor Guard Team attempted to honor Spalding County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Marc McIntyre killed in the line of duty and US Army Veteran at the 1300 Memorial Service at the First Assembly of God Church in Griffin, GA. Out of the team consisting of Cdr Paul Chatterton, Tim Dukes and his wife Myrna, Ron Griffin, Stefan Huckaby, SAL Jason Patten, and Bryan Richardson; only Tim and Myrna Dukes, and Jason Patten were able to beat the 30 minute Law Enforcement motorcade, view the activities around the church and attend the Memorial Service. Chatterton, Griffin, Huckaby and Richardson were able to observe the last 15 minutes of the motorcade and several returning motorcade units. Due to traffic and congestion at the Church, the four never made it to the Memorial Service.



All photos below are provided by Tim Dukes.

Top Photos: Scenes of law enforcement units outside the Church.



Center left photo: AL Tim and wife Myrna inside the Church.

Center middle and right photos: Scenes within the Church.



Bottom photos: Scenes inside the church.

Post 197 WWII and Korea War Members Celebrate 99th /93rd Birthdays: On 8 January 2023 at 1:00 pm, the Pike County American Legion Post 197 along with staff and residents of Pike Manor helped celebrate Robert Walther's 99th and James Cook's 93rd birthdays. "Mr. Robert" as he is called, is a member of the Greatest Generation, WWII veteran, and Post 197 member residing at Pike Manor who does not have a family. James Cook is a Korean War veteran, and also a member of Post 197. As the residents were just finishing lunch, Legion family members from Post 197 made a visit to the Pike Manor dining room where they honored Robert Walther and James Cook's birthdays with personalized patriotic chocolate cookie-pies, read and presented them with a special Post 197 birthday card, and sang Happy Birthday. The residents were able to partake in the singing and the enjoyment of the birthday pies along with ice cream. Participating in the celebration from Post 197 were Commander Paul Chatterton, AL Nikki Ellard, AL Stefan Huckaby, SAL Jason Patten, ALA Melissa Patten, AL Bryan Richardson, AL Jeff Sheriff, and AL Bill Weekley. All photos provided by Jeff Sheriff.



Top left photo: Cdr Chatterton reading the two birthday cards to Robert Walther bottom left of photo and James Cook center left. Mr. Robert at 99 years old is the oldest resident at Pike Manor. In background Post Honor Guard Team members Stefan Huckaby on the left and Bryan Richardson on the right with birthday cookie to be presented.

Top right photo: Cdr Chatterton presenting Mr. Robert his birthday card.

Bottom photo from left to right: B. Richardson, R. Walther, J. Cook, AL B. Weekley in background, and S. Huckaby

Post 197 WWII and Korea War Members Celebrate 99th /93rd Birthdays (Cont):



Top photo: Pike Manor Staff with Robert Walther and James Cook.



Center photo: Post 197 members (from left to right) Nikki Ellard, Bill Weekley, Jeff Sheriff, Cdr Paul Chatterton, Bryan Richardson, and Stefan Huckaby. In the foreground is Robert Walther and James Cook.

Pike County Historical Society Newspaper Book Movement Detail: On 12 January, starting around 1230 on a rainy day, Post 197 supported the Pike County Historical Society in transporting newspaper books from the Barnesville Herald Gazette office to the Historical Society's facility. Legion Family Volunteers were Cdr Paul Chatterton, AL Stefan Huckaby, SAL Jason Patten, ALA Melissa Patten, AL Bryan Richardson, and AL Bill Weekley. Photo by Jeff Sheriff.



Bottom Photo: (From left to right) Back row: Cdr Paul Chatterton, AL Jeff Sheriff, and AL Stefan Huckaby. Front row: SAL Jason Patten and ALA Melissa Patten.

Veteran John Vaughn Memorial Service: On 20 January at 2:00 pm, Honor Guard Team represented Post 197 at Marine Veteran Lance Corporal John Vaughn's Memorial Service at Burden's Funeral Home in Griffin, GA. Honor Guard Team consisting of Tim Dukes, Stefan Huckaby and Bryan Richardson represented Post 197. The Marine Corps Honor Guard from Dobbins Air Base provided military honors. AL B. Richardson provided Vaughn's military biography.



Top left photo provided by Bryan Richardson: Vaughn's memorial items.

Top right photo provided by B. Richardson: (From front to back) B. Richardson, T. Dukes, and S. Huckaby.

Bottom photo provided by Tim Dukes: (From left to right) B. Richardson, S. Huckaby, and T. Dukes.

Patten Shed Project: On 2, 5, 6, 9, 15, and 22 Feb, Post 197 disassembled a condemned wood utility shed and erected a metal shed for the Pattens (deceased Veteran's family). On day 1, AL Tim Dukes along with SAL Jason Patten tore down the old wood shed and staked the debris for transport to the dump. On day 2, AL Bryan Richardson project lead along with Post members Ron Griffin, Stefan Huckaby, Jeff Sheriff and Bill Weekley, and SAL Jason Patten installed the base and walls. On day 3, T. Dukes, R. Griffin, S. Huckaby, B. Richardson, J. Sheriff, and J. Pattens began installation of the roof. On day 4, S. Huckaby, B. Richardson, J. Sheriff finished the installation of the roof. On day 5, S. Huckaby, B. Richardson, and J. Patten installed the doors and hardware, and conducted a final inspection and fixes. On day 6, B. Richardson and J. Patten added a concrete ramp so that the rider mower would not crush the sill.



Top left photo provided by Jason Patten:

Original wood shed that was demolished on Day 1 and removed to the dump on Day 2.



Top right photo provided by Tim Dukes:

SAL Jason Patten and AL Tim Dukes cleaning up what's left of the old shed.



Center left photo provided by Jeff Sheriff:

(From left to right) SAL

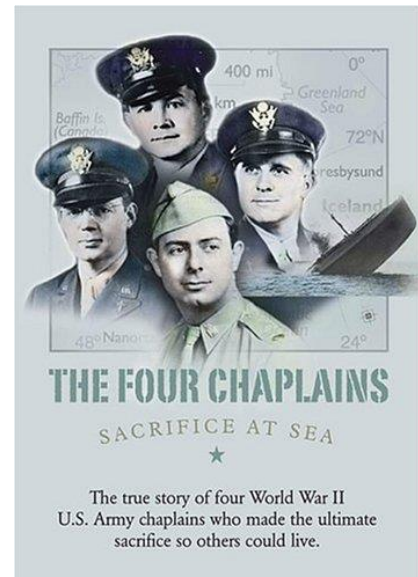
Jason Patten, AL Bryan Richardson (knelling), AL Ron Griffin, AL Stefan Huckaby, and AL Tim Dukes assembling the new metal shed walls on Day 2.

Center right photo provided by Bryan Richardson: Completed shed on day 5 with AL B. Richardson, AL S. Huckaby, and SAL J. Patten.

Bottom left photo provided by B. Richardson: Completed shed on Day 5.

Bottom right photo provided by B. Richardson: Shed with the addition of a concrete ramp over the sill on Day 6.

Four Chaplain's Program: On 4 February 2024, commencing at 2:00 pm, Post 197 hosted the Four Chaplains Observance Day Program for Pike County and the surrounding community. One of the major programs that the Pike County American Legion Post 197 conducts every year is the Four Chaplains Program which honors the four Army Chaplains of different faiths who gave the ultimate sacrifice in aiding and comforting fellow shipmates during the German sinking of the United States Army Transport Dorchester during WWII. This is an important historical event in our nation's history. This program honors the selfless sacrifices of these four Chaplains as well as provides an example of man's love for God. It also helps educate the community with the stories of these four chaplains. The four Army Chaplains honored are Reverend George Fox, Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling, and Father John Washington. This year's Program was updated with personalized accounts and increased visual effects. It was held at 2:00 pm at the Mount Gilead Baptist Church. Legionnaire and a Chaplain Ben Maxedon planned and directed the Program.



Program participants consisted of Ben Maxedon providing the Welcome, Service Introduction, Summation, and Closing remarks; Legionnaire/Reverend Ron Griffin offering the Invocation; Olivia White singing and Kasey Hawkins playing the piano to the music of "America, The Beautiful", "National Anthem", "My Country Tis of Thee", "How Great Thou Art", and "Amazing Grace"; the Posting of the Colors by Honor Guard Team members Tim Dukes, Ron Griffin, Stefan Huckaby, Jason Patten, and Bryan Richardson; Legionnaire Talana Smith reading the POW/MIA Recognition; Legionnaire Stefan Huckaby reading Captain Danielson's story; Legionnaire Ted Gusting reading Captain Krecker and Father Washington's stories, Legionnaire Tim Dukes reading Reverend Fox's story; Legionnaire Bryan Richardson reading Rabbi Goode's story and offering the Benediction; and the Honor Guard Team consisting R. Griffin, S. Huckaby, and B. Richardson posting the Memorial Wreath and T. Dukes playing "Taps". Orchestrating the multitude of slides was Senior Pastor Fred Thompson of the Mt Gilead Baptist Church. All photos provided by Carol Griffin.

Photo: Program participants from left to right: Oliva White, Kasey Hawkins, AL Telana Smith, AL Bryan Richardson, SAL Jason Patten, AL Tim Dukes, AL Stefan Huckaby, AL Ron Griffin, AL Ted Gustin, and AL Ben Maxedon.

Four Chaplain's Program (Cont):



Top left photo: Post 197 Honor Guard (Stefan Huckaby, Bryan Richardson, Tim Dukes, and SAL Jason Patten posting the colors.

Top center photo: Oliva White singing and Kalsey Hawkins playing the piano.

Top right photo: Honor Guard Team member Ron Griffin posting the POW/MIA flag with the rest of the colors.

Bottom left photo: AL Stefan Huckaby reading Captain Danielsen's story.

Bottom right photo: Tim Dukes reading Chaplain Reverend Fox's story.

Four Chaplain's Program (Cont):



Top left photo:
AL Bryan
Richardson
reading the Story
of Chaplain Rabbi
Goode.



Top right photo:
AL Ron Griffin
reading the Story
of Chaplain
Reverend Poling.



**Bottom left
photo:** AL Ted
Gustin reading the
Story of Chaplain
Father
Washington



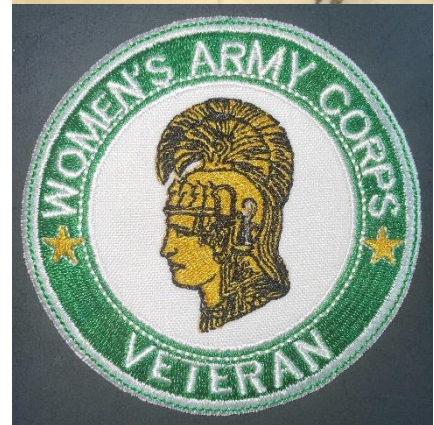
**Bottom right
photo:** AL Ben
Maxedon
providing the
Program
Summation.

Estelle Collins 102nd Birthday Celebration: On 28 February 2024 at the Brightmoor Nursing Home, Post 197 initiated and co-hosted a birthday celebration for 102 year old Legionnaire and Post member Estelle Collins. Estelle is a WWII and Korean War Women's Army Corps Veteran. The birthday celebration included Post 197 and Squadron 197 Honor Guard Team members, and American Legion Auxiliary representation, as well as Estelle Collins's daughter, Marcia Collins; cousin Glenn Giddings, caretaker Deb Toney and her daughter Mary Warner; friends Pat English, Jan Hariss Joyce Banister, Linda Holder, and Pat Reeves; and Brightmoor staff and caregivers.

Top right photo provided by Marcia Collins: Estelle Collins on active duty in the Women's Army Corp.

Center left photo: Women's Army Corps Veteran's patch.

Bottom photo provided by Myrna Dukes: Legion Family Honor Guard Team members (from left to right) SAL Squadron 197 Jason Patten, Post 197 Stefan Huckaby, ALA Melissa Patten, Post 197 Tim Dukes, Post member Estelle Collins, and Post 197 Bryan Richardson.



Estelle Collins 102nd Birthday Celebration (Cont):



Top left photo provided by B. Richardson:
Estelle Collin's cupcake birthday cake.

Top right photo provided by Myrna Dukes:
Post 197 Historian/Finance Officer presenting Estelle with a Post 197 Birthday Card.

Center left photo provided by B. Richardson: Marcia Collins with mother Estelle.

Bottom left photo provided by M. Dukes:
(From left to right) Estelle Collins, Estelle's caretaker Deb Toney, B. Richardson, and Marcia Collins

Williamson Wisteria Festival: On 5 April, Post 197 set up a Veteran/Legion information and voter registration booth, and inflatables for fundraising at the Williamson Wisteria Festival. From around 1:00 to 7:00 pm, Post 197 manned the booth and bounce houses. On 6 April, the second day, Post 197 continued manning the booth and bounce houses from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Over the course of the two days, Volunteers were AL members Tim Dukes, Nikki Ellard, Steve Golias, Stefan Huckaby, Bryan Richardson, and Bill Weekley, and SAL member Jason Patton and ALA Melissa Patten. Three new members were acquired, three new voters registered, and a total net gain from the fundraiser was \$265.25.



Top left



photo provided by Bryan Richardson:

View of the Veteran/Legion/Voter Registration Booth with one of two

bounce houses in the background. Jason Patton shown in the booth and Steve Golias as the end of the bounce house slide.



Top right photo provided by Steve Golias: AL Bill Weekly and Nikki Ellard manning the bounce houses.

Center left photo provided by B. Richardson: AL Steve Golias manning the slide and small bounce house.

Bottom photo provided by S. Golias: AL Bill Weekly conversing with AL Post member Dave Porter.

Williamson Wisteria Festival (Cont):

All photos on this page provided by AL Tim Dukes.



Top left photo: AL Steve Golias assisting kids getting up the entrance ramp.

Top right photo: SAL Jason Patten and ALA Melissa Patten



Bottom left photo: Myrna Dukes wife of AL member Tim Dukes, AL Bryan Richardson, and AL Stefan Huckaby manning the booth.

Bottom right photo: AL Tim Dukes supervising one of the bounce houses.

Chapter 7

Post Awards and Citations Received

No awards were presented to Post 197 during the 2023-2024 reporting year.

Chapter 8

Post Awards and Citations Presented

On 7 September at 7:00 pm, Post 197 conducted its annual Award Ceremony.
Receiving Post 197 awards were:

- Legionnaire of the Year - Steve Golias
- Volunteer of the Year - Bryan Richardson – 486.0 hours
- Legion Family of the Year - Patten Family (Melissa ALA and Jason SAL)
- Core Volunteer Awards (for over 100 volunteer hours)
 - Stefan Huckaby - 297.7 hours
 - Steve Golias - 257.7 hours
 - Bill Weekley - 153.9 hours
 - Tim Dukes - 113.1 hours
- Continuous Membership Awards
 - 5 year - Garrett Pourron
 - 10 year - William H. Walker
 - 15 Year - Albert R. Martin
 - 15 Year - Harold E. Sawyer
 - 30 Year - William L. Huckaby
- Spouse Support Awards
 - Autumn Chatterton
 - Carrol Griffin
 - Dawn Golias
 - Kathy Richardson
 - Myrna Dukes
- Special Post 197/Community Awards
 - Freshway Markets
 - Post 197 Legionnaire Darryll Kipp
 - Boys Scouts of American Troop 465G

On 7 and 13 May, Post 197 presented Elijah Mobley and Timothy Lane with the
American Legion Eagle Scout Good Citizenship Certificates

At the 11 October 2023 Pike County First Responder of the Year Awards Ceremony,
Post 197 presented the

- Pike County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Plaque to
Deputy William Walker of the Pike County Sheriff's Office.

Pike County Firefighter of the Year Plaque to Assistant Fire Chief George
Lane of the Meansville Volunteer Fire Department

On 20 October 2023 post 197 present the American Legion Military Commitment
Certificate of Appreciation to Jacob Case the American Legion Blue Star Family
And Certificate of Appreciation to the Case Family.

At the 11 November 2023 Pike County Veterans Observance Day Program, Post 197
presented the Pike County Veteran of the Year Plaque to the family of John Ellis

Major Post Awardees since 2009

Year	Legionnaire of the Year	Legion Family of the Year
2009-10	Billy J. Payton	
2010-11	Benjamin R Maxedon	
2011-12	Daniel A. Kiser	
2012-13	Stefan R. Huckaby	
2013-14	Peggi J. Payton	
2014-15	Bryan D. Richardson	Payton Family (First awarded)
2015-16	Robert L. Huckaby	Dials Family
2016-17	Paul Harris	Jeffreys Family
2017-18	Steven T. Yerkes	Dayhuff Family
2018-19	Steven T. Yerkes	Payton Family
2019-20	Dennis D. Tea	Harmon Family
2020-21	Paul R. Chatterton	Patten Family
	Jeffery A. Sheriff	
2021-22	Bryan D. Richardson	Patten Family
2022-23	Stephen A. Golias	Patten Family

Year	Volunteer of the Year	Runner-up	Honorable Mention
2019-2021	Stefan Huckaby	Jeff Sheriff	Dennis D. Tea Melissa Payton Peggi Payton Willa Payton
2020-2021	Stefan Huckaby	Stephen Golias Jeffrey Sheriff	Paul Chatterton Matt Germain Melissa Patten Jason Patten
2021-2022	Bryan Richardson	Stefan Huckaby Stephen Golias Jeffrey Sheriff	Timothy H. Dukes Matt Germain Ronald Griffin Theodore A. Gustin Darryll Kipp Benjamin R. Maxedon Jason Patten Melissa Patten Brenda Runyon Talena Smith Dennis D. Tea William Weekley

Year	Volunteer of the Year	Core Volunteers
2022-2023	Bryan Richardson	Stefan Huckaby Steve Golias Bill Weekley Tim Dukes

Pike County Veteran of the Year Award

Year	Veteran
2007	Matthew Westbrook
2008	
2009	
2010	Gerald D. Spinks
2011	
2012	
2013	
2014	
2015	
2016	
2017	
2018	Steven Yerkes
2019	Bryan D. Richardson
2020	Benjamin R. Maxedon
2021	Kyle Beck
2022	Shane Moore
2023*	John R. Ellis

Douglas E. Jones (Still researching year)

*First year, Post 197 managed the Pike County Veteran of the Year Program/Award

In addition to the above, throughout the year 1 May 2023 to 30 April 2024, the Commander and Event Directors awarded 3 American Legion Coins, 2 Post 197 Certificates and 190 Letters of Appreciation for community service, volunteerism, donations, and sponsorship.

Chapter 9

Post Roster of Members: May 2023-April 2024

At the start of the history year, 1 May 2023, the post membership was 104 members. Between 1 May 2023 and 30 April 2024, the post lost 9 members of which 6 who passed away and 3 dropped off the rolls. During this time period, the Post gained 16 members which included new members and transfers. By the end of the history year, 30 April 2023, the post membership was at 111.

Name	Member	New Member	Deceased Member	Dropped Member
Ammon, Lawrence	1			
Ammon, Laurie	1			
Anderson, Alexander		1		
Andrews, George H.	1			
Atchinson, Robert M.	1			
Beal, Christian		1		
Bell, Ewell T.	1			
Bond, Daniel S.	1			
Boronkas, Edward A.	1			
Brooks, Alecia	1			
Brown, Richard D.	1			
Bruce, Samuel	1			
Brue, Daniel				1
Brunson, Jordan	1			
Bryan, Damian	1			
Callaway, Brian T.	1			
Caraway, Fred O.	1			
Carlyle, Parish	1			
Carter, Pete	1			
Chancey, Hulon	1			
Chatterton, Paul R.	1			
Childree, John	1			
Clark, Brian	1			
Collins, Estelle	1			
Cook, James	1			
Cox, Ray	1			
Dart, Charlie				1
Davis Alfred	1			
Davis, Kenneth	1			
Doyle, James		1		
Doyle, Marlana		1		
Dukes, Timothy H.	1			
Dykes, James	1			
	27	4	0	2

Name	Member	New Member	Deceased Member	Dropped Member
Eagle, Kenneth		1		
Ellard, Nikki	1			
Ellis, John R.			1	
Fallin, Hausley	1			
Farr, Harry E.	1			
Gaulding, James R.	1			
Germain, Wayne L.	1			
Golias, Stephen A.	1			
Griffin, Ronald	1			
Guevara-Rios, Cynthia	1			
Gustin, Theodore	1			
Hammock, Merrill G.	1			
Hammond, Doug	1			
Hansen, Jonathan	1			
Harris, Paul	1			
Hicks, Michael S.	1			
Huckaby, Stefan R.	1			
Huckaby, William L. Jr	1			
Hughley, Roy			1	
Ivey, Anthony	1			
Johnson, Gail		1		
Kelly, Danielle		1		
Kelly, Patrick		1		
Kipp, Darryll	1			
Kolb, Robert			1	
Kulwici, Steven	1			
Kuprian, Michael	1			
Lee, Jacob	1			
Lewis, Valerie		1		
Loving, Eric	1			
Lowery, Julian	1			
Manley, Jeremiah				1
Marshburn, Donald K.	1			
Martin, Albert R.	1			
	23	5	3	1

Name	Member	New Member	Deceased Member	Dropped Member
Maxedon, Benjamin R.	1			
Maxwell, Walter, J.	1			
McClanahan, Billy L.	1			
McClelland, Charles W.	1			
Moen, Richard		1		
Mulkey, Paul D.		1		
Noble, Kenneth C.	1			
Payton, Peggi J.	1			
Pearson, Larry D.	1			
Pietrefesa, Pasquale L.	1			
Pitts, Jimmy	1			
Pope, James	1			
Porter, John D.	1			
Pourron, Garrett	1			
Rarrick, A. Woody	1			
Ray, Kenneth E.	1			
Rhodes, Laurah	1			
Rhodes, Samuel	1			
Richard, Michael	1			
Richardson, Bryan D.	1			
Richardson, George	1			
Riley, Kenneth E. II	1			
Sawyer, Harold E.	1			
Schubert, Mark		1		
Scott George L.			1	
Segraves, Darryl B.	1			
Shebelski, Michael		1		
Sheriff, Jeffrey A.	1			
Sherliza, Robert	1			
Singletary, Paul W.	1			
Singletary, Terry L.		1		
Smallwood, Barry		1		
Smith, Billy			1	
Smith, Talena	1			
Spradley, Jimmy	1			
Story, Charles M Sr	1			
	28	6	2	0

Name	Member	New Member	Deceased Member	Dropped Member
Tallant, Lewis W. Jr	1			
Tea, Christopher	1			
Tea, Dennis D.	1			
Tyler, Sean		1		
Valencia, Frank	1			
Walker, William B	1			
Walker, William H	1			
Walther, Robert	1			
Watson, James	1			
Watts, James A.	1			
Weekley, William	1			
Weldon, David E.	1			
Weldon Marcus	1			
Westbrook, Matthew	1			
Williams, Harold C. III	1			
<i>Williams, Ralph C.</i>			1	
Willis, Micheal, Jr	1			
Wilson, Brian	1			
Wilson, James E.	1			
	17	1	1	0
Totals	95	16	6	3
Total Members	111		Dropped	9

Chapter 10

Officers, Appointees to Outside Post American Legion Activities: May 2023-April 2024

Paul R. Chatterton appointed as Department of Georgia, 4th District Judge Advocate.

Chapter 11

Past Post Officers: 2008-2024

Below is a roster of past Post officers by year since the Post's established charter.

	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Commander	Donald L. Bailey, Jr.	Donald L. Bailey, Jr.	Donald L. Bailey, Jr.
Adjutant	Donald L. Bailey, Jr.	Donald L. Bailey, Jr.	Donald L. Bailey, Jr.
Finance Officer	Bill J. Payton, Sr.	Bryan D. Richardson	Bryan D. Richardson
Senior Vice	Paul Faulds	Paul Faulds	Billy J. Payton, Sr.
Junior Vice	Robert E. Adams, Jr.	Billy J. Payton, Sr.	Benjamin R. Maxedon
Junior Vice			
Judge Advocate	Thomas H. Morton	Thomas H. Morton	Thomas H. Morton
Chaplain	Paul Faulds	Paul Faulds	Benjamin R. Maxedon
Service Officer	Robert E. Adams, Jr.	Billy J. Payton, Sr.	Billy J. Payton, Sr.
Historian	Douglas T. Rounds	Douglas T. Rounds	Glenn R. Abbott
Sargent at Arms	Bobbie Colquitt	Robert L. Huckaby	Robert L. Huckaby
Executive Council Members	Howard Rawlins Gerald D. Spinks Bryan D. Richardson	Howard Rawlins Gerald D. Spinks	Howard Rawlins Gerald D. Spinks
	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Commander	Billy J. Payton, Sr.	Billy J. Payton, Sr.	Billy J. Payton, Sr.
Adjutant	Donald L. Bailey, Jr.	James M. Totten	William B. Walker
Finance Officer	Donald L. Bailey, Jr.	William B. Walker	James M. Totten/ William B. Walker
Senior Vice	Benjamin R. Maxedon	Daniel A. Kiser	Stefan Huckaby
Junior Vice	Les Bragg	Paul Harris	William C. Dials, II
Junior Vice		Stefan Huckaby	Wayne L. Germain
Judge Advocate	Thomas H. Morton	Robert E. Adams, Jr.	Daniel A. Kiser
Chaplain	Benjamin R. Maxedon	Benjamin R. Maxedon	Benjamin R. Maxedon
Service Officer	Billy J. Payton, Sr.	Lawrence E. Brock	Paul Faulds/ Lawrence E. Brock
Historian	Glenn R. Abbott	Donald L. Bailey, Jr.	Glenn R. Abbott/ Bryan D. Richardson
Sargent at Arms	Robert L. Huckaby	Robert L. Huckaby	Robert L. Huckaby
Executive Committee Members	None	None	None

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Commander	Billy J. Payton, Sr.	Bryan D. Richardson	Bryan D. Richardson
Adjutant	Stefan R. Huckaby	Billy J. Payton, Sr.	Billy J. Payton, Sr.
Finance Officer	William B. Walker	Stefan R. Huckaby	William B. Walker
Senior Vice	Wayne L. Germain	Wayne L. Germain	Wayne L. Germain
Junior Vice	William C. Dials, II	William B. Walker	Stefan Huckaby
Junior Vice	Russel Wilson	Curtis Booth	Steven T. Yerkes
Judge Advocate	Robert E. Adams, Jr. Bryan D. Richardson	Billy J. Payton, Sr.	Paul Faulds
Chaplain	Paul Harris	Paul Harris	Paul Harris
Service Officer	James M. Totten	James M. Totten	James M. Totten
Historian	Bryan D. Richardson	Bryan D. Richardson/ Peggi Payton	Peggi Payton
Sargent at Arms	Robert L. Huckaby	Robert L. Huckaby	Robert L. Huckaby
Executive Committee Members	None	None	Benjamin R. Maxedon
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Commander	Bryan D. Richardson	Joseph R. Harmon	Bryan D. Richardson
Adjutant	Steven T. Yerkes	Steven T. Yerkes	Dennis D. Tea
Finance Officer	Peggi J. Payton	Peggi J. Payton	Peggi J. Payton
Senior Vice	William B. Walker	William B. Walker	William B. Walker
Junior Vice	Stefan R. Huckaby	Stefan R. Huckaby	Paul R. Chatterton
Junior Vice	Matthew Westbrook	Howard D. Jeffreys	Stephen A. Golias
Judge Advocate	Billy J. Payton, Sr.	Billy J. Payton, Sr.	Vacant
Chaplain	Paul Harris	Paul Faulds	Darryl B. Segraves/Billy J. Payton, Sr.
Service Officer	James M. Totten	Dennis D. Tea	Dennis D. Tea
Historian	Bryan D. Richardson	Bryan D. Richardson	Bryan D. Richardson
Sargent at Arms	Robert L. Huckaby	Stefan R. Huckaby	Stefan R. Huckaby
Executive Committee Members	Billy J. Payton, Sr. Wayne L. Germain Paul Faulds	Billy J. Payton, Sr. Wayne L. Germain Paul Faulds	Billy J. Payton, Sr. Wayne L. Germain Steven T. Yerkes

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Commander	Bryan D. Richardson	Paul R. Chatterton	Paul R. Chatterton
Adjutant	Dennis D. Tea	Steven A. Golias	Stephen A. Golias
Finance Officer	Peggi J. Payton	Bryan D. Richardson	Bryan D. Richardson
Senior Vice	William B. Walker/Vacant	Samuel M. Rhodes / Laurah A. Rhodes / Samuel M. Rhodes	Damian Bryan
Junior Vice	Paul R. Chatterton	Jeffery A. Sheriff	George M. Richardson
Junior Vice	Stephen A. Golias	Howard J. Jeffreys / Vacant	Ronnie Griffin
Judge Advocate	Vacant	Vacant / Dennis D. Tea	Benjamin R. Maxedon
Chaplain	Darryl B. Segraves & Billy J. Payton, Sr.	Vacant / Theodore A. Gustin	Theodore A. Gustin
Service Officer	Dennis D. Tea	Paul R. Chatterton	Paul R. Chatterton
Historian	Bryan D. Richardson	Bryan D. Richardson	Bryan D. Richardson
Sargent at Arms	Stefan R. Huckaby	Stefan R. Huckaby	Stefan R. Huckaby
Executive Committee Members	Billy J. Payton, Sr. Wayne L. Germain Steven T. Yerkes	Wayne L. Germain / Timothy H. Dukes Stefan R. Huckaby Laurah Rhodes / Benjamin R. Maxedon	Timothy H. Dukes Stefan R. Huckaby Benjamin R. Maxedon
	2023-2024		
Commander	Paul R. Chatterton		
Adjutant	Stephen A. Golias		
Finance Officer	Bryan D. Richardson		
Senior Vice	Ronnie Griffin Vacant		
Junior Vice	Nikki Ellard		
Junior Vice	Marcus E. Weldon		
Judge Advocate	Ronnie Griffin Bryan D. Richardson		
Chaplain	Theodore A. Gustin Benjamin R. Maxedon Vacant		
Service Officer	Paul R. Chatterton		
Historian	Bryan D. Richardson		
Sargent at Arms	Stefan R. Huckaby		
Executive Committee Members	Timothy H. Dukes William Weekley Benjamin R. Maxedon Jeffrey A. Sheriff		

Chapter 12

Newspaper Articles: 1 May 2023 – 30 April 2024

Newspaper Articles			
PCJR - Pike County Journal Reporter, PCT - Pike County Times Online, GDN - Griffin Daily News			
News paper	Post 197 Activity	Publication Date	Article Title
PCJR	Zebulon 5K/10K Fun Run/Walk Fundraiser	10-May-23	Get ready for Post 197's 5K/10K to help local veterans June 10
PCJR	Memorial Day	24-Mar-23	Memorial Day event planned for May 29
PCJR	Zebulon5K/10K Fun Run/Walk Fundraiser	31-May-23	Join Post 197's run/walk to support veterans, events
PCJR	Memorial Day	7-Jun-23	Name unveiled on Veterans Memorial at Post 197 Program
PCJR	Zebulon5K/10K Fun Run/Walk Fundraiser	7-Jun-23	Join June 10 run to help veterans
PCJR	Zebulon5K/10K Fun Run/Walk Fundraiser	7-Jun-23	Sign up for the June 10 5K/10K run/walk to help veterans
PCJR	Flag Day Observance and Flag Retirement Ceremony	14-Jun-23	Scouts honor Old Glory with special ceremony
PCJR	Prayer on the Square	12-Jul-23	Independence Day prayere on square
PCJR	Zebulon5K/10K Fun Run/Walk Fundraiser	12-Jul-23	Post 197 thankful for support of run/walk
PCJR	Molena Big Foot Stomp Festival and Flag Day	19-Jul-23	Big Foot Stomp keeps toes tappin in city of Molena
PCJR	Quilts of Valor	26-Jul-23	101-year old WWII veteran presented with Quilt of Valor
PCJR	Flag Retirement Ceremony	2-Aug-23	Record number of flags retired at ceremony ceremony July 10
PCJR	First Responders of the Year	2-Aug-23	Nominate outstanding local first responders
PCJR	Patriot Day	23-Aug-23	Patriot display on square Sept.11
PCJR	Patriot Day	6-Sep-23	Patriot Day display at southside of courthouse Sept 11
PCJR	National POW/MIA Recognition Day	6-Sep-23	Honor POW/MIAs in Pike, across the nation
PCJR	First Responders of the Year	20-Sep-23	Nominate Pike heroes by sept. 25
PCJR	Pike County Memorial Hall of Heroes	20-Sep-23	Hall of Heroes moves to new Zebulon home
PCJR	Post 197 Honor Guard	27-Sep-23	Post 197 Honor Guard part of Atlanta VA renaming ceremony at VA hospital Decatur
PCJR	Veteran of the Year	11-Oct-23	Nominate Veteran of the Year
PCJR	Concord 5K/10K Fun Run/Walk Fundraiser	11-Oct-23	Join the Oct.21 walk, 5K and 10K
PCJR	First Responder of the Year	25-Oct-23	Local heroes honored by American Legion
PCJR	Veteran of the Year	25-Oct-23	Nominate Veteran of Year by Nov.1
PCJR	Concord 5K/10K Fun Run/Walk Fundraiser	8-Nov-23	Post 197 thanks sponsors and supporters
PCJR	Pike County Memorial Hall of Heroes	15-Nov-23	Four to be inducted into the Pike County Memorial Hall of Heroes on Dec.2 at 1 p.m.
PCJR	Veterans Day	22-Nov-23	Pike Veteran of Year Announced
	Veteran of the Year Award	22-Nov-23	John Ellis honored for service in military, community
PCJR	Pike County Memorial Hall of Heroes	22-Nov-23	Four to be inducted into Pike's County Hall of Heroes
PCT	Veterans Day	22-Nov-23	BSA Troop 465G Conducts the Pike County Veterans Day Program
PCT	Concord 5K/10K Fun Run/Walk Fundraiser	30-Nov-23	Thank You From Pike County American Legion Post 197
PCJR	Pike County Memorial Hall of Heroes	13-Dec-23	Hall of Heroes dedicated; four more inducted
PCJR	Four Chaplains Program	3-Jan-24	Updated, inspirational Four Chaplains program set for Feb. 4
PCJR	First Responder Award Ceremony	10-Jan-24	Sheriff in spotlight at Jan. 11 historical society meeting
PCJR	Gifts of an Angel Ministries	17-Jan-24	Thanks to supporters of Angel Tree Ministries
PCJR	Four Chaplains Program	24-Jan-24	Four Chaplains program set for Feb. 4
GDN	Post Member Birthday	5-Mar-24	Griffin resident, veteran turns 102
Legion town	Post Member Birthday	8-Mar-24	Legionnaire Estelle Collins turns 102
PCJR	Post Member Birthday	13-Mar-24	Legionnaire Estelle Collins celebrated on 102nd birthday
PCJR	Boys/Girl's State	27-Mar-24	Apply for 2024 Georgia Boys State / Girls State scholarships
PCJR	Boys/Girl's State	10-Apr-24	Apply for 2024 Georgia Boys State / Girls State
Articles Total		40	

Chapter 13

Post 197 History

A group of twenty officers who served in the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in France during World War I is credited with founding The American Legion. AEF Headquarters asked the officers to suggest ideas on how to improve troop morale. One officer, Lt Col Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. proposed an organization of veterans. In February 1919, the group formed a temporary committee and selected several hundred officers who had the confidence and respect of the whole army.

About 1,000 officers and enlisted men attended the Paris Caucus in March 1919. They adopted a temporary constitution and the name, "The American Legion". The group also elected an executive committee to complete the organization's work. It considered each soldier of the AEF a member of the Legion. The executive committee named a subcommittee to organize veterans at home in the United States.

Two months later, in May 1919, the Legion held a second organizing caucus in St. Louis. It completed the constitution and made plans for a permanent organization, setting up a temporary headquarters in New York City and beginning its relief, employment and Americanism programs.

Congress granted The American Legion a national charter in September 1919. The first national convention convened in Minneapolis, adopting a permanent constitution and electing officers to head the organization.

Twenty-seven years after the founding of The American Legion, the first meeting of the American Legion Post 197 of Pike County was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Girtman on May 2, 1946. It was attended by a large number of veterans of both World Wars. Mr. Girtman was the primary force behind the organization of The American Legion Post. The following officers were elected:

- Commander, S.G. Holmes
- Senior Vice-Commander, W.E. Girtman
- Junior Vice-Commander, Jack Sharpe
- Sgt-at-Arms, Gordon Young
- Adjutant, Albert Presley.

The Building Committee was composed of W.E. Girtman, C. Richter Smith Jr., Pete Lee, Lanier Johnson, and Pete Bankston. Those named on the Publicity Committee were Roger Strickland Jr., Nathan Harrison, Hugh White, and Hope White.

On October 7, 1948, it was reported in the Pike County Journal Reporter that the Veteran Training Class, led by the instructor, Sam Lifsey started the campaign for funds to erect a memorial on the courthouse square in Zebulon for the veterans who lost their lives in World Wars I and II. The following resolution had been submitted to the people of Pike County: "Resolved that a memorial for the veterans of both World Wars I and II, who lost their lives in the service of their country, Be subscribed to and erected on the

court house square in Zebulon. It will take the concentrated efforts of all religious and civic organizations, as well as each individual. This resolution is submitted this 23rd day of September, 1948 by the 3rd Veterans Agriculture Class of Pike County. W.S Lifsey Jr., Instructor”

As recorded in the Pike County Journal Reporter, the Pike County Veteran’s Monument commemorating the men who lost their lives in both World Wars I and II was dedicated at an impressive exercise on Sunday afternoon, April 24, 1949. The public was invited, and approximately 300 persons including families of the departed heroes, friends and Legionnaires from Griffin and surrounding communities attended. The program began at 2:30 p.m. with a concert by the 326th Army Band. American Legion Post Commander, Warren E. Girtman introduced Hon. John Goddard of Griffin, who in turn introduced the guest speaker, Rev. Marshall Ellis, Rector of St George’s Church, Griffin and a former Navy Chaplain. Rev. Ellis, in his dedicatory address, paid worthy tribute to those who gave their lives in World Wars I and II. He said, “They laid down their lives and were ushered into Eternal life. They now live with God.” Following the address, the Army Band played Onward Christian Soldiers. Rev. S.A. Dailey pronounced the benediction, after which Taps was sounded. The monument bears the inscription “Dedicated to The Everlasting memory of those from Pike County who gave their lives in the service of their country in World Wars I and II. Names on the monument include:

- World War I: A.R Ballard, H.K. Davis, L.R. Davis, L.M. Hooten, J.G. McLendon, H.A. O’Neal, S.S. Self, L.G. Sullivan, and P.M Sullivan.
- World War II: C.L. Adams, M.R. Adkerson, R.E. Bishop, G.H. Blankenship, M.R. Carter, J.E. Corley, F.T. Davis, T.C. Gooden, J.C. Hackney, W.F. Harrison Jr., C. Johnson, C.M. Lane, D.E. Ledford, L.T. Marshall, A.L. Marshall, J.M. Matthews, P.L. McLendon, V.L. Middlebrooks, R.E. Oxford, E.E. Presley, W.T. Presley, H.L. Pike, T.J. Sandefur, M.B. Smoot, P.R. Storey, C.H. Tidwell. Colored: E.R. Parks.

Since WWII, E. Coggin and J.C. Alexander were added Killed in Action from the Korean War; and J.T. Harris, G.R. McQuaig (correct spelling is McCuaig), and L.L. Silver were added Killed in Action from the Vietnam War. The letters Korea and Vietnam Wars were added to the Monument Dedication.

Charter members of the Post as of June 21, 1950, were: Emory F. Alexander, Pope Banks, James Hartford Bankston, Abram S. Burton, P.W. Carter, R.C. Crawford, Thomas E. Crawford, Owen Caldwell, Roger Dunn, Lamar Dunn, Byron Dunn, Marvin E. Eppinger, Sam D. English, W.E. Girtman, Dr. M.M. Head, J.N. Howard, Clarence Hawkins, Charles F. Harden, Robert Holmes, Shi Holmes, R.C. Johnson, Walt Joyner, Spencer Lifsey, J.M. Means, Hulon A. McKinley, James E. Manoe, Charles J. Minter, Hubert Marshall, John A. Osbolt, John R. Oden, Albert D. Presley, A.W. Quattlebaum, W.S. Rogers, Leland B. Reaves, C.R. Smith, Sr., Paul Scoggins, Cecil Thornton, Aaron Terrell, Robert A. Trawick, Earl Williams, High White, Aurelius F. Woolsey, Gordon Young, Harry A. Hammock, and Marvin E. Gibson.

The Post was one of the most active in the State for a community of Pike County’s size, having 159 members. Commanders and Adjutants have been: C.F. Harden and

J.N. Howard, 1950-51; Clarence Hawkins and J.N. Howard, 1951-52; A.P. Dunn and Lamar Dunn, 1952-53; Emory Alexander and W.T. Baxter, 1953-54; Frank Yeager and Howard Rawlins, 1954-55; James Murphy and Howard Rawlins, 1955-56; Roger Dunn, 1956-57; W.T. Baxter, 1957-58; W.T. Baxter and Harry Rawlins, 1958-59; --- Harry Rawlins and Johnny Knight, 1964-65; Harry Rawlins and Marvin Littleton, 1965-66; Harry Rawlins and Milton Ross, 1966-67; Johnny Knight and Milton Ross, 1967-68; Harry Rawlins and Milton Ross, 1968-69; W.T. Baxter and Milton Ross (Lamar Dunn – Senior Vice Cdr), 1969-70; Terrell Williams and Marvin Littleton, 1970-71; and William TI Baxter and K.N. Lupo, 1971-72.

On 3 March 1966 the American Legion, Post 197 hosted the annual 6th District Oratorical Contest at the Pike County High School. All essays were prepared from the Articles of the Constitution.

On 26 March 1969, the Pike County American Legion Post 197 met in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the organization. Special guests included the 6th District Commander and Vice Commander as well as members from other local posts.

The 1972 members of Post 197 were:

Harold Adkerson	Emory F. Alexander	Glenn H. Allen
John B. Armstead	James L. Ballard	M.D. Ballard
Cadesman P. Banks	Harry L. Banks	J.H. Bankston
William G. Barker	Marcus G. Barnett	William T. Baxter
Johnnie V. Barnett	Larry C. Berry	Charles E. Booker
Wayne O. Brasiel	Russell Brazier	Vernon H. Birchman
Horance Bond	Lawrence E. Brock	Virgil L. Brown
James M. Burden	Wilson W. Bush	Charles Calewell
Jack C. Clark	Clayton A. Coker	Robert R. Collins
Dennis H. Connell	Gloyd C. Cooper	R.D. Crawford
James G. Crayton	Douglas F. Culbreth	Elwood L. Culbreth
Clinton B. Davis	Marion W. Dumas	A.P. Dunn
Lamar E. Dunn	Joseph E. Edwards	William J. Edwards
James R. Elliott	Wilbur C. Elliott	John E. English
Samuel D. English	Glenn A. Eppinger	Olin Garner
Roosevelt T. Gayton	Jack M. Goldman	William R. Goldman
Marion Gooden	David K. Greene	Harry A. Hammond
Merrill G. Hammock	Adron Harden	Charles F. Harden
Winton H. Harden	R.C. Hawkins	Robert Holmes, Jr.
Shi G. Holmes	P.G. Horne	Dexter T. Huckaby
Bobby L. Hudgen	Hollis J. Hutchinson	Howard M. Jennings
W.D. Jimerson	James F. Johnson	Lanier F. Johnson
Jack F. Jones	William K. Jones	Frank M. King
George E. King	Charlie J. Knight	Charles R. Lamb
Paul W. Landers	Jim B. Lawrence	James M. Littleton
Marvin Littleton	John D. Lowe	Kendall H. Lupo
Howard H. Maddox	Douglas Mangham	Walton E. Mangham

Byron W. Marshall	William D. Martin	Donald McCollough
Ralph C. McDonald	Elijah F. McKinley	Robert F. McKinley
Eddie G. Messer	Roger M. Middlebrooks	Alvin L. Milby
Grant B. Montrose	William A. Morris	James C. Murphy
Michael Nahrebeck	Dewey Nicholson	Willie C. Nixon
Virgil M. Oliver	John A. Osbolt	John M. Parks
James A. Parks	Pete Peterman	D.L. Pitts
Merril G. Pitts	Ronald C. Presley	Randall J. Pryor
Ralph Purvis	Warren W. Quigley	D.B. Rawlins
Howard M. Rawlins	Harry B. Rawlins	James P. Rawlins
Robert H. Rawlins, Jr.	Robert H. Rawlins	Grady Reeves
J.M. Reeves	Joe C. Reid	Robert M. Reid
J. Astor Riggins	William M. Riggins	W.S. Rodgers
Jerry O. Rogers	Milton E. Ross	J.B. Sandifur
Albert L. Sanvidge	Victor C. Sanvidge	Paul Scroggins
David M. Smith	J.B. Smith	T.R. Smith
W.L. Smith	Gerald D. Spinks	Wilburn R. Statham
Alvin F. Stratham	J.M. Sullivan	Wilbur O. Tapley
William Taunton	James M. Towery	William H. Trawick
B.F. Turner	Wendell F. Turner	A.J. Vickers
Jack L. Walker	Garris Wall	Kenneth Q. Ward
Lawrence R. Webb, Sr.	Donald C. Wells	Charles C. Whatley
Charles D. Whatley	Hoyt H. Williams	James F. Williams
James T. Williams	Ralph C. Williams	T.H. Williams
Terrell J. Williams	Robert H. Wright	Frank Al Yeager

In 1974, there was a fire that burnt down the Post facility. In 1975, a new structure was built by the Rawlin's family for Post 197 use. The Post 197 Charter was revoked in 1994, and the facility was granted back to the Rawlin's family.

On 10 May 2008, a group of veterans met on the Court House Square led by Don Bailey and Howard Rawlins with the objective of refurbishing the Veteran's Monument that was structurally cracking due to the heavy traffic moving south on Highway US19/GA3. On 19 July 2008, a second meeting of a group of veterans met on the Courthouse Square led again by Don Bailey with the objective of continued discussion on the refurbishment of the Veteran's Monument and the reestablishment of the old American Legion Post 197. On 13 September 2008, the Veterans met as The American Legion at the Joel Edwards Library in Zebulon. The objectives of the meeting were selecting officers (see Appendix C), reestablishing the charter, discussing the refurbishment of the Veterans Monument, and increasing membership. The Post was allowed to regain its former number of 197. The Post received its Dispensation/Temporary Charter on 9 March 2009 and its Permanent Charter on 28 July 2009.

The official temporary charter members; those that were national at large American Legion members or from some other post members were:

Emory F. Alexander	Donald Bailey, Jr.	George E Bottoms, Jr.
Russell Brazier	John B. Halcomb, Jr.	Robert L. Huckaby
Billy L. McClanahan	Oscar Purvis	Howard M. Rawlins, Sr.
W. Shelor Rodgers	Gerald L. Spinks	William W. Thomas
Steven T. Yerkes		

On 11 March 2009, American Legion Post 197 Senior Executive Committee Member, Bryan Richardson appeared before the Pike County Board of Commissioners to address the plan to refurbish the Monument and to obtain the Board's approval. In addition to the structural refurbishment of the monument, permanent lighting was to be added for night illumination of the National, State, and POW/MIA flags, lamp post for illumination of the memorial at night, and landscaping around the monument. The Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the restoration. The restoration project was under the direction of Post 197 Veterans Howard Rawlins and Gerald Spinks. The monument restoration sponsors were Clark Memorials, Country Corbin's, Moody's Funeral Home, Southern Rivers Energy, and the Zebulon Public Works Department. Work to refurbish the Veteran's Memorial began early November 2010 and was completed in January 2011. As part of the restoration, the name J.D. Walker who was killed-in-action in Iraq was added to the monument. The Pike County Veteran's Memorial was rededicated as part of the Pike County Memorial Day Observance Program on 28 May 2011. During this program, J.D. Walker was honored as the newest addition.



After three years of hard work by many people in the Post and community, The American Legion Post 197 officially returned on 5 October 2011 as renter of the Rawlin's family to the facility it had occupied back in 1994 at 645 Meansville Street, Zebulon, Georgia. The Post members had been meeting at the Joel Edwards Library in Zebulon since September 2008. The grand opening was sponsored by the Pike County Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Post Commander Billy Payton, Sr. welcomed visitors and members to the facility for the first time. 4th District Commander, Jim O'Brien was the guest speaker. The facility belonged to Howard M. Rawlins, Sr. a long standing American Legion Post 197 member. During a 12 November 2012 ceremony that included the Rawlins family, the facility was named the Howard M. Rawlins Sr. Memorial Hall in honor of Mr. Rawlins's passing on 14 August 2012.

On 12 June 2013, The American Legion Post 197 received approval to become incorporated for the purpose of protecting individual members from liability in the event of litigation against the Post and received its Supplemental Charter. The decree was

signed by the National Commander, James E. Koutz and the Georgia Department Commander, William H. Lienhop, Jr.

On 28 September 2013, the Pike County School Board officially dedicated the Memorial Annex Building of the old middle school to be used as the Pike County Memorial Annex Building to be used as a general memorial for all those in Pike County who gave the ultimate sacrifice while serving the community. This includes military, first responders, and sheriff/police departments. The intent is for the building to house memorials for all of the community's fallen heroes. Since this date, the Pike County American Legion has inducted:

- LCPL Jeffery D. Walker - Iraq Killed in Action (28 Sep 2013)
- 1LT Robert E. Oxford - WWII Missing in Action (6 Dec 2014)
- Charles H. Tidwell - WWII Killed in Action, James T. Harris - Vietnam Killed in Action, Glenn R. McCuaig - Vietnam Killed in Action, and Lonnie L. Silver - Vietnam Killed in Action (7 Nov 2015)
- Ralph E. Bishop - WWII Killed in Action, Tilton C. Gooden - WWII Killed in Action, and Joel M. Matthews - WWII Missing in Action (3 Dec 2016)
- Malcom R. Carter - WWII Killed in Action, Virgil L. Middlebrooks - Killed in Action, Willie L. King - Missing in Action / Lost at Sea (2 Dec 2017)
- Arthur R. Ballard - Killed in Action, Herman K. Davis - Killed in Action Leon R. Davis - Died of Decease, Roswell D. Hooten - Died of Decease, Henry A. O'Neal - Killed in Action, Solon S. Self - Killed in Action, Vernon E. Slade - Died of Decease, Pierre M. Sullivan - Died of Decease, Lawrence G. Sullivan - Died of Decease (1 Dec 2018) – All from WWI as part of the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI.
- Johnnie C. Alexander and Earl Coggin – Both Killed in Action in the Korean War, and William O. Gwyn and Thomas J. Slade – Both Pike County Sheriffs killed in the line of duty (7 Dec 2019)
- William Bankston – Killed in Action, and Green Blackman, John G. McLendon, and Ben L. Scott Died of Disease. All died during WWI. (5 Dec 2020)
- Marvin R. Adkerson Killed in Action, Missing in Action David E. Ledford, former Prisoner of War and current Missing in Action Marion B. Smoot, and Perry R. Story Died from other Causes; all from WWII were inducted. (4 Dec 2021)
- Law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty Chase L. Maddox, Killed in Action James E. Corley, Died of Disease Eddie R. Parks, and Killed in Action Thomas J. Sandefur (3 Dec 2022)
- Killed in Action Lee Roy Todd from WWI, Killed in Action Grier H. Blankenship from WWII, Killed in Action Martin Eppinger, and Law Enforcement Investigator killed in the line of duty Sherry E. Lyons-Williams (2 Dec 2023)

On 21 November 2015, Post 197 Commander Bryan Richardson submitted a letter to Ms. Brenda Turner, daughter of the late Howard Rawlins requesting the use of the larger section still in use for family storage within the building including the Post 197 portion of the building. At a follow-on meeting at the Post between Ms. Brenda Turner and Commander Richardson, Ms. Turner unofficially approved use of the remaining portion of the building.

On 16 April 2016, Ms. Brenda Turner allowed American Legion Auxiliary President Peggi Payton to dispose of the family contents during a yard sale. By the end of the day, the American Legion obtained complete possession of all contents (minus a few major items) within the main building to further dispose. By 30 July 2016, most items have been removed, and the Post conducted its first major function within the entire facility which was the 4th District Installation Ceremony. At a 30 August 2016 meeting between Ms. Brenda Turner and Commander Richardson, a ten-year lease was signed for the use of the building.

As part of the Memorial Day program, on 30 May 2016, Post 197 officially unveiled the name of Chief Petty Officer Willie Lee King (King, W.L.) who died in the sinking of the USS Frank E. Evans during the Vietnam War to the Pike County Veterans Memorial. At the 11 November 2018 Veterans Day Program, Post 197 officially unveiled the name of Wagoner Vernon E. Slade (Slade, V.E.) who died from disease in France in WWI. At the 11 November 2019 Veterans Day Program, Post 197 officially unveiled the names of Private William E. Bankson (Bankston, W.E.), Private Green Blackman (Blackman, G.), and Private Ben L. Scott (Scott, B.L.) all died while on orders during WWI. At the 30 May 2022 Memorial Day Observance Program, Post 197 officially unveiled the names of Private Ernest C. Ross from WWI, Sergeant Cebtran E. Willis, and Private Martin Eppinger from Korea.

On 12 September 2023, Post 197 moved the memorial contents from the Pike County Memorial Annex in the Pike County Schools to the City Hall of Zebulon, Pike County, Georgia. On 2 December 2023, Post 197 hosted the 2023 Pike County Memorial Hall of Heroes Induction Ceremony, followed by a Rededication Ceremony, Renaming Ceremony, and Grand opening of the Pike County Memorial Hall of Heroes.