

# AMERICAN LEGION CLINTON POST 259



## MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

## **COMMANDER'S CORNER**

Dear Legion Family,

We all have a photo or video of that last time we gathered with friends at a crowded bar or had a family gathering indoors. A time before mask-wearing, hand sanitizing, and social distancing became second nature to us as we tried to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe and healthy from the novel coronavirus. And ever since, we've all been trying to adjust to a new way of life and finding a "new normal" that makes sense to us. While at the same time, families have suffered much loss that weighs heavy on the heart. Our Post has been touched by such losses with the most recent losses of the Post Chaplain James Allen "JB" Burrows on 17 February 2021 and Gregory "Big Philly" Clayton on 14 March 2021. Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the C.D.C. Director, said at a White House news conference on Monday (03/08/2021) - "With more and more people getting vaccinated, each day we are starting to turn a corner, and as more Americans are vaccinated, a growing body of evidence now tells us that there are some activities that fully vaccinated people can resume at low risk to themselves." As conditions are improving and we are moving closer to some sense of normalcy, wearing masks and social distancing will continue to play an important part of our day-to-day living.

Looking back, it is hard to believe that it is that time of the year to seek nominations for the Post's elected positions and to have talks about the annual department convention that's held in Ocean City, Maryland. You can find Information on both of these topics in this newsletter.

National Commander Bill Oxford has mandated a call to action with the roll out of his membership program "Operation Comeback." Our current membership numbers are significantly less than where we were at this point in time last year. This low count is attributed to the fact that there are over 100 members yet to renew their dues for 2021. Let's examine what this means:

"Members whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January 1<sup>st</sup> shall be classed as delinquent and not in good standing, and they shall be suspended from all privileges. If their dues are paid on or before February 1<sup>st</sup>, their delinquency shall terminate. If they are still delinquent after February 1<sup>st</sup>, their membership shall be suspended. If they are still under such suspension on June 30th of such year, their membership in The American Legion shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Post and payment of current dues for the year in which the reinstatement occurs; provided, however, that the Post, may waive the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year reinstatement occurs."

Consequently, the membership status of the 100 plus members referenced above is currently recognized by National as "expired." For our members that fall in this category, don't forfeit your membership. Make a dedicated commitment to pay your dues as soon as possible, which in turn will benefit all veterans as The American Legion works every day on behalf of U.S. servicemen and women.

Yours in Legion Service,

Willie E. Evans  
Commander

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2020 - 2021

Commander	Willie E. Evans*
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Helen Smith
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Marie Vanness
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander	George Martin
Adjutant	Glenda Sturdivant
Judge Advocate	Haywood Moss*
Service Officer	James Woodland
Finance Officer	Richard Switzer
Historian	June Forte
Chaplain	Charles Johnson
Sergeant at Arms	John Jackson
Immediate Past Commander	Murray Hall
<b>Executive Committee Members-At-Large</b> Joseph Morgan* Ray Carmichael Gary Gifford** Anthony Hinnant	

\*Department Executive Committee (DEC) Members

\*\*Gary Gifford also serves as the Department of Maryland Treasurer



**Auxiliary Officers**

**Legion Rider Officers**

**S.A.L. Officers**

President: Freida Skaggs	Director: Darryl Fielder	Commander: David Hutchinson
Vice President: Marilyn Thomas	Asst. Director: Murray Hall	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice: Vacant
Secretary: Rose Butler	Secretary: Vacant	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice: Kenny Hendrix
Treasurer: Michele Davis	Treasurer: Vacant	Finance Officer: Dave Desmarais
Historian: Vacant	Chaplain: Vacant	Sgt At Arms: Michael Thomas
Chaplain: Shay Brown		Adjutant: Rich A. Walsh Jr.
Sgt At Arms: Parnice Green		Historian: Vacant
Executive Advisory Board Donna Queen Pam Streeter Cheryl Batie		Chaplain: Gary "GJ" Shafer  Advisor: Eugene Murray

## Messages from First Vice Commander Helen Smith

### 1. Membership Status.

- **2021 Membership Goal:** 896 Total Financial Members by 5/12/21 (Armed Forces Day)
- **Current Members:** 799 (89.17% of our goal)
- **Members Short of Goal:** 97

### 2. New Members. (Welcome to Clinton Post 259)

Tyrone M. Hollomon	Air Force - Vietnam
Michael L. Jenkins	Air Force - Vietnam
James D. Savoy	Marine Corps - Vietnam
Terry L. McKenzie	Army - Persian Gulf

### 3. Buddy Checks.

Please continue to use the “Buddy Check” concept in reaching out to our veterans. We are encouraged to use this method to check on our veterans and find out any concerns they may have that we can provide assistance that would improve their well-being. We encourage every member to take the time to reach out and let them know we are thinking about them.

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### Post 259 Nominations and Elections

Nominations are now open for all Post elected positions. A list of these positions, as well as the duties and responsibilities for each, can be found in the Post Bylaws and Standing Rules that are posted on the Post’s website at the following link: [Post 259 Information](#). If you are interested in running for an office, you must submit your intentions to the Nominating Committee Chair, Jimmy Connor, via email at [jesconnor@yahoo.com](mailto:jesconnor@yahoo.com). Other members of the Nominating Committee consist of Wendy Crosier and Tony Miller. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at both the March and April general membership meetings and nominations will close at the April meeting. Elections will be completed on Monday, 24 May 2021.

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### Delegates for the Department Annual Convention

The 103<sup>rd</sup> annual convention of The American Legion, Department of Maryland will be held at the Convention Center in Ocean City, Maryland from July 13 – 16, 2021. Nominations for convention delegates are currently open and will close at the March meeting. Members selected to serve as delegates are required to attend the convention and all special meetings. The number of delegates the Post will be entitled based on the projected membership count by June 30, 2021 is estimated at twenty-two (22) delegates. At the February general membership meeting, fourteen (14) nominations were recorded. If you are interested in representing the Post at the Department Convention, you can email your intent to the Post Adjutant at [almd259@gmail.com](mailto:almd259@gmail.com) no later than March 20, 2021.

## Why does the Legion Celebrate its Birthday on March 15<sup>th</sup>?

On that date in 1919, members of the American Expeditionary Forces still stationed in Europe awaiting passage home from World War I convened the first American Legion caucus in Paris. Much as the birthday of the United States is celebrated on July 4<sup>th</sup> for the date in 1776 when patriots declared the independence of the British colonies and birthed the spirit of America, March 15<sup>th</sup> is the date when The American Legion came to life.

The experiences of these members in what was called the “war to end all wars” would shape an enduring agenda for what became the nation’s largest organization of veterans. Many of the Legion’s founders had voluntarily drilled in civilian military camps before the United States entered the war. Trained in the “Preparedness Movement,” several future Legion founders were commissioned as officers in the war and discovered firsthand the nation’s deficiencies in defense, citizenship, and education. Soon after the war’s end, they also realized how poorly prepared the United States was to assist a wave of disabled and unemployed veterans who faced uncertain futures in their communities, states, and the nation. The American Legion’s emergence and rise to prominence was based on a mission to strengthen the nation through programs, services and advocacy that helped millions throughout the organization’s first century. The American Legion built its legacy with a vision to make the nation prouder, stronger, smarter, and more respectful of those who have sacrificed some, or all, in defense of the nation.

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### Message from Auxiliary President Frieda Skaggs

The Auxiliary has selected a nomination committee for the 2021/22 elections. The members of the Nominating Committee are: Parnice Green (Chair), Michele Davis, and Marie Vanness.

Nominations are being solicited for the following positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Chaplain
- Historian
- Executive Committee Members (3 positions)

Any Auxiliary member interested in serving in one of these positions should submit their name to any of the nomination committee members listed above by April 9, 2021 in order to be placed on a slate of officers that will be presented to the President at the April 12, 2021 meeting. Nominations will remain open until the start of the annual election of officers at the May meeting.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>American Legion Birthday – March 15, 2021</b>
<b>SMD Council Oyster Bowl Event – 20 March 2021</b>
<b>Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 22 March 2021 (7:30 pm)</b>
<b>PGCC Meeting – 12 April 2021 – John B. Lassiter Post 217 (7:00 pm)</b>
<b>SMD Council Public Safety Awards Program – 25 April 2021 - Greenbelt Post 136 (1:00 pm)</b>
<b>Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 26 April 2021 (7:30 pm)</b>
<b>Department Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting – 16 May 2021 – Dorchester Post 91 (1:00 pm)</b>
<b>Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 24 May 2021 (7:30 pm)</b>
<b>PGCC Commander's Roast – 27 May 2021 – Laurel Post 60 (7:00 pm)</b>
<b>Memorial Day Program – 31 May 2021 – Clinton Post 259 (TBD)</b>
<b>SMD Council Reception – 05 June 2021 – SMD Youth Camp (TBD)</b>
<b>SAL Golf Tournament – June 2021 (TBD)</b>
<b>Flag Day – 14 June 2021</b>
<b>PGCC Caucus – 14 June 2021 – Glenarden Post 275 (7:00 pm)</b>
<b>SMD Council Caucus – 27 June 2021 – Cheverly Post 108 (1:00 pm)</b>
<b>Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 28 June 2021 (7:30 pm)</b>
<b>Department Convention – 13-16 July 2021 – Ocean City, MD (TBD)</b>

**\*Football Super Season Will Kick-off on May 1, 2021. Be on The Lookout For The Details!!**



## Oratorical Contest Continues its Mission in Public Speaking

The Southern Maryland Department (SMD) once again held its annual Oratorical Contest on Saturday, February 20, 2021 at Clinton Post 259. An important contest open to students in the Southern Maryland District to obtain scholarship money to further their education, the event rolled on despite the pandemic that has curtailed most activities to a standstill.

SMD's Oratorical Contest Chair Will Trotter continued as host and director of the contest, which is based on a student's knowledge of the Constitution. There are two parts of the contest, in which part one is the student's choice to pick a topic on the Constitution; but in part two, that deals with four amendments, the student does not have the option to pick an amendment.

This year's amendment was Article 3, Section 1, which dealt with the Supreme Court.

"Number one to get students has always been recruiting," said Trotter. "Members would go into the schools, speak with guidance counselors, speech and debate coaches, and history teachers. It couldn't be done this time."

"We had to depend on three things this time," Trotter continued. "Incumbents, word of mouth, and the website. But it didn't work as good this year."

Changes also happened this year regarding location and the amount of money awarded to each winner.

"The big thing that occurred this year is the National Contest held in Indianapolis (IN) has been cancelled," said Trotter. "So winners on the state level will receive five thousand dollars, up from the usual two thousand."

Freshman Lilianna Poulriuvax and junior Arpun Baruu were the students who participated in the contest.

"I felt comfortable about the topic I picked on voting," said Arpun. "I do like public speaking but am also interested in computer science, or to become a computer engineer."

"I wanted everybody to know what the Constitution was to me and how it fitted into my background," said Lilianna, who grew up in Okinawa, Japan. Her future interest is in computer programming.

Arpun Baruu was the winner of the contest and was awarded three hundred dollars. Lilianna received two hundred dollars.

The state contest was held March 7 at Towson State University.



Picture 1 - Members attending contest

Picture 2 - Contest Judges

Picture 3 – Arpen accepting award

Picture 4 – Contest members and officials

Picture 5 - Executive Committee Officials (Dept. of MD), Post 259 Commander Willie Evans

## NEWS BRIEFS

\*Women's History Month. [Research for Women Veterans - Center for WomenVeterans \(CWV\) \(va.gov\)](#)

\*Some Lawmakers Defend Tucker Carlson After Comments Against Female Troops

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2021/03/15/some-lawmakers-defend-tucker-carlson-after-comments-against-female-troops.html>

\*Covid-19 One Year Anniversary

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/08/media/covid-19-pandemic-one-year-anniversary/index.html>

\*Commander-in-Chief President Joe Biden delivers speech on Covid-19 anniversary

[https://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/Voices/2021/03/12/Joe-Biden-COVID-19-anniversary-speech-full-text/816161555448/](https://www.upi.com/Top_News/Voices/2021/03/12/Joe-Biden-COVID-19-anniversary-speech-full-text/816161555448/)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:



**Mary Roach** (in the field of public service): Mary Roach, PharmD, has been a long-time public servant. She was a student at the U.S. Army's Academy of Health Sciences, after which the Army sent her to Walter Reed and to Landstuhl, Germany, in order to provide care for ambushed soldiers needing care. She assisted doctors and nurses with medication therapy and compassion, helping with bandages and lifting spirits during a mass casualty event. Her grassroots research at Ohio State University helped parents and caregivers understand proper medication dosing for infants and children, leading to a decline in the rate of overdosing of medications. The program became recognized by the drug manufacturer of Tylenol. After helping her husband lose 89 pounds through nutrition and consulting with his doctors on medication therapy, Dr. Roach started the JJ Center, Inc., a nonprofit, faith-based organization in Ward 8, which is dedicated to eradicating health disparities and uniting the community. Roach went on to become a radio broadcasting host for Cathy Hughes' Radio One. Today, she is helping to spearhead efforts to reopen Ward 8 as the city battles the COVID-19

pandemic. Roach has plans to attend law school in 2021 to enhance her patient care and advocacy efforts.

**LaRue V. Barkwell Capstone Distinguished Service Award:**

**Mrs. Roach is a member of American Legion Post 259. She is a recipient along with three others who received the Charter Day Award from Howard University President Wayne A.I. Frederick, MD MBA.**

**From the President:**

*I am pleased to announce that Virginia State University President Makola M. Abdullah, Ph.D., property law scholar Thomas W. Mitchell, J.D., LL.M. and Ward 8 public servant Mary Roach, PharmD, will receive the Alumni Award for Distinguished Postgraduate Achievement. In addition, the LaRue V. Barkwell Capstone Distinguished Service Award will be presented to Howard University archivist and historian Clifford L. Muse, Jr., Ph.D. Howard University serves as a harbor for the realization of students' missions. Therefore, it is an honor to salute this year's honorees for their outstanding contributions to their industries and the world.*

# MARCH 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Auxiliary Meeting (6:30pm)	9	10	11 Southern MD District Council Reorganization Meeting (7:00pm)	12	13
14	15 Exec Committee Meeting (6:30pm) <b>The American Legion Birthday</b>	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 General Membership Meeting (7:30pm)	23 American Red Cross Blood Drive (9:00am – 3:00pm)	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**CRITICAL NEED ALERT: There is a critical need for blood. Your donation is needed now to help prevent a shortage!**

All donations tested for COVID-19 antibodies.

[Learn more >](#)



## **Be a Friend to Your Community. Give Blood.**

Hoping for some human connection? In search of a safer way to socialize? Curious about how to be of service to your community? You're not alone. With gatherings on pause during the current COVID-19 crisis, many people miss the chance to see others and chat. Here's a great way to help share your love: **donate blood with the American Red Cross!**

Your blood donation might go to help a child to play again or a grandmother in need of surgery. You could even help save more than one life. Plus, in a socially distant environment, perhaps you'll make a new pal who shares your community spirit.

Will you help meet the critical need for blood?

The next blood drive at Post 259 will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM

Make an appointment by going to [www.redcross.org/Post259](http://www.redcross.org/Post259) or calling 1-800-REDCROSS (800-733-2767)

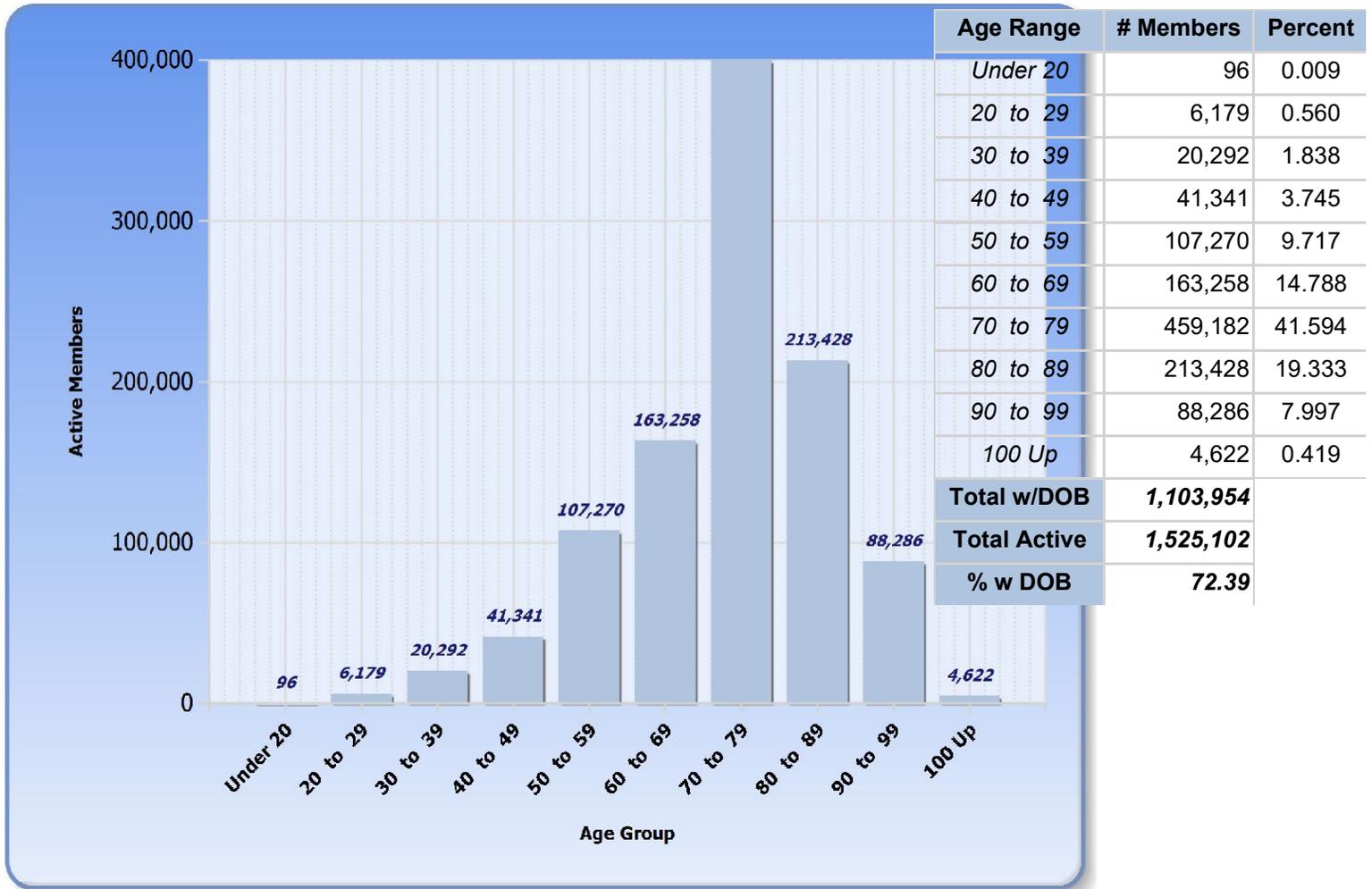
If you receive a COVID-19 vaccine, knowing the name of the manufacturer is critical in determining your blood donation eligibility. In most cases, there's no deferral time if you receive a vaccine.

All donations are tested for COVID-19 antibodies. Results available within one to two weeks via your donor account on both [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and the [Blood Donor App](#).

The Red Cross follows the **highest standards of safety and infection control**. All donors are required to wear a face covering or mask. Face shields can be worn in addition to face masks but not as a substitute.

## The American Legion Active Member Age Report

The chart below provides a graphical depiction of the age population of The American Legion's Membership.



## POST EVERLASTING



As stated in February's newsletter "It is with heartfelt sympathy that our Post 259 comrades have left us." Information on two funerals were given to Post members who wished to pay their respect to comrades they knew and cherished.



Raymond Earl Butts, Jr.'s (November 8, 1959 – February 8, 2021) funeral was held on February 19, 2021. The handout that was given was a beautiful display with a purple background telling of his life, his accomplishments, and the activities he was proud to belong to.



Post 259 Commander Willie Evans



Charles Johnson and  
Immediate Past Commander Murray Hall



Attendees at the Funeral



Members of James H. Hill Lodge No. 16 PHA



**Farewell!**

## James A. Burrows

The passing of the Post's Chaplain as a Legionnaire and Legion Rider was a shock to many at the Post. James always displayed a positive attitude with a smile, was a sharp dresser when the occasion arose, and took his position as a chaplain seriously.

Each monthly general meeting began and ended with James' prayers; his voice boomed out like a preacher giving a sermon; wanting those around him to appreciate what we share as comrades.



James receiving award (2019)



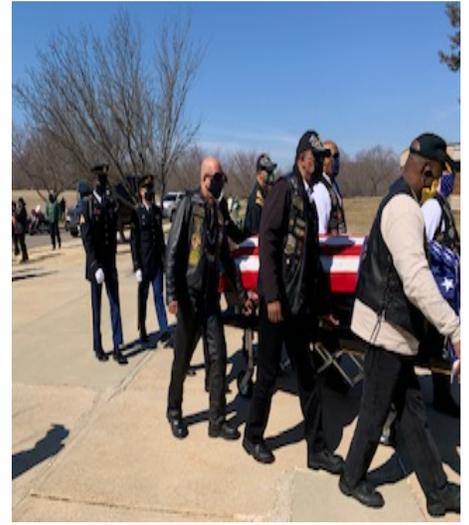
James and his Bride (2018)



James on Legacy Run (2019)

We must remember the happier times...





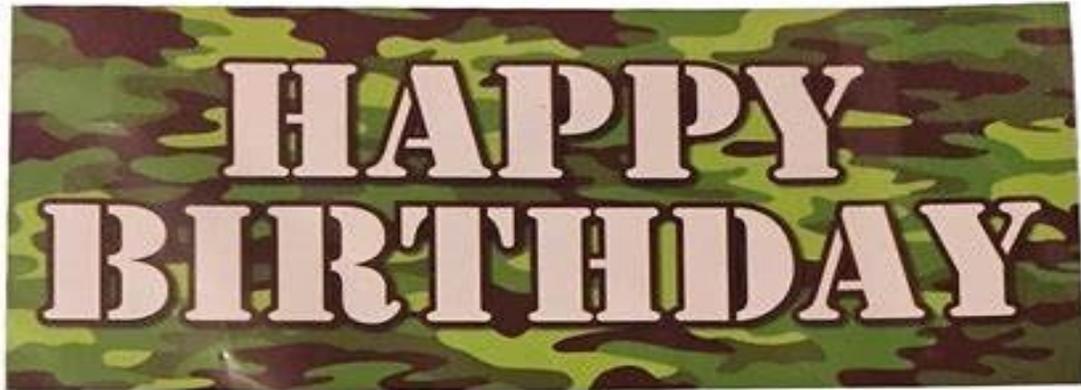
The burial service was held at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery on March 10. Held outdoors, it was a good thing; with the sunshine bringing warmth on a cloudy day.

Marie Burrows, wife of James Burrows, as given the American flag with honors that covered her husband's casket.

Farewell prayers were given before the service ended.

**James A. Burrows will not be Forgotten**

**Rest in Peace!**



**TO THE AMERICAN LEGION  
101 YEARS!**



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## Stay Home - Stay Safe - Stay Connected

<p><b>The American Legion Clinton Post 259 9122 Piscataway Road Clinton, Maryland 20735</b></p> <p><b>Phone: 301-868-2550</b> <b>Website: <a href="http://www.post259.org">www.post259.org</a></b></p>	<p><b>I welcome your news, ideas, suggestions, comments, or questions for future issues.</b></p> <p><b>Forward to Editor Linda Poulson at <a href="mailto:poulin515@gmail.com">poulin515@gmail.com</a> (subject to change)</b></p> <p><b>Clinton Post 259 Newsletter is published monthly</b></p>
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Editor's Note: The article I wrote on Senator Mike Miller can be found in the *Free State Warrior's* Spring Edition.

I thank Squadron Commander 259 David Hutchinson for the information he provided.