

History of American Legion GA Post 233

Forming Post 233:

On November 11, 1946, a group of nine organizers from Atlanta, Georgia, headed by Lloyd Bettis, met with a group of people interested in organizing an American Legion Post at Loganville, Georgia. After several inspiring talks from the Atlanta facilitators, a charter was applied for and the following men became Charter Members of Post 233:

A. L. Sellers	William L. Bennett	Ben O'Kelley Jr.
Ben O'Kelley	Metz J. Conner	Dewey B. Still
B. F. Robertson Jr.	B. F. Robertson Sr.	J. Harold Byrd
Gerald.T. Hodges	Doff Wilson	James O. Pitman
R. H. Hanson	William Robertson	Donald E. Garrett
Patrick G. Stevens	James E. Coker	Chester H. Watson
Edwin D. Edwards	Billy S. Langley	Ben H. Hodges
Charley R. Garrett	W. L. Briscoe	Roy D. Briscoe Jr.
J. R. Sellers	Donald E. Langley	Alton W. Langley
Robert Byrd	Otis L. Briscoe	Ezra T. Rolader
Thomes E. Gilreeth	Charlie W. Atha	George D. Garrett
Robert M. Connor	Charles H Langley	William Sellers
Lewis E. Clay	S. B. Stevens	James L Wood
S. F. Johnson	J. W. Darby	

Buddy Bill Todd from Post 1, Atlanta, Georgia, gave a talk that sent every one away anxious to go to work. He also passed on a challenge and a goal to strive for that stuck in the mind of each member. "I expect to see this post become the biggest little post in Georgia." So, it was on November 11, 1946, in the Loganville High School Gymnasium that Post 233, Department of Georgia, the American Legion, was officially organized.

Naming Post 233:

On November 21, 1946, a committee from American Legion Post 233 met and chose a name. The words of the committee are as follows: "We, your committee, after due care not to let the matter get into political influences, and with respect to all the good people of this community, decided to name the post as the losses came and honoring all the boys of the town, agreed to call the post BARRETT-DAVIS-WATSON Post for the ones who did not come back."

Signed,

S.B. Stevens

B.W. Towler

A.L. Sellers

Guy Jennings Barrett, Jr.

Born - October 9, 1921 Died - October 24, 1944.



Guy Jennings Barrett, Jr. was born in Jersey, Georgia and later made his home in Loganville, Georgia. He enlisted in the Naval Air Corps on August 20, 1942 and trained at Athens Preflight School and later at Olathe, Kansas. Guy received his commission at Corpus Christi, Texas and joined Squadron VF-26 in Alameda, California. Early in the morning of October 24, 1944, he was the fourth to take off to fly over Japan on target combat air patrol. Guy was in the air a short time when witnesses saw him crash into the water, about 125 miles from Leyte Island. A painstaking search was conducted but he could not be found.

Raymond Martin Davis, Jr.

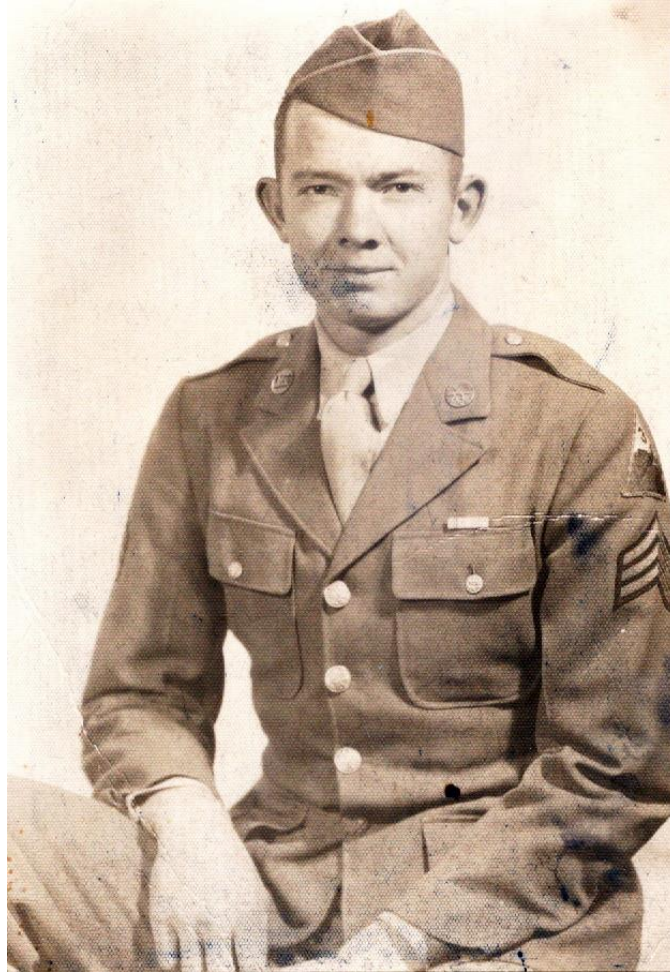
Born - June 1, 1925 Died - February 3, 1945.



Raymond Martin Davis, Jr. was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Davis, Sr. and graduated from Loganville High School. He enlisted in the United States Army on November 18, 1943. Raymond completed basic training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi and embarked for Europe from Camp George B. Meade, Maryland. He landed in southern Italy on July 1, 1944, where he remained for thirty days before going into battle. Raymond was part of the invasion of Southern France with the 7th Infantry Division. He was killed in combat on February 3, 1945 in Epinal, France.

William Leamon Watson

Born: November 5, 1920 Died: March 31, 1945.



William Leamon Watson was born in Lawrenceville, Georgia and graduated from high school in Commerce, Georgia. His family moved to Loganville when he enlisted in the United States Army on September 16, 1940. Leamon trained at Fort Benning, Georgia and joined the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment. As part of the Third Armored Division, he fought in five western European campaigns. Leamon was one of two volunteers for a very dangerous mission, who, with General Maurice Rose, died in combat on March 31, 1945, near Paderborn, Germany

Major Post 233 Events.

The first meeting of the Barrett-Davis-Watson Post was held on November 19, 1946.

In the late 1940's, the Post installed an updated lighting system at Loganville High School, which was its first major community project.

Post 233 built a medical clinic in the 1950's and helped obtain a medical doctor for the community. During the 1950's the Post also donated a truck and a tractor to the City of Loganville; made monetary donations which updated the town's sewer system, and also equipped a new Loganville High School building.

In the 1960's the Post played a major role in attracting Walton Manufacturing Company (now Kuppenheimer) to Loganville.

During the 1970's and 1980's Post 233 made numerous contributions to the Primary, Elementary and High Schools in Loganville.

Post 233 did have a very lean year of helping the community in 1977. Our Post home burned January 1, 1977, leaving nothing but ashes and concrete blocks. The Post home was valued at \$100,000 but only carried \$30,000 insurance on the building and none on the contents. At the first monthly meeting following the fire, a majority of members present chose not to rebuild. Their thinking was that we had labored for 30 years plus getting to where we were before the fire and it would be very difficult to get a large group of old Legionaries to put their efforts behind a new building program. In reality, most members just wanted to build a small Butler Building for meeting purposes. Had Bobby Boss followed the wishes of the majority, the community services provided by the Post would be non-existent. A week or two later, Legionnaire Boss came forward with plans to build the building we have today. He single-handedly went to work. He took his own bulldozer and cleared the burned building, and as the old saying goes: "took the bull by the

horns, and moved forward." He did so much with so little support it is unbelievable what he alone accomplished. If it had not been for Bobby's efforts, it is doubtful we would even have a Butler Building. Bobby Boss endured many headaches and heartaches while planning the rebuilding project. The proposed building plan would cost \$170,000 and it would necessitate borrowing \$120,000. The Post was turned down by several local banks but The National Bank of Walton County approved a loan of \$120,000 and the present building was completed in November 1977. That was a lean year and some community programs were curtailed. There was a hefty mortgage payment for the next few years that required sound planning to retire the indebtedness and still carry on the various Legion Programs. It sounds like a broken record but, "Hats off to Bobby Boss or it would never have happened."

In the 1990's, the Post contributed funds to the City of Loganville for renovations to the Old Rock Gym. Post 233 provided funding to Loganville High School to purchase computers. The Post helped organize a Legion Baseball program by contributing significant funds for an illuminated baseball field, restrooms and concession stand. In 1990 the Post also initiated its support of the Partners in Education program in the five Loganville-area schools. Post 233 has given law enforcement funding for camera equipment in their patrol cars as well as large donations for the DARE and CHAMPS programs since their inception. For many years the Post has aided families in need of food, clothing and shelter. The Post assists with water, rent, and medical bills for those in need. Post 233 currently contributes to or supports sixty-four charities and has donated over \$6 million since 1946 to the community and beyond.

Sixty-Four Charitable Efforts Post 233 Supports:

Quarterly Blood Drives
Children and Youth programs
CHAMPS
Boys State
Junior ROTC
Oratorical Contests
Flag donations to schools
Local schools (fundraisers such as car washes, yard sales, etc.)
Boy Scouts
High Adventure Explorer programs
Cub Scouts
Sea Cadets
Legion Baseball teams (Senior and Junior)
Legion Riders
Assistance with rent, lodging, food, prescriptions, clothing, etc. to
 needy veterans, their families and others in our community and
 surrounding communities
Auxiliary programs
Sons of the American Legion
40/8 programs
Shrine Club programs
Ride for America
Memorial Day ceremonies
Veterans Day ceremonies
Secret Santa program
Support for Soldiers Connection
American Legion District and other meetings
Community Service Worker program
Workshop for veterans
District membership drive
Color Guard Funerals
Color Guard Flag Presentations
Color Guard Flag Education

Corvette Marching Band
Veteran's Parades
Soldiers' Home in Milledgeville
VA Stand Down for homeless veterans
Other American Legion Posts (i.e. funerals)
Funeral moving escorts
Flag lines
Commanders' escorts
Project Renewal (Women's Abuse Shelter)
American Cancer Society – Relay for Life
Scholarships – High School Seniors (We give 2 \$1,000 each year)
Girls State program
Local Libraries (Donations of books and funds for summer children's programs)
Poppy Program
Children of Warriors
Spirit of Youth
National Child Welfare
Shrine Circus
Operation Military Kids
School Supplies to Local Schools for Children and the Nurses Stations
USO
Fisher House
Dogs for Vets
Creative Arts
Crosses at Post for Veterans and Memorial Days
Milledgeville War Veterans Home numerous programs
Department President's Special Project each year
Community Service which involves nursing home visitation, food to sick, transportation to doctors and hospitals, entertainment at nursing homes and assisted living facilities
Special Olympics
The Christian M/C Association
Faith Serving Humanity (FISH)
Walton County Sheriff's Fund

Gwinnett County Humane Society
City of Loganville Police “Dare Program”

Post 233 is the largest American Legion Post in Georgia and continues to support the following programs of the American Legion: Americanism, Rehabilitation, Boys/Girls State, Oratorical contest, American Legion Baseball, Child Welfare, and Community Service. The Post 233 Legion Auxiliary was named best in the United States in 2013.

Post 233 Commanders:

1946	Gerald Hodges
1947	Gerald Hodges
1948	Gerald Hodges
1949	Winston Byrd
1950	Donald Garrett
1951	Harold Byrd
1952	Bill Sellers
1953	Frank Putman
1954	Hoke O'Kelley
1955	Jack Peppers
1956	Lester Norton
1957	Frank Putman
1958	B.W. Towler
1959	B. W. Towler
1960	Robert Conner
1961	Julian Sellers
1962	Bobby Boss
1963	Homer Sikes
1964	Arthur Juhan
1965	Arthur Juhan
1966	Bobby Boss
1967	Bobby Boss
1968	Arthur Juhan
1969	Bobby Boss
1970	Bobby Boss
1971	Bobby Boss
1972	Robert Conner
1973	Arthur Juhan
1974	Harold Smith
1975	Joe Dial
1976	Bobby Boss
1977	Hershell Wesson
1978	W.C. Archer

1979	Cecil Thompson
1980	Bob Whitesides
1981	Cecil Thompson
1982	Bobby Boss
1983	Bobby Boss
1984	Bobby Boss
1985	Cecil Thompson
1986	Bobby Boss
1987	Bobby Boss
1988	Bobby Boss
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2009	Bobby Boss
2010	Bobby Boss
2011	Bobby Boss
2012	Jim Carmona
2013	Jim Carmona

2014	Jim Carmona
2015	Jim Carmona
2016	Stan Mauldin
2017	Stan Mauldin
2018	Bill Dolan
2019	Bill Dolan
2020	Thom Williams
2021	Thom Williams
2022	Mike Burwell
2023	Mike Burwell

Post 233 Legionnaires of the Year:

1976	C.A. Kelley
1977	Donald Garrett
1978	Harold Byrd
1979	Bobby Boss
1980	Arthur Juhan
1981	Harold Smith
1982	W.C. Archer
1983	Jack Peppers
1984	Joe Dial
1985	Roy Brumblow
1986	Keith Shelley
1987	Bill Hammock
1988	Cecil Thompson
1989	James Wheeler
1990	Ben Lindsey
1991	Robert Conner
1992	Harold Sauter
1993	Harold Still
1994	J.P. Johnson
1995	Joe Holt
1996	Jack Wade
1997	Rick Conn
1998	Max Cleland
1999	Paul Bystrom
2000	Jerry Mahaffey
2001	B.E. Hopkins
2002	Larry Hoff
2003	Larry Williams
2004	Tommy Hatton
2005	Diane Adair
2006	John Maly
2007	Jim Carmona
2008	Cliff Ford

2009	Richard McCown
2010	Ron Nelsen
2011	Stan Smith
2012	Stan Maulden
2013	John Bushwack
2014	Lamar Hood
2015	Paul Bystrom
2016	To be determined
2017	Mike Burwell
2018	Jim Dennis
2019	Thom Williams
2020	Jeff DeVries
2021	Mike Madsen
2022	To be determined
2023	To be determined