

# THE CLINTON POST 259 NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



Greetings Post 259 American Legion Family

Each year on November 11, our nation pauses to commemorate the service and sacrifice of the men and women who serve, protect, and defend our country. First known as Armistice Day, President Woodrow Wilson set aside the day of November 11, the first anniversary of the signing of the armistice ending WWI; to recognize and thank our American soldiers for their service. This day was declared a National Holiday in 1938 and in 1954 the name was changed to Veteran's Day to honor all American Veterans. As members of The American Legion family, let us all reach out to our fellow veterans to check on their welfare and see if they need any assistance. The American Legion is there to assist all veterans not only on Veterans Day, but any day of the year.

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 259 will host our Veterans Day program on Monday, November 11, 2019 at 11 am. This is an occasion for our post family to come together and observe this special day.

The Post 259 American Legion family will be receiving the letter briefing you on the Children's Christmas Party and Shotgun Raffle soon. There will be a sign-up sheet in the post canteen for both the Children's Christmas party and Adult Christmas party. Again this year, we are requesting that you sign-up your children, grand- children or any minor children in your family so that we can have an estimated count of how many children will be attending the party. We are also requesting that all adult members of the post sign-up so we will have an estimate of attendance. The dinner for the Adult Christmas party will be catered and each member can bring a guest. The Children's Christmas party will be on Sunday, December 8, from 1-4 p.m. The adult party will be Saturday, December 14, from 5-6 p.m. with open bar. Dinner is served from 6-7 p.m. A DJ and music will be provided for your entertainment. A flyer is included in this newsletter with information on both parties.

Due to the upcoming construction on the vacant lot next to our post, parking has been reduced for events at the post. Previously, the vacant lot was used as an overflow parking lot for events. Since that area is not available, parking has become limited during events at the post. Because of the limited parking, members and visitors are parking in the grassy area near the handicap ramp and entrance. The grassy area is not a designated parking area. Do not park in this area because it has caused members and guest who have wheelchair accessibility problems with entering the ramp.

We are in need of volunteers to help with Bingo and in the kitchen. Our Bingo chairperson is doing an outstanding job with the bingo program, but she needs help. If you can volunteer one Friday each month, that would help with the scheduling.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Veterans Day program and our November General Membership meeting on Monday, November 25, at 7:30 pm.

Yours in service,

For God and Country,

Murray S. Hall  
Commander  
American Legion Post 259, Clinton, Md.

## POST OFFICERS

Commander	Murray S. Hall
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Willie Evans
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Raymond Butts
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander	George Martin
Adjutant	Robert A Wilson
Asst. Adjutant	Glenda Sturdivant
Judge Advocate	Elbert "Ed" White
Service Officer	James Woodland
Finance Officer	Lamont Gibson
Asst. Finance Officer	Vacant
Historian	ShaWanda Brown
Chaplain	James Burrows
Asst. Chaplain	Vacant
Sgt At Arm	John Jackson
<b>Executive Committee</b> Helen L. Smith Joseph Morgan Marie Vanness	<b>Treasurer</b> <b>Department of Maryland</b>  Gary W. Gifford



**Auxiliary Officers**

**Legion Rider Officers**

**S.A.L. Officers**

President: Maria Miller

Director: Darryl Fielder

Commander: David Hutchinson

Vice President: Freida Skaggs

Asst. Director: Murray Hall

1<sup>st</sup> Vice: Vacant

Secretary: Brie O'Neal

Treasurer: Vacant

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice: Kenny Hendrix

Treasurer: Brie O'Neal

Chaplain: James Burrows

Finance Officer: Dave Desmarais

Historian: Chauncia Jones

Sgt At Arms: Michael Thomas

Chaplain: Marilyn Thomas

Adjutant: Rich A. Walsh Jr.

Sgt At Arm: Cheryl Batie

Historian: Vacant

Executive Advisory Board  
Donna Queen  
Pam Streeter  
Judith Woodland

Chaplain: Gary "GJ" Shafer

Advisor: Eugene Murray

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Veterans Day Service – Nov. 11, 2019 – Auxiliary</b>
Children’s Christmas Party – December 8, 2019 – Legion
Adult Christmas Party/Shotgun Raffle Drawing – December 14, 2019 - Legion
Department Christmas Party – December 15, 2019 – Post 223
Super Bowl Party – February 2020 – Legion
Oratorical Contest – February 16, 2020 – Legion
Southern Maryland District Oyster Bowl – February 2020 – Legion
American Legion Birthday – March 15, 2020
Palm Sunday Brunch – April 14, 2020 – Auxiliary
Memorial Day/Voting of Post 259 Officers 2020 – Legion
Flag Day – June 14, 2020 – Legion
AL Golf Tournament – June 2020 – Legion
Installation of Post 259 Officers – June 2020 – Legion
Ocean City Conference – July 2020
Gary A. Castleman Golf Tournament – September 2020

## **Post 259 Briefs**

### *Post 259 Expresses Our Sympathy to the Following –*

- To Legionnaire William “Bill” Greenwood, whose brother passed in Chicago last month. Bill is a regular Bingo floor worker.
- To Legionnaire James Woodland, our 259 Service Officer, and wife Judith, an ALA 259 Auxiliary Member, whose daughter passed recently. Post 259 Commander Hall, District Commander and Past Commander Haywood Moss, Post 259 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Willie Evans, Post 259 Chaplain James Burrows, and ALA 259 Auxiliary Members President Maria Miller, Vice President Freida Skaggs, Secretary and Treasurer Brie O’ Neal, Irma Moss, and others attended the funeral service.

---

### **Chaplain James Burrows Receives Chaplain’s Certificate for Completing Course**



Post 259 Chaplain James Burrows attended an American Legion Chaplain Seminar last month in Annapolis, Md. Seven members were present to learn the duties, challenges, and responsibilities chaplains face. They also saw a film about “The Four Chaplains,” officers who gave their lives in helping soldiers on the SS Dorchester, which was torpedoed and sank by a German submarine on February 3, 1943 during World War II.

**KARAOKE, the popular singing sensation where amateurs get their chance to sing along recorded music is no longer at the Post. What!!?!?!!!!**

**Some were surprised that the Thursday night activity came to an end after seven months – but according to sources, KARAOKE will be back next March! Thank You Entertainment Committee for so much fun on Thursday Nights...Enjoy listening to some of the songs played on the next page!**





New Recording 4.m4a



New Recording 49.m4a



New Recording 13.m4a



New Recording 49.m4a



New Recording 37.m4a

## ***Spotlight on: Mayvee Smith***



**Post 259 Commander Murray Hall, Vietnam War Commemoration Partner Mayvee Smith, and  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Willie Evans at Commemoration Ceremony**

With Veterans Day happening on Monday, the honor goes to veterans and servicemen that serve our country. They do and have done a remarkable job and are committed in keeping our country secure and safe.

But there are people behind the scenes that also do a tremendous job to help these comrades – whether it's support in civilian and government jobs, or businesses and organizations dedicated for veterans and service members, or by volunteering. The volunteers, without a doubt, are those people that give their all in further honoring those who have fought for this country.

“It’s interesting because...I had joined the Auxiliary and I was trying to figure out where I fit in,” said Mayvee Smith. Mayvee first joined American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) 275 (Dunedin, FL) and then transferred to ALA 170 (Indian Head). Traveling back from Florida to Maryland didn’t bother her much, due to personal and career tasks. But Mayvee wanted to fit in; she wanted to be in an atmosphere where she felt she was doing something worthwhile.

Mayvee attended an ALA orientation at Post 259 when she met Brie O’Neal, who was a presenter and had the position of Department Chair of National Security. O’Neal later asked Mayvee could she put something together to honor Francis DeSales Wills, a MIA soldier.

“I initially said “No,” said Smith. Despite what she said, Mayvee did some research on the soldier. But what really got her was a voice that kept saying to her when she went to bed, “Do it for me.”

Flaggergasted, Mayvee called O’Neal, then went to the Auxiliary President. She responded with a “No;” then she went to the Auxiliary Commander who also said “No.” Finally Mayvee went to the Post Commander, gave her reasoning, and then was allowed to put together a program.

Mayvee paid for everything involved with the MIA program; the table with the important displays, and \$240 dollars for a MIA chair. The program was a success and she was reimbursed for the money spent.

That experience in 2017 made Mayvee begin other projects: honoring the first black military unit, the Buffalo Soldiers, the Tuskegee Airmen, the Montford Point Marines, Black Marines in WWII, the Navy Golden 13, and the Triple Nickels. Extensive research was done on each project. In March 2018 Mayvee honored women veterans.

Later that year in Florida Mayvee met a lady who told her about a “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans” program. She asked the woman was it okay to borrow her program to use on Maryland. The woman agreed in which Mayvee presented it to the Post Commander which was approved but at first received some backlash.

“We wanted to first honor those from Charles County; those who did not come home (which was 14) and the one POW/MIA (DeSales Wills was from the county), then honor the fallen and the missing, then we will celebrate the ones who came home,” said Smith. “ I was told by the woman in Florida if I contact the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) that they have the pins and certificates.”

Mayvee continued her research and found out about the Vietnam War Commemoration Program. After reading about the program, she found out she could become a partner and get her own pins.

The backlash came from her Post Commander but did not deter Mayvee from explaining why she needed to do this. The commander was also a Vietnam War veteran.

“I’m looking at this as a healing, I need to do this program because I need to heal, and he was like “You need to heal,” and she said, Yes, I need to heal because I was part of the Vietnam era and what I realize is that I’ve seen the way you all were treated when you came home...and it wasn’t nice...and also the fact of how some of you went...like on this date you show up...so I was a very angry teenager and I need to heal, “ said Smith.

Convinced, the commander then said, “Ok.”

Mayvee then filled out the application online. The requirement was she had to have two other people with her and do the paperwork. Mayvee was approved and is now a Vietnam War Commemoration Partner. She must do a minimal of two events a year and stay in her position for 3 years.

Mayvee has also honored Gold Star Families. She has two aunts that were WWII veterans. She owns a desktop publishing business.

But out of all the programs Mayvee Smith has done, her passion is recognizing the Vietnam War veterans. Mayvee gave pins and certificates at Post 259 in June and July this year.

On March 29, 2020 she will do the task again at the Southern Maryland Youth Camp. Vietnam War veterans give only their name and branch of service.

“For me, my most passionate program is “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans because I feel they were treated so badly when they returned, and they did not ask to go,” said Smith. She indicated that soldiers were told not to talk about what they went through in Vietnam when they came back home.

“Some people volunteered, but a whole lot of them received a draft letter to go. And when I did my research, some of them didn’t live 30 days when they got there, so for me when they returned they were called baby killers, and everything unimaginable – and so I want to say “Thank you” and “Welcome home for your service.”

Clinton Post 259 gives appreciation and honor to Mayvee Smith, to Post 259 Auxiliary Members, and other ALAs for all you do.



***The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 259 Annual Veterans Day Program***



***Monday, November 11, 2019 11:00am***

Respect Honor Remember

Clinton American Legion Post 259

9122 Piscataway Road Clinton, MD 20735

301-868-2550

Doors open at **10:30am**

***Lunch will be served following the program***

## Messages from 1st Vice Commander Willie Evans

### New Members:

Welcome to the following New Members that were voted in at the 28 October 2019 general membership meeting:

John J. Alston III	- Marine Corps
Joshua J. Broomfield	- Army
Robert J. Fowler, Sr.	- Navy
Dennis C. Hansford	- Army
Dushaun Harris	- Air Force
Michael N. Higginbotham	- Army
Kenneth E. Lyons	- Army
Henry Pratt III	- Army
Paul Schneidmill	- Army
Reginald Thomas	- Army

-----

### Membership “Early Bird” Program

Have you paid your 2019 annual membership dues? If so, you are eligible to participate in the Post’s Membership “Early Bird” Program. A lottery will be held in December to select ten (10) members from the pool of annual dues paying members that paid their 2019 dues by 30 November 2019. The ten selected will have their 2021 dues paid by the Post. Life members and 2020 Early Bird winners are ineligible to participate in this program. **Don’t Miss out!** You can either pay online, leave payment with the bartender on duty, or you can mail your payment to American Legion Post 259, P. O. Box 44, Clinton, MD 20735.

-----

What’s in your Wallet! **Go For The GOAL** and help your Post reach 100% of its membership goal **by renewing your membership by 12/1/19!** Don’t put it off, renew now!

## New Legionnaires taking the Oath (October 28, 2019)



**Prince Georges County American Legion County Commander William Speight and American Legion Department of Maryland Second Vice President Will Trotter were guests at the Post 259 October 28 general meeting.**

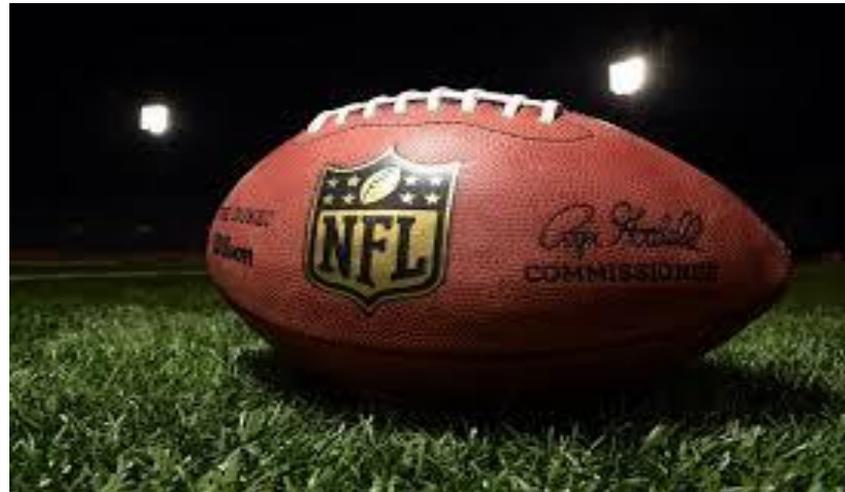


## November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> BINGO 7:15 – 10 PM	<b>2</b> SAL OYSTER AND BULL ROAST 2 – 5 PM
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> SAL MEETING 6:30 PM	<b>5</b> DANCE CLASS FOX HOLE 6:30 – 8:30 PM	<b>6</b> SHRIMP NIGHT 5:30 – 7:30 PM	<b>7</b> DANCE CLASS FOX HOLE 6:30 – 8:30 PM CHICKEN WING NIGHT 6 – 9 PM	<b>8</b> BINGO 7:15 – 10 PM	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> VETERANS DAY  VETERANS DAY PROGRAM 11 AM	<b>12</b> DANCE CLASS FOX HOLE 6:30 – 8:30 PM	<b>13</b> SHRIMP NIGHT 5:30 – 7:30 PM COAST GUARD MEETING FOX HOLE 7 – 9 PM	<b>14</b> DANCE CLASS FOX HOLE 6:30 – 8:30 PM CHICKEN WING NIGHT 6 – 9 PM	<b>15</b> BINGO 7:15 – 10 PM	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 6:30 PM	<b>19</b> DANCE CLASS FOX HOLE 6:30 – 8:30 PM	<b>20</b> SHRIMP NIGHT 5:30 – 7:30 PM	<b>21</b> DANCE CLASS FOX HOLE 6:30 – 8:30 PM CHICKEN WING NIGHT 6 – 9 PM	<b>22</b> BINGO 7:15 – 10 PM HUNT CLUB MEETING FOX HOLE 7 – 8:30 PM	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:30 PM	<b>26</b> DANCE CLASS FOX HOLE 6:30 – 8:30 PM	<b>27</b> SHRIMP NIGHT 5:30 – 7:30 PM	<b>28</b> THANKSGIVING DAY  POST CLOSED	<b>29</b> BINGO 7:15 – 10 PM	<b>30</b> HAND DANCE CLASS DANCE 8 – 12 PM

**THURSDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL** continues to be a success at Clinton Post 259. Come and join us for drinks and a meal – chicken wings, fries, hot dogs and half smokes!

Thanks to all who participate!



**Fridays @ 7:15    HELP WANTED**

A graphic of seven black bingo balls arranged in a slight curve, each containing a white letter that spells out the word "BINGO".

**B I N G O**

A graphic of a bingo card tilted at an angle. The word "BINGO" is written across the top row. The card contains a grid of numbers and a "FREE SPACE" in the center.

B I N G O				
7	25	44	57	62
15	22	40	50	70
11	30	FREE SPACE	46	74
2	28	37	55	68
10	27	39	59	75

**EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT AT 7:15 AT THE CLINTON AMERICAN LEGION**

**\$23 MINIMUM GUARENTEED JACKPOT \$500**

**CONTACT TONYA FORD @ (301) 661-6149**

# JUSTDANCE HAND DANCE ACADEMY

New Hand Dance Class Enrollment

Join us

Every Tuesday & Thursday  
At  
The American Legion, Post  
259  
9122 Piscataway Road  
Clinton, MD 20735

Beginners Class  
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
**Line Dance & Bop included**

intermediate Class

8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

\$10.00 per class- pay as you go

Invite Friends & family!



Great Exercise &  
Fun!

\$10.00 registration fee (One time

only)

Contact information: - Valerie @ 301-639-5029 -

[iustdanceii@yahoo.com](mailto:iustdanceii@yahoo.com)

## After 11 Years at Post 259, Valerie Johnson's program finally gets recognized



“Well, I tell you what happens when I go out to places, people they say to me when you have parties, affairs, or at the Bottom Line (a nightclub dive across the street from the post) that you started hand dancing,” said Valerie Johnson, person in charge and owner of the Just Dance Hand Dance Academy.

Learning to hand dance at Post 259 has been going on for 11 years. The location of the lessons is in the Post's Foxhole, which is downstairs, away from other activities going on. It seems to be a well-kept secret that somehow has quietly been recognized by members of the post.

Lessons occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., sometimes extending an extra hour. Twelve-week sessions begin at \$10 dollars, that also include line dancing and bop. There is also a one-time registration fee of \$10 dollars.



Just as Go-Go is now the official music of Washington, D.C., according to Johnson hand dancing is the official dance of the District. She's right, Wikipedia states hand dancing was made the official dance of D.C. by the District Council in 1999.

"Young people are now into hand dancing," said Johnson. "A lot of them want to learn the steps that their parents did or are doing."

Johnson also likes to work with children. "They are so creative." She said.

A Black American art form, hand dancing gets its tracing as far as the 1920s, with dance creations like the Lindy Hop and Jitterbug.

"To be able to communicate and having the patience (students sometimes have the tendency to goof off) it's a lot of fun but if you want to learn, you have to stop playing for something that's really important," said Johnson. "I know what I have to do to get their attention."

Watching the lessons given is an experience, with Johnson and her assistant son James (aka Tracky) observing the couple movements, giving instructions and advice on moves, and checking the composure of the group. Members get excited about wanting to get their steps right. Male partners are in charge in leading the steps.

When the students leave from their lessons, they all feel good, some saying, “I got this!”



During the years of teaching, Johnson has put together many functions for her students. “Putting them together was not easy,” she said. But the results also bring gratification to Valerie. Lifelong friendships are made. She received greetings from a group in her class that went to Europe.

There was another group that went on a cruise.

A romance that blossomed to a marriage.

Johnson continues to receive gratification. Students she has taught run up to her and if they are with someone they say with enthusiasm, “Come here, this is the person that taught me, come on, I want you to meet this person!”

Functions are now miniscule due to rising costs, but Johnson remains optimistic.

“We don’t want it to die, we want to keep it going,” she said.

## The Prince Georges County Veterans Resource Fair

The Veterans Resource Fair was held at the Oxon Hill Library, 6200 Oxon Hill Road, on October 19 between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vendors from the federal, state, county, and community participated in bringing resources to strengthen veteran support and for their families.





Dr. James Dula, the Veterans Affairs Officer under the County Executive in Prince Georges County said the following regarding the Veteran Resource Fair -

“This was done by our Veteran’s Commission and a collective effect from the office of Veteran’s Affairs. We came onboard nine months ago, people are hearing about us, it’s catching on, this is a joint effort.

Our new theme is “One Team, One Mission, One Victory.” In other words, we work together to accomplish any task and when it’s accomplished successfully, we all stand together, and that’s the military way of doing things.”

Prince Georges County Executive Angela Alsobrooks appeared at the fair and gave remarks.

---

**Another Veteran’s Resource Fair will occur on November 8 at the Wayne Curry Sports and Learning Center, Location is at 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD. Hosted by Congressman Anthony Brown (MD-04). Open to veterans in Prince Georges and Anne Arundel Counties. Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**



**THIRSTY THURSDAY & EASY LISTENING SUNDAY NOW FEATURE  
FOOTBALL GAME DAY BRAGGING RIGHTS  
COME OUT SHARE GOOD FRIENDS, DRINKS SPECIALS AND SELECT MENU**

**Thursday Thirsty features Fried Chicken, Half Smokes and Door prizes  
Food Served 6:00 p.m. UNTIL 9:00 P.M.**

**Easy Listening Sunday feature Select Menu, and Drink specials  
Food Served 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.**





## **CHRISTMAS 2019**

### **CHILDREN CHRISTMAS PARTY 2019**

The Annual Children Christmas Party will be held on December 8, 2019 from 1:00PM until 4:00PM. A variety of entertainment will keep the children occupied until the arrival of Santa Claus., who will give a gift to every child 10 and under.

In order to be eligible for this party, you must be a paid-up member of Post 259. Fill out the form below and have it in not later than November 22, 2019.

NOTE: When filling out the form make sure the last name is filled in on both the children and the adult party.

#### **CHILDREN MUST BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE GIFTS**

First & Last Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

First & Last Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

First & Last Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

First & Last Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Card Number MD 259: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY 2019

The Annual Adult Christmas Party will be held on December 14, 2019 from 5:00PM until. There will be an open bar from 5:00PM until 6:00PM.

Dinner will be served from 6:00PM until 7:00PM with dancing to follow.

In order to be eligible for this affair you must be a paid-up member of Post 259 and have submitted this form to the Post not later than December 1, 2019.

As usual, seating arrangements will be assigned according to the first 175 names received by the cutoff date. A charge of \$10.00 for each member and their guest must accompany the form.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Attendees: Self** \_\_\_\_\_ **Guest** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership No.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Would like to sit with:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose check with form. Make check payable to A.L. Post 259. Cash payment must be submitted to the bartender. A receipt will be stapled to your form. For additional information contact: Ms. Darlene Simpson at (301) 868-2550.



## Messages from Legionnaire Rich Barb



The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be on December 5th, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Post. You can sign up to donate by going to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive> or call 1-800-733-2767.

-----

Below is a birds-eye view of the construction going on next door to the post. It gives you a good perspective of the size of the project.





*You're invited to The American Legion Family*



# CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019 - 1PM - 5 PM

HOSTED BY:

Sykesville Memorial Post 223  
7327 Slacks Road  
Sykesville, Maryland 21784-7107



**Holiday Attire / Ugly Sweater Contest / Dancing / 50/50 Raffles**

Department Officers Trivia

Appetizers / Dessert / Cash Bar

TICKETS: \$8.00 Per Person (Adults 21 and Older)

**FOR TICKETS CONTACT:**

2<sup>ND</sup> Vice Commander Ronald Holcombe | Sykesville Memorial Post 223  
(443) 854-0990 (410) 7995-7242



**RSVP By: December 2, 2019**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

Sykesville Memorial Post 223, 7327 Slacks Rd, Sykesville, MD 21784-7107

C/O: Commander John Ridgley

I Will Attend  How Many People  Amount Paid: \$

(Please attached a list of NAMES who will be attending)

**The American Legion  
Clinton Post 259  
9122 Piscataway Road  
Clinton, Maryland 20735**

**Phone: 301-868-2550  
Website: [www.post259.org](http://www.post259.org)**

**We welcome your news, ideas,  
suggestions, comments or questions  
for future issues.**

**Forward to Editor Linda Poulson at  
[poulin515@gmail.com](mailto:poulin515@gmail.com)  
(subject to change)**

**Clinton Post 259 Newsletter is  
published monthly**

