

Dunlap American Legion Post 224: A Legacy of Service Beyond Veterans

For members of Dunlap American Legion Post 224, service didn't end when they took off their military uniforms.

Today, that commitment to service can be seen throughout Dunlap — in local schools, community organizations, holiday traditions, public spaces and programs honoring fellow veterans.

Over the past five years alone, Post 224 estimates it has donated approximately \$15,000 to local programs, projects and organizations. But the Legion's impact on the community extends well beyond financial contributions.

Some of its most visible work focuses on Dunlap's young people.

Each year, the Legion awards scholarships to Boyer Valley High School students and hosts the Fifth Grade Flag Essay Program, encouraging students to learn about the meaning and history of the American flag. The Post has supported the Boyer Valley Drama and Music Department, helped provide funding to establish the Boyer Valley Parent Teacher Organization and donated to Harrison County Youth Shooting Sports.

Legion members are also a familiar presence at Boyer Valley activities. The Post provides an Honor Guard at high school football games and hosts the annual Veterans Day program at the school.

The Legion has also helped make sure the American flag remains a prominent part of the community. Post 224 manages Dunlap's Avenue of Flags program and has provided flags and poles for the Boyer Valley Youth Sports Complex, Boyer Valley High School and Dunlap City Hall. The organization also helped make possible the large drop-down American flag displayed in the high school gym.

During Dunlap's annual Fourth of July celebration, Legion members carry the colors at the front of the parade — continuing a tradition that connects generations of Dunlap residents.

Their involvement extends to some of the community's favorite traditions for children and families.

Each Christmas, Post 224 arranges Santa's visit to the Dunlap Public Library, offering the event free to the public. Children can visit Santa, enjoy snacks and crafts and receive a toy, while several bicycles are given away through a raffle.

The Legion also supports Dunlap's annual Easter Egg Hunt and has contributed to projects including the Dunlap StoryWalk, Dunlap Food Pantry and Dunlap Senior Center.

Its contributions can even be found in Dunlap's public art. Post 224 donated toward the Bad Dog highway-side mural along Highway 30 and helped bring the veterans mural on the side of Dunlap City Hall to life.

While much of the Legion's work benefits the community as a whole, honoring and supporting veterans remains at the heart of its mission.

Post 224 has donated to veteran Honor Flights to Washington, D.C., helped build and repair veterans' grave markers and tombstones, participates in Quilts of Honor and Quilts of Valor programs and supports the Harrison County Veterans Program.

Some of those efforts are highly visible. Others may happen quietly, known only to the veterans and families they serve.

Taken together, they tell the story of an organization whose service reaches into nearly every corner of the community.

From scholarships and Santa visits to flags, food pantry donations, community art and the preservation of veterans' legacies, Dunlap American Legion Post 224 continues a tradition its members understand well: serving something larger than themselves.

The uniforms may change and the generations may pass, but in Dunlap, the commitment to serve continues.