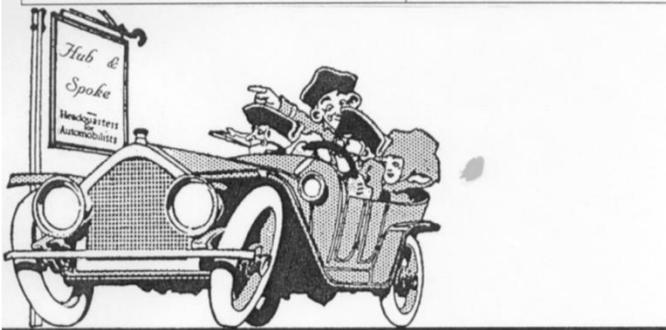


**November 2018 Hub & Spoke Sponsor: Donnie Blanks – 1968 Pontiac Firebird**



**The Hub & Spoke**

Newsletter of the Lynchburg, VA Region, AACA



Lynchburg AACA Region

Web Site <http://lynchburgva.aaca.com/>



## **The HUB AND SPOKE**

Lynchburg, VA Region, Antique Automobile Club of America **a Club for All Lovers of Old Vehicles** October, 2018

### **2018 LYNCHBURG REGION OFFICERS**

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- President, Charles Thaxton, 434-525-0767 ([chalin68@verizon.net](mailto:chalin68@verizon.net))
- V. President C. J Leighton 434-528-5435 ([Cjl1359@comcast.net](mailto:Cjl1359@comcast.net))
- Secretary, Linda Thaxton, 434-525-0767 ([chalin68@verizon.net](mailto:chalin68@verizon.net))

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The Hub and Spoke is an official publication of the Lynchburg Region AACA as is the **Lynchburg Region's Website:** <http://lynchburgva.aaca.com/>



## **Spoken From the Hub October 2018**

Charles Thaxton

I have been looking around for a new project car and I suddenly stopped and asked myself, why are you doing this? I have 2 restored cars now. What do you want with another? If I just want to stay busy why not start doing some work on your house? I would really get a better return on my dollar spending money on my house and I could certainly stay busy without having to stay in the shop all day. Now this seems like a great idea but I don't enjoy working on the house as much as fooling with some old car. So now the question is what do you want to do just stay busy, or have fun and stay busy? Well the answer to this is to stay busy and enjoy it too. This is my rational for fooling around with old cars, and I think it makes really good sense.

With this crazy notion in my head I am still looking for something I can make a hot rod out of and make use of a Chevy Small block I have sitting around in my shop. I was originally looking for a Model A Ford but those things have gotten too expensive. I am thinking about moving up into the 70 s or 80 s and see what I can find. I really don't like those body styles but they should be cheaper and easier to find. Possibly a pick up or a four door sedan. I have always liked the sleeper type of car that no one suspects has anything in it. This notion is from my early years as a Hot Rod builder, and street racer. I think the ultimate would be some old four door family sedan with black walls and

hubcaps with a really strong engine and running gear. I would need a get out of jail free card and a good lawyer to go with this combination also. What cop or unsuspecting young kid would ever suspect an old fart like me in a beat up sedan with that kind of power under the hood.

This idea is a lovely dream but I am afraid that this would be the end of my house, wife and possibly my life so all this is, is a dream of older times when I was young and stupid. I really think I need my head examined for even thinking about it.

I will just keep thinking about another project car and it will fall in my lap someday. In the mean time I will follow my Father's advice and work on the house and make a better investment of my time and money. I have reached the age where I understand the logic in his wisdom. But does anyone have a lead on a good project car?

**FOR SALE!** 1924 Cadillac Suburban Original rebuilt V8 engine. Three speed in the floor, all original upholstery and wood trim, no rust. 4 wheel mechanical brakes and new Lancaster tires. Everyday driver licensed and insured. 1924 VA plates go with it. Very few of these exist today. Al Capone had one just like it.



\$37K and drive it home. Reggie Goolsby 434-907-2866 or [olreg@comcast.net](mailto:olreg@comcast.net)



**November 2018 Hub & Spoke Sponsor – Donnie Blanks**

Donnie owns & maintains a quartet of interesting cars. First is the featured car – '68 Pontiac Firebird.



The '68 Firebird has a 160 MPH speedometer ('68 Camaros only had 120 MPH). This car is the forerunner to the Firebird Trans AM which was introduced in very limited numbers in '69. HP was underrated at 330 (W2 Code) for safety concerns.



The Firebird was purchased by Donnie over thirty-one years ago. It has a matching number 400 CID (6.6L) 4V, Muncie four speed trans, factory Hurst shifter, factory hood tach, factory red-on-red with one repaint, 10.75 compression, and original AM/FM radio.

On each corner of this convertible are vibration dampeners called "cocktail shakers" installed to help prevent vibrations because of the lack of the roof structure. The cocktail shakers are large cans with a suspended mass on a spring in a viscous fluid tuned to a resonant frequency of the convertible that caused the vibration problems. When the body was subjected to loading that would otherwise tend to make it oscillate, much of the energy was instead absorbed by the motion of the masses in the cocktail shakers - which reduced the vibration in the body. The cocktail shakers weight about 25 pounds each.



Work has been done to keep the car as original as possible. Guy who sold it to Donnie said that his wife told him to get rid of the car or her. Wonder how it worked out for the seller --- worked out great for Donnie! (Editorial comment: Wikipedia and other sources list the '68 Firebird convertible total manufactured as 16,960. Exact #s for this high option package couldn't be confirmed in time for this H&S)

Next going in a different direction is an old-school hot rod --- **1948 Ford** coupe.



Dummy spots, baby Moons, no front bumper, mostly Oldsmobile running gear, flat black primer paint, fits right into the style of car that we all wanted back-in-the-day. Donnie stated that having owned the car for about ten years it's still a work in progress. Wasn't that true of all hot rods of our youth?

The '48 Ford is a great driver and runs well at any speed.

### **'68 Mustang**



His 1968 Mustang is original outside and has a super solid body. The motor is not original having a built 351 Winsor mated to a top loader four speed transmission.



### **'73 Maverick**



The Ford Maverick is a 1973 Grabber that Donnie bought as a super nice body missing most of it's running gear. He dropped in a built 302 flat-top piston, roller rockers, aluminum heads, balanced and blue printed. He obtained the original rear end for it which has a mini spool (true posi-traction), factory 3.55 gears, and a Borg Warner T10 transmission. Again,

Donnie built it the way that he wanted it. The car has '72 bumpers and the '72 stripe kit and hood. The car was shown at the Maverick/Comet Nations held at the Kirkly Hotel in Lynchburg in 7/2018 and received an award in the '73 Modified Class.

(Editorial comment: The name "[Maverick](#)" was derived from the word for an unbranded range steer. The Grabber option was only available for a few early Maverick years. This car was a good choice for a horsepower transfusion because it only weighed approx. 2900 pounds with its original drive train. Light weight/max BHP = smiles per miles.)



**UPDATE: Shanna & John Kenny's Ferrari**  
**(originally featured in the August 2018 Hub**  
**& Spoke)**

It's been a busy year in our garage trying to get our '62 Ferrari 250 GTE ready for her first outing since the 70s. At the beginning of this year we set a goal to have the car mechanically recommissioned and to get as much re-assembled as possible to make it to Euro Auto Festival in Greenville, SC on October 20th. It was significant to us on a personal level since the 20th was our 34th anniversary. I wanted Shanna to drive or ride onto the show field in the car she had last ridden in when she was a little girl growing up in Germany.

We made it! It was close to get the car put back together but the car was running well thanks to help from my friend Michael Yount, Charles Thaxton and a final tune and brake booster rebuild by Radcliffe Motors in Owings Mills, MD.

Needless to say we were very happy with the way the car is progressing and we'll hope to have it at our club events next year. Many thanks to the folks that helped bring our girl back from another long nap and for the interest and support from our club.

John Kenny



We ended up having the oldest Ferrari at the show which featured Italian cars this year. As a result we had the 1st spot entering the Italian car section of the show and our girl got lots of attention. Even though the interior is not complete yet and we have things to sort out cosmetically; the car was nominated for an award by Keith Martin of Sports Car Market Letter. That was a surprise for sure. If there was a down side to that, we only lost out to a Ferrari 512 Boxer for best vintage Ferrari.





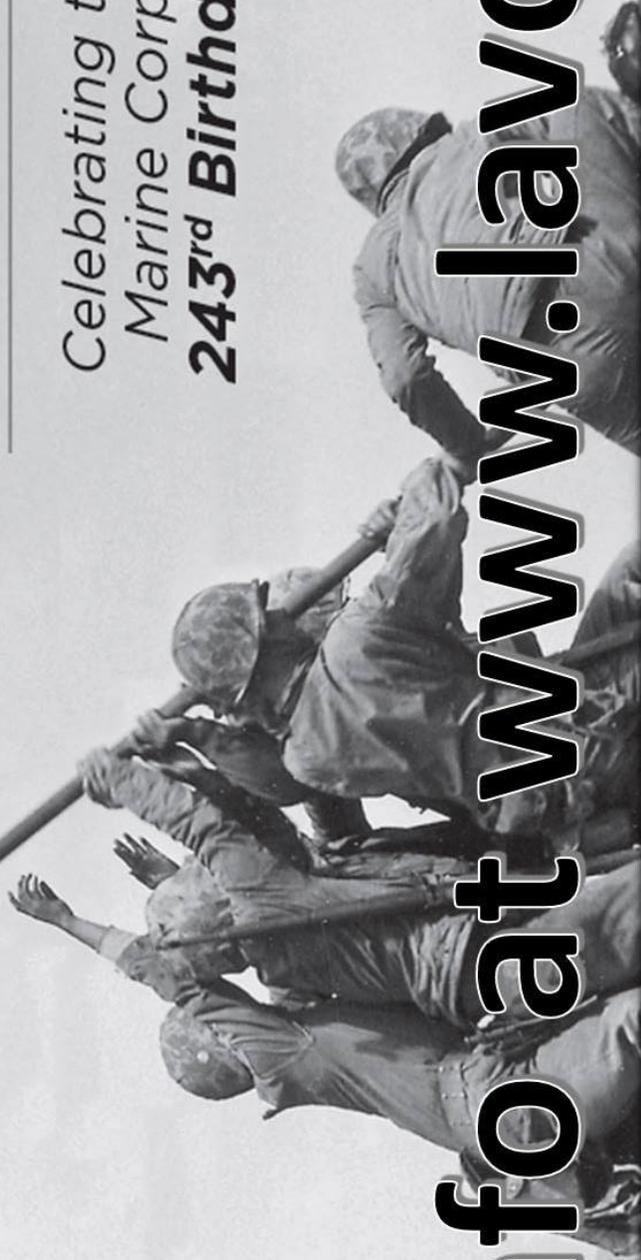
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**VETERANS DAY**  
**2018 PARADE**

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NOVEMBER 10, 2018  
Liberty University  
11am – 1pm

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Celebrating the  
Marine Corps  
**243<sup>rd</sup> Birthday**



**Info at [www.lavc.us](http://www.lavc.us)**

**LYNCHBURG AREA  
VETERANS COUNCIL**

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY HELPING VETERANS

## **LYNCHBURG REGION AACA MEETING** **MINUTES OCTOBER 29, 2018**

Meeting called to order by Charles Thaxton, President at 6:25 pm.

Charles led the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag and asked for a moment of silence.

Charles asked if guests were present. Guests were C.J.'s quest/potential member and Mike Brady from the Lynchburg Area Veterans Council.

Liz Williams gave her Sunshine Report: Terrie Linton is feeling much better.

Secretary's report is in the Hub and Spoke. Motion was made to accept the minutes; it was seconded and passed by member's vote.

Treasurer, Ron Blalock read his report. Motion made to accept this report and seconded and passed by member's vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mike Brady, a Vietnam Veteran, spoke about the Lynchburg Veterans Parade at Liberty University on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Those planning on participating in the parade need to be at LU behind TRBC at 9:30am. There will be some form of communication between Charles and Mike Brady. They will assign Veterans to ride with us, as needed. October 10<sup>th</sup> is the actual date of the 243<sup>rd</sup> Birthday of the United States Marine Corp. To celebrate this event, Dan Villarial, an 89 year old Marine WWII Veteran will be the Grand Marshal of the Veterans Parade. Mike said they were expecting about 500 veterans to attend the parade.

Mike asked how many vets were present at our AACA meeting. There were at least 16 present. Mike spoke about the Lynchburg Area Veterans Council (sponsor of the Veterans Parade) and their funding raised

for area veterans. He said that \$.90 of every \$1.00 goes to the benefit of area vets. None of the LAVC members collect any form of salary. The LAVC will be offering Memorial Bricks for Veterans of any War or branch of service for \$50.00 a brick. To add a service branch emblem to a brick, the cost will be an additional \$6.00. These bricks will be placed at Monument Terrace. The funds raised will be used to benefit area veterans. There will be an order form on their web site, [www.LAVC.us](http://www.LAVC.us).

Mike presented to all those present a LAVC badge with their new logo.

They would like to have as many cars as possible to accommodate as many veterans as possible. Please go to the LAVC website and sign up your car.

Our new Webmaster, Kathy Wesley, brought her laptop and projector and made a presentation on our new website. She demonstrated how to search for information about events, Hub and Spoke, and the requirements for membership, membership renewal, and new member application. Kathy also showed the LAVC website and how to register your car for the parade. Kathy mentioned that any member can call the National AACA to get answers to questions. She said that you have to have a National AACA membership number in order to join the Lynchburg Region AACA. Kathy has requested you to email her a photo of your car with the make, model, and year if you want your car photo on our home page.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

October 6, 2018 was the Heritage Festival at William Campbell High School in Community Park behind the school. Owen Burks did a fantastic job putting this show together. Those present had a great time as Owen ordered coolish but overcast weather with no rain. Next

year's Festival will be about the same day and time in 2019.

The Parkway Ride on October 20, 2018 had to be cancelled due to prospective rainy weather. This was rescheduled from a rained out spring date.

C.J. was the only member to be there to go on the ride but he did his own version of the ride. Charles said this event would be planned again in, most likely, the spring of 2019.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**November Club Meeting** – Monday November 26, 2018 at Charlie's Restaurant. Eat at 5:30 pm; meeting at 6:30 pm.

**December Club meeting will be on Saturday December 22, 2018 at Charley's from 2:00 pm until 6:00 pm.** A Motion was made, seconded and passed to decide at our November meeting if we want to 1) order from the menu, 2) order a lunch package, or 3) order a dinner package. Charley's has to have a unanimous decision on choice 1, 2 or 3. Packages (dinner and lunch) will all be served at one time. If you order from the menu, you can do so anytime between 2:00 and 5:00pm. Menu ordering is from the menu at the price of meal on menu plus beverage. Lunch package (number 2) will be around \$13.00 with beverage. Dinner package (number 3) will be around \$24.00 with beverage. **Please come to the November meeting prepared to vote on these meal options. Email your choice to Charles Thaxton if you are not able to attend the November meeting.**

Members are encouraged to bring a desserts to the December 22 outing.

50/50 drawing was held with our Guest, Mike Brady, holding the winning ticket. Mike donated his winnings back to the club.

Auction was presided over by our energized auctioneer, Otto Vallastro.

No further business and meeting was adjourned.

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### **2019 Hub & Spoke Sponsors**

As discussed in the September 2018 meeting, H&S sponsorship cost is reduced to \$25 for your month.

The only item shown in the upcoming H&S will be a photo of a sponsor's favorite vehicle. New slimmer H&S will now consist of a cover page, minutes of previous meetings, schedule of events and advertisements on the last page.

**January:** Linda & Charles Thaxton

**February:** Marianne & Tony Simmons

**March:**

**April:**

**May:**

**June:**

**July:**

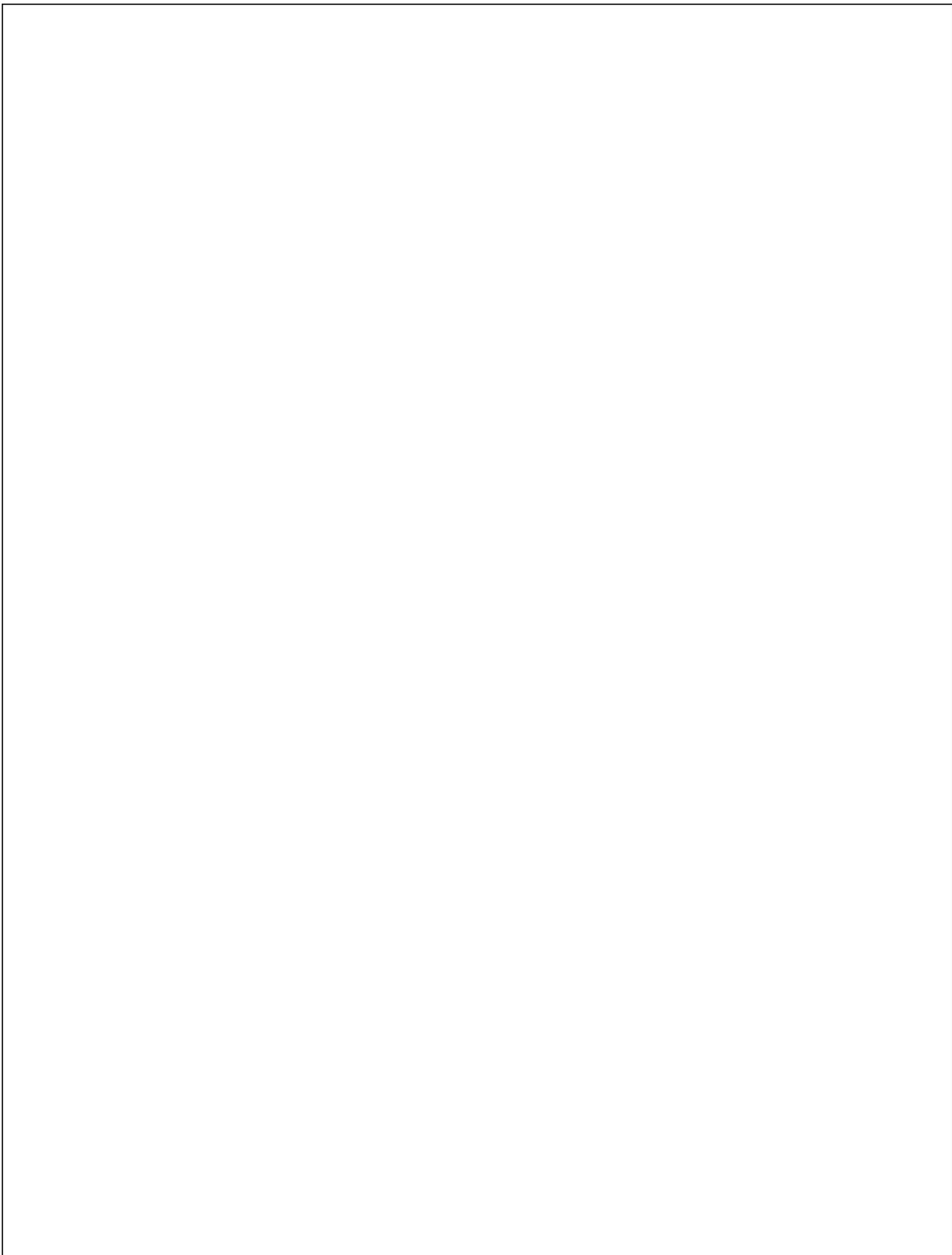
**August:**

**September:**

**October:**

**November:**

**December:**





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**VETERANS DAY**  
**2018 PARADE**

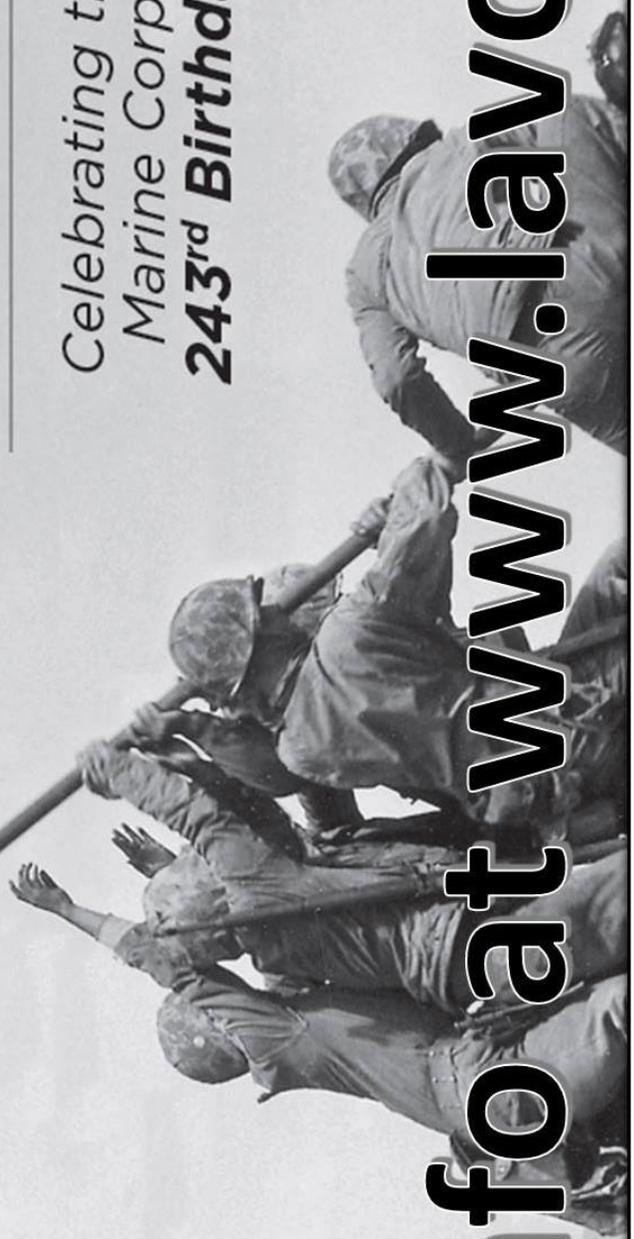


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**Info at [www.lavc.us](http://www.lavc.us)**



Presents

# A Rockin' 50's Christmas!



Sunday  
December 3rd  
4:00 pm  
Memorial Avenue



## 58th Annual Lynchburg Christmas Parade