



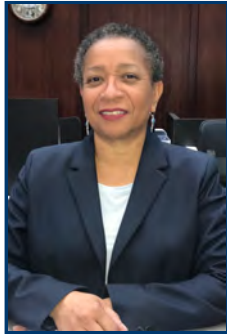
The **Team Spirit Award** is presented to an employee who provides excellent customer service and promotes teamwork.

AUGUST



*Leanne Gravois*

SEPTEMBER



*Cindy Himes*

OCTOBER



*Joseph Guzman*

**Congratulations to the winners of the Quarterly Stars & Stripes Drawing!**



**Jerry Rogers** of Norco  
**James Bechel** of Vacherie  
**Nola Matherne** of Thibodaux



**Thank you for reading this publication of Stars & Stripes!**

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Please return by January 31, 2020 to be eligible for this drawing. Winners will be announced in the next quarterly publication of Stars and Stripes.



December 2019

**On Deck with Jim Henderson**

It's a holiday weekend. The first major cold snap of the season is on the way. Logs are in the fireplace. It's snowing at the NFL game I'm watching on TV. There are all sorts of Christmas commercials running in the broadcast. Yes, the holiday season is upon us. And that holiday is.....Veterans Day.

Really?

It's nearly three weeks to Thanksgiving Day people. On TV they're rushing the football....and rushing the Season.

Didn't I just put the old fake Christmas tree in the attic last week? Actually maybe I did since procrastination is one of the biggest joys of retirement. But still...you're not supposed to be over-dosed on Christmas before you over-dose on Thanksgiving turkey.

That truck commercial where the husband surprises his wife with his and hers vehicles (like that happens routinely) that ran incessantly all last Christmas season has already been on about 25 times this Veterans Day weekend. It's already annoying. Give me some time to ease into the Christmas Spirit.

I don't want to get too sentimental too early. I mean I tear-up at every Christmas commercial with a horse or a dog in it. And those that have both leave me sniffing for hours on the recliner.



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I love Christmas and all the family traditions that are observed generation to generation. Ours include Lobster Newburg on Christmas Eve and watching “Christmas Vacation” as a family every year with everyone shouting out the dialogue from memory before it’s delivered.

Over ten years ago my son Derek gave me an authentic Chicago Black Hawk jersey with “OO” and “Griswold” on the back just like Clark wears on Christmas Day in the movie. After all I’ve taught him everything he knows about exterior illumination. I wear it every Christmas and was wearing it at the Grandkids’ house about 8 years ago when our oldest, Griffin, asked, “Pay (my nickname), can I have that jersey when you die?” That same Christmas his younger brother, Dalton, found he was a better shot with the BB gun than Griffin who never let Dalton win at anything while also not shooting his eye out. Reveling in his proficiency with the old lever-action Daisy, Dalton came to our bedroom Christmas morning to ask, “Pay, next year for Christmas will you get me an Ak-47?”

“A Christmas Story” runs incessantly at our house. A couple of years ago on a baseball trip to Cleveland I actually took everyone to the house where that classic was filmed. The Grandkids had seen enough after ten minutes. I could have stayed all day. Now you can actually stay all night in Ralphie’s bedroom. How cool would that be to spend Christmas Eve there?

But I’m afraid of getting my tongue stuck to the flag pole, having the neighborhood dogs steal the turkey, and my wife not appreciating another leg lamp again this Christmas.

Happy Holidays. Beginning I guess ever after with Veterans Day ... or soon Labor Day.

God Bless,  
*Jim Henderson*

# Thank you VETERANS



**In observance of the upcoming holidays,  
all offices will be closed on:**

**Christmas Day**  
Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

**New Year’s Day**  
Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**  
Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>

**President’s Day**  
Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>

**Mardi Gras Day**  
Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>