

Third Annual Veterans 5K A Success



This year's winners of the Annual Veterans 5K held Saturday, November 8 in Jena are pictured with their gold, silver and bronze metals.

Staff Report

On Saturday, November 8, the 3rd Annual Veterans 5K was hosted by Victory Fitness of Jena, seeing over 30 participate in the run, and many more lining the route to cheer them on.

The 3.1 miles run/walk began two years ago in memory of Joe Peppers, a Jena resident and United States Army National Guard soldier and Gulf War veteran, who passed away on November 8, 2022.

Peppers was an active member of Victory Fitness and the VFW Post 5002 LaSalle Parish Honor Guard. It was announced that over \$1,200.00 was raised from the 5K event, with all

proceeds donated to the local honor guard.

Organizers of the event sought to combine the two passions of Peppers, fitness and his military service, and are proud to support LaSalle Parish's local heroes – the Veterans Honor Guard – whose mission is to make sure no veteran is ever forgotten. They look forward to hosting the event next year and hope to see many more come out and "run for the guard".

Victory Fitness and event organizers thanked the following sponsors for making this year's event a success: Walmart of Jena, Roseland Insurance, Jena Pharmacy, Champlin's Furniture of Jena and Magical Memories 2 Geaux.

The following are the official race results:

OVERALL TOP 3

1st – Shane Lasiter – 23:15
2nd – Clint Cooksey – 23:30
3rd – James Green – 29:52

KIDS DIVISION

1st – Piper Breithaupt
2nd – Bailey Davis
3rd – Emmalyn Bonin

AGE GROUP WINNERS

17-29

1st – Chelcie Gardner
2nd – Rain Bigner
Women 30-49

1st – Amy Cooksey

2nd – Lacey Randall
3rd – Danielle Bryant

Women 50+

1st – Jowanna Flowers
2nd – Sharon Lasiter
3rd – Chris Ann Cole

Men 30-49

1st – Clint Cooksey
2nd – Thomenthian Williams
3rd – Evan Davis

Men 50+

1st – Shane Lasiter
2nd – James Green
3rd – Roger Morton



All of those who ran or walked in the 3rd Annual Veterans 5K were winners because their participation helped to raise over \$1,200 for the LaSalle Parish Veterans Honor Guard, supporting the guard's mission that "no veteran is ever forgotten".

This special Veterans Day Section is sponsored by the following businesses and individuals:

