

# 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:



**BLACK BAYOU METALS**

1550 E Oak Street, Jena, LA 71342 • 318.316.3273



**Victory FITNESS**


Located at 1739 South 4th Street in Jena • 318.992.0619

*Veterans Day 2025*

On Veterans Day, we remember and honor the men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces to protect our freedom.

As you are attending an event to show your support, please remember to drive carefully.

*Honoring All Who Served*



**SHERIFF LASALLE PARISH**

This message is brought to you by Sheriff Lane Windham and the LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office



**PROUD TO HONOR OUR COUNTRY'S VETERANS**

**SCC**

**STEPHENS CONTRACTING COMPANY**

1950 SOUTH SECOND STREET IN JENA

**318-992-1300**

**Town of Urania**

LOUISIANA

Home of Reforestation

Jay Ivy, Mayor

*Thank A Veteran Today*



**CAJUN SEAFOOD AND SPECIALTY MEATS**

**SUPPORT LOUISIANA FISHERMEN**

**LOCATED BESIDE WALMART**

**(318) 499-9540**



**HOMELAND BANK**

**OLLA:**

4345 Main Street 165

318.842.5425

**COLUMBIA:**

7840 Hwy. 165 South

Phone 318.649.6124

**JENA:**

3491 South First Street

Phone 318.992.0405

**MONROE:**

2591 Tower Drive

Phone 318.570.6700

**WEST MONROE:**

2103 North 7th Street

Phone 318.460.3990



**THANK YOU! HAPPY VETERANS DAY**

Member **FDIC**  

[www.homelandbank.com](http://www.homelandbank.com)