

VETERANS MEMORIAL POST 347

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**NEWSLETTER-APRIL 2025**

Commander: Dave Musser

Auxiliary: Maureen Caswell

S.A.L: Danny Roe

Riders: Linda Haynes

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Editor: Phil Crouthamel

**VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: JEAN YOUNGS**

**Commander-Dave Musser**

With the winning of the Queen of Hearts and our northern friends starting to head back home, the entrance to the post on Tuesday night will now go back to **Member + 3 guests**. We wish our snow-birds safe travels until their return in the fall. To all our full-time resident members, we look forward to seeing you around the Post!

**Reminder to all** – Final nominations for Post elected positions will be held April 9<sup>th</sup> at the general membership meeting. The election is set for Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> with two voting times available. Stay tuned for the specific times. Be sure to check out [florida-legion.org](http://florida-legion.org) to see your full candidate list after the April general membership meeting.

If you are ever in question about what role the American Legion has regarding our veterans and their benefits, a great resource is [MyLegion.org](http://MyLegion.org). You can register for an account and access many helpful and insightful articles. Two areas of interest might be Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) and the Government Affairs report which covers legislation, national security, VA&R, and Veterans employment and education.

In an effort to provide additional service to our legion members, we are looking for two short order cooks. This would allow the post to provide daily lunch and dinner. Please see the Commander or 1<sup>st</sup> Vice for additional details.

If you are new to the post, there are numerous volunteer opportunities for you to get involved requiring only a few hours a day, a couple times a

month. Please stop by the front office to get a list of volunteer opportunities and job descriptions. Feel free to talk to the Commander or 1<sup>st</sup> Vice regarding these opportunities.

Don't forget to take advantage of the final Saturday All You Can Eat Breakfast (until October) on April 12<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. – 11 a.m. for \$8. Remember WWII veterans, and Post 347 Korean War Veterans and kids under 12 eat for free. Great time to introduce your grandkids to the Legion!!

American Legion Family Day is observed annually on the last Saturday of April. We are in the final planning stages for this day. More details to follow.

Please join me in wishing a "Happy Birthday" to those celebrating during the month of April.

**Aim High and Keep up the Mach.**

**Chaplain-Lisa Johnson**

Wow has the "winter" flown by. Hard to keep track of everyone so if one of our legion members is ill, injured, going in for surgery or hospitalized, PLEASE call the office and ask for a sick slip be filled out so I can reach out to them. Some have family but others don't have family here. We are their family. A name address phone number and /or hospital. I can call them and/or send a card or if they wish, I can visit them. Sometimes just knowing we are checking on them reminds us and them that our battle buddies are important to us. Thanks for your help. God Bless

**Auxiliary-Maureen Caswell**

As we wrap up this fiscal year, I am pleased to announce that it has been another very productive and busy year for The Auxiliary. We set some challenging goals for many of our Programs and will soon be announcing those results.

At its February 5th General Meeting, The Auxiliary voted on a nominating committee to accept nominations for Auxiliary Officers for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The members are: Pat Skeel, (lead), [patskeel@yahoo.com](mailto:patskeel@yahoo.com); JoAnn Olah, [jo31857@yahoo.com](mailto:jo31857@yahoo.com), and Gerda Hanson, [gahan-son1942@gmail.com](mailto:gahan-son1942@gmail.com). This committee can provide you with information on the responsibilities of each office. You can also go to the [alaf1.org](http://alaf1.org) website. Look for Quick links on the top right red navigation bar, then Unit Guide. All job descriptions can be found in the Unit Guide around page 70 and/or in the Auxiliary

**Constitution and By Laws.**

Any Auxiliary member in good standing is eligible to run for an Office. The available offices are as follows: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Historian, Sgt.-At- Arms, and 6 elected members-at-large. Remember to bring your 2025 membership card with you.

Please note that we are in need of a candidate to run for **Historian**. The historian keeps records of the written history of the year's activity within the Unit. This includes business, donations, activities such as pot luck dinners, garage sales, parties, holiday events. etc. This information comes from the Secretary's minutes of each meeting. This written history is collected and packaged and is presented to the Unit as a permanent record of the year's activities.

**Prospective Slate of Officers:**

President	Maureen Caswell
1st VP	Pat Morrow
2nd VP	Barbara Kyle
Treasurer	Kathy Allen
Secretary	Barbara Kyle
Historian	
Sgt-at-Arms	Pat Skeel
Chaplain	Maureen Merlette

Members at Large **6 Elected:** Denise Hallisey, Jo Linda Spear; Joan Yackel; Elaine Freach, Jo Richmond, Susan Carlson, Carol Pirone-Udell

We look forward to seeing you on April 2 at our next General Meeting and thank you, as always, for your continued support.

**For God and Country**

## Riders Director-Linda Haynes

Welcome to April, the month we are celebrating Easter, Passover, Autism Acceptance Month and April Fools Day.

April is also the month that the Department of Florida sponsors the In-State Unity Ride; our Chapter will have 8 to 10 riders who will join forces with the other FL chapters to raise awareness and collect donations for PROJECT Vet-Relief's Suicide prevention Initiative. Statistics report that the veteran suicide rate is 57% higher than the national average which translates to 22 veteran suicides a day.

Through the Unity Ride, our mission is to raise awareness and funds to ensure veterans have access to mental health programs and resources during their darkest times. The three routes include a Western Route, Central Route, and Eastern Route. Please watch for our Riders April 6-12 as they ride the roads of FL bringing awareness to this important initiative.

Other items of interest: Spring Fling - April 12 with Scooter the DJ. Tickets are \$20 per person and available on Tuesday nights and Wednesdays from 12-2, Wednesday lunch rides continue and the Riders continue to work the kitchen on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays.

***The Legacy Ride will take place in August so stay tuned.***

## Post Service Officers: JB & Maria Alexander

Eligible resident veterans with a VA service-connected disability of 10% or greater shall be entitled to a \$5,000 deduction on the assessment of their PRIMARY home for tax exemption purposes. The veteran must establish this exemption with the county in which he or she resides by providing documentation of this disability. The UNREMARIED surviving spouse of a disabled ex-service member is also entitled to this exemption. (FS 196-24)

Post Service Officers are typically available at the Post on Tuesdays, 1530 – 1800 hours in the lobby of the American Legion, or leave your contact information with the office and we will contact you.

*The mission of the Post Service Officers (PSO) is to be a local resource for all veterans and their dependents, providing information or referral to local services for disability claims, homelessness, education, hospitalization and medical care.*

## SAL Commander-Danny Roe

Welcome to April!

Doug White, our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, reports we have 1083 renewed, new and transferred members towards our baseline of 1061. This is **102.1%** of our membership goal. **Wow Great Job Doug** and thanks to all that have renewed and continue to support our program.

We have also scheduled an Initiation Ceremony to be held at **5:00 PM on April 16<sup>th</sup>**. This is before our regular membership meeting at 6:00 PM. If you have joined or transferred to our Squadron 347 since July of last year you should have received a personal invitation in your email. If you qualify for this and have not received your invitation, please let Doug or me know. This is a great time to learn about the Sons of The American Legion and to be recognized as a member.

**Children and Youth Family Golf Tournament**

**May 17<sup>th</sup>**

**At Broad Stripes CC, on sale Tuesdays in the Lobby and office during the week from (9:00 AM to 4:00 PM)**

**Only one team left to sell!!!**

**Patriotic Quilt and Golf Club raffles. \$95 PP (See Web Site)**

Please come out and support our **Dine To Donate** event at **Culvers on 466A April 10<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. 10 % of all proceeds will be donated to our Children and Youth Programs. Let Danny know if you would like to volunteer or just show up and eat to support the cause.**

**A special thanks to Bob Oneal, Bob Girou, Fran Durr, George Hammon, Rick Walsh and John Gorsuch, along with myself, for volunteering to help with the Special Olympics 2025 Equestrian & Cornhole Championships held at the World Equestrian Center in Ocala on March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.**

In closing, our election process has started. Our Nominating Committee is Bob O'Neal, Vic Prezioso, and George Worton. Please send email to **sons347fl@gmail.com** if you are interested in a position as an officer. **I encourage all members to get involved and run for an office.** Just come to our membership meeting on the Third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM for more information. **A final call for nominations** will be made at our April 16<sup>th</sup> membership meeting.

**Please be safe as our seasonal residents are here and crowds and traffic have increased.**

**Be sure to check our website: [Florida-Legion.org](http://Florida-Legion.org) for the latest news and information.**

# 1st Vice-Tina Burgess

As was the case last year, I begin my April Newsletter on March 29<sup>th</sup>, a day for honoring Vietnam Veterans. This day was chosen to be observed in perpetuity as March 29, 1973, was the day United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam was disestablished and the day the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam. I honor our Vietnam Veterans and Welcome You Home. I am the PROUD daughter of a Vietnam Veteran who succumbed to complications from Agent Orange in 1997.

My Dad's name was John. I was the only child of seven, including five brothers, who followed in his footsteps leading me to a 22-year career in the U.S. Air Force. Today, I still follow in his footsteps within the American Legion. My Dad was the Commander of Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Post 672 in Dallas, Pennsylvania. I'm sure he would be proud of his daughter being the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice of the World's Largest Legion. Next week, we will welcome 30 new and transferring members to our Post. Not surprising, 21 of those new members are Vietnam Veterans, which comprise nearly 75 percent of our total membership

A Gold Star Family is the title, which is reserved for families of military members who have died in the line of duty and is meant to honor the service member's ultimate sacrifice while acknowledging their family's loss, grief and continued healing. We would like to honor our Gold Star families by converting a space in the lounge to do just that. If you or anyone you know are a Gold Star Family Member or you would like to

assist in this endeavor, please let me or Rob know.

The Commander and I are pleased to let you know we are sponsoring 15 candidates for Boys State this year! All 15 boys have successfully registered for this premier youth leadership program. I could use some volunteers on Sunday, May 18 to help with the Boys State Pre-Brief and again in the wee hours of June 15, when the boys throughout the District leave from here on their Boys State journey. Please see me if you are interested.

The American Legion National Executive Committee passed Resolution No. 7, American Legion Family Day at its Fall Meeting in October 2022. The resolution established an American Legion Family Day to be observed annually on the last Saturday of April. This year, Legion Family Day is on April 26<sup>th</sup>. We will be cohosting an on-site community shredding event with the Lady Lake Police Department. We will have two shredding trucks operating from 09:00am – 12:00pm. Members of the community will be invited to bring two banker boxes/bags of documents per household. It will be a drive-thru event. More information will be available soon. If you are interested in helping with this event, please see me, regardless of Legion Family affiliation.

Membership continues to go well. Veterans Memorial surpassed 90 percent. Our goal of 100 percent membership is within reach. You can help by conducting buddy checks, especially with those members you haven't seen in a while. Some of us are healthy enough to get around. Some of us,

not so much. If you know someone who has difficulty getting around, please call them. Check to see if they need anything from the store, a ride to an appointment, or just a simple five-minute conversation. Buddy Checks are so important. We need to take care of each other!

On another note, early each year, records are selected for every Legionnaire who qualifies for a 50, 60, 70, 75, 80, 85, or 90-year continuous membership certificate. At our next two General Membership Meetings, we will be honoring 15 of our own: one 75-year continuous membership, two 60-year continuous membership, and twelve 50-year continuous memberships. Congratulations to all of you.

On to our amazing new members! Please help me welcome our newest members, including an Army Field Artillery Unit Commander who earned the Purple Heart and Bronze Star while serving in Vietnam, a Navy Hospital Corpsman and Korean War Veteran joining the American Legion for the first time, a Coast Guard Aviation Survival Technician, better known as Specialized Rescue Swimmers, and a Naval E-3 whose military job encouraged me to look up the responsibilities of a Beach Jumper assigned to Unit One. Beach Jumpers were U.S. Navy special warfare units organized during World War II. They specialized in deception and psychological warfare. The units were active from 1943 to 1946 and 1951 to 1972.

Rob and I would like to wish all of you a Blessed and enjoyable Easter!

<b>ADMISSION POLICY FOR POST 347</b>	<b>Mon, Thur, Fri &amp; Sat: Member+3 Guests</b>	Volunteers are always welcomed. Please stop by the office or see a Post officer for more information on the opportunities available.	<b>9-4 pm: M-F</b> (Staffed by Volunteers)
<b>Sun &amp; Wed: Bar Bingo: Member+1 guest</b>	<b>No Outside food, drinks or snacks allowed. You may bring Birthday cakes and cupcakes.</b>	<b>Hours of Operation</b>	<b>Phones:</b>
<b>Queen of Hearts: Member+3 guests</b>			<b>Post: 352-750-2099</b>
			<b>FAX: 352-750-2202</b>



## POST EVERLASTING



Peter Connors-USA Charles J. Cornelius-USA William A. Duffy-USMC William P. Herndon-USAF Claude J. Hurst-USAF

Randall L. Slaton-USA Ralph L. Warley-USN

**APRIL 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> Queen of Hearts 12-7 <b>FRED CAMPBELL</b> Kitchen 5-6:45 pm	<b>2</b> <b>Honor Guard Mtg-10:30</b> Kitchen 12-2 Bar Bingo-2-4 <b>AUX MTG-6:00</b>	<b>3</b> <b>PUBLIC BINGO</b> <b>DOORS OPEN AT 8</b> SAL Italian Night Team Trivia 6:30	<b>4</b> Kitchen 5-6:45 <b>TIM HARGIS</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Post opens at noon</b>
<b>6</b> Kitchen 12-2-RIDERS Bar Bingo-2-4 <b>Karaoke W/ Suzy D</b>	<b>7</b> Line Dance Class-3 pm SAL Burger Night <b>The Tone Rangers 5-8</b> 5:30-8:30	<b>8</b> Queen of Hearts 12-7 <b>ACTION JACKSON</b> Kitchen 5-6:45 pm	<b>9</b> Kitchen 12-2 Bar Bingo-2-4 <b>Legion Mtg-5:30</b>	<b>10</b> <b>PUBLIC BINGO</b> <b>DOORS OPEN AT 8</b> SAL Italian Night Team Trivia 6:30	<b>11</b> Kitchen 5-6:45 <b>DELPHIS</b>	<b>12</b> <b>BREAKFAST: 7-11 AM</b> <b>ALR SPRING FLING</b> <b>Post opens at noon</b>
<b>13</b> Kitchen 12-2-SAL Bar Bingo-2-4 <b>Karaoke W/ Suzy D</b>	<b>14</b> Line Dance Class-3 pm SAL Burger Night <b>The Tone Rangers 5-8</b> 5:30-8:30	<b>15</b> Queen of Hearts 12-7 <b>PETRINA</b> Kitchen 5-6:45 pm	<b>16</b> Kitchen 12-2 Bar Bingo-2-4 <b>SAL Mtg 6:00</b>	<b>17</b> <b>PUBLIC BINGO</b> <b>DOORS OPEN AT 8</b> SAL Italian Night Team Trivia 6:30	<b>18</b> Kitchen 5-6:45 <b>KAT &amp; THE KID</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Post opens at noon</b>
<b>20</b> <b>EASTER</b> <b>POST CLOSED</b>	<b>21</b> Line Dance Class-3 pm SAL Burger Night <b>The Tone Rangers 5-8</b> 5:30-8:30	<b>22</b> Queen of Hearts 12-7 <b>BILL D WILLIAMS</b> Kitchen 5-6:45 pm	<b>23</b> Kitchen 12-2 Bar Bingo-2-4 <b>ALR Mtg 6:00</b>	<b>24</b> <b>PUBLIC BINGO</b> <b>DOORS OPEN AT 8</b> SAL Italian Night Team Trivia 6:30	<b>25</b> Kitchen 5-6:45 <b>DEL PHIS</b>	<b>26</b> <b>LEGION FAMILY DAY</b> <b>TBD</b> <b>SHREDDING DAY:9-12</b> Post opens at noon
<b>27</b> Kitchen 12-2 SAL Bar Bingo-2-4 <b>Karaoke W/ Suzy D</b>	<b>28</b> Line Dance Class-3 pm SAL Burger Night <b>The Tone Rangers 5-8</b> 5:30-8:30	<b>29</b> Queen of Hearts 12-7 <b>TIGHT GENES</b> Kitchen 5-6:45 pm	<b>30</b> Kitchen 12-2 Bar Bingo-2-4	<b>TUESDAY-QUEEN OF HEARTS ATTENDANCE</b> <b>Effective April 1</b>  <b>Member and 3 Guests</b>		

<b>April 1</b> Roast Turkey, Stuffing, Vegetable, Mashed Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Roll & Butter-\$11.00	<b>April 8</b> Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Roll & Butter-\$11.00	<b>April 15</b> Ham with Scalloped Potatoes, Vegetables, Roll & Butter- \$11:00	<b>April 22</b> Chicken Lasagna Roll-Up- \$11.00	<b>April 29</b> Taco salad-\$11.00
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**HOT DOGS, FRIES, ONION RINGS & NACHOS AVAILABLE EVERY WEEK**

American Legion Officers		Auxiliary Officers		S.A.L. Officers		Legion Riders Officers	
<b>Commander</b>	Dave Musser	<b>President</b>	Maureen Caswell	<b>Commander</b>	Danny Roe	<b>Director</b>	Linda Haynes
<b>1st Vice</b>	Tina Burgess	<b>1st Vice</b>	Ruth Sovern	<b>1st Vice</b>	Doug White	<b>Asst. Director</b>	Sherri Ward
<b>2nd Vice</b>	John Gorsuch	<b>2nd Vice</b>	Carol Pirone-Udell	<b>2nd Vice</b>	Bud Bowyer	<b>Adjutant</b>	Richard Lees
<b>3rd Vice</b>	Dan Martin	<b>Treasurer</b>	Kathy Allen	<b>Finance</b>	Bill Grieco	<b>Finance</b>	Jim Dollins
<b>Chaplain</b>	Lisa Johnson	<b>Secretary</b>	Barbara Kyle	<b>Chaplain</b>	Ben Kisielica	<b>Sgt at Arms</b>	Bob Stepnowski
<b>Historian</b>	Phil Crouthamel	<b>Historian</b>	Lois Bass	<b>Historian</b>	Gary Blanchard	<b>Chaplain</b>	Robert Stanzola
<b>Adjutant</b>	Phil Crouthamel	<b>Sgt at Arms</b>	Patricia Morrow	<b>Sgt at Arms</b>	Tony Watkins	<b>Ride Captain</b>	Larry Pekoe
<b>Finance</b>	Bob Irvine	<b>Chaplain</b>	Maureen Merlette	<b>M.A.L.</b>	Dave Callies	<b>Nominations from the floor, for election to Legion offices, close at April's meeting. Elections on May 14. More info to come. Check the website.</b>	
<b>Service Officer</b>	J B & Maria Alexander	<b>M.A.L.</b>	Lynn Allen	<b>M.A.L.</b>	Bob Girou		
<b>Sgt at Arms</b>	Jim Dollins	<b>M.A.L.</b>	Elaine Freach	<b>Judge Advocate</b>	Vic Prezioso		
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	Heath Davenport	<b>M.A.L.</b>	Denise Hallisey	<b>Adjutant</b>	Bob O'Neal		
<b>M.A.L.</b>	Mike Haynes	<b>M.A.L.</b>	Mary Seidel				
<b>M.A.L.</b>	George Ries	<b>M.A.L.</b>	Jo Linda Spear	<b>AYCE Breakfast-April 12 (\$8.00)</b>			
<b>M.A.L.</b>	Wayne Rodgers	<b>M.A.L.</b>	Joan Yackel	<b>Riders: Spring Fling-April 12</b>			
<b>M.A.L.</b>	Jim Stasse	<b>I.P.P.</b>	Ruth Sovern	<b>Legion Family Day &amp; Shredding Event-April 26.</b>			
<b>Past Commander</b>	Joan Suelter			4			