

Veterans Memorial Post 347  
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Newsletter – April 2026

Commander: Dave Musser  
Auxiliary: Maureen Caswell  
S.A.L: Danny Roe  
Riders: Linda Haynes  
Website: florida-legion.org  
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Editor: Rob Burgess

## Volunteer of the Month - April: Jo Linda Spear

### Commander - Dave Musser

**Upcoming Elections and Candidate Information:** The final nominations for post elected positions will take place on April 15<sup>th</sup> during the general membership meeting. Election day is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Members will have two opportunities to vote: from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, and again at the start of the General Membership Meeting. For a complete list of candidates, please visit [florida-legion.org](http://florida-legion.org) after the April general membership meeting.

**Veterans Resources and Support:** If you have questions about the American Legion's role in supporting veterans and their benefits, MyLegion.org is an excellent resource. By registering for an account, you can access a variety of helpful articles. Notable topics include Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) and the Government Affairs report, which provides updates on legislation, national security, VA&R, and veterans' employment and education.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** For those new to the post, there are many ways to volunteer, requiring only a few hours per day, a couple of times each month. Visit the front office to obtain a list of available volunteer opportunities and job descriptions. You are also welcome to speak with the Commander or 1<sup>st</sup> Vice for additional information about these roles.

### Packard Raffle – Last Chance to Purchase Tickets:

There are only a few weeks left to buy tickets for the 1941 Fully Restored Packard raffle. See the Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice, or Adjutant to purchase your tickets. Each ticket costs \$25, or you can buy five tickets for \$100. You do not need to be present to win.

### All You Can Eat Breakfast – Final Event Until

**October:** Be sure to join us for the final Saturday All You Can Eat Breakfast (until October) on April 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM. The price is \$8 per person, while WWII, Post 347 Korean War Veterans, and children under 12 can eat for free. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce your visiting family members to the American Legion!

**American Legion Family Day:** **American Legion Family Day** is celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April. We invite you to join us at the post to participate in the activities planned for this special day.

**April Birthdays:** Let's offer our best wishes and a "Happy Birthday" to everyone celebrating during the month of April. *Aim High and Keep up the Mach*

### Auxiliary President – 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.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Ladies that have been donating their **costume jewelry** for the Leesburg Middle School Mother's Day Project. **WE HAVE REACHED OUR QUOTA, PLEASE HOLD OFF ON ANY FURTHER DONATIONS! THANK YOU! YOUR RESPONSE HAS BEEN OVERWHELMING AND WE TRULY APPRECIATE IT!**

At its February 4<sup>th</sup> General Meeting, The Auxiliary voted on a nominating committee to accept nominations for Auxiliary Officers for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The members are: Donna Hoyt, [gohawsgogo@yahoo.com](mailto:gohawsgogo@yahoo.com); Joyce Martin, [joyjeminc2@aol.com](mailto:joyjeminc2@aol.com); and Ky Rauzi, [krauzi65@gmail.com](mailto:krauzi65@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. Any and all offices are open to any interested member.

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 2026 membership card with you to our May 6<sup>th</sup> general meeting.

Please note that we **need** a candidate to run for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Historian, and Chaplain.

### Prospective Slate of Officers:

President	Pat Morrow
1st VP	
2nd VP	Barbara Kyle
Treasurer	Kathy Allen
Secretary	Lois Bass
Historian	
Sgt-at-Arms	Susan Duncan, Kathy Liguori
Chaplain	

Members at Large **6 Elected:** Denise Hallisey, Jo Richmond, Jo Linda Spear; Deb Stanley, Verena Timm, Diana Cronkhite, Ky Rauzi, Susan Carlson

We look forward to seeing you on April 1<sup>st</sup> at our next General Meeting and thank you, as always, for your continued support. For God and Country

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice – Tina Burgess

I begin my April Newsletter on March 27<sup>th</sup>, two days before honoring Vietnam Veterans. March 29<sup>th</sup> 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. Next week, we will welcome 16 new and transferring members to our Post. Not surprising, eight of those new members are Vietnam Veterans, which comprise nearly 75 percent of our total membership

Please join me in congratulating our April Volunteer of the Month, Jo Linda Spear. Jo Linda is a member of the Auxiliary and is responsible for renewing Auxiliary memberships. Remarkably, ALA Unit 347 can boast about achieving a 105 percent renewal rate, thanks in great part to work Jo Linda does behind the scenes as a member of the Auxiliary Membership team. Jo Linda also serves as an ALA Unit 347 Member-at-Large and can always be counted on to volunteer for every Auxiliary endeavor. In March, Jo Linda volunteered to cook and serve a delicious meal to nearly 100 Post 347 Female Veterans. Thank you Jo Linda for all you do for us, which always comes from the heart. This recognition is long overdue!

The Commander and I are pleased to let you know we are sponsoring nine candidates for Boys State this year! All nine boys have successfully registered for this premier youth leadership program. I could use some volunteers on Sunday, May 17 to help with the Boys State Pre-Brief and again in the wee hours of June 21st, when the boys throughout the district leave from here on their Boys State journey. Please see me if you are interested.

We will be hosting a Brain Health Seminar on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00-5:00pm in the Hall. The title of the seminar is Your Brain Matters: Prioritize your Brain Health Today. Our Guest Speaker will be Dr. Mauricio Concha, MD, MHS, a Neurologist with Intercostal Medical Group. The purpose of this seminar is to highlight changes we can make to help protect our brain health for the future. Please join us!

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a Veterans Expo "Salute to Service", from 09:00am-3:00pm in the Hall. We will have approximately 25 Veteran service Organizations present to offer their service free of charge to all Veterans in the community. A light breakfast and a light lunch will be served.

Our Post will observe Legion Family Day on April 25<sup>th</sup>. We will be co-hosting our second annual on-site community shredding event with the Lady Lake Police Department. We will have two shredding trucks operating from 09:00am – 11:30am. Members of the community will be invited to bring two banker boxes/bags of documents per household. It will be a drive-thru event. If you are interested in helping with this event, please see me, regardless of Legion Family affiliation.

Membership continues to go well. Veterans Memorial is currently at 93 percent renewal rate. 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. 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 to our amazing new members! Please help me in welcoming our newest members, including an Air Force 0-3 who served as a Meteorologist, I am amused that we share the same Halloween Birthday, the same retirement separation base (Offutt AFB) and the same home state (Pennsylvania); an Army E-7 who has been awarded that Iraq Campaign Medal with four Campaign Stars on his way to earning his Combat Action Badge and Air Assault Badge; an army E-9 Intelligence Sergeant Major and Bronze Star Medal recipient with 33 years of Army Reserve service; a Marine 0-3 Field Artillery Officer and Purple Heart recipient who served in Vietnam; an Army E-6 Paratrooper who received the Bronze Star Medal and the Combat Infantryman's Badge while serving in Vietnam.

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

## *Post Everlasting and Sick Call*



**Post Everlasting:** Dai Jones, Julio Silva, Richard Mignosa, Jerry Clawson, Donald Maehlenbrock, Ike Mediate, John Miloy Jr, Ralph Rawson, Donald Scherwat, Fred Weiss, Stanley Bukowski, Harry Franklin, Michael Rodriguez, Glenn Allen **Sick Call:** Danny Boone, Sam Huff, Jim Arnold, Mary Seidel, Jan Akins, Ron Monet

**Please go to our website: [florida-legion.org](http://florida-legion.org) for the names of the sick and deceased members.**

## Post Service Officers: JB & Maria Alexander

Current suicide data takes 2-3 years to compile and release. The most recent confirmed data is 2023, which reports:

- Approximately 17 U.S. veterans take their own lives each day. This number contrasts with roughly 110 suicides daily in the rest of the U.S. population.
- 6,398 veterans died by suicide in 2023.
- Suicide is the second-leading cause of death for veterans aged 45 and under.
- There were 350 suicide deaths among veteran women and 6,042 among men in 2021.
- Firearms were more commonly involved in suicide deaths among veterans (72.2%) compared to the rest of the U.S. population (52.2%).
- Firearm suicide deaths were greater among veteran men, while poisoning happened more often among veteran women.

**If you're a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one**, connect with our caring, qualified Veterans Crisis Line responders for **confidential help**. Many of them are Veterans themselves. This service is private, free, & available 24/7.

**Here's how you can connect with a Veterans Crisis Line responder, anytime day or night:**

- Call [988](tel:988) and select 1.
- Text [838255](tel:838255).
- If you have hearing loss, call TTY: [800-799-4889](tel:800-799-4889).



**24/7 CALL, TEXT, CHAT**

**You are not alone.**

**Attention** – Post Service Officers are **TYPICALLY** available on Tuesdays, in the lobby of the American Legion Post from 1400-1800 hours, or you can leave your contact information with the front office staff and we will contact you. Additionally, Dennis Storey is a VSO with the DAV and can be contacted at 352-674-5097 for an appointment. On Tue, Apr 14<sup>th</sup>, Bryant Ortiz from Congressman Danial Webster's Office will be here 10 am – 2 pm!!

## S.A.L. Commander – Danny Roe

Welcome April and the beautiful weather we had so far Leading into it.

We are still asking for you to renew if you have not yet done so. Membership is the strength of our organization when the National Commander appears before congress. Please support Your organization and our veterans. **Mail to PO Box 1534, Lady lake, FL, 32158.** Just drop it off or mail it in and we will get your card to you as soon as we can. Per Doug White, our renewal numbers are **1077 for 96.2%**. So close, please help us get to 100%

I encourage our membership to come and participate in what your Squadron does for our veterans and the community.

**Meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM with pizza at 5:30.** I hope to see you there. Thank you to those that are attending and supporting your Squadron.

**Wow**, if you missed the District 6 picnic this year, you missed a great and fun event on Sunday, March 22, at Hickory Point Park in Tavaris. For me, this was by far the best turnout and event I have attended for District 6. Food was great, Games were fun, and even Commander Musser went to jail for a period of time to help raise money for Boys and Girls State transportation. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked hard and made this such a success.

Our Family Golf Tournament for Children and Youth Charities date is **Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**. Location is same as last year, Broad Stripes in Stonecrest. You can Sign up on Tuesday nights in the lobby and office during regular hours. **Scoring will be two flights this year giving a better chance to win.** Please help us fill the roster for this tournament.

Cost is \$100 per person. We will also be raffling a patriotic quilt again this year. Thanks to Honor Flight organization for donating a beautiful quilt honoring our country's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. Quilt tickets are \$5 per ticket or 3 for \$10 and will be available on Tuesday nights in the Lobby. We are also raffling a gas grill and accessories donated by Lowes on CR466A. Grill tickets are also \$5 per ticket or 3 for \$10I am so looking forward to our visit to Gainesville Fisher House on March 31<sup>st</sup> to cook Hamburgers and Brats for the residents and guests of the house. We will be celebrating Vietnam War Veterans Day. Thanks to all the volunteers and especially to Dave and Diane Callies for your special effort in making this happen.

Don't forget, we have entered our election phase, and nominations are being taken for all Son's offices. I encourage everyone to get involved; you can nominate yourself just by sending an email to our election committee at [sons347fl@gmail.com](mailto:sons347fl@gmail.com). Our election committee this year is Bob O'Neal, John Gorsuch, and Vic Prezioso. Or you can nominate from the floor at our next membership meeting on April 15th. Nominations will be closed after the April Membership meeting.

You can always contact me with your comments or concerns at [dannyroe@prodigy.net](mailto:dannyroe@prodigy.net). I look forward to hearing from you. **Be sure to check our website: Florida-Legion.org for the latest news and information.**

## Rider's 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 6 to 8 riders who will join forces with 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 Rout, Central Route, and Eastern Route. Our Chapter is honored to host the Central Route here at Post 347 on April 22 for dinner. Please watch for our Riders April 19-25 as the ride the roads of FL bringing awareness to this important initiative.

On March 25th, our Riders rode to New Covenant Methodist Church for a "Blessing of the Bikes" ceremony. Senior Pastor Harold Hendron provided a quick history lesson to our bikers on the history of this event and did a beautiful job praying over our riders and their bikes for protection and safety as they ride the roads with the wind in their hair. After the ceremony Pastor Harold was treated to a ride around the parking lot with our Ride Captain Larry Pekoe.

Other items of interest include challenge coins are for sale for \$10; lunch rides will move to breakfast rides in April, KSU at 8:15. Riders continue to work in the kitchen on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays and lastly, a reminder that the Legacy Ride will take place in August so stay tuned.

## Apr 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Remember we are closed on Easter Sunday.</b>			<b>1 April Fools</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm <b>Aux Mtg 6:00 pm</b>	<b>2</b> Public Bingo 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	<b>3</b> Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Kat &amp; the Kidd</b> 5:30 – 8:30 pm	<b>4</b> 12pm Lounge opens Attend Draw 6:30 pm
<b>5</b> <b>Happy Easter</b> <b>Post will be Closed</b>	<b>6</b> Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night <b>Tone Rangers 5 – 8 pm</b>	<b>7</b> Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Tim Hargis</b> 5:30 – 8:30	<b>8</b> Kitchen -2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm <b>Legion Mtg 5:30 pm</b>	<b>9</b> Mega Bingo 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	<b>10</b> Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Jonnell &amp; the Gman</b> 5:30 – 8:30 pm	<b>11</b> 12pm Lounge opens <b>AYCE Breakfast 7-11 am</b> Attend Draw 6:30 pm
<b>12</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Bingo 2 -4pm Lounge Closes @ 5pm	<b>13</b> Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night <b>Tone Rangers 5 – 8 pm</b>	<b>14</b> Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Clark Barrios</b> 5:30 – 8:30	<b>15 TAX DAY</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm Submariner Mtg 12pm <b>SAL Mtg 6:00 pm</b>	<b>16</b> Public Bingo 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	<b>17</b> Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Kat &amp; the Kidd</b> 5:30 – 8:30 pm	<b>18</b> 12pm Lounge opens Attend Draw 6:30 pm
<b>19</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Bingo 2 -4pm Lounge Closes @ 5pm	<b>20</b> Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night <b>Tone Rangers 5 – 8 pm</b>	<b>21</b> Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Jonnell &amp; the Gman</b> 5:30 – 8:30	<b>22 Earth Day</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm <b>ALR Mtg 5:30 pm</b>	<b>23</b> Public Bingo 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	<b>24 Arbor Day</b> Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Scooter the DJ</b> 5:30 – 8:30 pm <b>Veteran Expo 9 – 3pm</b>	<b>25</b> 12pm Lounge opens Attend Draw 6:30 pm <b>Shred It &amp; Forget It 9 -11:30am</b>
<b>26</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Bingo 2 -4pm Lounge Closes @ 5pm	<b>27</b> Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night <b>Tone Rangers 5 – 8 pm</b>	<b>28</b> Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Bill D Williams</b> 5:30 – 8:30	<b>29</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm	<b>30</b> Public Bingo 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	<b>Observances:</b> April Fool's Day (1 <sup>st</sup> ) Easter (14 <sup>th</sup> ) Tax Day (15 <sup>th</sup> ) Earth Day (22 <sup>nd</sup> ) Arbor Day (24 <sup>th</sup> )	

## Tuesday Menu

<b>Apr 7:</b> Roast Chicken & Roast Potatoes \$11.00	<b>Apr 14:</b> Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes \$11	<b>Apr 21:</b> Fish Fry \$11 Shrimp Fry \$9 Chicken Tenders & Fries \$8.00	<b>Apr 28:</b> Stuffed Peppers, Mashed Potatoes \$11.00
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Hot dogs, Fries, Nachos and Onion Rings available except Thursdays. Meals & Pricing subject to change at any time.

## SAL Thursday Italian Night Menu (5:00 – 6:30 pm)

**Apr 2:** Spaghetti & Meatballs **Apr 9:** Lasagna **Apr 16:** Stuffed Shells **Apr 23:** Chichen Parm w/ spaghetti **Apr 30:** Meatball Sub  
(with salad, Roll, & dessert – \$11:00) Pizza Slices – \$2.50 Whole Pies: \$12 – \$15