

Veterans Memorial Post 347
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Newsletter – August 2025

Commander: Dave Musser
Auxiliary: Maureen Caswell
S.A.L: Danny Roe
Riders: Linda Haynes
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Editor: Rob Burgess

Volunteer of the Month – August: Betty Spencer

Commander – Dave Musser

It is hard to believe school will be starting soon! Please watch for school zones as you are traveling about. It is against the law to pass school buses loading and unloading children. Florida Law also prohibits using a handheld cell phone while operating a vehicle in any school zone, school crossing or work zone.

With dangerously high temperatures across Florida, it's important to **stay hydrated** and be alert to the signs of **heat-related emergencies**.

▲ Know the Warning Signs

Heat Stroke

Heat Exhaustion: (Emergency—Call 911):

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Heavy sweating | • Body temp over 103°F |
| • Weakness or tiredness | • Hot, red, dry or damp skin |
| • Dizziness or fainting | • Rapid pulse |
| • Nausea or vomiting | • Confusion |
| • Cool, pale, clammy skin | • Loss of consciousness |

🔥 Don't wait—**heat-related illnesses can escalate quickly.**

Check on elderly neighbors, children, and pets. Let's look out for each other!

We are already a few months into hurricane season and have yet to be threatened with bad weather. We do not want to let our guard down. However, we do want to continue to be prepared as this season does not end until December. Hurricane preparedness information can be found online at: <https://www.stateofflorida.com/articles/hurricane-preparedness-guide/>. For those of you who are new to Florida, it is important to stock up on those necessary supplies such as; bottled water, canned goods, batteries, dry goods, and paper products.

Once again, I would like to remind everyone that your post runs on volunteers. In particular, we need KITCHEN volunteers. Without these valuable people, the cost of meals would go up considerably. If we have to start paying for outside staff to work in the kitchen, we will have no other option but to raise prices to cover this cost.

Please stay safe and join me in wishing a "Happy Birthday" to those celebrating during the month of August.

Aim High and Keep Up the Mach

1st Vice – Tina Burgess

I want to thank every person who volunteers their time to help this post complete our mission of veterans helping veterans. Veterans Memorial Post 347 is successful due in great part to the support of our volunteers. We enjoy recognizing our amazing volunteers through the Volunteer of the Month Program. Please join me in congratulating our August Volunteer of the Month Betty Spencer! Betty can be seen at the Post several days a week volunteering as cashier in the kitchen. Betty is a long-time volunteer and one of Harriet's most reliable. Her generous nature is greatly appreciated by all of us at American Legion Post 347! In the words of your nominator, "Betty consistently shows up when scheduled and graciously fills in when needed!"

On any given day, you will have interactions with our dedicated volunteers. These selfless members are bartenders, cooks, servers, money counters, Honor Guard members, ball sellers, driving range maintainers, cashiers, door greeters, BINGO callers, Queen salesman, and front office personnel, to name a few! We can never have enough volunteers. Please, if you can, lend a hand at the post. There is ALWAYS something you can do to help!

The Commander and I would like to encourage you to wear purple on Thursday, August 7th in recognition of

National Purple Heart Day. On this day, we are given the opportunity to say "Thank You" to the brave men and women who fought for our Nation's freedom and bear the physical scars of war. These courageous and often quiet Veterans know the true cost of freedom. Please welcome one of our newest members, an Army Infantry Officer and Vietnam Veteran who is the recipient of the Silver Star for Valor in Combat, three Bronze Star Awards for heroic deeds in armed conflict and the Purple Heart.

We also welcome an Army Pediatric, Obstetric, and Medical-Surgical Nurse; an Army 0-2 Korean War Veteran joining the American Legion for the first time; an Army SP-4 who joins us from Post 183 in Altamonte Springs and brings with him 56 years of continuous American Legion Membership, an Army 0-4 who served as Command Chaplain and is the recipient of the Bronze Star for Valor; and an Air Force Chief Master Sergeant who was an Intelligence Applications Superintendent and is the recipient of the Air Force Recognition Ribbon.

I will close with this: MEMBERSHIP! Our renewals are coming in steady. I am happy to report that we are at 38.26 percent, a significant improvement over this time last year when we were at 19 percent. Please take advantage of the \$10 savings on dues by renewing before August 31!

Thanks for all you do!

Auxiliary President – Maureen Caswell

First, I'd like to thank The American Legion Family members for the food and cash donations that we received as a result of our 6th Annual Food Drive. We had 29 volunteers for Sunday and 8 volunteers for Monday. The estimated value of the collected food ~ \$15,000. We also collected \$1,500. in cash donations.

THANK YOU, FAMILY, FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT, WELL DONE!

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

It's the beginning of our fiscal year and it's time to renew your membership. Your Auxiliary annual dues are \$45.00.

Beginning this year, we will be implementing a new "early bird" incentive plan.

Rather than a spaghetti dinner as incentive to renew membership early, we will be offering you a \$5 discount on your dues if you pay between July 1, 2025, and August 31, 2025. Payment must be made in person at the Post. On-line renewals are not a part

of the incentive program. If you mail your payment, it must be postmarked by August 31, 2025, to qualify for the \$5 discount.

Beginning the week of August 4, we will again be offering you the opportunity to renew your membership at the Post. Bring your current membership card and your dues payment and we will renew your membership in a matter of minutes. We offer this service on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12-3pm in the Post Lobby.

OKTOBERFEST IS COMING – SAVE THE DATE!

On September 28, 2025, we will be holding our annual Oktoberfest Dinner Dance. We are in the process of finalizing our planning. The event will run from 5-9pm in the Post Hall. Will be serving your favorite German foods, provide festive music, 50/50 tickets and a lottery board. Tickets will go on sale on August 15 in the Lounge, during membership renewal hours (12-3PM) on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and on Tuesday evenings during Queen of Hearts. Save the date, more details to follow!

S.A.L. Commander – Danny Roe

First, I would like to thank the Executive Committee for their hard work in getting our budget for the coming year set and approved by our membership. Sometimes it can take a while to go line by line to produce the best budget for our Squadron, but you all took the time, and I think we have a fantastic budget to start our year of donations. I encourage our membership to come and participate in what your Squadron does for our veterans and the community. Meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM with pizza at 5:30. I hope to see you there.

As we enter August, we will again push for early renewal of your membership. Renewing early helps our Squadron to stay on track with donating to our various charities and supporting Community events. As you have probably heard, there will be no early bird dinner this year. So, you will not see the early bird stamp on your card, but rest assured you are an early bird if you renew before Veterans Day, and we appreciate your support of our programs. I am pleased to inform you that

due to your donations and support we can keep our dues low when many are raising their dues. Thank You for your understanding. Thanks to those that came out and supported the fireworks on July 4th at Eaton's Beach. Thanks to your efforts, we raised \$1350 for Special Olympics.

Thanks to all those that supported the Family Food Drive hosted by the Auxiliary. Sunday, July 13th. Lots of food was donated and the food banks were very happy when we arrived.

Also remember our Halloween Dance is coming up on Nov 1st with Bill D Williams performing. Help us sell it out this year. Save the Date, more info to come.

Lastly, I would like to Congratulate our own **Bud Bowyer** for receiving the **July Volunteer of the Month** award. Bud donates a lot of time to our kitchen and activities and is most deserving of this recognition. Please extend your congratulations to him when you see him.

You can always contact me with your comments or concerns at dannyroe@prodigy.net. I look forward to hearing from you.

Chaplain – Lisa Johnson

Summer is full on now and many people are traveling **visiting** family or just not around. If you have a member who could use a visit or a call or even just a card, please let the office know and I will reach out. Watch out for one another.

Post Service Officers: JB & Maria Alexander

DO YOU HAVE A WILL?

Having a Will is one of the most important things you can do to protect your loved ones and ensure your wishes are carried out after your death. Yet over 55% of all Americans DO NOT have a Will or Estate Plan according to trustandwill.com. If you have not completed a Will, here are some good reasons why you should. **1. YOU decide who gets what.** Without a Will, state laws decide how your assets are distributed, not you. A Will ensures your money, property and possessions go to the people and causes you care about. **2. Avoid family conflict.** A clear Will reduces confusion and helps to prevent disputes among family members about your intentions and desires after death. **3. Having a valid Will can make the probate process faster and less expensive.** **4. You can leave gifts to charities or people outside your immediate family.**

5. Having a Will gives you peace of mind knowing your affairs are in order and your loved ones won't face unnecessary stress of uncertainty. If you need to explore creating a Will, you can seek the advice of Estate Attorneys which are the best choice for complex estates, special needs, if you own a business or have blended families. For simple Wills, many online services are available. If the cost is an issue, you can contact the Area Agency on Aging, Legal Aid Office, or other Community Services for free or low-cost simple Wills. If you have questions or want additional information, stop in and see one of the Post Service Officers.



Post Service Officers (PSOs) are typically available at the American Legion Post on Tuesdays, 1530 – 1800 hours in the lobby of the American Legion, or you can leave your contact information with the office, and we will contact you. Dennis Storey, DAV, VSO is typically available at the Post on Mondays from 0900 – 1100 hours.

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. This includes (but not limited to) disability claims, homelessness, education, hospitalization and medical care

Rider's Director – Linda Haynes

Welcome to August, the month we celebrate the Coast Guard Birthday on August 4th, Purple Heart Day on August 7th, and the Marine Corps Reserve Birthday on August 29th. August is also the month that the Riders participate in the Legacy Ride!

This year's ride will take place August 17-21. Our Riders will leave on the 15th or 16th to travel to South Boston Virginia to meet other riders from across the country. Since its inception in 2006, The Legacy Run has raised \$16 million dollars for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. The mission has now been expanded to include fundraising for The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. Please say a prayer for each of them as they prepare to leave

on a ride that will have them riding 1,500 to 1,800 miles; they will stop at various Posts along the way to fund raise and bring community awareness to this important endeavor. The expectation is that there will be around 300 bikes traveling together. The weather will be extremely hot and humid, and they will have to be incredibly careful to stay hydrated. You too can participate in fundraising for this worthy cause by going to Legion.org/LegacyRideP2P.

While some of our Riders are off raising money on the Legacy Ride, others will continue to participate in breakfast rides, escorts, and ceremonies. Additionally, tickets will be available for our highly anticipated Christmas Raffle in October, we will continue working in the kitchen on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays, and lastly, as always, we welcome all volunteers.

Observances: Aug 4th: Coast Guard Birthday. Aug 7th: Purple Heart Day (Wear your purple to celebrate)

Post Everlasting

Stanley Bukowski, Richard Conlin, James Curley, Charles Glad, David Hedrick, Claude Hurst, Paul Ingram, Carl Masters, Barry McFarlan, Jim Runnels, and Tyrone Woods.

Sick Call

Jan Akins, Kathy Allen, Bill Duffy, Peggy Hearlson, Ron Monet, Ky Rauzi and Mary Seidel.



Aug 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Aug 1 Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Clark Barrios 5:30 – 8:30	2 Lounge opens at Noon Attendance Drawing 6:30 pm
3 Kitchen 12-2 pm Riders Bingo 2 -4pm Summer Hours 12 – 5pm	4 Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night Frank Ardino 5 – 8	5 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Jonnell & the Gman 5:30 – 8:30	6 Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm NO AUX Mtg	7 SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm Purple Heart Day (wear purple)	8 Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Del Phi's 5:30 – 8:30	9 Lounge opens at Noon Attendance Drawing 6:30 pm
10 Kitchen 12-2 pm SAL Bingo 2 -4pm Summer Hours 12 – 5pm	11 Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night The Tone Rangers 5 – 8	12 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Petrina 5:30 – 8:30	13 Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm Legion Mtg 5:30	14 SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	15 Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Bill D Williams 5:30 – 8:30	16 Lounge opens at Noon Attendance Drawing 6:30 pm
17 Kitchen 12-2 pm Riders Bingo 2 -4pm Summer Hours 12 – 5pm	18 Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night The Tone Rangers 5 – 8	19 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Bill D Williams 5:30 – 8:30	20 Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm SAL Mtg 6:00	21 SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	22 Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Del Phi's 5:30 – 8:30	23 Lounge opens at Noon Attendance Drawing 6:30 pm
24 Kitchen 12-2 pm SAL Bingo 2 -4pm Summer Hours 12 – 5pm	25 Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night The Tone Rangers 5 – 8	26 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Tight Genes 5:30 – 8:30	27 Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm AL Riders Mtg 6:00	28 SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	29 Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Del Phi's 5:30 – 8:30	30 Lounge opens at Noon Attendance Drawing 6:30 pm

Aug 5: Potato Soup w/ Turkey n Cheese Sandwich \$9.00	Aug 12: Ham Steak w/ Scalloped Potatoes \$11.00	Aug 19: Salisbury Steak w/mashed \$11.00	Aug 26: Chicken Taco Salad \$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
Aug 7: Meatball Sub | Aug 14: Chicken Parmesan Sub | Aug 21: Sausage & Peppers Sub | Aug 28: Meatball Sub
(with salad & dessert – \$8:00) Pizza Slices – \$2.50 Whole Pies: \$12 – \$15

American Legion Officers		Auxiliary Officers		S.A.L. Officers		Legion Riders Officers	
Commander	Dave Musser	President	Maureen Caswell	Commander	Danny Roe	Director	Linda Haynes
1st Vice	Tina Burgess	1st Vice	Patricia Morrow	1st Vice	Doug White	Asst. Director	Tom Hill
2nd Vice	John Gorsuch	2nd Vice	Barbara Kyle	2nd Vice	Bud Bowyer	Adjutant	Richard Lees
3rd Vice	Dan Martin	Treasurer	Kathy Allen	Finance	Bill Grieco	Finance	Jim Dollins
Chaplain	Lisa Johnson	Secretary	Lois Bass	Chaplain	Ben Kisielica	Sgt at Arms	Robert Stepnowski
Historian	Bobby Wince	Historian	Lois Bass	Historian	Keven Kinney	Chaplain	Robert Stanziola
Adjutant	Rob Burgess	Sgt at Arms	Pat Skeel	Sgt at Arms	Tony Watkins	Ride Captain	Larry Pekoe
Finance	Bob Irvine	Chaplain	Maureen Merlette	M.A.L.	Dave Callies		
Service Officer	JB & Maria Alexander	M.A.L.	Sue Carlson	M.A.L.	Bob Girou		
Sgt at Arms	Jim Dollins	M.A.L.	Denise Hallisey	Judge Advocate	Vic Prezioso		
Judge Advocate	Heath Davenport	M.A.L.	Jo Richmond	Adjutant	Bob O'Neal		
M.A.L.	Mike Haynes	M.A.L.	Deb Stanley				
M.A.L.	George Ries	M.A.L.	Jo Linda Spear				
M.A.L.	Tony Gibson	M.A.L.	Joan Yackel				
M.A.L.	Jim Stasse	I.P.P.	Ruth Sovern				
Past Commander	Joan Suelter						