

Veterans Memorial Post 347
P.O. Box 1534
Lady Lake FL 32158-1534
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Commander: Dave Musser
Auxiliary: Maureen Caswell
S.A.L: Danny Roe
Riders: Linda Haynes
Website: florida-legion.org
Email: alpost347@comcast.net
Editor: Rob Burgess

Volunteer of the Month - December: Ellen Tierny

Commander - Dave Musser

As the holiday lights twinkle across The Villages and the weather is finally cooling down a little, I want to thank each of you for your continued service to veterans, our community, and our nation. Whether you were handing out poppies, checking in on a fellow veteran or assisting with taking veterans to and from appointments, your actions make Post 347 the heart of patriotism here in Lady Lake.

There are few things coming up in December to mark your calendars for:

- Mega Bingo will take place on Thursday, Dec 4th
- Dec 13th is Wreaths Across America at Lady Lake Cemetery Starting at noon.
- Dec 13th is the All You Can Eat Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Clause at the post from 7:00 – 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$8 and includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, coffee and juice.
- Wed, Dec 31st is our New Year's Eve Party. Tickets are on sale (\$25 PP) and can be purchased from either of the Lounge Managers. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Entertainment will be Del Phi's and Jonnell and The Gman. You are welcome to bring snacks (food only), but **NO ALCOHOL**. There will be a champagne toast at midnight.

- **Membership renewal reminder** – You will need to renew if you do not have your 2026 in hand by December 31, 2025.

- The Post will be closed on Christmas Day & New Years Day. Also, the Post will close at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.

After the Queen of Hearts drawing on December 30, you must have a 2026 membership card to play for the drawing on January 6, 2026.

As we get ready to move into the New Year, please be mindful that it is one-way traffic in front of the post. Please follow the arrows and signage for all our safety. Log onto the Post website, florida-legion.org for all the updated information and to see volunteer opportunities available.

If you or a veteran you know is struggling this holiday season (food, utilities, rent), please get in touch with our Post Service Officers at the Post 352-750-2099.

Please join me in wishing a Happy Birthday to those celebrating in December. Stay safe and healthy this holiday season and remember those not able to be with their loved ones.

Aim High and Keep Up the Mach

Auxiliary President - Maureen Caswell

Hi All,

Welcome to December and Happy Holidays. We are in the process of winding down our holiday programs.

Our Thanksgiving Family Food Box Program is complete and was very successful again this year. We are continuing to receive non-perishable items for our Christmas Food Box Program. To date, we have collected enough vegetables from the community to suffice our need for Christmas! These donations allow us to pack a lot of extra items and we really appreciate your help! You can continue to donate items through December 3. Thanks for helping us make this holiday program such a success again this year!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting our local Salvation Army Angel/Bell and Family Tree Program. This year we again committed to adopt 150 angels/bells combined

and in addition we have adopted three families. We still have plenty of Angels and Bells that need to be adopted. If you still have an angel/bell or family gift out, please return it by December 3. Please be sure to label the gifts with the angel or bell and put a note with your name on the gift so we know that you have returned what you signed out.

If you have not renewed your membership for 2026, please do so at your earliest convenience. Your membership must be renewed by the end of the year to continue to access the Post. We are available to renew your membership in person on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, typically between the hours of 10am-3pm. Bring your 2025 card with you.

Please come out to our General Meeting on December 3 if you can. We will have an abbreviated meeting and celebrate the holiday with a potluck dinner. We will be cooking ham and turkey and ask members to bring a side or dessert of their choice to share. Social hour begins at 5pm and the meeting starts promptly at 6pm.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all very happy and healthy holidays and thank you, as always, for your support. We could not do what we do without you!

1st Vice - Tina Burgess

It is hard to believe 2025 is ending and with that, so is our 2026 American Legion renewal season. At the time of this writing, Post 347 has renewed 4,488 out of 6,397 eligible members for 70.2 percent. Our next membership goal is to be at 75 percent by December 10th. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please do so by visiting our main office Monday-Friday, 9 am to 4 pm. If you know of someone who has not renewed their membership, please encourage them to do so.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child (OCC) that supported our National American Legion Project 250 Challenge. On November 19th, we delivered 345 OCC Boxes under ALR escort to the initial distribution point in Fruitland Park. Our boxes will be delivered to children in need. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox will be the first gift they have ever received. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, has collected and delivered more than 232 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 170 countries and territories. Thank you for making a difference!

Please join me in congratulating Ellen Tierny who is our December Volunteer of the month. Ellen volunteers in several areas, to include: the Kitchen on Friday night, Thursday BINGO, AYCE Breakfast Saturdays, Thursday Italian night, ALR Sunday Kitchen duty and at the Bob John Memorial Driving Range. Ellen also serves as Post 347 Honor Guard Chaplain and recently accepted responsibility for AED/CPR training of all volunteers at the Driving Range. Thank you, Ellen, for all you do.

As Always, please help me welcome our newest members to include: a Marine Corps Rifleman who served in Vietnam and is the recipient of the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Ribbon; an Air Force KC-135 Tanker and Stand/Eval Pilot who served during OPERATION SHIELD/STORM; an Army E-5 who operated the MQ-1 Grey Eagle Drone, designed for reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition, and attack operations, while serving in Afghanistan; a Marine Corps E-6 who served as an Electrician, a Combat Engineer, and Photo Journalist; an Army E-9 Command Sergeant Major and Military Policeman who is the recipient of three Legion of Merit Awards and graduated from the Army's primary leadership development course, the Drill Sergeant course, and the Master Fitness course, to name a few; a Naval E-5 Submariner who was a Dual Miniaturized Inertial Navigation System Technician; and an Army E-6 Combat Engineer and Drill Sergeant who joins us from Missouri with 32 years of continuous American Legion Membership.

As we begin December, Rob and I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your Holidays be merry and filled with joy, and may the New Year bring you peace and love!

Post Service Officers: JB & Maria Alexander

Are you a veteran or do you live with a veteran who needs care at home?

The Veterans Benefits Administration, a branch of the VA, offers tax-free, monthly monetary payments to certain wartime veterans with financial need, and their spouse, through the **Aid and Assistance Program**. This is a benefit for veterans who do **not have a service-connected disability** resulting from their military service.

The following criteria must be met:

- Served at least 90 days of active duty, with at least 1 day during a wartime era **OR**
- **24 months of continuous service after Sept. 7th, 1980**
- Honorable Discharge

Is age 65 or older, OR permanently and totally disabled.

Assistance Criteria - The veteran needs help performing daily activities like: Bathing; Dressing; Feeding; Bedridden; Medication Management; Incontinence Care; In a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity

Financial Requirements:

To qualify, the net worth limit (assets + annual income) cannot exceed \$155,356, according to 2025 standards. This includes stocks, bonds, mutual funds, IRAs, bank accounts and any property not your primary residence.

You can go to <https://veteranshomecare.com/aid-and-attendance/> for additional and more detailed information about the **Aid and Assistance Program** or stop in to visit with a Post Service Officer.

NEW HOURS!! Post Service Officers (PSOs) are typically available at the American Legion Post on **Tuesdays, 1400 – 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 in the lounge**. You may contact Dennis directly at 352-674-5097.

S.A.L. Commander - Danny Roe

Welcome Holiday season! I cannot believe we have one month to the middle of the fiscal year. If you have not renewed your membership yet, you are at a point of urgency. Your 2025 card will expire on 1/1/26 and you will not be allowed entry into the Post as a member. Please get your renewal turned in as soon as possible. We try to process renewals as they come in but remember, we are all volunteers and many of us have plans for our holidays. I would hate you to be denied entry into the Post in January because you waited too long to renew. Per Doug White, our renewal numbers are **665 for 59.5%**. What a Great Job Doug is doing!

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.

Our Halloween Dance was on Nov 1st with Bill D Williams performing and a great Chicken Cordon Bleu dinner. What a great time raising money for our Fisher House donation. Bud Bowyer and the Squadron kitchen volunteers did a fantastic job with dinner. All proceeds will be **donated to Fisher House in Gainesville.** We will be visiting them and presenting a check on **December 4th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.** If you would like to join us for our visit, please let me know.

We have a **Dine to Donate** coming up and sponsored by **Culvers on CR466A, 5327 Sundance Trail on Dec 10th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM.** Culvers will be donating 10% of proceeds to our Children and Youth Programs. Culvers is always very generous, please support them as they support us. Thanks to all who supported our Dine to Donate in November. Still waiting on the numbers, but a large turnout was there to support us.

Our Family Golf Tournament for Children and Youth Charities date has been set for **Saturday, May 16th.** Location is same as last year, Broad Stripes in Stonecrest. Be sure to save the date. Signups will start after the first of the year.

Thanks to everyone who supported our **Legion Family Project 250 Challenge** that our Post participated in this year. Celebrating 250 years for this Great Country. I am happy to say the Sons filled 50 boxes. A big thank you to Rob Smith and Walmart for their help with this. This involves Samaritans Purse and filling 250 shoeboxes with items and toys for children all over the world. This is a Post Family initiative, with the **Post delivering a total of 345 boxes on November 19th.** Thanks to Post 1st Vice Commander Tina Burgess for all her hard work in getting this done. The **goal of 250 was blown away,** thanks to all who supported this effort.

Wreaths Across America will be held on December 13th, 2025, at noon at Lady Lake Cemetery. This is a short ceremony to celebrate and honor the lives of our veterans who have passed away. Please come and join us to thank them and place a wreath on a veteran's grave.

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

Rider's Director - Linda Haynes

Welcome to December, the season in which we Christians celebrate the birth of Christ. This is also the month we recognize Pearl Harbor Day, a day which was designated by Congress in 1994 as a Remembrance Day to honor and remember 2,403 service members and civilians who were killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941.

As we move into thru December, we know that this is the season for counting our blessings and giving. The Riders are doing just that, by contributing to the baskets that the Auxiliary make and provide to needy families in the community, providing a donation to the Shop with a Cop Campaign sponsored by the Sumpter County Sheriff's Department, and participating in Wreaths Across America. Take time this month to remember those less fortunate than you, and lend a hand, make a visit to

someone who is lonely or bring some cheer to someone who needs it. The Holiday Season is often a difficult time and this may be your opportunity to "Be the One".

Please remember that renewal of membership is in full swing, if you have not renewed, please do so before 1 January 26. Other items of interest include: the Christmas Raffle (numerous baskets with gift cards, memberships to Shooters World, an adult tricycle full of cheer and a beautiful Christmas Quilt). The drawing will be held on 21 December. Tickets are available every Tuesday evening and at the 2nd Saturday Breakfast. Weekly Wednesday rides continue, kitchen duty 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday, and various escorts throughout the month. Remember to log your miles and hours. The Christmas Party will be in lieu of our December meeting, and we look forward to seeing everyone who signed up

Observances: Pearl Harbor Day (7th) Festivus (23rd) Christmas (25th) Hanukkah begins (25th)
Kwanzaa begins (26th) New Years Eve (31st)

Sick Call and Post Everlasting



Jan A Williams, Milton Center, William J Forbes, James C Moricoli, Charles O Coogan, Mike Ferguson,
Douglas Landmann, Charles R Head, Oliver McPherson **Sick Call:** Mike Haynes, Mary Seidel, Jan Akins, Ron
Monet, Ky Rauzi, JoAnn Lemieux, Jim Arnold



Please go to our website: florida-legion.org for the names of the sick and deceased members.

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night The Tone Rangers 5 – 8	2 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Action Jackson 5:30 – 8:30	3 Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm Aux Mtg 6:00 pm	4 Mega Bingo SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	5 Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Tim Hargis 5:30 – 8:30	6 12pm Lounge opens Attendance Drawing 6:30 pm
7 Kitchen 12-2 pm Riders Bingo 2 -4pm	8 Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night The Tone Rangers 5 – 8	9 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Kat & the Kidd 5:30 – 8:30	10 Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm Legion Mtg 5:30 pm	11 Public Bingo Doors open 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	12 Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Bill D Williams 5:30 – 8:30	13 12pm Lounge opens AYCE Breakfast w/ Mr & Mrs Clause Attend Draw 6:30 pm
14 Kitchen 12-2 pm SAL Bingo 2 -4pm	15 Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night The Tone Rangers 5 – 8	16 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Petrina 5:30 – 8:30	17 Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm Submariner Mtg 12pm SAL Mtg 6:00 pm	18 Public Bingo Doors open 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	19 Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm The Tone Rangers 5:30 – 8:30	20 12pm Lounge opens Attendance Drawing 6:30 pm
21 Kitchen 12-2 pm Riders Bingo 2 -4pm	22 Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night The Tone Rangers 5 – 8	23 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Bill D Williams 5:30 – 8:30	24 Kitchen Closed - 1/2/26 NO Bar Bingo Next ALR Mtg 1/28/26	25 Post Closed for Christmas	26 Kitchen Closed - 1/2/26 Suzu D 5:30 – 8:30	27 12pm Lounge opens Attendance Drawing 6:30 pm
28 Kitchen Closed - 1/2/26 Bingo 2 -4pm	29 Line Dance Class – 3pm The Tone Rangers 5 – 8	30 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Tight Genes 5:30 – 8:30	31 NO Bar Bingo NYE Party			

Tuesday Menu

Dec 2: Chicken Cordon Bleu \$11.00	Dec 9: Taco Salad \$11.00	Dec 16: Meatloaf \$11.00	Dec 23: Fish Fry \$11.00; Shrimp Fry \$9.00; Chick Tender \$8.00
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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

Dec 4: Spaghetti & Meatballs **Dec 11:** Lasagna **Dec 18:** Stuffed Shells
(with salad, Roll, & dessert – \$11:00) 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.	Jo Linda Spear				
M.A.L.	George Ries	M.A.L.	Joan Yackel				
M.A.L.	Tony Gibson	I.P.P.	Ruth Sovern				
M.A.L.	Jim Stasse						
Past Commander	Joan Suelter						