

VETERANS MEMORIAL POST 347

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NEWSLETTER-FEBRUARY 2025

Commander: Dave Musser

Auxiliary: Maureen Caswell

S.A.L: Danny Roe

Riders: Linda Haynes

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VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: DAVE “DAC” CALLIES

Commander-Dave Musser

Beginning in February all Post Officer positions will be open for nominations. Nominations and elections are done in accordance with Post 347 Constitution and By-Laws. At the general membership meeting, nominations will be taken from the floor as well as the reading of names that have already turned in self-nomination forms.

We are in the mist of welcoming our seasonal members. Therefore, entry into the Post on Tuesday's will be open to Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Son's of the American Legion of **ANY Post** and those foreign military members authorized by our Constitution and Bylaws. However, only members of Post 347 are eligible to play the Queen of Hearts.

- * For Bar Bingo (Wed/Sun) and Trivia on Thursday, attendance is limited to Member and 1 Guest. If attendance is low, the lounge manager on duty has the option of allowing more than one guest. This will be in effect until further notice. Please watch the website for updated information regarding entry into the Post.
- * The Thursday Bingo in the Hall is open to the public from 8 am – 3 pm.

February is the month we celebrate relationships, friends, family and especially those that cannot be with their loved

ones. Take this opportunity to show your appreciation and support to a fellow veteran by offering to bring them to the Post, take them to lunch, for coffee, or even to an appointment.

Dates to mark your calendar include:

- >Pancake Breakfast - **Feb. 8th**
- >SAL Valentine Dance/Dinner – **Feb 8th**
- >Super Bowl Party – **Feb 9th**
- >Charter Research Lunch and Learn (Dementia Q & A) – **Feb 14th**,
- >Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration – **Feb. 17th**.
- >Tickets are also on sale for Purse Bingo which will be held **March 8th**. More information available on line or at the post.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of the Blackhawk crew and the American Airlines passengers and crew that perished on Jan 29th.

Please join me in wishing a “Happy Birthday” to those celebrating during the month of February.

Aim High and Keep up the Mach

Auxiliary-Maureen Caswell

Greetings All,

Happy February! The Auxiliary is busy doing all the behind the scenes work in order to implement our participation in the **2025 Girls State Program**, our annual **Scholarship Program** and our annual **Women Veterans Luncheon**.

We have already been to our two local high schools, The Villages Charter High School in Middleton and Leesburg High School, to talk to the Juniors about the Auxiliary's Girls State Program. This Auxiliary Program is in its 79th year! Girls State is basically citizenship training and is held on the campus of Florida State University over the course of ten days.

The 2025 session is scheduled for June. The Auxiliary pays 100% of the cost for the girls to attend. This coming week, we will be interviewing the 11 girls that applied. Soon after the interviews, we will be making our delegate selection for the Program. We are planning to send five girls to Girls State this year.

We are also in the process of finalizing our 2025 Scholarship Program and will be delivering information packets to Leesburg and The Villages High Schools. We plan on again spending \$20,000 this year. We will be awarding two \$5,000 scholarships under our Americanism program and two \$5,000 scholarships under our Education Program. Students are required to fill out an application and write an essay as well. We will again be awarding several scholarships to nursing students

from Lake Sumter State College.

Lastly, we are in the process of planning our annual luncheon for our Proud Women Veterans. The date has been set for Monday, March 10. Invitations will be emailed early this month. There are over 300 local female veterans in our immediate area. This is always a fun event and one that we really enjoy doing!

Come on out and join us at our monthly meetings. We discuss all of our events and programs at these meetings. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 5. We start with a social mix that begins at 5:00pm and our meetings start promptly at 6pm. Hope to see you there!

SAL COMMANDER-Danny Roe

Wow, I can't believe it is already February. Doug White, our 1st Vice Commander, continues to work hard on our membership. He reports we have 1014 renewed, new and transferred members towards our baseline of 1061. This is 95.6% of our membership goal. I am looking forward to passing 100% this month and continuing to increase our membership.

Very Important: Remember if you have not renewed your membership yet, you are delinquent and will not be admitted into the building until you renew your membership. Just return the mailing you should have just received or stop by the office M-F 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM to get your membership re-instated.

Our **Valentines Dance on Saturday, February 8th** is fast approaching. Tickets are still available on Tuesday February 4th in the lobby and in the office. Stop in and get yours for a Great time and Great food. **Entertainment by Jersey Frank and a Ham Dinner.**

Tickets are \$25 PP, also featuring a Lottery Board

and Door Prizes.

Also, Very Important Date Change Children and Youth Family Golf Tournament- Changed from May 10th to May 17th

Due to schedule conflict

Broad Stripes CC, Goes on sale Feb 4th (Lobby) and office after that.

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

In closing, we will be starting our election process as the Nominating Committee will be announced this month at our Membership Meeting on Wednesday Feb 19th at 6:00 PM in the Hall. I encourage members to get involved and run for an office. More info on that to come.

Please be safe as our seasonal residents have returned and crowds and traffic have increased.

POST SERVICE OFFICERS: JB & Maria Alexander

Attention Military Retirees: New ID Card Required by 2026

According to Military Living.com ... *"Beginning in 2026, the old-style, blue ID cards will no longer be accepted, regardless of the printed expiration date. In order to This policy applies to ID cards of all colors (except the new white ones). They should all be updated in order to maintain base access."*

maintain base access, please visit your nearest DEERS/ID card office to obtain a new ID. You do not need to wait until expiration date.

If you're unable to make it to a military installation, you can also request a new card through the RAPIDS ID Card Office Online: <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>

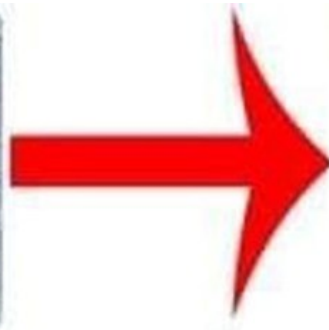
This policy applies to ID cards of all colors (except the new white ones). They should all be updated in order to maintain base access."

If you have any questions or need further assistance regarding this issue, please call the DMDC Contact Center at 800-538-9552.

Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) excluding federal holidays



OLD CARD



NEW CARD

1st Vice-Tina Burgess

Year 2025 is off to a great start! It was a busy month for Post 347 with another busy month to follow.

- On February 17th, we will host the Vietnam War Commemoration Welcome Home Ceremony. All veterans who served on active duty between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975 are invited for this celebration. The Director of the Vietnam War Commemoration, Maj Gen Edward J. Chrystal, Jr., US Army, along with Col Patrick Cramer, US Army, Chief of the Director's Action Group, will honor your service with a commemorative pin and Presidential certificate. As part of this ceremony, we will present a slide show of our honored veterans. See me if you want to participate.
- Our 2025 post membership numbers are still going strong! We are at 83.76% of our goal, which means we are close to achieving February's Membership goal of 85%.
- Let's continue to do our Buddy Checks and remind our fellow members to renew as soon as possible!
- I would like to thank all members who came out in support of our Veterans Outreach Day on January 10th. Overall, we helped approximately 100 Veterans. We were able to provide a light breakfast and sandwiches and chili for lunch. Thank you, Commander Musser, for approving the food budget and seasoning that delicious chili, as well as Harriett and Rob for helping me serve.
- Please join me in congratulating our **February Volunteer of the Month, Dave "DAC" Callies**. Along with being an elected SAL Squadron 347 Member at Large, many of us know Dac for the countless hours he devotes in the kitchen. DAC meticulously inventories and orders all necessary food and kitchen items for the Sons, ensuring Burger Night,

- Italian Night, and BINGO Sunday Lunch runs smoothly. Congratulations DAC, you deserve this honor!
- Many of you have expressed appreciation for my new member highlights in the monthly newsletter and I remain eager to share the extraordinary accomplishments from our next new group of members, to include a Marine Military Policemen who served in Afghanistan and is the recipient of the Combat Action Ribbon and the Purple Heart; two Naval battle buddies, one who served as a Naval Aircrew Man and Expeditionary Maritime Security Man, the other served as a Hospital Corpsman; . Both men deployed in support of Operation SPARTAN SHIELD, designed to deter and react to possible threats within the Middle East. Originating in 2011, this Operation covers the area of Egypt to Pakistan and Kazakhstan to Yemen.; an Army Physical Therapist who served in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR; a Naval E-4 who went on to become an Electrician, an Engineer, a Physicist, and a Physician; an Army E-5 who went on to become a Veterinarian; an Army E-3 who served in the Women's Army Corps during Viet Nam; a Marine Corporal Viet Nam Veteran who has 52 years of continuous American Legion Membership with Ohio Post 0614, Hilliard, Ohio; and an Army E-9 who was the 101st Airborne Division's Command Sergeant Major and was inducted into the Quartermaster's Army Hall of Fame!

Finally, there is no escaping it! February is the month of LOVE! There's a lot going on this month at the Post and in one way or another, much of it circles back around to love. So, let's take care of what we love, whether that be ourselves, our family, fellow Veterans, or our community.

Riders Director-Linda Haynes

Welcome to February, the month we celebrate **Four Chaplains Day, Coast Guard Reserve Birthday, American Heart Month, Black History Month, and Valentine's Day**. February is also the shortest month of the year, so we must pack a lot into 28 days! The riders will be busy this month:

- ALR Summit in Orlando on February 12-15.
- Annual Poker Run on February 22 with other chapters visiting.
- Spring Fundraiser: "Spring Fling" dance with Scooter the DJ on April 12th from 6 to 9 here at the Post. Tickets will be available shortly.

On February 7th we will escort one of our own, James "Jim" Delaney, to Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell. Jim was a member of the American Legion for 70+ years, he was a Charter member of our ALR Chapter and attended many rides/ events. Our officers are currently wearing orange shirts at his request. He was a delightful, witty man who was about a week away from his 91st birthday. We will miss him!

- Other items of interest include: In State Unity Ride-April 6-11
- *Officer Elections in May/ Legacy Ride* which will take place in August. Riders continue to participate in weekly lunch rides, work in the kitchen on the 1st 3rd and 5th Sundays and will be in the kitchen on Super Bowl Sunday from 6:00pm to half-time.

ADMISSION POLICY FOR POST 347	Guests	more information on the opportunities available.	Post: 352-750-2099
Sun & Wed: Bar Bingo -Member and 1 Guest	No Outside food, drinks or snacks allowed. You may bring Birthday cakes and cupcakes.	Hours of Operation	FAX: 352-750-2202
Tue-Queen of Hearts: Members Only	Volunteers are always welcomed. Please stop by the office or see a Post officer for	9-4 pm: M-F (Staffed by Volunteers)	Lounge: 352-750-0639
Mon, Thur, Fri & Sat: Member and 3		Phones:	



POST EVERLASTING



Andrew J. Andry-USA Gary Arnold-USN Louis S. Astorino-USAF Kenneth A. Beier-USAF James Delaney-USA David L. Duke-USN Philip Hearlson-USMC
 John LaPorte-USA Jalmer W. Larson (WW II)-USA Frank Macripo-USA Dexter A. Mayworth-USA Lewis Oberman-USA James P. Sparaco-USA
 Michael J. Spoonholtz-USN Robert Wilhite-USN Ronald F. Wright-USA

FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Lounge Open at Noon
2 Kitchen 12-2-SAL Bar Bingo-2-4 Karaoke W/ Suzy D	3 Line Dance Class-3 pm SAL Burger Night The Tone Rangers 5:30-8:30	4 Queen of Hearts 12-7 Tim Hargis Kitchen 5-6:45 pm	5 HONOR GUARD MTG Kitchen 12-2 Bar Bingo-2-4 AUX MTG-6:00	6 PUBLIC BINGO SAL Italian Night Team Trivia 6:30	7 Kitchen 5-6:45 Tight Genes 5:30-8:30 pm	8 Breakfast-7-11 am AYCE-\$8.00 Lounge Open at Noon
9 Kitchen 12-2 RIDERS Bar Bingo-2-4 Karaoke W/ Suzy D	10 Line Dance Class-3 pm SAL Burger Night The Tone Rangers 5:30-8:30	11 Queen of Hearts 12-7 Petrina Kitchen 5-6:45 pm	12 Kitchen 12-2 Bar Bingo-2-4 Legion Mtg-5:30	13 PUBLIC BINGO SAL Italian Night Team Trivia 6:30	14 Kitchen 5-6:45 Del Phis 5:30-8:30 pm	15 Lounge Open at Noon
16 Kitchen 12-2-RIDERS Bar Bingo-2-4 Karaoke W/ Suzy D	17 Line Dance Class-3 pm SAL Burger Night The Tone Rangers 5:30-8:30	18 Queen of Hearts 12-7 Tight Genes Kitchen 5-6:45 pm	19 Submariners Mtg-1:00 Kitchen 12-2 Bar Bingo-2-4 SAL Mtg 6:00	20 PUBLIC BINGO SAL Italian Night Team Trivia 6:30	21 Kitchen 5-6:45 Jonnell & The G Man 5:30-8:30 pm	22 Lounge Open at Noon
23 Kitchen 12-2-RIDERS Bar Bingo-2-4 Karaoke W/ Suzy D	24 Line Dance Class-3 pm SAL Burger Night The Tone Rangers 5:30-8:30	25 Queen of Hearts 12-7 Bill D Williams Kitchen 5-6:45 pm	26 Kitchen 12-2 Bar Bingo-2-4 ALR Mtg 6:00	27 PUBLIC BINGO SAL Italian Night Team Trivia 6:30	28 Kitchen 5-6:45 Del Phis 5:30-8:30 pm	

Tuesday, February 4th FETTUCCINI ALFREDO W/ CHICKEN & BROCCOLI, ROLL & BUTTER-\$11.00	Tuesday February 11th POT ROAST, MASHED POTATOES, GREEN BEANS, ROLL & BUTTER-\$11.00	Tuesday, February 18TH RIB NIGHT, FRENCH FRIES & COLE SLAW-\$13.00	Tuesday, February 25th SALISBURY STEAK, MASHED POTATOES, VEGETABLES, ROLL & BUTTER-\$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	
Commander	Dave Musser	President	Maureen Caswell	Commander	Danny Roe	Director	Linda Haynes
1st Vice	Tina Burgess	1st Vice	Ruth Sovern	1st Vice	Doug White	Asst. Director	Sherri Ward
2nd Vice	John Gorsuch	2nd Vice	Carol Pirone-Udell	2nd Vice	Bud Bowyer	Adjutant	Richard Lees
3rd Vice	Dan Martin	Treasurer	Kathy Allen	Finance	Bill Grieco	Finance	Jim Dollins
Chaplain	Lisa Johnson	Secretary	Barbara Kyle	Chaplain	Ben Kisielica	Sgt at Arms	Bob Stepnowski
Historian	Phil Crouthamel	Historian	Lois Bass	Historian	Gary Blanchard	Chaplain	Robert Stanzola
Adjutant	Phil Crouthamel	Sgt at Arms	Patricia Morrow	Sgt at Arms	Tony Watkins	Ride Captain	Larry Pekoe
Finance	Bob Irvine	Chaplain	Maureen Merlette	M.A.L.	Dave Callies	SAL VALENTINE DANCE-FEB 8th SUPER BOWL PARTY-FEB 9th PURSE BINGO-MAR 8th	
Service Officer	Dennis Storey	M.A.L.	Lynn Allen	M.A.L.	Bob Girou		
Sgt at Arms	Jim Dollins	M.A.L.	Elaine Freach	Judge Advocate	Vic Prezioso		
Judge Advocate	Heath Davenport	M.A.L.	Denise Hallisey	Adjutant	Bob O'Neal		
M.A.L.	Mike Haynes	M.A.L.	Mary Seidel	CHARTER RESEARCH-Dementia Q &A-Feb 14th VIETNAM WAR 50TH ANNIVERSARY-Feb 17th-10:00 am			
M.A.L.	George Ries	M.A.L.	Jo Linda Spear				
M.A.L.	Wayne Rodgers	M.A.L.	Joan Yackel				
M.A.L.	Jim Stasse	I.P.P.	Ruth Sovern				
Past Commander	Joan Suelter			See website for more information on all events			