

VETERANS MEMORIAL POST 347

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**NEWSLETTER-JUNE 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-JUNE: BOB MARION

## Commander-Dave Musser

Fiscal year 2024-25 comes to an end June 30<sup>th</sup> and a new year begins for Post 347. I would like to thank all officers and volunteers for donating their time and effort to keep our Post moving forward. We need to continue to focus on our primary mission of Veterans Assistance and Rehabilitation (VA & R), National Security, Americanism and Children and Youth. These pillars represent the organization's core values and areas of focus. I would encourage everyone to learn more about these core values by visiting the American Legion website at: [legion.org](http://legion.org).

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who came out and voted during the election process. Post Officer duties for the 2025-26 fiscal year officially start July 1<sup>st</sup>. There are only a few changes to the elected board however, additional changes will be forthcoming to the appointed positions.

There are Post committees that have been unattended due to the lack of volunteers to chair these programs. Myself and your First Vice have had to spread their time to run many of these programs. I am looking for volunteers to chair the

following committees:

- Blood Donor-Boys State-Children & Youth*
- Disaster Preparedness-Employer Award-Homeless Veteran Outreach-Jr. ROTC-Jr. Shooting Sports-Law & Order-Oratorical Project Vet Relief-POW/MIA Remembrance-Public Relations-Scholarships-School Medals-Special Olympics*
- Woman Veterans Advocacy-Youth Law Cadet*

For additional information on these programs, please visit [legion.org](http://legion.org) to see if something interests you. Please contact myself or Tina Burgess if you would like to volunteer.

For those of you who are new to Florida and the hot/humid summer, please remember when participating in outdoor activities to stay hydrated. It is also the start of hurricane season which runs from June to December. Hurricane preparedness information can be found online: <https://www.stateofflorida.com/articles/hurricane-preparedness-guide/>.

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

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

## Post Service Officer: JB & Maria Alexander

### Oncology Risk In Overseas Service (ORIOS)

#### Free Early Warning Cancer Detection Test for any Veteran.

The Galleri test is a blood test which may present a more efficient way of detecting cancer. Instead of searching for any **one type of cancer**, it screens an individual for **multiple cancers**. Its potential is to change the current screening process from screening for individual cancers, to one where individuals are screened for multiple cancers with a single blood test. More information about the Galleri test can be found at: <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/the-galleri-test>

\*Through grants and donations, **a FREE Galleri test is being offered to all Veterans**. Gulf War and Global War on Terror Veterans can be tested locally in Ocala. All other veterans will be tested in Tampa or at seven (7) other VA hospitals.

This test is also being offered to First Responders, EMTs and their spouses at a

significant discount price of \$649.

Veterans must show DD FM 214 that indicates an Honorable Discharge.

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. Please see additional information at: <https://orios.org/>

*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.*

*\*This is sponsored by Vets Helping Vets, the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard, a \$300,000 grant from the Marion County Commissioners and a \$50,000 Donation from Advent Health – Ocala. Administered by Vet Resource Center, Inc. a 501 ©(3) Charity.*

## Auxiliary President-Maureen Caswell

It is my pleasure to announce to you the results of our May 2025 election. Your 2025-2026 Auxiliary Officers are as follows:

### 2025-2026 Auxiliary Officers

<b>President</b>	Maureen Caswell	<b>Vice President</b>	Pat Morrow
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	Barbara Kyle	<b>Treasurer</b>	Kathy Allen
<b>Secretary</b>	Lois Bass	<b>Chaplain</b>	Maureen Merlette
<b>Sargeant-At-Arms</b>	Pat Skeel	<b>Historian</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
<b>Members-At-Large</b>	Susan Carlson, Denise Hallisey, Jo Richmond, Jo Linda Spear, Deb Stanley, Joan Yackel and Ruth Sovorn		

We had another great year. I will be sharing our results in detail at our next general meeting and in the president's letter that we will be mailing in July.

### **Notable Highlights:**

- Donated \$56,000 in scholarships this year. 4-5,000. scholarships to the high schools, 12-\$3000. Scholarships to Lake Sumter State College for second year nursing students.
- Donated \$7,000 to Camp LeJeune for a Thanksgiving Day Dinner program for MCL Detachment 1252 and their families.
- Raised \$12,687.00 in Poppy distribution proceeds to fund Veteran programs
- In total, the Auxiliary donated **\$537,012**. Cash Donations \$170,061.; In-kind donations - \$366,951.

Great job! I am extremely proud of our organization and honored to serve as your President again.

### **S.A.L .Commander: Danny Roe**

As we enter June, Doug White, our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, reports we have 1108 renewed, new and transferred members towards our baseline of 1061. This is **104.4%** of our membership goal. What a great job Doug does, and thanks to all that have renewed and continue to support our program. Just one more push and we can get 105% by the end of June.

Our Children and Youth Family Golf Tournament was held on May 17<sup>th</sup> at Broad Stripes CC and was a great success. Fun was had by all, and much money was raised for Children and Youth Charities. We had the honor of a visit from Detachment Commander Rocky Cirigliano and leading 2025-26 candidate for Detachment Commander Mike Nigbor. Thank you, gentlemen, for attending. Congratulations to the winning team, **Rick Lence, George Schwan, Jeff Leckrone, and Chuck Mullenan** with a score of 56.

The following charities are supported this year from the funds raised. (All Donations stay in the state of Florida) A total of \$25,000 was raised. The total for Culvers Dine to Donate 4/10/25 was \$1125.87. **Thanks to Culvers on 466A for supporting Children and Youth.**

**COTA (Children's Organ Transplant Association) \$10,000**

**Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches \$3,000**

**Selfless Love Foundation \$3,000**

**Give Kids the World Village \$3,000**

**AMI Kids \$3,000**

**Base Camp (Cancer Kids) \$3,000**

Our next dance will be our Halloween dance on Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. Bill D Williams will be the entertainment. **Save the date**, more info to come.

Thanks to everyone who supported National Poppy Day by distributing Poppies to raise money for our Veterans. Always a fun and great cause hosted by our Auxiliary unit 347.

Thanks to everyone who supported our Memorial Day ceremony at Lady Lake cemetery on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

In Closing, it has been my honor to serve as your S.A.L. Commander this past year and I am so proud of all we have accomplished. I look forward to serving another year and I am excited to accomplish even more this next year. We are fortunate to have such a great group of officers to continue our efforts in the coming year.

Your **2025-26 officers are: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Doug White, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Bud Boyer, Sgt at Arms Tony Watkins, Chaplain Ben Kiselica, Finance Officer Bill Greico, Members at Large Dave (DAC) Callies and Bob Girou. The appointed Officers will be Adjutant Bob O'Neal and Judge Advocate Vic Prezioso.**

### **Chaplain-Lisa Johnson**

Seems like we have gone from a lovely spring straight in to the heat of summer. Make sure to drink plenty of fluids and add some electrolytes during these hot days. And please call or visit the front office if someone is ill or injured so I can follow up and see how they are doing. We need to take care of each other.

**God Bless.**

### **SICK CALL AND POST EVERLASTING**

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

## 1st Vice-Tina Burgess

I would like to thank you for trusting me with one more year as your First Vice Commander. I honestly love what I do. It is my honor and pleasure to serve you.

June is PTSD Awareness Month. Help us spread the word that effective PTSD treatments are available. Everyone with PTSD, to include Veterans, civilian survivors of sexual assault, serious accidents, natural disasters, or other traumatic events, needs to know that treatments really work and can lead to a better quality of life. The American Legion distributes information monthly related to reducing the number of veterans lost to suicide. Each newsletter includes inspirational stories, updated resources, a challenge and more. Always remember "Be the One to Save One!"

### ***Please join me celebrating our June Volunteer of the Month, Bob Marion.***

Bob is a reliable Veteran member who can be seen at the Post or at the Golf Range volunteering in several key positions. He volunteers in the Lounge at the membership door, calls numbers, verifies wins, and manages the pull tabs at Thursday Community BINGO, and maintains the ball seller schedule and operates the ball collector cart when needed at the Bob Johnson Legacy Golf Range. Thank you, Bob, for all you do for us! Please continue to nominate our deserving volunteers for monthly recognition. Nomination forms are in the front office!

As head of the Membership Team, I am disappointed to report we have not achieved 100 percent membership (YET) for 2025. At the time of this writing we are at 92.6 percent. We have been working hard by reaching out to our non-renewed members. This work is heartbreaking at times. We are finding members are leaving the area permanently, dealing with significant health issues, or choosing not to renew for personal reasons. Many have gone on to Post

Everlasting. If there is no communication between the members/family and the Post, there is no way to know when life changes affect membership status. If your status changes for any reason, please have the courtesy to let us know. We still aim to reach 100 percent, but we are running short on time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make our Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony at Lady Lake Cemetery a success. My personal gratitude goes out to my husband Rob, members of our Honor Guard, and especially to our Gold Star Family Members who graciously shared their personal stories of losing their sons. Their presence is a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by our deceased Brothers and Sisters. Upon returning to the Post, we were offered a delicious lunch lovingly prepared and served by members of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 347.

We have 18 new members so far this month. As always, reviewing their DD-214's is the highlight of my day. Please help me welcome a Marine Corps Lance Corporal and Vietnam Veteran who is transferring in from Post 998, Lawton, PA, bringing with him 60 years of continuous American Legion Membership; a Coast Guard E-5 transfer with 42 years of continuous membership; an Army E-4 transfer with 41 years of continuous membership; a Navy W-4 who was a digital computer system's programmer in 1976 after serving in Vietnam; a Navy E-4 who was a maintenance technician for the Terrier two-stage medium-range naval surface-to-air missile (SAM) and the Mk-10 guided missile launching system (GMLS); and a 30-year Air Force E-9 who was an Aerospace Medical Service Manager, a Group Senior enlisted Leader, and First Sergeant;

June is for the U.S. Army, the U.S. Flag and Fathers! On June 14th, Americans honor the United States flag and this year we will celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United States Army. Happy Father's Day to all our great Dads. Cherish your Dad and cherish your memories. I was lucky to be the daughter of one of the best, father to seven and a 22-year Air Force and Vietnam Vet .

## Riders Director: Linda Haynes

Welcome to June! The month we celebrate Father's Day, Flag Day, the Army's birthday (June 14<sup>th</sup> marks 250 years), and June 21<sup>st</sup>, which marks the summer solstice and is the longest day of the year.

During the heat of the brutal summer, Chapter 347 Riders continue to participate in summer breakfast rides, escorts, and ceremonies. Additionally, several (approximately 8) Riders are preparing to participate in the Legacy Ride which will be held in August. This ride will start in Virginia and conclude at the National Convention in Tampa. Since its inception in 2006, The American Legion Legacy Run has raised \$16 million dollars for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. These funds have provided over \$6.2 million dollars in scholarships to support the higher education of children who lost a parent in active military service on or after September 11, 2001, or whose post-9/11 parent has a VA disability rating of 50% or higher.

Thanks to the enduring success of the Legacy Scholarship Fund, now self-sustaining for the near future, the mission was expanded in 2024 to begin fundraising for The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF). This ensures we continue to address the evolving needs of veterans and military families, by funding Service Officer training and providing grants for at-risk minor children of Legionnaires and active-duty military. We are immensely proud of our Riders who have participated in this ride in the past and those that are preparing to participate this year.

### **PLEASE WELCOME YOUR OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026**

**Commander-Dave Musser—1st Vice-Tina Burgess—2nd Vice—John Gorsuch—3rd Vice-Dan Martin— Finance-Bob Irvine  
Sgt at Arms-Jim Dollins—Chaplain-Lisa Johnson—Historian-Bobby Wince—Member at Large-Anthony Gibson, Mike Haynes, George Ries,  
Jim Stasse**

***The Adjutant, Judge Advocate and Service Officer are appointed positions.***

### ***Observances***

***June 6: D-Day Anniversary    June 14: Flag Day    June 14: Army Birthday    June 23: Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday  
June 27: National PTSD Awareness Day***

**JUNE 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> Kitchen 12-2-Riders Bar Bingo-2-4 SUMMER HOURS 12-5 PM	<b>2</b> Line Dance Class-3 pm SAL Burger Night THE TONE RANGERS 5:30-8:30	<b>3</b> Queen of Hearts 12-7 THE TONE RANGERS Kitchen 5-6:45 pm	<b>4</b> Honor Guard Mtg-10:30 Kitchen 12-2 Bar Bingo-2-4 AUX MTG-6:00	<b>5</b> PUBLIC BINGO DOORS OPEN-8 AM SAL Italian Night Team Trivia 6:30	<b>6</b> Kitchen 5-6:45 DEL PHIS	<b>7</b> LOUNGE OPENS NOON
<b>8</b> Kitchen 12-2-SAL Bar Bingo-2-4 SUMMER HOURS 12-5 PM	<b>9</b> Line Dance Class-3 pm SAL Burger Night THE TONE RANGERS 5:30-8:30	<b>10</b> Queen of Hearts 12-7 BILL D WILLIAMS Kitchen 5-6:45 pm	<b>11</b> Kitchen 12-2 Bar Bingo-2-4 Legion Mtg-5:30	<b>12</b> PUBLIC BINGO DOORS OPEN-8 AM SAL Italian Night Team Trivia 6:30	<b>13</b> Kitchen 5-6:45 KAT & THE KID	<b>14</b> LOUNGE OPENS NOON
<b>15</b> Kitchen 12-2-RIDERS Bar Bingo-2-4 SUMMER HOURS 12-5 PM	<b>16</b> Line Dance Class-3 pm SAL Burger Night THE TONE RANGERS 5:30-8:30	<b>17</b> Queen of Hearts 12-7 JONNEL & THE G MAN Kitchen 5-6:45 pm	<b>18</b> Kitchen 12-2 Bar Bingo-2-4 SAL Mtg 6:00	<b>19</b> PUBLIC BINGO DOORS OPEN-8 AM SAL Italian Night Team Trivia 6:30	<b>20</b> Kitchen 5-6:45 BILL D WILLIAMS	<b>21</b> LOUNGE OPENS NOON
<b>22</b> Kitchen 12-2-SAL Bar Bingo-2-4 SUMMER HOURS 12-5 PM	<b>23</b> Line Dance Class-3 pm SAL Burger Night THE TONE RANGERS 5:30-8:30	<b>24</b> Queen of Hearts 12-7 TIGHT GENES Kitchen 5-6:45 pm	<b>25</b> Kitchen 12-2 Bar Bingo-2-4 ALR Mtg 6:00	<b>26</b> PUBLIC BINGO DOORS OPEN-8 AM SAL Italian Night Team Trivia 6:30	<b>27</b> Kitchen 5-6:45 JONNEL & THE G MAN	<b>28</b> LOUNGE OPENS NOON
<b>29</b> Kitchen 12-2 RIDERS Bar Bingo-2-4 SUMMER HOURS 12-5 PM	<b>30</b> Line Dance Class-3 pm SAL Burger Night THE TONE RANGERS 5:30-8:30					

June 3: Chef Salad-\$8.00

June 10: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Roll & Butter-\$11.00

June 17: Ham & Cheese OR Turkey & Cheese Sandwich w/ Potato Salad-\$8.00

June 24: Fish Fry-\$11.00 Shrimp Fry-\$9.00-ChickenTenders & Fries-\$8.00

**Hot dogs, Fries, Nachos and Onion Rings available except Thursdays. Meals & Pricing subject to change at any time.**

**SAL THURSDAY ITALIAN NIGHT MENU**

June 5: Chicken Parmesan Sub    June 12 Meatball Sub    June 19 Sausage & Pepper Sub    June 26: Chicken Parmesan Sub  
(with Salad & Dessert-\$8.00)    Pizza: Slices-\$2.50    Whole Pies: \$12.00-\$15.00

**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>	Roger 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>Service Officer</b>	JB & 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>M.A.L.</b>	Wayne Rodgers	<b>M.A.L.</b>	Joan Yackel				
<b>M.A.L.</b>	Jim Stasse	<b>I.P.P.</b>	Ruth Sovern				
<b>Past Commander</b>	Joan Suelter						