

Veterans Memorial Post 347  
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Newsletter – Jun 2026

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S.A.L: Danny Roe  
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## Volunteer of the Month - Jun: Doug White

### Commander - Dave Musser

As summer begins, June gives us a chance to honor our military history, support our veterans, and strengthen the bonds of fellowship within our Post and community. Your participation keeps Post 347 strong and vibrant.

As June ends, our fiscal year comes to a close, and a new one begins in July. Thank you to all volunteers and members who continue to give their time and talents to Post 347. Your dedication keeps our mission alive and honors the spirit of service that defines The American Legion.

This newsletter is bittersweet for me. This will be my last newsletter as Commander of your Post. The past four years have been deeply rewarding and fulfilling. I will continue to support and stay involved in the evolving future of Post 347, but it is time for me to begin my next chapter.

### June Dates to Remember:

June 6 – D-Day Anniversary: We honor the brave Allied forces who stormed the beaches of Normandy in 1944 during World War II. Their courage changed the course of history and secured freedom for future generations.

June 14 – Flag Day: Celebrate the adoption of the United States flag in 1777. Fly your flag proudly and remember what it represents: liberty, sacrifice, and unity.

June 14 – U.S. Army Birthday (251 Years): Happy Birthday to the United States Army, established in 1775. We salute all Army veterans and active-duty soldiers for their dedicated service.

June 21 – Father’s Day

June 27 – National PTSD Awareness Day: A day to raise awareness and support for veterans and others affected by Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Remember, help is available, and no veteran stands alone. I would like to take this time to wish your incoming Commander, Tina Burgess, and executive board, great success in the coming year.

Please join me in wishing a “Happy Birthday” to all those who have June birthdays

**MEMORIAL DAY:** Memorial Day, originally known as *Decoration Day*, was established in 1868 to honor fallen soldiers (620,00) following the Civil War. It was fixed to May 30 because it was the optimal time for spring flowers to bloom nationwide to decorate veterans’ graves.

Congress changed Memorial Day from its traditional fixed date to the last Monday in May to create predictable three-day weekends for federal employees (1971). The shift occurred with the passage of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. The legislation aimed to provide workers with consistent long weekends to boost the economy through travel and leisure.

Many critics, including veteran groups opposed the Monday shift. They argued that moving the holiday away from its historical date would cause the public to forget its true purpose – honoring the fallen service members – and turn it into a generic summer vacation. That’s the history and the why American Legion Post 347 continues to honor the fallen-on **MAY 30**.

**Aim High and Keep up the Mach**

## **Rider's 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 251 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 Lincoln, Nebraska and conclude at the General George Patton Museum of Leadership at Fort Knox Kentucky near where the National Convention will be held. Since its inception in 2006, The American Legion Legacy Run has raised over \$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 pray for their safety as they ride approximately 3,200 miles.

The Riders have elected a new Executive Board which will be in place on 1 July. Jeff Higgins will be the new Director; he and his E-board are looking forward to doing great things. I appreciated the opportunity to serve as your Rider Director for the past 2 years and look forward to passing the baton.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice – Tina Burgess

When I first joined the American Legion, I belonged to the Daddow-Isaacs Post 672 in Dallas, PA. I joined this Post to honor my Father, a previous Post 672 Commander. My Dad was a carpenter and I could still see his handy work throughout his AL home, nearly 20 years after his passing. Unfortunately, despite being a second-generation Veteran member, I never felt at home, so I never became involved. When I first walked into Veterans Memorial Post 347 in 2021, I didn't just find a building, I found a home. I found a place where service didn't end when the uniform came off, where camaraderie was as strong as it was in the military, and where the mission was still clear: to serve veterans, their families, and our communities. It is with great Honor that I continue my American Legion journey with you as your next Commander.

I want to thank Commander Dave Musser for his outstanding leadership and dedication over the past four years. He set a high standard for me to follow. Dave saw something in me I didn't recognize in myself and took a chance when he didn't have to. I am grateful to have been mentored by him and will continue to count on him moving forward.

To my fellow officers and Legion Family, I appreciate your confidence in me. I know this role is not one I will take alone; it is a shared journey, and I will rely on your wisdom, your experience, and your passion to ensure our focus remains on serving Veterans first.

To my husband, thank you for your patience and support, we have shared difficult moments over this past year, but you were always there for me. Service is never a solo mission, and I know I CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU! I look forward to another year with you as our Adjutant. Nobody does it better!

Speaking of our Adjutant, Rob has worked tirelessly on renewals and new memberships this year with one goal in mind: To reach 100 percent membership by the end of May. Despite his best efforts, we fell short by 162 memberships, for 97.47 percent. Last year at this time we were at 93.35 percent, so there is marked improvement. We will continue to push through June to achieve our goal. If you know of a member who has not renewed, encourage them to do so.

Please join me celebrating our June Volunteer of the Month, Doug White. Doug is the Adjutant for SAL Squadron 347 and has achieved a 100 percent renewal rate for the 2025-2026 membership year. Doug works closely with the Wiersdale Junior ROTC to ensure the clean-up of Lady Lake Cemetery for our Wreathes Across America and Memorial Day services. In the words of the SAL Squadron Commander, "Doug is the glue behind the scenes that holds everything together!" He expertly creates event flyers, tickets, and business cards and keeps the office supplied, duties beyond adjutant responsibilities. Thank you Doug for all you do! This recognition is well deserved.

I would like to thank everyone who helped make our Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony a success. The Remembering Our Fallen Pictorial Memorial was a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by our deceased Brothers and Sisters. I would especially like to thank each Legion Family Group who shared the expense of sponsoring the Memorial. Special thanks to our Auxiliary Unit who lovingly prepared and served us a delicious lunch.

It is a quiet membership month, with 19 new members. Please help me welcome a Navy Combat Landing Craft Operator and World War II Veteran, assigned to the USS Rutland who took Marines ashore at Iwo Jima in February 1945; an Army E-8 Military Police and Recruiter/Retention NCO whose career spanned Vietnam to the Gulf War and is the recipient of the Bronze Star; and an Army E-3 transfer from New York Post 833 with 39 years of continuous American Legion membership.

June is PTSD Awareness Month. Help us spread the word that effective PTSD treatments are available. The American Legion HQ distributes information monthly related to reducing the number of veterans lost to suicide. Each newsletter includes inspirational stories and updated resources. Always remember "Be the One to Save One!" June is also the month we honor the U.S. Flag and Fathers! June 14<sup>th</sup> is Flag Day, just weeks away from celebrating our Nation's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday! Happy Father's Day to all our great Dads. Cherish your Dad always. I was lucky to have one of the best, father to seven and 22-year Air Force/Vietnam Veteran.



## Post Everlasting and Sick Call

**Post Everlasting:** Charles Hurst, Thomas Lockman, Perry Olyer, Thomas Manney, Kenneth Robinson, William Horvath    **Sick Call:** Danny Boone, Sam Huff, Jim Arnold, Mary Seidel, Jan Akins, Ron Monet, Tom Wenzel

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

## Auxiliary President – Maureen Caswell

Hi All,

This is the last family newsletter that I will be contributing to as the President of Auxiliary Unit 347. It just does not seem possible that six years have gone by. WOW!

As I look back over these years, there are so many good memories. This Auxiliary has done so many really great good deeds and has expanded its reach into the community. I have always been proud of The Auxiliary and I know that it is “the steam in the engine” that helps keep the family train chugging! We are very proud and happy to play that role.

### Accomplishments that I am most proud of:

- We have more than tripled our budget in the last six years!
- We sponsored 17 scholarships this year at a cost of \$66,000. (6-5,000. scholarships to the high schools, 11-\$3000., give or take, Scholarships to Lake Sumter State College for second year nursing students.) To date, we’ve helped 33 local RN’s gain that degree.
- We donated \$7,000 to Camp LeJeune for a Thanksgiving Day Dinner program for MCL Detachment 1252 and their families. This was our third year sponsoring this program at a cost of \$19,000. This past year, this donation assisted ~ 8,000 Marines and Navy Corpsmen and ~20,000 of their family members.
- We raised \$14,500. in Poppy distribution proceeds to fund Veteran programs
- Our monthly donations to our local food banks has grown from several thousand dollars annually to \$22,800. annually
- This year, the Auxiliary donated **\$406,000**. Cash Donations \$184,000.; In-kind donations \$222,000.

Great job everyone! Thank you to all of our officers, chairmen, volunteers and our community for your unwavering support over these past 6 years. I appreciate the respect that you afforded me through my tenure.

It is my pleasure to announce to you the results of our May 2026 election. Your 2026-2027 Auxiliary Officers are as follows: **2026-2027 Auxiliary Officers**

<b>President</b>	Pat Morrow	Vice President	Bob Suelter
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	Barbara Kyle	Treasurer	Kathy Allen
<b>Secretary</b>	Lois Bass	Chaplain	<b>Vacant</b>
Sergeant-At-Arms	Susan Duncan	Historian	<b>Vacant</b>
Members-At-Large:	Denise Hallisey, Susan Carlson, Jo Richmond, Jo Linda Spear, Deb Stanley, Verena Timm, and Maureen Caswell		

*Please join me in wishing our Officers a great 2026-2027 fiscal year!*

## S.A.L. Commander – Danny Roe

I am happy to report that we have finally achieved 101% membership with 1131 members. It is still not too late 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. Thanks to Doug White for his hard work.

As we end the fiscal year, I am proud of what we have accomplished. We have given more money away than any year previously and our volunteer hours continue to grow. We are always looking for more help to support our Squadron. Just let me or one of our officers know you would like to get involved. One of my great joys is handing out the checks that support the organizations that we support. There are too many to name here, but Fisher House, Special Olympics, 4 different food banks, Scholarships and Children and Youth charities just to name a few. We also support many charities that support our veterans.

**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. Thanks to those that attended the Initiation before our May meeting. I hope you learned a little about what we do and why we do it. **I challenge you to stop and think about why you joined this organization?** I do hope you decide to get involved and help us do what we do.

Our Family Golf Tournament for Children and Youth Charities on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> was a great success. Even though we were down a little in number of golfers this year it was a great time, a great day, and fun was had by all. We are always looking for ideas to improve this tournament. Please share your ideas with me or one of our officers. Thanks to Honor Flight organization for donating a beautiful quilt and Lowes on CR466A for donating the gas grill. Congratulations to the winners. A special **Thank You to Walmart**, you out did yourself again this year: **\$23,000 was raised** and will be given away as follows: **\$14,000 to COTA (Children’s Organ Transplant Association), \$3,000 each to Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Give Kids the World Village (Camp for Handicapped Children), and Base Camp Children’s Cancer Foundation.**

I am so excited to see what the new fiscal year will bring. Hope many of you will join us in our efforts.

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

## Post Service Officers: JB & Maria Alexander



211 in Florida is a free, confidential, 24/7 service that connects residents to local, human and social service organizations to help with **non-emergency life challenges**.

By calling **2-1-1**, **texting your zip code to 898211**, or chatting online, you can reach trained specialists who provide information and referrals for a wide range of needs.

### Key Services Offered by 211 in Florida:

- **Essential Needs:** Food pantries, emergency shelter, and housing assistance.
- **Financial Assistance:** Help with rent, mortgage, and utility bills.
- **Health Services:** Mental health, substance abuse, and physical healthcare resources.
- **Specialized Support:** Assistance for veterans (also via the Florida Veterans Support Line at 1-844-MYFLVET), seniors, and childcare services.
- **Disaster Information:** Information and support before, during, and after natural disasters.

### How to Access 211 in Florida:

- **Call:** Dial **2-1-1** on your phone.
- **Text:** Text your **zip code to 898-211**.

The Florida 211 network is made up of 11 nationally accredited centers that, as of 2023, processed over 1 million requests for help across the state.

**Attention** – Post Service Officers are **TYPICALLY** available on Tuesdays, in the lobby of the American Legion Post from 1300-1800 hours, or you can leave your contact information with the front office staff and we will contact you. On Tue, Jun 9<sup>th</sup>, Bryant Ortiz from Congressman Danial Webster’s Office will be here 10 am – 2 pm!!

## June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night <b>Tone Rangers</b> 5 – 8 pm	<b>2</b> PSO 1 – 6pm Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Clark Barrios</b> 5:30 – 8:30	<b>3</b> Kitchen -2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm <b>Aux Mtg 6:00 pm</b>	<b>4</b> SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	<b>5</b> Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Jenni Piergrossi</b> 5:30 – 8:30 pm	<b>6 D-Day</b> 12pm Lounge opens Attend Draw 6:30 pm
<b>7</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Bingo 2 -4pm Lounge Closes @ 5pm	<b>8</b> Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night <b>Tone Rangers</b> 5 – 8 pm	<b>9</b> PSO 1 – 6pm Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Frank Ardino</b> 5:30 – 8:30	<b>10</b> Kitchen -2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm <b>Legion Mtg 5:30 pm</b>	<b>11</b> SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	<b>12</b> Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Bill D Williams</b> 5:30 – 8:30 pm	<b>13</b> 12pm Lounge opens Attend Draw 6:30 pm
<b>14 Flag Day</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Bingo 2 -4pm Lounge Closes @ 5pm <b>Army’s 251 Bday</b>	<b>15</b> Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night <b>Tone Rangers</b> 5 – 8 pm	<b>16</b> PSO 1 – 6pm Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Tim Hargis</b> 5:30 – 8:30	<b>17</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm Submariner Mtg 12pm <b>SAL Mtg 6:00 pm</b>	<b>18</b> SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	<b>19 Juneteenth</b> Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Del Phi’s</b> 5:30 – 8:30 pm	<b>20</b> 12pm Lounge opens Attend Draw 6:30 pm
<b>21 Dad’s Day</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Bingo 2 -4pm Lounge Closes @ 5p	<b>22</b> Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night <b>Tone Rangers</b> 5 – 8 pm	<b>23</b> PSO 1 – 6pm Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Bill D Williams</b> 5:30 – 8:30	<b>24</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm <b>ALR Mtg 5:30 pm</b>	<b>25</b> SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	<b>26</b> Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Clark Barrios</b> 5:30 – 8:30 pm	<b>27 Natl PTSD Day</b> 12pm Lounge opens Attend Draw 6:30 pm
<b>28</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Bingo 2 -4pm Lounge Closes @ 5pm	<b>29</b> Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night <b>Tone Rangers</b> 5 – 8 pm	<b>30</b> PSO 1 – 6pm Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Petrina</b> 5:30 – 8:30				

## Tuesday Menu

<b>Jun 2:</b> Beef Stroganoff, Butter Noodles: \$11.00	<b>Jun 9:</b> Baked Pork Chops, Carrots \$11.00	<b>Jun 16:</b> Baked Ham w/Pineapple, \$11.00	<b>Jun 23:</b> Hearty Meat & Potato Casserole \$11	<b>Jun 30:</b> Chicken & Dumplings, \$11.00
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Hot dogs, Fries, Nachos and Onion Rings available except Thursdays. Meals & Pricing subject to change at any time.

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

**Jun 4:** Meatballs Sub **Jun 11:** Sausage & Pepper Sub **Jun 18:** Chichen Parm Sub **Jun 25:** Roast Beef Sub  
(with salad & dessert – \$9:00) Pizza Slices – \$2.50 Whole Pies: \$12 – \$15