

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

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NEWSLETTER-MARCH 2025

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: MIKE FERGUSON

Commander-Dave Musser

Maintaining a healthy environment at our American Legion Post during cold and flu season is essential to safeguard the well-being of all members and guests. Here are several things to help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses: frequent hand washing, covering your nose/mouth when coughing or sneezing, and using hand sanitizer. All of this is critically important due to the large number of members and guests on cruises and visiting outside the country.

Entry into the post will be member plus one guest during Tuesday's Queen of Hearts, and Wednesday/Sunday Bar Bingo. All other day's entry is limited to member and three guests. If you have a special occasion or a large group of family coming to town, please make arrangements with the Lounge Manager or Commander ahead of time to accommodate your need.

Nominations for post officers has begun. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the general membership meetings in March and April with the election taking place May 14th. Nominations and elections are in accordance with Post 347 Constitution and By-Laws.

Mark your calendar for these dates in March:

March 1-6th District meeting at Post 347 with registration at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting starts at 10:00 a.m.

March 8-AYCE Breakfast (\$8.00) from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

March 8-(event is SOLD OUT), doors open at 4:30 p.m. (NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR BEVERAGE)

March 9-Daylight Savings time: SPRING AHEAD

March 15-American Legion 106th Birthday.

March 29-Vietnam Veterans Day

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

AIM HIGH AND KEEP UP THE MACH

Auxiliary-Maureen Caswell

Hi All,

Here we are in the very busy month of March already! Our girls state delegates/alternates have been selected and are now registering on line; our scholarship packages have been prepared and delivered to the schools and we are in the process of wrapping up our year with our year-end program reports. Most important, though, March is the month that we honor our Female Veterans.

Our annual Female Veterans Luncheon will be held on Monday, March 10, in the Post Hall. This is a day that we celebrate all of our local Female Veterans for their service and for blazing a trail for so many young women to follow. On a national basis, there are over 2,000,000 female Veterans. By the year 2040, female veterans will represent 18% of the Veteran population!

We conduct an informal ceremony, serve a very nice hot lunch and present each Veteran with a small token of our appreciation. This year we will be serving chicken picatta, pasta and mixed vegetables, salad, bread and dessert. There is no cost to the Veteran and guests are \$10/person. The doors open at 11:30.

If you would like to attend, email us at alaunit347@comcast.net.

In the Spirit of Service, Not Self.

COMMANDER-Danny Roe

Here we are in March already. Doug White, our 1st Vice Commander, reports we have 1053 renewed, new and transferred members towards our baseline of 1061. This is 99.2% of our membership goal. I am looking forward to passing 100% this month and continuing to increase our membership. We have also scheduled an Initiation Ceremony to be held at **5:00 PM on April 16th**. This is before our regular membership meeting at 6:00 PM. If you have joined or transferred to our Squadron 347 since July of last year you should have received a personal invitation in your email. If you qualify for this and have not received your invitation, please let Doug or I know. This is a great time to learn about the Sons of The American Legion and to be recognized as a member.

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.

Also, Very Important Date Change: (Due to schedule conflict)

Children and Youth Family Golf Tournament

Changed from May 10th to May 17th

At Broad Stripes CC, on sale Tuesdays in the Lobby and office during the week from (9:00 AM to 4:00 PM)

Get your teams registered before we sell out!!!

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

In closing, our election process has started. Our Nominating Committee is Bob O'Neal, Vic Prezioso, and George Worton. Please send email to **sons347fl@gmail.com** if you are interested in a position as an officer. I encourage all members to get involved

POST SERVICE OFFICERS: JB & Maria Alexander

PACT ACT

The PACT ACT expands eligibility for VA health care for veterans with toxic exposure AND veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post 911 eras. It adds over 20 presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxic exposures. All veterans who were exposed to toxins or other hazards while serving in the military – AT HOME OR ABROAD – are eligible to enroll directly in VA health care. It also requires the VA to provide toxic exposure screening to every veteran enrolled in VA health care. This includes veterans who never deployed but were exposed to hazards or toxins while training. **IF THIS APPLIES TO YOU AND YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION, STOP IN AND VISIT THE** Post Service Officers on **Tuesdays, 1530 – 1800 hours** in the American Legion Post lobby, or leave your contact information with the office and we will contact you.

JB and Maria Alexander

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 for disability claims, homelessness, education, hospitalization and medical care.

1st Vice-Tina Burgess

I can't believe it is March already! As of this writing, Post 347 is 88 percent for membership renewals, approximately 800 more renewals to reach 100 percent! I remain cautiously optimistic that we'll reach our next National Membership Target: **90 percent by March 12!**

Join me in congratulating Michael Ferguson for being named Veterans Memorial Post 347's Volunteer of the Month for March! Mike can be found at the Post most days throughout the week volunteering in a variety of positions. His monthly volunteer hours are numerous and include front office duty, finance counter every Monday, pull-tab sales on Tuesday nights, 50/50 sales on Tuesday and Thursday nights, and assists bartenders with counting tips on their busiest shifts. No matter the task, Mike will make himself available ensuring the success of many Post endeavors. Thank you, Mike, for all you do! This recognition is well deserved and overdue!

We have officially completed our first year of

recognizing our Volunteer of the Month! We have so many extraordinary volunteers among us and it is always a pleasure to highlight the efforts of the amazing individuals who give so much of their time and energy to ensure the success of our Legion Home. Please keep those nominations coming and remember, a person can be nominated twice a year! Nomination forms and rules are available in the front office and any member can nominate a volunteer, so keep those nominations coming for April.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who assisted in making our recent Vietnam Commemoration Ceremony one to remember. It was such an honor to witness so many of our Vietnam Era Veterans receiving the Commemoration pin and certificate from the President. I was also touched by the ceremony recognizing the Surviving spouses. For those who missed out on our commemoration, the Villages Marine Corps League Detachment will have another pinning ceremony on March 29th at Mission Bar-B-Q beginning at 11 am.

On a final note, last month we welcomed 88 new members to our Post! Please, make them feel welcome. This group is most impressive and includes an Army E-4 transferring from New York Post 255 with 56 years of continuous American Legion membership; an Army E-5 Light Weapons Infantryman and Bronze Star recipient; an Air Force O-4 whose career began as a tanker navigator, then he became an F-111 Weapons System's Officer, and eventually he became an F-15 Fighter Pilot; an Army E-4 who was trained as a Counterintelligence Agent; an Air Force E-6 whose career as a Cyber Defense Operations Craftsman began in 2002; a retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant who served over 26 years as an Aircraft Armament Chief Enlisted Manager and an Education and Training Chief Enlisted Manager at Nellis AFB; a career Army Surgical Nurse; and a 20 year US Coast Guard E-5 trained in Hazardous Material Handling, Aviation Survival, C-130 Loadmaster, and HC-130 Drop master. I enjoy welcoming new members to Post 347. I hope you do too!

Riders Director-Linda Haynes

Welcome to Spring! The first day of Spring is March 20, 2025. After the chilly winter days we have had, Spring is very welcomed. When we think of Spring we think of new beginnings. March is a time of transformation and celebration. We celebrate St Patrick's Day and Madi Gras. The American Legion Riders look forward to Spring because it means great weather in which to ride. You will see those orange shirts out and about often during these beautiful days.

In celebration of Spring (and fund raising) the Riders are sponsoring a "**Spring Fling**" dance on April 12. **Scooter, the**

DJ will provide the entertainment, and we are looking forward to a great time. Tickets are \$20 per person and available every Wednesday from 12pm to 2pm at the Post. For alternate times please email ALRpost347@gmail.com.

Past events held this month include: The ALR summit Feb 12-15 in Orlando, and the District 6 Poker Run which Chapter 347 hosted, monies made on the Poker Run will go to Vet Relief.

Other items of interest include the Unity and Legacy Rides which will be held in April and August, respectively. Wednesday lunch rides continue, look for notices on Facebook and in your email, lastly kitchen duty continues the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays your assistance is needed and appreciated.

ADMISSION POLICY FOR POST 347

Guests

Sun, Tue & Wed: Bar Bingo & Queen of Hearts -Member and 1 Guest

No Outside food, drinks or snacks allowed. You may bring Birthday cakes and cupcakes.

Mon, Thur, Fri & Sat: Member and 3

Volunteers are always welcomed. Please stop by the office or see a Post officer for more information on the opportunities available.

9-4 pm: M-F (Staffed by Volunteers)

Phones:

Post: 352-750-2099

Hours of Operation

FAX: 352-750-2202



POST EVERLASTING



George L. Andrus-USA Lowell R. Barker-USN John D. Bergren-USN Johnnie C. Davis-USA William Garner-USA Robert J. Grubba-USA
Miles W. Johnston-USN Robert N. Kopp-USAF John L. Lathrop-USN William A. Mann-USA James R. McClellan-USA Albert McGibney-USA
Dennis A. Young-USMC Blaine H. Zimmerman-USAF

MARCH 2025

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 Lounge opens: Noon 6th District meeting 10:00 AM |
| 2 Kitchen 12-2-RIDERS Bar Bingo-2-4 Honor Flight Benefit Concert-5 pm | 3 Line Dance Class-3 pm SAL Burger Night The Tone Rangers Starts at 5:30 | 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: 5-6:15 Team Trivia 6:30 | 7 Kitchen 5-6:45 Kat & The Kid | 8 Lounge opens: Noon AYCE BREAKFAST 7-11 AM (\$8.00) |
| 9 Kitchen 12-2-SAL Bar Bingo-2-4 Karaoke W/ Suzy D | 10 Line Dance Class-3 pm SAL Burger Night The Tone Rangers 5-8 Starts at 5:30 | 11 Queen of Hearts 12-7 Jonnell & The G Man Kitchen 5-6:45 pm | 12 Kitchen 12-2 Bar Bingo-2-4 Legion Mtg-5:30 | 13 PUBLIC BINGO SAL Italian Night: 5-6:15 Team Trivia 6:30 | 14 Kitchen 5-6:45 Del Phis | 15 Lounge opens: Noon Amer. Legion Birthday |
| 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 Starts at 5:30 | 18 Queen of Hearts 12-7 Tight Genes Kitchen 5-6:45 pm | 19 Kitchen 12-2 Submariners-1 pm Bar Bingo-2-4 SAL Mtg 6:00 | 20 PUBLIC BINGO SAL Italian Night: 5-6:15 Team Trivia 6:30 | 21 Kitchen 5-6:45 Dennie & The Jets | 22 Lounge opens: Noon |
| 23 Kitchen 12-2 SAL Bar Bingo-2-4 Karaoke W/ Suzy D | 24 Line Dance Class-3 pm SAL Burger Night The Tone Rangers Starts at 5:30 | 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: 5-6:15 Team Trivia 6:30 | 28 Kitchen 5-6:45 Del Phis | 29 Lounge opens: Noon Vietnam Veterans Day |
| 30 Kitchen 12-2 RIDERS Bar Bingo-2-4 Karaoke W/ Suzy D | 31 Line Dance Class-3 pm SAL Burger Night The Tone Rangers Starts at 5:30 | Nominations for all Legion Family Offices are now open. (Legion, Auxiliary, Sons & Riders) Please see your respective organization for information. | | | | |

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| Tuesday, March 4th Fish, Fries & Slaw-\$11.00 Shrimp, Fries & Slaw-\$9.00 Chicken Tenders, Fries-\$8.00 | Tuesday March 11th Pot Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll & Butter- \$11.00 | Tuesday, March 18TH RIB NIGHT: 1/2 rack, Fries & Slaw-\$13.00 | Tuesday, March 25th 347 House Salad w/ grilled chicken, tomato, eggs, cucum- ber, carrots, red onion-\$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 | 6th District meeting-Mar 1 AYCE Breakfast-Mar 8 (\$8.00) Purse Bingo-Mar 8-SOLD OUT | |
| 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 | Daylight Saving Time-Mar 9 Vietnam Veterans Day-Mar 29 American Legion Birthday-Mar 15 Riders "Spring Fling"-April 12 | |
| M.A.L. | Mike Haynes | M.A.L. | Mary Seidel | See website for more information on all events | | | |
| 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 | | | | | | |