

Veterans Memorial Post 347
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Newsletter – March 2026

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 – March: J.B. & Maria Alexander

Commander - Dave Musser

Nominations for Post Officers have begun. Self-nomination forms are available from the Nominating Committee chaired by Pete Carston. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the general membership meetings in March and April with the election taking place May 13th. As a member of Post 347, it is your right and duty to vote for the candidate of your choice to lead the post into the next chapter. Nominations and elections are in accordance with Post 347 Constitution and By-Laws.

The American Legion will be celebrating its 107th Birthday on March 15th. This wonderful organization began with a group of US Veterans serving in Paris, France as the world was recovering from its bloodiest war in history. This brotherhood and sisterhood of veterans grew into a world-wide organization. This force is dedicated to advocacy, safeguarding the freedoms we cherish, and to building a brighter future for those who carry the flag forward. The American Legion has thrived for 107 years because while our organization continues to preserve the memoirs of those who have made great sacrifice, we serve the future of our nation – America's Youth.

Let us not forget what the American Legion stands for: advocacy for veterans, patriotic citizenship, creating opportunities for young people and “service first”.

Mark Your Calendar for these dates in March:

Mar 7 – 6th District Meeting at Post 347 with registration starts at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting starts at 10:00 a.m.

Mar 8 – Daylight Savings Time: SPRING AHEAD

Mar 14 – AYCE Breakfast (\$8.00) from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Mar 17 – St. Patrick's Day – Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner

Mar 21 - Purse Bingo, doors open at 4:00 p.m.

(NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR BEVERAGE)

Mar 22 – 6th District Fun Fest – Hickory Point Recreation Facility (Tavares, FL). This is a day of food/drink, fun, outdoor activities and prizes!!! There will also be gift baskets and 50/50. Proceeds go to Girls/Boys State.

Mar 29 – Vietnam Veterans Day

We are always recruiting for the Post Honor Guard. If you are interested, please attend the Honor Guard meeting held the 1st Wednesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. in the hall.

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

Aim High and Keep Up the Mach

Auxiliary President – Maureen Caswell

It's already March and we are busy wrapping up this fiscal year while planning for the next! Let me give you a status report on where we are:

Our 5 girls state delegates/alternates have been selected and are now registering online; our scholarship packages (6 - \$5,000) have been prepared and delivered to our local high 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 the American Legion Auxiliary celebrates women of service not only at the local level but across the Auxiliary nationally.

Our annual Female Veterans Luncheon will be held on Monday, March 9, in the Post Hall. This is a day that we thank all of our local Post 347 Female Veterans for their service and for blazing a trail for so many young women to follow.

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 turkey, gravy, potatoes, vegetables, mini charcuteries, bread and dessert. There is no cost to the female Veteran and guests are \$10/person. The doors open at 11:30.

If you would like to attend, email us at alaunit347@comcast.net. Our cutoff date is March 4, 2026.
In the Spirit of Service, Not Self.

Notice

Post 347 is still in the process of looking for a **NEW** Kitchen Manager as we look forward to Harriett's Retirement. If you have the skill, experience and desire we would love to talk with you. Please see Commander Dave Musser or 1st Vice Tina Burgess

1st Vice – Tina Burgess

Happy Spring to all! Veterans Memorial Post 347 is at 91.8% for membership renewals, approximately 528 more renewals to reach 100 percent. Our next membership goal is 95 % by April 1st. We need 208 renewals to reach that goal.

Join me in congratulating J.B. and Maria Alexander as Veterans Memorial Post 347's Co-Volunteers of the Month for March, our first official team winner! We extend our deepest gratitude to them for their outstanding service as our Post Service Officers. J.B. and Maria consistently go above and beyond guiding Veterans through the complex benefits process, offering a listening ear, or connecting them with vital resources. We are honored to have J.B. and Maria as part of our leadership team and deeply appreciate the positive impact they make daily. On top of their tremendous service as Post Service Officers, J.B. and Maria are active with Post 347's Honor Guard and Maria volunteers during Thursday Community BINGO. Thank you, J.B. and Maria for making our Post stronger! This recognition is well deserved and long overdue!

We have officially completed our second year of recognition for our Volunteers of the Month! I enjoy highlighting the efforts of those who give so much! 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.

I would like to personally thank the Volunteers who helped facilitate the District 6 Oratorical Competition: Maureen Caswell, Stephen Thomas, Tobie Wethington, Rob Burgess, Mike and Linda Haynes, Beth Musser, Harriett Turnbull, Wayne Rodgers, John Gorsuch, Jim Noce, Jim Dollins, Larry Miller, and Honor Guard Commander Joan Suelter and Color Guard Members.

We hosted three High School Contestants who demonstrated a deep knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution. Amazingly, only three points separated first from third place. Samantha Gonzalez, a senior at Olympia High School, Orlando will represent the 6th District and the Eastern Area at the Department Oratorical Competition on March 14, 2026, at The American Legion, Department of Florida in Orlando. Contest will start at 9:00am.

SAVE THESE DATES: April 15th: Eli Lilly Seminar - "Your Brain Matters: Prioritize Your Brain Health Today"; April 24th Annual Veterans Expo; April 25th Community Shred It and Forget It Event. Look for forthcoming details of all three events coming your way soon.

The post has been offered a model of the USS Missouri measuring 54in bow to stern. Unfortunately, we do not have adequate space to display this model. The owner is offering it up to anyone who would like it. Please see me if you are interested.

On a final note, last month we welcomed 49 new members to our Post! Please, help me welcome an Army E-7 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Specialist who served in Iraq; a Marine O-3 Air Traffic Controller who served in Iraq during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM and in Afghanistan during OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM; a Marine CPL Combat Engineer; a Navy E-5 Submarine Nuclear Propulsion Plant Operator and an Air Force E-4 Chinese Mandarin Language Interpreter and voice intercept Specialist.

Rob and I are ready to enjoy warmer weather! Thanks for letting us be a part of your American Legion Family!

Rider's Director – Linda Haynes

Welcome to Spring! The first day of Spring is March 20, 2026. After the cold winter days we have had, Spring is very welcome. When we think of Spring we think of new beginnings. March is a time of transformation and celebration. We celebrate the Navy Reserve Birthday on March 3rd, Hug a G.I. Day on March 4th, the Seabee Birthday on March 5th, K9 Veterans Day on March 13th, the **American Legion Birthday on March 15th**, National Medal of Honor Day on March 25th and National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29th. 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 selling lottery board raffle tickets. Tickets are 1 for \$5 and 3 for \$10. Proceeds will go to Veteran Programs. The drawing will be held April 11 at the Second Saturday Breakfast.

Riders attended the Florida State ALR summit Feb 18-21 in Daytona. This summit is designed specifically for Riders and is well attended by Chapters throughout the State. Three of our Riders attended. We hosted our annual District 6 ride in the form of a Poker Run on February 28th. Many thanks to Wayne Rodgers and everyone who made this a successful event. Monies collected will go to Vet Relief.

Other items of interest include the Unity and Legacy Rides which will be held in April and August, respectively. Elections which will be held in May, and Wednesday lunch rides; 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.

Post Service Officers: JB & Maria Alexander

Attention – Congressman Webster’s Office is coming to American Legion Post 347!



To provide more services to our local veterans, a veteran’s service representative from Congressman Daniel Webster’s office **Will Be On Site Here** at the American Legion Post 347 to answer questions **about any Federal agency**; IRS, Social Security, FEMA, USPS, OPM and DOD or to assist with **disability claims (over 60 days in system) through the Veterans Administration.**

Representatives will be here on the **second Tuesday**, March 10, 2026 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Take advantage of this opportunity if you have any questions or issues regarding ANY government agency. This is an excellent service for YOU!!

Attention – PSO’s ARE NOW AVAILABLE MORE HOURS TO SERVE YOU! Post Service Officers are **TYPICALLY** available on Tuesdays, in the lobby of the American Legion Post from 1400-1800 hours, **NEW HOURS Thursdays from 1400-1600 hours.** You can leave your contact information with the front office staff and we will contact you. Additionally, Dennis Storey is a VSO with the DAV and can be contacted at 352-674-5097 for an appointment.

S.A.L. Commander – Danny Roe

Here we are in March already. Looking forward to warmer weather coming this month.

If you have not renewed your membership, please get it in as soon as possible. **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. Per Doug White, our renewal numbers are **1021 for 91.2%.** Please get your renewal in to help us to get to 100% by the end of this month.

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. Thank you to those that are attending and supporting your Squadron.

Wow, what a Valentines party we had on Feb 14th! 185 people filled the Hall, and a fantastic time was had by all. Bud and his crew made a great Ham Dinner and Suzie Costa did a wonderful job entertaining. The dance floor was full all night and lots of money was raised for Special Olympics. Thanks to all who supported this cause.

Our Family Golf Tournament for Children and Youth Charities date is **Saturday, May 16th.** Location is same as last year, Broad Stripes in Stonecrest. You can Sign up on Tuesday nights in the lobby and office after that during regular hours. Scoring will be two flights this year giving a better chance to win.

We will Cost is \$100 per person. We will also be raffling a patriotic quilt again this year. Thanks to Honor Flight organization for donating a beautiful quilt honoring our country’s 250th birthday. Quilt tickets are \$5 per ticket or 3 for \$10 and will be available on Tuesday nights in the Lobby also be heading up to the Gainesville Fisher House on March 31st to cook Hamburgers and Brats for the residents and guests of the house. We will be celebrating Vietnam War Veterans Day. Anyone is welcome to join us for the visit, just let me know so we have a good count of attendees for the food.

Don’t forget, we have entered our election phase, and nominations are being taken for all Son’s offices. I encourage everyone to get involved; you can nominate yourself just by sending an email to our election committee at sons347fl@gmail.com. Our election committee this year is Bob O’Neal, John Gorsuch, and Vic Prezioso. Or you can nominate from the floor at one of our next two membership meetings in March and April. Nominations will be closed after the April Membership meeting.

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

Observances: Daylight Savings Time (8th) Pi Day (14th) American Legion’s Birthday (15th) St Patrick’s Day (17th) First Day of Spring (20th) National Medal of Honor Day (25th) National Vietnam War Veterans Day(29th)

Post Everlasting and Sick Call



Post Everlasting: James Best, Jerald Burco, John Wetzstein, Florence Johnson, John Thren, William Gurgel, Donald Ellison, Edward Sullivan, Dennis M Williams

Departed Members: Margaret Meyer, Muriel Pisani, Donnie Willard, Denise Pempsell, Cecilia Handley

Sick Call: Danny Boone, Sam Huff, Jim Arnold, Mary Seidel, Jan Akins, Ron Monet

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

Mar 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Kitchen 12-2 pm Riders Bingo 2 -4pm Lounge Closes @ 5pm	2 Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night Tone Rangers 5 – 8 pm	3 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Jenni Piergrossi 5:30 – 8:30	4 Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm Aux Mtg 6:00 pm	5 Public Bingo 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	6 Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Billy Buchanan 5:30 – 8:30 pm	7 12pm Lounge opens Attend Draw 6:30 pm
8 Kitchen 12-2 pm Riders Bingo 2 -4pm Lounge Closes @ 5pm	9 Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night Tone Rangers 5 – 8 pm	10 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Tim Hargis 5:30 – 8:30	11 Kitchen -2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm Legion Mtg 5:30 pm	12 Public Bingo 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	13 Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Clark Barrios 5:30 – 8:30 pm	14 12pm Lounge opens AYCE Breakfast 7-11 am Attend Draw 6:30 pm
15 Kitchen 12-2 pm SAL Bingo 2 -4pm Lounge Closes @ 5pm Happy 107th Birthday American Legion	16 Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night Tone Rangers 5 – 8 pm	17 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Tight Genes 5:30 – 8:30 Happy St Patrick's Day	18 Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm Submariner Mtg 12pm SAL Mtg 6:00 pm	19 Public Bingo 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	20 Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Doug Thompson 5:30 – 8:30 pm	21 12pm Lounge opens Attend Draw 6:30 pm Purse Bingo 4pm
22 Kitchen 12-2 pm Riders Bingo 2 -4pm Lounge Closes @ 5pm District 6 Picnic	23 Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night Tone Rangers 5 – 8 pm	24 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Bill D Williams 5:30 – 8:30	25 Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm ALR Mtg 5:30 pm Natl Medal of Honor Day	26 Public Bingo 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	27 Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Jonnell & the Gman 5:30 – 8:30 pm	28 12pm Lounge opens Attend Draw 6:30 pm
29 Kitchen 12-2 pm Riders Bingo 2 -4pm Lounge Closes @ 5pm National Vietnam War Veterans Day	30 Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night Tone Rangers 5 – 8 pm	31 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Frank Ardino 5:30 – 8:30				

Tuesday Menu

Mar 3: Chicken Cordon Bleu \$11.00	Mar 10: 347 Salad w/ Grilled Chicken \$11.00	Mar 17: Corned Beef & Cabbage \$14.00	Mar 24: Ribs, Fries & Slaw \$13.00	Mar 31: Salisbury Steak \$11.00
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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 (5:00 – 6:30 pm)			
Mar 5: Spaghetti & Meatballs Mar 12: Lasagna Mar 19: Stuffed Shells Mar 26: Chichen Parm w/ spaghetti (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 Stanzola
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. Deb Stanley		
M.A.L. George Ries	M.A.L. Jo Linda Spear		
M.A.L. Tony Gibson	M.A.L. Joan Yackel		
M.A.L. Jim Stasse	I.P.P. Ruth Sovern		
Past Commander Joan Suelter			