

Veterans Memorial Post 347
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Commander: Dave Musser
Auxiliary: Maureen Caswell
S.A.L: Danny Roe
Riders: Linda Haynes
Website: florida-legion.org
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Editor: Rob Burgess

Newsletter – May 2026

Volunteer of the Month - May: Chuck Collins

Commander - Dave Musser

Can you believe it is already May?! This month marks an important time for our community as elections for the American Legion Family will take place. Voting gives you the opportunity to influence the direction and initiatives of your post, ensuring traditions are preserved while encouraging growth and innovation. The election process highlights the vibrant and inclusive nature of our community, where every voice counts and every vote matters.

Check the dates below for each Legion Family election. Even if officers are running unopposed, come out and show your support. Your vote decides the future of your post.

May 6 – Auxiliary **May 13 – Legionnaires**
May 20 – SAL **May 27 – Riders**

May also includes several important observances:

May 1st - **Silver Star Banner Day**. On this day we honor our wounded, ill, and injured veterans.

May 8th - **Victory in Europe Day**: VE Day is celebrated every year to honor the sacrifices and contributions made by soldiers and civilians alike during this tumultuous period in history. It commemorates the end of WWII in 1945.

May 8th - **Military Spouse Appreciation Day**, Friday before Mother’s Day, recognizes the invaluable support and dedication of those who stand beside our servicemen and women. This day reminds us of the sacrifices made not only by those in uniform but also by their partners, whose strength and resilience uphold the fabric of our military families.

May 10th - **Mother’s Day** is Sunday, May 10th. It is a time to celebrate and honor Mothers everywhere.

May 13th – **Children of Fallen Patriots Day**, recognizes the children of fallen service members.

May 16th - marks **Armed Forces Day**—a day of gratitude and celebration dedicated to the brave men and women currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. This observance, held on the third Saturday of May, is an opportunity for all Americans to express their appreciation for the selfless service and relentless commitment of our military personnel.

May 25th – **Memorial Day** - honors those military personnel who lost their lives in service. Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, moving the holiday to Monday to guarantee a three-day weekend for workers and boost the travel industry.

Our Memorial Day Service will be held on the **original date** set in 1868, Saturday, **May 30th** beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Lady Lake Cemetery. Lunch will be served to all veterans, spouses & guests following the service at the post on a first come first serve basis while supplies last. If inclement weather occurs, the service will be held indoors at the Post.

Celebrations in May extend beyond local events. National Military Appreciation Month is a nationwide effort highlighting the dedication, sacrifice, and resilience of our military personnel and their families. For deals and discounts for veterans, please visit **Military.com**.

Please join me in wishing a “Happy Birthday” to those celebrating during the month of May. Safe travels to all of those heading back to their summer locations. Hope to see you in the fall.

Aim High and Keep up the Mach

Post Everlasting and Sick Call



Post Everlasting: Marvin Kanak, James Proud, John Daly, Harry Jacobs, Glen Augustine, Edward Baran, Thomas Koscelnik, Edward Metz, Andrew Rauwerda, Thomas McCulla, John Skipper, Raymond Lebrun, Robert McCourt, Marshall Grillo, Randall McIntyre, Nicholas Vream, Victor Voner, Robert Greenough, Howard Bauder, Farrow Kuhn, Leo Soldner, Robert Primo, Charles Wheeler, Patrick Campana, William Kearney, Vince LaRusso, Julius Bond, Frank Brokamp, Robert L Brown, Ernest Brown, William Crawford, Harold Crawford Jr, Jerry Coppola, Bert Corey, Robert Darabant, Samuel Finley, William Hall, Rudolf Kietzmann, Robert Mix, Frank Rasbury, David Roessler, Joseph Stitnon, Jose Vicente Jr, Whit Woodard, Dennis McNeil, Frank Tucker, Cory Krugh, Ronald Bayma, James Angelo, Jim Zillman, Joseph Valentino, Richard Wood, Gary Ringer **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.

1st Vice – Tina Burgess

Please help me congratulate Chuck Collins, our May Volunteer of the Month. Chuck is a Legion Veteran member who volunteers with the maintenance shop at the Bob Johnson Memorial Driving Range. In the words of his nominator, “Chuck always performs above and beyond all expectations!” Thank you Chuck for all you do behind the scenes at the Driving Range. This recognition is well deserved!

We had a busy last week of April here at our Post Home and I want to send out special thanks to the Volunteers who helped with our American Legion Family Two-Day Events; the Veterans Expo and the Shred It and Forget It event. Sixteen people, including myself, volunteered for these events! Out of 10,000+ members only sixteen people helped me with these events. Our volunteer force needs to increase if we are to continue to grow and flourish.

Our Post Membership is not where we want it to be, currently at 96.25 percent, because we want to be at 100 percent. If you know of a member who hasn't renewed for 2026, please encourage them to do so. We welcomed 39 new members during our April General Membership Meeting. As always, we welcome some amazing members to our family, to include a Navy E-6 whose career included Surface rescue Swimmer, Navy Law Enforcement, Global War on Terrorism Detainee Operations Specialist, Small Arms Marksmanship Instructor, Anti-Terrorism Training Instructor and Protective Service Specialist duty; an Army E-6 Morse

Code Interceptor whose primary responsibility was to intercept and decode enemy Morse code transmissions for intelligence purposes; a Marine O-3 Field Artillery Officer and Purple Heart recipient who served in Vietnam; a Marine Corps E-5 who was a Field Artillery Cannoneer during Desert Storm;

May is a month of transition, when the outside world is starting to seem a little more joyful. May is also a month of celebration and remembrance. Dear to my heart is Mother's Day, not because I am one, but because I was Blessed with a most amazing Mom and my heart yearns to hear her voice again. For Memorial Day this year, we will host The National Iraq - Afghanistan Memorial - Remembering Our Fallen. This is a photographic war memorial with over 5,000 Fallen that honors our country's military Fallen from The Global War on Terror (9/11/2001 - 8/30/2021). This memorial also includes those who died in training accidents, whether stateside or overseas, as well as those who served in the combat zone during this time but succumbed to PTSD. Unlike brick-and-mortar memorials, Remembering Our Fallen is designed to travel and includes military and personal photos. Its legacy will be that these men and women will be remembered and their names will be spoken, while helping to lessen the grief of their families. If you would like to sponsor a Memorial Tower for \$200 (there are 30). The Memorial will be set up for viewing in the Hall from 27 – 31 May.

Post Service Officers: JB & Maria Alexander

VETERANS DAY VS. MEMORIAL DAY

Both holidays (Veterans Day and Memorial Day) were established to recognize and honor the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces.

Memorial Day, which is observed on the last Monday in May, was originally set aside as a day for remembering and honoring military personnel **who died in the service of their country**, particularly those who died in battle or because of wounds sustained in battle.

Veterans Day is intended to thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military—living and dead—whether in wartime or peace. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living Veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served—not only those who died—have sacrificed and done their duty.

Attention – Post Service Officers are **TYPICALLY** available on Tuesdays, in the lobby of the American Legion Post from 1400-1800 hours, or 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. On Tue, May 12th, Bryant Ortiz from Congressman Danial Webster's Office will be here 10 am – 2 pm!!

Auxiliary President – Maureen Caswell

May is scholarship month! The Auxiliary is awarding six \$5,000. scholarships to graduating seniors from the Villages and Leesburg High Schools. Awardees have been selected and will be attending the respective scholarship award ceremonies. We will also be awarding \$36,000 to our next group of second-year nursing students at Lake Sumter State College. These awards help 11 second-year nursing students with their tuition for that year. The Auxiliary, including this group of 11, has assisted 33 second-year nursing students finish their nursing degrees!

May is also the month that The Auxiliary holds its annual election. We will be doing so at our **Wednesday, May 6, 2026 General Meeting**. You will need to have your 2026 membership card with you to participate in the election.

Your slate of Officer Candidates for the 2026-2027 calendar year is as follows:

President	Pat Morrow	Vice President	Bob Suelter
2 nd Vice President	Barbara Kyle	Treasurer	Kathy Allen
Secretary	Lois Bass	Chaplain	**
Sargeant-At-Arms	Susan Duncan, Kathy Liguori	Historian	**
Members-At-Large*:	*Denise Hallisey, *Susan Carlson, *Jo Richmond, *Jo Linda Spear, *Deb Stanley, *Verena Timm, Diana Cronkhite		

*Incumbent member-at-large. ** We are looking for volunteers for the positions of Historian and Chaplain. If you are interested, please contact us at alaunit347@comcast.net.

S.A.L. Commander – Danny Roe

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. Per Doug White, our renewal numbers are **1111 for 98.2%**. So close, please help us get to 100%!

I encourage our membership to participate in what your Squadron does for 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 in attendance for supporting your Squadron. **Those who joined in the last year are invited to an Initiation before the May meeting at 5:00**. Invitations have been sent, **please RSVP**. Let me know if you did not get the invite and would like to come. It is a nice ceremony.

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

roster for this tournament. 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. We are also raffling a gas grill and accessories donated by Lowes on CR466A. Grill tickets are also \$5 per ticket or 3 for \$10. Thanks to our election committee this year, Bob O'Neal, John Gorsuch, and Vic Prezioso. Nominations were closed on April 15th. Since there was only one candidate for each position. All voted officers will be approved by the membership at our May meeting. Congratulations to Doug White, 1st Vice Commander, Bud Bowyer, 2nd Vice Commander, Bill Grieco, Finance Officer, Ben Kisielica, Chaplin, Tony Watkins, Sgt-At-Arms, Keven Kinny, Historian, Dave Callies and Bob Girou, Members at Large, and I have the honor of serving as your Commander one more year. I will be appointing our Adjutant and Judge Advocate at our May meeting.

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

Rider's Director – Linda Haynes

Welcome to May! The month we celebrate Mother's Day, Motorcycle Safety Awareness, VE Day, and National Military Appreciation and Mental Health Awareness Month.

In this same vein, 6 of our riders participated in the FL State Unity Ride April 19-25. The mission of this ride was to raise awareness and funds to ensure veterans have access to mental health programs and resources during their darkest times. Chapter 347 Riders rode the Central Route for this very worthy cause. The preliminary total raised by the three routes was over \$400,000. Thank you to all who supported this effort. Thank you also to those of you who remember that motorcycle safety is of the utmost importance. Watch for those orange shirts riding in front, behind, and beside you!

Rider elections are closed and our new board will be announced in the June newsletter.

Other items of interest include the Legacy Ride which will be held in August. Riders are beginning to prepare for that ride now. More information to come regarding this ride. Wed breakfast 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.

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Observances: Silver Star Banner & May Day (1 st) Star Wars Day (4 th) Cinco de Mayo (5 th) VE Day & Military Spouse Appreciation (8 th) Mother's Day (10 th) Children of Fallen Patriots Day (13 th) Armed Forces Day (16 th). Memorial Day (30 th) Stop by and see the Remembering Our Fallen Towers from May 27th – 31st <i>Still time to sponsor a tower. See Tina or Rob.</i>					1 Silver Star Banner Day Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Jonnell & the Gman 5:30 – 8:30 pm	2 12pm Lounge opens Attend Draw 6:30 pm
3 Kitchen 12-2 pm Bingo 2 -4pm Lounge Closes @ 5pm	4 Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night Jenni Piergrossi 5 – 8 pm	5 Cinco de Mayo Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Tim Hargis 5:30 – 8:30	6 Kitchen -2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm Aux Mtg 6:00 pm	7 Mega Bingo 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	8 VE Day Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Bill D Williams 5:30 – 8:30 pm	9 12pm Lounge opens AYCE Breakfast 7-11 am Attend Draw 6:30 pm
10 Mom's Day Kitchen 12-2 pm Bingo 2 -4pm Lounge Closes @ 5pm	11 Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night Jenni Piergrossi 5 – 8 pm	12 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Clark Barrios 5:30 – 8:30	13 Legion Election Election 11-1 and at Gen Mtg Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm Legion Mtg 5:30 pm	14 Public Bingo 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	15 Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Del Phi's 5:30 – 8:30 pm	16 Armed Forces Day 12pm Lounge opens Attend Draw 6:30 pm
17 Kitchen 12-2 pm Bingo 2 -4pm Lounge Closes @ 5pm	18 Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night Tone Rangers 5 – 8 pm	19 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Petrina 5:30 – 8:30	20 Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm Submariner Mtg 12pm SAL Mtg 6:00 pm	21 Public Bingo 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	22 Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Scooter the DJ 5:30 – 8:30 pm	23 12pm Lounge opens Attend Draw 6:30 pm
24/31 Kitchen 12-2 pm Bingo 2 -4pm Lounge Closes @ 5pm (31st) Remembering Our Fallen 9 am – 5 pm	25 Memorial Day observed Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night Tone Rangers 5 – 8 pm	26 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Bill D Williams 5:30 – 8:30	27 Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm ALR Mtg 5:30 pm Remembering Our Fallen 9 am – 10 pm	28 Public Bingo 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm Remembering Our Fallen 9 am – 10 pm	29 Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Suzu D 5:30 – 8:30 pm Remembering Our Fallen 9 am – 10 pm	30 Memorial Day Attend Draw 6:30 pm Remembering Our Fallen 9 am – 10 pm Ceremony 11am

Tuesday Menu

May 5: Turkey, Stuffing etc \$11.00	May 12: Ribs, Fries, Coleslaw \$13	May 19: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Mashed, Corn \$11.00	May 26: Beef Stroganoff w/ Noodles \$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)			
May 7: Spaghetti & Meatballs May 14: Lasagna May 21: Stuffed Shells May 28: 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 Stanziola
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						