

Veterans Memorial Post 347
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Newsletter – November 2025

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 - November: Jim Gillespie

Commander - Dave Musser

Welcome back to our part-time residents. It is nice to start seeing the Post full again!! With that being said, please visit our website “florida-legion.org” for the most up-to-date information regarding bringing in guests. Currently during Bar Bingo, 2 guests are allowed on Wednesday and 1 guest on Sunday.

We have less than 2 months to go in the official hurricane season. Therefore, we can never let our guard down, nor forget about others that may be impacted by severe weather.

During these holidays our Post collects for local food banks on a daily basis and the Auxiliary collects for holiday food baskets. This not only provides food for the holiday but also supplements families who need help while their children are out of school. If you are bringing food for a specific cause, please make sure you let the office attendant know so it can be placed in the appropriate area.

Purse Bingo will be taking place on Saturday, November 15th in the Hall. Tickets are \$25 each which include 20 games of bingo. There will be other items for purchase like raffles, specials, and crazy cash. The kitchen will be open and offering a select menu for purchase. There are only a few tickets left for this fun event so please see Harriett or me for tickets.

We are continuing to plan this year’s Veterans Day program, scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on November 11th at the Post. We invite you to attend the ceremony with refreshments to follow.

The Saturday All You Can Eat breakfast has begun which runs from October – April. The breakfast takes place on the second Saturday from 7 a.m. – 11 a.m. The cost is \$8.00!!!! All WWII veterans post Korean War vets and children under 12 eat for FREE.

Early Bird Legionnaire renewals end this month. Renew at the Post to save \$5 on your annual membership.

Please stay safe and join me in wishing a “Happy Birthday” to those celebrating during the month of November.

Aim High and Keep up the Mach

Post Service Officers: JB & Maria Alexander

Recently, a good friend of ours had a successful kidney and liver transplant at age 65. During her year long process, we learned a great deal about organ donation and wanted to share some facts with you.

Fact: People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential donors. Your medical condition at the time of death will determine what organs and tissue can be donated. Do not let your age prevent you from being an organ donor.

Fact: Organs and tissue that can be donated include heart, kidneys, lungs, pancreas, liver, intestines, corneas, skin, tendons, bone, nerve and heart valves.

Fact: If you are not registered, you can become a donor by visiting registerme.org.

Fact: Even if you have indicated your wishes on your driver’s license, state donor registry or the

[National Donate Life Registry](#), share your decision with your family so they know your wishes. **Fact:** A national computer system and strict standards are in place to ensure ethical and fair distribution of organs. [Organs are matched](#) by blood and tissue typing, organ size, medical urgency, waiting time and geographic location.

Fact: If you are sick or injured and admitted to the hospital, the number one priority is to save your life. Organ donation can only be considered after death has been declared by a physician.

Fact: Buying or selling organs is illegal. It is a federal felony to give or receive money or any other tangible gift in exchange for a donated organ.

Although over 100,000 people are on the national waiting list, approximately 4,000 people in Florida are awaiting organ transplants (one of the largest transplant waiting lists in the US). The most needed organs include kidneys, livers and hearts.

The greatest gift you can give is the gift of life. Consider becoming an organ donor, today!

NEW HOURS!! Post Service Officers (PSOs) are typically available at the American Legion Post on **Tuesdays, 1400 – 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 in the lounge.

1st Vice - Tina Burgess

As we enter the busiest month of the year for Legion activities, please help me in congratulating our Volunteer of the Month Jim Gillespie. Jim is the finest example of being at the heart of our mission to serve Veterans and their Families. He has given his time, energy, and talents to us and has never expected anything in return. Jim is a member of our Honor Guard and award-winning Color Guard Team, works in the kitchen every Friday night, barbacks on Tuesday night, is a Guardian for The Villages Honor Flight, and has recently taken on the Lead role for our monthly All You Can Eat Breakfasts. Thank you, Jim, for all you do. This recognition is well deserved.

Our new memberships and renewals for 2026 are going strong. To date, our Post has over 3,850 members renewed, representing over 60 percent of our total, last year at this time we were sitting at 52 percent. The Adjutant and I would like to thank everyone who has renewed early. I feel the need to put this number into perspective from a Department of Florida level. There are 276 American Legion Posts in Florida. To date, Post 347 has more members paid for 2026 than 140 other Florida Posts combined. Your Membership Team is working hard every day to reach 100 percent! The Early Bird renewal period ends on November 11th. Please pay your dues if you haven't done so already and remind your family and friends to do the same.

Please join me in welcoming the newest members to our American Legion Family. As always, it is an amazing group that includes: an Army E-5 and Vietnam Veteran who is the recipient of the Bronze Star; an Air Force E-1 and Korean War Veteran who is joining us from Florida Post 183 with 65 years

of continuous American Legion Membership; an Army WO-4 who was a C-12 and 100 B/EO Utility Attack Helicopter Pilot; a Coast Guard O-6 who served 28 years and is a Board Member of the US Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association; a Navy E-9 who served as a Flag Officer Writer, meaning she was assigned to provide administrative assistance to Flag Officers so those officers could devote more time to other important matters; an Army E-2 who was a Tank Turret Mechanic during Vietnam; an Army E-9 Command Sergeant Major; and an Army E-4 who was a Chemical Operations Specialist!

I would like to thank everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child and our Post's effort to achieve our American Legion Project 250 Goal. All boxes have been pledged, so when they are returned, we'll achieve our goal of sending 250 boxes to children around the world. If I am not available to accept your return boxes, you can leave them in the front office. Just make sure you put your name inside the box. If anyone else would like to participate, we do have extra boxes to hand out.

This year's Veterans Day observance ceremony will be like last year. The Commander and I will "Celebrate You" with our annual slide show, showing pictures of you while on active duty accompanied by a more current picture. If you would like to participate, simply email me your pictures to alpost347@comcast.net. Be sure to include branch of service, military job, and year/location picture was taken. Don't forget to join us for lunch following the ceremony, lovingly prepared and served by the members of Auxiliary Unit 347.

Rob and I would like to wish all Post 347 family members a Happy Thanksgiving! We are grateful for your friendship!

Auxiliary President - Maureen Caswell

November is a super busy month for us, we have multiple activities/events within a few short weeks. You can learn more about each event at our monthly general meetings held the first Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting is scheduled for November 5. If you are interested in helping with any of these events but can't make the meeting, email us at: alaunit347@comcast.net.

Upcoming Events are as follows:

We will be distributing **Poppies** on Veterans Day at multiple local locations. If you are interested in helping us distribute Poppies for one shift at the location of your choice, it would be most appreciated. Please call either one of our Poppy Chairmen: Deb Stanley at 216-496-0646 or Vareena Timm at 352-603-7142. We will be packing 50 boxes and grocery totes for our Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Box Program on the following dates:

- **Monday, November 17, 2025 at 10am in the Post Hall Thanksgiving**
- **Monday, December 15, 2025 at 10am in the Post Hall Christmas**

Lastly, The Auxiliary will again be sponsoring 100 Angels (children) of various ages and 50 Bells (senior citizens) through Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program. We will have the Angel and Bells ready for you to pick up at our November 5, General Meeting. In addition, we will be adopting 5 local families this year. We will have angels, bells and family tags available that will indicate gift ideas for each of the groups. If you would like to sponsor a child, senior or family and cannot make our 11/5 meeting, please email us at: alaunit347@comcast.net. I will tell you from experience that the angel and bell gift tags go very quickly.

Wishing you all a very happy, healthy Thanksgiving!

S.A.L. Commander - Danny Roe

Wow! Here it is November already. Renewals are coming in nicely, but please get your membership renewal in before your 2025 card expires on 1/1/26. Renewing early helps our Squadron to stay on track with donating to our various charities and supporting Community events. As you have probably heard, there will be no early bird dinner this year. I am pleased to inform you that due to your donations and support we can keep our dues low when many are raising their dues. Thank You for your understanding. Per Doug White, our renewal numbers are 501 for 44.7%. Great job Doug!

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. **Please note all that is going on in the next couple of months and let me know if you would like to help or join us for our Fisher House visit.**

Our Halloween Dance is on Nov 1st with Bill D Williams performing and a great Chicken Cordon Bleu dinner. Bud Bowyer and the Son's kitchen staff always do a great job with dinner. Price is \$25 per person. Hope to see you there. All proceeds will be donated to Fisher House in Gainesville. We will be visiting them and presenting a check On **December 4th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.** If you would like to join us for our visit, please let me know.

We have two **Dine to Donates** coming up and sponsored by **Culvers.**

Rider's Director - Linda Haynes

Welcome to November, the month we celebrate Veterans Day (Nov 11th), Thanksgiving (the 4th Thursday), and election day. The clocks fall back this year on November 2nd at 2:00am.

The Riders are looking forward to the fall weather as they ride the roads of Florida representing our Post and Chapter in their orange shirts. Wednesday lunch rides are continuing and are well attended, KSU at 10:15. Escorts are also continuing as requested.

Our highly anticipated Christmas Raffle is well underway. Tickets are available at the 2nd Saturday breakfast (Nov 8th) and on Tuesday evenings. The grand prize winner will choose from a beautiful handmade Christmas quilt, or the trike with loads of cheer. Numerous other prizes include golf outings, gift cards, and baskets filled with goodies. The drawing will take place

Chaplain- Lisa Johnson

As the hot days of summer turn to perfect days of warm breezes and cooler temps our winter friends are returning to the greatest place on earth. If you find one of our vets could use a visit or is sick, ill or injured, please call the office so we can fill out a sick slip. It's nice to have someone check in on you on your not so perfect days. Whether a chat, a card or a visit, I would love to help lift their spirits.

The first one is at Culvers on CR 466, **3390 Wedgewood Lane.** It runs from **4:00PM to 8:00 PM, Monday November 3rd.** and Culvers is donating 10% of proceeds to our Children and Youth Programs. All you have to do is come out and dine.

The second one is at Culvers on CR466A, 5327 Sundance Trail on **Dec 10th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM.** Culvers is donating 10% of proceeds to our Children and Youth Programs. Culvers is always very generous, please support them as they support us.

Our Family Golf Tournament for Children and Youth Charities date has been set for Saturday, May 16th. Location is same as last year, Broad Stripes in Stonecrest. Be sure to save the date. Signups will start after the first of the year.

Thanks to everyone who supported our Project 250 Challenge that our post is participating in this year. Celebrating 250 years for this Great Country. I am happy to say the Sons filled 50 boxes. This involves Samaritans Purse and filling 250 shoeboxes with items and toys for children all over the world. This is a Post Family initiative, and the Post will be delivering all 250 boxes soon. Thanks to Post 1st Vice Commander Tina Burgess for all her hard work in getting this done.

Very Important: There will not be a Post Family Thanksgiving Dinner this year. The Post will be closed on Thanksgiving this year. I encourage you to enjoy family time and time with friends on this day.

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

on December 21, 2025. You do not have to be present to win, nor do you have to be a member of the Post to purchase a ticket.

Other items of interest include kitchen duty on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays, we welcome all volunteers. Rider Challenge Coins are available for \$10 you can pick them up from one of the Chapter officers or at the Front Desk. Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday our November meeting date has moved to November 20th social time starting at 5:30.

Membership renewals have begun. All members, including life members, are responsible for ensuring that they complete a waiver, show their legion family card, motorcycle endorsement, and proof of insurance. Dues for non-life members are \$25. Please ensure you are renewed prior to 1 January. Required documentation can be dropped off at the office with dues as appropriate Monday-Friday 9am to 4pm or at the meeting on November 20th.

Observances: Veterans Day (11th) Thanksgiving (27th)

Post Everlasting & Deceased Members

Patrick S Rahilly, John H Lindsay, James L Christensen, Thomas A Partridge, George Leonard Jr ... Patricia Steel, Charles Barnes, Mark Christian, Barbara Rosinski. **Sick Call:** Mike Haynes, Mike Ferguson, Carol Udell-Pirone, Mary Seidel, Jan Akins, Peggy Heartson, Ron Monet, Ky Rauzi, JoAnn Lemieux, Jim Arnold



November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>New Years Eve tickets On Sale Starting Nov 1st... See Ruth or Beth; Ice Cream Social: Nov 10th (FREE – 3 to 4:30 pm) Veterans Day Tribute: Nov 11th at 11am in Hall. Free lunch for Veteran’s and Guest to follow. Mark your Calendar: Dec 10th Dine to Donate- Culver’s (CR466A 5-8pm); Dec 13th Breakfast with Santa.</p>						<p>1 Lounge opens at Noon Attendance Drawing 6:30 pm</p>
<p>2 Kitchen 12-2 pm Riders Bingo 2 -4pm</p>	<p>3 Dine to Donate Culver’s CR 466 4-8pm Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night Tone Rangers 5 – 8</p>	<p>4 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm The Tone Rangers 5:30 – 8:30</p>	<p>5 Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm Aux Mtg 6:00 pm</p>	<p>6 Public Bingo Doors open 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm</p>	<p>7 Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Tim Hargis 5:30 – 8:30</p>	<p>8 Breakfast 7 -11am Lounge 12 -10 pm Attendance Drawing 6:30 pm</p>
<p>9 Kitchen 12-2 pm SAL Bingo 2 -4pm</p>	<p>10 Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night Tone Rangers 5 – 8</p>	<p>11 Veterans Day 11 am Lunch to follow Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Tight Genes 5:30 – 8:30</p>	<p>12 Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm Legion Mtg 5:30 pm</p>	<p>13 Public Bingo Doors open 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm</p>	<p>14 Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Tone Rangers 5:30 – 8:30</p>	<p>15 Purse Bingo Doors Open: 4:30pm Lounge 12 -10 pm Attendance Drawing 6:30 pm</p>
<p>16 Kitchen 12-2 pm Riders Bingo 2 -4pm</p>	<p>17 Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night Tone Rangers 5 – 8</p>	<p>18 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Petrina 5:30 – 8:30</p>	<p>19 Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm SAL Mtg 6:00 pm Submariner Mtg 12pm</p>	<p>20 ALR Mtg 6 pm Public Bingo Doors open 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm</p>	<p>21 Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Jonnell & the Gman 5:30 – 8:30</p>	<p>22 Lounge 12 -10 pm Attendance Drawing 6:30 pm</p>
<p>23/ 30 Kitchen 12-2 pm SAL (23rd) Riders (30th) Bingo 2 -4pm</p>	<p>24 Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night Tone Rangers 5 – 8</p>	<p>25 Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Bill D Williams 5:30 – 8:30</p>	<p>26 Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm</p>	<p>27 Post Closed for Thanksgiving</p>	<p>28 Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm Del Phi’s 5:30 – 8:30</p>	<p>29 Lounge 12 -10 pm Attendance Drawing 6:30 pm</p>

Tuesday Menu

Nov 4: Stuffed Peppers & Salad \$11.00	Nov 11: Turkey, Sweet Potatoes \$11.00	Nov 18: Ham Steak & Scallop Potatoes \$11.00	Nov 25: Salisbury Steak & Mashed Potatoes \$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

Nov 6: Spaghetti & Meatballs **Nov 13:** Lasagna **Nov 20:** Stuffed Shells **Nov 27:** Thanksgiving
(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						