

Veterans Memorial Post 347  
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Newsletter – October 2025

Commander: Dave Musser  
Auxiliary: Maureen Caswell  
S.A.L: Danny Roe  
Riders: Linda Haynes  
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Editor: Rob Burgess

## Volunteer of the Month – October: Terry Strassburg

### Commander - Dave Musser

As we enter October and anxiously await the return of our northern friends, we must also focus on the holidays. Thanksgiving is 58 days away and Christmas is only 86 days away. This is a charitable time of the year for the Post so please help where you can.

We are also excited to announce that our annual Holiday Food Drive will kick off in mid-October. Please consider donating non-perishable items to support local families in need. Donation bins are available at the Post. Every contribution you make, big or small, is appreciated.

The year is passing quickly. We are over halfway through the hurricane season. Do not let your guard down. Stay prepared and plan. Not only for yourselves but think of your neighbors who have nowhere else to look for help.

We are asking early, before the cold and flu season hits us, that for the safety of all legion members, please refrain from visiting the Post if you are experiencing symptoms such as a cough, fever, or general malaise. Our collective caution will help us avoid another closure like the one experienced during COVID!

Membership renewal for the 2026 Legion year is in full swing. Save \$5 by renewing before November 11th, Veterans Day, on Legionnaire-only renewals. To receive this benefit, you must renew at the Post or by U.S. mail, with a payment of \$45 by

cash or check. After November 11th, dues for renewal will be \$50, payable by cash, check, or credit card.

Our Saturday All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast resumes this month, beginning October 11th and continuing the second Saturday each month through April, from 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

For information about these and other upcoming events this Fall, please visit our Post website: [www.florida-legions.org](http://www.florida-legions.org).

Stay safe and join me in wishing a “Happy Birthday” to those celebrating during the month of October.

Take advantage of an exciting opportunity to win designer handbags at our upcoming purse bingo event. In addition to the main prizes, participants can join in a 50/50 raffle and compete for a variety of additional prizes throughout the evening.

Tickets are available for \$25, which grants entry to twenty games. Both the kitchen and bar will be open during the event, ensuring food and beverages are available for all attendees while you enjoy the festivities. You can purchase tickets from myself or our kitchen manager, Harriett.

As we reflect on the challenges we have faced this year, it is important to acknowledge the resilience and commitment shown by our members. Your continued support and participation make a significant difference in our community, especially during times of uncertainty. Let us continue to uphold the values that define our Post.

### Aim High and Keep Up the Mach

### Rider's Director - Linda Haynes

Welcome to October, the month we celebrate the Navy's birthday and Columbus Day on October 13, Breast Cancer Awareness month, Autumn, and Halloween.

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. This month we will host Chapter 55 on October 11<sup>th</sup> as they ride through our area, we also have riders participating in the District Unity Ride which occurs on October 18<sup>th</sup> and will include 5 stops at various Posts as well as a stop at a State Veteran Nursing Home. Now that the weather is cooling Wednesday breakfast rides have morphed into lunch rides, KSU at 1015.

Other items of interest include our highly anticipated Christmas Raffle; tickets will be available at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday breakfast on October 11<sup>th</sup> and on Tuesday evenings. The grand prize will be a trike with lots of cheer! There will also be many additional prizes. We anticipate a great raffle and look forward to your support. The drawing will be on December 21, 2005.

Other items of interest include: Kitchen duty on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> 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. Lastly, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday our November meeting date will be changed. Please look at your email and our Facebook page for the new date which will be published as soon as it is confirmed.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice - Tina Burgess

Please congratulate our October Volunteer of the Month Terry Strassburg. It is never easy for me to put into words what amazing work our Volunteers do to make our Post successful! Terry has always taken an active role in several key areas within Veterans Memorial Post 347. He is a quiet, confident volunteer who epitomizes being "In it for the cause and not the applause." Terry was key to our Color Guard winning overall champion at the National American Legion Color Guard Competition this past August, the first time our Post ever entered. Terry is also active with our Honor Guard. In the last month, he supported 11 Honor Guard events, devoting 49 hours to Military Funerals, a Vietnam Era Recognition Ceremony with the Honorable Senator Ashley Moody, and various other community events. Terry is also the Assistant Maintenance Manager for the Bob Johnson Memorial Driving Range. In this capacity, Terry repairs equipment, collects golf balls, mows grass, paints items in need of restoration, trims trees and bushes, and transports equipment needing repairs to vendors. In the words of his nominator, "What sets Terry Strassburg apart is reliability and humility. He takes on many tasks and finishes what he starts. Our American Legion Post is stronger because of his selfless service."

I am happy to share that our membership renewal rate is at 55.2 percent! Thank you to everyone who has renewed for 2026! This month, we welcome 40 new members. You know my favorite part of each Newsletter is sharing some of the amazing accomplishments of our new members. Joining us this month is an Army 0-5 whose career spanned Vietnam to the Global War on Terrorism and is the recipient of the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with a 30-year Gold Device, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart; an Army E-5 who is joining us from Iowa and bringing with him 55 years of Continuous American Legion Membership; an Army OH-58 A/C, OH-6,

and UH-1 Helicopter Pilot, Ranger and Command Chaplain; an Army E-5 who served as an AH-64D/E Attack Helicopter Repairman; an Air Force 0-6 Wing Commander and F-16 Fighter Pilot; an Army E-5 who served 20 years as a Russian Linguist and Voice Interceptor performing detection, identification, and exploitation of Russian communications; a Coast Guard Academy Graduate who served as a Tactical Action Officer and Boarding Officer; and an Army E-5 who served in Vietnam as an indirect Fire Infantryman and is the recipient of the Bronze Star. Please welcome them to our Post 347 Family.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who supported the Commander's and my vision to honor our Gold Star Family Members. The term "Gold Star Family" carries profound weight and is a designation no one seeks but bear with quiet dignity. Our Gold Star Memorial Wall is our way of honoring our military heroes and their family members. We would like to especially thank the Standfest and Greenburg/Idalski families for allowing us to honor their sons on our Memorial Wall. If there are any other members who are Gold Star Status, please see me if you want your family members added to our Memorial Wall.

It is time for me to begin collecting photographs for our annual Veterans Day Slide Show. If you participated last year and you desire to use the same pictures, just let me know. If you didn't participate, please consider doing so this year. What I'll need from you is a picture of you in military uniform and a current picture of you, along with the following information: Name, Branch of Service, Years served, location of military picture, and your job specialty in the service. Please email this information to [alpost347@comcast.net](mailto:alpost347@comcast.net).

On a side note, our Adjutant is now a licensed Notary. If you have the need, please arrange a time in advance to meet with him and he will be happy to assist.

## Auxiliary President - Maureen Caswell

It's hard to believe that it is already October and "THE HOLIDAYS" are just right around the corner. October kicks off The Auxiliary's Holiday Programs and leads us into our busiest time of the year! A short description of our Upcoming Events is provided below.

**October – Holiday Food Box Kick off** – The American Legion Family sponsors 50 families for Thanksgiving and then again at Christmas. The families not only receive a complete holiday meal, but enough of the staples needed to feed the children while they are out of school.

If you would like to donate any of the following items listed below, please feel free to drop them off at any of our next three General Meetings: **Oct 1**; **Nov. 5**; or **Dec 3, 2025**, at 6pm. You should indicate on the bag that the items are for **The AUXILIARY Holiday Food Box Program**. You may also drop items off at the Post during Auxiliary Renewal Lobby Hours on Monday, Wednesday or Friday, between 12-3pm. Again, be sure the bag is marked to ensure your donated items reach us.

**Items Needed:** canned corn, peas, carrots, green beans, instant potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, mac n cheese, cereal, cookies, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti, peanut butter and/or jelly, canned tuna, canned chicken.

### Upcoming Events

Nov 10 – Veteran Day Goody Bags assembled  
Nov 11 – Veterans Day Goody Bags Delivered – am  
Nov 11 - Lunch served to Veterans, **Poppy Distribution**  
Nov 17 -- Thanksgiving Family Food Box Assembly  
Dec 3 -- Deadline for gifts to Angel Tree Program & Toys for Tots gift collection  
Dec 15 – Christmas Family Food Box Assembly  
Dec 10 – Thank You Dinner for local Toys for Tots Volunteers  
We will be looking for volunteers to help out with these events. If you are interested in volunteering, please attend one of our General Membership Meetings. It is the first Wednesday of the month. Date referenced above. If you can't make a meeting, you can contact us at [ALAunit347@comcast.net](mailto:ALAunit347@comcast.net). Please indicate the event you are interested in. As Always, Thank You for your support!

## S.A.L. Commander - Danny Roe

As we enter October we will again push for early renewal of your membership. Emails have been sent out and membership is coming in. 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. So, you will not see the early bird stamp on your card, but rest assured you are an early bird if you renew before Veterans Day, and we appreciate your support of our programs. 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 already 384 for 34.3%. That is a fantastic start.

I encourage our membership to come and participate in what your Squadron does for our veterans and the community. 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.

Mark your calendar for our Halloween Dance coming up on Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 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. Help us sell it out this year. Ticket sales will start on Tuesday September 30<sup>th</sup> in the lobby at Queen of Hearts and the office after. Price will be \$25 per person.

## Post Service Officers: JB & Maria Alexander

Every night, thousands of veterans are sleeping in cars, on sidewalks, or in shelters—heroes who once served our country, now struggling to survive. Those who have fought for our country should not have to fight from being homeless.

In January 2024, there were 32,882 homeless veterans in the U.S., a 7.5% decrease from the previous year, according to the VA News. While this represents a significant reduction from previous years, veterans still make up a disproportionate percentage of the homeless population. They represent about 7% of all homeless adults, even though they are only about 6% of the total U.S. population.

While the exact number fluctuates, around 2,279 veterans are estimated to be experiencing homelessness in Florida. Florida has seen a substantial decrease in veteran homelessness since 2010, with a 70% reduction, according to the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Factors like rising housing costs and inflation can put low-income veterans at risk of homelessness.

Organizations like National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS) and the VA, along with initiatives like the

Mark your calendar for a Dine to Donate sponsored by Culvers on 466A on Dec 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. All you have to do is come out and get dinner or ice cream and a portion of the profits will get donated to our charities. Culvers is always very generous and all proceeds go to Children and Youth Charities associated with our Golf Tournament.

Our Family Golf Tournament for Children and Youth Charities date has been set for Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. We are still working to confirm the location. Be sure to save the date. Sign ups will start after the first of the year.

There is a Project 250 Challenge that our post is participating in this year. Celebrating 250 years for this Great Country. Tina Burgess is putting it together and we will be sending a blast email out when we know the specifics. 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 more information will be coming. Also watch the bulletin boards and web site for more information on how you can participate.

**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](mailto:dannyroe@prodigy.net). I look forward to hearing from you.

HUD-VASH program, offer support to homeless veterans. Fortunately, in our community, there are resources to assist veterans who are homeless. Marion County has a program for assisting veterans (who live in Marion County) through the "Veterans Helping Veterans" Program in addition to other resources, (food pantry, etc.).

In Lake County, "Villagers for Veterans" sponsor a temporary housing facility for homeless female veterans. As well, Lake County has The Samaritan Inn - This Christian Care Center program provides residential transitional housing for families, including both men and women, helping them become self-sufficient in a safe environment. The Open Door is in Eustis, and offers drop-in services for homeless individuals and families, including meals, showers, laundry, mailboxes, and assistance with finding housing and stability.

In Sumter County, the Refuge at Jumper Creek in Bushnell is a full family shelter specifically for homeless families.

The HUD-VASH program is a collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide Section 8 housing vouchers and supportive services to veterans experiencing homelessness.

Post Service Officers (PSOs) are typically available at the American Legion Post on Tuesdays, 1530 – 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.

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. This includes (but not limited to) disability claims, homelessness, education, hospitalization and medical care

Observances: Halloween (31st) Columbus Day (13<sup>th</sup>) Navy's Bday (13<sup>th</sup>) National Day of the Deployed (26<sup>th</sup>)

**Sick Call and Post Everlasting**



Roger C Bowen, Joseph F Bellavia, Walter D Lias, Charles Barnes, Mark Christian, Susan O'Brian  
Patricia Steel, Charles Barnes, Mark Christian, Susan O'Brian



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

**October 2025**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm <b>Aux Mtg</b>	<b>2</b> Public Bingo Doors open 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	<b>3</b> Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Tim Hargis</b> 5:30 – 8:30	<b>4</b> Lounge opens at Noon Attendance Drawing 6:30 pm
<b>5</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Riders Bingo 2 -4pm	<b>6</b> Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night <b>The Tone Rangers</b> 5 – 8	<b>7</b> Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Jonnell &amp; the Gman</b> 5:30 – 8:30	<b>8</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm <b>Legion Mtg 5:30</b>	<b>9</b> Public Bingo Doors open 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	<b>10</b> Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Del Phi's</b> 5:30 – 8:30	<b>11</b> Lounge opens at Noon Attendance Drawing 6:30 pm
<b>12</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm SAL Bingo 2 -4pm	<b>13</b> Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night <b>The Tone Rangers</b> 5 – 8	<b>14</b> Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Action Jackson</b> 5:30 – 8:30	<b>15</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm <b>SAL Mtg 6:00</b> Submariner Mtg 12pm	<b>16</b> Public Bingo Doors open 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	<b>17</b> Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Bill D Williams</b> 5:30 – 8:30	<b>18</b> Lounge opens at Noon Attendance Drawing 6:30 pm
<b>19</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Riders Bingo 2 -4pm	<b>20</b> Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night <b>The Tone Rangers</b> 5 – 8	<b>21</b> Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Tight Genes</b> 5:30 – 8:30	<b>22</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm <b>AL Riders Mtg 6:00</b>	<b>23</b> Public Bingo Doors open 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	<b>24</b> Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Del Phi's</b> 5:30 – 8:30	<b>25</b> Lounge opens at Noon Attendance Drawing 6:30 pm
<b>26</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm SAL Bingo 2 -4pm	<b>27</b> Line Dance Class – 3pm SAL Burger Night <b>The Tone Rangers</b> 5 – 8	<b>28</b> Queen of Hearts – 7pm Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Petrina</b> 5:30 – 8:30	<b>29</b> Kitchen 12-2 pm Bar Bingo 2 -4pm	<b>30</b> Public Bingo Doors open 8 am SAL Italian Night Team Trivia – 6:30pm	<b>31 Happy Halloween</b> Kitchen 5 – 6:45 pm <b>Doug Thompson</b> 5:30 – 8:30	

**Tuesday Menu**

<b>Oct 7:</b> Fish Fry 3\$11.00 Shrimp fry \$9.00 Chicken Tend & fries \$8.00	<b>Oct 14:</b> Pot Roast \$11.00	<b>Oct 21:</b> Ribs \$13.00	<b>Oct 28:</b> Fettuccini Alfredo w/ Chicken \$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**

**Oct 2:** Spaghetti & Meatballs **Oct 9:** Lasagna **Oct 16:** Stuffed Shells **Oct 23:** Chicken Parm w/Spaghetti  
**Oct 30:** Ravioli (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	
<b>Commander</b>	Dave Musser	<b>President</b>	Maureen Caswell	<b>Commander</b>	Danny Roe	<b>Director</b>	Linda Haynes
<b>1st Vice</b>	Tina Burgess	<b>1st Vice</b>	Patricia Morrow	<b>1st Vice</b>	Doug White	<b>Asst. Director</b>	Tom Hill
<b>2nd Vice</b>	John Gorsuch	<b>2nd Vice</b>	Barbara Kyle	<b>2nd Vice</b>	Bud Bowyer	<b>Adjutant</b>	Richard Lees
<b>3rd Vice</b>	Dan Martin	<b>Treasurer</b>	Kathy Allen	<b>Finance</b>	Bill Grieco	<b>Finance</b>	Jim Dollins
<b>Chaplain</b>	Lisa Johnson	<b>Secretary</b>	Lois Bass	<b>Chaplain</b>	Ben Kisielica	<b>Sgt at Arms</b>	Robert Stepnowski
<b>Historian</b>	Bobby Wince	<b>Historian</b>	Lois Bass	<b>Historian</b>	Keven Kinney	<b>Chaplain</b>	Robert Stanziola
<b>Adjutant</b>	Rob Burgess	<b>Sgt at Arms</b>	Pat Skeel	<b>Sgt at Arms</b>	Tony Watkins	<b>Ride Captain</b>	Larry Pekoe
<b>Finance</b>	Bob Irvine	<b>Chaplain</b>	Maureen Merlette	<b>M.A.L.</b>	Dave Callies		
<b>Service Officer</b>	JB & Maria Alexander	<b>M.A.L.</b>	Sue Carlson	<b>M.A.L.</b>	Bob Girou		
<b>Sgt at Arms</b>	Jim Dollins	<b>M.A.L.</b>	Denise Hallisey	<b>Judge Advocate</b>	Vic Prezioso		
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	Heath Davenport	<b>M.A.L.</b>	Jo Richmond	<b>Adjutant</b>	Bob O'Neal		
<b>M.A.L.</b>	Mike Haynes	<b>M.A.L.</b>	Deb Stanley				
<b>M.A.L.</b>	George Ries	<b>M.A.L.</b>	Jo Linda Spear				
<b>M.A.L.</b>	Tony Gibson	<b>M.A.L.</b>	Joan Yackel				
<b>M.A.L.</b>	Jim Stasse	<b>I.P.P.</b>	Ruth Sovern				
<b>Past Commander</b>	Joan Suelter						