

The Legion Link

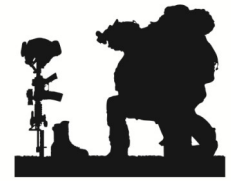
March 2013

Vol. 20 Issue 8



AIMING HIGH FOR VETERANS

FALLEN SOLDIER



NEVER FORGOTTEN

Web Site: www.floridalegion.org

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**Al 'Gunner' Dudley
Department Commander
Commander@floridalegion.org
407.247.5232**

First of all, I would like to tell you all how proud I am of each one of you for all you do for the American Legion, The Department of Florida, and your Posts. As a result of your actions you have all made Florida the Premier Department in the world. February was a trying month for me on a personal level, I lost my Mother, which was also my best Friend, I will miss her dearly. Belinda and I want to Thank You for all your cards and the outpouring of prayers and compassion during this difficult time.

Moving on, you all accomplished a lot in February. The Boy Scout Cracker Trail was awesome as usual. Our membership is at 94% with our next goal being 90% by 6 March. The Riders are currently doing the 1st Annual Florida Legacy ride, which I hear is going tremendously. Thank You Riders and all of you who are supporting them. I am currently in Washington D.C., with a Delegation of 10 Florida Legionnaires, and we hope by the time this makes print that the DC Conference will have been a huge success. In March we have the Department Oratorical Contest on the 9th., Northern Area Ball on the 23rd, and several District meetings. I hope to see you in my travels, if I'm visiting a Post near you. Again, Thanks for all you do for the American Legion, our Veterans, the Community, and our Country. God bless our Troops and God Bless America!

Art Schwabe
Department Vice Commander
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386.235.9990

MARCH MADNESS: Happy St. Patrick's Day!! Basketball!!! Membership!! We are getting close to 100 % mark in membership. Thank You for your efforts. I know it's not easy but it sure feels great when the Post hits that mark. It makes the Post shine. All the members should be proud of the accomplishment. Let's also make sure the new members are educated regarding the Legion. Many just have a card and have no clue what we do for the veterans, community, and youth of our State. BE AN EDUCATOR. You may even get a volunteer, if you ask!

You may have noticed that the CPR report is now on line on the Legion Website. Please start gathering your yearly information so you will be ready to fill the report out. The CPR (Consolidated Post Report) form can be found on the Form and Documents ,click on CPR Addendum then print form.

1. The U.S. Air Force was part of the Army until ? 1945 , 1946, 1947 It was called the Army Air Corp.
2. Only one President served as an enlisted man in the military and did not go on to become an officer? Who was he?
3. The Coast Guard seizes XXX pounds of marijuana and XXX pounds of cocaine worth .X,XXX,XXX.XX every day. How many pounds and what is the dollar value?

4. 30 of the 43 Presidents served in the Army, 24 during time of war, two earned the rank of 5-star General. Name the two presidents and the one that earned the Medal of Honor.

DOCTOR (on the phone): Ole I have to tell you . . . your check came back.

Ole:" Well, let me tell YOU something. So did my arthritis! "
Ole Rules!!!

Answers

1. 1946
2. James Buchanan
3. 169 & 306 pounds Worth \$9,589,000.00 every day!! Not bad for a day's work!!!
4. Washington and Eisenhower and Theodore Roosevelt earned the Medal of Honor For God and Country



Jay Conti, Sr.
Department Sgt.-at-Arms



March Fun Facts

- 1 - First National Park, Yellowstone, established
- 3, 1931 - The Star Spangles Banner adopted b Congress as the National Anthem
- 4, 1905 - Theodore Roosevelt became the only president to not use the word "I" in his inaugural address
- 6, 1981 - "And that's the way it is" Walter Cronkite anchors his last newscast.
- 8, 1785 - 1st U.S. Secretary of War appointed - Henry Knox
- 15, 1919 - Happy Birthday American Legion!
- 28, 1881 - Barnum and Bailey Circus is formed

Hi Fellow Legionnaires;

I have attended many Oratorical Contests across the State the last month plus and the Post and District Sgt-at-Arms were very involved with the program and I hope you continue with helping out with the Boys State Interviews, Children & Youth programs, Dedications, Memorial services; etc. The Department Oratorical is on March 9th at Department Headquarters. I hope to see you there.

Now, Every District has had the Sgt-at-Arms class for the entire Legion Family, A total of 450 plus members have participated in the classes which not only included Legionnaires, but Auxiliary members, Sons Of The American Legion and ALR Members and another 45 at the Fall Conference. I Thank each and every one of you that have attended the classes and the great positive feedback received on the class and the Sgt-at-Arms Manual. So far over 600 copies have been distributed throughout the State. To date, I have traveled over 22,000 miles and crossed the State of Florida many times since June 2012. It's a lot of fun and I have met many Great Legionnaires!

We are getting close to the End of Year Awards. Each Post, District and Area Commanders please put out the word that we will be awarding the "Eddie Humer Award" for a Post Sgt-at-Arms with a recommendation by the Post Commander for his/her contribution to the success of the Post. This award will be presented at the Department Convention. A narrative will be required and the form will be sent to all District and Area Commanders as well as sent in the package with your Consolidated Post Report. Commanders, please ensure that it gets sent to the Post level.

Another award will be given for the outstanding District Sergeant-At-Arms for his/her contribution to the success of the District. A narrative is required from the District Commander. This award will also be presented at the Department Convention. New this year is "Runner Up" Department Sgt-at-Arms "BRAVO ZULU" Awards will also be given!

As Sgt-at-Arms you are an Officer of the post and on your Executive Board. You are also a vested member of your Post which means that you are responsible for the management of your Post as well as the appropriate documents being filed by the appropriate Post officers. You won't know if it is done unless you ask or if it is reported at one of the meetings. So at your next meeting please ask these questions:

1. Has the Post renewed its State of Florida Incorporation papers for 2013?
2. Has your Post filed its 2012 Form 990 with the IRS?
3. Always ask every month if your Post has filed its DR-15 Form (Florida State Sales Tax), Form 941 (Employer's QUARTERLY Federal Tax Return); Form 940 (Employer's Annual Federal Unemployment (FUTA) Tax Return); UCT-6 (Florida Department of Revenue Employer's Quarterly Report for Unemployment Tax); and any other forms that you may be required by your City, the State and Federal governments!

Take a walk through your Post and verify that ALL Licenses and Certificates are not expired or getting ready to expire. Be a fully involved Legionnaire with your Post and know what must be done. We have to make sure nothing t comes back and hurts the Post when it's too late. These all have deadlines! Keep up the Great work! "For God and Country"

Volunteers Needed For National Veterans Wheelchair Games

Quad Rugby is one of the 18 different competitive events and two exhibition events taking place during the 33rd National Veterans Wheelchair Games to be held in Tampa July 13 to 18.

Athlete registration is open and about 3,000 volunteers are needed for the 33rd National Veterans Wheelchair Games, the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world. More than 500 Veterans from across the United States, Puerto Rico and Great Britain are expected to compete in the Games, taking place in Tampa July 13 to 18.

The Games are presented by the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This year, they are co-sponsored by the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital and the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. The Games are open to all U.S. military Veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, neurological conditions, amputations or other mobility impairments.

Volunteers are needed to help support all event areas of the games including setting up equipment at venues where the competitions are held, serving meals, monitoring buses used to transport athletes to various locations, serving as "Fans in the Stands," (cheering the athletes on), and other duties.

"We're excited to see the National Veterans Wheelchair Games return to Florida and feel especially privileged we were chosen to host them here in Tampa Bay alongside our Paralyzed Veterans of America Gulf Coast partners, said Kathleen Fogarty, JAHVH hospital director.

"Adaptive sports provide a vital role in continuing a seriously injured Veterans' rehabilitation through formidable competition that's just plain fun. And Tampa is a world class sports venue to showcase the country's best wheelchair athletes for an entire week. To help us do that, we will need the help of thousands of volunteers," she said.

Eighteen different competitive events and two exhibition events will take place at the Tampa Convention Center, Tampa Bay Times Forum, Raymond James Stadium, Lake Seminole Park, Hillsborough Community College (Dale Mabry campus), Silver Dollar Shooters Club, Pin Chasers, Jefferson High School and the Clearwater Long Center.

April 15th Deadline for Athlete Registration

Veterans interested in competing may download the registration packet from the Games' website: www.wheelchairgames.va.gov or contact Lesli Culver at Lesli.Culver@va.gov. The deadline to complete and postmark their registration is April 15.

Many Opportunities for Volunteers of All Ages

Volunteers will be needed the entire week of the Games and can be as young as 14 to participate. They must be willing to commit to a minimum of a four hour shift on the days they volunteer. Besides the experience of participating in the Games, volunteers will also receive a commemorative T-shirt. High school students who volunteer can earn community service credit towards their college application.

Anyone interested must complete a Volunteer Application available at www.wheelchairgames.va.gov and return it via e-mail to Wheelchair.games@va.gov. The applications can also be dropped off in person at the Voluntary Service Office, Room 2A-215L, James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, 13000 Bruce B. Downs, Blvd., in Tampa. For more information, contact Camilla Thompson, Tampa Volunteer Coordinator at Wheelchair.games@va.gov or call (813)-972-2000, ext. 6580.

The public is invited to attend any of the sports competitions throughout the week of the Games, and admission is free.

95th Annual Department Convention

June 6-9, 2013

Renaissance Orlando by SeaWorld

800-380-7917 or local at 407-351-5555

to reserve your room in advance

Deluxe King Room \$129

Deluxe Queen-Queen Room \$129

Hospitality Parlors/Suite Upon Request

(Contact Mary at Headquarters-

407.295.2631 ext 232)



POW/MIA Empty Chair

Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th American Legion National Convention, calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States.



90% Goal

March 13, 2013

Membership Report as of March 1, 2013

Jim Ramos
Membership Chairman
membership@floridalegion.org

Florida Legionnaires; we are doing well on membership but we have to do a little bit more! Starting now through March 15 consider hosting a Membership Drive or an Open House at your Post. Spread the word of our good work to the Veterans and the Community in your area.

Congratulations to the 6th District who is at 97% already. We have five out of six Areas and 13 of the 16 Districts over 90% and in addition 228 Posts are at 85% or better. We have 67 Posts in the Department at 100% or better. Congratulations to all! As of February 18th the Department is in 4th place in the Nation and in the Southeast Region we are in 2nd place out of 12 Departments with (92.432%) nationwide. Go Florida!

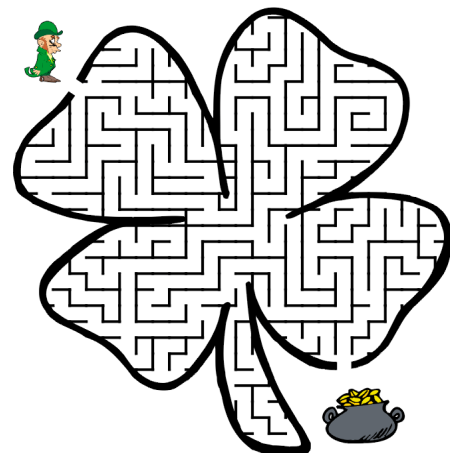
We need to keep going strong with membership. Please take a look at the membership plan 2013 in the Membership Information and Awards Manual (please check out pages 6 - 40). Also check out page 51 for all goals.

Start with a Membership Drive or Open House and hope to make 100% for your District. Stay in the running for the "Race to the Top" for National recognition by March 31, 2013. Make the final push to achieve 100% and also help your District to make the 100% goal. We can make it Florida Legionnaires by working to help your Post and District make that 100% goal by March 31, 2013. The "Race to the Top" award is still within our reach. Let the Nation know who we are. "Let's, GO Florida" But do not stop there go for more members. Go for 100% plus +1. Go Florida.

As the American Legion continues its drive to protect and preserve veteran benefit programs - especially in the area of medical care—the numerical strength of the organization is very important. Make sure your Post is doing its part in the nationwide drive to increase the Legion's position of power. I am here to assist you in your recruitment and retention efforts. Please contact me at your convenience by e-mail jramos149@bellsouth.net or membership@florida.org or at 352-226-4370.

Membership in The American Legion is a matter of PRIDE (Tradition, Heritage, Accomplishment, Serving and Belonging) to the Nation's Largest Veteran's Organization.

Help the leprechaun find his way through the four leaf clover maze to find a pot of gold



District/ Area	Commander	Goal	Rec'd	% Goal
6	Robert Kiley	10,193	10,156	99.64
15	Eunice Butts	5,178	5,066	97.84
7	Nancy Thomas	3,863	3,712	96.09
5	Henry Combs	7,681	7,306	95.12
17	Michael Wolohan	4,135	3,916	94.70
12	Albert Diaz	8,424	7,966	94.56
1	Verna Joyce	6,256	5,901	94.33
11	Richard Smith	4,094	3,851	94.06
13	William Hauser	8,783	8,259	94.03
8	Debra Roush	8,218	7,723	93.98
16	James Burgess	11,977	11,217	93.66
2	Homer Frailey	1,365	1,278	93.63
9	William Johnson	4,342	4,015	92.47
4	Charles Ferguson	4,160	3,826	91.97
3	M.E Christians	1,712	1,544	90.19
14	Gary Decker	3,021	2,697	89.28
Eastern	Mark Johnson	18,617	18,122	97.34
Central	James Zipler	21,018	19,995	95.13
Western	Charles Lecroy	7,621	7,179	94.20
SW	Steven Slachta	17,001	15,982	94.01
Northern	Robert Brewster	17,688	16,592	93.80
Southern	George Rafajko	11,457	10,563	92.20
Dept			88,433	
Post 400		11,977	11,431	95.44
Post 208		2,141	3,017	140.92
Totals		107,775	102,881	95.46

LEGISLATIVE DIVISION UPDATE
LEGION-RELATED LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS
Stanley Gold, Department Legislative Chr

Congressional Updates

Senate Committee Examines Possible Effects of Sequestration

As the clock ticks to March 1, calls to not allow sequestration to go forward are getting louder on Capitol Hill this week. On February 12 Legion staff attended a Senate Armed Services Committee oversight hearing that took testimony from Department of Defense (DOD) witnesses who related the damage such cuts would make to operations to DOD and the services for the rest of the fiscal year.

The witnesses who testified on the impacts of sequestration and/or a full-year continuing resolution on the Department of Defense were: Ashton B. Carter, Deputy Secretary of Defense; Robert F. Hale, Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller); General Martin E. Dempsey, USA, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; General Raymond T. Odierno, USA, Chief of Staff of the Army; Admiral Mark E. Ferguson III, USN, Vice Chief of Naval Operations; General James F. Amos, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps; General Mark A. Welsh III, USAF, Chief of Staff of the Air Force; and General Frank J. Grass, NGB, Chief, National Guard Bureau.

Deputy Secretary Carter said the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 changed the dates and size of sequestration. The first sequestration will begin on March 1; in addition, a second sequestration due to a breach in the discretionary spending caps for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 is scheduled to be implemented on March 27 (coinciding with the end of the concurrent resolution (CR) funding for FY 2013). The combined effects of these two sequestrations will require the Department to cut roughly \$46 billion from the annualized level of funding provided on the FY 2013 CR, all in the last seven months of the fiscal year which ends September 30. Sequestration cuts would apply to all of the DOD budget, including the Overseas Contingency Operations portion, with only one significant exception. Exercising his statutory authority, the President indicated his intent to exempt all military personnel funding from sequestration. This means, as a result, other DOD budget accounts must be cut by larger amounts to offset this exemption. The estimate is the other accounts would be reduced by roughly eight percent by the March 1 sequestration order, and by nine percent if both March 1 and March 27 sequestration orders occur. (Note: The Office of Management and Budget would calculate the precise sequester percentage and provide it in the sequestration order.)

Chairman Dempsey said approximately one third of these cuts would come from force structure. The other two-thirds of the reductions would occur in the modernization, compensation, and readiness accounts. He went on to say there is no foreseeable "peace dividend" on our horizon. The security environment is increasingly competitive and dangerous. End strength caps in the FY 2013 National Defense Authorization Act restrict our ability to manage our force, and therefore inhibit our ability to reduce spending as quickly and as responsibly as in past draw downs. Unlike past downturns that followed periods of significant modernization, much of our equipment is older or aging. And, health care costs are approaching unsustainable levels. [Resolution #55-F-2012]

Base Closings and Sequestration

On February 13 Army Chief of Staff General Ray Odierno said at a press conference that if sequestration is allowed to go into effect, the military will have to be allowed to close bases. General Odierno said the Army would be forced to become so much smaller that it would be "inefficient" not to close bases. The base closure process would be paid for by the money not being spent on additional forces. Last year, the Pentagon proposed two rounds of base closures to save money in the future. Congress refused this request. However at the press conference, Odierno observed that, with the level of spending reductions required by the combination of the sequester and the continuing resolution (which holds spending at Fiscal Year 2012 levels), Congress would be forced to allow the closures. [Resolution #55-F-2012]

House Armed Services Committee Hearing: Sequestration & Budget issues

The committee met February 13 to discuss the impending implementation of the sequestration cuts, as well as the impact of operating under the continuing resolution (CR), which sets funding levels at Fiscal Year 2012 levels. Essentially this hearing mirrored the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing held earlier this week. The takeaway from this hearing is that the Committee leadership is opposed to any further reduction of Department of Defense (DOD) spending regardless of any other plans that Congress may propose.

LEGISLATIVE DIVISION ACTIONS

Preparations for Washington Conference Going Forward

The Legislative Division continues to work diligently in preparation for the upcoming Washington Conference, being held February 25-27. Legion Family members will converge on our nation's capital for meetings, conferences, workshops, and lobbying their mem-

*Nobody made a greater mistake than he who
did nothing because he could only do a little.*

~ Edward Burke ~

.....continued from previous page

bers of Congress to continue the work of The American Legion.

Several weeks ago, Legislative Division staff members delivered packets to the offices of newly-elected members of Congress. These packets contained a personalized welcome letter, a drop sheet of our organization's legislative priorities, a pamphlet outlining the Legislative Division's Guiding Resolutions, and a DVD. These packets were hand-delivered in order that the Legislative staff could introduce themselves, and begin to develop working relationships with the new congressional staff members. In addition, a packet containing the drop sheet and Legislative Point Papers was sent to each Department; these will soon be posted on the Legion website (www.legion.org).

The Legislative Division will be in charge of the "Commander's Call" on Tuesday morning February 26. The agenda is still being developed, and prospective speakers are being considered. Legislative Commission Chairman Ken Governor (NY) is coming to Washington in two weeks to work with staff to prepare the agenda.

American Legion Legislative Council

The Legislative Division continues the task of re-building the membership of the National Legislative Council for the 113th Congress. Council recommendation forms were emailed to Department leadership in December, asking for nominations for new congressional members. Completed forms were due in the Legislative Division offices in Washington, DC by January 18. To date, 37 Departments have returned their Council nomination forms.

The importance of the Legislative Council cannot be overstated. It is an especially important voice for The American Legion family, and the way in which members of Congress can be quickly contacted when legislative action is needed. Departments are urged to complete their nomination forms and return them to the Legislative Division offices as soon as possible.

Update on Flag Amendment Bill

On January 18, House Joint Resolution (H.J. Res.) 19 was introduced by Representative Jo Ann Emerson (MO). This legislation is a proposed constitutional amendment to protect the American flag from physical desecration. Its text states simply: "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

The next task is finding cosponsors for this legislation. Please contact the offices of your representative and senators, and ask them to become cosponsors of the flag amendment in their respective chambers. [Res. 272-2012]



Mike (Goat) Kirchoff Department ALR Chairman

By the time most of you see this article the First Florida In-State Legacy Run will be in full swing. We will not have the final numbers of Riders that participated until we get done with the run on the 2nd of March. As of the time of this article we have 26 Riders registered for the run. Almost 20 are doing the entire route starting in Panama City. The In-State Legacy Run will take us a little over 1,500 miles in 7 days stopping at 31 different American Legion Posts and passing through 12 Districts. If you see a large group of American Legion Riders on the road between February 23rd and March 2nd it most likely was us. More details about the run will be in the next Legion Link Article.

Our next challenge is the Department of Florida ALR Rally scheduled for 17 -18 May at Post 69 in Avon Park. This is the opportunity for all the Legion Riders in the Department of Florida to come together and have some fun. The folks at Post 69 are setting up a great event. There will be food, entertainment, vendors, bike games, raffles as well as a Department ALR District Chairman get together Friday and an ALR Membership get together on Saturday.

After the ALR Rally, then it's off to Orlando for Department of Florida Convention June 6 - 9. Remember this is the time when Department Officers are elected. The next Department of Florida Commander will appoint the new Department ALR Chairman and the District Commanders will be appointing the District Chairman. If you are interested in being the Department Chairman or a District Chairman go to www.floridalegion.org, under the Legion Riders you will find the applications. Fill them out and send to Department of Florida, Attention Carol. All applications will be forwarded to the proper District Commanders.

At Convention we will have our District Chairmen meeting and General Membership meeting on Friday. The times of these meetings are being arranged so don't forget to submit your ALR Chapter for the Chapter of the Year award as well as your history books. Keep an eye on the Department web site for more information about the Convention.

Roster Changes up until February 19, 2013

Post # Title

New Info

154 Adjutant	Richard Jordan, 1361 Overseas Hwy, #A1, Marathon, 33050, 941-407-0151, lzgrill154@gmail.com
152 Adjutant	Barry Dakin, 15307 Heathridge Dr. Tampa, 33625, 813.920.0101 bjpd1234@verizon.net
296 email/website	post296destin@centurylink.com / www.americanlegiondestin.com
ALR Chairman- Mike Kirchoff	203 E. 2nd Place, Panama City, 32401, 850.624.2503 ALR@floridalegion.org
374 email	rgalea@endeavorsolutions.com
106 email	wynnhale@yahoo.com
168 Mailing/Billing	PO BOX 903, Key West, 33041
*NEW POST*401	Mailing: 15862 CR 108, Hilliard, 32046 Shipping: 37965 Eastwood. Rd., Hilliard, 32046
Dept. Woman Veterans Chr	Michelle Wakefield, 328 Robyn St., Cocoa, 32927, 321.323.4382 meme828.94@aol.com
Boys State Director	Frank Sardinha, III, 3433 Harbor Rd. S, Tequesta, 33469 (561) 262-9190 directorofboysstate@floridalegion.org
138 Mailing/Billing	PO Box 13817, Tampa, 33681
Boys State Board Member	Bob Knight, 4927 Arden Forset Way, Tallahassee, 32309 bknight@gradimages.com
Boys State Board Member	Dr. Rick Murgu, 2205 Old Monticello Rd, Thomasville, GA 31792 murgor@tcc.edu
125 Adjutant	Robert Cannon, Sr., PO Box 13573, St. Petersburg, 33733, 727.512.1634 , bobusmc25@juno.com
378 Adjutant	James Gschwind, 5409 Laramie Lane, Gulf Breeze, FL 32563 (h) 850-932-4252 jimjeankaraoke@att.net
202 Post wed/email/meeting	www.kmalpost202.com ; adjutant@kmalpost202.com, mtg Time: 2nd Sat, 10:00 a.m.
25 Adjutant	J.P Plunkett, 141 Lime Rd NE, Lake Placid, 33852 (h) 863-699-0782 jpsenior@live.com
53 Commander	Freddy Houston, PO Box 1472, Geneva 32732 (c) 407-256-7691 fhouston@cfl.rr.com
47 Commander	Herman Apol, 1500 Lucerne Ave. # 315, Lake Worth, 33460, 561.547.6457 advancexray@mac.com
220 Post Phone #	(754) 235-9225
91 Adjutant	Rodney Lacey, 10300 SE 70th Ave, Trenton, 32693 (352) 221-2352 rodlacey@aol.com
268 Adjutant	Kathleen Morrison, 8878 S. Sunset Dr. Palm Beach Gardens, 33410 (561) 225-5809 kathleen.morrison59@yahoo.com
Dept. Judge Advocate,	Dick Mondro, (352) 978-3551
Dept. ALR Chairman	Mike 'Goat' Kirchoff, 2458 Taylor Avenue, Panama City, FL 32403
1st Dist. ALR Chairman	Tim TK Johnson- email, tkjohnson45@gmail.com
5th Dist. ALR Chairman	Gerald Giecko-email, jgalr5th@gmail.com
6th Dist. ALR Chairman	Daryl Bass-phone 321-766-7039
12th Dist. ALR Chairman	Jim Burk-phone 772-812-2495
15th Dist. ALR Chairman	Jose Romeu-phone 386-316-9390



FLORIDA AMERICAN LEGION PROJECT: HOMEFRONT
MARCH
 ON Tallahassee
April 2, 2013

Children & Youth
Steve Shuga, Department Chairman
C&Y@floridalegion.org

The 96th birthday of The American Legion occurs during March 15th – 17th. Plan a festive occasion and celebrate! This is also American Red Cross Month, National Craft Month, National Noodle Month, National Peanut Month, Foot Health Month, National Frozen Food Month, and National Sauce Month.

St. Patrick's Day is March 17th – plan a surprise for those little leprechauns, where shades of green. Encourage your Legion Family to seek out the many local events and activities tailored to support your Children & Youth during the month of March. Let's take hold of that lucky charm and use it to bring happiness to our lads and lassies.

You should be finalizing your plans for your April's Children and Youth Festival of events. Flyers and notices should be out in the coming weeks so area youth can support your planned activities. Be as creative as you can and stay within a budget. Seek folks and businesses who might donate items necessary to support your activities and recognize those that gave you those items due recognition for assisting during your time of need.

If you get stuck and need assistance, dial up your CY Chairman or if you are lucky to have a committee, get folks in sync working on those last minute areas that need to be prepared before the events are launched.

The Department CY Fundraiser items are available for purchase. If a Post wants to purchase a package of each, alert the Department CY Chairman of the desired totals either by email or phone call, verify the cost of the items plus shipping and send a check totaling all charges to Department of Florida American Legion and in the bottom left corner of the check mark it for Children & Youth Fundraiser. The 2012-2013 FAL CY Pin is \$5 and a 2013 FAL CY Challenge Coin representing The American Legion Family is \$10. Contact Steve Shuga at C&Y@floridalegion.org to inquire about these unique keepsakes.

Thank you to all that supported the International House of Pancakes (IHOP) National Pancake Day, February 5th that provided all proceeds to our local Children Miracle Network Hospitals. Each location was having a "flipping frenzy", one pancake at a time. Next time you visit a local IHOP, thank them for their national support for assisting our local Children Miracle Network Hospitals.

Monthly Program Reminders

Plan your C&Y activities at least two months ahead & order your resources early. If products are in short supply, go to National website under "Media" then "Programs" and download the materials you need, printing them at your leisure.

In order to be recognized for your monthly Children & Youth Post participation, submit your reports to Department and earmark it for Children & Youth Chairman. The Annual CY Summary "final" report is due May 15th. This form is available on the Department of Florida website under "Forms and Documents". Report your monthly activities and be recognized!



Got Tagline?

Part of every company's identity is its tagline. What company do you think of when you read: "Semper Fidelis"; "Where's The Beef?"; "Don't Leave Home Without It"; "No One Does More For Veterans" (yes, even VFW has a tagline); "We've Got Your Back"; or "The UnCola"?

One task of the Membership and Post Activities Committee is to suggest a corporate tagline, which after approval by the NEC, will be used for the foreseeable future in all of our advertisements, letterheads, publications, press releases, and so forth as a description of who we are and what we do.

The goal is to adopt a tagline which is so significant that all of the public will recognize it, associate it with The American Legion, and know what is our "reason for being." Even though it must be short and pithy, it must be filled with content and phrased in a memorable and catchy way.

You can help us craft an American Legion tagline by submitting your ideas by email to tagline@legion.org. Submissions may be submitted by individuals (membership is not required), posts, districts, counties or departments; there is no limit to the number that may be submitted but each submission must be contained in a single email. We encourage Departments and Posts to give this information the widest dissemination, as we will do in your national publications. All submissions must be received no later than April 19, 2013, in order to be considered.

The Internal Affairs Commission will be the final reviewer of submissions, and will draft a resolution recommending a permanent tagline. The decision of the National Executive Committee is final.

If your tagline is the one recommended to the NEC, and adopted exactly as submitted, you will receive a \$500 check, and a Certificate of Appreciation plaque signed by the National Commander in recognition of your winning entry. The winning entry will be posted on www.Legion.org after the NEC meets in mid-May 2013. In the event of duplicate winning entries, the earliest received will be declared the winner.

Remember: April 19, 2013, is the deadline, and the email address is: tagline@legion.org. Please include your name and phone number on each entry. Only one entry per email submission. All entries will be acknowledged by a return email. Save that return receipt as proof of your submission.

R₃ Retreat

RELEARN, RECOVER, RESTORE

FLORIDA AMERICAN LEGION **PROJECT: HOMEFRONT**

Did You Know...

- Nearly 10% of the 1.7 million service members to deploy in support of OIF/OEF call Florida home.
- Florida has the 2nd largest per capita veteran population in the nation.
- A recent study by RAND Corporation found that an estimated 1 out of 5 service members returning from OIF/OEF suffer from PTSD or major depression.
- Only 53% of vets who met the criteria for PTSD or depression sought help from a provider.
- That calculates to 15,980 Floridian veterans from OIF/OEF who have not sought the proper care.

statistics provided by: http://www.helppromotehope.com/documents/Veteran_Statistics.pdf



Our Veterans are not the only ones suffering...

PTSD effects families not just the soldier. Servicemembers, spouses & children all suffer the effects PTSD can have on a home.

R3 Retreat - Relearn, Recover, Restore

Project:Homefront's R3 Retreat was created to help servicemembers, veterans, and families learn how to cope with PTSD in the home. The R3 Retreat will be hosted in April of 2013 at beautiful, serene St. Leo's Abby in Dade City, FL. Through the Department of Veterans Affairs, 20 couples who are coping with PTSD in their families will be provided the counseling, training, and support they need to continue their fight against Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. They will learn techniques used by other families in overcoming the everyday obstacles our veterans and their families are facing. They will be provided access to therapists and group counseling for veterans and their spouses. They will be given the opportunity to restore their lives.

All of this, made possible by YOU!

Through your dedication and support of Project: Homefront and by participation in events like the "Battlefield of Honor Paintball Event" YOU have made this possible. **We applaud you.** Thank you for your support and please continue to help us Support Our Troops.

PROJECT: HOMEFRONT

They Fought For Us. Let's Fight For Them.