

The Legion Link

September 2013

Vol. 21 Issue 2



Making a Difference for Veterans Everyday



Web Site: www.floridalegion.org

E-mail: mail@floridalegion.org

In this Issue...

Page 1

Dept. Commander
TAPS

Page 2

Dept Vice Commander

Page 3

Dept. Sgt-at-Arms
Dept. Chaplain
Dept. Historian

Page 4

Membership
ATTN: Post Commanders

Page 5

Dept. Judge Advocate
Children & Youth
Veterans Benefits
TAPS

Page 6

National Legislative
Page 7

Special Olympics
ROTC/Shooting Sports

Page 8

Americanism
Law & Order
Military Liaison

Page 9

Northern Area Commander
Press Association
13th District
Fun Facts

Page 10

Districts 3 and 9

Page 11

Districts 5 and 17

Page 12

British Legion Riders
Stand Down

**Art 'Ole' Schwabe
Department Commander
Commander@legionmail.org
407.247.5232**

I am writing this from Houston, Texas home of the 95th American Legion National Convention. Hot Hot Hot!!! Delegates are coming in from all over the world. This should be a great time for Florida with many awards for this past year. We will keep you Posted on Florida's achievements.

My first Commanders visit was hosted by the mighty 6th District. It was just outstanding. It was nice to have red and blue lights in front of me instead of behind me. It costs me less!!!! I would like to Thank All who took the time out to say hi and be part of this great tour. You truly are Difference Makers!!!

September will bring more visitations to the 9th and 11th Districts. If you have time please come out and say Hi. Please check with the District Commanders for the times we will be at your Posts. We will also be going to Washington, D.C. for the National Commanders Testimony plus visiting our National Congressional Representative about Veteran issues.

Please keep your District calendars updated so I can attend your functions. If you have a function you would like me to attend, please send me an e-mail and if I can make it I will.

Remember, I don't like to Jump Alone 110% !!!!!!!

TAPS by Dennis Boland

It is with my deepest regret to inform you that Florida's National Executive Committee-man, Bob Proctor passed away today at 3:00 p.m. (August 15th). Bob was Department Commander for the state of Florida in 1987/88 and appointed NEC in November 1999. In June 2000 he was elected as the Department of Florida National Executive Committee and retained that position until his passing. Bob was very instrumental in Florida having its first National Commander along with many other accomplishment. The Department of Florida has lost a very dear brother, Veteran and friend.



Robert J. Proctor

Vietnam War Army Veteran
Member of Post 19 for 45 continuous years
Natl Exec Committee Alt Member 1990-1999
Natl Americanism Council Vice Chrmn 1986-1987
Natl convention Commission Liaison Committee Member 2000-2002; 2003-2005
Natl Distinguished Guests Committee Vice Chrmn 1988-1990
Natl Exec Committee Member 1999-2013
Natl Citizens Flag Alliance Advosroy Comm Member 2005-2013
Natl Finance Commission Liaison Comm Chrmn 2005-2006
Natl Legislative Commission Liaison Comm Member 2002-2003
Natl Legislative Commission Liaison Comm Chrmn 2006-2013
Natl Resolutions Subcommittee Member 2003-2006; 2009-2013
Natl Resolutions Subcommittee Vice Chrmn 2006-2009

Jay Conti Sr.
Department Vice Commander
ViceCommander@floridalegion.org
BRAVO-ZULU
352.287.1400

What a Great turnout during the Area Training sessions covering all 6 areas and 16 Districts in the Department of Florida. More than 450 Legionnaires attended these training sessions. I think that those who missed the training really missed out. But, don't be alarmed that we are shaping up the training for next year with all the great comments we received. We will have an updated training book out to all. The Area Training book is available to download on Department's website - www.floridalegion.org. If you have any input for the training please do not hesitate to email or call me: E-mail-ViceCommander@floridalegion.org or JConti3547@aol.com, (Home) 352.527.1152 or (Cell) 352.287.1400.

We attended the Membership Workshop in Indianapolis last month with your Area Commanders. A lot of information was put out in this training. Your Area Commander should be passing this information to the Districts during your meetings. If your Post hasn't made a Membership Plan please look at the Membership Team Guide and make a Membership Plan for the year and execute it. Talk to our Dept. Membership Chairman for more information. We are all here to help out. Congratulations to Post #187 Deland; leading all Posts in Florida with 80.9% in membership! BRAVO ZULU!

Don't forget to get your Program Chairman's list (Located in the 2013-2014 Post Administrative Manual) please get it into Dept. ASAP! You cannot do the Programs if you don't have the information. I highly recommend you place a name by every program - you don't have to do it. By placing a name down, your Post will get a chairman's packet for that program and take that packet to your Membership meeting as there just may be a member interested in that program. Also, you can write a little blurb in your Newsletter on each program to see if someone may be interested. You can do it the next year! This is what is great about Volunteerism, you won't know if you have someone if you don't ASK!

Speaking of Programs, we have a new Coloring Book called "Making a Difference for Veterans" that you can purchase for our school kids anytime. It is also great as you can take pages that are colored and hang them up in Veterans nursing homes or even at the VA or your Post. You can judge them and have a contest.

Don't forget about the 12th Anniversary of the tragic events on 9-11-01. Help in planning your Post-District events of this Holiday and all Patriotic Holiday's like POW/MIA Remembrance Day; Halloween, Veterans Day; Pearl Harbor Day and many more. We are getting ready to attend the National Convention in Houston, TX. When these Legionnaires get back pick their brains on what they learned during this convention. "For God and Country"

Did You Know:
"Bravo Zulu"



Bravo Zulu is a naval signal, typically conveyed by flag hoist or voice radio, meaning "Well Done"; in addition to U.S. naval forces, it has also been used as part of vernacular slang within NATO and other Allied naval forces. It can be combined with the "negative" signal, spoken or written NEGAT, to say "NEGAT Bravo Zulu", or "not well done".

"Bravo Zulu" is defined by the Allied Naval Signal Book (ACP 175 series), an international naval signal code adopted after the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was created during 1949. Until then, each Navy had used its own signal code and operational manuals. World War II experience had shown that it was difficult or impossible for ships of different navies to operate together unless they could communicate readily, and ACP 175 was designed to remedy this.

In addition to flag hoist and voice radio, use of the term Bravo Zulu has also been extended in contemporary times to include written correspondence and message traffic from senior naval officers (i.e., captains and flag officers) to congratulate or otherwise compliment contemporaries or juniors, to include their subordinate crews or commands, for outstanding performance.

*If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten
that we belong to each other.*

~ Mother Teresa ~

Steven Newman
Department Chaplain
Chaplain@legionmail.org

Chaplains Steve's Spiritual Corner

"A Merry Heart Doeth Good Like a Medicine" Proverbs 17:22

God bless and hello my fellow Legionnaires. Spiritual humor strengthens us with physical vitality. It expands the heart, and, by distracting the mind, relieves us of the spiritual and psychological forces that cause anxiety. This is achieved through moral guidance and the religious teaching we have received from the prophets. When I say humor, I am referring to joyful, therapeutic humor; humor that lifts us up. Humor and laughter have everything to do with God, humor has a legacy found in thousands of years of human spirituality history. Webster's defines the term laugh as "showing emotion with a chuckle or explosive vocal sound". In short laughter is breath and energy. Sarah declared, "God has brought me laughter. All who hear about this will laugh with me." Genesis 21:6

"Before you criticize someone you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes." God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have "ever-laughing" life. A five-year-old's version of John 3:16. The Lord will rejoice over you in great gladness: he will renew you with his love; he will exult over you with happy songs, he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival. Zeph 3:17-18. Debunk the myths that you don't deserve joy. Exercise forgiveness for yourself and others. Heal-emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

Scripture teaches us that joy is our birthright. God has made this day for us. Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be all right, and the determined choice to praise God in all things. The Word of God. The Lord is my strength and shield, I trust him with all my heart, He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving. Psalms 26:7. For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven, a time to cry and a time to laugh. "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength. I will convert their weeping into laughter, lavishing comfort, invading their grief with joy. Jeremiah 31:13 He tends his flock like a shepherd He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart Isaiah 40:11

*We lost a great man, a Legionnaire, Robert Proctor. Keep him, his loving wife and family in your thoughts and prayers.

God bless you and may He brighten your days with his deep loving kindness. Everyday, Everyday, Everyday Keep up the faith - For "God and Country"



Walt 'Sandman' Eatman
Department Sgt-at-Arms

To all my friends and fellow Legionnaires of the State of Florida

I want to thank you for your support and confidence to allow me the privilege to serve you as your Department Sgt-at-Arms for the year 2013-2014.

We have just finished up our Area Training sessions and it has been a bitter sweet month. The great success we had in training was followed with the passing of a good friend and mentor to the State of Florida; NEC Bob Proctor. He will be dearly missed. He would want us to carry on as we are headed to the National Convention in Houston. I will begin my district visits when we return.

I would like to ask the District Commanders of my confirmed visits to ask their post Sgt-at-Arms to attend so we can get together. I want to make sure we are consistent with the duties and protocol of their office. For God and Country

Sue Mason
Department Historian

Calling all Historians:

NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION OF POST OR DISTRICT HISTORY BOOKS FOR JUDGING.

Due a variety of reasons, books **MUST** be received by 1 June 2014 at Department Headquarters, not at my home address. The earlier suspense date will allow me to sit down in the relative calm of Department Headquarters to judge each book not during the chaos of Convention.

Bowing to everyone's request, every book will have a written critique available at Convention (they will not be on display with the book; you will have to get it from me).

Also, District Historians are invited to submit books for judging in their category. Since National doesn't recognize District books, the winner will not be sent to Indianapolis.

Finally, I hope all Historians can attend the Historian's Workshop at Fall Conference (check the Department website for time and place). I will have handouts available as always. For those of you who will not be able to attend, you can contact me at wacsma-son@aol.com with your snail-mail address and I will send you the packet.

55% Goal

October 2, 2013

Membership Report as of August 27, 2013

District/ Area	Commander	Goal	Rec'd	% Goal
6	Thomas Biddle	10777	3215	29.83
4	Charles Ferguson	4198	1206	28.73
5	Thomas Gora	7810	2196	28.12
17	Dorothy Moore	4152	1135	27.34
12	Ken Wakefield	8442	2187	25.91
9	John Vazquez	4349	1058	24.33
8	Mitch Reinhardt	8255	1893	22.93
11	Frank Maitland	4168	943	22.63
1	Jimmy Martin	5888	1329	22.57
16	Sidney Damsgard	12028	2670	22.20
13	John Dollinger	8811	1743	19.78
15	Eunice Butts	5329	1024	19.22
3	Randall White	1946	286	14.70
14	Gary Decker	3026	417	13.78
7	Charles Giffin	3911	312	7.98
2	Willie Jackson	1373	100	7.28
Eastern	Robert Kiley	19219	5402	28.11
Northern	Michael Wolohan	18106	4823	26.64
SW	Debra Roush	17066	3636	21.31
Southern	William Johnson	11543	2418	20.952
Western	Verna Joyce	7261	1429	19.68
Central	James Burgess	21268	4006	18.84
Dept			21714	
Post 400		12067	5246	43.47
Post 208		3181	1112	34.96
Totals		109880	28072	25.55

Douglas Deierlein
SKCS (SW/AW) USN, Ret.
Membership Chairman
ddeierlein@yahoo.com

Hello Florida Legionnaires,

Well September is here and our 50% for membership goal is set for September 4th. I hope everyone is working hard towards that goal as it would be great to show the Nation that Florida is on the top again. So "Shoot for the Stars" and Get-r-done. We completed the Area training courses last month and I want to thank everyone who attended the course. I am sure you all enjoyed the course as it very informative and let you know the direction Florida is headed this year.

Now the fun begins. I will be traveling across the state to District and Post meetings and doing my part to assist you all with membership. I have 6 trips planned between now and Fall Conference. I still have dates available if you require my assistance. Please feel free to contact me and if my calendar is open I will be there. Remember membership is a team effort and we are all part of the Membership Team for the State of Florida. Our Second Dues notice will be going out on the 1st of October, so we can expect the second big wave of renewal to begin in early October.

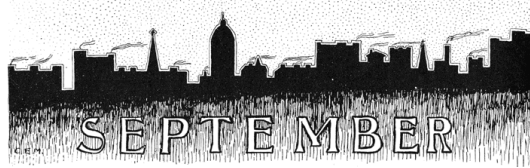
At this time I would like to thank the Department Membership staff for the great job they have been doing so far this year with processing the 2014 membership. BRAVO ZULU girls, Thanks! Remember our Department Commander's goal to fly is 108% and at 110% our favorite JAR HEAD (Mike McDaniel) gets to fly. So please work hard to insure that both of them get a chance to feel the wind beneath their wings! So until next month lets "Shoot for the Stars" and Get-r-Done!

ATTENTION ALL POST COMMANDERS

Has your Post Boys State Chairman, Oratorical Chairman, or Blood Donor Chairman received their manuals from Department?? Have any of your Post Chairmen received the most updated information on their program from Department?? If not, please send pages 13-15 from the Post Administrative Manual to Department. If you cannot find this manual, email cpolk@floridalegion.org.

TAPS by Robert Brewster

It is with regret that I report the passing of Leo Espe, a career Navy veteran. Leo was a past Commander at Post 250-Middleburg, FL. He also was a past 5th District Commander. He held many chairman positions in the 5th District. According to PNC Clarence Hill, Leo gave him his closest race ever in any position when they both ran for Northern Area Commander. Leo was a giant of a man, both in size and ability. He was my first and most important mentor during my first 5 years of being active in the American Legion. He was my Adjutant and advisor all through my 4 years as Post Commander at Post 250 and was also my District Adjutant while I was 5th District Commander. He won the 2nd highest award that the Department of Florida gives out to Legionnaires (the Billy



Steve Shuga

**Children & Youth Program Commission Chairman
cy@legionmail.org**

The Department Commander's "Quarters for COTA" fund drive is in full swing. COTA - "Children's Organ Transplant Association" assists patients (children and young adults) who require a life-saving organ, bone marrow, cord blood or stem cell transplant. Your collected loose change will increase the funding to ensure that every child gets a square deal. Please do your part! Contact your District Commander for additional information.

Monthly Program Reminder

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. Important C&Y Program Dates

Florida's Children & Youth Fund Grant applications due to Dept. HQ anytime now but no later than May 1, 2013. Grant requirements are located under Department of Florida Programs Link - Children and Youth Fund on Department website.

September Holidays

- 2 - Labor Day
- 8 - National Grandparents Day
- 11 - Patriot Day
- 16 - American Legion Day
- 20 - National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 29 - Gold Star Mother's Day

The month of September is also known as: Classical Music, Hispanic Heritage, Fall Hat, International Square Dancing, National Blueberry Popsicle, National Courtesy, National Piano, Chicken, Baby Safety, Little League, Honey, Self Improvement, and Better Breakfast Month. (www.holidayinsights.com)

"From The Desk of The Department Judge Advocate" Larry Sheets



I hate to repeat myself however there are a lot of Posts who have not updated and amended their Post Constitution and By-Laws in a few years. National recommends that a Post update its Constitution and By-Laws every three years.

When you send your updated or amended Constitution and By-Laws in, please make sure they are neat, legible, and readable. Type up a new set with the changes in them, and include a set with a straight line drawn through the words being changed, and type the new wordage below.

Also please include a copy of the letter that was sent to all of the Post Members advising them of the meetings at which the amendments were read, and the date they were voted on. Also include a copy of the minutes of the meeting where the amendments were voted on.

There is a template for a Post Constitution and By-laws in the Post Officers Guide that you can go by if needed, and remember, that even if the amended version is approved by the Post Membership, you must still operate in accordance with the old Constitution and By-Laws until the new ones are approved by Department.

Once they are received at Department Headquarters, they will be checked and returned to you as soon as possible.

Veterans Benefits

**John Ebling
Department Chairman**

A few years ago the VA did something never done before. If a Veteran has been diagnosed with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, that Veterans is eligible to fill a claim for service connected disability. What is unique about this condition is that it doesn't matter where or when the Veteran served. Furthermore, if a Veteran passed away as a result of this condition, the widow is eligible to file a claim for service connected death benefits. Contact your local County Veterans Service Officer for more details and application.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day



Stanley Gold
National Legislative Chairman

LEGION-RELATED LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS
CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS

The Senate and House of Representatives are on district/state work period and will return to Capitol Hill on September 9. The National Commander testifies before a Joint Senate and House Veterans' Affairs committees hearing on September 10 beginning at 10:15 a.m. in Room G-50 in the Dirksen Senate Office Building. All the Legion family is invited to attend.

President Enacts Veterans' Measures

On August 9, President Obama signed into law P.L. 113-27, the Helping Heroes Fly Act. This measure would update the Wounded Warriors Screening Program established in 2005 to let disabled veterans and severely injured service members request expedited screening from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The bill would direct the assistant secretary of Homeland Security for TSA to develop ways of easing airport screenings. Nothing in the bill would prohibit more security screening of a service member if law enforcement officials deemed it necessary. As amended by the Senate, the bill would not allow expedited screening for family members accompanying the veterans and service members. Under the amendment by Sen. Mark Pryor (AR), family could still contact the TSA to make arrangements for the military personnel covered by the program. The Senate passed the amended bill on August 1, with the House agreeing to the Senate version on August 2.

Also on August 9 the President signed into law P.L. 113-26, the Formerly Owned Resources for Veterans to Express Thanks for Service Act of 2013 or, more simply, the FOR VETS Act of 2013. The FOR VETS Act of 2013 was introduced by Rep. Dan Benishek (MI). This legislation will add veteran services to the list of eligible uses for surplus federal property offered to not-for-profit groups through the Federal Surplus Personal Property Donation Program. When federal agencies no longer need property like office supplies, furniture and motor vehicles, the surplus items are eligible to be donated to public service organizations for education or health care related services. In 2010, Congress added veteran service organizations to the list of eligible organizations. However, under current law veteran service organizations cannot receive surplus property to use toward the full range of services they provide to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE DIVISION ACTIONS

On Friday, August 9, a Legislative Action Alert was issued to mobilize grassroots supporters to meet with their Members of Congress during the August recess and call for the repeal of sequestration. Continued sequestration threatens readiness, pay, family programs, and earned health care and retirement benefits for retirees and survivors. The cuts will require massive force cuts and involuntary separations. ACTION NEEDED: Pass an alternative debt reduction deal – don't put debt reduction burden on the backs of those who have served.

On Monday, August 12, Legislative and VA & R staff met with staffers of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs (DAMA) to discuss an upcoming hearing on the Fully Developed Claim (FDC) process, a process in which The American Legion's service officers have been intricately involved. The subcommittee staff was gathering information regarding The American Legion's position on FDCs, as well as thoughts on the way that the FDC process was being carried out. The hearing will be held in early September.

On Wednesday, August 14, Legislative staff attended the meeting of the Department of Veteran Affairs Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education (VACE). The meeting was held in order to discuss the administration of education and training programs for veterans, servicepersons, Reservists, and dependents of veterans. Items specifically discussed were: updates on the Post 9/11 GI Bill; VA's implementation of Executive Order 13607 and Public Law 112-249; VA's partnership with Student Veterans of America and the National Student Clearing House; and, the redesign of the Transition Assistance Program.

On Thursday, August 15, Legislative staff met with a staffer for Senator Mary Landrieu to discuss the Flag Protection Amendment and to request that the senator sign on as a cosponsor. Legislative staff also plans to meet with Sen. Orrin Hatch, the amendment sponsor, about the possibility of pursuing an amendment with alternative language with a new sponsor, not in lieu of his, but as a dual track strategy, until such time as circumstances are more propitious for a successful vote on his original amendment.

Update on Flag Amendment Bills

On May 22, House Joint Resolution (H.J. Res.) 47 was introduced by Rep. Spencer Bachus (AL). 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 measure currently has 17 cosponsors.

On June 13, Sen. Orrin Hatch (UT) introduced Senate Joint Resolution (S.J. Res.) 17, a companion measure. This measure currently has 21 cosponsors.

The task before us now is finding additional cosponsors for these two measures. Please contact your representative and senators, and ask them to become cosponsors of the flag amendment in their respective chambers. [Resolution 272-2012]



Stanley Gold and his wife Judy want to thank all of you for the prayers, calls and cards



Stanley Gold and the new National Commander Dan Dellinger



National Legislative Meeting
Stanley Gold giving prayer
Address of the National Commander

**Dianne Thibodeau, Chairman
Special Olympics**

Greetings: By now I hope you've had a chance to read the memo that was sent to each post and placed on the legion web page. It explained a little about Special Olympics and what criteria they use for awards. It also gives the web site for Florida Special Olympics. If you follow their web site, you will find out what events they have as well as how to contact the local coordinator.

As I learn about large events, I will be sending emails to the District and Area Commanders looking for support. I am asking them to forward the email to the posts in their area as well as whomever they feel might be interested. Hopefully there is at least a Special Olympics Chairman for each District if not at the post level.

Are you having a special event to raise money for The Special Olympics? Let me know. Squadron 117, in District 12, is having a Poker Run (November 2nd) as well as the normal 50/50, food, etc. They hope to top the amount raised last year. They invite the local Special Olympics to come. They bring a couple athletes and set up a table to sell their t-shirts. It's a Win/Win situation.

If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me by phone or email. Diannethib@bellsouth.net. (321) 733-4951 (home) (561) 315-0679 (cell)

ROTC/SHOOTING SPORTS

Loretta Young

Department of FL ROTC/JROTC/Shooting Sports Chair

We are at the beginning of the new semester for our youth programs. All of the schools should now be back in session. This is the time to get to the JROTC Units and introduce yourself to the instructors and let them know that your post is supporting their programs. They have a very hectic schedule so it's best to reach them first by email and then make the personal visit.

Deadlines are strict throughout the year. Sometimes there is only a short window to get the event/program on their time line. Shooting sports postal target order forms will be on the National American Legion website to download and complete and return to National Headquarters. They are due at the beginning of January so it's best to get the form to the instructors as soon as they are posted.

Stay involved with the Units and the cadets in the JROTC program throughout the year. Invite them to your post and have them assist you wherever needed. They can use the volunteer community service hours.

For all of our new District ROTC/JROTC/Shooting Sports Chairmen, a big welcome. If you should need my help at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have a special event coming up, please let me know. If you attend a special event and have pictures, please send me a copy. Let's have a great year for our program and remember to make those reports at the end of the year. Department of Florida should be a leader in ROTC/JROTC as we have one of the largest programs in the country. Have a great year everyone!

Law and Order

Tom Gora, Department Chairman

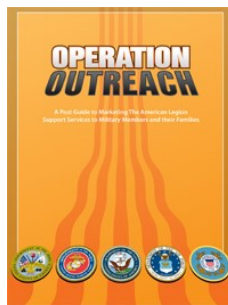
Every single time Legionnaires recite the Preamble we speak the words "law and order." What does this mean in the Preamble?

We live in a nation controlled by laws. Law and order protect our pursuit of happiness, one of our God given rights. Members of The American Legion served in wars to uphold law and order among nations. It is just as important to maintain the due processes of law in our domestic affairs. It binds Legionnaires to obey the laws of the land and to support the constituted authorities in enforcing those laws.

The Department encourages each Post to hold an annual Awards Ceremony to honour the Law Enforcement, Firefighter, EMTs, and Paramedic personnel, who live and work in your community. Don't forget those professionals who work in the corrections field as well. These professionals may be paid or volunteer employees. You can give a certificate to each honoree, or ask the Chief or co-workers of each agency to select their outstanding professional to receive your certificate, plaque or other award. If your Post can afford a dinner to honour these people hey that's a great thing to do along with the awards! Don't forget to include the families of our First Responders in your celebrations.

For 30 years I said good bye to my dad when he went to work as a Chicago Fire Fighter. It does not dawn on you until much later in life that each and every time a family member says goodbye to a law enforcement officer or fire fighter that this could have been their final good bye. These folks put their lives on the line for us every day!

My 30 year career as a federal law enforcement officer coupled with my service in the United States Air Force, was the best time of my life! As I continue to function as a consultant in the law enforcement field I am amazed at the amount of dedicated and unselfish first responders I meet on almost a daily basis. Plenty of them reside right here in Florida! So let's not forget to honour these folks who, whenever they leave for work, face the possibility of giving their all, including their lives, to "serve and protect" us. Not many can answer that call! That is one heck of a commitment to make to serve your community! Let's not forget these brave men and women! I will be attending a Law Enforcement/Firefighters Recognition ceremony and dinner at Palm Valley Post 233, September 14th and would be happy to attend yours if you let me know when and where they are scheduled.



Military Liaison

Jim Ramos

militaryliaison@legionmail.org

We are now into the new membership year and ready for new members! We are ready to help our fellow veterans and their families. How can we do this? With Operation Outreach! This valuable program can help your Post recruit new members. Operation Outreach is an opportunity to meet the leadership of the nearby military bases. By contacting the Commanding Officers of the local National Guard, Reserve and Active Duty components we can reconnect with our military and highlight who we are and identify the Four Pillars of the American Legion:

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
National Security
Americanism
Children & Youth

While we are not looking for membership right away we want to be there to support the troops and their families. Please contact me when you are ready to meet with the military leaders, as I would like to be there with you if at all possible.

To fully understand Operation Outreach – visit <http://www.legion.org/membership/reconnect>. This informative website will detail the steps of the program and provide access to the Operation Outreach booklet. Everything you need is detailed in the booklet. It is an easy program to do and it will help with membership. If you need help contact me at militaryliaison@legionmail.org or jramos149@bellsouth.net and /or call 352-226-4370.

And don't forget to check out your Public Relations Kit.

AMERICANISM

Steve Barentine

Americanism Chairman

With September comes two important days on the American Legion calendar. Both of those days are great opportunities to get the American Legion more in the public eye and promote Americanism in your community. September 16th is American Legion Day where the Post might be able to interact with the community, possibly by attending the city or county council meetings and receiving a Proclamation while letting them know the kinds of activities the Post is providing to assist veterans in the community. September 20th is POW/MIA Recognition Day and the public should know that the American Legion is "sparing no effort to secure the release of any American Prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing."

September 4th Fun Facts

1993 **Baseball** Despite being born missing his right hand, Jim Abbott pitches a no-hitter for the New York Yankees against Cleveland (4-0).

1972 **Mark Spitz** wins his seventh gold medal in the 1972 Olympics, the record for any one Olympiad.

1957 **Edsel** E-Day, the official release of the automobile that would come to symbolize a flop in popular culture.

1957 **Civil Rights** Under orders from the governor, the Arkansas National Guard prevents nine blacks from entering all-white Central High School in Little Rock.

1954 **Captain Midnight** debuts on CBS.

1951 **First transcontinental U.S. TV broadcast** Pres. Truman's address at the signing of the Japanese Peace Treaty is broadcast.

1900 **Typhoid Mary** First known case of typhoid attributed to Typhoid Mary (Mary Mallon). She was suspected of causing 53 cases of the disease while working as a cook.

1893 **Peter Rabbit created** The fictional foe of Mr. McGregor is created when Beatrix Potter writes a letter to a friend about four little rabbits named Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail, and Peter.

1886 **Apache Indian chief Geronimo surrenders** to General Nelson A. Miles in Arizona. The Chiricahua Apaches were then forced to resettle in Florida.

1833 **First U.S. newsboy** 10-year-old Barney Flaherty is hired by the *New York Sun*.

1781 **City of Los Angeles** is founded.

1639 **Massachusetts makes it illegal to drink toasts** The felt it was a useless ceremony; the law was repealed in 1645.

Mike Wolohan,
Northern Area Commander
pappywolohan@aol.com

Fellow Legionnaires: I salute you. Being part of the largest veteran's organization in the world is an honor and serving is a privilege. I have been a member since 1968 and proudly show my card at each Post I visit. I hope you do the same and make sure the card you carry has 2014 on it. Pay your dues today and help your Post reach the goals that we are tasked with over the course of 2013-2014. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization, like you haven't heard that before.

Not only is it important for our Department but National as well. The numbers totaled are reported to the US Congress annually. The numbers not only give us strength but the power to keep our Congress/Senate/President thinking about how to treat our Veterans, their families and provide all of us with the much needed benefits we have all earned by serving this great Nation. Get your dues in today and help our numbers grow once again to that 3 million mark. For God and Country

John Dollinger
13th District, Commander

Primary district activity in September is the District Meeting on Sept. 22nd at Post 274. The District Boys State Chairman and Oratorical Chairman will talk about programs and schedules. The District Disaster Preparedness Chairman will discuss his plans. 13th District plans to have two shopping mall Membership Recruiting Activities in October/November. As always, Thanks for the assistance.



Steve Shuga
Florida American Legion
Press Association
FALPA President



We are off on an exciting journey. Your Florida American Legion Press Association (FALPA) maintains a strong desire to increase our presence around the state through its membership, creating a variety of media resources and articles.

Post newsletters are strongly encouraged to have members obtain their FALPA and NALPA credentials. Newsletters can then be stamped with the FALPA and NALPA logos. Your Post Press Associates contribute articles, stories that energize your membership to read and get involved. A copy of your monthly Post newsletter is requested so we can compile a historical documented package of what our American Legion Family expresses to its membership around the state.

FALPA Newsletter is published quarterly and provides a variety of articles across the American Legion spectrum that interests our members.

NALPA – National American Legion Press Association's annual dues are \$15. FALPA - Florida American Legion Press Association annual dues are \$5. If you're a current member, I encourage you to renew your FALPA and NALPA dues to continue the great work you have contributed in keeping the Legionnaire family informed. If your wanting to join, seek out the Post's FALPA/NALPA associate for an application.

The dues offset the costs of postage, materials, and awards. FALPA/NALPA Press Passes are provided with your current memberships as credentials to use when collecting data and taking pictures to support articles related to The American Legion and its programs. Please join FALPA & NALPA. You'll be glad you did – we guarantee it!

News and Events from the Mighty Ninth District

By: 9th District Commander John P. Vazquez

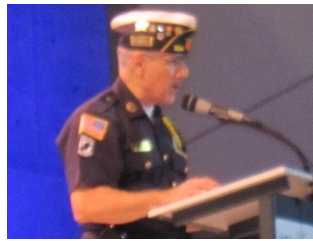
Greetings Legionnaires!

The mighty 9th District kicks off its September events by presenting its annual 9-11 Memorial Concert at the ArtsPark (Young Circle) in Hollywood, Florida.

The date & time of the event is Wednesday evening, September 11th at 7:30 PM and features our own 9th District American Legion Symphonic Band, 70 members strong.

The event is held in tandem with the Broward County Sheriff's Office and the Hollywood Police and Fire Departments.

Also featured is world renowned vocalist James Perkowski, the BSO Honor Guard and the Florida Police Pipe and Drum Corp



This memorable concert is presented free to the public and pays homage to those lost on September 11, 2001. The honors portion is always a moving spectacle with the many rotating lights from emergency vehicles and the BSO flyover during the gun salute.

The second half of the concert is a salute to our Armed Forces and veterans.

Commanders, please mark this event on your calendar and make every effort to have your post represented. Your members will thank you.

On September 12th, 13th, and 14th, our esteemed Department Commander Art Schwabe will be visiting our district to make the rounds of as many post as we can squeeze in to his schedule. He will also be visiting the Alexander "Sandy" Nininger Veterans Nursing Home in Pembroke Pines where he will have lunch with the many residing veterans.

The 9th District will be completing its installation of officers this month and working to infuse two posts who have requested revitalization with renewed vigor. The following post will be installed on the given dates and times: Post 385, Tuesday Sept.3rd at 7pm; Post 223, Thursday Sept.5th at 7pm; Post 365, Sunday Sept. 15th at 3pm; and Post 178, Thursday Sept. 26th at 7pm.

As an added treat, Post 304 in Dania Beach will be having an open house to the public on Friday, Sept. 5th from 7 to 11pm featuring a unique band created at the post called the "Legion Blues Band" If you like to dance to the sounds of great Rock/Blues & Country, make it a point to attend. Dinner is from 6 to 9 with Prime Rib on the menu.

Last, but not least to round out the month, the Mighty 9th will have a district meeting on Sunday, Sept. 29th at 2pm. Post 222 in Oakland Park will be the host.

3rd District

What's happening to the Third District in Florida?

- ◇ Post 195 in Monticello on 31 August 2013 - there will be a fireworks display that was rained out on the Fourth of July this year. Come to Monticello to support your fellow Legionnaires. See a spectacular fireworks display that will blow you away. Monticello is located north of I-10 just east of Tallahassee.
- ◇ Post 393 in Old town - There is too much going on to list in this post. They are holding all sorts of dinners, luncheons and events for their expected new building. They've made great progress but need support, so go visit Old town to help out today! They are located off SR 98 near the CR 349 intersection.
- ◇ Post 107 in Live Oak 05 October 2013 - there will be an all-out cookout, there will be tons of fun for the whole family: bounce house, dunking booth, and a raffle for a Mossberg model 500 Pump action 12 GA shotgun. Contact Post 107 in Live Oak for more details. Located south of Live Oak off of CR 129 on 142nd St.

Other posts in the 3rd district are in Cherry Lake, Madison, Jasper, Steinhatchee, Greenville, MacClenny, Perry and Lake City.

Our Next District meeting will be on Nov 2 2013 at Post 291 Steinhatchee 12:30. Give the 3rd District a visit today.

NOW AVAILABLE HALLOWEEN COLORING BOOKS

By your request, the Department has Halloween Coloring Books available for purchase and distribution to the Elementary classrooms in your area. The order form is on page 12 of the Post Administrative Manual. Supplies are limited—get them while they last! The cost remains \$20.00 per 100 books. If you have any questions, contact Jackie at Department, 800.393.3378x221 or jgonzalez@floridalegion.org.

Dottie Moore
17th District Commander

I am happy to say, we are off and running in the 17th District! Installations are complete and we have had our first District meeting on August 4, 2013. The District 17 team and I have done everything possible to ensure that each of you have the information you need to contact any one of your District 17 Officers and District 17 Committee Chairmen. These contacts should be your first line of contact for assistance. I thank you for your sincere trust and confidence to elect me as your 17th District Commander and I carefully selected this team to assist me in meeting the needs of your posts and the needs of our Department. Teamwork and communication is the key to our success!

The first challenge we face each and every year is MEMBERSHIP. Membership is the life line of your post. If you get your membership on track, all of your other programs will prosper if you have the membership to support them. Take the time put a Membership Drive Team together that will invest the Time and Effort necessary to get your post to 100% by December 31, 2013! That is an aggressive goal, but I am confident WE can do it. Talk to each other, look at the membership reports and find out what the Posts that are on track are doing to make the difference. Challenge each one of your active members to bring in ONE NEW MEMBER. Reward them with an Early Bird Dinner or Discounted Membership next year or other incentives that your Membership Drive Team can come up with.

Some of the other programs that need your attention now, at the beginning of the year, are Boys State and Oratorical. Start now, don't wait until it is too late and you miss deadlines and miss the opportunity to offer these wonderful programs to the youth in your communities. All you have to do is appoint a lead in your Post for that program and work with your District Committee Chairman to get it going. Please continue to push the Department Commander's charity, Quarters for COTA, at every function in your post. You will be amazed how much each and every one of those quarters will add up to if you pass that COTA can at each function.

I would like to remind everyone that September 20th is National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Take the time to pay tribute in some way. One really nice method to pay tribute is to explain the meaning behind the POW/MIA displays in your Post. You would be surprised how many Veterans may not know. Finally, don't forget our next three important dates:

The Mighty 5th District
Tom Gora, Commander

The Mighty 5th District is off to a good start for the 2013-2014 year. Installation ceremonies are done and I thank all Posts for putting up with my hectic schedule and for all the hospitality shown after the installation ceremonies. As reflected on the 8/22/13 Department membership report The District has met the 50% membership goal required by September 4th. This year began with a successful and informative Northern Area Training session held on June 22, 2013 hosted by Post 137 and attended by more than 60 Legionnaires. The District is now scheduling this training with all District Posts who would like to have it.

On June, 2013 I was honoured to attend the 5th Anniversary of the 4th Fleet at Mayport Naval Station. It was interesting to hear just how much the 4th Fleet has to do on the war on drugs on our high seas with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Navies from several South American Countries. The 5th District continues to conduct monthly District meetings scheduled on the second Sunday of the month and District Posts rotate as hosts for these meetings.

Congratulations to the Post 88 Legion Baseball Team which won the Department of Florida championship only to lose in the Regionals. The team was recognized with a celebration at Post 88 on August 24th. If you would like to see how a successful charitable poker run is done come to the 6th Annual "Peds Care" Poker Run sponsored by ALR Chapter 283 on Saturday, September 28, 2013. The money raised by this event, over \$100,000 in the past 5 years, goes to the community pediatric hospice program. The 5th District will have its annual picnic on October 5, 2013 at Post 137 and all are welcome to attend. This Post has an "in the ground pool," outside stage, and tiki bar along with parking for up to 6 RVs.

On November 8, 2013 we will experience our 1st mass ceremony at the Jacksonville National Cemetery when 12 veteran cremains identified by the Missing in America Project (MIAP) will be laid to rest with full military honours. All are invited to attend, Friday, November 8, 2013 at 1 p.m. or 1300 whichever you prefer, you'll get there at the right time. The 5th District is preparing for Commander Art Schwabe's December visit which will feature a Pearl Harbor Day ceremony at Mayport Naval Station on December 7, 2013, a tour of the Lassen Veteran's Home in St. Augustine, laying a Christmas Wreath at the Fernandina Beach Veterans Memorial Park and much more!

*I am a great believer in luck. I find that the
harder I work the more I have of it.*

~ Thomas Jefferson ~

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION RIDERS VISIT KEY WEST

by
Dan Dedeo, Director, ALR Chapter 28



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION RIDERS ON BIKES PROVIDED BY KEYS CYCLES

On Saturday, August 24th, eight Royal British Legion Riders (RBLR), led by RPO Dylan "Dill" Roberts, accompanied by 18 American Legion Riders (ALR) from Chapter 28 and their guests rode up the Keys to enjoy the beautiful panoramas US 1 has to offer. The RBLR's are crewmembers of the HMS ARGYLL (F231) which was in Key West for a port visit after conducting maritime security operations with Joint Inter Agency Task Force South (JIATFS).

After meeting up at the American Legion Post 28 on Stock Island the Riders headed up to Hog Heaven for lunch. Mounting up after lunch we made stops at the Marathon American Legion Post 154, Looe Key Tiki Bar and VFW Post 3911. The VFW were gracious hosts so we spent the next several hours trading sea stories and enjoying the camaraderie that can only come when similar people have been in similar situations. Many a glass was hoisted to toast the various military organizations and, of course, British and American national leaders.

Both Riders groups exchanged tokens of appreciation and Tim Tribou, an Officer of the VFW, loaded up the RBLR's to bring them back to their vessel. A good time was had by all and everyone made it to their final destinations safe and sound. Long live the Queen!

To our veterans and friends of veterans.....

My name is Sean Gibbs and I am the Volunteer Coordinator for this year's event. As you may know, for the past few years Homeless Services Network has helped coordinate the Orlando Veteran Stand Down. This year is no exception. We are expecting 300-350 veterans in need of services this year and we need 300 volunteers and approximately \$5,500 in donations to make it a successful event.

Information for the 2013 Orlando Veteran Stand Down:

When: Saturday September 28th, 2013 (9am - 3pm)

Where: Downtown Orlando Recreation Center
649 W. Livingston St., Orlando, FL 32801

Volunteer Training: Wednesday May 25th, 2013
12pm - 1pm or 6pm - 7pm

Volunteer Training Location:
Downtown Orlando Recreation Center
649 W. Livingston St., Orlando, FL 32801

ORATORICAL Contest Dates

Must be completed by:

Posts - January 12, 2014

Districts - February 2, 2014

Areas - February 23, 2014

Dept. - March 8, 2014