



# THE LEGION LINK

COMMUNICATION ★ DEDICATION ★ EDUCATION



SEPTEMBER 2018

COMMANDER DIANNE BOLAND

VOL. 27 ISSUE 2

## From Your Department Commander Dianne Boland

[commander@floridalegion.org](mailto:commander@floridalegion.org)



July was a very busy month. After the convention I stopped at post 69 and post 130 on my way home. I had a couple days to breathe a little

then onto installations at many posts. I was invited to attend a Fund-Raising Event held in Cape Canaveral for the Homeless. PDC Al Dudley "Gunner" thought he was just escorting me onto the podium so I could speak. What he didn't realize was he was the one that needed escorting. He was awarded the prestigious "2018 Community Service Award" for all the wonderful work he does for our homeless.

I was given the honor of installing the post commander at Post 19 in Orlando as well as all the post officers at Post 13 in Tallahassee. I attended numerous other installations and the reception was outstanding at them all as well as the food. Thank you all for the hospitality you have shown me and Dennis, my "Designated Driver". Later in the month I met with the Governor at post 69 and got a chance to chat with him.

Next it was onto Tampa to attend the final game for Florida's American Legion Baseball Finals. Post 8 Winter Haven gave them a run for their money but Post 13 won 8 - 2 and will move onto the Regionals. If they move onto the American Legion World Series, I will be able to watch in person. Dennis and I will be attending all the games in Shelby, North Carolina. The rest of you, remember to watch on ESPN.

August started with the Leadership Retreat at Department Headquarters. Thanks to all who attended with a special thanks to all who were on the Agenda. Great job. A big thanks goes out to the Department Staff who supported this event. It was a couple days home again to do paperwork then some of us went onto the National Headquarters in Indianapolis for the Membership Workshop. Next is the baseball then onto the National Convention in Minneapolis. Visitations will begin in September. As we do visitations, we are going to be doing some training. Please contact your District Commander if there is any specific training you would like to receive.

### In This Edition....

- » Page 1 - Commander
- » Page 2 - 1st Vice
- » Page 3 - 2nd Vice, 3rd Vice
- » Page 4 - NEC, NECA, Sgt-at-Arms
- » Page 5 - Chaplain, Historian, Northern Area, Eastern Area
- » Page 6 - Southwestern Area, Western Area
- » Page 7 - District 11, District 17, Resolutions
- » Page 8 - Membership, Centennial
- » Page 9 - Americanism, Boys State
- » Page 10 - Baseball, Blood Donor
- » Page 11 - Children & Youth, Special Olympics
- » Page 12 - Immigration, VA Entitlements
- » Page 13 - Law & Order, Legion College
- » Page 14 - Legion Riders, Social Media
- » Page 15 - Military Liason, Security
- » Page 16 - Oratorical, POW/MIA
- » Page 17 - Public Relations
- » Page 18 - Scouting
- » Page 19 - ROTC/Shooting Sports
- » Page 20 - Youth Law Cadet, Post 115
- » Page 21 - Fundraising
- » Page 22 - PROJECT: VetRelief
- » Page 23 - Post Everlasting
- » Page 24 - Membership Target Report

**Tools for Success**

**Rick Johnson, 1st Vice Commander**

[1stvice@legionmail.org](mailto:1stvice@legionmail.org)



Sorry missed last month's article, so here we go. I hope all District Commanders and Chairman brought back to their areas, and started a plan for the year for the

membership. As we celebrate our 100th year, we need to start looking forward to the next 100 years. It is with leadership like yours that will move us forward. The District Commanders and above attended leadership training at Department with certain goals in mind.

Our Department leadership, just attended the National workshop and we will be putting out a lot of information passed down to us with training initiatives to be passed forward. Our Department Commander asked the leadership to take the Basic Training on line. This will make you a little bit smarter about our great organization and enable us to talk smart about the American Legion.

National has come out with some new materials for us to use from Post to

District levels. Post training in the box and District training in the box with four phases of training afford to us. Just send an e-mail to the Department Adjutant and request these training materials from National. Also starting in October, E-check will be available on [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org) to start paying for transmittals on line instead of snail mail. More information will be coming soon.

Also on My Legion, there is a new training tab for short how to videos on how to conduct training from post to district levels. So as you see, National is trying every possible way for us to succeed, all we have to do is use these tools they have afford to us. I will be putting all of this information more to the District and Area Commanders soon.

Still looking for those training plans I asked the District Commanders for. In September the Department Commander will be visiting the 14th and the 9th Districts Schedule should be coming out soon.

Thanks for all of your support throughout these past years and look forward in having a great year for 2018-2019. God spared to all and most of all HAVE FUN.

SEPTEMBER 2018	
1	Post Program Chair Form Due
3	Labor Day (HQ Closed)
5	Membership Goal 55%
9	Grandparent's Day
11	Patriot Day
13-16	Legion Family Cruise
15	Legion Link Articles Due
16	The American Legion Day
17	Citizenship/Constitution Day
18	Air Force Birthday
21	POW/MIA Recognition Day
21	Jr. Sports Dept Chair Conference ★
21-23	Children & Youth Conference ★🌟
23	First Day of Fall
24	Golf Tournament supporting PVR
28-30	Americanism Conference ★🌟
29	16th District Meeting & Picnic
29	12th District Picnic
30	Gold Star Mother's Day

🌟 - Commander Dianne Boland's Attendance Tentative.

★ - National Event

Events are subject to change. Additional details can be found at [www.floridalegion.org](http://www.floridalegion.org). We share the information we are provided, please contact Program, Area, District and Posts for additional details and events.

**Proceeds benefit Veterans and their families in the State of Florida.**

**Certificate of Exemptions**

There are a number of Posts that have expired Certificate of Exemptions on file at Department Headquarters. If you are one of those Posts, please make a copy of the Certificate and mail it to Department at PO Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32854-7859, so that the records may be updated.

There are also a number of Posts that have certificates that will expire in the near future, we will need to have a copy of those also. If you are not sure about your post, please contact Department Headquarters.

**100 Years Strong**

**Jerry Brandt, 2nd Vice Commander**  
[2ndvice@legionmail.org](mailto:2ndvice@legionmail.org)



Comrades, we are off to a great year, with the Legion Retreat, National Membership Workshop and National Convention in August. Currently every District is putting

together plans for training, and with a fresh outlook within the Districts this will be a great year.

Start planning your 100 Year Birthday Celebration, a little history, March 15th, 1919, members of the American

Expeditionary Force convene in Paris for the first American Legion Caucus. We inherited this organization that created the Veterans Administration in 1921, American Legion Baseball in 1925, and Boys State in 1935, and National High School Oratorical Contest in 1938, and the First GI Bill in 1944.

While we have the initial heroes that started the American Legion, we are still doing great things, American Legion push thru Congress in 2017, the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act, the Post GI Bill of 2009. And do not forget, 2014, The American Legion call for the resignation of VA

Secretary Eric Shinseki for problems within the VA System. You have a lot to be proud of, you are still a hero. When you see someone with a service hat, military bumper sticker, speak with them, and ask them to join you at your 100 Years Birthday Celebration.

The Department Commander will be visiting the 8th and 15th District in October. The District Commanders are currently planning the visits, with the Posts. If the Department Commander, Dianne Boland comes in, do not be shy, please visit with her, she is there for you. As always, thank you for your service

**Together We Stand**

**Eu nice Butts, 3rd Vice Commander**  
[3rdvice@legionmail.org](mailto:3rdvice@legionmail.org)



Greetings Legionaries by now most of the installations are done. We must now concentrate on our memberships, programs, etc. Our 55% membership goal is due September 5, 2018. The American Legion Day is celebrated on

September 16, 2018 and on September 21, 2018 is POW/MIA Recognition Day. Thanks to the western and northern areas for having all your obligations in and your calendars for the year. Together we should work together as a team for our post, district, area and zones.

The Western Area training will be held on September 22 and 23, 2018. The Commanders post visitation will be held in 3rd District on September 13-15 and

the 2nd District on September 19-22. District Commanders please get your proposed schedule to your area, zone and department commander for her visitation. Wishing each of you a very productive year in membership, programs, etc.

TOGETHER WE STAND AS A TEAM ZONE 1.

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
 DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA  
*Celebrating 100 Years!*  
 AVAILABLE ONLINE

AVAILABLE IN 999 SILVER

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT CENTENNIAL PIN

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT CENTENNIAL COIN

**Get Out The Vote**

**Dennis Boland, NEC**

[nec@legionmail.org](mailto:nec@legionmail.org)



The American Legion urges all eligible citizens to register and to vote in all elections at all levels, including federal, states and local elections.

As a 501 (c) (19) organization, The

American Legion can engage in political activities but must avoid partisan politics.

Permissible activities for 501 (c) (19) organization include.

1. Conducting voter registration & nonpartisan GOTV campaigns: educating the public on issues and encourage participation
2. Educating all candidates and political

- parties on issues or positions of the organization.
3. Hosting or participating in a nonpartisan candidate forum. All candidates must receive the same invitation to participate when hosting a forum
4. Making presentations on the Legion's positions on issues to platform committees, campaign staff, candidates, media and the general public.
5. Working on behalf of any germane ballot measures.
6. Continuing normal lobbying on issues germane to the organization

Activities not permissible for 501 (c) (19) organization includes

1. Endorsing or opposing a candidate for public office
2. Coordinating activities with a candidate

3. Making contributions (money, time or facilities) to a candidate
4. Managing, funding or organizing a Political Action Committee

When conducting candidate forums and debates, it is recommended that the emblem and post colors be removed to avoid any impression of endorsement of a particular candidate.

Volunteers working on a Legion-sponsored registration and voting drives should not wear campaign buttons/ stickers or communicate their personal views about candidates, parties and issues. This does not mean that members are forbidden to show partisanship. Legionnaires may express partisan views, but they must do so without wearing the Legion cap or other Legion attire and without a direct connection to an American Legion Post.

**Legislative Committee**

**Art Schwabe, NECA**

[neca@legionmail.org](mailto:neca@legionmail.org)



We have a State Legislative Committee for Florida. I am asking you that if you have a City or County Veterans Council in your area please ask one

of your Committee persons to attend a council meeting. There're several reasons but a few are, local awareness, bring information back to the Committee, developing information to help all veterans State and Nationally.

I only ask that requests go through me, so I can record times and hours an make sure reports are filled out! Please e-mail me with Post, date, place of meeting along with your name and phone

number. At least three weeks in advance so we can plan for the meeting. This will give us time to get a Committee member to your meeting.

Don't make this harder than it is! A lot of you have veteran's councils just let us know so we can be part of you. Remember we can get more done on a State level than goes on in Washington!! Please take the time we want to help.

**Respect the Uniform**

**Jeff Durden, Sgt-at-Arms**

[sgt-at-arms@legionmail.org](mailto:sgt-at-arms@legionmail.org)



First, I would like to thank the Department Assistance Sergeant-at Arms for their outstanding and professional job they did at the Department Convention in July. Great job by all.

I have been tasked to update the

Sergeant-At-Arms duties and responsibilities manual this year. This is where you can help, please look it over and give your input on what you think can be changed or added to it. It can be found on the Department website under resources, [www.floridalegion.org](http://www.floridalegion.org).

In chapter 2, The Wearing of the American Legion Cap, Uniform and Regalia, Paragraph 8, Female members of The American Legion should wear their caps in the manner prescribed for female personnel of the armed services.

Paragraph 11a, the left side (emblem side) of any American Legion cap cannot contain anything other than the official American Legion emblem, and lettering as set forth previously in this resolution for post, county, district, department or national caps. When placing your legion cap down on a flat surface like a table, it shall be placed with the legion emblem facing up as a sign of respect as the left side (emblem side) is considered "HALLOWED GROUNDS" and should be given proper respect.

**Areas of Great Concern**

**Barry Roberts, Chaplain**

[chaplain@legionmail.org](mailto:chaplain@legionmail.org)



As we begin another year I would like to encourage and inspire some Ideas of serving our veterans. A few areas of great concern are serving or

supporting in Suicide Prevention, Opioid abuse and Mental Health Services. We have aging Veterans in need of Benefits and knowing what their benefits are and how to complete the Application process. Veteran Court in various areas Statewide need Leadership and assistance. We also have Homeless Veterans Stand Downs. Let's engage our communities and support the needs of those that have

served.

Join the American Legion, Department of Florida Chaplains'@floridalegionchaplains on Facebook.

Let's work together and support those in need....Call me, text me, email me... I am here to serve and support you.

**Our Responsibility**

**Gerald Kaufman, Historian**

[historian@legionmail.org](mailto:historian@legionmail.org)



Having just finished up the Leadership retreat there are some things I would like to pass on to you. We are in our 100th year as the American Legion. There are things that we as Historians must do for the generations to come after us. It is our job to document as much as we can about our posts and districts. It is upon our shoulders to document everything

we do AS IT HAPPENS. Don't wait until next month because things are happening daily. If you put it off, you will forget the minute details that may just be more important than you think.

For our freshman Historians you are asking, how do I do this? How do I go about even beginning this task? What about my post's history and how do I intertwine this with today's? The best I can do for you is to send you four manuals you will need this year and for years to come. You will need to email me at [historian@legionmail.org](mailto:historian@legionmail.org) and I will send them to you per your request.

Now about all the pictures I have been taking from my visits, you can now go to Facebook and search for the following page: Historian American Legion Department of Florida here you will find the pictures from around the department. If you are trying to download pictures to this page, please submit them and I will accept them as fast as possible.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at 407-218-9139. If you do not leave me a message I will not be returning your call. You can also email me at [historian@legionmail.org](mailto:historian@legionmail.org).

**Reach Out**

**Mike Hutto, Northern Area**

[northernarea@legionmail.org](mailto:northernarea@legionmail.org)



As of the day this is written, there are still some posts at 0%. Please look at your

program and if you need help, please contact your District Commander or me. As of September 5, the target is 55% renewals.

The Northern Area has several chairmanship positions open. Americanism, Internal Affairs,

Membership, Security, and VA&R. If you are interested, please let me know.

On a somber note, the American Legion Family lost a friend and Commander of Post 57 in Lake City in August. Our condolences go out to Post 57 and the Family of Art Lowes.

**Non-Stop**

**James Burk, Eastern Area**

[easternarea@legionmail.org](mailto:easternarea@legionmail.org)

Since being honored to be selected as Eastern area commander it's been non stop action. After attending the state convention I attended a 3 day

work shop at department headquarters. Mike McDaniel and crew are incredibly talented. I learned a lot of valuable information. Before and after that I attended post installation of officers at 163, 81, 318, 355, 358, 39 and 171.

Finally finished up at Lady Lake (6,700 members and Groveland ( 60) members. As I explained to Groveland size doesn't matter,we are all veterans with a special bond.

**Legion Officers Toolbox**

**Michael Raymond, Southwestern Area**  
[southwesternarea@legionmail.org](mailto:southwesternarea@legionmail.org)



Greetings Legionnaires. We are back from one of the most informative Officer training sessions that I have ever attended. Our mission is clear, and we are all ready to get to work!

After attending over 20 Post Officer installations, one thing just keeps bothering me. Post Officers that are not able to run a professional

membership meeting. I know it sounds harsh, but it is true, and so simple to fix. I call it your "toolbox" Two simple items in your toolbox that can guide you and answer all your questions regarding your Post meetings and any other questions you may have about running a professional Legion Post. Your Officers guide and your Constitution and Bylaws should always be the first place to look when you have a question about how to run the American Legion side of the house. From running your meetings to running important ceremonies it is definitely one of your most important

tools. It is a good idea to reproduce your meeting agenda using the Officers manual as a guide. Check off each item as you accomplish them. Make sure you use your past officers for guidance especially your past Commander. He will be invaluable to the success of your year. If you still have questions don't hesitate to ask your District Staff for assistance but always keep in mind, they are only there to help, not run your Post. Coming up soon we will be conducting training classes at all Districts. These are must attend classes and are designed to make your job a lot easier. Plan on attending.

**We're Here For You**

**Chuck Olsen, Western Area**  
[westernarea@legionmail.org](mailto:westernarea@legionmail.org)



July is complete and half of August as I make this submission. Installations are done in the 1st District and there are a few left in the 2nd District. The 1st District Meeting

was held on August 11th and the 2nd District has their meeting scheduled for September 22nd. In combo with the 2nd District meeting is the District Training Class to be conducted by Jim Ramos. The meeting and training will take place at 9:00am on September 22nd at Post 100. The following Day, District 1 will hold their District Training also conducted by Jim Ramos at Post 382 beginning at 12:00 noon. These training sessions are ideal for new officers or those who may be running for an office in the near future. If you cannot make it to Orlando for the Fall Conference, or next June for the Convention, attending this training will allow you to get started with the training and knowledge that you can use now. Jim Ramos plans

on covering Legion History, running a meeting, Post Officer Duties, Roles of Department and National Officers, Leadership and Protocol, Legion Programs, and relationships within and between the Legion, SAL, Auxiliary and Riders.

Membership processing should be going full force now. The first Milestone date is September 5th, when Posts should be at 55%. The Area Commanders have been tasked with ensuring that those Posts who are not meeting the goals get all the help and assistance they need including me coming to your post, making calls, or filling out forms. If you are not working your membership expect to hear from me. I appointed John Everitt from Post 78 in Milton as my Membership Chairman for the area. Also, the past two winners of the Adjutant of the Year award, Tony Hammerling and Susan Beach are at post 240 and 382 respectively. There is no end to the sources for help with membership in the Western Area.

Also due before September 1st is the Post Program Chairman form. Each Post Commander should be sending

these in as soon as possible but no later than September 1st. This is how the Department communicates to the Posts with respect to their Programs. If you don't send it in, the mail-outs for the Programs will not be sent or will go to the wrong place and your chairmen may not know what to do or when to get it done. The program manuals will be mailed out on September 5th, so there is no "Sorry I was Late".

The Department Commander will be visiting in the District 2 in September. District 1's visit will be in December. Schedules are not yet set in stone. Contact your District Commander if you have special events going on at your post that you would like to have the Commander attend. As always, I am available most of the time with a couple days heads up and would love to attend your events and represent the Department of Florida.

Finally, have fun, work with your Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders to get things done and support our Troops, Veterans, Children and Youth, and our Communities.

**Let's Do This**

**Donna Wallace, District 11**

[district11@legionmail.org](mailto:district11@legionmail.org)



The new legion year has begun. Time to start getting all chairman in place. If any of you have questions on what the duties of the chairman are, please contact me, so we can get everything in order for you and your post. Membership is coming along, let's

get all we can in.

We have our next District meeting on September 13th at American Legion Post 164 Boynton Beach at 7:30pm, the November meeting will be at American Legion Post 271, Jupiter at 10:30am. I hope to see you all there. Just remember the meetings are open to the WHOLE family. We are family and we work as one.

Our annual roast will be coming up October 20th at American Legion Post

64 Okeechobee. This year we have the honor of roasting PDC Jay Conti. What a good time this will be. Tickets are \$15pp, social hour 5-6pm dinner 6-7pm then the fun begins at 7pm. Hampton Inn 863-824-0003 -- \$89. Per night. Hope to see the family there. Attached is the flyer and information sheet.

I look forward to having a GREAT year.

**Let's do this District 11**

**17th On the Move**

**Rev. Willie Branch, District 17**

[district17@legionmail.org](mailto:district17@legionmail.org)



The moment you decide to achieve anything, begin to do it.

Give your intention meaning and substance by acting on it right away. Your enthusiasm,

motivation, commitment and sense of purpose are at their highest levels. Reap the benefits of that situation.

Lock in your intention by putting some effective effort behind it. Quickly establish a powerful momentum that will carry that intention to fulfillment.

Put time on your side by using it to take action at your earliest opportunity. The sooner you get started, the more time

you'll have to achieve great things.

Get yourself swiftly into motion, and suddenly you're motivated to stay in motion. Chalk up some early wins, and you'll be driven to continue your winning streak. If you're going to make a positive difference, then get with it, now. Your intention is clear and your time is here, so go for it.

**Let's get on the move 17.**

**Title**

**Clarence Hill, Resolutions**

[resolutions@legionmail.org](mailto:resolutions@legionmail.org)



When writing a resolution, some general considerations should be kept in mind:

1. A resolution should contain "supporting documents," and its intent should be clearly defined.

2. A resolution should be free of errors of fact and law.

3. A resolution should have material relevance to the purposes and programs of The American Legion.

A resolution should deal with only one topic. Those that address more than one topic make it hard to process, especially if they involve topics which fall under the jurisdiction of more than one committee. They may either be rejected or amended to eliminate all but one topic. Thus topics you may have wanted to be addressed

have to wait another year.

Resolutions have two major parts, a **preamble** and a **resolving section**. Each consists of one or more clauses and the whole is read in its entirety, beginning with the preamble, as one continuous complex sentence. The preamble sets forth the reasons for the resolution; the resolving section sets forth the intent of the resolution.

Next month will describe the resolving section in detail as it should be written first.

**Renew, Reinstate, Recruit**

**Bruce Thurber, Membership**

[membership@legionmail.org](mailto:membership@legionmail.org)



As we strive to reach our 2019 Goals a couple of small incentives are available:

**Family Centennial Recruiter Pin**

Each Legionnaire who recruits family members, between July 1st and May 31st; earning 100 points/years; will receive the Legion Family Recruiter Pin. Post Commanders/Adjutants or Membership Chairman will certify and forward to department on a regular basis the certification form for processing and awards will be issued when received. Points/Years are earned by recruiting Family Members as follows: Recruit: Legionnaire 20 Points/Years, Auxiliary 20 Points/Years, SAL 20 Points/Years,

Rider 10 Points/Years. Recruit 2 Family Members (i.e. Legionnaire and Auxiliary together get double points/years)

**Post Highest Membership Award**

The post with the highest percent membership in their category by Sept 30th receives \$500

1. Post of 15 to 199 members
2. Post of 200 to 499 members
3. Post of 500 to 999 members
4. Post of 1,000 to 1,499 members
5. Post 1500 of 7,500 members or more

**Post Membership Award**

The Post with the highest percent membership in their category by May 31st receives \$500.

1. Post of 15 to 199 members
2. Post of 200 to 499 members
3. Post of 500 to 999 members
4. Post of 1,000 to 1,499 members
5. Post 1500 of 7,500 members or more

Coming in October we will have digital transmittals. At the post level you will be able to:

1. Renew
2. Add new members
3. Transfer-in existing members from other Posts. NOTE: Posts can only transfer-in members that dues are being paid. MDF must still be submitted
4. Utilizes electronic Echeck payments. Credit card transactions are only available for departments outside the United States. 7 business day processing time.
5. Eliminates the need for Post Officers to send the National/Department portion of the (3-part) membership cards and paper-checks to the Department Headquarters office.



**Centennial**

**Gerald Kaufman, Centennial**

[historian@legionmail.org](mailto:historian@legionmail.org)



Wow we are turning one hundred years old. What are we going to do to celebrate this historic milestone? Tell me what you guys and gals are planning for your post, district and area celebrations.

I want to be there to document your celebration. Also, we have available the two banners and framed one-hundred-year picture for you to sign out and use at your celebration. Just contact me and we will plan to get them to you. Let's say you need help getting your event off the ground; again, just call me and I will try to help you plan and organize your event.

I took the final inventory for the Centennial Website and we are still lacking twenty-four posts who have not accomplished this task. Let's get together and get it done. Five minutes maybe ten and it is completed.

Set the dates aside for our Department of Florida Centennial celebration; "Vets Invade the Canyon" slated for January 18-19, 2019. We will be gathering at Rock Crusher Canyon in Crystal River Florida for this great event. We have entertainment, food, tee shirts, trinkets, and of course your drink of choice. Ticket sales to begin in September as well as room and camp site reservations. Book your room as soon as possible because they will not last. There will be other events during the weekend here in Citrus County including the Manatee festival

in downtown Crystal River. I have sent sponsorship packages out to all the Zone, Area and District Commanders. They will be sending them to all the posts. If you need more than one package contact me and I will email you one. If you are interested in sponsoring this event the packages start at \$250.00. The Blanton-Thompson American Legion Auxiliary Unit 155 is leading the way with our first \$3000.00-dollar sponsor. I want to thank them for all their support.

Below you will find the user name and password for the Centennial Website and the new Facebook page where you can find the pictures that I have been taking.

Centennial user name and password: 100thannvdept@legionmail.org, password melanie1969. Facebook: Historian American Legion Department of Florida.



**Americanism**

**Chuck Olsen, Americanism**

[americanism@legionmail.org](mailto:americanism@legionmail.org)



Please allow me to introduce myself. I am Raymond C. "Chuck" Olsen and I have been appointed as your Americanism Chairman.

Americanism is one of the 4 pillars of the American Legion. Every time you say the Preamble you pledge that one of the reasons we associate ourselves together is to foster and perpetuate at 100% Americanism. As Legion posts and members we should be all about Americanism. We should be teaching and showing it to our communities and to our children.

First of all, I would appreciate it if each of the posts would send me the name and contact information for your Americanism Chairman, and any special events that you would like me to attend. My email is [Americanism@legionmail.org](mailto:Americanism@legionmail.org). I will get a list eventually, but the

sooner I have it the sooner I can start taking care of business. The Umbrella of Americanism includes programs like LEGION BASEBALL, BOYS STATE, SCOUTING, SHOOTING SPORTS, ORATORICAL, SCHOOL MEDALS, ROTC PROGRAMS AND AWARDS. These are the major programs and have high visibility and their own Chairmen.

But there are other programs like: Service to God and Country, Eagle Scout of the Year, Community Service Activities, Veteran of the Month, Education Assistance Program, American Education Week, Flag Education, Flag Retirements, and the Post Americanism Award. These are great programs and can really show our communities what our American Legion is all about.

The new release of the Department's Post Americanism Chairman Manual will be released soon (I am proofreading it now), you can download it and you can also order copies of it and manuals for your Americanism Programs. All the programs are explained in the

manual along with the Chairmen who run each of the major programs. Post Commanders, it is essential that you turn in your chairmen lists to Elizabeth Douglas at Department before September 1st. If you do not, all the mail for each of these programs will come to the Post Commander or won't be sent. My challenge to all of you this year is that I would like to see each Post in the state have at least one additional Americanism Program than they have done in the past and that each Post put themselves in for an Americanism Award.

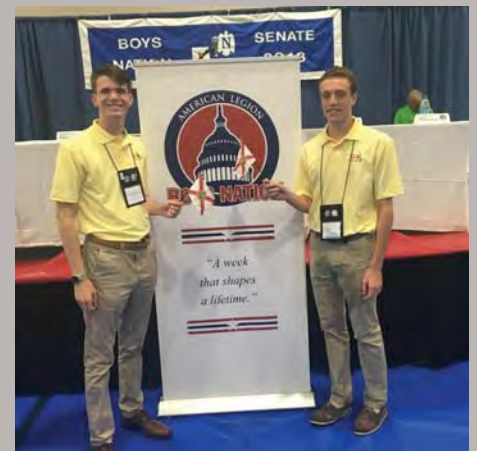
Finally, let me close by Congratulating Post 13 for sponsoring the Florida Champions in American Legion Baseball. They did not make it out of Regionals, but had a fantastic year. I enjoyed watching the American Legion Baseball World Series (it starts today as I am writing this) on ESPN3 and ESPNU this year and look forward to next year when it will be held in Florida.

**Florida American Legion sends delegates to D.C for Boys Nation program.**

**Forrest D. Boone , Boys State Director**  
[www.flboysstate.com](http://www.flboysstate.com)

Florida American Legion Boys State continued its long tradition of sending two of Florida's brightest sons to participate in Boys Nation. Alex Cywes (Jacksonville, Post 316) and Daniel Harbison (Lynn Haven, Post 356) had the opportunity to learn more about

the American Legion, our nation's government, and leadership during the week-long program in July. They formed a mock government, toured D.C., visited a number of memorials, and heard from dignitaries, including Vice President Mike Pence. Both delegates want to extend their gratitude to the Department of Florida for giving them the experience of a lifetime.



**American Legion Baseball**

**Andy Burkett, Baseball**

[baseball@legionmail.org](mailto:baseball@legionmail.org)



The State of Florida American Legion Baseball Tournament was held in Tampa from July 26th through the 29th. The players, coaches and fans showed much exuberance and team spirit throughout the tournament. From the first pitch to the last out, all the participants exhibited maximum effort and enthusiasm.

The final game was played on Sunday, July 29th with Department Commander Dianne Boland throwing out the first



pitch. It was a hard-fought game between Winter Haven and Tallahassee with the latter the winner by a score of 8 to 2.

As this is published, Tallahassee, the winner of the State Tournament is now in North Carolina competing in the Regional American Legion Baseball Finals to determine who will go to the World Series of Legion Baseball. We wish them the best of luck and God speed in their quest to represent the great State of Florida in the American Legion World Series. In addition to Commander Boland some of the other dignitaries attending included Past Vice Commander Paul Martel who was also the banquet guest speaker, Department Second Vice Commander Jerry Brandt, and Past Department Commander Larry White. It was truly a memorable occasion.

We are looking into the possibility of



*Commander Boland throwing out the first pitch.*

holding the National Regionals here in Tampa next year. We will know more following the completion of this year's National Tournament. If it happens, we will be looking for a lot of volunteers working in many ways to assist us in making it a successful endeavor.

Our thanks to all of those involved in making American Legion Baseball in Florida a success once again. And my personal thanks to Department of Florida Staff members whose untiring efforts and support so greatly contributed to our success.

**It's Easy**

**Donna Wallace, Blood Donor**

[blooddonor@legionmail.org](mailto:blooddonor@legionmail.org)



Hello Legion Family:

It is a new legion year, we are one family that works together. It is time for you to get your chairman

in place. Having a blood donor chair, is easy. If you have any events at all, all you need to do is to contact the blood mobile in your area. This does need to be done in advance of your event.

There is one type that is RARE, that is O-. This is the blood that each and every one of us can receive.

If you need my help with scheduling a blood mobile, please let me know. I am here to help you and the legion family. Let's make it a GREAT year!!



**Help Us Give Smiles (HUGS)**

**Vickie Van Buren, Children & Youth**  
[cy@legionmail.org](mailto:cy@legionmail.org)



Schools are back in session here in Florida, and now is a great time to reach out to the schools in your area to introduce all the programs the American Legion

has to offer! Child welfare and safety deals with the many concerns that can endanger a child such as drowning, firearms, poisoning, accidents, substance abuse, etc. Youth Suicide is a major problem in our country, especially with all the bullying in the schools and on social media.

It is time to start your planning for a Halloween Safety night. There are pamphlets available from Department that you can obtain and hand out. **Don't forget to order your Halloween coloring books from our Department of Florida Emblems Sales.**

We are entering the height of hurricane season. Keep in mind that we have the Temporary Financial Assistance

Program (TFA) and Project Vet Relief available for those who may need them. Please keep in mind that a Veteran applying for assistance through the TFA program must either be on Active Duty or a member of the American Legion. There is a \$1500 limit through the TFA program. Also, there is the National Emergency Fund, which is there to assist displaced veterans in the event of a natural disaster.

I will be attending the National Children and Youth Commission in Indianapolis from Sept 20th-23rd in Indianapolis. I look forward to meeting representatives from all the Legion Departments and bringing back more suggestions for the Department of Florida.

Our Children and Youth theme this year is "HUGS" which stands for "Help Us Give Smiles". I plan on having the pins available for sale by our fall conference. All proceeds from the sales will go to our Department Children and Youth Fund. This year's fundraiser events will be sponsored by the whole Legion family (Legion, Sons, Auxiliary and the Riders).

We are planning several events during

April 2019 which is Children and Youth Month. Our Annual Children and Youth picnic is scheduled for April 6, 2019 at Post 117 in Palm Bay. Our Annual Children and Youth Golf Tournament is scheduled for April 27, 2019 at Harbor Hills Golf Club with dinner afterwards at Post 347 in Lady Lake. Flyers and applications will be posted to our Department Website soon. We will be looking for sponsors and items to raffle.

If you have any questions, need help, or would like me to come to an event, please E-mail me at [cy@legionmail.org](mailto:cy@legionmail.org).



**Get Involved**

**Jamie Grinis, Special Olympics**  
[specialolympics@legionmail.org](mailto:specialolympics@legionmail.org)



Since 1972 the American Legion has been a great supporter of Special Olympics. This past year 26% of the Posts here in Florida have adopted this program with great success. We do

need a Special Olympic Chairperson in each District to promote the program and share the activities of each County in our state. To find out when there is an event in your area please visit [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org) to find out what is happening each month. Should you wish to start sending your donations during the year, remember to include your Post number and County that you wish for your contributions to be used. When your Post or District sponsors an event please let me know so that I may try to

attend the event. Wouldn't it be nice to see 100% of the Posts sponsoring this valuable program this year either by volunteering or contribution? When you attend an event in your area please wear a Post or District shirt letting our athletes know you care. It is a great way to get involved and an excellent Legion Family recruiting opportunity. It never hurts to ask the people at the competition to join. I look forward to your support this year and assisting you with your projects

**Our Stance**

**Gene Smith, Immigration**

[immigration@legionmail.org](mailto:immigration@legionmail.org)



By the time you read this article, Labor Day will have passed and Autumnal Equinox will be upon us. Here in Florida, we may not be as cognizant of the subtle changes

in the weather as those up north. What does that have to do with immigration? Frequently, there are changes to the laws and procedures affecting Immigration, Naturalization and/or immigrant status made by our Federal Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches of Government. Just as we barely notice changes in the weather here in Florida during the Autumnal Equinox, the same applies to our understanding and notification of the many subtle changes in Federal immigration policy and reform. For questions or opinions, it is best to seek out professional attorneys who specialize in Immigration/ Naturalization.

The American Legion has a clearly defined Immigration Policy. As with

any action taken by The American Legion, you will find various Resolutions governing the organization's opinion on areas of Immigration and Naturalization. "The American Legion Policy on Illegal Immigration – A Strategy To Address Illegal Immigration In The United States" is a very comprehensive compiled document outlining the Legion's position on illegal immigration. You may Google the document by title for your read.

As your Department Chairman, I concur with The American Legion's policy in principle. For specific cases and detailed questions, I seek professional assistance. There are two areas I frequently address when speaking in public or to Legionnaires. The first concerns a foreign born spouse of a deceased U. S. Armed Forces member who lost his or her life either in a hostile combat zone or while training on military installations (addressed by The American Legion in Resolution 119, National Convention, August 2014). The second concern is the foreign born immigrant who joined the U. S. Armed Forces and for whatever reason upon receiving an honorable discharge did not complete his or her Naturalization process for citizenship. For them to

ignore the immigration law is a sure step for deportation.

According to Elizabeth Ricci of Rambana & Ricci, P.L.L.C., Immigration Attorneys, there continues to be a need to identify fellow veterans and surviving spouses who need help in a constantly changing complex immigration system. I am asking the Department Chairs, down line Commanders and all Legionnaires who interact with active duty service members, reservists and veterans around the State, to get the word out that the Department of Florida is concerned about those foreign born who have served or are serving and not Naturalized. Rambana & Ricci, P.L.L.C., Tallahassee, work with us and offer immigration legal services to veterans and the widowed foreign born spouses of deceased members of the U. S. Armed Forces who have not naturalized. We owe it to our fellow veterans and widowed spouses the opportunity to become a Naturalized Citizen of the United States of America. Telephone (386) 931-2700 or E-Mail [Immigration@legionmail.org](mailto:Immigration@legionmail.org) for information and assistance.

**Entitlements**

**Larry Roberts, VA Entitlements**

[veteransbenefits@legionmail.org](mailto:veteransbenefits@legionmail.org)



We are always looking for ways to help with membership here is one way.

*Information from Florida Veterans*

*Benefits Guide 2018  
Free Health Care for Recent Combat Vets*

Combat veterans who were discharged or released from active service on or after Jan. 28, 2003, are eligible to enroll in the VA health care system for five years from the date of discharge or release. The enrollment period begins on the discharge or separation date of the service

member from active duty service, or in the case of multiple call-ups, the most recent discharge date. Veterans, including activated Reservists and National Guard members, are eligible if they served on active duty in theater of combat operation after Nov. 11, 1998, and have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

**V.A. Police**

**Taz Gehling, Law & Order**  
[laworder@legionmail.org](mailto:laworder@legionmail.org)



I want to talk about an agency that I think many of us forget about, that includes me. That agency is the V.A. Police.

According to Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_Department\\_of\\_Veterans\\_Affairs\\_Police](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Veterans_Affairs_Police), "...The VA Police are an armed, federal law enforcement and protective service entity that operates in and around the various Veterans

Affairs Medical Centers, National Cemeteries and other VA facilities located throughout the whole of United States to include Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands. Among others, the VA Police are a specialized federal law enforcement agency, whose officers have full police powers derived from statutory authority to enforce all federal laws, VA rules and regulations, and to make arrests on VA controlled property whether owned or leased." This is similar to the F.B.I., U.S. Marshalls, Secret Service, etc.

After doing some research, with the assistance of Ms. Elizabeth Douglas, I have learned that the V.A. police working

in Florida meet the qualifications of the third bullet point of the eligibility requirement for the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award. This information may be found at <https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/law-order/about/>.

Another requirement is that you must also ensure that the officer is assigned to your local V.A. facility, whether it is an outpatient clinic, a hospital, cemetery, etc.

Lastly, if you have any questions please feel free to email me at [LawOrder@legionmail.org](mailto:LawOrder@legionmail.org) or call me at 239-785-8282.

**The beautiful thing about learning...**

**Tom Gora, Legion College**  
[deptlegioncollege@legionmail.org](mailto:deptlegioncollege@legionmail.org)



**Mark your calendars! The dates for the next Florida American Legion College (FALC) have been set for January 31-February 2, 2019!** A requirement

for attending FALC is completion of The American Legion 'Basic Training' on-line course or having completed its predecessor the ALEI course in the past 1-5 years. What a power packed agenda and pool of instructors! Dianne Boland, Department Commander; Dennis Boland, NEC; Clarence Hill, Past National Commander, to name just a few. Based on feedback from the 2018 FALC class, team building exercises have been added not only to develop teamwork but also to have a little fun. Please go to the Department of Florida website for college application and for further information and details.

Here is just a small sample of the subjects on the agenda for the 2019 FALC:

1. The College focuses on the importance and ability to write RESOLUTIONS. PNC Clarence Hill, Department Resolutions Chairman, who writes informative articles about RESOLUTIONS in the 'Legion Link,' instructs. At the college you will be teamed with others to write RESOLUTIONS, present them to the class, and have them critiqued. Resolutions are the means to change in The American Legion.
2. Ever wonder how the relationship between our department and national works, or just what national's role is? Dennis Boland, our representative to national will instruct and answer your questions.
3. Want to be a success in the Legion? Department Commander Dianne Boland has a great presentation, the "10-point success plan."
4. There is a class on fund raising by Jennifer Cooper, Fundraising Director. We all know the basic stuff like dinners, raffles, etc., you will learn more about

other ways to raise funds (donations) during this class.

5. Ever get complaints about anything at your post? There is a very informative class by Bruce Comer, Assistant Department Adjutant, on how we deal with such complaints at every level of the organization.

These are just a 'snap shot' of some of the interesting topics covered at FALC, there are many more topics, video presentations, and team building exercises. Hope to see you at the 2019 FALC, January 31-February 2, 2019! Check the department web site for further detail and application. For FALC information contact either myself, or Jennifer Scowden, Events Coordinator in Orlando HQ.

[www.floridalegion.org/news-events/florida-legion-college](http://www.floridalegion.org/news-events/florida-legion-college)

***"The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you."***

*(BB King, Musician)*

**Big Shoes to Fill**

**Jim Wineland, Legion Riders**

[legionriders@legionmail.org](mailto:legionriders@legionmail.org)



It is an honor to be recommended by Jim and Jennifer Day for the position of American Legion Rider Chairman and appointed to the position by Commander Dianna Boland. I've worked

with Jim and Jennifer over the last few years as an ALR Director at Ocean Beaches Post 129, 5th District ALR Chairman, Northern Area Chairman and Vice ALR Chairman. Oh, Gary Lester also kicked me around for a few years.

I would like to introduce your ALR Leadership Team for 2018-2019. As we all know the most important individual on any team is the adjutant. We are very lucky this year, Beverly Wooten has volunteered to fill this position. I know she will keep us all straight.

Your Area Chairman and Chairwoman are as follows; Jim Bowers in the Western Area, Tom Voelz Northern Area, Wayne

Wooten Central Area, Tim Morris in the Eastern, Terry Gallagher as Southwestern and Julio Sanchez as the Southern Area. These individuals have already demonstrated a real passion for the scope of the ALR. They have participated in our first conference call and our next year planning correspondence. As a Department Chairman I'm very lucky to be surrounded by this talent.

We have a couple of changes this year. We will have two "Children and Youth" events in 2018. We have already had the Merry-go-Round in April, we will have a second in October. We will have two events in 2019 for "Project Vet Relief" charities.

As we learned at Convention this year, "Vet Relief" has added a new Charity "Veteran's Hope" to support Veteran's Suicide Prevention. To support the "Veteran's Hope" the ALR will promote a month dedicated to "Hope" in March. All the Chapters can raise donations anyway they would like; Let's see how creative they can be. Dollars raised will be part of the Trophy Dash in April.

In April we will have an In-State Unity

Ride to pick up the donations collected in March. We will utilize our "Pony Express Riders" to expedite the donations to designated locations and the Unity Rider's will stop by and pick them up. The Unity Riders will start and finish at the same location making a loop within Florida. When they arrive back at the starting location we plan on celebrating our achievement with a band or bands. We would invite the public and other veteran's organizations for a donation at the gate. Location TBA.

We are also adding a twist to the Summit this year. We plan on having guest speakers, Leadership Training, Emblem Sales, misc. vendors and someone to sew on patches, but we are planning to end the day by 4:30 and ride to a local post for dinner and return for the "Fire Pit Discussions".

No changes to the Fall Conference or Convention. We will still have our Break-Out sessions, awards for chapters excellence and trophy presentations. Looking forward to a great year and never forget, "It's for the Cause, not the Applause"

**Take Charge**

**Debbie Wheeler, Social Media**

[socialmedia@legionmail.org](mailto:socialmedia@legionmail.org)



I am continuing my high horse about Facebook! This month I want this Legion Link to be directed just at District Commanders. I'd like to give each district a deadline of four (4)

months to make your district Facebook page more informative than the others. Check out the competition, correct your mistakes keep the dirty laundry out and make sure you're mentioning

your District meetings. Take the time to look at your posts individual events and share those as well as members from other posts will be happy to attend your events. Take advantage of the calendar on the department Facebook page and website they are very quick to offer a lot of holidays that we fail to mention like Purple Heart day, Patriots Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and the major holidays. Make sure your administrator has your security settings correct to avoid bad press. This is the example we want your posts to emulate. Lots of photos, calendars from your posts and the events put more butts in the seats. If a post page has not been updated in two years maybe they have a problem, contact

the post in your district if you see this happening and encourage them to get a new administrator. Does it always have to be Legion? Take back your post give it the visibility you need to increase your membership, include reminders about renewals, participation at the Post level and keep your snowbirds informed. This could very well attract new members for the entire Legion family. I plan on attending a lot of district meetings this year to assist with your communications and social media! If you need any personalized help just email me and I promise I will get right back at you. This is 2018 and we are living in a world with smartphones, tablets, etc. Take charge!

**Military Liaison Responsibilities**

**Jim Ramos, Military Liaison**

[militaryliaison@legionmail.org](mailto:militaryliaison@legionmail.org)



What is my job as Military Liaison to work closely with *The American Legion Posts, the Military Base Commander, designated Base Liaisons* and other duties to help grow

membership in the Department of Florida Legion? The Military Liaison Chairman provides enhanced quality of life services for those serving in the United States Armed Forces Active, Guard and Reserve.

The program is designed to work with Military Liaison as representative between, Base liaison and a Post (who are willing to work with military base's) also Department and military installations to help them know (who we are?) And provide a list of programs that will assist our military service men and women and

their families. *We are in our 100th year of Service to our Community, State and Nation let's tell everybody the American Legion story (History) and about your Post.*

**How does it work:**

*We are Granted Access to "Assisting Troops with Transition and Benefits"*

DoD policy allows Veteran and Military Service Organizations Greater Access to shape the policy to increase the presence of service officers at installations and to create greater troop and military family awareness of American Legion support programs, such as Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW), transition assistance, career support and more.

**Opportunities** for the Legion to connect with servicemembers with:

Reconnecting, Informational event, Fundraising and more (ideas are minces) so what do you say, let's do it and show your colors Red, White and Blue.

The booklet, "[Access Granted: Assisting Troops with Transition Benefits.](#)"

provides ways Legion members can gain access to military installations and connect with servicemembers. While DoD does not allow membership recruiting on its installations, the easier access policy allows the Legion to display its programs and demonstrate its advocacy for veterans to prospective members.

Download "Access Granted: Assisting Troops with Transition Benefits" online here. And for the online resources, visit [www.legion.org/security/resources](http://www.legion.org/security/resources)

With Access Granted: We need to request access to work or do anything on base. We have a check list to obtaining access and sample of letter to get access. Please contact me at [MilitaryLiaison@legionmail.org](mailto:MilitaryLiaison@legionmail.org) or [jramos149@bellsouth.net](mailto:jramos149@bellsouth.net).

Please let the Zone Leadership, Area and District Commanders know what your Post wants to do first, so they know first-hand. Thank you and let's make this year a great one.

**Stay Tuned**

**Nancy Thomas, Security**

[security@legionmail.org](mailto:security@legionmail.org)



We had a successful Leadership Retreat recently and a lot of good information came from it. However, not much about the Security Commission was

discussed.

We were asked to provide job descriptions for those who do not have a good description of what their job is, so it looks like this will be a project for this Chair in the very near future.

As far as the Chair's under this commission, I know that the Shooting Sports Chair has been extremely busy lately. Loretta Young has been traveling with various events for Shooting Sports and the Golden Age Games in New Mexico. We have a couple of young at heart female Legionnaires who participated in this event from Florida, Maxine Bodin, Joy Teter, Marina Perez and Loretta Young were among those who attended bringing home numerous gold medals and some silver medals, and we appreciate their efforts. At the time of this article the results for 2018 games were not available on line.

Law and Order, since we have just started our year, the Law and Order dinners that honor your

local Sheriff's Department, Police Departments, Fire Fighters, Emergency Medical Technicians, have not started at this time, however, it is a wonderful idea to honor those individuals. The Department's Chair is Taz Gehling.

Blood Donor – well, we are in Hurricane Season and if you would think about having an event to be able to maintain a level of blood should we have a need for it. Your Blood Donor Chair is Donna Artola-Wallace.

Please be patient with this Chair, I am working hard to get more information that will aide in preparing job descriptions for Area, District's and Post.

Stay tuned for more to come!

**Change is Good**

**Meri West, Oratorical**

[oratorical@legionmail.org](mailto:oratorical@legionmail.org)



This year, the Oratorical Program has two significant changes. First, we have a Co-chair, Sherri Rodriguez, from the 5th District. We felt it was pragmatic

to have a co-chair for program continuity should the Chair become incapacitated or unable to serve for any reason.

And I'm not going to hedge, it's grrrrreat to have help. As volunteers, we are often over committed and it's good to have someone else who can attend meetings, write articles, respond to emails or whatever is needed.

The second big change is that Sherri and I approached the Finance Board before the fall conference and got an additional \$2000.00 added to our budget this year! This year we want to see every District have at least one student participant to represent the District. Those Districts that have not had contestants or are

struggling—we are going to help you get it going. Many Districts have a lot of experience and have a network in place, so we will make a special effort to help a District who has not had a contestant in the past few years. This extra funding will allow us to travel to see you and help you one on one with your program.

Additionally, we are considering scheduling a one-day training session to be held in a location that is central to all those who want to attend. You will get an email about that soon. If you know you want or need help, please email me: [oratorical@floridalegion.org](mailto:oratorical@floridalegion.org). Or text me: 904-704-0936.

Hosting an Oratorical contest is a great way to promote your Post and the American Legion's many other programs. The Oratorical can be a hard sell because it's very challenging. It takes a special kind of student to get involved in this contest. Those students are hard to find at first but each successive year, it gets easier.

This month, your Post, District and Area need to choose a person who is willing to serve on this program and have them

contact me or Sherri Rodriguez. We can explain what is involved and help relieve any concerns they have. Just send one of us an email with the person's name and contact information.

\*\*Consider asking new members who have been recruited in the past year. If they indicated, they wanted to volunteer in the community then contact them!

\*\*Ask members who have school age children as those parents are often involved in other school activities.

\*\*Consider asking Auxiliary Members to assist your Post if you cannot find a Legionnaire.

\*\*Recruit a new member specifically to volunteer for this program.

We will start emailing as soon. The Department will have the full updated email list in October, but we will start reaching out to returning chairs before then!

Many thanks for all you do! Here's to a great year for the American Legion!

**National POW/MIA Recognition Day**

**David Klug, POW/MIA**

[powmia@legionmail.org](mailto:powmia@legionmail.org)



Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, states capitol school and veteran's facilities. It is

traditionally observed on the third Friday in September each year.

The POW/MIA poster for 2018 from The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency is available upon request in two different sizes, in increments of 2 or 5, on their website: [www.dpaa.mil](http://www.dpaa.mil) (see example of poster below).

I would encourage you to plan an event at your Post for this day of recognizing our Nation's POW/MIA's. The American

Legion Department of Florida POW/MIA Chairman Manual contains a POW/MIA Remembrance Day Service Script for your use in this endeavor.

As always, if you need a copy of the Chairman Manual or any other assistance, please feel free to contact me.





**The Public Relations Tree**

**Tom Gora, Public Relations**

[publicrelations@legionmail.org](mailto:publicrelations@legionmail.org)



Public relations (PR) is the process of relating or communicating with the public to promote and maintain the IMAGE of The American Legion in the eyes of the public. My

motto for PR this year is, "It's who we are, it's what we do!"

My main responsibility as the Department PR Chair, is to help you understand public relations, to work very closely with you, and to provide PR tools for you to use. But one person cannot do all the PR for this Department; the 100,00 plus voices of our members are much more effective, we need your help! If you show up at a community event representing your post, district, area, or department, or if someone asks you about your Legion shirt, hat, or your American Legion license plate, you ARE involved in public relations for The American Legion! Every post should have someone that reports the events and great things your post does in the local community. Your Facebook page and web sites are an important part of PR, but there is more to PR than just that, so, here is the link to The American Legion Public Relations toolkit where you can find so much to use.... [www.legion.org/prtoolkit](http://www.legion.org/prtoolkit).



**The Public Relations Tree**

- The "roots" of this tree are the four pillars of The American Legion; Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children and Youth, and National Security. Those roots have been feeding the tree for nearly 100 years now, they are deeply imbedded in the soil of America!
- The "trunk" of the tree has also become very strong, and that trunk represents the image of The American Legion. It supports all the limbs, branches and leaves on the tree, and our members make it stronger all the time.
- The limbs of the tree are all the various programs of The American Legion, upwards of 40 or so major limbs on this PR tree.
- The branches stemming from the limbs represent American Legion Posts, all the Auxiliary Units, and Sons Squadrons. We prune, grow, and trim branches all the time.

• The leaves on the tree are all those members in The American Legion family who carry out the programs and all those that benefit from our programs. Yes, leaves do fall off the tree, but when the tree is nurtured (by effective PR), new leaves take their place.

• **Our main PR priority this year MUST BE The American Legion Centennial**, and I have confirmed this with Department Commander Dianne Boland. Plenty of PR here, 100 years of accomplishments for the betterment of this country, everybody benefits from promoting the centennial, it tells the story of what we have been about for 100 years!

Whether your post was chartered in 1919 or 2017, it has a story that needs to be told in your community during the centennial. Promoting this will also aid in recruitment and retention of members and helps with membership! Below is the link to the 100th Anniversary Media tool kit. It contains examples of articles and letters you can submit to your local media informing them of your local post celebrations. Just fill in the date, place, and details of your event....[www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/centennial\\_media\\_kit.pdf](http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/centennial_media_kit.pdf)

*"There is only one thing worse in the world than being talked about, and that is NOT being talked about"* (Oscar Wilde)

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**September 11, Patriot Day**

The American Legion makes material available at this web site:  
<https://www.legion.org/publications/160969/day-remember-guide-patriot-day-september-11th>

**September 21, National POW-MIA Remembrance Day**

<https://www.legion.org/security/212218/today-powmia-recognition-day>

**Changes**

**Chuck Weber, Scouting**

[scouting@legionmail.org](mailto:scouting@legionmail.org)



Doesn't it always seem that just as you learn something it changes? President John F. Kennedy reflected - "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

Scouting has unrolled yet more changes to its program for our youth. Just as the American Legion has focused its recruiting efforts on the "Legion Family" the Boy Scouts has expanded to "Family Scouting". For years, as parents brought their sons to Cub Scout meetings, little sisters came along too. And they often participated in and enjoyed the many great activities that the Cubs did. But they couldn't wear the uniform or earn the badges as the boys could. Family Scouting has opened the doors to now allow young girls from kindergarten through fifth grade (ages 5 through 10) to join the Cub Scout program. This change has just been launched as you read this.

If your Post charters a Cub Scout Pack (or if you wish to start one) you will have choices and options to introduce girls to this wonderful program for young Scouts. This will require changes in organizational structure of the Pack, requirements for adult leaders to follow and more. There are too many changes to list here. But, if you read last month's Scouting Link, you know that your assigned Scout Council District Executive can provide you the details you need. If you are fortunate enough to have a Commissioner assigned to your Pack, they will also know about the Family Scouting details.

While the addition of girls to your Cub Pack is an option, and not a requirement, remember that the mission of Scouting is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime and to develop good citizenship and leadership in them. All of this is enveloped in the legendary principles of the Scout Oath and Law and is delivered within a program of good, clean fun. These are ideals that should be instilled in all of our youth of both genders.

The executive officer/institution head listed on your Pack's charter (and not the COR) has the authority to decide if and when you are able to make this transition into Family Scouting. There will be considerations of time, space, adult volunteers and other resources that will impact the decision. It may need to be delayed or implemented incrementally. The choice is yours. Hopefully, you will be able to embrace it soon. You will have a similar choice like this for your Scout Troops next February. More on that later.

Another change of HUGE importance relates to the protection of all of our youth in Scouting. Scouting unveiled a complete revision of its Youth Protection Training program six months ago and ALL registered Scout leaders were informed. They are required to complete this new YPT online by the end of September. If they do not, they will be removed from their positions automatically and without further notice. Then, if they eventually complete the training, they will have to re-apply as leaders and go through the whole re-entry process. So, make sure that all of your adult Scout leaders complete this training by the end of September.

Last Minute Change!

A recent review of our 2017-2018 Scouting Chair Manual has revealed multiple errors in policy and it has been taken off the website. It should no longer be used as a resource. A revised manual will be provided soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions about wearing Legion items on/with the Scout uniform, Scout unit bylaws, Scout unit organizational structure etc. please contact me directly.

As always, thank you and all of your Scout leaders for all that you do for our youth. If you have any questions, please feel free to write me at [scouting@legionmail.org](mailto:scouting@legionmail.org).



[floridalegionstore.org](http://floridalegionstore.org)

CELEBRATING



YEARS OF SERVICE

**Talented Youth**

**Loretta Young, ROTC/Shooting Sports**  
[jrotc@legionmail.org](mailto:jrotc@legionmail.org)

Summer has quickly passed, and school is once again back in session. The 28th Junior Air Rifle National Championship Tournament was held at the USA Shooting Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, July 24-29th. The Department of Florida was fortunate to have 3 State Finalists in attendance. For the Precision Category, Kinga Aletto was awarded the Bronze Medal, Standing Position with a score of 782-49 sponsored by Post 266, a senior graduating from Sarasota Military Academy getting a full scholarship to attend University of Nebraska. National Finalists in the Sporter Category were Stephanie Salvucci, sponsored by Post 3, going into her senior year at Summerlin Academy. Also, Jordan Timmons, Sporter Category sponsored by Post 3, a graduating senior at Summerlin Academy. The Precision Winner receiving a \$5,000 Scholarship was Jared Eddy from Team Ole Mill Rangers in Georgia and the Sporter overall winner for \$5,000 was Bailey Hoenig from Zion Benton NJROTC from Illinois. I was honored to have been selected as a Deputy Line Officer and be part of this National Championship Tournament and see some of our youth compete for these awards and scholarships.

I would like to highlight, Cadet Derek Pena who won National Honors for his essay on "Emotional Intelligence" at the Leadership and Academic Championship held in Washington, DC. held June 22-26. He was selected among more than 300,000 high school students and over 1,700 JROTC programs nationwide. He has a weighted GPA OF 5.17 and ranked 5th out of 521 in his class at Coconut



Creek H.S. His essay spoke to a range of emotions people experience in "the heat of the moment" and how to best handle time of despair with strength. He will be the Cadet Battalion Commander of the Knight Battalion JROTC Unit for this semester. Cadet Pena is an outstanding example of the Cadet Motto, "Building Better Citizens".

I had the pleasure to attend the Kick-Off Ceremony for the Hollywood Hills High School Entrepreneur and Leadership Military Academy for the "New Cadets and The Graduation Class of 2022" in Hollywood, FL, August 11th. Greetings were given by Cadet CPT Andrea Sandoval followed by the Cadet Processional lead by Cadet LTC Carlos Galdamez. Presentation of Colors followed along with the National Anthem sung by Cadet SGM Kimberly Fernandez. SAI, 1SG Valdez gave Opening Remarks followed by Guest Speakers, School Board Member, Ann Murray and Headmaster,

Lourdes Gonzalez, Principal. The program also included a slide show, the Crest Detail and the Presentation of the Cadets reciting the Cadet Creed. It was very impressive to see these new, young cadets launch onto a new phase of their futures which states in the "Cadet Creed", "I am the future of the United States of America".

I would like to thank Commander Dianne Boland for once again giving me the opportunity to serve in this capacity as the ROTC/JROTC/Shooting Sports Chairman. I would urge all District Chairmen to coordinate with the Post Chairmen to make contact with the JROTC Units and any Marksmanship Teams to get an early start and make a personal visit to offer assistance and promote these youth programs which are a foundation vital to our Legion Programs. Much success to all who support our youth this upcoming year.

**Strong Interests**

**Bob Brewster, Youth Law Cadet**

[youthlawcadet@legionmail.org](mailto:youthlawcadet@legionmail.org)



At the most recent Commander's Retreat in Orlando, Florida, I talked to dozens of Legion leaders from all over the state of Florida about the Florida Highway Patrol/ American Legion Cadet

Program. I am very pleased to tell you that most of them approached me and wanted to discuss this program. They expressed an interest in sending cadets from all over Florida next year. We just completed a third year, and each year

the leadership of the program, and the young men and women who attended the program, have made this program much better than I anticipated.

We had a fabulous turnout at our August 5th District meeting. Again, many Post leaders wanted to talk to me about this program and expressed an interest in sending some kids to participate this coming year.

At the present time, Kathie Thomson, Tom Gora, and I are fine tuning the brochure for the next Law Cadet Program. We should be getting this to the printers real soon.

I want to thank Department Commander

Dianne Boland for reappointing me to this Chairman's position. I also want to thank Department staff, the Florida Highway Patrol Academy staff, and most importantly, Tom Gora and Kathie Thomson, for all that they do to make me look good in running this program. I also want to thank all the Posts who have sent cadets into Tallahassee to participate in this program over the past 3 years.

If you want additional information, there are hundreds of pictures on the Department website, under our program, showing the cadets in classrooms, on the firing range, driving the patrol car, and shocking many unsuspecting motorists on Route 90 while practicing on how to operate a speed radar gun.

**High School Graduate Enlistees Honored, Palm Coast, FL**

**Hank Mangels, Post 115 Vice Commander**

*July 5, 2018 (Legiontown USA)*



Recently American Legion Post 115 Florida had the honor of co-hosting an event recognizing high school seniors who had made the decision to join the

Armed Forces after graduation. A total of 42 seniors were awarded a red, white, and blue braided cord to wear at their commencement ceremony, identifying each as one who made the honorable decision to serve our country.

This project was made possible, in part, because of American Legion Post 115, delegate Jeff Vick, Flagler County Veterans Advisory Council (VAC) and his fellow delegates from the county's other service organizations (VFW, AMVETS, MOAA, MOPH, MCL, and DAV). The VAC worked with the Flagler County School District to make this event a huge success.

The expense of the cords and ceremony was borne by the VAC through donations from the service organizations. The event had a joint honor guard from the county's two high schools and was attended by more than two hundred family members and county elected officials.

After the very warm reception to this ceremony and the message it provided the young men and women that



their patriotic decision was deeply appreciated, this event will be continued annually.

\*Sergeant-at-Arms Ed Beier was on hand to present the cords on behalf of the American Legion.

*Submitted by: David Lydon, Flagler County Service Officer*

**Getting Social**

**Jennifer Cooper, Dept Fundraising**  
[jcooper@floridalegion.org](mailto:jcooper@floridalegion.org)



New initiative uses social and mobile media to support our programs [deck]

Greetings, Legionnaires. We're really excited about a new "mobile" fundraising initiative

that we'll be launching at the beginning of November, and we'd like to encourage your participation. There are two parts to this campaign, including:

- **Join Our Efforts** – Create a fundraising page that can be shared with family and friends on online social channels, such as Facebook and Twitter
- **Create a Legion Post Team** – Each Post can create their own team and compete with other Posts to raise the most money. Incentives will be given to all Posts who participate, and to top-performing Posts.

- **Direct Donation**  
 – Make a one-time donation by online donation form, texting to donate, or donate through a friend or families' fundraising page

*Our goal for this campaign is threefold and includes:*

- Broadening public awareness of American Legion Department of Florida and the work we do
- Building our membership base by reaching out to our community and meeting younger veterans and their families
- Increasing financial contributions that support our programs, today and for the future

We're working with a team from Victory-360 Fundraising, and their representatives will be onsite at our



November leadership conference. They will explain the campaign in detail, and you'll have the opportunity to ask questions and to pick up materials that can help you get started. If you will not be at the conference, please be on the lookout for more information over the coming weeks to help you get started and coach you along the way.

There is a lot of potential with this mobile-based fundraising campaign. We hope you'll take the time to participate and continue to support the programs that help Veterans, their families and our communities.

**2018 Salute to Service Raffle**

*Your 2018 Salute to Service Raffle is bigger and better than ever!*

- » Now **20 OPPORTUNITIES** to have your ticket(s) drawn
- » **GRAND PRIZE** is \$10,000
- » Eligible to win **MULTIPLE PRIZES** (the more tickets you turn in the greater your chance to win)
- » Total prize payout **INCREASED to over \$21,000**
- » **BETTER** your chances with **LIMITED** raffle packages distributed

If you'd like to purchase tickets, contact Jennifer Cooper by calling **407-295-2631**.

Tickets must be purchased by October 29, 2018. Winners will be drawn on Saturday, November 3, 2018 during our Department Fall Conference at the Renaissance Sea World in Orlando, Florida. Good luck to all!



**Join Our Mailing List**

If you would like to join the our mailing list to receive our fundraising packages, please send an email to Jennifer Cooper at [jcooper@floridalegion.org](mailto:jcooper@floridalegion.org) with your name, and address.



CELEBRATING





## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS: *We need you!*

Are you interested in joining the VetRelief Team and helping us assist veterans within your community? We have an *extreme* shortage of Advocates to help us do interviews as a part of the financial assistance application process for emergency funding.

### **What does it take to become an Advocate?**

Ideally, we would like for you attend a training course during the Department Convention or Fall Conference. If you are unable to make it, or want to help before the next class, you can chat with one of our Case Workers, Michael Beaven or Jeremy Gottschalk, and they will walk you through the requirements.

**Who can be an Advocate?** Any member of the American Legion Family can be a VetRelief Advocate. Members of the Sons and Auxiliary are able to do interviews for PROJECT: VetRelief cases only. National's Temporary Financial Assistance Program (TFA) requires an interview to be conducted by a member of a Legion Post.

### **How much time does it take to do an interview?**

Typically, each case can require up to 2-5 hours to complete but will vary depending on the applicant and their family.

**Do I have to go to the applicant's home?** No, you can hold interviews at your Legion Post.

If you are interested, please send an email to Jennifer Cooper at [jcooper@floridalegion.org](mailto:jcooper@floridalegion.org).

## YOU MAY HAVE HEARD: *Suicide Prevention*

**YOU MAY HAVE HEARD** that PROJECT: VetRelief was teaming up with The American Legion, Department of Florida's Chaplain, Barry Roberts, 6th District Vice Commander, Kurt Gies and Department VA Entitlement Chairman, Larry Roberts, to raise awareness on veterans' suicide. ***This rumor is definitely true!***

This team of dedicated veterans is passionate about ending veteran's suicide. The PVR Board feels like this would be a great addition to our mission, and expanding our efforts to help one veteran each day. Currently, we are referring to their initiative as Veteran's H.O.P.E., but we will be operating under the established Legion program and 501c3, PROJECT:VetRelief.

At this time, we are all working together, under the guidance of the PVR Board, to iron out a step by step approach to assist a veteran in desperate need. This collaboration, in its infancy stage, will hopefully make a dent in the veteran suicide rate.

PROJECT: VetRelief welcomes the opportunity for these three veterans to help guide us within this new expanded initiative; not only to raise awareness, but to make a larger impact and hopefully save lives.

If you are interested in getting involved or learning more about PROJECT: VetRelief's Suicide Prevention Program, please **send an email to [outraged@floridalegion.org](mailto:outraged@floridalegion.org)**.

## MISSION MOMENT: *Community Impact*

*"I received lots of encouragement and felt that they really care about me and my future."*

- Navy Veteran

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: *Upcoming Events*

SEPT 24: PVR Golf Tournament (*Monteverde, FL*)

OCT 13: Coral Country Road Concert (*Marathon, FL*)

JAN 18-19: Vets Invade Canyon (*Crystal River, FL*)

FEB 16-17: Coral Head Music Fest (*Marathon, FL*)



**SUPPORT CASES**  
**JULY 2018 STATS**

\*Numbers reflect PROJECT: VetRelief Cases ONLY

families helped

**8**

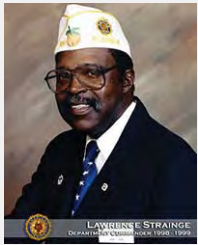
amount distributed

**\$8,798.76**



*"If they are remembered, they are not gone truly, they simply change duty assignments and are amongst the best."*

**POST EVERLASTING**



**Lawrence E. Strainge, Sr.**  
**Past Department Commander**

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Past Department Commander, Lawrence E. Strainge, Sr., of Delray Beach, FL on Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at the age of 82. Lawrence is survived by his wife, Lillie, and two sons, Lawrence E. Strainge, Jr. and Michael L. Strainge. The Viewing will be held from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Saturday, September 1, 2018 at Mont Olive Baptist Church, 40 NW 4th Ave., Delray Beach, FL with Funeral Services immediately following. Interment will be held at 9:15 AM on Monday, September 3, 2018 at

National Cemetery Lake Worth, 6501 SR 7, Lake Worth, FL.

Lawrence was a U.S. Army Korean war veteran and a member of Sherman Williams Post 188, with 44 continuous years of membership.

Lawrence served many roles during his impressive career in The American Legion. Lawrence served as Post Adjutant (1991-93, 2005-14); Post Commander (1982-86, 1995-99, 2014-17); 11th District Commander (1987-88); Department Vice Commander for the Southern Area (1993-94); Department Commander (1998-99); and National Executive Committeeman Alternate (1999-00).

If you would like to send your condolences you may do so through his wife, Lillie Strainge, at 312 NW 10th Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33444.



**David "Dave" DeLong**  
**Past Department Commander**

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Past Department Commander, David "Dave" DeLong, of Tampa, FL on Thursday, July 26, 2018 at the age of 83. Dave is survived by his wife, Ann..

Dave is a U.S. Army Korean war veteran and a member of Post 138, with 43 continuous years of membership. Dave served many roles during his impressive career in The American Legion. Dave served as Post Adjutant for eleven years in 1979-82, 2003-08 & 2011-14. He served as Post Commander in 1981-82 and with his

leadership the Post reached an all-time high in membership. In the year 1986-87 he served as Department Membership Chairman. That year the Department of Florida rose to a figure higher than 100,000 for the first time in its history and was the first Department to reach 100% in membership. He served as Department Vice Commander for the Central Area in 1991-92, where he again reached an all-time high in membership for the Central Area. In 1995-96, he served as Department Commander.

If you would like to send your condolences you may do so through his wife, Ann, at 4711 W. El Prado Blvd., Tampa, FL 33629.

August 23, 2018 55% Target Report (Currently 36.81% )		
6	Timothy Tierney	42.29%
16	Raymond Perez	39.27%
4	Cherie Korn	39.14%
11	Donna Wallace	38.99%
2	James Brennan	37.50%
15	Bruce Carl	36.83%
17	Willie Branch	36.80%
12	Stephen Hamrick	36.40%
7	David Tucker	35.26%
8	Jerry Faught	34.68%
13	Peter Rabczewski	34.48%
9	Teddy Pomerantz	33.21%
1	John Edens	32.83%
5	Troy Horsley	30.16%
14	Gary Decker	29.77%
3	Stuart Scott	27.98%
Eastern	James Burk	39.76%
Central	Jay Allen	37.97%
Southwestern	Michael Raymond	34.57%
Southern	James Tewes	34.34%
Western	Raymond Olsen	33.66%
Northern	Frederick Hutto	33.26%
Post 400		41.92%
Post 208		43.22%



Call Now: 1-800-235-6943  
Monday - Friday 8AM - 7PM (EST)

**DEPARTMENT TRUSTED.  
LEGIONNAIRE APPROVED.**

We provide a wide range of benefits designed to protect you, your family and your health.



From Your American Legion Department

**We are committed to serving the unique insurance needs of LIT members and their families.**



**Emergency and Accident**

A crisis can strike at any moment. Learn how we can help you prepare for the unexpected and get assistance when you need it most.



**Insurance Coverage**

From health to auto, we offer valuable insurance products designed to fit the specific needs of Legionnaires.



**No Cost Protection**

Your valued status as a Legionnaire makes you eligible for LegionCare, up to \$5,000.00 in NO COST to you benefits.

**Cancer Care Insurance Plan**

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust products and services are there when you need them most. Listen to how others have benefited from services like our Cancer Care Insurance Plan.

- Cash benefits sent to Legionnaire members diagnosed with cancer
- We send you money – even if you don't have cancer



**MEMBERSHIP GOAL**  
**55%** 9/5/2018

[www.thelit.com](http://www.thelit.com)



# ***American Legion***

## ***Post 69***

### **Challenge 22 & Picnic**



**Saturday September 8, 2018 @ 12:00 pm**

**1301 W. Bell Street, Avon Park, FL 33825**

**Veterans Suicide Awareness of those**

**“22” veterans that commit suicide a day.**

**We will be hosting a 1 mile walk to raise awareness, in honor of those veterans who felt left behind.**

**We will also have a speaker/s explaining the signs and symptoms and Where/How to find help Following the walk there will be a Summer Bash “Picnic”**



**Point of contact: American Legion Post 69, Service Officer Larry Roberts (850)718-7773**

*I would like to challenge you, to Challenge 22!! This event to spread awareness of the (roughly) 22 veterans that commit suicide every day. For the last three years I have been hosting this event and every year it has gotten bigger. This year we are doing something new; We are planning on doing a picnic after the walk. ~ Larry Roberts*

**SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION  
THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA**

My name is Gerald A. Kaufman, I am a veteran of the United States Navy. I hold the high office of Historian for the American Legion Department of Florida.

I would like to tell you a little about this great organization of War Time Veterans and what we do for our communities, State and Nation.

In 1919 at the end of World War I a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army had a discussion with some friends about forming an organization just for those who fought in the great war. That Lieutenant Colonel was named Theodore Roosevelt Jr and that meeting took place in Paris France.

From that meeting was born the American Legion. Our founding principles were based on Four Pillars. Those Four Pillars are:

- I Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
- II National Security
- III Americanism
- IV Children and Youth

As you can see, our organization is about our Communities, State and Nation. We are one of four organizations who have the honor and distinction of being a 501 (c) 19 which is a war time veterans service organization chartered by the United States Congress. From where we began in 1919 to where we are today has been a long and arduous journey in the struggle for veterans and their families. Along the way we have had great victories (We wrote the original GI Bill of Rights) and we have also seen the benefits of American Veterans dwindle. But through it all we have “Stayed the Course” and this year we turn 100 years old.

Here in Florida we have formed an organization named PROJECT: VETRELEIF which is a 501(C)3. We felt that funds raised here in Florida for Veterans Emergency Assistance should stay here in our state and not go to our National Headquarters to be distributed throughout the nation. Project: Vet Relief has been the backbone of disaster relief here in the State of Florida over the past few years since its’ inception. When we look back over the devastation of Hurricane Irma in South Florida and across this great state and know that the American Legion led the way through Project:VetRelief in assisting not only the veterans but also our active duty and their families in recovering from tragic and insurmountable losses it lets myself and all others know that this organization is alive, well and here to continue our mission of the Four Pillars.

Project: VetRelief is the Charity of Choice to benefit from our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. Almost one hundred percent of the proceeds from our celebration “Vets Invade the Canyon” to be held on January 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 2019 will go to PROJECT: VETRELIEF to continue in our support of the Four Pillars of the American Legion and ensure the Veterans and active duty personnel and their families of the Great State of Florida have the ready assistance that is needed.

For this I ask that you consider making a tax deductible sponsorship of our 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration and come out and support 100 years of service to the great veterans and active duty from the State of Florida.

For God and Country,  
Gerald A. Kaufman  
The American Legion, Department of Florida  
Historian



# Vets Invade the Canyon



**FLORIDA AMERICAN LEGION**

★ **100<sup>TH</sup>** ★

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

**JANUARY 18-19, 2019**

**ROCK CRUSHER CANYON**

**CRYSTAL RIVER, FL.**

**LIVE BANDS**

**FOOD/DRINKS**

**VENDORS**

**Join us for a fun filled weekend  
to benefit PROJECT: VETRELIEF**

**100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION EACH NIGHT**

**FOR INFORMATION ON TICKETS AND SPONSORSHIP  
PLEASE EMAIL**

**[vetsinvadethecanyon@gmail.com](mailto:vetsinvadethecanyon@gmail.com)**