



# THE LEGION LINK

★ SERVICE  
★ HONOR  
★ SACRIFICE



MARCH 2020

COMMANDER WILLIAM "RICK" JOHNSON VOLUME 28 ISSUE VIII

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### From your Department Commander Rick Johnson

Rick Johnson, Commander  
[commander@floridalegion.org](mailto:commander@floridalegion.org)



#### Wonderful Recent Events

The summit was a great event in February. There were a lot of riders and family members that attended and brought back to their post great information to be carried forward. The challenge 22 event in Avon Park was another great event with numerous vendors from different areas to give a helping hand. Thank you family 69 for the hospitality.

Had a real nice visit in the 17th Dist. The hospitality and welcome were a treat and it was nice to see the comeback District as they are called now. Headed down to Marco Island to

post 404 and the opening ceremonies on the wall that heals. Was a guest speaker and was well attended by the whole community. This is a ¾ replica of the wall in Washington D.C. and very well put together.

Attended the Mardi gras event in Dunedin and the family from post 275 did not disappoint as always. They did their float as a tank which surprised me very much and it was well done. Probably 40,000 people were at the parade. We have a very busy March coming up. DC visit, Lake Nona visit, Oratorical contest, 4th Dist. visit, Gainesville hospital visit, Northern area ball Welcome home Vietnam and the race to the top.

As you see we stay busy. I look forward to seeing you around the state and please be safe and THANK YOU all for what you do

**Tank Out**



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

# OUR HISTORY

Celebrate 100 Years of Florida Legion history

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*Upcoming Resolutions*

**Jerry Brandt, 1st Vice Commander**

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



What a month, to start with, the National Commander visited the 6th and 12th Districts, and was greeted by the Legion Family at every Posts he visited. A total of 12 Posts in the 6th District and

15 Post in the 12th District, not counting all the Posts whom were invited to meet at the designated Posts. The National Commander really was impressed with Florida, with several Posts having over 100 members show up to meet with the National Commander. I would like to take you for keeping the state of Florida in the forefront of the American Legion.

We also had the American Legion Riders Summit in Coco Beach this year. What a turn out, with a large number of new faces, visitors from Colorado, Georgia, and other states. What the Legion Riders are doing is spreading and yet again, National is

looking at Florida in a positive light. Thank you, the Legion Riders, for leading the way.

As many of you know that we have a number of changes coming up at Convention. In the next couple of months the resolutions for changes to the Department Bylaws will be coming out to all Posts. Please read them, talk about them at your meetings. YOU will need to vote on them at the Department Convention. Vote wisely.

Speaking of the National Convention, because of the number of resolutions, expect to have full days on Friday and Saturday.

By now everyone should be working on their year-end reports. These reports are very important, they provide valuable evidence that we, as a Department of the American Legion, are doing our job supporting the 4 pillars. Take that extra time to fill out the CPR's correctly and truthfully. We have been doing the programs, let us let everyone know how great we are.

*Proud to be a Rider*

**Michael Raymond, 3rd Vice Commander**

[3rdvice@legionmail.org](mailto:3rdvice@legionmail.org)



Approximately 17 years ago my neighbor from across the street, after seeing my Air Force flag flying proudly in my front yard decided to do what we now know as a buddy

check. After some conversation, mostly about our time in the military, and having noticed I ride a motorcycle, he informed me of a program that was about to take shape in our local American Legion Post. It was going to be called the American Legion Riders. After explaining what our mission would be, it piqued my interest. Our primary mission will be to honor our

deceased Veterans and their families at funerals and to protect their honor from a certain church that was exercising their freedom of speech demonstrating at these events. This also was the birth of the Patriot Guard Riders. The rest is history. But how times have changed!

The American Legion Riders have grown to be one of the leading programs of the American Legion in membership and funds raised. Under the leadership of Bob Sussan, the Riders have raised close to 14 million dollars just during our annual Legacy Run. There is no limit to what the Riders can do as shown by the thousands they are currently raising for our Vet Relief and Suicide Prevention programs. But most importantly it is a great membership recruitment and retention

*continued on page 3>>*

**MARCH 2020**

1	JROTC Cadet of the Year Due
1	General Scholarship Due
1	Eagle Scout of the Year Due
1-31	Women's History Month
3	U.S. Navy Reserve Birthday
3	Hug a GI Day
5	District 15 Visitation ☆
5	Seabee Birthday
7	District 15 Meeting - Post 111
7	District 2 Quarterly Meeting
7	District 14 Meeting
7	Southwestern Area Ball
8	Daylight Saving Time Starts
8-11	DSO/Washington Conference ☆
9	District 15 Visitation - Post 278
11	National Membership Goal - 90%
13	K9 Veterans Day
14	Oratorical Department Contest ☆
15	Legion Link Articles Due
15	American Legion 101st Birthday ☆
17	St. Patrick's Day
18	District 4 Visitation ☆
19	First Day of Spring
21	Northern Area Ball ☆
21	District 16 Meeting
21	District 8 Meeting
21	Northern Area Ball
25	Medal of Honor Day
18	Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans 2020 ☆
28	Welcome Home Vietnam - Post 110 ☆
28	Vietnam War Veterans Ceremony
28	Welcome Home Vietnam - Post 254 ☆
29	Vietnam War Veterans Day

☆ - Commander Rick Johnson'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.



3rd Vice - continued from page 2 >>

tool. I am living proof of that! There is no telling how many members have joined the Legion due to the American Legion Riders. Keep in mind, that we are an organization comprised of the entire

American Legion family under the roof of the American Legion. Without the support of the Post we cease to exist. Just having returned from the 4th Annual Legion Riders Summit, probably the most well attended summit so far, I feel most Riders understand not only how important we are

to the future of the American Legion, but what is expected of us. The outstanding training classes were well attended, and the instruction was professionally presented. Everyone who participated left there with more than they came with. So proud to be a Rider!

Resolution 1

Dennis Boland, NEC  
nec@legionmail.org



Title: Addendum to American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites for 2020

Origin: American Legion Baseball Committee  
WHEREAS, Resolution

No. 30 of the National Executive Committee, May 2018, established the sites and dates for the 2019 and 2020 American Legion Baseball Regional Tournaments;

and

WHEREAS, At the conclusion of the 2019 Southeast Regional tournament, The American Legion Department of Florida and Tampa Post 248 notified National Headquarters, they would not be able to host the tournament in 2020; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Alabama and its Baseball Youth Committee has graciously accepted to host the 2020 Southeast Regional tournament; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Baseball Committee has reviewed the Department

of Alabama's tournament bid proposal and recommends its approval to the Americanism Commission; now, therefore, be

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, by email vote pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of the National Executive Committee, That the Region 3 site for the 2020 Southeast Regional tournament of The American Legion Baseball program be awarded to Montgomery, Alabama.

This has the approval of the National Finance Commission, the National Americanism Commission and the National American Legion Baseball Committee.

National Media Association

Edward Lewis, Historian  
historian@legionmail.org



Dear Fellow Legionnaires...My article is very brief this month. Many of you have asked what is going on with the National Media Association. I would like to share with you a letter I received before heading to the American Legion Riders Summit...

Dear American Legion Family media representatives and communicators:

I am pleased to bring you good news today.

As you are aware, The American Legion ceased involvement with the National

American Legion Press Association (NALPA) after financial and trademark concerns were discovered last summer.

Following that decision, National Adjutant Dan Wheeler asked me to create a task force of members from the Media and Communications Commission that would create a successor to NALPA that would focus on the priorities for those producing media at the post, district and/or department level. I appointed M&C Commission members Holly Lewis, Dave Wallace and Dan Wiley on the task force.

The priorities of the new group would be:

- Resources, tips and other materials to promote The American Legion, post events, etc.
- A press credential for members in good standing.
- Training, including but not limited to the annual media workshop at national convention.
- The annual contest.

The three-member task force began in early January and has made outstanding progress to date, including the new name of the organization: The American Legion Media Alliance or TALMA.

We are moving quickly to begin accepting memberships online, ideally by March 1. TALMA members in good standing will receive a press credential and lanyard, the electronic newsletter, access to the annual contest, along with all the resources, tips, tools and training from national.

The task force is also planning to launch the reformatted annual contest this spring. More details will be forthcoming. The timeline will also include an annual banquet at national convention when award winners will be recognized.

Please join me in thanking Holly, Dan and Dave for their work so far, and

*continued on page 4>>*



*Historian- continued from page 3 >>*

their continued diligence in this very important objective.

Thank you for your continued patience.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Ivie, Chairman, Media & Communications Commission  
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Thank you for your continued patience.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Ivie, Chairman, Media & Communications Commission

*The Rights of Members*

**Dick Mondro, Judge Advocate**

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



Have you ever been in a meeting where you felt frustrated because you were not sure how to participate fully in discussing an issue? Or maybe you were embarrassed because you were told your

comments were out of order. Perhaps you kept silent because you felt you did not know how to make a motion. Every member attending a meeting should have the goal to understand the issues and make certain their voice is heard both in debate and in voting. The chairman has responsibilities to make sure members have a fair opportunity to express themselves, but members need to be aware of their rights and responsibilities as well.

In Robert's Rules of Order, you can find the emphasis on the rights of members before the manual of rules even begins. On page li Principles Underlying Parliamentary Procedure it states "These rules are based on a regard for the rights:

- Of a majority
- Of the minority, especially a strong minority--greater than one-third
- Of individual members
- Of absentees, and
- Of all these together

Protecting these right is the reason parliamentary law exists. As a member of an organization you have these general rights:

- To choose to belong
- To be notified of all meetings
- To attend the meetings
- To help influence decision making by making motion, debating, and voting
- To serve on committees

- To have a copy of the society's rules, especially the bylaws
- To help determine dues and how money is spent
- To be nominated, elected, and serve as an officer.
- In addition to rights, members also have responsibilities. General responsibilities of members include:
- To pay dues on time
- To attend and remain to the end of the meetings
- To know and obey the rules of the organization, including bylaws, special and standing rules
- To support and defend the purpose of the organization.
- To know your rights and learn how to use them
- To participate & express your opinions while you are in the meeting when it is in order
- To observe the rules of decorum in

*continued on page 5 >>*



*Judge Advocate- continued from page 4 >>*

- meeting
- To carry out any duty or assigned task or ask to be excused
- To support the decisions of the majority without animosity and further criticism

In addition to these general rules there are many specific rules that greatly empower a single member.

**SOME SPECIFIC RIGHTS OF A SINGLE MEMBER (Can be found in Robert's Rules)**

1. Demand a standing vote if you doubt the chair's announcement of a vote.
2. Require the chair to rule when you

- think a parliamentary rule is broken.
3. Require the adopted agenda to be followed.
4. Change your vote up to the time the result is announced.
5. Interrupt pending business if you cannot hear or if there is some other problem related to the atmosphere of the meeting.
6. Request a speaker to clarify a statement through the chair.
7. Withdraw a motion you made before it is stated by the chair.
8. If recognized to speak, the chair must protect you from being interrupted, except in
  - a. cases where interruption of a speaker is permitted.
9. Ask for help from the chair to frame a

- motion you wish to make or to ask a
  - b. parliamentary question on a non-debatable motion.
10. If you are the maker of a motion, you have preference in recognition to speak first to
  - c. that motion.
11. May call another member to order when that member repeatedly questions motives
  - d. of other speakers or persists in speaking on irrelevant matters.
12. May abstain from voting and cannot be compelled to vote.

This should help you to enjoy participating in the business meetings of your organization.



*Northern Area News*

**Marie Conti, Northern Area Commander**

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



Congratulations to everyone that has met or exceeded the 90% goal. The next membership goal is 95% before 01 APR 2020. I would like to see the Northern Area at 100% before 17 Mar 2020, as the deadline for Race to The Top is 31 Mar 2020.

There is still work to be accomplished for the 2019-2020 Legion Year. I suggest that you look where your Post is at this point of the year, see if you need to catch up in membership. How many have not renewed? How many have reported to Post Everlasting? How many new members? Are you getting the new members involved?

Department Oratorical contest is 14 Mar 2020, at Department Headquarters (1912A Lee RD, Orlando). Prepare your candidates. Have practice sessions. Be at Department Oratorical Competition to support your candidate.

The Northern Area Ball will be held on 21 Mar 2020, at American Legion Post 155, Crystal River. See flyer for details. Please contact PDC Jay Conti Sr. at 352-287-1400, for more information.

Now is the time get an early start on the end of year CPR Reports. Also, don't forget Awards for Boy Scouts, JROTC & Shooting Sports, School Medals, Americanism, Children & Youth Month (C & Y April) and many other Programs that we have. With Post nominations coming soon, let's finish what we started last year and go out with a BANG!

*Upcoming Events*

**Paul Bosco, Southern Area Commander**

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



March 1st is the awards due date for Eagle Scout of the Year, JROTC Cadet, and General Scholarship due at department. I hope you have sent your paper work in for these Scholarships.

If you haven't sent it in you've cheated these young students out of scholarship money they could use to further their education.

- March 3 U. S. Navy Reserve Birthday
- March 5 Seabees Birthday
- March 7 District 14 Meeting at Post 31 time 0900 registration 1000 start
- March 8 Daylight Savings Time begins (spring forward)
- March 11 membership target 90 %
- March 14 District 11 Meeting at Post 268 time 1000
- March 14 Department's Oratorical Contest
- March 15 American Legions 101st Birthday
- March 17 St Patrick's Day
- March 19 First day of spring
- Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003)
- March 21 District 9 meeting at Post 157 time 1300

*Note of Thanks*

**Larry Roberts, VA Entitlements**

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



I would like to start off by thanking the Rick Johnson, Department Commander, for allowing me to travel with him to visit the Bay Pines VA Hospital, James Haley VA Hospital and West Palm VA Hospital. As well as, allowing me to give a class at the Legion College, I would also like to thank Jim Winelands and the Riders for allowing me to give class at the Riders summit.



Western Area News

**John Eden, Western Area Commander**  
[westernarea@legionmail.org](mailto:westernarea@legionmail.org)



Western Area has done a great job with 5 of our Post at 100% membership already and working on even greater numbers. This can be the year that we all work hard on increasing membership, not just getting status quo. March should

be your Post's big push for increasing memberships, so we can concentrate on the Post CPRs and Awards for our dedicated members in April.

This is also our year after the big Hurricane Michael. Most Post have fixed most damage, but we still have 2 Posts that are totally rebuilding. Get me the info, and I will attend and send out the flyers for the Fund Raisers for those 2 Posts. I attended the Post 375 Golf Fundraiser for their Post just two months ago.

The Oratorical Competition this year ended up being one candidate from Post 392 in 1st District. We had the Area Competition at Post 235. I want to thank Post 235 for their hospitality and warm welcome. The State Competition is on 14 March (9am) at Dept. Headquarters for those that would like to attend with the 1st Dist CDR, our Area Oratorical Chairman (Countess Guiles), and myself.

I look forward to see as many Posts as I can again, in the next few months.

Service is What We Do

**Jim Ramos, Northern Membership**  
[teamramos@legionmail.org](mailto:teamramos@legionmail.org)



Congratulation to the 6th, 17th, 4th, 1st, 5th, 3rd and 2nd District for doing a Great job. Thanks, but we still need to work. Our next Goal 90%, but how about 100% in March 11, 2020 that would be Great. "Always do more not less" and "We do can Let's Go Florida"

**HONOR is making it happen with membership 100%:**

Some ideas on how to make 100%:

1. BUDDY CHECK event toolkit is online (go to Legion.org) outreach to your members and do some personal contact
2. Get help from the Legion families have the Aux, SAL, and ALR to help: Use the families for Phone call to members (renewal and let members know what is going on at the Post)
3. Set up "carpool" to get Legionnaires to meeting, especially new members and see how older members are DOING?

4. Now is the time to get something DID if you NEED help just call
5. Remember that Membership is the life blood of the American Legion (Success)

**SACRIFICE is the something WE all do and is sometimes it's hard to make it happen:**

WE Sacrifice Vacation time, Holiday, Free time, Sleep, Uninterrupted Anything, But WE continue to Help and Sacrifice for our Post (members) and our Community. Because is the right thing to DO. And I thank you for your SACRIFICE.

NOW is your Post doing some:

1. Public Relations with the community
2. Implement new ideas, being creative, being different, being flexible so your Post is better
3. Developing your Post and its members "Encourage, Positive Attitude, Establish Goals, Develop Trust, Building self-esteem in others"
4. Educating "our members, the public, doing newsletter, doing programs, and know our Legion History)

March is the hardest month to tackle But we can make it happen, Oh now we

need to step up do a lot of membership to help your District win the "RACE To The TOP" if the District is 100% +1% they will have a chance to win a National Competition and help the Department make that 103% Goal. Let's GO Florida we can do it. Please do it before the 15th of March 2020. Remember is the American Legion Birthday March 15-17, but we can Celebrate all month long.

April is Children & Youth month: Celebrate do some for our "Children & Youth" a perfect time of the year get Legionnaires to demonstrate that we are a Legion family and let the Community know who we are. Plan an event, activities and/or some project to help your community know who we are as the American Legion and what we do for our Veteran's and their families. We care for our Children and Youth.

**We still need to continue to work with our District and Post's to see how we can make 103% goal**

But whatever you do make it BIG.

Communication is the Key to Success and Recognized your Volunteer or just say Thank You

If you need ideas just ask me (call 352-226-4370 or email [jramos149@bellsouth.net](mailto:jramos149@bellsouth.net))



*Southern Area Membership*

**Ray Perez, Southern Membership**

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



A Certificate of Appreciation is being sent out to all the Posts through the Membership Chairmen and District Commanders that have made their 100% mark before May 31st, as a thank you from PDC

Ramos and myself. We currently have 45 of them. Thank you.

I want to take a minute to acknowledge all the Posts that have been making their monthly goals. As you know we should be at 85% as of February 5th and our March 4th goal is 90%. We always have to keep in mind that with larger Posts (Post memberships over 1,500 members) it is

harder to get that one percentage point than the smaller Posts. I've learned a lot about our Posts in the Panhandle and in the South because geographically they so far from the rest of the District. Recruiting is quite the challenge. I think we're all doing a great job but we can't sit back and relax yet. There are 1,440 Post 400 members that have NOT renewed as of the February 13th report. I encourage Posts to continue to work the DMS lists and Buddy Checks. We're two and half months away from the 100% goal; I know we can make 103%. As of today, Department of Florida is at 90.54%

We are also making an initiative to participate in Yellow Ribbon events with our deploying and returning troops. This command is out of Ft. Jackson, SC and they will be contacting me with their schedule. The events take place in Orlando. For those of you that are not aware of this program, various vendors assemble much like at convention which gives the American

Legion the opportunity to communicate one-on-one and speak during their general assemblies. Rob McGregor from Post 5 and I have conducted many of them. For some reason, the American Legion lost a seat at that table. We look forward to helping these troops and to recruit as many as we can. It would be great to form teams to work these events.

There is one last subject I want to pass on. Department will no longer send out the multi-copy Member Data Form, instead please use this link to download the form: <https://www.floridalegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Member-Data-Form.pdf> the same rule applies. Just fill out the portions that change on the member and mail one copy to department. The form is fillable by computer, no more pen and ink!

For assistance or training requests please contact me at [blooddonor@legionmail.org](mailto:blooddonor@legionmail.org) or call 727-412-5356.

*For the Cause, not the Applause*

**Jim Wineland, American Legion Riders**

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



Wow, what a great turn out for our Summit this year. Who would of thought that when the Day's started this four years ago with 246 room nights and it has now grown to 562 room

nights in just four years? The feedback we have received from the Survey Monkey has all been positive and you've included some great ideas that we will look at for next year. I would also like to thank our instructors who took time out of the Legion schedules to support the Summit! All of you received excellent feedback from the survey.

Next year, we are really wrestling with our location for the Summit. International Palms will be torn down in March of next year but will still be available for

our Summit in February 2021. It's going to be very hard to find another location like the Palms at the same rate on the beach. We know the Palms won't put in any extra money to maintain it, but just try to make do. If any of you have any ideas. Please let us know, it's going to be hard to replace.

Our next project will be putting together Iceman's Hockey Team game on March 28th. This will be the last home game before the playoffs. As ticket sales increase, it will unlock added benefits to the event. This is all new to us, we thought it would be more of a local event, but the Iceman organization wants to reach out to Lady Lakes and include all veterans with a donation going to PVR/SPI.

Here it is, the link to register for the Unity Ride, <https://give.floridalegion.org/event/florida-legion-unity-ride/e270483>. A lot of work has gone into this one. Jennifer Cooper has utilized a new product to assist in our sign up and fund raising for the Unity Ride. It even has an opportunity for

someone to go on a virtual ride to help support PVR/SPI. Carrie has also done a great job setting up the Hotels and Maps for both routes. Once again, we are utilizing Laura at AAA to book our rooms. Our Chapter at Post 10 in Kissimmee have really done a great job getting this tied into the In-State Rally. Great teamwork putting this all together!

The actual Unity Ride will start on Monday, April 27th, and end on May 1st, followed by our Rally on Saturday May 2 at Orlando Harley South. Net proceeds will go to PVR as always, and the "Round Robin" will be extended to include May 2. FYI, hotel in Marathon for Sunday Night April 26th, Blackfin, call Chris at 407 314 7181, it's \$135 a night for any room. It's the cheapest we could find.

Once again, Thank You for what you do, and I am proud to be the Chairman of such a great group!



*Walking for America*

**Kurt Gies, Americanism**

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



At the 2019 American Legion national convention, the keynote speaker, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, spoke about the state of "Americanism" in this country. What I took

away from that speech is that the word "Americanism" has come to be known, in a growing segment of our country, as a divisive word. This is unacceptable!

Americanism reflects the attitude and belief that this country is founded on principles that all men are created equal and have the right for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. But for some reason, politics has taken over almost all aspects of our society and transformed what used to be discussions that ended in compromise or at least a better understanding and have turned into 'Contempt' for those who disagree with you.

One of the greatest things about our country is the ability to disagree without fear of persecution. Whether you're on the left, the right, or in the center, it shouldn't matter because at the end of the day we all are Americans. If we always maintain respect the other person, we can learn from the experience of an intense

discussion. Respect is maintained when we are able keep contempt out of the picture. Because, at the end of the day, we are all Americans.

All of us have served our country and many have seen friends or family give the ultimate sacrifice in order that our system of government and freedoms are maintained. But the core and center of everything should be a belief in the principles that America was founded upon. As a result, it is our duty to once again stand up and remind everyone, especially during this highly political season, that though we may disagree, the fact that we have the ability to voice our opinions is only because of what America stands for.

In order to put a spotlight on the great things the American Legion does to promote Americanism, as your Department chairman for the Americanism Commission, I will be undertaking a 22-day "Walk for America". It will start Memorial Day weekend on May 23 in Winter Garden, Florida. Heading west, I will proceed to walk up to 22 miles a day visiting over 50 American Legion posts in the 6th, 7th, 8th, 13th, 15th, and 16th districts over the 22-day period. I encourage anyone who wants to join me for some, a portion or all of the trip to do so. But the main idea is to have rally points within mile of each post, where members of the legion family, the community, or anyone else who wants to participate can walk with the last mile

into the post with me. At each post, the goal is to have representatives from the community including elected officials, your Boys State delegates, Girl State delegates, Boy Scouts, JROTC/Sea Cadets, baseball, oratorical contestants, blood mobiles, school medal winners, Youth Law cadets, etc in attendance, so they can be recognized by the local community and/or press. We will also be inviting any other local organizations (like the Elks, Rotary, VFW, DAV etc) that want to help celebrate Americanism. We want to **Celebrate America** as much as we can during this 22-day period, which will be ending on Flag Day.

If you want to get involved or help please contact me at [KurtGies@Gmail.com](mailto:KurtGies@Gmail.com) . Over the next few weeks my team will be calling each post to make arrangements to ensure that they can support us at the designated time and date along the path that we've preliminarily laid out.

In addition, along the way, we will be collecting those brass grommets from your flag retirements. So if your post is on the list to be visited (to be provided later), we ask that you collect the flag grommets and/or do your flag retirements while we are there. Note: We are currently working with a local artist to come up with some conceptual designs that respectfully honor what those retired flags flew for. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

*Baseball News*

**Terry Phillips, Baseball**

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



The 2020 American Legion Baseball Season is only weeks away and I am receiving calls and messages daily from parents, coaches and teams wanting to know how to join

and play in the Florida American Legion

Baseball Program this summer.

We have been planting seeds over the last few seasons and focusing on the younger 12 to 17 years old players and families. This was the age group of kids that the program had not been developing and recruiting to play and get involved in what we do or the service we provide to the communities.

Three seasons ago, we created the Executive Baseball Committee which consists of all six areas through out the

Department of Florida. Each area has an Area Baseball Commissioner with the charge to oversee, communicate and develop their areas.

This is a working plan and we are having success in growing teams, players and awareness of our program in communities all over our state.

Since being appointed as the Department Baseball Chairman about 45 days ago, I

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have been diligently working very hard to gather information, ask questions, collect reports that I was not privy to in the past and hit the ground running to improve our program for the good of all.

I must tell you; we have cracks in our foundation, we are fractured due to not enough communications, financial donations or boots on the ground to accept the mission. We need your help.

Only about 25% of our posts help support

this Americanism Program that is also tied with the Children and Youth program. If the rest of the Department Posts could commit to making a \$250 - \$500 donation to the baseball program weather you have a team or not, it would be a blessing to our kids and program.

The foundation teams that play Legion Baseball every season, the Posts that support their teams and the Coaches, Players and Parents are awesome. With new teams coming onboard our needs to operate increase. The Teams, Players and Parents are wonderful, please get out and

meet them at a game sometime.

I am asking all Posts, Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders to help our program continue to provide service to the youth of our communities, with financial support and leaders to fill spots that have a passion for the kids and baseball to contact me.

My contact info is in the Department Baseball Manual and in the Department Roster / Directory

Blood Donor Program

Ray Perez, Blood Donor

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



Please make that extra effort to help. Schedule a drive at your next event. OneBlood, the local not-for-profit blood center serving Florida and the majority of the Southeast,

announced today that it will be sending blood to Puerto Rico following a series of earthquakes.

Widespread destruction and the lack of electricity on the island is preventing blood centers in Puerto Rico from being able to operate.

**To ensure a ready blood supply locally and to be able to continue assisting Puerto Rico, OneBlood encourages all eligible donors to please donate.** To find a donor center or Big Red Bus near you simply visit [www.oneblood.org](http://www.oneblood.org).

OneBlood has assisted Puerto Rico in the past, including during Hurricane Maria, Hurricane Irma and when the island was

impacted by the Zika virus.

I have seen great work from the Blood Donor Chairmen scheduling blood drives. Thank you to the 15th District and Florida ALR at their Summit in Cocoa Beach. Please let me know of your blood drives, there are a lot of great efforts out there, I just need your input!!

Thank You! My number and email again are 727-412-5356 [blooddonor@legionmail.org](mailto:blooddonor@legionmail.org).



Immigration Committee

Gene Smith, Immigration

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



This month's Immigration column is contributed by Ms. Elizabeth Ricci, Esq., Immigration Attorney with the law firm of Rambana & Ricci, PLLC., Tallahassee. Ms. Ricci partnered with

The American Legion, Department of Florida a few years ago to assist foreign-born U.S. veterans on Immigration issues. During my tenure as the Department's Immigration Committee Chair, many

of the cases I worked, the veteran states he/she believed citizenship came automatically for serving on active duty and receiving an Honorable Discharge when the military obligation was complete. As Ms. Ricci states in her article, completing service in the US Military does not make one a citizen. There are perhaps thousands across this country whose stay and family existence could be in jeopardy. Read Ms. Ricci's article and pass on her suggested tips for obtaining citizenship by those foreign born who have served in the US military were honorably discharged.

**Foreign Born Vets Face Surprises En Route to Citizenship: Tips for Success**

By Elizabeth Ricci\*, Esq.

What does it take to become a citizen of the United States? Despite what you might believe, not military service .

Many foreign-born veterans erroneously believed that their military service automatically made them citizens, either because they were promised by high-ranking officials that they would be made citizens or because both the oath of enlistment and the naturalization oath confusingly contain the same pledge to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; [to] bear true faith and allegiance to the same." In order to become a naturalized US citizen, however,

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*Immigration - continued from page 9*

an applicant must generally be a Lawful Permanent Resident ("Green Card" holder) then affirmatively apply for citizenship.

Some of the 645,000 foreign-born veterans of the US Armed Forces receive the surprise of a lifetime when they learn, usually upon application for benefits at Social Security, at their local DMV or passport office, they are not actually citizens.

Since knowingly holding oneself out as a citizen is a bar to naturalization, USCIS officers often erroneously deny vets' Applications for Naturalization for having participated in our democracy by voting or having registered to vote over a misunderstanding about whether the voting was done "knowingly". Such poor decisions cause vets to have to appeal.

Vets, including those who registered to vote or voted, may overcome the Green Card prerequisite if they served during a designated period of hostility (World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf and Enduring Freedom) or made "extraordinary contributions to national security". Without such, they may need to become Green Card holders (through US citizen or Permanent Resident family or as refugees, for example).

Australian-born US Marine Corps veteran

Paul Canton of Summerfield, Florida finds himself in a unique predicament. He was told by his recruiter in 1991 that his service would make him a US citizen. Upon his honorable discharge in 1995, he believed himself to be a US citizen and voted in several elections. Imagine his surprise when he went to renew his driver license and was told he was not eligible to do so. He quickly contacted USCIS where an agent told him to file for naturalization. When he appeared at the Orlando USCIS office, the interviewing officer told him, "I don't know how you got into the country; I don't know how you got into the military, and I don't know why you are still here" and denied his application claiming he had poor moral character for having voted. The case is now on appeal. Meanwhile, he is a man without a country as his US military service caused his Australian citizenship to be revoked, leaving him stateless.

It is important to note that the application process is not the same for veterans as other would-be citizens. Although foreign-born veterans still file Form N-400 they must also file Form N-426, Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service, (both forms are available at uscis.gov), and provide a copy of their DD-214 with two passport style photos. All vets' applications are mailed to USCIS in Chicago. Vets are not required to pay naturalization application or biometrics fees. In some jurisdictions, eligible veterans may request

that they naturalize the same day of their interview which consists of speaking, reading, and writing in English as well as civics questions. Denials may be appealed via Form N-336 without fee.

Veteran naturalization applicants, especially those who voted or have other criminal histories, should seek legal help from an experienced immigration attorney or a Service Officer with their local American Legion or Veterans of Foreign War post.

*\*Elizabeth Ricci is the Managing Partner of Rambana & Ricci, PLLC Immigration Attorneys. She has represented several foreign-born veterans pro bono and was recently described by the Philadelphia Inquirer as the "go-to lawyer for veterans." The Veterans Law Clinic Scholarship at Nova Southeastern University Shepherd Broad Law Center was named in her honor. She may be reached at elizabeth@rambana.com.*

*The Army's MAVNI program (Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest), however, granted expedited fast-track citizenship to multi-lingual non-Permanent Residents with high demand skills who enlist. The program, has been essentially been put on hold. AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 130092060.*

*A federal ruling on December 12, 2019 that held anyone born in American Samoa should be recognized as a U.S. citizen was put on hold until the issue is resolved on appeal. American Samoan vets need not be Lawful Permanent Residents to naturalize but must live in another part of the United States in order to apply for citizenship*

*Formal Inspections, 4 Chaplains Memorial Service and JSSP Competition Results*

**Loretta Young, ROTC/JROTC/Shooting Sports**

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



The Annual Formal Inspections for the JROTC Units are held during the beginning of the year to evaluate the Cadet Programs throughout the state. Here in Florida the Army Programs are conducted by the Army 6th Brigade and

it's the largest component of the programs with Lee County and Broward County having the largest number of Units. The Air Force, Marine and Navy have their own teams that also conduct inspections. The Cadets give formal briefings of their overall program to the Interview Teams for their cadet progress and any special community service projects that they are conducting throughout the semester. The cadets are also graded on uniform inspection in ranks, drill exhibition, color guard performance and cadet records. These Inspections are well worth the time to visit the school JROTC Program that the post supports

and see the overall picture that shows the Cadet Motto, "To Build Better Citizens". I had the privilege of an invitation to the Stranahan MCJROTC Inspection and Instructor 1st Sgt. Wayne LaBeau, Ret. was presented the Army Cadet Command Silver Instructor Award by Broward Curriculum Director, LTC Kenneth Green, Ret. for his 23 years' service to the cadet program and outstanding performance.

The 9th District 4 Chaplains Memorial Service was conducted at the Dania Beach

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*Shooting Sports - continued from page 10*

Coast Guard Station and the Color Guard Units were well represented Entrepreneur & Leadership Military Academy, Dillard, AFJROTC, Northeast AFJROTC, Stranahan MCJROTC, & Fort Lauderdale NJROTC. It was a beautiful day on the Intercostal Waterway for the Ceremony, and we were honored to have both our Dept. Commander, Rick Johnson and our Dept. Auxiliary President, Ann King-Smith in attendance. It was a very moving ceremony and was well attended by the veterans, community and the local Coast Guard members. The Patriotic Music was performed by the Fort Lauderdale Symphonic Band and the participants for the 4 Chaplains and the program was represented by the 9th District Staff and Auxiliary Chaplain.

The Final Results for the 1st Round Qualifications for the JSSP Competition is listed on the website. The Dept. of Florida had 12 Precision Shooters and 81 Sporter Shooters. The 2nd Round Targets will be sent out by CMP on 15 February for the final qualifiers who will be competing for the National Competition at the USA Olympic Training Facility in Colorado Springs in July. Competition ends and all targets must be returned to CMP by 01 April to meet the deadline for the Finals. This was a difficult competition this year with the short time to register online and some of the new procedures. I want to thank all our teams and their instructors who made the effort to have a good showing for the Dept. of Florida with this many entries. There were many states that did not have any entries, so KUDO's and good luck to all who participated.



*If I could forget what my eyes have seen*

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



I read this on a website: theofficernextdoor.com. (author unknown) It's referring mainly to Police Officers but reading it I could see many a Fire Fighter and Paramedic experiencing the

same feelings. This is a prime example of First Responder PTSD.

If I could forget what my eyes have seen, I would stop the years of tragedy replaying in my head, while trying to sleep at night.

If I could forget what my eyes have seen, I would no longer see the face of the young child I couldn't save from drowning.

If I could forget what my eyes have seen, I would no longer see the lifeless bodies lying on the highway at the countless fatality car accidents I've worked.

If I could forget what my eyes have seen,

I would no longer see that person take their last breath who was caught in gang crossfire.

If I could forget what my eyes have seen, I would forget the look on a parent's face when I told them their child was dead and never coming home.

If I could forget what my eyes have seen, I would no longer see the lifeless bodies of every homicide victim I've seen over the years.

If I could forget what my eyes have seen, what a decomposed body looks like even worse, what one smells like.

If I could forget what my eyes have seen, I would forget the look of fear and pain on every domestic violence victims face, who endured abuse from someone they loved.

If I could forget what my eyes have seen, I would erase the imagines of child abuse, sex trafficking, and child porn, I was forced to see throughout my career.

If I could forget what my eyes have seen, my heart would be softer, my trust more attainable, and my guard not always up.

If I could forget what my eyes have seen,

I'd be less skeptical, less cynical, and remember that kindness in humanity still exist.

If I could forget what my eyes have seen, I would no longer break down and cry unexpectedly, like a dam of emotion breaking for reasons unknown.

If I could forget what my eyes have seen, I would sleep without issues, cold sweats, and repetitive dreams of being killed would be a thing of the past.

If I could forget what my eyes have seen, I would not have to sit with my back against the wall when out in public, forever on the alert just in case evil were to show up.

If I could forget what my eyes have seen, I'd be forever free from the truth that evil is real. It's out there. I know because I have looked into its eyes.

If I could forget what my eyes have seen, I would not be a Police Officer.

These are the burdens we carry, the price we pay to keep you safe.

This is the truth behind our badge.



*Florida American Legion College Class of 2020!*

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

Congratulations to the 21 Legionnaires who graduated from The Department of Florida American Legion College on January 25, 2020! Graduates can go to the 'photo gallery' under the 'News and Events' tab on the Department web site to print your graduation photo with Commander Johnson. The Class of 2020 selected "Service, Honor, Sacrifice" as their class motto in recognition of Department Commander Rick Johnson.

One of the primary subjects covered in the college is an introduction to writing Resolutions as The American Legion (TAL) is a Resolution driven organization. All instructors contribute to this class which features Florida's only Past National Commander, Clarence Hill, leading discussion. This year the participants divided into a 'district' each came up with a draft Resolution. One Resolution dealt with suggesting lower or honorary membership dues for members with 50 years continuous membership; another resolution promotes Post participation in the Florida Department of Transportation's "Adopt a Highway Program." That Resolution suggests that a Post's visible involvement in local community service by participation in this environmental program is a good way to promote The American Legion in that community. The third Resolution dealt with the subject of districts recruiting outside the district boundaries defined in the Department C&BL. We may hear one or two of these as actual proposed Resolutions at the Annual Department Convention in June.

College students also heard presentations from the Department Judge Advocate delivered by the two Assistant JA's, Comrades John Dollinger and Bob Sussan. They spoke and fielded many questions about coming recommended Constitution and By Laws changes, standing rules, and many other proposed administrative changes

to be discussed and implemented by the membership at the annual Department Convention in June. The college is not just lecturing and power point slides, we also enjoyed videos on the history of The American Legion, the 4 Pillars of TAL, and the Challenge 22 Marches and fundraisers in Florida to promote veteran suicide awareness. During Larry Roberts' class we saw the video "The Wrong Side of Heaven" by a group named the '5 Finger Death Punch,' a video that will bring tears to your eyes. If you have never seen this video it is a short story that depicts servicemen in the Middle East and follows them from their service back to civilian life. The video highlights some of the issue's veterans deal with when returning to civilian life such as homelessness, suicidal thoughts, and substance abuse. You can find the video on U-tube.

The Department Events Coordinator, Michael Bratsch who was recently hired did a great job ensuring the hall and all A/V equipment was in working order, assembled the class work material, provided daily refreshments and an excellent dinner social Friday evening. Emily Church also had a nice display of

products and shirts for sale, and several students made purchases which benefit programs of the Department. The class enjoyed the Friday evening social which was catered by Mission BBQ a company that does a great job serving veterans and promoting patriotism. Jennifer Cooper delivered a great presentation on how to raise funds, and Bekki Tibbs partnered with Eunice Butts informed all of the great awards that can be earned by being active in the programs of The American Legion. Coordination with Rachel, Mike, and Bruce is a huge benefit, and who does not appreciate having the "Midas" touch available for therapy for students who needed it. The Legion College could never be a success without the devoted assistance of all Department staff, THANK YOU!

I Can't say enough to thank an excellent group of instructors that gave the individual classes and responded to many questions and scenarios presented by the participants. By next month's article I will be able to review all the graduate's comments on the class and share their thoughts with you. This will begin the FALC preparations and planning for the Class of 2021!



*Post Everlasting*

**Sid Damsgard, Central Area Commander**  
[deptlegioncollege@legionmail.org](mailto:deptlegioncollege@legionmail.org)

This past week we lost another excellent legionnaire I'm sad to report that Bill Hamblin has gone on to Post Everlasting. Bill was the driving force at Post 5 having been commander for many years. He was also president of the cemetery committee for the post. Many people do not know that

Post 5 is the only American Legion that has a veteran's cemetery. Our prayers go out to his wife Rosemary and his family. This past month the 16th district also lost a dedicated Legionnaire Jim Ostrander. Jim had been vice commander and every other job within the district He too will be very missed.

This past week the Legion Riders conducted their yearly summit. Training in all aspects of the legion were held and much good important information was presented. Next

year will be the fifth year and I recommend any rider or legionnaire to attend. The setting is conducive to getting a better understanding of our programs.

If anyone wishes to attend the commander's homecoming, please contact Ray Perez at post 273 for tickets. This year's event promises to be a special party with several surprises. Let's send Rick off on a high note.



*How and why do we Develop our Post?*

**Jim Ramos, Post Development**  
 postdevelopment@legionmail.org



Hello Florida Legionnaires: We need to do some Post Training so we can continue to make our Legion Post the Best with our History and for the next Generation of Veterans.

**Post Training:**

1. Motivation for the Post members to know what is going on
2. Commitment is how we can help each other to accomplish the goal
3. Pride in what we do as Legionnaires to help our Veterans and their Families
4. Attain Success by our desire and determination will get the job done

How do you tell our History of The American Legion you have to know it first? We started in Paris by members of the American Expeditionary Force in March 16-17, 1919 and was chartered by Congress (September 16, 1919) as a patriotic

**Veterans Organization and our four Pillars:**

1. Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
2. National Security

3. Americanism
4. Children and Youth

Each of these pillars encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its servicemembers, their families, the youth of American and ordinary citizens. These programs make a difference in hundreds of thousands of lives each year.

**A little bit of Legion History:**

\*September 19-21, 1942 the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion was changed for the first since it was written in 1919 The word "War" is changed to Wars" and Now in July 30, 2019 the Legion Act was signed into law by President Trump and also a memorandum dated Nov 5, 2019 "it was only fitting that The American Legion NEC amend the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution" to Changed take out "the Great Wars" and changed to "all wars". Now we have only 2 wars eras WWI and Dec 7, 1941.

\*Dec 15, 1943 PNC Harry W. Colmery wrote in longhand the 'GI Bill of Rights" and signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 22, 1944 and NOW is call "Forever GI Bill" and the name of PNC Harry W. Colmery is on also there Aug 2017 along with many other great addition to the legislation aimed at improving the lives of veterans and their families.

\*March 28, 2000 The American Legion present a \$1 million check to the Vietnam Veterans memorial Fund toward the construction of "The Wall" in Washington, D.C. and Now we all are Welcome Home our Vietnam Veterans and continuing to Celebrate until Nov 11, 2025.

**Questions:**

1. How does your Post works with youth programs?
2. How does your Post work with the Community?
3. How does the Post aids Veterans in need of help?
4. How does the Post make a sincere effort to make new members feel at home or welcome?

**Tools and Resources:**

Is your Post making a Difference in your Community?

**See if can you answer the following Questions?**

1. What is your Post doing for the Community and our Veterans?
2. What is your Post doing to get new members and is it work? Is your Post a truly a community asset?

Need help or ideas call Jim at 352-266-4370 or email at jramos149@bellsouth.net Thank you

*Resolutions / Amendments*

**Michael Seidel, Resolutions**  
 resolutions@legionmail.org



As we move forward into the new year, as your Resolution Chair I need inform everyone that the deadline to submit, a Resolution or Amendment to Department is May 17th 2020.

**What is a resolution?**

"A resolution has Two Major Parts

- Preamble (description of the problem)
- Resolving clause (how to correct or solve or support the issue).

Although it proceeds the resolving section in appearance, the preamble of a resolution should be prepared after the resolving section has been put into final form.

When submitting a resolution, it must be on the correct Department form, which you can found on the Department web page under documents and forms, or if

you can't find it, I can e-mail you a copy. Also, on the Department Web site is a three pages document "How to write a resolution". This document can be very helpful, it won't answer all the questions but will get you started on a good foundation.

A PowerPoint presentation can be found on the National web site [www.legion.org/training](http://www.legion.org/training) arrow down to Tools and Resources and click on District Training in a box. Once in Dropbox click on Training in a box – phase one, that will open

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Resolutions - continued from page 13  
another menu click on Resolutions.

When your Resolution is received by Department it is forwarded to the Resolutions committee, they will

verify and research any issues as well grammatically correcting the document. The document will then be sent back to the Post to prepare the final document if needed. Once finalized the resolution will be returned to the Department for processing leading up to presentation

to the membership at the Department Convention.

Any questions give me a call. 352-750-2099 Post 347

UPDATES - CHANGES - TIPS - OPPORTUNITY

Chuck Weber, Scouting  
scouting@legionmail.org



This month we're sending out bits and pieces on a variety of Scouting subjects.

Eagle Scout of the Year – The deadline for submission to Department is March first. The requirements

are a little different this year. If you forgot and have a very worthy Eagle Scout for consideration, contact me quickly.

American Legion Scouter Square Knot Award – National HQ updated the requirements to reflect the changes in

Scouting since the last update. This should not make the award any harder or easier to earn. Department has provided Guidelines for submission for this award. All the information is at the Department website under Scouting.

Guide for Post Scouting Chairs –An updated and abbreviated Guide was mailed to each Post and is also available at the Department website under Scouting Resources. This is primarily focused at the new Scouting Chair.

New Guidance – Both the BSA and TAL national offices collaborated on several topics and issued new guidance on several matters relevant in Legion Scouting. These are available at the Department website under Scouting Resources.

Are you running the best possible Scouting program imaginable on the face of the

earth? If so, it is time to brag about yourself. Put it on paper and send it in for consideration for the Department's annual award for the Outstanding Post Scouting Program. The awards will be made at June's convention. Please get your submissions in soon.

Questions? – Problems? – Lessons learned? If you have any of these, please Contact the Department Scouting Chair for help or to share the wealth.

And finally – Opportunity. All good things must come to an end, so they say. I will be leaving the Department Scouting Chair position at the end of this Legion year. If you are interested, please feel free to contact me for info about the position.

As always, thank you for all that you do.

Special Events

Fred Matthews, Special Events  
specialevents@legionmail.org



As we approach the home stretch for this Legion Year, most of our events have been planned out, taken place, or set within the next two months.

It is very encouraging to see the number of Posts with websites and calendars that are easy to access from the Google Search engine. If your Post is sought out often online, the ability to just type in the Post number is a good indicator of how many people know you exist.

The First day of the recent ALR Summit

was Highlighted by the "Live" Facebook Broadcast of the opening Summit Ceremony by Rider Virna Keener. If you couldn't be there for the presentations and the commentary, this broadcast was the next best thing.

The 4th Annual ALR Summit was an event that provided yet another opportunity for the Florida Legion Family to learn how things should go. How to conduct a meeting. How to conduct your Chapter Finances. What is the relationship between the Post and the Chapter? And the importance of reporting to the membership at-large on what you do at each meeting.

This is also the time in which Area Commanders and some Districts will be conducting Area and District Balls. These

events tend to serve as an additional fundraiser for a Florida Legion Charity, but they are also another chance to socialize with members of the Legion Family outside of your normal circle.

Among those upcoming are the Northern Area Ball on March 21 at Post 155 and the Eastern Area Ball on April 4th at Post 347.

And no matter what part of the state you're in there is always an opportunity to support Legion Programs that support Veterans and the communities they live in. Two events worth noting:

- 1) The Coral Head Festival in Marathon which takes place over several days. You can view the details at <https://www.coralheadmusicfest.com/>

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*Special Events - continued from page 14*

2) The Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans 2020 event in Punta Gorda. Taking place on Saturday, March 28th, the event will feature a parade and music, music, music. Check out the details at <https://welcomehomevietnamvets2020.org/>.

And of course, there is the Department

Commander's Homecoming event as funds are continuing to be raised for COTA. This event will take place on April 18 at Post 273 in Madeira Beach.

And if you haven't seen them, several Posts around the Department are openly purchasing advertisements promoting their events to not just the Veteran

Community, but to the public at large. Now that the barriers that prevented many veterans from joining the Legion are down, each Post, Unit, or Chapter should consider allowing a portion of your yearly budget to promoting your organization's events to the public.

*Legion Family Project*

**Diane Schmidt, Special Olympics**  
[specialolympics@legionmail.org](mailto:specialolympics@legionmail.org)



This is feel-good opportunity for Legion Posts, Riders, SAL and Legion Auxiliary to come together for a great cause. These Special Olympics athletes are counting on you. Donate now to

change a life. To compete, children (at least 8 years old) and adults (no upper age limit) with intellectual disabilities and physical disabilities are provided FREE training and there is NO COST for them to compete. Through the power of sports, those with disabilities discover new strengths, abilities, skills and success. These athletes find joy, confidence and fulfillment----on the playing field and in life. **Your gift will change a life.**

When you donate, all the money goes to

Special Olympics Florida. Send your check to Special Olympics Florida, 1915 Don Wickham Drive, Clermont, FL 34711. Don't forget to put your Post, Auxiliary Unit, SAL Squadron and Riders Chapter # clearly on memo line.

You also can receive Award Recognition at Department Convention:

- Diamond Plaque \$5,000 +
- Special Plaque \$1,000-\$4,999
- Gold Plaque \$700-\$999
- Silver Plaque \$500-\$699
- Bronze Plaque \$300-\$499
- Certificate \$100-\$299

If you would like to receive award recognition, you must send the **FL American Legion Special Olympics Report and Questionnaire** with supporting documentation (copy of check, etc.) by MAY 1 to Department Headquarters. All plaques and certificates will be presented at Department

Convention.

Department wants you to get credit for everything you do for Special Olympics whether it is donating your money or time volunteering (FLSpecialOlympics.org) so don't forget to report as follows:

- Post and Rider Chapters: report all information to Diane Schmidt, Department Special Olympics Chairperson  
 Text-321-217 6699  
 Email: [Specialolympioics@legion.org](mailto:Specialolympioics@legion.org)
- SAL Squadrons: report all information to Detachment Special Olympics Chairman, Bernie Wildrick  
[bwildrick@cfl.rr.com](mailto:bwildrick@cfl.rr.com)
- Auxiliary Units: report all information to Department Auxiliary Secretary  
 407-293-7411

*VA&R News*

**Alan Cohen, VA&R**  
[var@legionmail.org](mailto:var@legionmail.org)



Greetings, fellow Legionnaires. The past couple of months certainly have been eventful. It was once again my honor to be part of the group that visited not only the Bay Pines and James A. Haley VA hospitals but we just

completed another visit to the West Palm Beach hospital as well, having met with clinical and administrative staff as well as our fellow veteran-patients at those hospitals. I'm proud to tell you that our VAVS volunteers continue to go "above and beyond" every day. Well worth particular mention is Johnny Castro at West Palm. With the help of hospital staff, he created an outdoor vegetable garden area for hospitalized veterans to spend time in and plant veggies. At James A. Haley, our rep Carlos Gil working with the Community Living Center helped sponsor a special

Valentine's Day Luncheon and I was proud to help facilitate that event. Next on the schedule are visits to both the Lake Nona and Gainesville VA hospitals in March.

We need to take a moment and congratulate Marina Perez from Post 164 and American Legion's 11th District Service Officer for receiving an award from Palm Beach County in recognition for her many contributions over the years not only to veterans but also to the community at large. Kudos, Marina. We're

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VA&R - continued from page 15

proud of you.

In the continuing spirit of Veterans helping Veterans, Post 69 has sponsored a major event which included yet another Challenge 22 Walk, led by our own Dep't VA Benefits Chair Larry Roberts. Please see his article here.

Looking down the road just a bit we'll

soon be gathering in Orlando for the Department Convention and we'll once again be conducting a Post Service Officer training class, taught by our partners from the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs. As I travel to posts throughout the state, I encourage Posts to have someone attend the class. I recognize that there's cost involved and one suggestion that's been made is that perhaps 2 Posts can work together to send someone to the

class, thus easing what might be any financial burden. Post Service Officers are significant contributors to our fellow veterans as well as the community.

In closing this month's article I'm energized and look forward to once again being part of the team that will be visiting our Legislators in Washington, D.C to speak on behalf of the issues that affect us all.

*Spring is Here!*

**Debbie Wheeler, Women Veterans**

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



When we celebrate spring, we think of growth and new beginnings. Our purpose becomes clear, we must rededicate ourselves to helping all veterans and their families. By thinking outside the box don't expect any veteran

especially women to enter your post for our assistance. When we travel outside our posts all the Legion family must represent who we are and what we do. By wearing our shirts and breathing the American Legion we can all do our parts. For example, a member of the ALA from my post brought a young family with a 5 year to our Post. They were living in their car after moving to Florida and the living situation they had hoped for did not pan out. This all occurred 1 week before Christmas. I met with them quickly and because over the holidays any help would

take some time. After some phone calls, they were temporarily given housing over the holidays by a veteran's family because they were visiting out of town. The veteran was a female who had all documents in hand had been approved for HUD Vash. That is what we do! By just speaking to someone in line at a 7-11 we change lives. Reach out, educate and render assistance in the Legion Family on how to step forward and talk the talk. We have the knowledge and ask others if you can't find a way to help!

*Youth Law Cadet Program*

**Bob Brewster, Youth Law Cadet**

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



Our Florida Highway Patrol/American Legion Cadet Program is now accepting cadets for this year's program. The cadets really enjoy this program, and I

know this because we have not received a single complaint from any one of them or their families. I really hate it when a Post contacts me right after we close the registration for that year. All necessary paperwork that must be completed can be obtained from the Department of Florida's website.

With us working with another organization, we must adhere to their rules. Space is limited, so please get your cadets entered

as soon as possible. We have a little flexibility, but not a lot. I have met with the Florida Highway Patrol Major in her office, and she is totally committed to this program. She has made a couple personnel changes to make this program more efficient.

*District 8 Oratorical Contest*

**Bekki Tibbs, Dept Programs Director**

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



On Saturday, February 1st, Dylan Cunard won the District 8 Oratorical Competition that took place at Post 24 in Bradenton. Dylan is currently a student at Bradenton Christian

High School and will represent the District at the Southwestern Area Competition.

*Pictured with Dylan, from Left-Right are, William 'Bill' Hiltgen, Dylan Cunard & Skip Felicity Skip is the District 8 Commander.*







OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF:



## PROJECT: VETRELIEF

### UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Join us at one of our next events, or hold your own fundraiser. Please contact 407-295-2631 or [jcooper@floridalegion.org](mailto:jcooper@floridalegion.org) for more information.

**MAR 28**

ALR Night - Icemen Hockey  
Tailgate Party  
Jacksonville, FL


**APRIL 18**

Department Commander  
Homecoming / Luau  
Madeira Beach, FL

**APR 26 - MAY 2**

ALR Unity Ride & Rally  
Two Routes (North & South)  
Entire State of Florida


**MAY 9**

Post 69/74 Golf Tournament  
Sebring, FL

**MAY 8-9**

Boots on the Ground Event  
Jacksonville, FL

**MAY 16**

SAL Detachment  
Commander Homecoming  
Crystal River, FL

**JUNE 25-28**

Dept Convention  
Orlando, FL

## SUICIDE PREVENTION - UPDATE

After much deliberation and research, we are excited to announce that we have created strategic partnerships with six organizations. The following organizations are focused on mental health for veterans and their families: 22Zero, K9 Line, Research & Recognition Project, SOF Missions, Veterans Counseling Veterans, and Warrior Beach Retreat. These organizations have received a donation from PROJECT: VetRelief's Suicide Prevention Initiative (SPI) to sponsor a veteran through their program or assist with bettering their services.

In April, the Suicide Prevention Initiative Team will host it's first of many Network Coalition meetings. During this time, several mental health organizations will get together to brainstorm how we can all work together to end veteran suicide.

Additionally, branding for this initiative has been revealed. Participants of the American Legion Riders Unity Ride will have a chance to earn the first versions of the official apparel. Anyone can join to raise funds and receive these items. Visit [give.floridalegion.org](http://give.floridalegion.org) to sign up today!

To learn more about SPI, visit: [www.projectvetrelief.org/spi](http://www.projectvetrelief.org/spi)

## ICEMEN HOCKEY GAME - PROCEEDS BENEFIT SUICIDE PREVENTION



# MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup> | Jacksonville, FL

To purchase tickets, visit:

[www.jaxicemen.com/alriders](http://www.jaxicemen.com/alriders)

Purchase (10) ten or more tickets, by calling Trent Blair: 904.661.7241 or email [trent@jacksonvilleicemen.com](mailto:trent@jacksonvilleicemen.com)

## SPOTLIGHT - AVON PARK AWARENESS EVENT

Thank you for everyone who attended the Challenge 22 Event at American Legion Post 69 in Avon Park on February 15th. What a successful event to raise awareness for veteran suicide!

There were approximately 400-500 people and over 40 vendors who attended this event. Vendors included Veteran Service Organizations and companies who provided Veteran benefits. After walking 1 mile to raise awareness for Veteran suicide, attendees heard from expert speakers explaining warning signs and symptoms of mental health, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Congratulations to Larry Roberts and his team for putting together such a wonderful day.


**SUPPORT CASES**

\*Numbers reflect PVR Cases ONLY

JULY 2019 - JAN 2020

94

families helped

\$107,237.95

amount distributed

Children & Youth

Les Martin, Children & Youth  
cy@legionmail.org



Well the donations from our Children & Youth canister drive are slowly coming in. Remember, we cannot continue with our Children & Youth programs without your help. Let's start collecting the money from the canisters and sending a check in.

This month has again been a busy one. Since my last writing for the Legion Link, I have visited many posts and events. All my visits were on the east coast in late January and February. I attended the Southern Area Ball at Post 142 and the

9th District Four Chaplains ceremony at U.S. Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. What a wonderful time I had in District 9. I also visited Posts 157, 222, 268, 277, 304 and 321. In February, I attended the Riders Summit at International Palms Resort in Cocoa Beach. This event was very well attended and a whole lot of learning experiences were going on. I had a table set up in the exhibit area promoting our programs and the upcoming Golf Tournament at the IMG Academy in Bradenton on April 25th. My wife and I also sold the Children & Youth Pins. When I was attending a class, she was at the table, and when she was attending a class, I was at the table. We worked as a good team for the Children & Youth. While at the Summit, we visited Post 64 in Cape Canaveral and Post 1 in Titusville.

I also attended the Challenge 22 and

Exposition at Post 69 in Avon Park. I again had a table set up with information about all of our C&Y Programs and brochures on the Warning Signs of Youth Suicide. We again had information on our other two fundraisers, the C&Y Picnic on April 4th at Post 1 in Titusville and the Golf Tournament.

April is Children & Youth month. Let us all start thinking on how we can assist our veteran's children and other kids within the State of Florida. Remember our emphasis on family. This is one of the priorities of our Commission. Other Emphasis's are Child Safety with Gateway to Drugs, Warning Signs on Youth Suicide, Halloween Safety and missing children. Let's keep our children of Florida safe and healthy.



'Operation Buddy Check' Coins

Jennifer Cooper, Dept Fundraising Director  
jcooper@floridalegion.org



We are so excited that everyone likes our 'Operation Buddy Check' coins. These were sent out during our recent fundraising campaign to thank our major donors.

However, for a donation of \$22, you can get yours today!  
<https://buy.chip-in.us/?non-profitId=119003>



FLORIDA SAMPL  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
FLORIDALEGION.ORG

— SHOW YOUR —  
**SUPPORT**

The American Legion  
official license plate.

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

Now available at your local tag office!



February 27, 2020 90% Target Report (Currently 92.01%)		
6	Robert Suelter	98.06%
12	Chris Hamrick	95.94%
16	Randall McNabb	94.72%
11	Johnny Castro	93.71%
17	Hank Mangels	93.67%
8	Skip Felicita	93.34%
15	Bruce Carl	93.20%
1	Lamar Carroll	93.15%
4	Cherie Korn	93.10%
9	Arthur Barber	90.55%
5	Troy Horsley	90.16%
13	Brian Gehling	89.15%
7	Rick Orzechewski	85.63%
3	Stuart Scott	84.46%
2	Roger Hewitt	82.40%
14	Rocco LaPace	81.95%
Eastern	T.C. Biddle	97.14%
Central	Sid Damsgard	92.82%
Western	John Edens	91.23%
Southwestern	Jerry Faught	91.06%
Northern	Marie Conti	90.98%
Southern	Paul Bosco	89.29%
Post 400		89.02%
Post 208		81.34%



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



**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.



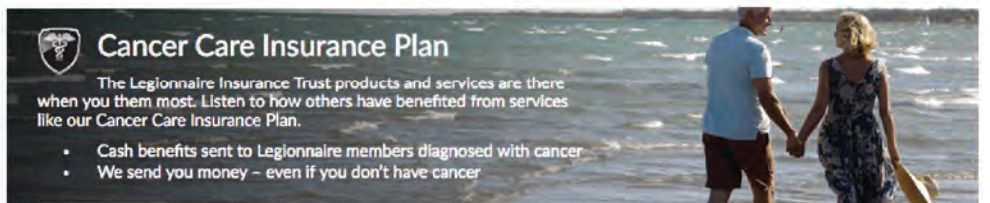
**Insurance Coverage**

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.



**NEXT MEMBERSHIP GOAL**  
**90%** 3/4/2020

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





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

## POST EVERLASTING

### Dennis Thompson

We regret to inform you that Dennis Thompson passed away February 15th, 2020 in hospice. Dennis obtained his membership in The American Legion as a US Army Combat Engineer serving a year in Vietnam.

He served several years as American Legion Lakeshore Post 137 Service Officer, Post Adjutant for three years and was selected as Department of Florida Adjutant of the Year 2013. He was elected Post Commander 2006-2008 that included Lakeshore Post 137 being selected The Most Outstanding Post in the Department of Florida in 2008. At FL. 5th District Dennis was appointed District Adjutant several years. At The Department of Florida, he served several years as Chairman of the Resolutions Committee. Dennis was awarded an Honorary Life Member at American Legion Lakeshore Post 137. He was also a member and supporter of the Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Riders at Post 137.

### George "Bill" Hamblin

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Past 15th District Commander, George "Bill" Hamblin, of Tampa, Florida on Monday, February 10, 2020 at the age of 73. Bill is survived by his wife, Rosemarie. There are no details regarding services at this time, but any new information will be communicated to you through email as well as posted on the website.

Bill was a U.S. Air Force Vietnam War Era Veteran and a member of U.S.S. Tampa Post 5, Tampa, FL with 18 continuous years of membership. Bill served as Post Commander (2006-2020) and District Commander (2015-2016).

Please keep his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers in their time of grief. If you would like to send your condolences you may do so through his wife, Rosemarie, at 4405 W. Vasconia Street, Tampa, FL 33629.

# DEPARTMENT COMMANDER HOMECOMING AND LUAU

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

POST 273

MADEIRA BEACH



**SOCIAL HOUR 4-6PM W/ CALADES; STEEL DRUM BAND**

**DINNER 6-8PM W/ MUSIC BY BOTH WORLDS**

**ROASTED PIG PLUS PORK & SHRIMP & STEAKS AND MORE!**

**\$35.00 PER PERSON / PURCHASE TICKETS AT THE POST!**

**HAWAIIAN SHIRTS & SHORTS & SANDALS & MUMUS**

# **DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING PROGRAM**

## **PAGE ADVERTISEMENTS AND CORPORATE SPONSOR'S DONATION PRICES**

Here is an opportunity for Candidates, Posts, Districts and businesses to advertise at a low rate. Each person that buys a ticket for the Homecoming will receive a free program.

Program Advertisement Prices: Adds are due NLT March 15 2020

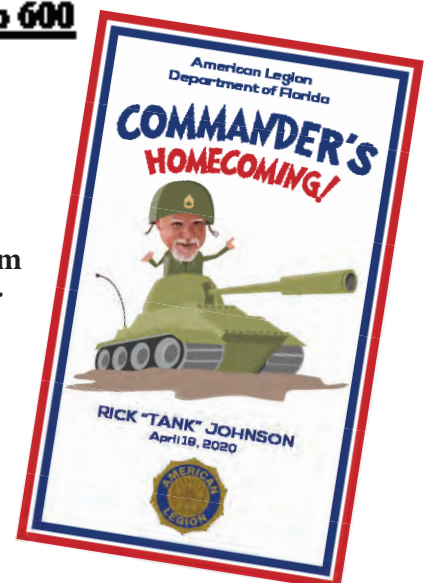
¼ Page \$20.00; ½ Page \$30.00; ¾ Page \$40.00; Full Page: \$50.00

Corporate Sponsors: Red: \$400.00 (Incl a full page add); White: \$300.00 (Incl a half page add); Blue: \$200.00 (Incl a ¼ page add)

Photo proof copies for ads are required i.e. JPG, BMP, PDF format, preferred PDF format.

Make checks payable to Post 273, ATTN: Ray Perez and send to 600  
American Legion Drive, Madeira Beach, FL 33708

Program  
Cover





Win a New Cadillac XT5

Longest Drive Contest  
Hole-in-One Contest  
Closest to Pin Contest

\$75.00 per golfer, includes  
box lunch, 2 drinks on course  
and early dinner.

9:00 AM Shotgun Start  
Scramble Play



BENEFITTING The Programs and  
Charities of the Florida American Legion  
Children & Youth Commission

Early dinner, awards, raffles, 50/50  
at American Legion Post 24  
2000 75th St. W., Bradenton, Fl. 34209

**Hotel: Lantern Inn & Suites, 7251 N. Tamiami Trail (14th St. W)  
Sarasota, Fl. 34243 941-355-7747  
\$89 King, \$99 - 2 Queen - Ask for American Legion Rate  
Reservation Cut-off - 4-10-2020**



# CHILDREN & YOUTH CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

APRIL 25, 2020  
IMG ACADEMY GOLF CLUB  
4350 El Conquistador Pkwy  
Bradenton, Florida



## *Sponsorship Opportunities*

- HOLE or TEE (Silver): \$100**
- HOLE or TEE (Gold): \$250**
- BEVERAGE CART: \$500**
- LUNCH: \$500**
- DINNER: \$1,000**
- TOURNAMENT: \$2,000**
- DONATE A RAFFLE GIFT**

**Cut-off date for sponsorships &  
gift submission April 15, 2020**

Checks made payable to:  
Sons of The American Legion Squadron 24  
2000 75th St. W., Bradenton, Florida 34209  
Attn: C&Y Golf Tournament



# THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA



## CHILDREN & YOUTH GOLF TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION & SPONSORSHIP FORM

Tournament Date: April 25, 2020  
Cur-off Date for registration: April 15, 2020

**Golfer Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Golfer Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Golfer Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Golfer Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Silver Hole Sponsor** \_\_\_\_\_  
\$100

**Gold Hole Sponsor** \_\_\_\_\_  
\$250

**Closest to Pin** \_\_\_\_\_  
\$300

**Longest Drive** \_\_\_\_\_  
\$300

**Beverage Cart Sponsor** \_\_\_\_\_  
\$500

**Lunch Sponsor** \_\_\_\_\_  
\$500

**Dinner Sponsor** \_\_\_\_\_  
\$1,000

**Primary Sponsor** \_\_\_\_\_  
\$1,000

**Tournament Sponsor** \_\_\_\_\_  
\$2,000

Please make checks payable to:  
Sons of the American Legion  
Squadron 24  
2000 75th St. W., Bradenton, Fl. 34209  
Attn: C&Y Golf Tournament

Questions?  
Dept. Children & Youth Chairman:  
Les Martin; 941-201-7293  
CY@legionmail.com



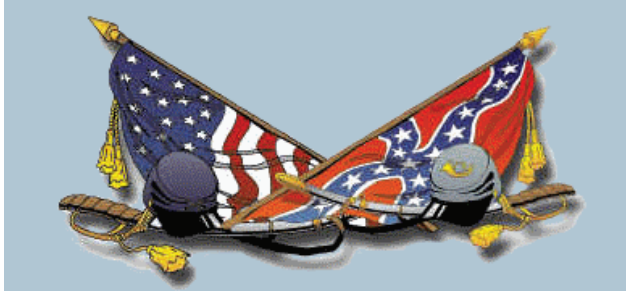
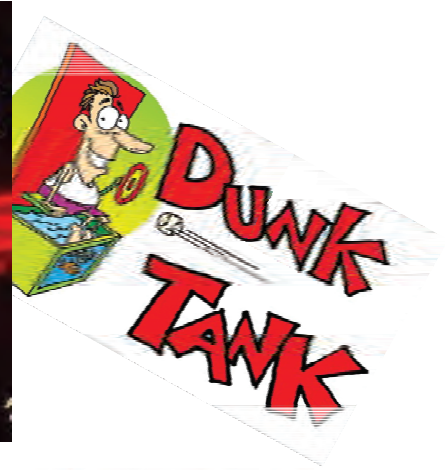
# DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA CHILDREN AND YOUTH PICNIC APRIL 4, 2020 - NOON - 6 P.M.



**TITUSVILLE POLICE  
DOG DEMONSTRATION**



**SOUTHERN ROCK 1P.M.-?**



**Military History Timeline  
& Reenactment Camp**



**Italian Ice**

**Pop Corn**

**Pulled Pork & Hot Dogs**

**Titusville American Legion Post 1  
1281 N US Hwy 1  
Titusville, FL  
321 269-9959**

Special American Legion Room Rate  
Best Western Hotel – Titusville  
Address: 3455 Cheney Hwy, Titusville, FL 32780  
Phone: (321) 269-9100  
(book before March 15)





**102<sup>ND</sup> Annual Department Convention, June 25-28, 2020**  
The Orlando World Center Marriott, 8701 World Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32821

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name of Member, Post, Unit or Squadron \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**PROGRAM ADVERTISEMENT FOR LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS, POSTS, UNITS, AND SQUADRONS ONLY**

<p>FULL PAGE ADVERTISEMENT \$175</p> <p>7.5" X 10"</p>
--

<p>HALF PAGE ADVERTISEMENT \$100</p> <p>7.5" X 5"</p>
<p>HALF PAGE ADVERTISEMENT \$100</p> <p>7.5" X 5"</p>

<p>QUARTER PAGE \$50</p> <p>3.75" X 5"</p>	<p>QUARTER PAGE \$50</p> <p>3.75" X 5"</p>
<p>QUARTER PAGE \$50</p> <p>3.75" X 5"</p>	<p>QUARTER PAGE \$50</p> <p>3.75" X 5"</p>

Full Page Ad (7.5"x10") - \$175

Half Page Ad (7.5"x5") - \$100

Quarter Page Ad (3.75"x5") - \$50

Custom Design Fee - \$25

**Advertisements must be submitted no later than May 13, 2020 to be included in the program.** Please submit your advertisement artwork via email in one of the following image file types: .ai, .eps, .psd, .pdf, .tif, .jpeg, .jpg, .png. All artwork must be digital: no scanned or printed artwork will be accepted. All advertisements will be grayscale. All imagery must be legally licensed. The American Legion, Department of Florida reserves the right to redesign any advertisement due to required formatting or licensing issues. **Please email artwork to: [events@floridalegion.org](mailto:events@floridalegion.org)**

**PAYMENT METHOD**

Credit Card     Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Please make checks payable to American Legion, Department of Florida

**CREDIT CARD INFORMATION**

Visa     MasterCard     American Express     Discover    Total to Charge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize The American Legion, Department of Florida to charge the amount listed above to the credit card provided herein. I agree to pay for this purchase in accordance with the issuing bank cardholder agreement.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit to: The American Legion, Dept of Florida, Attn: Event Coordinator; PO Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32854-7859**



**2019  
CRUISE**

**SEPTEMBER  
16-21**

THE ELATION



Maureen Williams PVP  
1-800-819-3902 EXT 85931

GROUP CODE  
**5DSL69**

**Elation - Exotic Eastern Caribbean**

DATE	DAY	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
09/16/19	MON	Port Canaveral (Orlando, FL)		4:00 PM
09/17/19	TUE	Fun Day at Sea		
09/18/19	WED	Amber Cove, Dominican Republic	10:30 AM	6:30 PM
09/19/19	THU	Grand Turk	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
09/20/19	FRI	Fund Day at Sea		
09/21/19	SAT	Port Canaveral (Orlando, FL)	8:00 AM	

*\*Please call for ticket costs. Earlier you book, the better the savings.*

**Questions?**

Maureen Williams, Vacation Planner  
Carnival Cruise Line  
800-819-3902 EXT 85931 OFFICE  
305-406-6183 FAX  
MON - THU 11:00 AM - 8:00PM EST  
FRI 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM  
[mwilliams2@carnival.com](mailto:mwilliams2@carnival.com)

**Welcome from 1st Vice Commander**

Last years cruise was a great success. We had 22 cabins booked and everyone had a great time.

This will be first come first serve, so make your reservations ASAP as cabin space might fill up quickly. Please call to reserve your room as prices change all the time.

It's time to do it again. This will be first come first serve, so make your reservations ASAP as cabin space might fill up quickly. My wife works for Carnival, so we will be taken care of.

At least put your deposit down quickly and she will try to have us as close together as possible. Remember, this will be a FUN cruise and time to enjoy each other's company and to recharge for the year. I will

have hotel information as we get closer for the night before the cruise.

**Everyone have a great time and will see you aboard.**



**William R Johnson**  
1st Vice Commander  
American Legion  
Department Of Florida  
954-242-4496  
[rickjtank@hotmail.com](mailto:rickjtank@hotmail.com)



SAVE THE DATE

VETERAN'S

APPRECIATION

NIGHT



28<sup>TH</sup>  
MARCH

VETERANS  
MEMORIAL ARENA  
JACKSONVILLE

7:00 PM  
Game Time

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS HERE:

[WWW.JAXICEMEN.COM/ALRIDERS](http://WWW.JAXICEMEN.COM/ALRIDERS)



PROJECT:  
VETRELIEF



PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT PROJECT: VETRELIEF'S  
**SUICIDE PREVENTION INITIATIVE**  
#EndVeteranSuicide #SuicidePrevention #RaiseAwareness



The American Legion  
High School Oratorical  
Scholarship Program

Support Your Area's Competitor  
at State Finals

March 14, 2020  
Competition begins at 9:00 am

Dept. of Florida HQ  
Orlando, FL





**SOUND THE ALARM**  
Save a Life



# Smoke Alarms Save Lives!

**More lives are lost every year to  
home fires than to all major disasters.**

Through our Home Fire Campaign, volunteers and other community partners canvass neighborhoods, installing free smoke alarms and providing fire prevention and safety education.

If you need a smoke alarm installed, or want to get involved in this campaign, please call 352-415-4636.

**Visit [SoundTheAlarm.org/NorthFlorida](https://SoundTheAlarm.org/NorthFlorida) or call 352-415-4636.**



# VIETNAM WAR VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY

March 28th, 2020

11:00 am

*Please join us as we honor, remember and  
Welcome Home our Vietnam Veterans*

Florida National Cemetery  
6502 SW 102nd Avenue, Bushnell

Keynote Speaker Maj. General Richard S. Colt





**Vietnam and all Veterans  
of Brevard**

*Present:*

# **Florida's 33rd Annual All Veterans Reunion**

**The Nation's Largest Veterans Reunion  
PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND**

## **May 7th – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall on display **May 3-10, 2020**

**LIVE MUSIC  
FOOD & DRINKS  
MILITARY VENDORS  
MILITARY DISPLAYS**



**THE SOME GAVE ALL MOVING TRIBUTE**

**Wall Escort May 3, 2020 Leaves at 10am  
Eastern Florida State College Cocoa Campus  
Reunion Web Page at:**

[floridaveteransreunion.com](http://floridaveteransreunion.com)

### **Wickham Park**

321-255-4307 - 2500 Parkway Dr  
Melbourne, FL

No Coolers, Glass or Pets allowed  
in the Reunion Area

Per Wickham Park: Golf Carts Permitted  
For the Handicapped Only And Must  
Abide By FL Highway Laws

Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall  
<http://travelingwall.us>



**Call For Info**

**321-408-2698**

**321-652-4185**

**Vendor call 321-652-4185**

[Vet.reunion.vendor@gmail.com](mailto:Vet.reunion.vendor@gmail.com)

[RaRusso1962@gmail.com](mailto:RaRusso1962@gmail.com)

[Candy1540@yahoo.com](mailto:Candy1540@yahoo.com)

**Club Escort Lineup Info**

[vvbreunionescort@gmail.com](mailto:vvbreunionescort@gmail.com)