

STEVE G. MEARS, JR.

TODAY WE MOURN THE LOSS OF OUR BROTHER

We mourn the loss of our 2nd District Commander, Steve G. Mears, Jr. Steve passed away on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 3, 2022, after a plane crash at Calhoun County Airport. On behalf of the entire Florida Legion Family, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his son, Steve "Trace" Mears, III, and to his family, friends, and colleagues.

Steve was a forty-eight-year-old Veteran of the U.S. Army during the Iraq War. He was a member of Blountstown Post 272, with twenty-two continuous years of membership. Steve served as Post Commander since 2019, he also served as Post Commander from 2004-2006 and Post Adjutant from 2009-2010.

While serving in the U.S. Army, Steve was awarded many achievements, including the following:

The Army Achievement Medal for his selfless service and outstanding dedication to duty while conducting detainee operations in Iraq contributed to the overwhelming success of the command's mission.

The Army Commendation Medal for his outstanding duty performance during combat operations in Iraq contributed greatly to the overwhelming success of the Brigade's mission in support of Multi-National Corps and Multi-National Force Iraq.

Honorary Lifetime Member of the 16th Military Police Brigade (Airborne) for his dedicated service in support of "Operation Iraqi Freedom" on September 25, 2007. His patriotism, hard work, and selfless service contributed to the safe and secure environment provided to all detainees.

Steve was a true Patriot and a valuable member of The American Legion and his Community. His absence will be felt by all.

At this time, there are no details regarding services or where to send condolences. Any new information will be communicated to you through email as well as posted on the Department's website.





THE LEGIONLINK

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Submit Articles at

floridalegion.org/submit or legionlink@floridalegion.org

Questions? legionlink@floridalegion.org

A Message from the Department Commander

Jerry Brandt, Commander

commander@floridalegion.org



Comrades, it has been a long month, but the year is winding down, with only a couple of important items remaining. On April 2nd, we held an important Department Executive Committee meeting to review the revision of our Constitution and Bylaws. Unfortunately, we were not able to complete the review at that time, but several individuals stood up to volunteer to complete this important document for our organization. It is my hope, that by the time you read this, we will have completed the revision, to hold a vote during our June Convention.

A thank you to our Posts, District Commander, Angelo "Skip" Felicita, Area Commander, Jessica Moore, and 2nd Vice Commander, Michael Raymond for my visit to District 8. I also had the privilege to visit District 2, with District Commander, Steve Mears and 3rd Vice Commander, Chris Hamrick.

The Department of Florida is doing great! Everywhere I go, there is excitement and enthusiasm. They're proud of what we are doing with our Children and Youth Programs, Police and Fire Fighters, and helping our fellow Veterans. From Key West to Pensacola,

our fell brothers and sisters are carrying out the mission of The American Legion. I thank, each and every one of you, for what you do. Please keep up the good work you're doing every day.

The District Constitutional Conferences are underway, it's time to elect your District Officers for the coming year. Whoever is elected, please assist them, they'll need your help. Some have been there before, but some have no experience outside their home Posts. Guide them, and work with them, they are performing an important job, and they need you.

Speaking of District and Post elections, to those of you who are running for office, please plan ahead. Who is there to support you? Line up your Chairs now, as a Post Commander, you should have a list a mile long of individuals willing to assist you with programs, such as Boys State, Baseball, Oratorical, and Children and Youth, just to name a few. As District Commander, look outside of your Post home for your Chairs. Why? To bring the District post together for a productive year.

Many Department Officers will be attending your District Constitutional Conferences, please give them the opportunity to express their ideas. You will have to decide at our Department Convention, who you want to lead you in your Area and Zone, and who

Department Commander continued on page 2 >>



<< Department Commander continued from page 1 will be your liaison with National for the upcoming year.

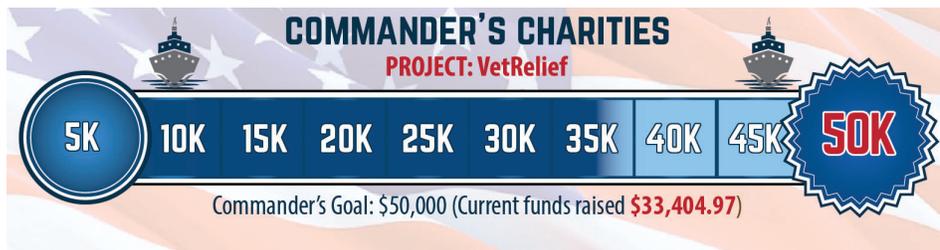
I am glad to see that many of the District Commanders are stepping up their roles and responsibilities. Some Districts are holding training on the End of Year Reporting, ensuring that Posts are reporting all that they do. Others are training their Post's incoming officers, to help ensure the Post will have a better start the next year. If your District Commander is not encouraging training, ask them why not. Running a Post is not easy, and doing it correctly, is even more challenging. Ask for the training!

Awards! Awards! Awards! Now is the time to speak out and be recognized for

the Awards you deserve. Over the years Department receives fewer and fewer requests for Department Awards. Look on the Department Website, floridalegion.org/resources/legion-post-documents/programs/ for the listing of awards and applications. Seventeen awards are up for grabs, not counting Post of the Year, Commander of the Year, Legionnaire of the Year, etc. Apply for them, YOU and YOUR POST, have earned them. Take the time to submit the paperwork, to be recognized.

I hope to see all of you in my travels. After all, we are brothers and sisters, in War and in Peace.

DUTY*HONOR*COUNTRY



Participate

Eunice Butts, 1st Vice Commander
1stvice@legionmail.org



Greetings, Legionnaires. Hopefully, by now you have completed or are near completion of your nominations for your 2022-2023 Post Officers. Please make sure you are following your Bylaws and procedures when it comes to elections.

If an individual has post charges against them, it is crucial that the Post Adjutant provide notice of thirty (30) days to all members of the date and time of the trial, which is to be held at the Post's regularly scheduled meeting. The Department Judge Advocate must also be informed of trials to be held by the Post Judge Advocate or Adjutant. If you proceed incorrectly, the process will be null and void. Remember

the Post's MEMBERS run the Post. The Post Commander carries out the wishes of the Post's MEMBERS.

Each Post Commander should familiarize themselves with processing memberships, finances, and all forms required by local and state government agencies. Why? Because of possible illness, death, emergencies, etc., your Finance Officer, Membership Chair, or Adjutant, must ensure the Post continues forward. Some Post members do not attend meetings or participate in activities but sit in the lounge and complain about what the Post is not doing or should be doing. Some Posts force the hands of the commander to make all decisions because the members are not participating. You have a voice, be active, be involved, and participate.

This year the Department Commander, Jerry Brandt, promoted MENTORSHIP. If Post Officer and the Membership continue

MAY 2022	
1-31	National Military Appreciation Month
1-31	Month of the Military Caregiver
1-8	Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard Reunion
1	District 4: DCC
1	District 11: DCC
2-5	National Spring Meetings  
2	Special Olympics: Report Due
4	Membership 100% Goal
5	Cinco de Mayo
5	National Day of Prayer
6	National Nurses Day
7	Post 166: Fourth Annual Derby Ride
7	District 6: DCC
8	V-E Day
8	Mother's Day
11	National Membership 100% Goal 
11	End of Year Award Applications Due
11	CPRs & Addendums Due
11	ALR: Chapter 35 Meeting
13	Military Spouse Appreciation Day
13	Children of Fallen Patriots Day
14-22	Armed Forces Week
14	District 8: DCC
14	District 13: DCC
14	District 15: DCC
15	Legion Link Articles Due (Last for 2021-2022)
15	Post 81: ALR Monthly Meeting
21	District 3: DCC
21	District 7: DCC
21	District 12: DCC
21	Armed Forces Day
21	ALR Chapter 27: Monthly Meeting
22	Baseball: Registration Closes
22	National Maritime Day
22-3	Florida's Fallen Memorial
26	Ascension Day
27	National Poppy Day
27-28	Heroes Honor Festival
28	District 1: DCC
28	District 2: DCC
28	District 5: DCC
28	District 17: DCC
30	Memorial Day
30	Department Headquarters Closed
30	Flag Half Staff
31	Membership 100% Plus Goal

 Commander Jerry Brandt's Attendance Tentative.
 National Event
 Events are subject to change. Additional details can be found at www.floridalegion.org. We share the information we are provided.

this practice, it will have a tremendous, positive impact on your Post.

I have received many requests for "The Post Officers Area Training" again for the upcoming 2022-2023 year. I hope to continue providing this informative training.

Congratulations to our District 6 Commander

1st Vice Commander continued on page 3 >>



<< 1st Vice Commander continued from page 2

and Members for remaining in FIRST place in the Department of Florida Membership. Congratulations to Eastern Area Commander, Daryl Bass for FIRST place

in area membership. Zone 1 has 26 Posts at 100%, plus the highest being 161.4%. Keep up the fantastic work, Zone 1!

I would encourage each post to turn in all paperwork required by the Department for

Convention in a timely manner. I would also highly encourage you to pre-register your Post and save yourself considerable time.

Let us not forget the ones who paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

Legion Family

Michael Raymond, 2nd Vice Commander
2ndvice@legionmail.org



The Zone 2 District visits are completed. Now is the time to take what we've learned from these visits and apply it to the day-to-day of our Post operations. It's of no surprise that training, or rather lack

of, Post-level training is one of our major sticking points. We identified that many Posts are electing officers with very little experience. These Officers need training

prior to and soon after, they begin their new role. They also need Past Officers to mentor them, before they're put into a role, they are unprepared for. Department has recognized this issue and is taking steps to rectify it. Post-level training classes are being scheduled to help your officer assume command in July. Please contact your District Commander for additional information. They are ready, willing, and able to assist you.

It is simple to see how well a Post is doing, just by observing how well the Post Family works together. All four organizations of the Post Family working together is essential for

a Post to be truly successful. A great example of Legion Family teamwork is the National Legacy Ride. Over 500 Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members live, eat, and ride together for a week, collectively raising over a million dollars every year! It's really not that difficult if you leave attitudes at the door. We are all here for a common purpose, to support Veterans and our programs.

Lastly, it is time to turn your CPR's in. Everything can be done online now. If you need help, please don't hesitate to ask. Remember, there is power in numbers. God Bless!

Wrapping Up

Chris Hamrick, 3rd Vice Commander
3rdvice@legionmail.org



Hello Legionnaires, The Month of May is upon us. Everywhere you look, we have multiple events going on all over our great state. Programs are wrapping up and Posts are holding activities and events nearly every weekend, all over Florida. This is definitely a busy time for all

of us!

Our annual reporting is also due, so let's stay on top of that and not be stragglers. If you need assistance with your Post reporting, please reach out to your District and someone will be able to assist you. As previously stated, in my last article, nominations and elections are also underway. Don't let personalities get in the way of what's best for our Posts to accomplish our mission. Having a smooth transition into and out of offices goes a long

way in the overall success of our Posts, and what we accomplish over the year. Remember this year we've been working with a theme of Training and Mentorship. These are two elements of building continuity into the future and maintaining our momentum.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone that even though the year is winding down quickly, we still have much to do. Many challenges still lie ahead. Let's finish strong!

Keep it Real!

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

Dennis Boland, NEC
nec@legionmail.org



The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc. (CWF) has awarded more than \$18 million in grants for the betterment of children since its founding in 1954. The mission of the

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is to contribute to the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual welfare of children and youth by awarding grants supporting beneficial research, studies, surveys, projects, programs, and other initiatives.

CWF has provided funds to help educate the public about such topics as Huntington's disease, juvenile diabetes, shaken baby syndrome, autism, meningitis, Marfan syndrome, and court-appointed advocates.

The American Legion covers overhead costs for the foundation, so 100 percent of CWF contributions go directly to help children.

Contributions may be sent to:

The American Legion
 Child Welfare Foundation
 P.O. Box 1055
 Indianapolis, IN 46206



Encouragement**Barry Roberts, Chaplain**chaplain@legionmail.org

Legionnaires,
It's hard to believe that it is May already. As we honor our fallen this month, with Memorial Day, I want to offer encouragement to those here, who find themselves struggling.

There is a story I'd like to share, of a

military man, whose unit was overrun in battle. He was hiding in a cave while the enemy sought out survivors. He prayed, asking God, if it was his will, to let him die, then he asked God to save him. A spider showed up and started spinning a web in front of him at the end of the cave. He questioned God about this rescue, it was just a spider. The spider completed its web covering, just as the enemy approached the cave. The leader said, there was no

need to search the cave because there wouldn't be a spider web there if anyone were in there. . . . God can use any of His creations to bless you.

Please remember to submit your Chaplains awards. I am here for you, feel free to join and participate on Facebook, www.facebook.com/floridalegionchaplains

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13

Central Area**Bruce Carl, Central Area**centeralarea@legionmail.org

Hello. Comrades.
I hope this edition of the Legion Link finds you safe and in good health. It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of another year. In less than two months, we

will be electing our new Officers for the 2022-2023 year.

The month of April was a little slower than previous months for your Central Area Commander. All the official Post visitations have been completed, and it was a great learning experience visiting Posts, I've never been to before. Everyone has their own nuances, and what works for them to be successful!

The Central Area Ride-In, held at Post 152, was a big success, everyone in attendance had a great time. I was fortunate to attend the Department Children and Youth Picnic in Titusville, and the Northern Area Ball in Jacksonville. Both events were great, and kudos to those who planned and put them together!

As I campaign for the high office of Department Vice Commander, I have been busy traveling to other Districts. My endorsement letter with my accomplishments and qualifications are listed on the Department website, floridalegion.org. I ask for your support and vote at the Department Convention in June.

Speaking of traveling, I did take some time off in April to relax and get-away. Now I've recharged and am back to the grind again.

The Internment and Celebration of Life for Past District 15/Central Area Commander, Dick Little, was held in Tampa on April 24, 2022. He possessed a wealth of Legion knowledge and will be greatly missed by many.

The ALR In-State Unity Ride, Gulf Route, had many stops in the Central Area, with the culmination of both routes meeting in District 16! The Ride had not begun, as I write this article, so I'm unable to report how much money was raised. However, knowing the Riders and what they're capable of accomplishing, I'm sure it will be a large amount.

I had the honor of attending the Welcome Home for Vietnam Veterans, hosted by Post 108, as well as the Eastern Area Ball in Fern

Park.

The month of May promises to keep me busy. I will be attending District Constitutional Conferences every weekend. The National Auxiliary President will be visiting Districts 15 and 16, so I will be traveling to many of the Posts again!

I am looking forward to the "Post Officer Training" I will be conducting for the Central Area, on May 1, 2022, at Post 7 in Clearwater, and Post 335 in Hudson on May 15, 2022. Both training sessions start at 1300 hours, and I'm expecting them to be well attended. The training is for current and newly elected Post Officers and anyone else who has an interest in running for an officer in the future.

The Central Area continues to impress with membership, Post programs, and community events. It has been an outstanding year, with more work still to be done.

On a final note, please make sure to submit your CPR and Addendum, as well as other required Department reports. Also, don't forget to submit your Posts, Officers, Program Chairs, etc. for the End of the Year Awards. **For God and Country**

ATTENTION POSTS:

If you have rooms reserved for the Department Convention in June, that you will not need, please call to release those rooms, so that others may take advantage.

The venue hotel is currently booked, overflow hotels are listed on our website at floridalegion.org.

407-827-4000



Northern Area

Troy Horsley, Northern Area
northernarea@legionmail.org



Comrades, it's been another great month! We've made great strides in membership, but now it's time for the end push. Send an email or call your outstanding renewals. Use this opportunity to find

out what your post can do to entice those members to return to the Legion Family. You may be surprised to find, that all it takes is someone interested in his/her needs.

Mark your calendars! The CPR and Addendum reports are due on May 11th, as well as the End-of-Year Award submissions. National CPRs can be completed by using mylegion.org and the Addendum can be downloaded or completed on the Department website, floridalegion.org/resources/cpr/addendum-cpr/. This

is the time to brag and spotlight your Post's accomplishments and receive the recognition you've earned. Your Post has done great things for the community and our fellow veterans. Look at available opportunities to recognize members from your Post who have done a great job. The Billy award is an opportunity to reward an outstanding member and can be given to anyone in the family.

Elections must be completed prior to June 6, 2022, to be in compliance with the Department's CBLs requirement of ten (10) days before the convention. When looking for potential candidates, look for those who have experience and/or training for the position they are striving for in the Post. Too many times, I've witnessed it more as a popularity contest, than the right person for the job. As an example, the financial officer should have some financial background. If your Post can not find persons with a background in the position, there are training opportunities available.

Contact your District Commander for training opportunities. A new program was started this year for a training team. You can request that they come in and train your perspective Officers. This can be accomplished in a couple of hours, at your post, depending on the training you request. The Department Convention is also coming up, and there are numerous classes to train and assist new Officers and members with valuable knowledge. Any Post member can attend Department Convention. This is a chance for everyone to learn from the Legion Family. There will be many topics to choose from, that will provide you with the tools for success. If you intend to send a new service officer, do not forget to pre-register them. Pre-registration is required and limited.

Finally, many thanks to all who attended the Northern Area Ball. A shout out to Post 129 and the Riders from 129 who helped the event go flawlessly. We raised over \$3,600 for Boys State.

Western Area

John Edens, Western Area Commander
westernarea@legionmail.org



The Western Area has been busy in March and April. District 2 held its third District Meeting, and our push on membership is coming along well. We only need a few Posts to continue

calling and visiting members that have not renewed.

All our Posts continue to support The American Legion's Four Pillars. I am very

proud of all you do to assist our Veterans, their children, and local communities.

I recently attended the Department's Children & Youth fundraiser in Titusville. I was very impressed with the volunteers and the Posts that attended. The Department Children and Youth Chairman, Les Martin, did a great job, congratulations!

Mentorship is a very important principle encouraged by our Department Commander this year. I have been impressed with all the mentorship throughout our Western Area this year. Our new Area, District, Post Commanders, and staff for next year will be

able to make a smooth transition this year, with increased knowledge and confidence in accomplishing their duties. Duties, such as getting those CPRs in by May 11, 2022!

Thank you again for your hard work and dedication to the Legion causes. We are still striving for the 100% Membership goal by May 30, 2022, in both Districts. As we have said many times if any Post needs extra help in callouts – just ask, and the District and Area staff will be there.

Continue to stay safe and healthy. Remember that your and your family's health is always the first priority.



REGISTER YOUR POST
CERTIFY DELEGATES/ALTERNATES ONLINE

- REGISTER POST
- PAY FEES
- REQUEST MATERIALS
- UPLOAD PAPERWORK



Busy Month Ahead

Jim Wineland, American Legion Riders

legionriders@legionmail.org



As I write this article, I'm trying to think of what I'm sure I have forgotten to pack for the In-State Unity Ride. We've finished up our final Rally plans, and this should be a great event.

The year is almost at an end, but it's been a great one! We will be distributing another survey, through Survey Monkey, to get your overall opinion of this year's activities. We would like to add any issues to our Convention agenda.

A special thanks to all that helped this be a very successful year. From the team of instructors at the Summit to our Road Captain, and Event Coordinator, Joe & Jeff. Bev and I couldn't have done it without your support. THANK YOU!

We apologize for all the hotel issues, but it seems to be a sign of the times after COVID. When we initially checked hotels, they would not let us reserve a block of rooms, and their flexibility on any kind of price breaks were gone. It was a real pain working with the hotels.

2022 – 2023 Schedule

- **Convention**
June 16-19, 2022
- **POW/MIA Ceremony, Jacksonville**
September 17, 2022
- **"Merry Go Round"**
October 1-31, 2022
- **Fall Conference**
November 18-20, 2022
- **Summit, Holiday Inn Orlando**
Meet and Greet
February 1, 2023
Classes
February 2-4, 2023

- **"Round Robin"**
April 1-30, 2023
- **In-State Unity Ride**
Meet & Greet
April 23, 2023
Ride, Starting out of Marathon & Navarre, tentative
April 24-28, 2023
Rally, Orange County Chopper Museum, not confirmed
April 29, 2023

If you have any ideas, please share! Again, Thank You for all your Efforts!

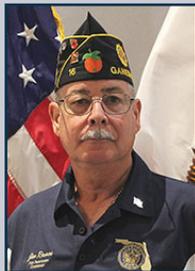
Beverly and I would like to thank each of you for the support we received! Thank You for what you do, and we are proud to be part of the Leadership Team, for such an excellent group!

"For the Cause, not the applause"

2023 FALC Application Coming Soon

Jim Ramos, Florida Legion College

deptlegioncollege@legionmail.org



A new Florida American Legion College application will be out soon. In the meantime, there is something you can do to prepare:

1. Complete Basic Training online through Legion.org
2. Read the Officers' Guide 2021, Adjutant Manual, and Membership Manual
3. Attend training at the Department Convention in June 2022
4. Read up on Resolutions
5. Watch training videos

Basic Training online, through Legion.org, is required before applying to attend Florida American Legion College. You must have completed Basic Training within two years of attending Florida American Legion College.

Be read you work hard for long hours; your day won't be finished until the homework and group assignments are done.

Topics will include: leadership and mentoring, critical thinking and problem solving, team building to set and accomplish goals developing, instructing, and supporting your District and Department level training platform, salesmanship and marketing, community network strategies, and more.

The fee is \$200 to apply to Florida American

Legion College, and every application is checked and verified before you are eligible to attend. Make sure you include a valid mailing address, phone number, and email, so that we may contact you regarding your application. If you have not received an email from us within two weeks after your submission to the Department of Florida, please call me at (352) 226-4370 or email me at deptlegioncollege@legionmail.org. I'll also gladly answer any questions you may have.



Sign up for **TEXT ALERTS.**  **TEXT FAL TO 74121**



Marine Paul Canton - Your Help is Needed

Omer Gene Smith

immigration@legionmail.org



Just a brief on the status of former Marine Paul Canton and his bid to obtain citizenship through the naturalization process. Paul's latest appeal to the United States Citizenship and

Immigration Services (USCIS) was once again rejected. There was a question if Paul served under the declared Operation Desert Storm period. I am not going there. Paul's case is handled by competent immigration attorney Elizabeth Ricci, Esq. of Rambana & Ricci, PLLC., Immigration Law Attorneys, Tallahassee. Ms. Ricci has refiled Paul's appeal and her office has been notified the USCIS is in receipt of the current appeal.

The ordeal has been ongoing for almost three years from when I first got the case and turned it over to Ms. Ricci. Just to refresh, Paul came to the United States in the early 90s under a student exchange visa. After getting here, he like what he saw and sought a way to become a citizen. Somewhere along the way, he was told by serving honorably in the U. S. Military he would become a naturalized citizen. He sought out the U. S. Marine Corps serving four years of active duty and obligatory years following in the Marine Reserve. He believed he was a citizen and used his DD-214 to navigate life in his adopted country.

Paul married an American girl and produced a family, paid taxes, obtained a driver's license, became gainfully employed, even was allowed to register to vote, and thought he was living the American dream. He lived

the dream from the 90s until three years ago when he had to obtain a new driver's license and the policy required him to produce a naturalization certificate. He didn't have one because he was not aware of the need thinking his military service was the fast track to citizenship and his DD-214 was proof of serving and citizenship. From that point forward you have heard the horrific stories of his experiences with the USCIS and his bid to obtain his citizenship now that he knows the requirement. Today, Paul is stateless and without a driver's license. He still is a model person providing for his family, taking interest in his children's school needs, and is active in his community. Paul needs our help. I have Emailed Senator Rubio several times to intervene with special legislation for Paul and others—never received as much as an acknowledgment for my time from Senator Rubio. Ms. Ricci asked me if Legionnaires would write Senator Rubio asking for a Special Bill to naturalize Paul Canton as a citizen of the United States. Following is the email I sent to Senator Rubio's office. You may use it as a guide to construct your email on behalf of Paul.

Email address: Services@rubio.senate.gov

"Honorable Marco Rubio, U. S. Senator, Florida. Dear Senator Rubio: I write to you as the Immigration Committee Chair, The American Legion, Department of Florida out of deep concern for US Marine Veteran Paul Canton whose naturalization was recently denied. As your office is aware, he was recruited in 1991 despite being ineligible to serve. Mr. Canton was a visa overstay, not a Permanent Resident or US Citizen. Now more than 30 years later, he is not a citizen of any country. He did not derive New Zealand citizenship at birth as his parents were not New Zealanders.

His service in the US Military caused his Australian citizenship to be revoked. Through no fault of his own, his active military service in the United States Marine Corps was not during a "Designated Period of Hostility". However, he did enlist during such a period with a delayed entry date. As such, it is my humble request as a retired career soldier in the United States Army to sponsor a Special Bill so Paul Canton may finally become a citizen of the country he served and loves".

You may change the wording to fit your respective military service and position. I ask you to please write Senator Rubio in support of former Marine Paul Canton. Further, I ask you to contact both our Senators and your Representative and request they support Senate Bill 3212 and HR 1182 of the 117th Congress. The title of the respective bills is the Veteran Deportation Prevention and Reform Act. You may Google the respective bills and read about them. Our immigration system is antiquated and must be fixed. While waiting for the fix, the Department of Defense believes there may be 25,000 not-citizens now serving in the US military. What about their future? Additionally, there are thousands of non-citizen US veterans in need of help and compassion from an understanding agency to improve the pathway to citizenship. Many have been deported for minor infractions. Bring them back and be heard by a committee willing to consider the circumstances and recommendations regarding non-citizen veterans and family members. Department of Homeland Security establishes an annual training program dealing with non-citizen veterans. Most importantly, improve the citizenship pathway for those serving and their respective families.

FLORIDA LEGION SAMPL THE AMERICAN LEGION FLORIDALEGION.ORG

— SHOW YOUR —
SUPPORT

The American Legion official license plate.

JSSP Final Competition and Army State Marksmanship

Loretta Young, JSSP/JROTC
jrotc@legionmail.org



The JSSP Round 2 Targets were due on April 1, 2022, and the results are posted on the Civilian Marksmanship website. There are no awards for the Second-Round event. The top fifteen (15) Shooters in each

category, Precision, and Sporter will be going to the 31st Annual National Competition in Colorado Springs, scheduled for July 21-24, 2022.

Although the State of Florida did not have a finalist to qualify for the National Competition, the teams are still performing at a high level overall in the Army State Competition, to be held in Cape Coral on April 23, 2023. This is a competition that the Department of Florida has supported in the past several years as it has been held at Island Coast High School and

coordinated through the American Legion Post 90, Cape Coral. Also, Mariner High School Marksmanship Team has done well qualifying on a National Level and is one of the five (5) schools from Lee County that has qualified and participated in this event. I want to thank all that have been active with the Army State 6th Brigade to make this event possible in the past and would hope it continues for many years to come.

This is the end of the school semesters next month and most of the JROTC Units are now back to having their Year End Award Ceremony in person. I want to encourage every Legion Post to make the effort to provide the JROTC Units with the Military and Scholastic Excellence Medals and Certificates. I have been to several of the Award Ceremonies and there are many more to go before year's end. In addition, there are Military Balls, Cadet of the Year Ceremonies, Pass and Review Ceremonies, and other activities that show how much our Cadets have been doing throughout the

year. Please take time out to be a part of these outstanding demonstrations of what our youth have to offer.

Lastly, please remember to submit a Year-End Report. This is the only way we will know what is happening throughout the State so that it can be shared on the Legion Link and with the Department's final Report. Thanks so much for all that our Legionnaires do for our Youth, they are our future.



Hollywood Hills AJROTC All-Female Color Guard for opening Year End Award Ceremony

Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

Daryl Bass, Law & Order
laworder@legionmail.org



After all of the articles I have written about Law Enforcement Officers, and Firefighter/Paramedics I have forgotten the extreme importance of our Public Safety Radio Dispatchers

(Telecommunicators). I just happened to read an article about the most important aspect of any Police and Fire Services.

The Radio Dispatchers (Public Safety Telecommunicators). Service to the public we serve could not be achieved without our phone operators and radio dispatchers within our Emergency Center complexes.

They are our first line of defense. It used to be, for many years, a 911 call system was used to advise units where to go for an emergency need. Nowadays with the advent of Computers, Telecommunicators now not only answer calls and dispatch the needed emergency units but can plan routes, record calls, transfer calls from Supervisors to line units etc., The importance of these professionals cannot be overly emphasized.

Therefore, the article I read regarded the National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week is April 10th through April 16th. It has been observed in the United States as Public Safety Telecommunicators Week since 1981. (I did not know that) Its purpose is to recognize Public Safety Professionals who respond to emergency calls and dispatch emergency responders during times of crisis.

So, let's think about also honoring these professionals as part of our Law-and-Order Award recipients for next year. Their lives are also in danger for the profession they have chosen. Physically they also live the 0 to 60 lifestyles. When "All Hell" breaks loose they are required to maintain professional composure, keep responding units abreast of all situations, and keep cool till the crisis is over. We can only imagine how stressful and harmful to their bodies this lifestyle can be.

So, while we remember our Law Enforcement Officers, our Firefighters, and Paramedics let's also remember our Emergency Telecommunicator. National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week April 10th through April 16th.

 **VISIT OUR WEBSITE** floridalegion.org **NEWS, FORMS, VETERAN RESOURCES**
UPCOMING EVENTS, AND MORE

Retention Tips**Bruce Thurber, Eastern Membership**membership@legionmail.org

As we come to the end of the membership year, we find we still have a long way to go. Just because we are not in the targeted time, membership and recruiting do not stop.

Continue working on our DMS and Buddy Checks. However, the most important thing in membership is retention. Here are some retention tips:

1. Have a program, not a campaign. Retention is a year-round priority and needs to be planned. Any Post that is or wants to be successful at retention must be able to identify the specific steps it takes to increase its retention rate.
2. Recognize members who reach milestone membership anniversaries. If members stay in The American Legion for five, ten, twenty, or more years, they are probably not among those who are likely to drop out. When members reach one of these milestones, it provides two retention opportunities for your Post. First, it is an opportunity to recognize a member or group of members for their continuing support. Doing that solidifies their membership even more. Second, by publicly recognizing these membership milestones, you inspire other members to strive to earn the same recognition by maintaining their membership, too.
3. Recognize your members as often as possible. Thank him or her for their participation in each and every program or function. Whether you do it formally or informally, it pays to express appreciation to members whenever possible. It's never too late to show gratitude to hard workers!
 - a. Start a regular column in your newsletter to thank members for their involvement. One organization featured a column in their monthly called "Tip of the Hat." This column's

sole purpose was to say thank you to those members who had helped the organization in some way since the previous newsletter. The member's name and the specific service they performed were all mentioned. It became the most popular feature in the newsletter because every month members saw their name or the name of someone they knew.

- b. The BILLY Award is a great tool. Contact your District Commander for information.
4. Provide and encourage the use of The American Legion Emblem. There are good reasons for members to want to display the Legion emblem or other Legion artwork. The emblem can be an effective membership and marketing tool.
5. When important issues come up, call some inactive members for their opinions. It's natural for Posts to contact their leadership people when an issue of importance arises, such as a legislative crisis, a local election, or the setting of a new standard. These issues and events are also opportunities to involve some of the Post's least active members simply by asking their opinion.
6. Accept credit and debit cards for dues payments. Credit and debit card payments have become the norm for almost all purchasing transactions. If your Post does not already accept them, you should consider doing so. Credit and debit card acceptance is especially useful to Posts during difficult economic times because it allows members to renew and still be able to make installment payments.
7. Get members involved at SOME level. Involved members don't drop. Your Post needs to try to find ways to get members involved in a meaningful way without taking up too much of their time. This is especially true with newer members.
8. Be sure non-members pay a higher fee than members for programs and functions. There are two ways to make this idea support your retention efforts. First, be sure that your Post charges more for non-members to participate in any of your Post functions or to purchase any of your goods or services. Second, be sure to remind your current members about this additional fee that nonmembers pay. This serves to remind members of the money they save each time they take advantage of your Post's services.
 - a. Remind members how much money they have saved by participating in programs and functions at the member rate. Remind your members of the money they may save by participating in the National member benefits program and the discounts for Post functions.
9. If you ask a member to do a volunteer job, make sure it's a WORTHWHILE job! Even the smallest volunteer jobs need to provide some sense of accomplishment for the members assigned to do them. Although there is a lot of pressure to get members involved in the Post's leadership structure, just having a title is not enough to justify the valuable time members give up in order to participate. Be able to pinpoint the contribution each member makes to your Post's success and be certain to mention that contribution when thanking the member.
10. Assign an officer to contact a certain number of inactive members each month – just a little "saying hi!" call. Some members believe the only time we contact them is when we need money, information, or support. This impression is strongest among the less active members. To alleviate some of these feelings, ask officers and E-board members to make some random calls each month to your inactive members. These courtesy calls will remind these members that the Post knows they're

Eastern Membership continued on page 10 >>



<<Eastern Membership continued from page 9

still out there and that their opinion is valued. Be sure to give the callers something substantial to talk about, such as getting input on an upcoming legislative issue or proposed Post policy changes.

- 11. Get spouses active – it assures renewal. When you have multiple family

members simultaneously belonging to the Legion, the Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion, your chances of having them renew is much greater than the renewal rates of individual members.

- 12. Hold leadership-training programs. Give your members the tools to be successful volunteers. It is important for members

who get involved to have a good experience during their involvement. Leadership training is becoming one of the best services that organizations can give their members. The skills developed through leadership training are transferred back to the members' workplaces. At renewal time, members will remember where these skills were developed.

Scouting Awards

Chris Ragusa, Scouting
scouting@legionmail.org



Calling All Posts!!! Submit your Outstanding Post Scouting Program Award Nominations by May 11th! Up to three of these awards will be bestowed upon Department of

Florida posts with the most involvement in the Scouting program. Involvement can consist of both chartering BSA units, sponsoring the activities of BSA units, or both. The nomination forms are due by **May 11, 2022**, and the form can be found on the Resource tab on the Scouting page - <https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/scouting/resources/> Besides the form, a narrative containing the details, any newspaper clippings, and photographs that profile the Scouting activities that your post has supported should be included. Send me an email at scouting@legionmail.org if you would like examples of the narrative used by posts that have been documented in the past. The three posts will receive a Department of Florida plaque that acknowledges this achievement for display at the post.

Department of Florida 2022 Eagle Scout of the Year

I am pleased to announce the Florida Legion Eagle Scout of the Year, as well

as the second and third place scholarship recipients. The Eagle Scout of the Year is Mr. Erik Dyer of Lithia, FL (District 15). Erik is a junior at Newsome High School in Lithia, and will receive a \$2,500 scholarship which can be used for a state-accredited school



above the high school level. His packet has been forwarded to American Legion National Headquarters for consideration at the National level for an additional \$10,000 scholarship. Erik will be recognized at the Department Convention on Saturday, June 18, 2022, in Orlando. The Second-Place award winner is Joshua Williams of Niceville (District 1) who receives a \$1,500 scholarship. Third Place was awarded to Hunter Crist of Sarasota (District 8), who receives a \$1000 scholarship. Many thanks to the District Scouting Chairs from District 5 (Corey Glasner), District 8 (Sam Taylor), and District 12 (Kevin McGarry) for serving on the ESOY Selection Board!

Wreaths Across America

Each December, National Wreaths Across America Day is observed. The mission of

Wreaths Across America is to Remember, Honor and Teach. It is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,500 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad. This past December 18, 2021, American Legion Post 273 (Madiera Beach, District 16) sponsored more than 3,200 Wreaths for the Wreaths Across America program at Bay Pines National Cemetery in St. Petersburg, FL. More than 20 members of Boy Scout Troop #431 and #431-G volunteered their time to place wreaths side by side with members of Post 273 that morning. The Scouts from these two units take pride in dedicating themselves to our veterans on numerous occasions throughout the calendar year, and Post 273 feels fortunate to have established a complementary relationship with this remarkable group of young men & women. Thanks to Post 273's Scouting Chair, Anthony Torregrossa, for sharing this good news story!



 Find us on: **facebook.com/floridalegion**



**PROJECT:
VETRELIEF**



Bulletin

MAY 2022

**PROJECT:
VETRELIEF**
A PROGRAM OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
www.projectvetrelief.org

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION... WANT TO BE A VETRELIEF ADVOCATE?

The American Legion, Department of Florida's Annual Convention is just around the corner. The event will be held from June 16-19th, 2022 at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista in Orlando, FL.

There will only be one training opportunity this year. Be sure to visit the link below to reserve your seat today!



VETRELIEF ADVOCATE TRAINING:

Friday, June 17th

Time: 3:00 – 4:00 PM

Room: Narcissus/Orange

Registration Link:

<https://bit.ly/3EpJUbx>

**Link is case sensitive*



The PROJECT: VetRelief Team will also have a table in the vendor area. Please stop by to see our case worker, Lenora James. You can collect any materials to take back with you to your Post or ask any questions you might have.

Calling all trained Advocates - We will be holding a special event for all trained VetRelief Advocates. If you are interested in learning more information on this event, and have already taken our Training course, please contact Jennifer Cooper, jcooper@floridalegion.org, for the details.

We are looking forward to seeing each and every one of you there!

**Class day, time and location are subject to change.*

WE SALUTE YOU... FLORIDA LEGION RIDERS

The Florida American Legion Riders and PROJECT: VetRelief teamed up again for the month of April to stop Veteran suicide. During the month, Chapters hosted rides, dinners, and other activities to earn points for the coveted District Trophy. The In-State Unity Ride and State Rally also took place: all of which the proceeds benefit PVR/SPI.

Last year, they brought in nearly \$115,000 net proceeds and set a mission to beat that total for this year. We are still calculating totals, so we do not have the final results, yet. But we know they were tracking to surpass their goal!

Many Riders chose to create a fundraising page to collect donations and earn the COOL PRIZES! Those items will be ordered the first week in May and will be delivered at the Department Convention. If you are not able to attend Convention, items will be given to the ALR District Chairman to distribute.

We are certainly grateful to our Board Vice-President, Jim Wineland, who is also the ALR Department Chairman, and ALR Department Adjutant, Beverly Wooten, for their continued support. The Florida Legion Riders is a huge contributor to our Suicide Prevention Initiative and are crucial to the impact we can make to put an end to veteran suicides!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

SUPPORT CASES

JULY 2021 - JAN 2022

**Reflect PVR Cases ONLY*



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Possible VA Changes**Alan Cohen, VA&R**var@legionmail.org

Greetings once again, fellow Legionnaires. Seems that suddenly, the year is almost over, and we're looking forward to the Department Convention next month. These past few months have been a whirlwind of Legion activities and events.

I had the honor of being asked to speak at a District 13 event, successfully raising funds and awareness for PROJECT: VetRelief. As you know, PROJECT: VetRelief is exclusive to the Department of Florida and geared to helping our Florida Veterans in a variety of ways.

We are still reminded that the threat and effects of COVID are still part of our everyday lives. However, the VA hospitals and CBOC's have started allowing VAVS volunteers back, but on an extremely limited base. Related

to that, there have been some interesting developments on the VA side: A national survey conducted each year shows that once again the VA leads in overall patient experience when measured against community-based hospitals. Yes, we know that the system isn't perfect, but now we know that compared to civilian healthcare facilities the VA does better.

Another announcement tells us that beginning on or about July 16, 2022, the VA is launching a new 3-digit dialing code, which will connect Veterans, who are experiencing difficulties to the Veterans Crisis Line. This is in response to information that tells us that Veteran suicide rates are at least double that of other suicides.

A proposal has been made by the VA to update the rating schedule for Veterans filing claims for respiratory, auditory, and mental issues. Significant among the proposed changes is that Veterans would only need a 10% evaluation for one or more service-connected mental health conditions and

would no longer require "total occupational and social impairment" to attain a 100% rating. More to follow, as we receive further information, and please remember that this is only a proposal at this point.

Once again, I'd like to make special mention of the many changes and improvements the VA has made and continues to make regarding healthcare for Women Veterans. Each hospital and CBOC staffs Women Veteran Advocates to help navigate the system. There is also an online class to educate Women Veterans as to what services are available to them. It's a one-time, women-only class and registration is at: https://bit.ly/womens_heart

In closing this month's article I'd like to encourage all posts to appoint a Post Service Officer. We're in the process of organizing what will be a very informative class to be held during the Department's Convention in June. Registration forms can be found at floridalegion.org and just click on the Convention link for information.

Challenges Inside our Legion Posts**Deb Wheeler, Women Veterans**womenveterans@legionmail.org

After having this position for several years, the same trend continues. I receive heartbreaking calls from all over the Department of Florida.

As a Legion member of twenty-seven years

this issue started long before I became a member and seems to continue.

Bullying is no longer tolerated within schools, against our children and grandchildren. So why does it exist within our Legion Posts? Good question, right? Bullying starts with basic training and continues in one way or another throughout a woman's military career. For years and all through retirement bullying in some degree, continues.

The next challenge is walking into the local American Legion Post and asking for an application to join. The bartender or attendant tries to force an Auxiliary application right away, which upsets the Female Veteran at the start. Then she must argue that she is attempting to join The American Legion. This happens to a lot of female Veterans, including myself.

After joining The American Legion some Female Veterans are pigeonholed into positions, such as Historian and the Adjutant. Not that there is anything wrong with those positions, but Female Veterans are just as capable of holding other positions as well. Many Female Veterans endure the bullying from a lot of their older male counterparts.

This shouldn't be tolerated on any level. On several occasions, I've been called by Female Veterans who have been bullied, in some way, by members of the Auxiliary, as well. I have witnessed in my twenty-seven years, Female Veterans being falsely accused of

wrongdoing and brought up on charges, simply to expel them from The American Legion. Having truly, done nothing wrong, other than being born female, she could be expelled from The American Legion.

I just wanted to share that some of these internal problems, exist across the United States with Female Veterans. If we're wanting to increase the membership of Female Veterans within The American Legion, it is important that we make some changes. We need to take a deeper look at how we can retain the Female Veterans currently on our roster within The American Legion. We need to end the bullying at the Post Level and welcome our Female Veterans, providing them with a safe environment and positive camaraderie, just as we do with our Male counterparts. Bullying is hurtful to everyone it happens too. We're grown-ups, I think, but some of our members do not accept nor value our Female Veterans. We need to provide further education and more open discussion to end this cycle.



Now Open

Orange Baker Post 187

415 W Voorhis Ave, Deland, FL 32720



American Legion Post 187 is now open to the public to view our exhibit of Black History in the military. The post is only open on Tuesday and Saturday from 10 AM to 1 PM, will open any other day with a phone call (Please groups of 3 or more). After receiving

a grant to restore the building which was nearly destroyed when a storm placed a large tree on top. The grant required the post to be a museum so on November 10th, 2021 a re-grand opening with a lot of fanfare. Come by and visit Orange Baker Post 187. Call 813-972-4909 and make a reservation if other than Tuesday or Saturday.



Dept Commander, Post Commander, and Post Vice Commander



Deland's Mayor Apgar Presenting Proclamation

Florida's Fallen Memorial

Oviedo Memorial Post 243

Oviedo Cemetery, 118 Aulin Ave, Oviedo, FL 32765

If you're looking for a way to honor service members who have died in military service to our Country since September 11, 2001, plan on visiting the Florida's Fallen Memorial in Oviedo this spring. Every year, Oviedo Memorial Post 243 erects over 400 individual crosses and 13 United States Campaign crosses to help honor, remember and serve as a personal connection for the community. Many families visit to help their children understand that freedom comes at a price and that the military is not some far off concept that is difficult to understand. It is

our neighbors, moms, dads, sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, and friends (and more) that are willing to help keep our nation great.

The individual crosses have names, military branch, rank, hometown, casualty date, age, photographs, and awards. The Memorial also includes flags of our military branches and large crosses representing the major campaigns from American history, the dates of those conflicts, and the total number of deaths incurred. A special tribute is also included for our servicemembers who may be home but are still fighting their battles. Military K-9's are also honored in this special area. The iconic boots with rifle inserted,

helmet and dog tags display can be found in this tribute area, as well.

The Florida's Fallen Memorial will be staffed from Sunday, May 22 through Friday June 3 from 0800-2000 daily. A Memorial Day service is scheduled for 1100 at the same location. Additional information about the Memorial can be found on our website: <https://oviedolegion.org/fl-fallen-memorial> Please plan on making a trip to visit this year.

Oviedo Cemetery
118 Aulin Avenue
Oviedo, FL 32765

See flyer on page 16.



Grand Prize
\$10,000 CASH!

2nd prize
\$2,500 CASH

3rd prize
\$1,000 CASH

4th-5th prize
\$500/EA CASH

6-10th prize
\$100/EA CASH

GET TICKETS ONLINE: floridalegion.org/enter



April 29, 2022 Membership Target Report (95%)		
6	Joe Marcheggiani	100.51%
16	Robert Matheson	97.66%
13	Harold Boyer	97.19%
1	Sonny Decker	97.09%
8	Skip Felicita	96.16%
9	George Bograkos	96.08%
7	Burl Thomas	95.48%
3	Stuart Scott	94.31%
12	Dennis Mallon	94.29%
14	Thomas Frank	94.09%
5	Lena Heredia-Perez	93.89%
17	Jim Bowers	92.05%
4	John Bennett	91.56%
2	Steve Mears	89.54%
15	Stephen Tyler	89.17%
11	Harry Malecki	85.22%
Eastern	Daryl Bass	97.66%
Southwestern	Jessica Moore	96.72%
Western	John Edens	95.92%
Central	Bruce Carl	94.85%
Northern	Troy Horsley	93.01%
Southern	Johnny Castro	90.74%
Post 400		85.47%
Post 208		78.02%



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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 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



Next Membership Goal:
May 4, 2022

100%

www.thelit.com



Congratulations!

**The American Legion, Department of Florida
is proud to announce the
2022 Scholarship Winners**

The General Scholarship:

- 1st Place, receiving a \$2,500.00 scholarship is Sage Hall of Gulf Breeze.
- 2nd Place, receiving a \$1,500.00 scholarship is Lucas Dye of Oviedo.
- 3rd Place, receiving a \$1,000.00 scholarship is Cooper Kappeler of Seminole.
- 4th -7th Place, receiving a \$500.00 scholarship each:
 - Maxwell Fletcher of Sarasota
 - Madison Fiske of Jupiter
 - Thomas Roesner of Winter Springs
 - Mark Levine of Lithia

The JROTC Cadet of the Year Scholarship:

- 1st Place, receiving a \$2,500.00 scholarship is Grace Wilson of Winter Park.
- 2nd Place, receiving a \$1,500.00 scholarship is Gabriela Feliciano of Fleming Island.
- 3rd Place, receiving a \$1,000.00 scholarship is Brialore Campbell of Longwood.
- 4th Place, receiving a \$500.00 scholarship is Kian Bacon of Plantation.

The Eagle Scout of the Year Scholarship:

- 1st Place, receiving a \$2,500.00 scholarship is Erik Dyer of Lithia.
- 2nd Place, receiving a \$1,500.00 scholarship is Joshua Williams of Niceville.
- 3rd Place, receiving a \$1,000.00 scholarship is Hunter Crist of Sarasota.



Florida's Fallen Memorial

At the Oviedo Cemetery
Presented by

Oviedo American Legion Memorial Post 243

Installed May 22 – June 3

Visitors welcome 8:00 am – 8:00 pm, daily

Come help remember those Floridians that didn't make it home from Afghanistan and other post 9-11 tours of duty.

Learn more about the Memorial by visiting OviedoLegion.org/fl-fallen-memorial





A PATRIOTIC WELCOME HOME CELEBRATION TO OUR VIETNAM VETERANS



Hosted by 9/11 Veterans, Heroes Honor Festival is the patriotic welcome home celebration our Vietnam veterans deserved.

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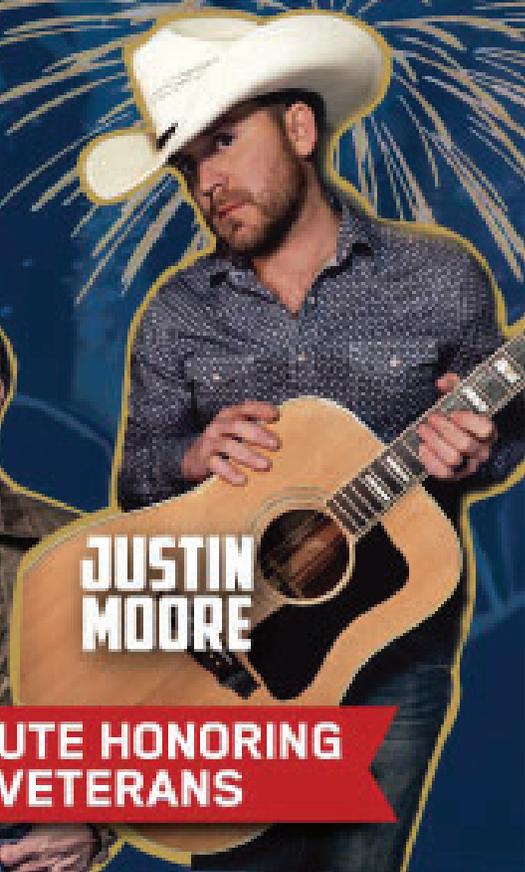
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**JUSTIN
MOORE**

**CONCERT
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**A PUBLIC TRIBUTE HONORING
OUR VIETNAM VETERANS**



103RD Annual Department Convention, June 16-19, 2022

Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista – Disney Springs Area, 1751 Hotel Plaza Blvd; Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

VENDOR INFORMATION

Name of Business or Organization/Foundation _____

Contact Person _____ Job Title _____

Phone _____ Email _____

SPONSORSHIP LEVEL

General's Sponsorship \$800 _____
Door Prize/Raffle Item: _____

Colonel's Sponsorship \$550 _____
Door Prize/Raffle Item: _____

Lieutenant's \$300 _____
Door Prize/Raffle Item: _____

*Each exhibitor will receive a 6' skirted table and 2 chairs. Additional chairs are available upon request.
Electrical outlets are not guaranteed.*

OTHER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Kick-Off Event Sponsor \$1,000 Installation Reception Sponsor \$600

Service Officer School Day 1 Sponsor \$800 Service Officer School Day 2 Sponsor \$800

PROGRAM ADVERTISEMENT ONLY - Increase product/brand awareness! A great marketing tool.

Full Page Ad (7.5"x10") - \$350 (included in General's) Half Page Ad (7.5"x5") - \$200 (included in Colonel's)

Quarter Page Ad (3.75"x5") - \$100 (included in Lieutenant's)

Advertisements must be submitted no later than May 15, 2022 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 are in grayscale. All imagery must be legally licensed. The American Legion, Department of Florida will not be able to alter or create advertisements. **Please email artwork to: events@floridalegion.org.**

PAYMENT METHOD

Credit Card Check # _____ Please make checks payable to American Legion, Dept 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



COMMANDER SHIRT ORDER FORM 2022-2023



Did you know you can order online? Just go to www.floridalegionstore.org

Name: _____ Post: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

DELIVERY METHOD

Pick Up at HQ Orlando Pick Up at Convention Delivery*

*Additional shipping fee is required for delivery, see chart below.

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. You will be notified prior to shipment.

Shipping Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

SHIRT OPTIONS

Style	Size	Qty														
Men's	XS		S		M		L		XL		2XL		3XL		4XL	
Ladies'	XS		S		M		L		XL		2XL		3XL		4XL	

TOTAL

Shirts are \$35 each, add \$5 each for extended sizes 2XL-5XL, price includes personalization. Please see next page for personalization options. If tax exempt, please include copy of exemption form.

DELIVERY FEES*

Order Subtotal	Shipping Cost	Order Subtotal	Shipping Cost
\$30.01 - \$50.00	\$8.95	\$300.01 - \$400	\$24.95
\$50.01 - \$100.00	\$9.95	\$400.01 - \$500	\$33.95
\$100.01 - \$200.00	\$15.95	\$500.01 & over	\$39.95
\$200.01 - \$300.00	\$21.95		

Subtotal \$

Tax (6.5%) \$

Shipping \$

Grand Total \$

PAYMENT

Please return form and payment to Department Headquarters:

The American Legion, Dept of FL; Attn: Emblem Sales, PO Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32854

Cash Check # _____ Credit Card

Card Type: Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Card Holder Name: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



COMMANDER SHIRT ORDER FORM

2022-2023

PERSONALIZATION (Line 1 example: First Name Last Name. Line 2 example: Post # Title)

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

By signing below, I agree that I have verified the information provided as correct and free of errors. I acknowledge that The American Legion, Department of Florida is NOT responsible for incorrect information provided.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

103RD DEPARTMENT CONVENTION T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



BACK

FRONT

Unisex, soft style tee.

Please choose your method of delivery: Pickup at Convention Pickup at Headquarters Ship to Home*

Style	Size	Qty												
Unisex	S	Qty	M	Qty	L	Qty	XL	Qty	2XL	Qty	3XL	Qty	4XL	Qty

Shirts are **\$15 each**, plus tax and shipping. If tax exempt, please include copy of exemption form.

SHIPPING FEES* (Pickup is Free)

(Qty: 1) - \$5.95 (Qty: 4-6) - \$9.95 (Qty: 21-26) - \$24.95
 (Qty: 2) - \$7.95 (Qty: 7-13) - \$15.95 (Qty: 27-33) - \$33.95
 (Qty: 3) - \$8.95 (Qty: 14-20) - \$21.95 (Qty: 34-50) - \$39.95

Subtotal	\$
Tax (6.5%)	\$
Shipping	\$
Grand Total	\$

PAYMENT

ORDER ONLINE: floridalegionstore.org

Please return form and payment to Department Headquarters:

The American Legion, Dept of FL; Attn: Emblem Sales, PO Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32810

Payment Type: Check / Money Order Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Card Holder Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make checks payable to The American Legion, Department of Florida - Include "Emblem Sales" in the memo



THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPT OF FLORIDA
P.O. BOX 547859
ORLANDO, FL 32854



POST REGISTRATION

Certify Delegates / Alternates
Pay Fees
Turn in Paperwork
Request Materials
<https://bit.ly/378AYeE>



MATERIALS REQUEST

Let us know what you need ahead of time and we will have it ready when you arrive.
<https://bit.ly/3y6srEh>



MORE INFORMATION

For more details and information visit our website at floridalegion.org.
<https://bit.ly/3o3WR2U>



**REGISTER YOUR POST
CERTIFY DELEGATES/ALTERNATES ONLINE**

- REGISTER POST
- REQUEST MATERIALS
- PAY FEES
- UPLOAD PAPERWORK

**SAVE TIME
FORGET THE LINE**

CONTACT US AT

membership@floridalegion.org
www.floridalegion.org
(800) 393-3378

For more info
Scan here!



POST SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL

Dept. Convention Registration Form 2022

This course is filled based off first come, first served interest. Slots are limited!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: FL Zip Code: _____

Email (required): _____

Phone number: _____

Post number: _____ Member ID number: _____

By signing this document, you are stating that you have been appointed as the Post Service Officer by the Post Commander to attend this course as stated in the Department Constitution and By-Laws Article X, Section

**** A Post can only send TWO PEOPLE to attend the course due to the limited seating! ****

Service Officer Signature Date

Commander Signature Date

Return this form to:

Florida American Legion, ATTN: Programs, PO BOX 547859, Orlando, FL, 32854-7859

OR

Email: btibbs@floridallegion.org

OR

Fax: 407-299-0901

This form **MUST** be submitted and received by Department to reserve a place in the class.

****Registration by phone will NOT be accepted****



Class Name: FL American Legion Post Service Officer Course, Dept. Convention 2022

Dates (Must Attend Both Days): Thursday, 16 June 2022; 8AM – 4PM

Friday, 17 June 2022; 8AM – 4PM

Note: Training by The American Legion is valid for one year

Room Name: Palm 4-5, Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista

Hotel Reservations: Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista – (407) 827-4000

1751 Hotel Plaza Blvd. Lake Buena Vista FL, 32830

****Be sure to tell them you are with The American Legion to receive our special rate****

SAVE THE DATE!