



THE LEGION LINK

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA PUBLICATION



JUNE 2023

VOLUME XXXI ISSUE 11

IN THIS EDITION

Department Officers

- 1 Commander
- 2 1st Vice
- 2 3rd Vice
- 2 NEC
- 3 ANEC
- 3 Historian

Areas & Districts

- 4 Central Area
- 4 District 15

Membership

- 8 Membership
- 15 Membership Report

Programs

- 5 American Legion Riders
- 5 Americanism
- 6 Baseball
- 6 Children & Youth
- 7 Disaster Preparedness
- 7 Florida Legion College
- 7 JROTC/JSSP
- 9 National Security
- 10 PROJECT: VetRelief
- 11 Oratorical
- 12 Post Revitalization
- 13 SAL Advisory
- 13 Scouting
- 13 VA&R

Other

- 16 2023-2024 Department Officer Candidates
- 16 Post Everlasting
- 17 History Books & Narratives Submissions
- 18 Legion Family Kick-Off Party
- 19 Red, White, & Blue Fling (Banquet)

Submit Articles at

floridalegion.org/submit or legionlink@floridalegion.org

Questions? legionlink@floridalegion.org

A Message from the Department Commander

Eunice Butts, Commander

commander@floridalegion.org



This is my last Legion Link Article as The Commander of The American Legion Department of Florida. Because of each of you, both personnel and the American Legion family,

I survived. It was through your help and participation in all facets of my life that we succeeded. Mere words could never express my sincere appreciation and thanks for your prayers, donations to charities and activities, volunteering, and other acts of kindness. Special thanks to the office staff and their AWESOME and talented skills that make all of our duties and responsibilities easier. I will always cherish your dedication and helpfulness.

Congratulations to all posts that made 100% plus. Special thanks to all posts for your hospitality and donations to my charities during The Department Commanders' visitation. Thanks to posts with no home for

attending the visitations. As of this writing, I have one post to visit in the 4th district and all posts in Key West, Fl. This will be done before the convention. I promised to visit all posts, and with the Grace and help of God, I will.

All of your CPR'S and Department Addendums should be turned in by this time. Please apply for the various awards you may qualify for. You deserve the recognition. Special thanks to The Past Department Commanders for your help when I called upon you. Also, to those who volunteered, helpful information. To 2022--2023 Commanders Team (3rd, 2nd, 1st vice, and Department Commander), thank you for an exciting year. Thank you for the activities you created and the donations you made to enhance The Florida Department. Thank you for participating as a team with the disaster preparedness chairman. YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA.

It is my prayer that each of you learns the power of respect, kindness, love, helpfulness, and prayer.

COMMANDER'S CHARITIES
PROJECT: VetRelief and Jackson InAction 83

5K

10K

15K

20K

25K

30K

35K

40K

45K

50K

Commander's Goal: \$50,000 (Current funds raised **\$130,601.00**)



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Awesome Ride

Michael Raymond, 1st Vice Commander
1stvice@legionmail.org



Since this will be my last article as a Dept. Vice Commander (44 articles and counting), I guess I'd just take a few moments to let you all know what an incredible ride it has been. Working alongside PDC's Rick

Johnson, Jerry Brandt, and Eunice Butts, while sometimes challenging, has been an invaluable experience. Three totally different personalities with three different ways to plan and organize with one same goal, to guide the American Legion and the Dept. of Florida to a successful year. In a way, my success will be a reflection of these individuals' successes if I am lucky enough to

earn your vote for Dept. Commander, I will have no excuse but to move the Department forward thanks in part to these outstanding leaders. The Auxiliary and SAL have also taught me some very valuable lessons over the past couple of years about what it takes to be successful. The art of a family that works, plays, and has fun together, succeeds together. That's what it will take to be a success next year. We must enjoy the great work we are doing! My plan for the coming year, if elected, is very simple and straightforward. Proven professionals in positions where they will have the opportunity to shine. Positions where they have already proven themselves as winners. It's a winning team that will show results. We must work together with Integrity, Loyalty, and purpose. Work with me this year, and we can't lose, but most of all... BE KIND!

End-of-Year Highlights

Jessica Moore, 3rd Vice Commander
3rdvice@legionmail.org



It's hard to believe it's June, and Convention is already here. It would be wonderful if you could attend, even if you only come up for the day and help elect your new officers. A wonderful highlight of the convention is seeing the

End of the Year awards. Some of those include Chaplain, Post Adjutant, Law officer, Firefighter, and Teacher. I am honored to serve you all and look forward to being your American Legion Department Second Vice. On a side note, June is also a very busy month for the veteran community. The whole month of June is PTSD awareness month. June 6 is D-Day. June 12 is Women's Veterans Day. June 14 is both the Army birthday and Flag Day. June 23 is the Coast Guard Auxiliary's birthday.

June begins a New Legion year for Florida

Jim Ramos, NEC
nec@legionmail.org



Special Note: The 60th annual National Membership workshop in Indianapolis, Indiana, is on July 28-29, 2023; you will have to pay your own way unless you're the Department Membership Chair.

Those planning to attend the 2023 Membership workshop are encouraged to

register online at <https://www.legion.org/membershipworkshop>. Anyone who wants to go can go at your expense.

Let's begin with attending the Department Convention, attending classes, and learning about your Officer Duties. There are a lot of classes to go to and get information on all your officer's duties. **At the Department Convention, I will give an update on what is happening with the NEC and what occurred at the NEC spring meeting on May 10-11, 2023.** Get involved and help your Post for

JUNE 2023	
1	Dept Delegate Cut-Off 🍎
2	Baseball: "Lou Gehrig Day" ALS Awareness
3	District 16: DCC
3	District 3: DCC
4	ALR: District 3 Honor A Veteran Bike Give-a-way
5	History Books Due 🍎
6	D-Day (1944)
11	Post 108: Flag Retirement & Family Fun Day
11	Chapter 8: ALR Meeting
12	Women Veterans Day
14	U.S. Army Birthday
14	U.S. Flag Day
14	Chapter 10: ALR Meeting
15	Baseball: Team Rosters Due 🍎
15-18	Department Convention 🍎❤️
12-19	Dept Headquarters Closed 🍎
18	Father's Day
18-24	Florida Boys State Session 🍎
19	Emancipation Day
20	American Eagle Day
21	Baseball: Team Rosters Frozen 🍎
23	U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
24	Chapter 10: ALR Kissimmee Bike Night
25	Korean War Started (1950)
27	PTSD Awareness Day
28	Operation Red Wings

- ❤️ Commander Eunice Butts' Attendance Tentative.
- 🍎 Department Event
- ★ National Event

Events are subject to change. Additional details can be found at www.floridalegion.org. We share the information we are provided.

the coming year 2023-2024.

"Leader (Post officers), worker (Volunteers), and members" Who is most important? A Volunteer because they are PRICELESS.

If you are going to Department Convention, make sure you **have copies of all reports**, just in case something is missing or needs to be added, at the Department, as we are human and make mistakes.

When you come to Department Convention, I know you have questions. Write them down and go to the classes you need to attend and get the correct answer. Also, get the resources you need to have.

Try to get all your members to do the **Basic**
NEC continued on page 3 >>

<< NEC continued from page 2

Training online as it is free and yes, it takes some time to do it, but they will learn a lot of good information and become better members. Also, it will help your Post out, support Post programs, and they will come to Post meetings which is great.

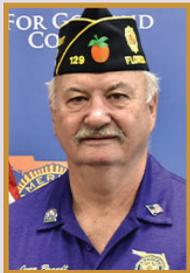
Also, make sure you have a mylegion.org account to look up your information and make a copy of your membership card once you have paid your dues (you can pay your dues online). If you need help, ask your Post Adjutant or someone who is computer smart.

As your NEC, Jim Ramos is here to assist you with information, planning, and whatever you need to improve your Post to be the best in the Department of Florida.

If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at 352-226-4370 or email: NEC@legionmail.org.

Resolution Update

Jerry Brandt, ANEC
anec@legionmail.org



Just wanted to give you an update on some of the resolutions that came out of the Spring meetings.

There was a total of 25 Resolutions covering VA&R, National Security, Convention Requests, ETC. All resolutions are available on www.legion.org/archives.

I would like to mention Resolutions 1 and 13. Below are the resolved clauses.

Resolution 1: Purchase of the Multiple Year Membership.

Resolution Reads: **Resolved, By the National Executive Committee of the American Legion in a regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on**

May 10-11, 2023, That a five-year pilot program offering the purchase of three consecutive twelve-month member terms at the then current dues rate be established: and, be it further,

Resolved that at the conclusion of the pilot program, an analysis be completed to determine if sufficient use and revenue impact warrants a continuation; and be it finally,

Resolved that modifications to the member data system (MyLegion) needed to offer multi-year membership not exceeding \$75,000.

National will be rolling this out soon, and I hope you can use this to help retain membership within your Posts. This will also ease the pressure of obtaining new membership or contacting those who still need to renew.

Resolution 13: "Be the One" Days

Resolution Reads: **Resolved, By the National Executive Committee of the American Legion in a regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 10-11, 2023, That, commencing on June 1, 2023, the first day of every month be observed as a special day to reduce the stigma around mental health issues among the military community when all American Legion Family members wear a "Be The One" items to signal their commitment to Be The One to save one veteran: and, be it finally,**

Resolved, That all American Legion posts should place special emphasis and awareness on the "Be The One" program on the first day of every month.

More details will be given out at the Department Convention. See you then!

The Finale

Phillip Crouthamel, Historian
historian@legionmail.org



First, good health and best wishes to Commander Eunice and Past Dept Historian Ed Lewis. They've both had a health issue, and I am told they are both fine.

Well, this is my last message to everyone. Serving as your Department Historian these past two years has been a pleasure and an honor.

Training has always been my mission for all Post historians. Attached is a flyer for the Historian contest.

I have asked Ed Lewis to conduct the Historian class at the convention. I will be undertaking more responsibilities at my post, and I need to take some classes that will conflict with the history class.

I will submit a Department Narrative book to National for judging and hope we can aspire to be at least in the top three.

Thank you to the wonderful staff at headquarters for your assistance whenever I needed help.

God Bless You All; Best wishes to the incoming officers; Support the American Legion programs and R. E. D!

"This We Defend"



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Reflecting on an Amazing Year

Bob Matheson, Central Area
central@legionmail.org



It is amazing that the 2022 – 2023 Legion year has ended. I want to thank the outstanding leadership of the District Commanders from Districts 7, 15, and 16. Your dedication to the

American Legion and the Districts shows how well the Central Area has done this year. I want to thank all the Posts for the great support that they provided during Hurricane IAN. It's behind us, but a lot of work still needs to be done to bring all the Posts affected back to full strength. Having visited almost every Post in the Area, I am happy to say that the Central Area is only getting stronger. The Posts are working

together as a family and are focused on the mission that we are here to support and defend the veterans and their families. I want to congratulate all the newly elected officers in all the districts; I wish them the best in the coming year. I want to close by thanking our Department Commander, Eunice Butts, for a great year. Your leadership, guidance, and support to the Central Area and Department of Florida were exceptional.

District 15

Randy Holeyfield, District 15
district15@legionmail.org



Greetings, for this last Legion Link edition of the year before we launch into a new year ahead. With the year ending, posts are having their voting for the 2023/2024 year.

With me finishing this year as District Commander, and making my visitations, I've had the pleasure of working with all the district's posts. One post needed advice on how their "Snowbirds" could be able to vote before they returned North, but their post does not vote until after they leave the area. And with their CBL outlining the date of their voting I recommended adjusting the voting date to earlier in the year (though not helping them this year). But this would cause them to make an amendment to their post's CBL (Constitution & By-Laws), to which they would have to make a motion (with a quorum present) at a posts General Membership meeting. Thus, by resetting the voting date, that would also adjust their nomination(s) according to the number in their CBL (one or two prior to the voting date, per their CBL). That way they would

be able to accommodate those who wish to be available for voting before they left the area. IAW the Department CBL a post is restricted to voting no more than 90 days and no less that 10 days prior to Department's Annual Convention. This aspect must be followed, but is easily fulfilled. Plus with a post waiting so close to the Department Convention, it makes submission of EOY (End of Year) reports difficult to meet deadlines, or at least very close to it, and some post are voting past the deadline for EOY's. By having a posts voting in say April each year, the post is able to not only forward their EOY reports to HQ in a timely manner, but also their Corporate Annual Report (which is due to the Secretary of State) on Sunbiz.org. That report is due by May 1st each year, and if your post elects their officers after May 1st the post would need to amend their Annual report because of any changes if their officers changed that are in the Annual Report. Having it earlier in the year would avoid this for one, but also EOY reports to Department.

Recap:

Make an amendment to your posts CBL by a motion, have it seconded and have discussion, then vote. Once that is successful, adjusting the

nomination(s) number by just backing up by the number in their CBL. This would require gaining advance input from your post members, and what would work best for the post. But you must follow the posts CBL, that is why an amendment to it is necessary. Afterward, notification to Department about that amendment because it adjust the CBL on file at Department. Not only would you notify about this change (which would be in the posts meeting minutes), but also when their post (every 3 to 4 years) submits review and changes to the Department JA, these and any other amendments would be interlaced within the posts CBL for updating at that point. All and all your posts CBL must be followed but making it suitable for your post to operate and function in a manner that is amicable for the post membership.

Note: When your post has their voting of officers, if you would ask everyone that potentially may be elected (if they are on the nominations listing) bring in their DD-214's. That way the **Post Officers Certification** report can be completed then and there, instead of trying to gather their verification later, and holding up one of the EOY reports which is due to Department by June 1st. This is one of the reports that are time-consuming, thus causing delays.



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Planning for New Year

Jim Wineland, American Legion Riders
alr@legionmail.org



With the new Legion year just around the corner, it is back to planning activities for 2023 – 2024. First, we would like to thank our incoming Commander, Michael Raymond, for another opportunity to head up a great organization. We hope to meet all his expectations.

We start by reviewing the Survey Monkeys and ensuring we incorporate some of the innovative ideas. As we have discussed, it is all about the biggest bang for the buck that sets the tone for all our activities.

As I am sure you have seen, we have emailed ALL posts looking for stops for the 2024 In-State ride. The response has been slow; we only have six posts so far. A Post does not have to have a Chapter; we are looking for all Posts that are interested in providing a stop, snacks, lunch, or dinner. Just email me, and I will add you to the list.

The POW/MIA Seven Bridges ride this year will have a small registration fee to help offset the cost of the JSO escort. Last year we received donations, but they fell short of covering the cost. For those that have not ridden the Seven Bridges in Jacksonville, it is a genuine experience. It took us an hour and forty minutes at 45MPH and never stopped until we reached the POW/MIA Memorial. Please make plans to come and join us this year.

We are looking at different options for the Summit in 2024, but it is hard to beat the Holiday Inn pricing. The one thing that may push us out is our growth; we are about maxed out at our present location. We have looked around the International Palms area, and their prices have increased. We are going to keep looking. If anyone has any thoughts or contacts, let us know.

Please let us know if you would like to get involved with any part of the planning or operation.

Thanks to all that participate, Ride Safe; looking forward to seeing you soon!

Your 2023 – 2024 Schedule

- Department Convention
June 15-18, 2023
- POW/MIA Ceremony, Jacksonville
September 16, 2023
- “Merry Go Round”
Month of October 2023
- Fall Conference
November 17-19, 2023.
- Summit
February 9th
 - Meet & Greet, January 31, 2024
 - Classes, February 1-3, 2024.
- “Round Robin”
Month of April 2024
- Children and Youth Picnic
TBD
- In-State Unity Ride
 - Meet & Greet, April 21, 2024
Ride, April 22-16, 2024
 - Rally, April 27, 2024

If you have any ideas, please share!

Thank You for what you do, and we are proud to be part of your Leadership Team of such an excellent group!

“For the Cause, not the applause”

Thank You

Doug Hockenberry, Americanism
americanism@legionmail.org

Hello fellow Legionnaires. In last month’s article, I stated that it would be the last article for this Legion Year. Well, I need to apologize for making that statement. For some reason, I jumped a month ahead and thought that would be our last encounter via the Link. So, please accept my apology. As my better half said, I need a Gibbs upside the head (if you know, you know) LOL...

Before I go on, I would like to thank our Department Commander, Ms. Eunice Butts for her leadership, support, and guidance this past year. I’m here to tell you that Eunice cares about all of us. She is true to her cause, and true to the ideals of the

American Legion. Thank you, Eunice. Now, I want to thank those posts who submitted write-ups for the best Americanism Program. The panel and I enjoyed reading about wonderful programs and events that have taken place throughout the year. It is evident that we have posts doing great things in support of Americanism throughout Florida. KUDOs to all.

Key items on the calendar for June are as follows:

- June 1, Baseball team rosters due.
- June 14, Flag Day.
- June 15-18, Department Convention
- June 18-24, 79th Boys State Session.

In closing, I would also like to thank this year’s Department Vice Commanders, and the entire Department Staff. I sincerely appreciate all your help, guidance and support this past year. Lastly, let me reiterate what I said last month. Thank you for allowing me to serve as the Americanism Chair for the past 2022-2023 Legion Year. It has been an exciting year in which many of you have gone above and beyond. Whether it was events conducted at your posts or community events that you supported. Thank you for all that you do for The American Legion, Veterans, and your communities. **“BE THE ONE”**

Hang Tough!



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BASEBALL HOTDOGS, APPLE PIE AND CHEVROLET

Terry Phillips, Baseball
baseball@legionmail.org



That's right, it's time for some Baseball, and we are excited about the 2023 season. All teams are preparing for that opening day on June 1st with dreams of winning the State Championship in July, going to the

Southeast Regional Tournament, and possibly even on to the American Legion World Series.

Coaches and players put in hundreds and hundreds of hours of practice and game time throughout the season in preparation to do battle on the field playing against other

Legion Teams that do the same with the same goal of victory.

That is all part of Baseball and team sports; however, remember that we also serve thousands of players, families, and communities over the summer. We keep kids off the streets and involved in an Americanism program that promotes Patriotism and good values; we touch and change lives each and every day through the Baseball Program.

That is why myself and my executive committee work so hard every year for this program. Very seldom do we get a thank you, at-a-boy or keep up the good work, so I am saying, Thank You from the bottom of my heart. To All the Commissioners, Vice Commissioners, Commanders, Vice

Commanders, and Posts that help support what we do year after year and season after season.

I have said it many times; Baseball is the Hardest Program to operate; just the number of people involved and the number of participants that are involved is mind-blowing.

Either you love and support the Baseball Program and share in the success, or you can take advantage of the reason and joy of what we do in service to our kids and communities.

I encourage you to get involved, be positive, and help make a better world for our kids.

Successful Children & Youth Picnic

Dianne Boland, Children & Youth
cy@legionmail.org



I want to thank everyone for all you have done this year in support of our future, our Children & Youth. I also want to thank all who donated to our C&Y pins. I have a few left if you are interested.

Our Department C&Y picnic was a success! Thanks to all who attended, donated time, food, and baskets, cooked, made donations, and a whole lot more. A big shout out to the Auxiliary and the Sons for all their help and support. That's why I will be sharing some of the monies received with them.

The following is a budget report on the picnic.

Donations received by check from all the many posts, units, squadrons, and ALR chapters — \$2,973

- Rosie's kissing booth \$131.25

- 50/50 \$565 + \$200 donated back
- Lottery board \$460
- Grills raffle \$365
- Food \$715
- Baskets \$1340
- Misc \$262
- Silent Auction \$260
- Adult games \$80

There were about 25 children who had fun playing games and receiving gifts, raffles, lunch, and such. No money was charged for anything associated with the children. One lucky child received a hand-made fishing pole made by our very own Ralph Camp. A huge thanks to Jan Farrington, District 13 president, because the kids all got to paint "Be Kind" signs, and some adults got to paint, also. We had free ice cream from the Sheriff's Department, fire trucks on display, and a miniature horse to pet and feed (thanks to Randy & Sandie Eck). The kids were read to, and all received a book written and illustrated by the sisters Cheryl McLaughlin & Cindy Lair. Thanks.

We had a special visit from The Auxiliary Southern Division National Vice President,

Linda Smiley, as well as many officers from our various families, including our very own Department Commander, Eunice Butts, our Department Auxiliary President Jane Hardacre, our Detachment Commander, Gerard Sambits, and our NECA, Jerry Brandt.

Thank you one and all.

Last but certainly not least, I want to shout out a big thanks to the Post 323 family for supporting this event. They helped me with every aspect, from the entertainment (Christian Rapp), donations of goods, cookies, planning, etc. Thanks to Sherry Shupp for coordinating with the children, OutKast Barbeque for donating their time cooking, and the Commander, Tom Burns, for all you did.

I cannot close without another thanks to Dave & Mary, as well as George & Linda, for all you did to make this a success. THANKS.



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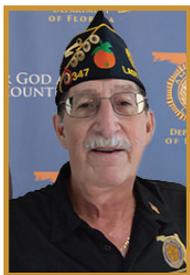
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Hurricane Season

Bill Hoppner, Disaster Preparedness

disaster@legionmail.org



Hurricane season is upon us again. The season runs from June 1 to November 30 of each year. When we reflect on last year, Hurricane Ian, a category five (5) cyclone, damaged the west coast of Florida. It

was the 3rd largest storm to hit since 1936 and the largest storm to hit North America, with loss of life and 113 billion dollars in damages; in the aftermath, the west coast is still rebuilding and will continue to rebuild for years.

This brings us to the question, are we prepared? We have a responsibility to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. When an order to evacuate is given, it should be obeyed. Evacuation orders are delivered for those in the cone of uncertainty to move to a safer place away from the storm. Time and time again, we see individuals who do not heed the word of the orders and put themselves and First Responders at unnecessary risk. I will stress that during this hurricane season, your safety and the safety of your loved ones are the number 1 priority.

We should focus on things that are important to us. Do I have homeowner insurance, and is

it up to date? A significant setback was flood insurance; many homeowners did not have it and were liable for the damages caused by flood waters. If you don't have insurance, this is a good time to decide to get it before a storm hits. It takes a policy 30 days to go into effect. Do you have all your important documents in a safe place with easy access if you have to leave, such as your birth certificates, insurance policies, etc.?

If there are individuals needing help or would like to volunteer their services, please get in touch with me, Bill Hoppner, at 305-968-7979 or at gonepost1@aol.com. As before, I will monitor storms and their tracking and relay info to the Legion family.

A New Year is about to begin for the American Legion

Jim Ramos, Florida Legion College

falc@legionmail.org



The new Legion year 2023-2024 and a new application is in the works and will be out as soon as we get the dates from the Incoming Department Commander.

The Department Convention is June 15-18, 2023, and the Florida American Legion College will have one session for 2023-2024.

Please read the updated FALC application as there are **SUBSTANTIAL changes**, including the student fee.

If you have never done **Basic Training** or need to renew your Basic Training, now is the time to do it. Then add a copy of your certificate to your application for the next FALC.

The Department will have all course materials, which will be supplied to each student. As a student, please have your laptop or Computer with you for all assignments and other work for the group and class assignments.

Be ready to work hard and long hours. Follow the dress code (for men, Legion Polo type shirts and slacks), and (for women, Legion appropriate parallel dress) is business casual.

Stay informed, check out the Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies, Resolutions, Reports, Department Constitution and By-laws; this is all the information you need as a reference.

If you have any questions, please contact me by Phone at 352-226-4370 or email: FALC@legionmail.org.

JROTC Year-End Reporting/JSSP State Team Winners

Loretta Young, JROTC / JSSP

jrotc@legionmail.org



The majority of the JROTC Units have completed the Year-End Award Ceremonies and Military Balls. I've had the pleasure of attending several of these events and would hope that other posts

have been on hand to present awards to these deserving cadets. The two (2) medals

awarded to the JROTC Cadets are the Military Excellence and the Scholastic Excellence Bronze Medal and Certificate. On review of the Year-End Reports that were sent out by the Department for the Addendum - CPR, lines 50 (Military) and 53 (Scholastic), there were many times the number of medals did not match. These are usually ordered in pairs and presented to the two individuals selected by the instructors based on the cadets' achievements. So far, the number of schools reported for post sponsorship was 23 for the Department. I hope this number

is increased by the end of the reporting year. For example, the number of schools in Florida, Broward County alone has 31 JROTC Programs. Children and Youth is one of the Legion 4 Pillars, and there should be a much higher number reporting for the Department of Florida. The JROTC Program has a heavy involvement in the community. For example, Fleet Week was held in the first weeks of May, and many schools visited the ports for ship tours and other events. Please share this information with us if you had any of

JROTC/JSSP continued on page 8 >>

<< JRTOC/JSSP continued from page 7

your schools make a visit and have pictures you can share. Year End Reports were very limited, and without sharing information, we do not know all the work the Units and the Posts are doing for the good of our youth and communities.

The JSSP 2nd Round has been completed, and we are still waiting for the final results for the qualifiers for the National Competition in July. I want to congratulate

our two (2) State Team Winners. Sarasota Military Academy was the Precision Team Winner, and Mariner AJROTC was the Sporter Category Winner. These two (2) teams received Certificates from National and will receive plaques from the Department of Florida at the Convention. Congratulations to the top shooter for the Precision Team, Gabrielle Ayers, and the top shooter for the Sporter Team, Nathan Krokstrom. Thanks also to both teams and their coaches for all the hard work it takes to get to this

point. Kudos to Post 266 for sponsorship for SMA and Post 90 for sponsoring Mariner AJROTC. The year has passed quickly, and some programs will only now have the Summer Leadership Development programs to complete before the semester ends. Please reach out to me if you have any questions regarding these programs, and have a pleasant summer break. Thanks so much to Cmdr. Eunice Butts to allow me to be of service to one of our valuable youth programs, JRTOC/JSSP.

Award Night: Post 365 Commander Loretta Young presents Sgt. Darwin Arroyo of the Sunrise Police Department with the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award during their Police/Fire Appreciation Award night.



Reconnecting with Communities

Bruce Thurber, Membership
membership@legionmail.org



It has been an honor serving the Department of Florida as Membership Chairman. This year we struggled with the New MyLegion. Having had many obstacles, many are still unresolved;

however, progress is being made. Each month National holds training. To find this training, go to Legion.org; in the search bar, type "Training Tuesday," and a list will appear. Click on the item you are interested in. So far, this is the best instruction that has been put out to help us.

In the effort to increase connectivity with post 9/11 Veterans in and outside of your membership, try using a simple approach: cater an evening around these veterans and invite them to the post to learn about The American Legion, what you are doing

in the local community, and how they can be a part of it. While all veterans and their families are welcome, the focus of the night is to connect with post-9/11 veterans, enjoy camaraderie, networking, and have a good time with one another. Have members take a moment to briefly highlight what the Post is doing locally, both independently as well as in collaborative work with other veterans/non-veteran organizations throughout the community, and how the post-9/11 generation can become involved.

Access the video presentations on The American Legion's Vimeo channel at <https://vimeo.com/showcase/8720069>

Post-development and revitalization (PD&R) allows The American Legion to reassert itself in the local community. The 21st Century Report states there should be an American Legion Post near every high school, and we are trying to meet this challenge. If there are communities that do not have a post within it, post-development is a great way for The

American Legion to become an asset in the local community. There are times when membership in a local post has declined, and interest in the programs is non-existent. A revitalization effort can help reenergize and breathe life back into a post so the post can become viable again.

The Buddy Check program was launched in March 2019 as a "comradeship campaign" to encourage posts to reach out to veterans in their areas – members, former members, and others – to see what The American Legion could do for them. The program was successful in its first year and potentially lifesaving in 2020, through the COVID-19 pandemic and as winter months drew near, affecting the mental health and well-being of isolated veterans. American Legion posts throughout the country have assembled and are assembling; Buddy Check teams to safely contact local veterans and their families by phone, email, text message, and

Membership continued on page 9 >>



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<< Membership continued from page 8

personal visits to see what help they may need. Three toolkits are available for posts developing their Buddy Check programs. The original kit provides basic guidance about contacting local veterans and letting

them know that The American Legion is there for them. A second toolkit focuses on Buddy Checks to help veterans through the COVID-19 pandemic. The most recent toolkit emphasizes the importance of mental health, well-being, and suicide prevention.

As I worked this year, I needed help, and I would like to especially thank JoAnn, Rachel, Jennifer, Carrie, Marcus, Bekki, Lois, and Bobbi. Without their help, I would not have been able to do the job.

I know the Problems - What are the Solutions?

Raymond Olson, National Security
security@legionmail.org



Well, I was sitting around the house thinking about what I could make this month's Legion Link item about. I started the year talking about immigration reform. Everything was supposed to fall apart

at midnight on the 11th or 12th because Title 42 was expiring. So far, in just three days, illegal immigration numbers are down. I think it is just because the ramifications of failure are much more severe. If you are illegal and ask for asylum and have not followed the rules, you are not only turned back around but you are also forbidden from making another attempt for five (5) years. For anyone really trying to get into the USA, this is a stiff penalty. Requiring immigrants to seek asylum in every country along the way makes sense as well. Finally, using US troops to support the admin functions and freeing up the border patrol folks to defend the borders will also help reduce illegal immigration. We must continue the efforts. The lack of a solid immigration policy and its ramifications for America, like fentanyl deaths, overcrowding and over demand for support from local, state, and federal governments, unrest over misconceptions about illegal immigrant voting, receiving entitlements and other financial burdens, makes us appear weak to other countries

and causes discontent among our citizens and leaders.

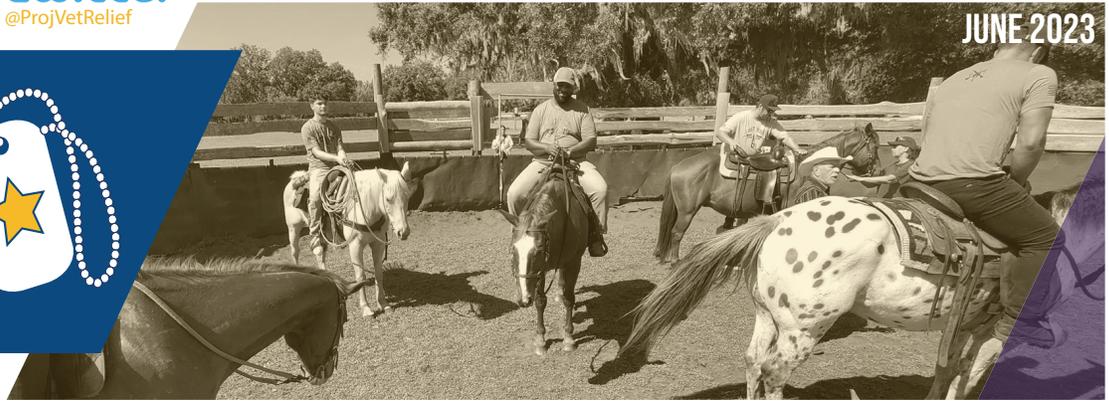
There is another attack going on in America. Lack of a clear definition in our decision-making and international relationships. Terminating agreements that we have had in place for a long time, not supporting our allies, ultra-aggressive partisan politics that take control over every aspect of governing, with no concessions or bipartisan agreements resulting in a Government that cannot make a decision. The biggest example of this is the debt ceiling. One party takes power, the other complains and impedes, and eventually, the power shifts and the former weaker party now hammers the other party that hammered them. There are no bipartisan agreements or compromises, so that no middle ground can be found. And now, people who worked for and earned their retirement funds are being wiped out by inflation and taken away because the government ran out of money on June 1. Our enemies are just waiting for it to happen. China is getting ready to buy up all our resources and make a fortune by gouging us on Chips and Pharmaceuticals.

Finally, we really need to make sure we do our National Security programs. The Legion will fall without its pillars, and a strong national defense is one of them. Get your blood donor programs going; the Veteran Volunteer hours at VA centers increased. Donations for Disaster Preparedness

programs need to be going year-round, not just during hurricane season. We have been called on many times by our neighboring Departments, and they have also come to our aid. Fires, Floods, Tornadoes, and Hurricanes are becoming more prevalent. We need to support our ROTC programs, Scouting, and other similar programs.

I have served as a Post Commander, District Commander, Area Commander, and Department Chairman. Most of the time, I looked for solutions to the problems, not someone to remind me what the problems were. I am still looking for solutions and need everyone's help to get us moving in the right direction. This is my last Link Post for this Legion year. Thanks for listening, and keep up with your programs; get your elections done and get some training at the convention or online in the boot camp.

Sign up for TEXT ALERTS.  TEXT **FLCON** to **41372**



HISTORY IS IN THE MAKING... HIGHEST NUMBER OF VETERANS SERVED!

The end of this month marks the close of another chapter for PROJECT: VetRelief, as we officially end our 9th year as a program. Last year, we reached significant milestones, serving 1,000 veterans and providing \$1,000,000 in financial aid. **This year, we set records for number of veterans served per year and amount of support provided in emergency assistance!**

Our support statistics are always listed at the bottom of our Legion Link articles, but we are already over 100 additional veterans served this year, and we still have 2 months left of our fiscal year!

Based on our monthly averages, we should anticipate serving approximately 60 more veterans with an additional \$70,000 in assistance over the next two months. Therefore, we are projecting to assist 370 veterans with over \$417,000! For reference, last year's totals were 202 veterans and \$222,300.

Although these record-high stats are impressive and something we are very proud of, it also emphasizes the importance of funding for our programs. You see, PROJECT: VetRelief solely functions on the generosity of others, largely from The Florida Legion Family. Without it, we would not be able to support the high-demand of our veteran community.

Our support numbers are proof that our veterans need us, so we hope that you will continue to provide the necessary funding to give us the ability to be there for them.

Together, our impact is much larger!

-THANK YOU-

THANK YOU Eunice



Congratulations on your service to the Florida American Legion Family as Department Commander. You have been an advocate of our program since Day 1! We appreciate ALL of the support you provided to our program and are grateful you chose PROJECT: VetRelief as one of your fundraising programs for the year. **THANK YOU** for supporting veterans and their families in their time of need!

THE DATE IS SET PVR ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



WHEN: Monday, September 25th

WHERE: Bella Collina Golf Course

TIME: Registration 7:30AM
Shotgun at 8:30AM

We always look forward to this annual event hosted by our Board President, Bob James, and his company, RL James General Contractor! This year will be special, as it marks our 10th year of this crucial event for Florida's veterans and their families. There will be additional sponsorship opportunities added, and other celebrations throughout the course of the day.

**EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE
STATS:** YEAR 9
JULY '22-APR '23

310 VETERANS
ASSISTED

\$347,496
FINANCIAL AID AWARDED

Your Right to Vote Depends on Your Zip Code

Meri West, Oratorical
oratorical@legionmail.org

The National Oratorical contest was held in Indianapolis, IN, last month. The contest was live-streamed on the American Legion National HQ Facebook page as well as the American Legion YouTube channel.



Left to right: Ian Chung, NY 2nd Place; Emma Johnson, WY, 3rd Place; Haley Bock, IN, 1st Place

The three winners are:

1st Place: Haley Bock, Indianapolis, IN, a home-schooled senior sponsored by Post 3. It was her third time competing in the contest but the first time making it to Nationals. Her brothers have competed in the contest as well.

2nd Place: Ian Chung, Vestal, NY, a junior at Vestal High School, sponsored by Post 1645, Binghamton, NY. Ian made it to the semi-finals last year at the contest, so this was his second time competing.

3rd Place: Emma Johnson, Powell, WY, a junior at Powell High School, sponsored by Post 26, Powell, WY. Johnson also made it to the Nationals last year but did not make it past the quarter-finals.

The three winners gave speeches that were all great but very different. Emma Johnson derived her speech from the award-winning musical Hamilton. She had been shown the musical in her history class and was captivated. Her speech focused on three distinct American notions: the process towards compromise (Congress take notes!), the importance of upholding

a legacy, and the obligation to fulfill the duties of the people in support of the Constitution. Johnson took the stage and adopted a stance like a cowgirl, feet planted firmly apart like she was about to challenge someone in an old-fashioned duel. It was deliciously obvious she was from Wyoming, wearing slacks and practical, slightly clunky boot-type shoes and speaking in a folksy, laconic manner. You'd want Emma Johnson to be their teacher if you had kids in school.

Ian Chung, the runner-up, had given his speech in the quarter-finals that I had moderated. I also watched him in the semi-finals as he was in the contest along with the FL Department winner, Nurfat Ishaque. Ian made it to the semi-finals last year and was confident and experienced. His speech focused on the delicate balance between tyrannies of the minority and the majority and how our founders desired to prevent tyranny. He stressed that in order for the Constitution to function as intended, people need to participate in the democratic process and defend American constitutional ideals. And not just on social media. Okay, Ian didn't actually say that in his speech, but he said that when we were talking in the hallways. After our quarter-final contest, Ian was joking around behind a podium and giving an impromptu speech to the hotel owners about the lack of good food and amenities at our hotel. I feel sure he was a class clown at Vestal High School.

Haley Bock took the stage, and quite honestly, I knew from the title of her speech that this would be different. "The Black Hole of American Democracy: American Territories are Where Voting Rights Vanish." She wasted no time introducing us to Luis Segovia, a US Citizen who lives in Guam but served tours in Iraq and Afghanistan with the Illinois National Guard, the US Army, and the Guam National Guard. She explained how Segovia, along with four million residents of the American Territories of Puerto Rico, Guam, the US Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands, are being denied their right to vote.

I consider myself a fairly educated citizen and politically active, but I confess right here that the stuff Bock was talking about was all new to me. Insular Cases. Territorial Incorporation Doctrine. This was never brought up in any history or civics class I took. I was a timer for the National Finals, but I couldn't wait to get out of there and Google this new information.

On a slow work day, I can easily go down what the internet calls a Rabbit Hole. It's a metaphor for something that transports you into a wonderfully (or troubling) surreal state or situation. And darn it; Bock sent me down a troubling rabbit hole with this.

Bock went on to say that it was impossible to understate the role racial hostility played in incorrect Supreme Court decisions that fleshed out this nasty Territorial Incorporation Doctrine.

She said the Territorial Incorporation Doctrine was invented by Justice Ed White, a former Confederate soldier who publicly stated he did it because "we couldn't incorporate ten million black-skinned people like that in the United States. Think what the consequences would be." Just ugh.

This newsletter needs to be longer to do this topic justice like Bock did. And trying to condense this topic into an 8 to 10-minute speech is also not enough time. Bock said that one of the most incredible results of the Insular Cases was that any US citizen born of or residing in an American territory could run for President and become our Commander in Chief, yet, they cannot vote for themselves or any other candidate. What hypocrisy.



They can't vote for members of Congress either.

Luis Segovia, US Army Veteran

Oratorical continued on page 12 >>



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<< Oratorical continued from page 11

Pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Absentee Voting Act, US citizens who move from one of the 50 states to a foreign nation or outer space to serve on the International Space Station can still vote. However, if a US citizen moves within the US to Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, or the Northern Mariana Islands, they lose their right to vote for as long as they live there.

Bock ends her speech with a plea that the Insular Cases MUST be overturned. She said we must use our voices to speak out against injustice and to rise together over adversity. And "When someone has fallen in the fight, we should shout out into the night for the rest of us to come and save them." The American Legion has a strong voice. Look how we advocate for POWs and MIAs. Our Empty Chairs. Let's unite to speak out and help our comrades gain the right to

vote. Who will use their voice? See Haley Bock's informative and inspiring, and award-winning speech here: <https://bit.ly/3N2yuAy> Learn more about the evolution of the Territorial Incorporation Doctrine here: <https://bit.ly/3C3gpMt>

Successful Revitalizations

Judith Richards, Post Revitalization revitalization@legionmail.org



The Revitalization at Post 72 in Mulberry had a huge turnout and was a great success. Everyone who attended made phone calls and reached out to non-renewed members. A shout-out to all Department, Area,

District, and Post members who attended, including National 1st Vice Commander Patricia Harris and Department Commander Eunice Butts.

The Revitalization at Post 64 in Okeechobee also had a nice showing of members. There were nurses on hand taking vitals, nutritionists showing how to make a healthy meal, fresh produce giveaways, and other miscellaneous items. Thank you to all Department, Area, District, and Post

members who attended. Does your Post or District need revitalization? It's not too early to plan for the coming year! Calendars are filling up fast. Please reach out with any questions. Thank you for all you do for our veterans, their families, and our communities!



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Thank You

Richard Smith, SAL Advisor
sal@legionmail.org

We have come to the end of another great Legion year. The Sons of The American Legion is a program I am proud to be associated with both on the Legion side and

as a dual member. The Post Commanders with Squadrons get a big "thank you" from me. The Squadron members and officers get a big "thank you" from me. I thank the Department Commander for having faith in me to allow me to be her chair for

such a great program. I cannot end this note without saying a big "thank you" to the Detachment of Florida officers. Thank everyone for a great year, and keep pushing next year.

American Legion Scouters

Chris Ragusa, Scouting
scouting@legionmail.org



American Legion Scouters

Outstanding Post Scouting Program Recognition:

Three Department of Florida posts will receive Outstanding Post

Scouting Program recognition at the Department of Florida Convention this year. This award recognizes the post most involved in the Scouting Program – those posts chartering Boy Scouts of America (BSA) units, sponsoring BSA units, and supporting BSA units in their communities. A selection committee composed of the Department of Florida Scouters is evaluating this year's nominations, which were due to the Programs Director by May 3, 2023.

104th Annual Department of Florida Convention: I will be available on Friday, June 16, and Saturday, June 17, at the 104th

Annual Department of Florida Convention to meet with Post Scouting Chairs, District Scouting Chairs, and any other Legionnaire or Sons of the American Legion members who would like to discuss Scouting. I can/will serve as a resource for those posts interested in chartering new Boy Scouts of America units or adding a chartered unit. Posts, as a BSA Charter Organization and a duly constituted organization that serves youth, use the program(s) of the BSA to further their mission of promoting American Values, Patriotism, and Family and Community Engagement. Reach out to me directly to get on my schedule!

Department of Florida Scouting Commission Goals for 2023-24: I accepted the invitation to join Gambler's team as the 2023-24 year Scouting Commission Chair. I've developed a list of stretch goals for next year, but I welcome additions. I'd also greatly appreciate the support of other Legionnaires and Sons of the American Legion Scouters in these endeavors. If you feel that you can positively impact any of the goals below, please reach out to be included on that

team!

- Create a District Scouting Chair position description.
- Review and revise the 2023-24 Post Scouting Chair Guide
- Recruit District Scouting Chairs for all Department districts operating without one.
- Double the number of qualified 2024 Eagle Scout of the Year nominations.
- Double the number of 2024 Outstanding Post Scouting Program nominations for next year.
- Develop recommended Post Constitution and Bylaws (CBL) verbiage for those posts that chose to recognize and codify their relationship with their Scouting program as a subsidiary Post program.
- Solicit and receive Legion Link input (articles and pictures) which highlights the many positive relationships between the American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America in the Department of Florida.

VA&R Legislation Information

Alan Cohen, VA&R
var@legionmail.org



Greetings, fellow Legionnaires,

As you read this, we'll be just days away from what promises to be another great Department Convention. There'll be highly informative classes at all levels, with attendees coming away armed with valuable information

that will make us a better, more effective organization. As you might guess, I'll spend a moment bragging about the 2-day Post Service Officer class. We've upgraded the course to place more emphasis on the importance of Post Service Officers' being as prepared as possible to be an all-around resource for the veteran community. In line with that, we'll also include some surprise guest speakers. I sincerely hope that as many of you have either registered or are sending a representative to the class.

As you know, as the PACT Act has taken effect, there've been more and more of our brother and sister veterans who've been able to at least begin receiving health care as well as filing compensation claims. Nationally, more than 3 million have received screenings for toxic exposure and other issues, with a large percentage recommended for further examination and treatment. Well, over 500,000 benefits claims have been filed under the expanded guidelines. I urge

VA&R continued on page 14 >>

<< VA&R continued from page 13

everyone to take advantage of these no-cost screenings. In connection with healthcare, we are working on developing a source of no-cost dental care administered outside the VA healthcare system that will hopefully be accessible by ALL veterans. This is still in the works, but signs are positive. More information about this to follow as I receive it.

We've all noticed that since the onset of COVID, there's been a noticeable increase in the number of veterans who have or are on the verge of facing homelessness. This has placed a strain on the availability of places for them to be placed. One excellent referral resource I've learned more, Mission United/

United Way. They have offices throughout the state and can be easily located. Please bear them in mind when (not if) you're presented with veterans who are in this situation.

Just a few tidbits resulting from the recent Spring Meetings held at National HQ that will affect us all:

The American Legion passed a resolution that launched a pilot program that will enable current and new members to sign up for either one or three-year membership, continuing the ability to become life members.

Beginning with the 2024 competition, the American Legion's High School Oratorical's

national contest will be held at Hillsdale College in Michigan. This change will bring with it some enhancements that will be advantageous to participants.

The National VA&R Division has contracted with a 3rd party to survey veterans regarding whether they prefer receiving healthcare through the VA or community care. This survey will begin shortly.

In closing this month's article, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our current Department leadership for their tremendous efforts and contributions and welcome in advance the incoming leadership team. I look forward to seeing you all in just a couple of weeks.

FLORIDA SUMMER RAFFLE



\$10K
GRAND PRIZE

\$2.5K
SECOND PRIZE

\$1K
THIRD PRIZE

\$500
FOURTH - FIFTH PRIZE

\$100
SIXTH - TENTH PRIZE

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May 25, 2023 Membership Target Report (100%)		
3	Stuart Scott	102.52%
16	Eric Nestler	98.92%
4	John Bennett	97.46%
5	Lena Heredia-Perez	96.25%
17	Bruce Howe	96.00%
1	Ronnie Grover	95.90%
8	John Rauh	95.49%
7	Burl Thomas	94.86%
15	Randy Holeyfield	93.64%
13	Harold "Bud" Boyer	93.50%
2	Roger Hewitt	92.35%
6	Joe Marcheggiani	91.32%
11	Harry Malecki	90.93%
14	Angela Glover	90.73%
12	Wayne Mulligan	90.42%
9	George "Geo" Bograkov	87.52%
Northern	Jim Bowers	97.14%
Central	Bob Matheson	96.87%
Western	Sonny Decker	95.37%
Southwestern	Skip Felicita	94.38%
Eastern	Dennis Mallon	90.92%
Southern	Johnny Castro	89.78%
Post 400		77.96%
Post 208		81.52%



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- We send you money - even if you don't have cancer

Next Membership Goal 2022-2023:
May 31, 2023

100% + 1

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Dept Officer Candidates 2023-2024

Department Officers

Commander	Michael "Gambler" Raymond
1st Vice	Chris Hamrick
2nd Vice	Jessica Moore
Historian	Edward Lewis
Chaplain	Barry Roberts
Sgt-at-Arms	Troy Horsley Les Martin

Area Commanders

Central	Bob Matheson
Eastern	Joseph Marcheggiani
Northern	Lena Heredia-Perez
Southern	George "Geo" Bograkos Johnny Castro
Southwestern	Harold "Bud" Boyer Ralph Camp, Jr.
Western	Sonny Decker

Endorsements on file as of May 30, 2023

POST EVERLASTING



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



Dennis R. Bruland

With deep regret, we report the passing of Past Southwestern Area Commander Dennis R. Bruland of Punta Gorda, Florida, who passed away on Monday, April 17, 2023, at the age of 74.

The Department was just made aware of the services for Dennis, which will be held today. The Burial Service will be held from 1:30 pm to 2:00 pm at the Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810 State Rd., Sarasota, FL 34241. A Celebration of Life will be held following the Burial Service at 4:30 pm at Moose Lodge 2121, 3624 Loveland Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33952.

Dennis was a U.S. Army Vietnam War Era Veteran. He was a member of Punta Gorda Post 103 with 46 continuous years of membership. Dennis served as Post Commander from 2006-2007, 13th District Commander from 2006-2008, and Southwestern Area Commander from 2008-2009. At the Department level, he served as Department Veterans Preference Chair from 2007-2009, Department Law & Order Chair from 2009-2010, and Veterans Benefits Chair from 2014-2016. At the National level, he served on the Constitution and By-Laws Committee from 2006-2017 and the Legislative Council from 2015-2019.

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

If you would like to send your condolences, you may do so through his wife, Evelyn C. Beverly, at 35 Nairn Ln., Bear, DE 19701-4757.



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SUBMIT YOUR
POST:
**HISTORY BOOKS
& Narratives**

History Contest –

- Winner History Yearbook Contest
- Winner History Narrative Contest
- Winner ALR History Yearbook Contest

At the Department of Florida Convention your Post and/or ALR Chapter can submit a narrative and/or yearbook to show what events and activities the Post/Chapter has been involved in for the 2022-2023 year.

BRING all History books for competition to the **Department Convention**, at **Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista; 1751 Hotel Plaza Blvd Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830**. There will be a table set up in the Headquarters Office for you to place your book on by 3:30 PM, Thursday, June 15th.

If you are unable to make the Department Convention, you can mail in your submission to Department Headquarters at 1912A Lee Road, Orlando, FL 32810, ATTN: Programs Director. Your submission must be received no later than June 5, 2023.



104TH ANNUAL
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
HILTON ORLANDO
LAKE BUENA VISTA, FL



CHEERS

BEERS



DJ MJ JUNCTION88
PRODUCTIONS

06.15.2023
06:30 PM

POOL SIDE PARTY

FREE ADMISSION. FREE BEER AND REFRESHMENT, WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. CASH BAR AVAILABLE. EVENTS ENDS AT 8:30 PM.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY





THE DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA PRESENTS

Commander's & President's

**RED
WHITE
& BLUE** **FLING**

**INTERNATIONAL
BALLROOM**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY
**THE SMOKIN'
TORPEDOES**

**JUNE
16
2023**

TICKETS \$60 | COCKTAIL HOUR 6:30 PM | WEAR RED, WHITE, BLUE

HILTON ORLANDO LAKE BUENA VISTA

GET TICKETS AT WWW.FLORIDALEGION.ORG/BANQUET



Commander's & President's
**RED
WHITE
BLUE** **FLING**



DINNER MENU



STARTER

Garden Green Salad - Mixed greens with tomato, cucumber, and string carrots, served with balsamic dressing.



MAIN COURSE

Garlic and herb crusted chicken breast served with creamy orzo pasta, english peas, roasted carrots and wild mushrooms, broccolini, oven roasted tomato and chicken jus



DESSERT

New York cheesecake with strawberry confit and vanilla whipped cream

GET TICKETS ONLINE: www.floridalegion.org/banquet

Join us, June 16, 2023, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM, Department Convention at Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista.

Yes, I would like to attend the Commander's & President's Banquet!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

of Tickets: _____ x **\$60** each = Total Due \$ _____

Payment Type: Check Money Order Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Yes, I authorize my card to be charged for the total amount above.

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration: _____ Security Code: _____ Signature: _____

All tickets must be purchased in advance, quantities are limited. Tickets will be available for pickup during Convention located in the Headquarters Office.

Please mail to: The American Legion, Dept of Florida, Attention: Events, P.O. Box 547859; Orlando, FL 32854