

MAY 2023

VOLUME XXXI ISSUE 10

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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



Congratulations to all Posts that have achieved 100% and above. Let us continue to strive for 100% for the Department of Florida. Even though we had weather catastrophes that resulted in the loss of homes, properties, American Legion Post home, and lives, we are in the top 20 Departments in membership.

As of this post, I have completed all District visitations. Thanks to the Legionnaires and the Department of Florida family for the wonderful hospitality, home-cooked meals, and words of encouragement.

I attended the 3rd District Picnic, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion Homecoming, Post 103's Easter breakfast, assisted with presenting medals and

certificates to JROTC Cadets in West Palm Beach, FL, guest speaker at Post 199, helped with giving awards at Middleton High School in Tampa, FL, and attended LIT's Dinner in St. Petersburg Beach, FL.

Consolidated Post Reports are due no later than May 3, 2023. Please send your Addendum and copy of the narrative to the Department Headquarters. You have done the work. Report this information and take credit for all that you do. We need 100% reporting for Florida. Department Children and Youth Chair Dianne Boland and her team did an AWESOME job at the Children and Youth Picnic. Having children present and participating was a bonus. Congratulations, PDC Dianne Boland, for a job well done. Memorial Day is observed this month. Let us not forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives for us.

It is that time again for District Constitutional Conferences. Remember, 100% for membership and 100% for CPR reporting. GOD BLESS AMERICA.

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**)

CONGRATULATIONS ON SURPASSING OUR GOAL!

There's no limit to the good we can accomplish together, let's keep going!



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legionlink@floridalegion.org

Looking Ahead!

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



We are in the middle of the Legion election cycle, and it seems that with the frequency and subject matter of the communications we've been receiving, there is much confusion over how and when we run our local Post elections. The answers you seek are as close as your Constitution and bylaws. Most Post's bylaws define why, when, and how we accomplish this task. Your elections MUST be done according to the bylaws, or they could be deemed invalid by someone who wants to challenge them. Some of the basics are that any Legionnaire in good standing can run for any office. Most Posts have a series of monthly nominations with the election certified within 90 days, but not less than ten days of

the Dept. Convention. Again, how you run your elections should be spelled out in your bylaws. Any questions should be directed to your Post Judge Advocate. Most issues can and should be handled within the confines of your Post, but if necessary, I'm sure your District staff would be glad to assist.

As we look ahead, we must all work hard to find people who only have the best intentions for the success of our great organization. There are so many qualified individuals out there that need a little push to take on some of the responsibilities of a successful Post. Community involvement has always been the key. Remember the phrase that defines a successful Post. "If you were to close your doors today, would your community notice?" That's a question all Posts should ask themselves. Let's all look ahead but never, ever forget the past. God Bless!

MAY 2023	
	(See page 18 for DCC Meetings Schedule)
1-31	Military Appreciation Month
1-31	Month of the Military Caregiver
1	Silver Star Banner Day
1	Law Day / Loyalty Day
1	May Day
1	★ Children & Youth Fund Applications Due
1	★ CWF Grant Applications Available
2	Teacher Appreciation Day
2	🍌 Special Olympics Report Due
3	🍌 End of the Year Nominations Due
3	🍌 CPR & Addendums Due
4	Day of Prayer
4	District 15: Post 5 Visitation
5	Cinco de Mayo
6	Nurse's Day
6	🍌 Amendments & Resolutions Due
6-7	★ SAL Spring NEC Meetings
6-7	★ Committee on Youth Education Meeting
6	District 8: Riders Appreciation
7	★ CWF Board of Directors Meeting
8	VE Day (1945)
8-9	★ Commission & Committee Meetings
8-11	★ National Spring Meetings
10	🍌 Department Membership 100% Goal
10	★ NEC Meetings
10	Chapter 10: ALR Meeting
12	Military Spouse's Day
13	Children of Fallen Patriots Day
14	Mother's Day
14-20	Law Enforcement Week
14	Chapter 8: ALR Meeting
15	Peace Officers Memorial Day (Flags Half Staff)
16	District 15: Post 334 Visitation
20	Armed Forces Day
20	Post 148: ALR Poker Run
20	Chapter 10: Armed Forces Day Ride-In
21	First Day of Summer
21	District 15: Boys State Orientation
21	District 15: Post 248 Visitation
22	Maritime Day
25	Missing Children's Day
26	Poppy Day
29	Memorial Day (Flags Half Staff)
29	🍌 Department Headquarters Closed
29	District 15: Memorial Day Ceremony
31	★ End of CWF Award Year
31	🍌 Department Membership 100%+1 Goal

- ♥ 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.

Outpouring of Support

Chris Hamrick, 2nd Vice Commander
2ndvice@legionmail.org



Outpouring of Support
 Fellow Legionnaires,

I want to personally thank all of you for your love and support during these difficult times that my family and I are experiencing.

As some may not be aware, I lost my wife of 28 years on April 6th.

The outpouring of support you've shown us erases any doubt I may have ever had about

why I do what I do. Instead, it reinforces our mission. Part of our Preamble states, "To consecrate and sanctify our Comradeship by our Devotion to Mutual Helpfulness." It shouldn't take tragedy or disaster to practice these things. But it's comforting to know that it's our nature to step up when needed. Once again, THANK YOU.

As for me, I intend to finish my journey with you. Please bear with me over this brief time as my family, and I make the necessary adjustments in our schedule and routine. I love you all. I'll see you in May on the road. Keep It Real. Be The One.

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Honoring our Fallen Soldiers

Jessica Moore, 3rd Vice Commander

3rdvice@legionmail.org



Legions across the country will have programs dedicated to Memorial Day.

It is a ceremony when we pay homage to all those soldiers, sailors, airmen,

or marines who didn't come home. Unlike Veterans Day, it's not a celebration. It is a day dedicated to the cost of freedom. No duty is more important than returning thanks to our service members who fought for us. Veterans in every military service put their lives on the line to protect our land and liberty.

They gave their lives for us and deserve to be recognized for that commitment. As we set that one day aside to honor and thank

them, please take into consideration that we should do this every day of the year. Personally, I will pray for the brothers and sisters I have lost in combat. I hope you will do the same.

#oneteamonedream

Department of Florida Legionnaire May is here, and now what?

Jim Ramos, NEC

nec@legionmail.org



Time to do some good thinking, like getting good members to take responsibility as Post Leaders to improve your post and make it better. Have good elections and get good members in those positions of

leadership.

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

Get ready for Department Convention, attend classes, and learn about your Officer Duties. There are many classes to attend

and get information on all your officer's Duties. Get involved and help your Post for the coming 2023-2024 year.

If you are going to Department Convention, make sure you have copies of all reports in case something needs to be added at Department. We are human too, and we make mistakes.

Try to get all your members to do the **Basic Training** online. It is free, and yes, it takes some time, but they will learn a lot of good information and become better members. Also, they can help your Post out, support Post programs, and attend Post meetings, which is excellent.

Please stay updated with information about The American Legion by going to

floridalegion.org (**Resources page**) and looking up what you need.

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.

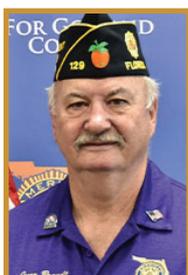
As your NEC, I'm here to assist you with information, planning, and whatever you need to improve your Post to be the best in the Department of Florida.

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

Resolution Information

Jerry Brandt, ANEC

anec@legionmail.org



Comrades, A question comes up every once in a while, how do we, as blue caps, change the workings of the American Legion? The simple answer is a resolution.

The following is taken from <https://www.legion.org/resolutions>

Legionnaires at every membership level

are afforded the opportunity to suggest changes in their local posts' policies or even to the manner in which the Legion operates as an organization. Legionnaires interested in initiating such a process must file a resolution – a written description of a problem or situation, followed by a suggestion as to how it may be corrected. A resolution may also be a statement of declaration about an issue of concern to the Legion. It consists of two parts: the preamble (description of the problem) and the resolves clause (how the local Post, department, or national organization should

solve the problem or support the issue). The entire resolution should be one continuous sentence, with the preamble clause(s) preceding the resolve clause (s)

You can use the Resolution collection in the Digital Archive, <https://archive.legion.org>, to search and view current resolutions. Active resolutions within the Legislative Program, <https://archive.org/node/>, are also included in this collection. For questions about historical resolutions that are no longer the policy of The American Legion, please get

NECA continued on page 4 >>



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<< NECA continued from page 3

in touch with the Library at <https://www.legion.org/library/contacts>

If you need help writing a resolution, the resolution booklet has been developed

to assist The American Legion staff and volunteers to be as consistent as possible in composing and writing resolutions.

Download the resolution booklet

https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/resolutionbooklet_2017.pdf.

I hope this helps those who are considering needed changes within the American Legion.

Checking In

Phillip Crouthamel, Historian
historian@legionmail.org



Hi all!
This is to remind everyone that History Book judging will occur at the Department convention. Please drop off your books at the registration area by

Thursday, June 15th, by 3:30 pm. You can pick up your books beginning on Friday.

As an aside, the National Historian is considering having Departments submit their books digitally. As stated, it's time to get on with the times. I presume that all books will be submitted as a PDF or PowerPoint. I am not sure, but keep an ear out with the new incoming Department

Historian for more information. But right now, it is only an experiment to see if it would be feasible. I will submit a hard copy and a digital copy to test the system. This we defend.

Successful Unity Ride

Jim Wineland, American Legion Riders
alr@legionmail.org



What a way to end our year! We broke several records, including the biggest turnout for the routes and the Rally at OCC, and we are still counting the dollars at the time of the article.

We knew we had broken last year's record before we started counting the donations. Who really wins "Our Veterans" because it's for "The Cause and not the Applause"? We do what we do.

To acknowledge all the individuals that made this happen, wow, it's a long list. First and foremost, our Adjutant Beverly Wooten, without her skills and abilities, we would be struggling. Department staff is always there to give us a hand. Of course, there's one individual that really helps those donations grow every year, and that's the "COOP", better known as Jennifer Cooper. She does a lot to keep it all going smoothly.

When it comes to the "Boots on the Ground," our route planners Joe, Jason, and Zane not only planned the route but got everyone

to the last stop at Post 252 for a grand celebration; Thank You, John! Now we have someone new that really helped, and that's Julie, who not only helped with the rooms but followed us with cold drinks and snacks. She has some great ideas to help us with next year. The Road Captain Staff, along with our "Chase vehicles," really help keep us safe and moving.

Next year, we would like to know which post/chapter would like to be involved in the In-State Unity Ride. We will need to know their parking capacity and whether they are interested in serving lunch or dinner. We want to include All Posts whether you have a Chapter or not. We are also going to see if we can solve this hotel issue.

Last article for this year, 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"



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Americanism at its Best

Doug Hockenberry, Americanism
americanism@legionmail.org

Hello fellow Legionnaires. Hard to believe that May is here already, and we only have two months left as we prepare to close out another successful Legion year. As this will be the last Legion Link for this Legion year, I want to recognize the Department of Florida American Legion Family, who have clearly placed others before themselves. As you know, many of our posts and members took a direct hit from Hurricane Ian last September, which caused massive devastation and loss. Despite the losses, your post membership rallied to help in your respective communities. Talk about resilience... Talk about commitment... To help your fellow man in time of need, regardless of the circumstances. I would say that is Americanism at its best.

We are approaching the end of the school year; let us not forget to recognize deserving students at our schools and present them with School Medals and ROTC Medals. It

means the world to those students to be recognized for their accomplishments. Do not let them down.

Post Commanders, remember to report on the Americanism Programs you have conducted, promoted, or participated in this Legion Year. Remember your one-two page narrative write-up for the Post's End of Year Awards – Best Post Americanism, Best Post Shooting Sports, Best Post JROTC, Best Post School Medals, and Best Post Scouting. These narrative reports can be written in a paragraph or bullet format.

Key items on the calendar for May and June are as follows:

- Best Post Americanism Program Nominations Due
May 3, 2023
- Armed Forces Day
May 20, 2023
- Baseball Registration Ends
May 31, 2023
- Memorial Day
May 31, 2023 (Celebrated May 29, 2023)

- Baseball Team Rosters Due
June 1, 2023
- Youth Law Cadet Fee and Application Deadline
June 1, 2023
- Flag Day
June 14, 2023
- 79th Boys State Session
June 18-24, 2023

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 when it comes to promoting Americanism. Through the events you have conducted at your posts or the events, you helped with throughout your communities. Each of you are to be commended for a JOB WELL DONE! Again, thank you for all that you do for The American Legion and our Veterans.

“BE THE ONE”
Hang Tough!

PLAY BALL

Terry Phillips, Baseball
baseball@legionmail.org



The 2023 American Legion Season is only weeks away, and we are looking to have a bigger season than ever in Florida. Our State Champion this season will have experience,

size, and the ability to win the SE Regional Tournament and take Florida to the World Series in August. We have had good teams make it to the Regionals, but we have been plagued with the three-and-out monkey on our back for a number of seasons, but this year we will overcome.

Pitching and more Pitching is the answer, Coaches build your Starting and Closing staff, and you will reach the top of the mountain.

Please support this vital and important program; our youth and families need us, which is what we do; we serve.

Year Ending Soon

Bob Matheson, Central Area
centeral@legionmail.org



It's hard to believe that the Legion Year is almost ending. As I've traveled the Central Area, it has been both challenging and extremely rewarding.

I have had the chance to be in some very small Posts that are doing extremely well. I've also seen Posts that are struggling. But throughout it all, the Central area is going strong.

Membership is still being worked hard, and I want to congratulate the following Post for reaching 100%. In District 7, Posts 23, 95, 201, and 339. In District 15, Posts 5, 26, 48,

and 418. In District 16, Posts 46, 238, and 252. I want to congratulate District 16 for leading the membership for Department 95.59% as of April 13th. But this is not the time to stop. Let's keep going and get all the Districts to 100%.



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Thank You

Dianne Boland, Children & Youth
cy@legionmail.org



Greetings: Well, April is finally over. I hope your post had several events in honor of April being Children & Youth Month and The Military Child Month. I personally want to thank Post 250 Middleburg for having

their Children's Carnival that Dennis and I attended. What an excellent turnout. Many great volunteers - too many to mention. Thank you.

I also want to thank everyone involved with our Department C&Y picnic, especially those from Post 323 Lehigh Acres and District 13. My article is due before the picnic so I will have to come back next month with highlights and how much money was raised.

Thank you to all involved.

It'll be too late but don't forget – on May 1st, the C&Y Grant applications are due. Also, the End of Year Reporting and Award Nominations are due May 3rd.

The 2023-2024 Legion Year is Coming

Jim Ramos, Florida Legion College
falcc@legionmail.org



If you want to attend Florida American Legion College (FALC), start by going online and getting your Basic Training Certificate at legion.org/basictraining.

Please wait for the new FALC application, which will be available shortly after the 2023 Department Convention.

All course materials will be supplied to each student. As a student, please have your laptop for group and class assignments. Be ready to work hard and long hours. While attending the FALC, the dress code is business casual (for men, Legion Polo type shirts and slacks, and for women, Legion appropriate parallel dress).

Stay informed by reviewing the Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies, Resolutions, reports, and Dept Constitution and By-laws, etc.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with me by phone at 352-226-4370 or email at FALCC@legionmail.org

Year End Reporting

Loretta Young, JROTC / JSSP
jrotc@legionmail.org



We are now at the end of the semester year for our JROTC Units for the High Schools, which are awarded the Bronze Military Excellence and Scholastic Excellence Medal and certificate to the top Cadet. I have

already attended several Year End Award Ceremonies and Military Balls. An email was sent out for all post chairmen/post commanders to contact the JROTC Senior Instructors/Assistant Instructors to get the recipients' names, dates, and locations for these awards so that all programs are supported. Each District Chairman should

be following up with the posts and JROTC Units to make sure all programs have a representative to attend. The National Security Commission has stressed the importance of sponsorship for these programs in the last notice sent out this past week. Also, please remember that we also support the Universities and Colleges with the ROTC Medals, which are awarded gold or silver medals depending on the course program. The instructors make selections, and the Legion makes the presentations. This is part of our four Pillars for Americanism and our Children and Youth. Congress sanctions these medals, and details are online if there are any questions.

I hope all posts submit a Year End Report for JROTC and JSSP, due by May 1st, and let our

members know how you support our youth. Please share pictures of these events, and I will select several to post in the LINK. We have completed the 2nd Round JSSP Postal Match, which had an April 1st deadline. Winners will be posted on the National website for the National Competition in Colorado Springs qualifiers in July for the finalist. The First Place Winner will receive a \$5,000 Scholarship, and the Runner Up will receive a \$1,000 Scholarship. Thanks to all our participants and coaches who devoted their time and effort to this competition. Our youth are the future of our country and deserve our support. Also, thanks to the posts which support these programs with time and monetary donations for the programs. Have a very successful Year End.



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NEWS, FORMS, VETERAN RESOURCES
UPCOMING EVENTS, AND MORE



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Recommendations and Instructions

Bruce Thurber, Membership
membership@legionmail.org



It is important that as we prepare for another year, we eliminate the problems that have occurred this year. One of our worst problems was folks who needed to be correctly registered in myLegion when they assumed a role with access to the post membership. The most common issues are:

1. Members sign up for Legion.org and not mylegion.org; these are completely different areas of the system.
2. Members not registering for myLegion with the on-file email address; make sure they are the same.
3. Members using post emails to register these links that post email to this person's membership number and cannot be transferred to the incoming officer.
 - a. Each year, the Department links the newly elected officers to the account with personal emails.
4. Incoming officer paperwork not sent to Department.
5. Members go online to renew, click on the wrong renewal link, and end up transferring themselves to Post 400.

MyLegion.org Registration

1. Go to MyLegion.org and select "register."
2. Enter your email in the register window. Click "next"
3. Enter your name, check the required consents, and click "next."
4. A one-time password (OTP) will be sent to your email address.
5. Welcome window, create a password, and confirm.

6. Retrieve an OTP from the email, enter, and click "finish registration."
7. Click "MY ACCOUNT" to view account information.
8. Once registered, sign in, check all your personal information, and update any errors.

Immediately following post-elections, ensure that the Post Officer Report and Post Officer Certification are sent to the Department.

Adjutants, it is time to finalize your CPR if you have not already. It is on your myLegion page.

Because we are not in the targeted time, membership and recruiting continue. Work our DMS and Buddy Check. 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.
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.
3. 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.
4. When important issues come up, call some inactive members for their opinions. It's natural for Posts to contact their leadership people when a matter 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.

5. Accept credit and debit cards for dues payments. Credit and debit card payments have become the norm for almost all purchasing transactions.
6. Recognize your members as often as possible.
7. Get members involved at SOME level. Involved members don't drop.
8. Publish an annual report in the local media. Thank the community for their support and send a copy to members. Publishing an annual report (Consolidated Post Report) allows your Post to summarize all the accomplishments from the previous year.
9. 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 are much greater than the renewal rates of individual members.
10. 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.

Commander's & President's
RED WHITE BLUE FLING

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

INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY
THE SMOKIN' TORPEDOES

JUNE 16 2023

HILTON ORLANDO LAKE BUENA VISTA
 GET TICKETS AT WWW.FLORIDALEGION.ORG/BANQUET

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What is going on?

Raymond Olson, National Security
security@legionmail.org



You will be reading this in May, but crazy things are going on with the Nation's National Security. Former Presidents and current Presidents are taking Classified documents home. An IT specialist in the Reserves releases

a hunk of classified material to a private (apparently not so private) chat group, and it has affected our position and our allies. When I was on Active Duty, once classified material was checked out to you (lots of hoops for that), you were on the hook for it, and whoever the custodian was kept on you until you turned it back in. I cannot imagine being able to take stuff home. I had to get

a file cabinet with a safe combination lock on it to keep the material in my office. I know President Biden and Former President Trump had unlimited access because of their jobs, but that should not have affected the custodian of the records from keeping better track of those documents. I was more interested in finishing whatever task it was and getting rid of the material. I could go on and on, but it is just a simple fact that a lack of security has come into being in our Capital and the Pentagon.

Maybe the problem is that those with oversight are so involved in finger-pointing and who is being indicted for what that they have lost all interest in the day-to-day business of the government. With the balance of power changing in Congress every two years, too much time, money, and effort is being expended on keeping seats rather than keeping integrity and focus.

That is my rant. The year is just about up. We should get the info together and fill out our CPR and CPR addendums. Blood Donor programs, blood drives, Disaster preparedness, VA volunteer hours, and all those programs fall under National Security on the CPR form. Let us get the info together to present a clear picture of what an organization with the proper mindset can do for the security of the United States. Let's show our communities that we have the security of America as one of our Four Pillars. The American Legion is one of the best-kept secrets in America, and we, as the grass root members, need to change that sooner rather than later.

Get your paperwork done. Prepare your award packages and thank your members for what they do. And most of all, For God and Country.

Successful Revitalizations

Judith Richards, Post Revitalization
revitalization@legionmail.org



Post 15 in Dade City had a successful revitalization. Thank you to all the Department, Area, and District Officers and Chairs who attended. Thank you to the Post Commander and

Officers for opening their Post Home to the Community. Thank you to the Auxiliary for the fantastic hospitality and food spread. We assisted the post in processing eight (8) new members and four (4) new SAL members and assisted the Auxiliary in completing some of their end-of-year paperwork.

There are two more Revitalizations occurring in April (they will have happened by the time you read this article) Post 71 (District

7) in Mulberry and Post 64 (District 11) in Okeechobee.

If your District or Area needs assistance, please reach out!

Remember your Buddy Checks! Attend your District and Post training! And remember to always BE THE ONE!!!



Sign up for TEXT ALERTS. TEXT FLCON to 41372

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Department of Florida Oratorical Winner

Meri West, Oratorical
oratorical@legionmail.org

This weekend, April 20-23, 2023, is the American Legion's National High School Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis, IN.

Our Department winner this year is Nurfat Ishaque, a Junior attending Florida Atlantic University High School in Boca Raton, FL.



Here she is as a baby!

Some of you may have met or seen her last year as she competed in the Department Contest. This year she came back again and took first place!

When she was 13, Nurfat lived in Bangladesh and wanted to be an astronomer and work for NASA. This prompted her to learn about immigrating to the United States and Florida. After focusing on astronomy for a year or two, she decided she preferred studying Biology and changed her plans to become a Cardiovascular or Neurosurgeon. Currently, there are only 219 board-certified female neurosurgeons in the US! I have no doubt



Nurfat will accomplish what she sets out to do as she is very determined and bright. Even though she plans to go into the medical field, Nurfat is very passionate about politics and public policy.

As a 5th grader, Nurfat began public speaking through Model UN Conferences. She said both of her parents are skilled speakers, so she feels it is part of her DNA to be comfortable in public. She is currently on the Debate Team and Model UN.

Her family has traveled a lot; some of her favorite places are the Himalayas of Nepal, the Taj Mahal, Niagra Falls, and the Hagia Sophia Mosque in Turkey. She has been to the Hollywood sign in LA to Santorini in Greece. She has been to the beaches of Singapore and to the Great Wall of China. While traveling to these places, she has learned a lot about other cultures and religions and the ways of life outside of her own circle.

I asked Nurfat who is her hero. She said with no hesitation that it is her mother. Her mother wakes up at 5:00 am every morning to get breakfast made, cleans the house, goes to work, and still comes home to prepare a homemade dinner. She keeps the household running smoothly so Nurfat can focus on her studies. Last year, her mother survived a brain hemorrhage, and that was the scariest event of her life. Thankfully, her mother recovered, but Nurfat cherishes her more than ever.

Nurfat can speak five languages fluently—English, Bengali (her mother tongue), Hindi,

Urdu, and Arabic. Here is a photo of Nurfat and her mother after the Department Contest in 2022:



Her favorite color is red, and her favorite band is Queen, but she also likes Doja Cat's songs. I had to Google Doja Cat, and she is known as an eccentric rapper, singer, producer, and writer who has a great sense of humor.

I asked Nurfat what or who inspires her, and she said that the thought of instability is what inspires her to work hard and keep trying. She knows life won't go according to plan but thinks that studying geopolitics and public policy gives her enough knowledge to comprehend what is happening in her world. She believes that studying religion, architecture, history, and about wars and famine will help her be a better citizen and a good steward of the earth.

Nurfat is a proud patriot and has considered enlisting in the Army as a doctor.

Lastly, she is a patriot and plans to join the ROTC program at Harvard if she gets accepted. Harvard offers Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marine Corps ROTC, and I plan to encourage her to Aim High and go Air Force.

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WE SALUTE YOU... FLORIDA LEGION RIDERS!

During the month of April, the Florida American Legion Riders (ALR) rode to end veteran suicide. They hosted rides, dinners, and other activities to raise funds and earn points for the coveted District Trophy. The In-State Unity Ride and State Rally also took place: all of which the proceeds benefit our Suicide Prevention Initiative (SPI).

Last year, they brought in nearly \$150,000 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 have another record-setting event and will likely double their efforts!

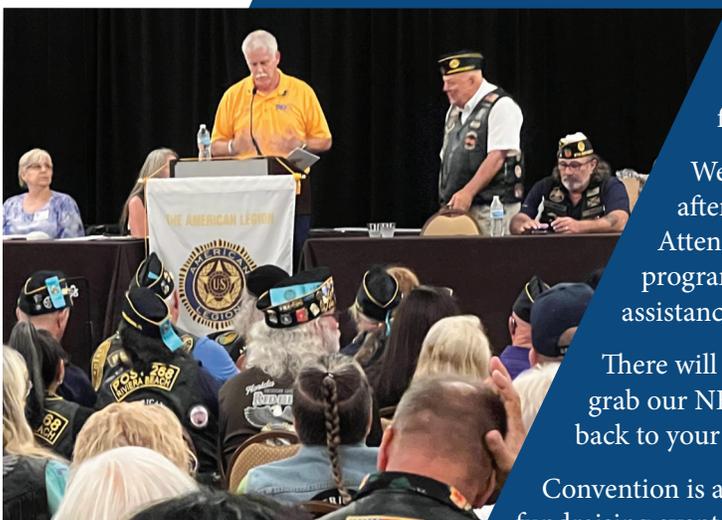


During the Rally, the American Legion National Vice Commander, Patricia Harris and Alabama's State Commander, Buddy Keen, and Auxiliary President, Iris Keen, joined our Commander, Eunice Butts, to show their support of this crucial the event.

Many Riders created a fundraising page to collect donations and earned COOL PRIZES! Those items were ordered in May and will be delivered at the Department Convention. If you are not able to attend, items will be given to the ALR District Chairmen to distribute.

We are extremely grateful to our Board Vice-President, Jim Wineland, who is also the ALR Department Chairman, and ALR Adjutant, Beverly Wooten, for their continued support. The Florida Legion Riders is a huge contributor to our Suicide Prevention Initiative. It is because of them, we are able to make an impact and hopefully one day put an end to veteran suicides!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



DEPT CONVENTION - PVR ACTIVITIES

Department Convention is right around the corner. It will be from June 15-18 at the Hilton Orlando, Lake Buena Vista.

We will be hosting an informational training class on Friday afternoon from 3:00-4:00pm in Hibiscus/Iris (subject to change). Attendees can expect to learn more about the PROJECT VetRelief program and how it helps Florida's veterans with financial assistance and suicide prevention. Registration is not necessary.

There will also be a table in the vendor area. Please stop by to see us and grab our NEW (and improved) brochures. We hope you will take some back to your posts.

Convention is a great time to ask us any questions or tell us about any fundraising events you might have planned for the upcoming year!

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE STATS: YEAR 9 JULY '22-MAR '23

280 VETERANS ASSISTED

\$307,120 FINANCIAL AID AWARDED

American Legion Scouters

Chris Ragusa, Scouting
scouting@legionmail.org



American Legion Scouters:

Eagle Scout Court of Honor at Bridges-Sauls American Legion Post 13:

I represented The American Legion and presented a Citation of Good Citizenship at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for William Vislocky on March 26, 2023, at the Bridges-Sauls American Legion Post 13 in Tallahassee, FL. Will is a member of the Sons of the American Legion by his



US Navy veteran grandfather and played on the Post-13 Legion baseball team last year. He has been accepted to Embry Riddle University to study Aeronautics as a member of the Air Force ROTC program. Will's Eagle Scout service project involved extensive repair to a pre-existing display structure located in the front of Post 13, then design and fabrication of a permanent sign inside the display recognizing all of Post 13's original 37 charter members and veterans of World War I. Post 13 was chartered by The American Legion on June 9, 1919. Ironically, Will's Scoutmaster in Troop 201 in Quincy, FL, Clay Fallis, is the 1986 recipient of the American Legion Department of Florida Eagle Scout of the Year award. Clay's father was a Florida National Guardsman, and his

grandfather was a US Marine Corps member during World War II. Pictured in front of the service project display is John Folson, past Post 13 Commander, past District 2 Commander, and current District 2 Chaplain; the Department of Florida Scouting Chair; Eagle Scout Vislocky; and Dottie McPhearson, a relative of Post 13 namesake Claude Sauls (the first Tallahassee resident to be killed in WW I). The other namesake is Ben Bridges, a fighter pilot and the first Tallahassee native who died in the line of duty in WWII.

2023 Department of Florida Eagle Scout of the Year: I am pleased to announce that the 2023 Department of Florida Eagle Scout of the Year is Brady Kondek of Vero Beach, FL (District 12). Brady earned his Eagle Scout rank with Scouts BSA Troop 171 in Carlisle, PA... chartered to American Legion Post 674 in Mt. Holly Springs, PA... and is a member of Sea Scouts Ship 501 in Sebastian, FL. His Eagle Scout service project was titled "Cumberland County Veteran Story Collection," and he interviewed veterans as part of an effort by the Cumberland County Historical Society in Carlisle. His father, grandfather, and two of his great-grandfathers are veterans. Brady 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. Brady will be recognized at the Department Convention on Saturday, June 17, 2023, in Orlando. The Second Place award winner is Griffin Walker of Milton, FL (District 1), receiving a \$1,500 scholarship. Third Place was awarded to William Vislocky of Quincy, FL (District 2), who receives a \$1000 scholarship. Many thanks to the Scouting Legionnaires who served on this year's selection committee: Sam Taylor from District 8, Alan May from District 4, and Corey Glasner from District 5.

Outstanding Post Scouting Program Nominations Due May 3, 2023: Up to three Department of Florida posts will receive

the 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 BSA units, sponsoring BSA units, and supporting BSA units in their communities. Nominations are due no later than May 3, 2023. To be eligible for this award, a copy of your National Consolidated Post report and Department Addendum must be on file with Department Headquarters. The reporting period is from May 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023. The award nomination form is posted on the Resource page of the Scouting Program portal - <https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/scouting/resources/>

Please help me highlight the many positive relationships between the American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America by submitting articles and pictures.



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www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org

VA&R Legislation Information

Alan Cohen, VA&R

var@legionmail.org



Greetings, fellow Legionnaires,

I'd like to begin this article by addressing an issue brought to our attention. Ever since the passage of the PACT Act and the Camp Lejeune

Justice Act, there has been a sharp spike in the number of so-called "advocates" for veterans affected by these pieces of legislation. We've all seen and heard the ads. That said, we can't advise strongly enough to be cautious as possible because what they don't tell you is more important than what they do, not the least of which is that should you become involved, there will be fees, sometimes running into the thousands of \$\$ you'll be responsible for. The

question has to be asked, "What am I paying for?". The answer is nothing. You can't get free help from an organization recognized by the Veterans Administration. Please be aware that nobody can guarantee a result, although some groups stop short of doing that and infer it in their pitches. Please don't fall for it. If you feel you fall into one of the categories covered by those pieces of legislation, contact your local American Legion Post Service Officer, the Florida Dep't of Veterans Affairs, or a County Veterans Service Officer.

Continuing a bit regarding legislation, one of the American Legion's priorities is the Richard Starr Act, proposed by Congressman Gus Bilirakis of Florida. This bill will do away with concurrent receipt, meaning that career military personnel penalized by dollar-for-dollar reductions in their monetary benefits will no longer have money deducted from

their pensions. It's anticipated that there are literally thousands of our brother and sister veterans who stand to benefit from this, and I urge you to reach out to your local representatives to support it.

We're putting the finishing touches on this year's Post Service Officer class at our Department Convention and have guest speakers who will be addressing the class. PSOs are a valuable asset and resource to the veteran population, and you are encouraged to have a post-member attend. This class requires advance registration; the last day to do so will be May 26, 2023. Registration can be done at <https://www.floridalegion.org/news-events/department-convention/classes/>

As always, I look forward to seeing everyone at the Department Convention in June!

Honoring Women Veterans

Deanna Hall, Women Veterans

womenvets@legionmail.org



Women Veterans: We see you. We Hear You. We Thank you!

I want to introduce you to the organization "Monument to Women Veterans!" Monument to Women Veterans, Inc., is a

501c3 Charitable Non-Profit Corporation established in 2011 that has been leading the charge in recognizing and empowering our military women through a variety of community outreach and awareness efforts.

Their mission and vision are to pursue the development of a monument to honor all women, past, present, and future, who served in the US Military and often provide unmet critical resources for female veteran care.

Monument to Women Veterans strives

to recognize the service and sacrifices of the women who have proudly donned a United States armed services uniform. MWV offers resources and services for many issues, including Post Traumatic Stress, Military Sexual Trauma, Traumatic Brain Issues, Domestic Violence, Unemployment, Homelessness, and countless more that may arise in the future.

Monument to Women Veterans has three programs the first one: The Home for the Holidays Program, was started in 2012 when the Monument to Women Veterans, Inc., and POE In Action, Inc., came together to seek new means to provide much-needed housing for local homeless veterans and their families.

The second: A Transitional Housing Project: This project is focused on the physical and mental well-being of all female veterans facing various transitions. It is designed as a transitional housing program that provides supportive services, including job counseling; requires veterans to seek and maintain employment; requires veterans to

pay reasonable rent; requires sobriety as a condition of occupancy; and serves other female veterans needing housing on a space-available basis.

And the third program: The Invisible War Program: The Monument to Women Veterans, Inc., has purchased the screening rights for the award-winning film "The Invisible War." Filmmaker Kirby Dick presents this groundbreaking investigative documentary about one of America's most shameful and best-kept secrets – the epidemic of rape within the U.S. military. MWV offers this film as part of our ongoing community education and advocacy for all who serve in the U.S. military, past, present, and future.

If you would like to know more about The Monument to Women Veterans, the progression of the monument, the museum, the national training center, how to assist all veterans, or how to donate, please email <https://mwveterans.org/>.

Thank you for supporting Women Veterans!



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Mission Escort

Sandra Gessler, Post 273 Historian



On March 20, 2023, I escorted the ashes of a Vietnam Veteran Martin Boyle who served in the Marine Corps, home to Honolulu, Hawaii and that is when "Mission Escort" began. With

the support and donations from American Legion Posts 273, 252 and 158 and reaching out and networking with the Hawaii Department of the American Legion and AL Post 17, we arranged his memorial service and traditional Hawaiian canoe sunset sea burial.



Marty passed on August 16, 2022 on his 74th birthday, he was one of the "22" military suicides that day. Martin spoke in the past that if he died he wanted to return home to Honolulu, Hawaii, where he served in the military, married, had a son, built his first home, rode the waves and wanted to go home and be buried at sea.

Three months after his passing, I was organizing Martin's belongings and found a picture of a young boy with the name of Shane on the back and year. My daughter found Shane Boyle on Facebook and we called him. Shane identified himself as Martin's son and we began communicating with him over the following weeks.

Shane was very supportive of having his father returned home but did not have the funds to do so. That is why and when "Mission Escort" began.

A brief history of how I met Martin. Four months prior to his death, Martin had called the American Legion Post where I was Post Historian and my daughter was on duty at the time and initially took Martin's "crisis" call.

After speaking with Martin and reassuring him we would help in any way we could, and she said I would be returning his call, within a few minutes, which I did. Being late in the day we realized we could not immediately assist him due to the business he needed help with because they were closed for the day, but reassured him that we would be working on his issues once we hung up the phone. Martin, myself and my daughter, Nicole agreed to meet in the morning.

After interviewing Martin, I determined that he needed assistance with medical, dental, independent living skills, finances, transportation to appointments, access to our food pantry in addition to his electric being turned on which was accomplished in the first hour (donation and paid directly by the post). From April to August 2022, I continued to assist Martin with a "to do list" and were making progress rapidly.

Over this period of time we had gotten to know more of Martin's history as a Vietnam Veteran who served in the Marine Corps from 1966-1970. He enlisted in December 1966 at the age of 17 and was shipped to Vietnam in February 1967. In December 1969, Martin returned to the states and received his honorable discharge in January 1970. Martin lived in Hawaii, married, had a child and a few years later was divorced and returned to Boston where he became a Merchant Marine and Captained his own ship.

Martin had no contact with family members in the last 30 years and did not share why. So when he passed I did not know who to contact, we had a small memorial service for him with the honor guard and our Mayor, Mr. Brown attended. I kept his ashes and personal belongings that the Sheriff had me gather the morning of his passing (I was the last phone call on his cell phone and they called me to inform me of his passing). To this day I do not know why I kept his items and ashes as long as I did, but now I know it was fate (3 months later we had contact with his son) and my belief in our motto of "leave

no one behind".

"Mission Escort" Accomplished



Hawaii American Legion Post 17 assisted with the memorial service arrangements prior to my leaving Florida and once I was there, we wrapped up the planning. Some of those that attended Martin's memorial service were NEC and Past Dept and SAL Commander Francis Russell, Dept Sgt-at-Arms and Post 17 Commander CR Drumheller, Post Adjutant Lt Col USMC (Ret) John DiGiovanni, Vietnam Veteran Chapter 858 President Rona Adams, Dept and Post Chaplain Michael Ferreira and VFW Senior Vice Commander Phil Branch.

The presentation of the US flag was by the Marine Corps Youth League Honor Guard. Adjutant John DiGiovanni presented Shane with a framed certified letter with the date and time that the US flag had flown over the U.S.S. Arizona and a brief history. NEC and SAL Commander Francis Russell presented Shane a membership to the American Legion Post 17 in honor of Martin.

I learned a few things from Martin's son, Shane while I visited with him prior to the

Mission Escort continued on page 14 >>



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<< Mission Escort continued from page 13

service. First Shane believes that the reason for the 35-year absence of Martin could have been for two possibilities, in 1968, Martin suffered from Malaria and was in a coma for over a month when he served in Vietnam and had issues with memory loss, and years later while Martin served in the Merchant Marines, he was involved in a serious boating accident which caused traumatic head injury and he suffered again with his short term memory losing the ability all together which ended his career. Shane learned of Martin's boating accident only when legal paperwork was forwarded to the address in Hawaii and he had opened it after a few months (Shane lives in the same home Martin had lived in when he returned from Vietnam in 1970 and married). No one in the Boyle family heard from Martin after this accident for the next 35 years (mom, dad, sister and Shane). Martin's family feared they would never know what happened to Martin during their lifetime (both parents are now deceased). Shane was surprised to learn that Martin had been in Florida all these years because Martin never mentioned knowing anyone in Florida prior to the accident.

The second startling bit of information was when Shane and I arrived at the location of the New Hope Canoe Club, Shane became a little emotional and explained that Martin actually lived at this location for many years. Martin lived on his boat in the bay and worked as a boat Captain. When it is said that God works in mysterious ways, this would be one of them. Martin's ashes were released close to the same location. There is no way that anyone who was planning the service knew this. This information gave most of us chills.

Lastly, Shane also worked for many years near this location and served in the Marines just like his father which sadly was unknown to Martin. When Shane was talking about his great relationship with his father, Shane said he never felt abandoned after the divorce because he spent many summers with his father and considered their relationship as being best friends rather than father and son.

Thank you all for supporting "Mission Escort"

NEC and Past Dept and SAL Commander Francis Russell presented Shane Boyle with a SAL membership in honor of his father, Martin.



<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2023/03/27/photo-gallery/vietnam-veteran-and-us-marine-martin-boyle-honored-by-memorial-paddle-out/>

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April 28, 2023 Membership Target Report (100%)		
3	Stuart Scott	101.52%
16	Eric Nestler	96.80%
4	John Bennett	96.15%
17	Bruce Howe	94.74%
5	Lena Heredia-Perez	93.67%
8	John Rauh	93.55%
1	Ronnie Grover	93.41%
7	Burl Thomas	92.36%
13	Harold "Bud" Boyer	91.51%
15	Rany Holeyfield	90.26%
6	Joe Marcheggiani	89.84%
11	Harry Malecki	89.66%
12	Wayne Mulligan	88.50%
14	Angela Glover	88.42%
2	Roger Hewitt	87.43%
9	George "Geo" Bograkov	85.41%
Northern	Jim Bowers	95.29%
Central	Bob Matheson	94.34%
Western	Sonny Decker	92.53%
Southwestern	Skip Felicita	92.42%
Eastern	Dennis Mallon	89.24%
Southern	Johnny Castro	87.97%
Post 400		79.89%
Post 208		80.14%



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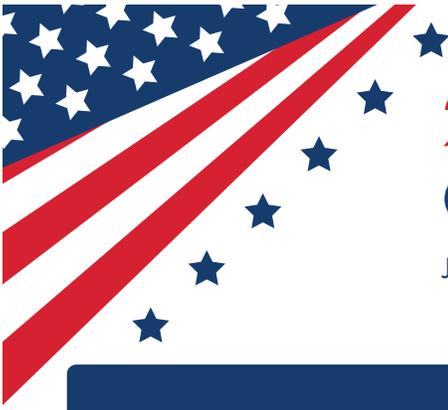
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2023 FLORIDA CONVENTION GUIDE

JUNE 15-18, 2023 | HILTON ORLANDO LAKE BUENA VISTA



✓ BEFORE YOU GO

More information at www.floridalegion.org

01 Register ahead

Post Delegate/Alternate Registration
Register for Service Officer School
Food Handler's Class

02 Give support

Florida Summer Raffle
Vendor Exhibition
Convention Book Advertising

03 Know before you go

DCC Meeting Schedule
Post Materials Request
Rules of Procedure
Voting Guidelines
Endorsements
Convention Deadlines

04 Special events

Legion Family Kick-Off Party
Red, White, & Blue Fling

05 Show your Legion pride

Convention T-Shirts
Incoming Commander's Polo

✓ WHEN YOU'RE THERE

More information at www.floridalegion.org

01 Day 1: Thursday

On Arrival

Parking
Mobility Scooter Rentals
Accessibility Needs
Property Maps
Emblem Sales
Nearby Attractions
Dining

Classes

Service Officer School Part I*
Post Membership Training
Food Handler's Class*
Buddy Check Training
Fundraising Class

Meetings & Business

Finance Committee Meeting
Internal Affairs
Executive Committee Meeting
Legion Riders District Chair Meeting

Special Events

Legion Family Kick-Off Party (Poolside)

02 Day 2: Friday

Classes

Service Officer School Part II*
Adjutants Training
Historian Class
Chaplains Training
Sgt-at-Arms, Color & Honor Guard Training
PROJECT: VetRelief Advocate Training

Meetings & Business

Legion General Session Part I
Area Caucuses
Womens Veterans Forum
20/4 Echelon 30 Meeting
FALMA Executive Board Meeting
FALMA General Meeting

Special Events

Cocktail Hour*
Red, White, & Blue Fling*

03 Day 3: Saturday

Classes

Post Commanders Training
Finance Officer Training
Judge Advocate Training
Legislative Training
Homeless Veterans Training
Veterans Benefits
Baseball Training

Meetings & Business

Legion General Session Part II
Electronic Voting*
Election Results
Legion Riders General Session
Installation of Officers

Special Events

Installation of Officers Reception

04 Day 4: Sunday

Special Events

Religious Service

Meetings & Business

Executive Committee Meeting

Heading Home

Check-out
Drive Safely
Submit Feedback

Headquarters

Post Registration
Agendas
Membership & Program Materials
Florida Summer Raffle Tickets
Drop off Post History Books
General Inquiries

Emblem Sales

Shopping
Emblem Sales Orders Pickup
Red, White, & Blue Fling Tickets Pickup

*Check our website at floridalegion.org for deadlines, pre-registration requirements, tickets, and additional information.

All Information is subject to change.



407.295.2631

mail@floridalegion.org

PO Box 547859
Orlando, FL 32810

www.floridalegion.org



DEPARTMENT CANDIDATES 2023-2024

Department Officers

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

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

District Commanders

District 1	Ronnie Grover
District 4	Douglas Hockenberry
District 5	Miguel Garcia
District 6	Peter Gregory
District 7	Rick Orzechowski Nancy Thomas
District 8	John Rauh
District 9	Judith Cann Richards
District 12	Wayne Mulligan Bruce Thurber
District 13	James "Jay" Hemingway, Jr.
District 15	Brian "Randy" Holeyfield Michael W. Sherman, Jr.
District 16	Eric Nestler
District 17	Jim Carlin

Endorsements on file as of April 26, 2023.

Good Luck, Candidates



VOTE
2023-2024

2023

DISTRICT CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCES

District 1	May 20	Post 235 Fort Walton Beach	Registration: 11:00 am Start: 12:00 pm
District 2	May 20	Post 100 Marianna	Registration: 8:00 am CDT Start: 8:00 am CDT
District 3	June 3	Post 57 Lake City	Registration: 10:00 am Start: 11:00 am
District 4	May 6	Post 284 Bellevue	Registration: 9:00 am Start: 10:00 am
District 5	May 7	Post 137 Jacksonville	Registration: 8:30 am Start: 9:30 am
District 6	May 27	Post 35 Mount Dora	Registration: 9:00 am Start: 10:00 am
District 7	May 6	Post 8 Winter Haven	Registration: 9:00 am Start: 10:00 am
District 8	May 21	Post 69 Avon Park	Registration: 10:00 am Start: 11:00 am
District 9	May 20	Post 321 Cooper City	Registration: 12:00 pm Start: 1:00 pm
District 11	May 20	Post 268 Riviera Beach	RRegistration: 9:00 am Start: 10:00 am
District 12	May 6	Post 117 Palm Bay	Registration: 9:00 am Start: 10:00 am
District 13	May 20	Post 103 Punta Gorda	Registration: 9:00 am Start: 10:00 am
District 14	May 13	Post 31 Miami	Registration: 1:30 pm Start: 2:00 pm
District 15	May 20	Post 111 Tampa	Registration: 9:00 am Start: 10:00 am
District 16	June 3	Post 273 Madeira Beach	Registration: 9:00 am Start: 10:00 am
District 17	May 20	Post 285 Edgewater	Registration: 12:00 pm Start: 1:00 pm

All dates are tentative and subject to change without notice.



104th Annual Department Convention, June 15-18, 2023

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

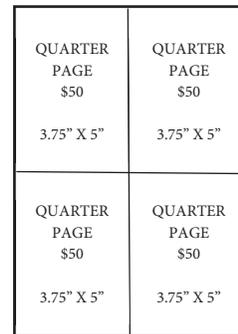
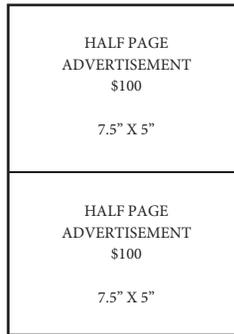
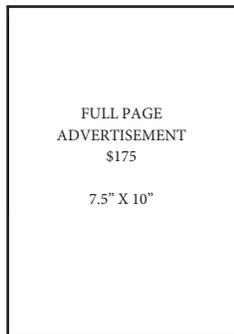
CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Member, Post, Unit or Squadron

Contact Person Title

Phone Email

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



- Full Page Ad (7.5"x10") - \$175
- Half Page Ad (7.5"x5") - \$100
- Quarter Page Ad (3.75"x5") - \$50
- Custom Design Fee - \$25

Advertisements must be submitted no later than May 14, 2023 to be included in the program. Please submit your advertisement artwork via email in one of the following image file types: .ai, .eps, .psd, .pdf, .tif, .jpeg, .jpg, .png. All artwork must be digital: no scanned or printed artwork will be accepted. All advertisements will be grayscale. All imagery must be legally licensed. The American Legion, Department of Florida reserves the right to redesign any advertisement due to required formatting or licensing issues. **Please email artwork to: events@floridalegion.org**

PAYMENT METHOD

- Credit Card
- Check # _____ Please make checks payable to American Legion, Department of Florida

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

- Visa
- MasterCard
- American Express
- Discover
- Total to Charge: \$ _____

Credit Card #

Cardholder Name Expiration Date CVV Code

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

Signature Date

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



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



CHEERS

BEERS



MUSIC & MINGLE

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

POST SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL

Dept. Convention Registration Form 2023

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 THREE 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@floridalegion.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 2023

Dates (Must Attend Both Days): Thursday, 15 June 2023; 8AM – 4PM
Friday, 16 June 2023; 8AM – 1PM

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!

Welcome Home Weekley

U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES 2ND LT.
PHARIS E. WEEKLEY
80 Years Never Forgotten



Join Us May 13th as Dana-Howard-Weekley Post 130 Members
Honor & Celebrate the Home Coming of our
Founding Post Name Sake 2nd Lt. Pharis E. Weekley

WEEKLEY'S REMAINS WERE RECENTLY LOCATED AFTER 80 YEARS!

In his honor and for his family we start the day with a Motorcycle and Car Procession from Post 69 Avon Park, south to LaBelle Post 130. **We are needing a flag line** from the foot of the bridge at Barron Park in LaBelle to Post 130 with Flags and yellow Ribbons for his family, as they return to LaBelle. **This is going to take a lot of Patriots** - please join us, and help stand the line if you can.

Dana-Howard-Weekley Post 130 will be hosting a **Welcome Home Picnic around Noon on the 13th**. The meat and cajun pastalaya will be provided, please bring a covered dish and let us show one of our own all the Love and Respect he deserves.

While celebrating the homecoming of Pharis Weekley - Enjoy stories and photos from the family and hear the background of how they brought him home. **Feel free to dress in the spirit of the era** as we listen to Music from WWII - and today. **We will be having 50/50 and Raffle Baskets to help offset the Costs - Join the fun!**

CHALLENGE COINS AND PATCHES WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE IN LIMITED QUANTITIES

THIS IS A JOINT AML POST 69 & 130 EFFORT - MULTI-DAY EVENT

To Participate in the Motorcycle and Car Procession and Flag Lines

DAY 1 MAY 12TH

Escort Remains to
First Baptist Church
Staging at 1750 Longleaf Blvd
Avon Park, FL Time TBD

DAY 2 MAY 13TH

Celebration of Life Escort
Meet at Post 69 KSU 10 am
1301 W. Bell St Avon Park
Escort to Post 130 - LaBelle

DAY 3 MAY 20TH

Flag Line for Family
Meet Post 69 KSU 9:15
Service at 11 am First Baptist
100 N. Lake Ave Avon Park FL

FOR UPDATED INFO: ALPOST69AVONPARK.COM FOR ACCURATE TIMES AND DETAILS OR CALL

PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS
JOHN "METRIC" VINCENT
863-835-0814

POST 69 COMMANDER
LARRY ROBERTS
850-718-7773

POST 130 1ST VICE
AMIE ALDERMAN
863-675-8300

LEGION RIDERS 69
MIKE POLLOCK
419-549-0478

**U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES
2ND LT. PHARIS E. WEEKLEY
WILL BE FORMALLY
INTERNEED ON
MAY 20TH WITH
FULL MILITARY HONORS
11 AM AT THE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
100 N. LAKE AVE
AVON PARK, FL 33825**

MAY 13TH, 2023 - PICNIC
AMERICAN LEGION POST 130
699 HWY 80 • LaBelle, Florida

**AMERICAN
LEGION**

**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**

**SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**

**AMERICAN
LEGION
RIDERS**