



Palm Valley Post 233
 P.O. Box 2494
 Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004
 904-285-2484

The Valley

Legion News



Dan Wortmann, Legion Commander
 Roger Akey, SAL Commander
 Linda Williams, ALA President
 Kevin Terranella, ALR Director

Volume 17, Issue 5 **'Smoke Free Post'** **May 2017**
Editor in Chief: Dan Wortmann **Publisher: Roy Havekost**



Our Post Home



Memorial Garden



Commander Louis 'Pappy' Martin Pavilion

Post website: www.AL233FL.org
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/AL233FL
 District website: www.AL5thDistrictFL.org
 Email: info@al233fl.org Post telephone: 904.285.2484
BINGO every Thursday night: 7:00pm

Canteen hours:
 MON-THU: 4:00pm until ?? hrs.
 FRI: 8am until ?? Breakfast & Lunch served
 SAT: 11:00am until ?? hrs.
 SUN: 9:00am until ?? hrs.
 (St.Johns County - closing hour is 2:00am daily)

We are a Smoke Free Post, 24/7
 Since February 2014

Palm Valley Post 233
560 N. Wilderness Trail
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Legionnaire meetings, first Monday each month, 7:00pm
Auxiliary meetings, second Monday each month, 7:00pm
Son's meetings, third Monday each month, 7:00pm
Rider's meetings, third Sunday each month, 12:00nn

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NEVER FORGET ~ POW's & MIA's

Commander Dan Wortmann ~
www.facebook.com/groups/AL233FL/

Here it is May already , What a month in April. I can tell you how much of a great night we had with the K9s For Warriors graduation and Shari's retirement party. I can't say thank you enough to all of the people for getting the pavilion ready, painting and cleaning up. With the new floor in the men's room we have a lot of good things are going on at the Post. I will get it painted soon

In May, we have Memorial Day weekend coming up so we are planning the third annual Oyster feast on Sunday May 28th with roasted and fresh oysters. On Wednesday, May 24th @ 7 pm we are having a Jags night. A Jaguars rep will be here and we are planning a bus trip from the post to go to a jag game, so come on out.

An finally say a prayer for all of our sick and distressed members and hope and pray they get well soon!

For God and Country,
Dan

3rd Vice Commander Caroline Merillat ~

The Pavilion is looking good. The improvements are slow as I continue to work on funds and help. I have a temporary workable area behind the bar with a few more touches to be added. Thank you to my son Noah and one of our newer members Torsak Vimoktayon for measuring and drilling over 100 holes and putting in hooks to hang all of the lights in the rafters, it was a big job and looks amazing!

As of May 1st all new pricing and processes take place. The request form has been completed and is available online along with a link to my email and my phone number. There is no reason that I should not be contacted for scheduling. This is very important that ALL events go through me for scheduling; this would include entity plans inside. This will eliminate schedule conflicts, and ensure that everyone gets the best space and services to meet their needs. In addition, all services that coincide with the pavilion rental need to come to me first as well, i.e. kitchen space, caterer, bartenders.

I continue to search for furniture options/funding so if anyone hears of anything please run it by me. My next tasks are the brochures, and sign outside the pavilion! Thanks for all of the support! This will be a great program for revenue and increase our membership as the word gets out.

www.AL233FL.org/pavilion.htm for reservation form.

For God and Country,
Caroline

2nd Vice Commander Susan Severson ~

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Second Vice Commander for the last two years.

I pray for the continued success of Post 233, and for the American Legion in the 21st Century: 100 years of excellence.

For God and Country,
Susan

Come out and show your support at the monthly graduations



The Post 233 calendar of events is online at:
<http://www.al233fl.org/ecalendar.htm>

POST 233 is a FREE WiFi spot

BINGO every Thursday night: 7:00pm



Adjutant Ted Veber ~

May 1st GENERAL MEETING

NOMINATIONS - ELECTIONS

FOR POST OFFICERS

STAY INVOLVED...RUN FOR OFFICE

ATTEND MONTHLY MEETINGS

For God and Country,
Ted

ALA President Linda Williams ~

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/264057610291208/>

Please join the ALA in a moment of prayer for the loss of our veterans, members and loved one's who have passed away this month! May they all rest in PEACE! And may their families find Peace.

I would like to take a second to thank the entire Post 233 and 5th District! Mike and I have been through some trials and tribulations in the past 2 months. Thank you all for your support, phone calls, prayers, flowers, texts, food, and Love. I cannot express my how much that means to us! We are both still recuperating very slowly but surely! Thank You to my fantastic ALA Group of wonderful ladies for taking over and keeping things going! Thank you ALL!

May 14th – Happy Mother's Day

” Wonderful Mother ”

– By Pat O'Reilly

God made a wonderful mother,
A mother who never grows old;
He made her smile of the sunshine,
And he molded her heart of pure gold;
In the eyes He placed bright shining stars,
In her cheeks fair roses you see;
God made a wonderful mother,
And he gave that dear mother to me.
And Grandma's too....

Author unknown

While we honor all our mothers
With words of love and praise.
While we tell about their goodness
And their kind and loving ways.
We should also think of Grandma,
She is a mother too, you see...
For she mothered my dear mother
as my mother mother's me.

Remembering on May 29th!

Moment Of Remembrance

In 1996, a humanitarian organization based in Washington, D.C., known as 'No Greater Love' conducted a survey on children and asked them why do they think there is a holiday on Memorial Day. It was agonizing to hear their remarks that were all associated with barbecues and extended weekend parties and celebration, while they hadn't the vaguest idea about the sacrifices of the soldiers in whose honor it is celebrated. One of the children was even quoted as saying that this was the day when swimming pools open!

Thus, the organization came up with the idea of 'National Moment of Remembrance' to remind and especially, let the future generations know about the real meaning of the holiday. The idea clicked with the President and Congress and since 1997, it became a standard American tradition. National Moment of Remembrance requires everybody to keep silent for a minute, exactly at 3.00 pm (local time) when 'Taps' is played and reflect on the glory of those who have

Past Commanders Club Roy Havekost ~

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PastCommandersClub233FL/>

The next meeting of the club will be held on Sunday, May 7th at 10:30am. Come early and have breakfast before the meeting.

Last month the PCC presented a Certificate of Honorable Mention to Shari Duval on her retirement from K9s For Warriors, at the K9s April graduation ceremony held at Post 233.

For God and Country,
PCC Chairman

Roy

Judge Advocate, Roy Havekost ~

<http://www.AL233FL.org>

This article is being presented for all members, particularly those members attending the annual convention, June 29 to July 2, in Orlando FL. This year members of the 5th District will be running for three Department offices which will require a vote from our Post. I will discuss the voting process at our May General Meeting for those who are unfamiliar with the process. Six delegate names will also be selected at this meeting. The Northern Area caucus meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 30 at 1:30pm. Voting will take place for Area Commander and both candidates are from the 5th District, Jeff Durden Post 129 and Lawson Dukes Post 194.

The Department General Session is scheduled over a two day period, Friday June 30 from 8:00am to 12:30pm. Day two, Saturday July 1 from 8:00am to 3:00pm (lunch from 12:00n to 1:00pm). When the session reconvenes at 1:00pm voting for Department Officers will commence. This years' voting order places Post 233 in the 234th position to vote. The Post vote is generally cast by a Post Commander or next highest officer in attendance.

Those running for Department offices are as follows;
Historian – Jesse Figueroa, Post 10; Gerald Kaufman, Post 155; and Andrew Nagy, Post 118. **Chaplain** - Bill Reno, Post 129; and Barry Roberts, Post 117. **Sgt.at Arms** – Tom Gora, Post 54; and Andrew Burkett, Post 323. **3rd Vice Cdr.** – Jerry Brandt, Post 129; and Eunice Butts, Post 167. As of this writing there are no other contests at this time. Endorsement letters for all candidates can be found online

<http://www.floridalegion.org/news-events/department-convention/endorsement-letters/> just click the candidates name to read the endorsement. Let's show our support for our 5th District legionnaires running for office.

At this time, I would like to thank Legionnaire BJ Atkins, in advance, for signing up for the two day Service Officer course. Stepping up to the plate is nothing new for BJ, thank you.

For God and Country,

Roy

shed blood for us. The federal government hopes to raise public awareness about the heroes and their valor by introducing this moment.

Get involved become an ALA Officer? What? Me? Run as ??? Interested in more information get with Kathy Helmly and/or Angie Kees.

Many thanks to all the VOLUNTEERS at Post 233! During the month of April, we have had GOOD food, GOOD music, and Good fellowship! Let's keep this going! We can stand together to change but we need to be willing to work together because together we are stronger!

The Auxiliary WILL NOT BE cooking Wednesday Night Cook Book Dinners on the 1st Wednesday of every Month ANYMORE.

May 4th, the 1st Thursday of the month, the ALA will now be sponsoring a lite dinner such as sloppy joes, chili dogs, chicken salad sandwiches and items like this for a \$5.00 donation to the ALA. Tagging on to help promote SAL BINGO!

Don't forget our next 5th District Meeting Sunday, May 7, 2017 at 2pm @ Post 197 – 2179 Benedict Road, Jacksonville FL 32209

The Auxiliary Monthly Meeting is the 2nd Monday of each Month (May 8th, 2017 at 7 pm). If you need more info please contact me at lindaw186@bellsouth.net.

The Auxiliary Breakfast is the 4th Sunday of the month (May 28th from 9:00 am to 11:30 am).

By coming to Post 233 you support the Post and the women of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 233 to make a difference in the lives of all Americans. We educate our children, organize our community events and help our nation's veterans through legislative action and volunteerism.

Volunteer it feels GREAT! 10 minutes, 1 hour whatever you can do we'll take it! As they sayIt takes a VILLAGE to have a small but Mighty Post!

As always please keep our Service Men and Women here and afar, family, friends and our community in your prayers.

For God and Country,

Linda

From the BINGO Staff ~

In April, we had two very good weeks however, Easter Thursday, attendance was quite small. None the less, we awarded \$525 on March 30th, \$500 on April 6th, \$350 on April 13th and \$550 on April 20. Of course, the Canteen continues to benefit from our activities. Our base of participation has been stable week to week and it allows us to be profitable. Furthermore, it allows us to make our players happy with our payouts. Thus far in April, we have paid out \$1925 with another week to go. Who says it doesn't pay to play?

SAL Commander Roger Akey ~

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SAL233/>

The SAL provided two Friday night dinners and a very successful third Wednesday dinner plus we operated our Thursday night Bingo Games. Also, we are now sponsoring Saturday evening karaoke which will help Canteen income.

Communication is important so when you pay your dues, please give us a current email address so if it is necessary to provide additional information, schedules or in case of emergencies, we will have the ability to contact you.

Again this month, we had a great meeting and accomplished most of our agenda items. Among them was consideration of the charities to receive our support this year. The charities or projects under consideration are the Guardian Ad Litem program, Special Olympics, Children of Fallen Patriots, Canines for Warriors and the replacement of the flooring in the Men's Restroom in the Post. The bathroom floor is completed and the others were tabled until May's meeting pending further discussion. If you have others, please let us know by the next meeting or best of all, attend. We will award the donations next meeting.

We also held second round nominations for 2017-2018 officers. The results are Howard Sheble, Commander; Todd Kleven, First Vice Commander; Kevin Munger, Second Vice Commander; Steve Willis, Finance Officer and Adjutant; Mike Shaar, Sergeant-At-Arms; Open, Historian and Roger Akey, Chaplain. We will entertain additional nominations from the floor and have elections at our next meeting.

Our next meeting is May 15th at 7:00 PM. Again, we will open the floor for final officer nominations followed by elections. Failure to participate is your loss. We have a quality SAL Squadron and you can be a part of it by attending our meetings and volunteering when you can.

I will be stepping down as Commander after the elections. I want to see new, younger members learn to guide and take charge of our programs. It has been a true pleasure serving you gentlemen and I hope you see that we have made strides helping the Squadron, the Legion Post and our veteran community. Volunteering is not a choice but a responsibility. Think about it.

For God and Country,

Roger

ALR Director Kevin Terranella:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/alr233/>

Last month Riders delivered our Post's \$3K donation to Gainesville Fisher House that was raised from our annual ALR fun run. We got a tour of this magnificent facility that provides free lodging for families who are visiting loved ones being treated at the VA center. After the tour we had very nice lunch at Post 16 in Gainesville, and then refueled at Post 202 in Keystone Heights on our way home.

*****SOMETIMES IT TAKES A WHOLE TANKFUL OF GAS BEFORE YOU CAN THINK STRAIGHT?*****

BINGO cont'd Let's keep the seats filled as we are to reach our maximum payout. Plus, a new Pull Tab Game will start soon. The winner of that game gets an amount equal to the payout in pull tabs. They could win a handsome sum.

The Lucky Ball pool started again on February 23rd and now stands at \$165. It builds until someone wins.

Most evenings begin with most people enjoying our light meal and drinks from the Canteen. We are very happy that the ALA will provide the meal on the first Thursday of the month and on the third Thursday, Kathy Church will provide a meal for the benefit of the MIA program. Come join us and help two programs at the same time.

Let's continue to build our Bingo Program so please participate, invite your friends and/or neighbors. We are open to the public for Bingo so no need for you to be present if you encourage others to participate. We have planned advertising and ordered additional signs so, hopefully, our area visitors will increase.

Our team consisting of Howard Sheble, Patty Williams, Dan Deon and our bartender, Debbie, keeps the evening moving. We could use additional volunteers. Another Verifier, a substitute Caller and a substitute Cashier would be helpful. Please contact me or Howard Sheble if you are interested. Remember, everyone has a good time and the Canteen benefits.

Come on out and join the fun and maybe share in the payouts. See you soon.

For God and Country

Roger Akey



ALR cont'd

Yes, helmets are an emotional topic for some riders. But the facts show the risk. Riders without a helmet are 40 percent more likely to suffer a fatal head injury in a crash and are three times more likely to suffer brain injuries, than those with helmets, according to government studies.

Two guys were roaring down the road on a motorcycle when the driver slowed up and pulled over. His leather jacket had a broken zipper, and he told his friend, "I can't drive anymore with the air hitting me in the chest like that." "Just put the jacket on backwards." His friend advised. They continued down the road but around the next bend, they lost control and wiped out. A nearby farmer came upon the accident and ran to call the police. They asked him, "Are they showing any signs of life?" "Well," the farmer explained, "the driver was until I turned his head around the right way!"

PLEASE JOIN THE RIDERS AT THE FOLLOWING:

- Riders host breakfast the 3rd Sunday of every month 9-11:30AM.
- Riders host TACO TUESDAYS! Eat more Tacos!
- ALR General Membership meeting is the 3rd Sunday of every month at 12PM and all are welcome. - For membership information contact Kathy Church at bartenderpost233@yahoo.com - Stay connected: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/alr233/> ~ <http://www.facebook.com/groups/alr5thDistrictFL/> ~ <http://www.alr5thfl.org/> tweet us @ ALR233FL

Riding for God and Country,

Kevin

**American Legion Department of Florida
Annual Convention
Marriot Orlando World Center
Orlando, FL
June 29 to July 2, 2017
Plan to attend a training class or two!**

The Palm Valley Post 233 Newsletter

I started publishing the Post newsletter in 2010. It was called the AL233FL Newsletter back then. The name change to The Valley Legion News came in June 2016, under Commander Dan Wortmann. It was a very appropriate change as we are the 'Valley' Post of the 5th District. With this issue, it is time for me to remove the backpack and pass it on to a more than capable replacement publisher, Caroline Merillat.

I want to thank all of the officers and members past and present who have from time to time submitted articles for our entire membership to peruse each month. It has been my honor to have served the Post in this capacity.

Sincerely, Roy Havekost

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 Staff, Non-Profit Industry.

www.NavyToNavy.com

\$25.00 per year to advertise your business card on the monthly newsletter.
 Make check payable to American Legion Post 233.
 Your check and business card can be left in the Commanders mailbox.
ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS CARD ON THE POST TV FOR ONLY \$75.00/YR. Ask the bartender for details.

WANTED! Any member experienced in desktop publishing to take over the Valley Legion News monthly newsletter publishing duties, in June 2017.
THANK YOU CAROLINE MERILLAT FOR VOLUNTEERING TO BE OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER.

We are also looking for someone to take over the Post Advertising TV updating. This can be done using the Post computer. Contact Susan Severson if interested.

From the Kitchen

I would like to thank everyone that volunteers to cook meals, serve, collect money or helps with clean up. It takes TEAM EFFORT. We have some awesome volunteers but like any other volunteer organization we need many of our members to pitch in.

With the help of the volunteers our kitchen is in good order. This is not always easy when you have different people in the kitchen. Everyone has been respectful of the next crew coming in by cleaning up after the event they worked, marking all the food that is placed in the refrigerators and freezers. This keeps us in compliance with the Health Department.

The following is a schedule of our regular meal events. If you would like to help out for any of these meals you can call in to the Post and let bartender on duty know what day and time you can help out.

Sunday Breakfast – every Sunday 9:00 – 11:30am (the rotation is Legion, SAL, ALR & ALA)

ALR TACO Tuesday – every Tuesday 5:30-7:30pm (This is also Texas Hold'em night)

SAL Wednesday Dinner – 3rd Wednesday of the month 6:30-8:00pm

BINGO Thursday – every Thursday 5:30 – 7:30 (we serve some type of sandwich)

Friday Breakfast & Lunch – every Friday – bartender Kelly cooks all day

Friday Hamburgers – every other Friday 11:30 – 1:00 (check with the Post on which Friday)

Friday Night – every Friday we serve Steaks & sometimes fish – 6:30-8:00pm (entertainment follows dinner)

We also have a variety of bar snacks that the bartenders can serve you at any time*

Pizzas - \$7.00

Hamburger Sliders – 2 for \$3.00

Variety of Chips - \$1.00/bag (Lays Potato chips, Ms. Vickie Jalapeno Chips, Fritos)

Pretzels - \$1.00/bag

Cheese Crackers - \$1.00/pkg of 6)

Jalapeno Pickled Eggs - .50 each (Don't knock them 'til you try them)

Kathy Church
Kitchen Organizer



MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

4/24/2017

NATIONAL PROGRESS AS OF 4/21/2017

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 2,048
Cremains Found - 14,908
Veterans Cremains Identified - 3,380
Veterans Interred - 3,116

MIAP FLORIDA PROGRESS AS OF 4/24/2017

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 120
Cremains Found - 898
Mission Scheduled – 22 (6/17/17 - South Florida National Cemetery)
Dependents Interred - 1
Spouse Interred - 63
Veterans Interred – 137

Please go to our website at www.miap.us to read more about us and find out how you can get involved with this great project in your area.

Kathy Church
MIAP Florida State Coordinator
miapjax@yahoo.com
(904) 219-3035

**MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY
JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY
SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2017
10:00AM**

**FLAG PLACEMENT
THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2017
2:30PM**

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for remembering the people who died while serving in the country's armed forces. The holiday, which is currently observed every year on the last Monday of May, originated as **Decoration Day** after the American Civil War in 1868



This ceremony is hosted by the Jacksonville National Cemetery and the Support Committee at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

We invite members of our communities to join us in honoring those that died while serving in our Armed Forces. We encourage families to bring your children to this ceremony so they may learn to honor and respect our veterans and family members.

*****This year the flags will be placed on Thursday, May 25, 2017 @ 2:30pm*****





MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT – FLORIDA

CALL TO HONOR #12

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2017

11:00AM

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Missing in America Project (MIAP) is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations, and to provide honor, respect and dignity to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes.

“IT’S THE RIGHT THING TO DO”

On Saturday, June 17, 2017, at 11:00am, MIAP – Florida, in cooperation with the Boynton Memorial Chapel and Crematory, Boynton Beach, FL, will be interring the cremains of 13 veterans and 8 spouses of veterans, with full military honors, at the South Florida National Cemetery located at 6501 Florida State Road 7, Lake Worth, FL 33449.

The veterans being interred served in the US Army and US Navy during World Wars I and II. The spouses sacrificed in the absence of their husbands during World Wars I and II, and Korea. The longest that any of these being interred has been unclaimed is since 1956.

An escort led by the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office (PBCSO) will leave from the Southeast parking area (the Lantana Road side) of the Target Store at 5900 Florida State Road 7 (Rt. 441), Wellington, FL, on the Northeast corner of State Road 7 and Lantana Road. Any and all motorcycle organizations, riders, and vehicles are welcome to participate. Meeting time is 9:30AM for a safety briefing with the PBCSO, and the escort will depart (KSU) to the cemetery at 10:15AM.

You are cordially invited to attend this service. This service is open to all residents of our area communities.

Kathy Church

MIAP – FL State Coordinator

(904) 219-3035

miapjax@yahoo.com

www.miap.us