

Monthly Newsletter

AMERICAN LEGION POST 57

December 2024



Post Info

American Legion
Post 57

Address:

2602 SW Main Blvd
Lake City FL 32025

Phone:

(386) 752-7776

Hours:

Mon to Sun
1:00pm to 10:00pm

Email:

americanlegion57@comcast.net

Join us on Facebook:

American Legion Post 57 -
Lake City, FL

Post 57 Website:

www.americanlegion57.org



Post Officers

-Commander-

Bill Huggins

-1st Vice Commander-

Kelly Valliere

-2nd Vice Commander-

Terry Libbert

-3rd Vice Commander-

Thomas Wilcutts

-4th Vice Commander-

Laura Taylor

-Finance Officer-

Dave Holmes

-Adjutant-

Jason Massey

-Chaplain-

William Bell

-Historian-

Kim (Seven) Blumer

-Sergeant at Arms-

James Taylor

-Executive Committeeman-

George Wehrli

-Executive Committeeman-

Tony Nolan

-Executive Committeeman-

Ken Burkes

-Executive Committeeman-

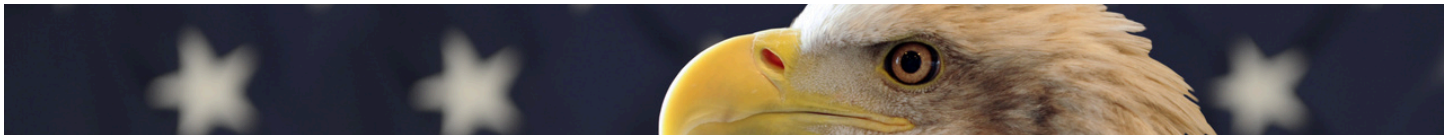
Robert Preston

-Judge Advocate-

Dave Mangrum

-Service Officer-

Lisa Brown



Commanders Corner

Wow, This year is flying by. November has been an very active month for the Legion Family.

This month, we saw the Rider's host their 6th Annual Toys for Tots Christmas Toy Run with approx. 70 bikes and 100 people coming out in support.

The Legion Family hosted our Annual Veteran's Day Celebration, expanding the event to include a guest speaker, the meaning of the 13 Folds of the American Flag followed by a Dignified Flag Disposal and Luncheon. The event was attended by over 120 members and guests and too many volunteers to count that made it happen.

Thanksgiving Day the Legion Family hosted our 1st Annual Member's Thanksgiving Dinner. The dinner was geared for our members who have/had limited family support to allow them to share in a full traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. Approximately 100 members attended the meal including members from the Domiciliary. We had approximately 15 Volunteers in attendance making the program and an untold number of members who came by and dropped of everything from Turkeys to sides and desserts then returning to spend the day with their loved ones.

On behalf of YOUR Executive Board, a HUGE THANK YOU ALL for making our member feel appreciated on this day.

December promises to be just as active with several events coming up:

Saturday December 14th: Wreaths Across America at Olustee Park, Ceremony at 12:00.
Placing Flags on Veterans Graves at Gateway Cemetery beginning at approx. 1:30pm.
Christmas Parade for Lake City, Line up beginning at 5:00pm.

Tuesday, December 17th: The Legion Family will have their Christmas party following the General meeting.

Friday, December 20th: The Auxiliary will host it's Jr. Christmas party.

Wednesday, December 25th: The Legion Family will host our 1st Annual Member Christmas Dinner for our members who, otherwise, may feel left out for Christmas Dinner from 3-5pm.

Tuesday, December 31st: We'll bring in the new years and have a Prime Rib dinner accompanied by baked potato, green beans, salad and dessert. Tickets in advance are \$20.00 per person/\$35.00 per couple after Dec. 26th, day of tickets will be \$25.00 per person/\$40.00 per couple.
Dinner will be served from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM and will be followed by entertainment by Late for Class ringing in the New Year.

Commanders Corner (Cont.)

December Upcoming Calendar:

Texas Hold-em Poker every Monday and Friday at 7:00pm.

Bingo Every Sunday, Monday & Thursday. Afternoon at 3:00pm/Evening at 6:45pm.

Tuesday	Dec. 3	SAL meeting at 6:30pm.
Wednesday	Dec 4	Sea Cadet Meeting in the meeting room.
Friday	Dec. 6	City of Lake City Christmas Party/Hall Rental.
Tuesday	Dec. 10	Legion/Auxiliary Executive Board meeting.
Friday	Dec. 13	Legion Friday Dinner with Dave & Vicky Trezak in the Lounge.
Saturday	Dec. 14	Shank's (Airpark) Hall Rental.
Saturday	Dec. 14	Wreaths Across America Park Ceremony at 12:00 noon. Flags on the Veterans graves from 1:30-3 PM. Christmas Parade (Line-up) at 5:00 PM.
Tuesday	Dec. 17	Legion/Auxiliary Gen. meeting followed by a member Christmas party in the lounge, bring a covered dish to share. Meet will be supplied by the post.
Wednesday	Dec. 18	Honor Guard meeting 3:00 pm.
Friday	Dec. 20	Jr. Christmas party from 6-8 PM open to children/grandchildren of any member.
Saturday	Dec. 21	Sea Cadet Christmas Party from 12-5 pm.
Friday	Dec. 27	Rider's Dinner 5:30-7:30.
Tuesday	Dec. 31	Ring in the New Year beginning with a Prime Rib Dinner accompanied by baked potato, green beans, roll and dessert. Tickets are available from the bartender. Finish off the evening with us as we rock out 2024 to the music of Late for Class.

As always, I appreciate your continued support.

Bill

Volunteer Spotlight



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH IS

--Douglas Smith--

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU AND ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS DO!



County Service Officer

A Message for Our Veterans

VA Benefits Increase Effective December 1, 2024

Starting **December 1, 2024**, veterans will see a **2.5% increase** in their VA disability compensation and pension benefits. This adjustment reflects the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) aimed at maintaining the purchasing power of your benefits.

For example, if you currently receive \$1,000 per month, a 2.5% increase will raise your monthly benefit to \$1,025. This increase will be reflected in your December payment, typically received in early January.

If you have questions about how this adjustment affects your specific benefits, please feel free to contact me.

Social Security Changes: Appointment-Based Services

The Social Security Administration is transitioning to an **appointment-based system** to improve efficiency and reduce wait times. By **January 6, 2025**, most services—including requests for Social Security cards—will require appointments.

During the **transition period (now through January 5, 2025)**, walk-ins will still be accepted, especially for urgent or special situations. After January 6, appointments will be the standard, but no one will be turned away if immediate assistance is needed.

This change is meant to streamline your experience and make visits more convenient. If you have questions about this process, don't hesitate to reach out to me.

December: A Time to Review Your Benefits

As the year comes to a close, December is the perfect time to review your VA benefits and ensure you're taking full advantage of the support available to you. Here are a few reminders:

- Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA): Starting December 1, 2024, veterans will see a 2.5% increase in VA disability compensation and pension payments. This increase will be reflected in your January payment.
- VA Health Care Enrollment: If you're not already enrolled, now is a great time to review your eligibility for VA health care services. It's never too late to secure the care you deserve.
- PACT Act Benefits: Veterans exposed to toxic substances during service may qualify for new benefits under the PACT Act. If you think this may apply to you, contact me for more information.

Final Thoughts

As we approach the end of the year, it's a good time to review your benefits and ensure you're receiving all the support you're entitled to. Please reach out if you have any questions or need assistance with your benefits.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Beasley

County Veteran Service Officer

(386) 758-3350

Contact: Reach out to my office for assistance or questions.





County Service Officer (Cont.)

Services I Can Provide

As your Veteran Service Officer, I can assist with:

- **Filing VA compensation claims** and appeals
- **Reviewing VA disability ratings** to ensure you are receiving the correct benefits
- **Guiding you through the VA home loan process**
- **Connecting you with VA healthcare services**
- **Assisting with claims for service connection due to injury or illness**
- **Navigating survivor benefits** for families of veterans
- **Accessing local, state, and federal veteran programs**

If you are unsure about your eligibility for any of these services or benefits, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am here to support you.

Contact Information:

Ronnie Beasley

Columbia County Veteran Service Officer

Email: rbeasley@columbiacountyfla.com

Phone: 386-758-3350

Address: 1486 SW McFarlane Ave, Lake City, FL 32025

Stay safe, and please reach out if I can assist you with any VA-related concerns.

Best regards,

Ronnie Beasley

Columbia County Veteran Service Officer

Chaplain

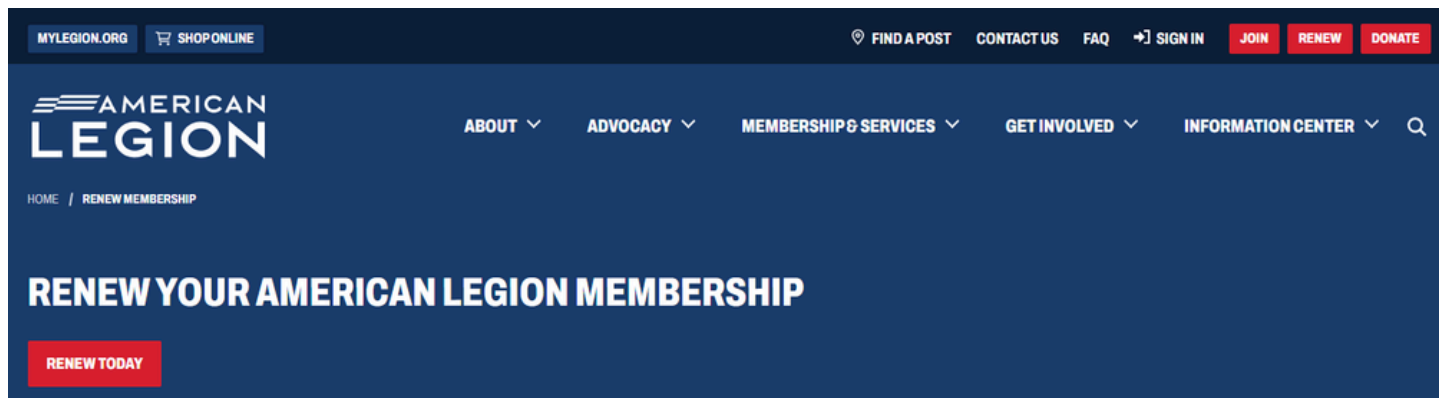
This Christmas season, let us remember and pray for our brave men and women still deployed overseas, please God protect them from all harm. As members of Post 57, let us keep our prayers and thoughts with our post family who are ill or not able to be with their families this season. May God use our post to enhance the holiday season for our great Veterans in our local community.

I had the great privilege of attending the Veteran's Day celebration at the Columbia Correctional Institute with the Veterans of Post 421. Their patriotism was amazing to witness and I look forward to future visits.

Luke 2:11 There is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

William Bell

Chaplain



Membership



Merry Christmas Legionnaires and Legion Family!

Our Membership Committee consisting of Lisa Brown Post 57 Veteran Service Officer, and Ken Burkes Emergency Operations (Disaster Relief)/Buddy Check Chair are working hard to ensure we contact everyone, to assist wherever we can. If you have a specific need or questions about benefits please reach out to us at the post.

Alright then! The business at hand is renewals!! Let's get those renewals in. You can renew online at Legion.org. Click the red Renewal button to the Left of the home page, you'll need your membership number on your last membership card. If you do not have it you can call me directly and I will be happy to assist you. If you have a MyLegion.org account you can renew there also. Floridalegion.org also has a renew button that takes you to Legion.org if you want to go that route. Renewing is simple, fast and efficient. You can print your card from your MyLegion account or, I will simply mail your card to you. I get a daily report that notifies of your renewal! You can always come by the post with cash or check and I will immediately take care of you. I am usually in the office from 9:00 am to 4 pm Monday through Saturday. I am available at Friday night dinner until 6:30 pm. It has been my great pleasure to meet many of you personally this year, and what a ride it has been! So many amazing individuals, so many skills and so many great stories! I can hardly wait to meet the rest of you.

Our membership goals for the year were as follows:

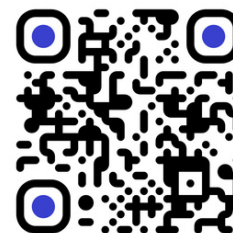
	Goal	Attained
September 5th:	50%	53.57%
October 9th:	55%	58.20%
November 6th:	65%	67.46%
December 4th:	75%	72.57%* (as of November 29th, This is an unverified percentage due to Thanksgiving Holiday the weekly report was unavailable)

We have 12 individuals in process at National, 8 individuals are required for each percentage point.

It is a great honor to serve all of you and I hope that if you need anything that you will reach out to me at post57membership@gmail.com please leave your contact information if you wish for me to reach out to you personally.

For God and Country

Kelly Valliere
First Vice Commander



Scan to go to
www.legion.org



Auxiliary News

Community Service Chairman, Donna Sessa, has been busy donating to the Christian Service Center and to Kids Feeding Kids. She also continues to visit our Veterans in the local nursing homes. This month she arranged to do 2 pinning ceremonies at the nursing homes, giving each veteran a flag pin as well as a lapgahn that was crocheted by our very own Hooked on Heroes crochet group.

Sharon Manning, the Education Chairman, is stilling providing our local elementary schools with snacks for the kids. She picks a different school each month. Thank you to the Legion for chipping in and helping us with this vital program. The teachers and principals are loving it.

It's that time of the year to celebrate with family and friends. The Post Christmas party will be held immediately after the General Membership meetings on Tuesday, December 17th. The Legion is providing the meat and we ask that you bring a side dish or dessert to share if you plan to attend.

Many of us attended the Fall Conference in November. We had a day of learning with break-out sessions for many of our programs. On Saturday, we held general session and got to meet the National President, Trish Ward.

Can you believe it, our unit will be 100 years old in January!!!! We have to celebrate, right? Well we are going to do just that. Our 3rd Vice President, Maryanne Dennis, has been working her magic and has come up with plans for a luncheon on Saturday, January 18th from 11 AM to 2 PM in the bingo hall. She will be sending out invitations to all our members as well as some special guests from Department. She also has been working on showcasing our history with many old pictures of years gone by. The display will be in the bingo hall for the whole month of January – come take a look.

I wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please stay well and safe over the holidays and hope to see you next year.

For God and Country,

Lisa Dye – President – Unit 57



American Legion Riders Chapter 57

Director Update:

November was a busy month for the Riders with (2) Friday night dinners and the Toys for Tots, Toy Ride. I am so proud of everyone who helped and made all of our November events a success. Unfortunately, with the Hurricanes and all the recovery we were not able to do much riding. December appears to be another month full of events for the Riders. We will start off with a joint venture with the sons as we prepare Christmas Dinner for the folks at the City of Lake City. The Sons will be making Lasagna, and the Riders will work on the Chicken Alfredo, in conjunction with the dinner we will also be doing the Friday Night Dinner for the Post and Poker players. The plan is to make enough food to feed 300 people. The next event we have is the Wreaths Across America Event, we have eight volunteers who will meet at the post on the morning of the 14th to prepare the wreaths and carry them to the Veterans Park by the courthouse later that evening is the Christmas Parade in Lake City where we will have a trailer and a bike in the parade for the Riders (Thanks Big Pappa for the loan of the trailer). The following Saturday we will have the Riders Christmas Cookout at Tom Johnsons house. All of the info for the cookout is posted on the Legion Riders Facebook page.

Welcome to our new members. We continue to grow our numbers.

As always it is FOR THE CAUSE NOT THE APPLAUSE.

CHARLES (HILLBILLY) CALDWELL
DIRECTOR
ALR 57





Sons of the American Legion

Hello S.A.L. Squadron 57 Members

I hope everyone had a safe and prosperous month of November.

We had another fun-filled month of November with Roadkill Bingo and Friday Night Dinner.

I would like to thank everyone that helped out with our events since I was absent for both of them.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday December 3rd @ 6:30 p.m.- Squadron 57 Meeting

Friday December 6th @ 5:30 p.m.-Friday Night Dinner (Our Dinner will be prepared by both the SONS and Riders)

Saturday December 7th @ 11:00 a.m.- District 3 Meeting @ Post 291 Steinhatchie

Saturday December 14 @ 3:00 p.m.-Roadkill Bingo

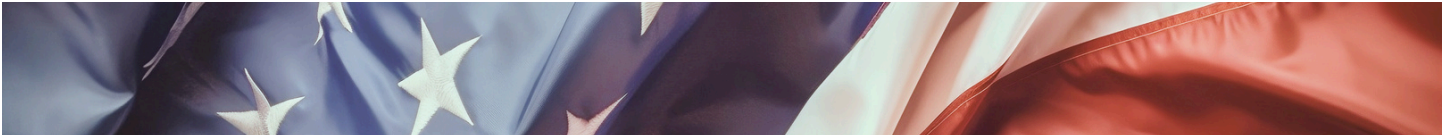
Don't forget, it's time to pay your dues by December 31st

Squadron 57 Commander: Brian Wolfe

December Canteen Specials

- Monday - [Mimosa](#) - (All Day) \$3.00
- Tuesday - [Tequila](#) - (All Day) - Well \$2.00 - Top Shelf \$4.00
- Wednesday - [Well Drinks](#) - (All Day) \$2.00
- Thursday - [Fat Tires or Peroni Bottles](#) - (All Day) \$2.00
- Friday - [Fireball](#) - (All Day) \$4.00
- Saturday - [Frozen Berry Blast](#) - (All Day) \$3.00
- Sunday - [Screwdriver](#) - (All Day) Well Only \$2.00





Post Service Officer

Hello Post 57,

November has been a busy month; Veterans Day Celebration, Toys For Tots, and our trip to Orlando for Fall Conference.

Post 57 has taken Care of 8 veterans this month who were in need.

Did you know that going to the VA Hospital and Clinics can cost you Money(Copays)?

This month is about Urgent Care.

Urgent care copay rates

(Care for minor illnesses and injuries)

There's no limit to how many times you can use urgent care. To be eligible for urgent care benefits, including through our network of approved community providers, both of these must be true:

You must be enrolled in the VA health care system, and

You must have received care from us within the past 24 months (2 years)

If you're only getting a flu shot at your visit, you won't have to pay any copays, no matter your priority group.

Learn more about urgent care benefits

2024 urgent care copay rates

Priority group Copay amount for first 3 visits in each calendar year. Copay amount for each additional visit in the same year:

1 to 5 visits \$0 (no copay) \$30

6 visits If related to a condition that's covered by a special authority: \$0 (no copay)

If not related to a condition covered by a special authority: \$30 each visit \$30

7 to 8 visits \$30 \$30

Note: Special authorities include conditions related to combat service and exposures (like Agent Orange, active duty at Camp Lejeune, ionizing radiation, Project Shipboard Hazard and Defense (SHAD/Project 112), Southwest Asia Conditions) as well as military sexual trauma, and presumptions applicable to certain Veterans with psychosis and other mental illness.

Thanks for your Support,

Lisa G. Brown

Veteran Service Officer

Info obtained from VA.gov



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	2 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	3 S.A.L. Squadron 57 Meeting 6:30pm	4 \$1.75 Draft 1:00pm Sea Cadet Meeting 6:30pm	5 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	6 Red Shirt Friday Hall Rental (City) Karaoke 6:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	7 District 3 Meeting at Post 291 11:00am
8 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm 	9 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	10 Legion & Auxiliary Executive Meeting 6:30pm	11 \$1.75 Draft 1:00pm Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm	12 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	13 Red Shirt Friday Legion Dinner 5:30pm - 7:30pm Karaoke 6:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	14 Hall Rental Wreaths Across America 12:00pm Flags on Veterans Graves 1:30pm Roadkill Bingo 3:00pm Christmas Parade 5:00pm
15 Combat Vet Meeting 1:00pm Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	16 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	17 General Membership Meeting 6:30pm Christmas Party 7:30pm - 9:30pm 	18 \$1.75 Draft 1:00 PM Honor Guard Meeting 3:00pm	19 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	20 Red Shirt Friday Jr. Christmas Party 6:00pm - 8:00pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	21 Sea Cadets Christmas Party 12:00pm - 5:00pm 
22 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	23 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	24 Christmas Eve Riders Meeting 6:30pm	25 Christmas Day 	26	27 Red Shirt Friday Riders Dinner 5:30pm - 7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	28
29 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	30 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	31 New Year's Eve New Year's Eve Party 5:00pm - 7:00pm 				