

December 2023
American Legion Post 57



2602 SW Main Blvd
Lake City, FL 32025
Americanlegion57@comcast .net



COMMANDERS CORNER



What a busy Month November was
Hopefully everyone had a good Thanksgiving.

Nov 4th, we held a Veterans Appreciation Day at the Domiciliary. We had great turn out and a lot of volunteers, thanks to all who came and helped with this awesome event.

Nov 11th, we had our Veterans Day Flag Ceremony and parade. Thanks to all that helped with Decorating floats and participated in parade.

Nov 15th, we went to Fall Conference, good training.

Here we go into another busy month.

Now for December

Dec 1st Karaoke at 6:30 pm

Dec 2nd Decoration of the Post

Dec 3rd District 3 Meeting post everlasting at post 291 in Steinhatchee , registration at 1pm meeting starts at 2pm.

Dec 8th Christmas decoration of Floats for parade at 4:30pm outback.

Dec 9th Christmas Parade Downtown meet at post at 5pm parade starts at 6pm.

Dec 16th Wreaths across America Downtown Lake City starts at Noon.

Dec 19th Post Christmas Party, potluck please bring a dish to share also Karaoke Christmas songs 7 pm or Right after General Membership meetings.

Dec 24th ,25th and 31st No bingo

Dec 31st New Years Party, with Late for Class at 8 pm, potluck please bring a dish to share.
Red Shirt Friday winners: Lanie, and Penny

Queen of Hearts winners: Charlotte, Terrie Cummings and Tom Willcutts, (hit the big pot), Rusty Brown and Sue Hoffman

We currently have open positions on the executive board, anyone with a current Legion Membership may apply. Please contact any current officer for more information. As always

Volunteers are needed in Bingo, Kitchen and events please take time to volunteer and help with your post.

Thanks for God and Country
Commander
Rick Cabrera

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Jimmy Rushing
Thanks for all you do!



Hello Team,

We finished off October and moved into a busy month of November. Chuck and his team of Volunteers went to the Domiciliary on November 4 and served them lunch. The lunch consisted of ribs, chicken, sides and dessert. They served and talked to the veterans there providing a wonderful time for all. On November 9 Chuck and others joined ALA Unit 57 for a Veteran Pinning Ceremony at Solaris Nursing Home, giving American Flag pins to the veterans that live there. On Veterans Day we supported the Post with the Flag Disposal Ceremony, Veterans Day Parade and cookout. After the cookout Kelly, Gabby, Kim and other went on a ride to Pink Flamingo Diner. The following weekend we had several of us go to Department Fall Conference. As always this is an informative event and we all learned new things to bring back to the Post

family. While we were gone Kelly, Cindee, Gabby, Charlotte, and Ray ran our Roadkill Bingo. Another fun event for those in attendance. Thank you all for what you do.

For December. We have been asked to help take the Christmas Decorations from the garage on December 2 at 9am. The Post Family is participating in the Christmas Day Parade on December 9. We will be decorating the trailer that day and then go straight to the parade from there. We will need volunteers to help decorate the trailer and ride it during the parade. On December 16 is the Wreaths Across America Ceremony. We will be putting the wreaths together starting at 1000 and then be escorted to the ceremony location for the ceremony to start at 1200.

On a final note, as we move into December and are celebrating the holidays, let's remember those who are deployed and can't be home to celebrate. Let us also remember that this can also be a rough time for some here at home. Don't be afraid to help each other out during this time.

Happy Holidays and see you all around the Post,
Michael "Chief" Ziegler



We have been busy this past month with such things as the BBQ with the Legion family at the Domiciliary, Hooked on Vets crocheting lapghans and shawls for our Vets in the Domiciliary and nursing homes, Donna Sessa and "crew" visiting the local nursing homes taking care of our Vets there. Now we are getting ready for the Holidays. First on the agenda is decorating the Post for Christmas. This will take place Saturday, Dec. 2nd at 9 AM. PLEASE come help us. The more we have thee quicker it can get done. Last year we only had 5 people show up. We will be taking care of the kids at the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch in Live Oak for Christmas by donating a \$25 gift card to each child on the Ranch as well as providing board games and card games for each of the cottages that they live in. We are also going in with our Legion family to donate gift cards to each of the residents at the Domiciliary. Irma Wehrli will be making the holidays brighter for the special needs kids at Ft. White MS with pizza and cupcakes. They look

forward to this every year. The annual Wreaths Across America ceremony will take place on Saturday, Dec. 16th at noon at Olustee Park downtown across from the courthouse. This is a very beautiful ceremony honoring our fallen vets. Please try to come. Some of our Juniors and Sea Cadets will be going out singing Christmas Carols this year. They have been asked to carol in some of our nursing homes and the Domiciliary. The Post Christmas party will be held immediately after our very short general membership meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 19th. This is a potluck so please bring something yummy to share. Our next Auxiliary Friday Night dinner will be on Friday December 22nd. New members Nikki and Cheryl will be chairing this dinner. Their planned menu is Rigatoni with meat sauce, salad, garlic bread and dessert for a \$10 donation. Take-outs are also available. The annual New Year's Eve Party will be held Sunday, Dec. 31st at 8 PM in the lounge. This is a potluck event so please bring something to share. The band "Late 4 Class" will be performing live for us. Come ring in the new year with your other family.

For God and Country,
Lisa Dye
President





MEMBERSHIP



Hello Post 57,

As of November 16 we are at 75% of our goal of 703 members. We are off to an awesome start. Let's keep the push going and get our renewals completed. If you also know a veteran who is not a member of the American Legion talk to them about joining. As a reminder our 2023 membership cards expire on December 31, 2023 at 11:59pm. You will need to have your dues renewed prior to that to come into the Canteen on January 1st.

Very Respectfully,
Michael Ziegler



S.A.L SQUADRON 57



Hello S.A.L. Squadron 57 Members

Hope everyone had a safe and bountiful Thanksgiving.

We had another fun filled month of Roadkill and Friday

Night Dinner. I would like to thank Lee, Jim and Liam for helping with Roadkill and also would like to thank Jim, Leland and Vanessa and a big shout out of thanks to Kelly, Seven and Ray for stepping up to help with Friday Night Dinner while a lot of us were at Conference.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday December 2nd @ 7:00 to 9:00 pm Roadkill Bingo

Tuesday December 4th @ 6:30 pm Squadron 57 Meeting

Friday December 8th @ 5:30 pm Friday Night Dinner

It's time to think about paying your 2024 dues before December 31st .

S.A.L. Squadron 57 Commander:
Brian Wolfe



JUNIOR AUXILIARY



November was a fun filled month for the Juniors.

November 10th- We had 5 juniors helping with setting up the float and flags to give out to veterans during the Veterans Day Parade. Thank you for all the help.

November 11th- We had 7 Juniors participate in the Veterans Day Parade, all the juniors rode the float, this was an awesome day for the juniors. We had an awesome turnout for this. Thank you for all the participation from the juniors and parents/guardians. Thank you to all the juniors, y'all did an awesome job. We have an amazing group of juniors.

Here are some upcoming events, we would love to see Juniors there.

- **December 2nd-** The Post is being decorated for Christmas at 9am.
- **December 8th-** This is a Friday, The Post is having floats in the Christmas Parade, which is December 9th. We would like everyone to meet at 4:30 on December 8th to decorate the float.
- **December 9th-** this is the Christmas Parade. We would like to have some juniors ride the float. Wear your Junior Shirt. If you want to ride the float, meet at the Post at 4:30. Parade starts at 6. If you are riding a parent must ride with the Junior.
- **December 16th-** This is Wreaths Across America. This is a wonderful ceremony. It starts Downtown at 12. We would love to see some Juniors there and learn about this event. After this, we will meet at Gateway Forest Lawn to put flags for the veterans.
- **December 19th-** This is the monthly General Membership meeting night. This is also the Post Christmas Party. **This is potluck, bring a dish to share.** We will have a meeting at 6:30, a short meeting, after that there will be the Christmas party.

Hope everyone had a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

#UNIT57JUNIORS

#RINGYOURBELL

#ALAFLJUNIORS

Caitlin Hanechak



MERRY CHRISTMAS

And finally, the rest of the story...

November was a month of change, some good and some definitely bad. We had our first Veteran's Benefit Class on November 8th with 3 veterans in attendance. Slow start but, even if just 1 person shows up and gets the information they need, it's a win for me and that person. Our next class will be scheduled in January after the holidays. We have won our battle with the county by hiring another County Service Officer and moving the current office from Hall of Fame Dr. to a centrally located office on SW McFarlane. We should know soon when they will be relocating, and we will put out that information. This building will also allow space for our legion volunteers to work assisting veterans and in turn, helping the county service officers. A hardy thank you to Commissioner Robby Hollingsworth and County Manager David Kraus for pushing this across the finish line.

FINAL ROLL CALL

This month we lost a long time member of Post 57, Stan Eldridge. He was a member of this post for more than 13 years. Stan was an Army veteran during Vietnam serving "boots on ground". He loved classic cars and was often seen meeting up with his fellow car enthusiasts enjoying their vehicles. He leaves behind his devoted wife of more than 60 years, Sharon. They would have celebrated 61 years later this month. They were both originally from upstate New York relocating to Florida years ago. He loved doing paint and body work on his classic cars. Stan was also a member of the VFW and the Moose Lodge. From Post 57, till Valhalla.