

Monthly Newsletter

AMERICAN LEGION POST 57

February 2025



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

Kitchen Hours:

Sunday, Monday, and Thursday
4:00pm to 8:15pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday
5:00pm to 8:00pm

Email:

americanlegion57@comcast.net

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-

Vacant

-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, a month has come and gone already, time sure flies when we're having fun.

January was quite the ride from sub freezing temperatures, hosting our very own National Commander for dinner, Breakfast with the Chief and other activities here at the post.

Much appreciation to all of our members who continually step up to volunteer for the various functions , you folks are simply amazing members assuring that YOUR Legion post shines with our activities.

We introduced a new event in the lounge on the Saturdays with no Roadkill Bingo call a quarter or paddle auction where everyone has a chance to win. To play is simple, paddles rent for \$3.00 each, play as many as you like. Every time an item comes up for auction it typically costs just 2 quarters per bid (paddle), the paddles bidding have their number drawn with the winning bid taking the prize.

We began this on Jan 18th with a nice turn out, everyone had fun and many prizes were traded back and forth. The game starts at 5pm and runs til 7pm with a break about half way through. We also hold a 50/50 drawing. Nest Game is Feb 1 followed by Feb. 15th so come on out for a great time.

You asked for more activities in the lounge and you have it, this month (February) sees a Superbowl party beginning at 6:00 in the lounge. Your Legion is supplying sliders, hot and mild Italian sausage and bratwursts we ask those attending to bring your favorite dip and chips to share or other sides you think others would enjoy. Football pools are filling fast so come on by and get yours now.

February 14th (Valentine's Day) we are having a dinner of cordon bleu stuffed pork loin, roasted red potatoes and glazed carrots with dessert from 5:30-7:30pm with entertainment provided by the Vintage Trio beginning at 6:30 for your pleasure. Dinner tickets are \$15.00 per person and are available at the bar for advance purchase. We're going to have a great time on this evening.

While it doesn't quite fall in February, mark your Calendars for Saturday, March 1 as YOUR American Legion Riders are hosting their annual Chili Cook off with classic car show from 11:00 til 3pm here at the post. This is always a fun time for all.



Commanders Corner (Cont.)

FEBRUARY CALENDAR AT A GLANCE:

- Every Sunday, Monday and Thursday, Bingo, afternoon at 3:00pm and evening at 6:45 pm with kitchen open from 4:00 til 8:15.
- Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays the kitchen is open from 5:00 - 8:00 for our members.
- Texas-Holdem every Monday and Friday at 7pm in the Family meeting room.
- Saturday February 1st Quarter/Paddle auction from 5-7 in the hall (no kitchen due to hall rental).
- Tuesday February 4th Marine Corps League meeting in the Legion Meeting Room (6:30).
- Tuesday February 4th SAL Meeting in Family meeting Room (6:30).
- Wednesday February 5th Auxiliary Troop Care Packing (1:00 in the hall).
- Friday February 7th Auxiliary Dinner 5:40-7:30 with Karaoke (Dinner 5:30-7-30, DJ 6:40).
- Saturday February 8th Sea Cadet Drill 7:45am - 3 pm (meeting room and lot).
- Saturday February 8th Auxiliary School of instruction in the hall 9:00am-3:00 pm.
- Saturday February 8th SAL Roadkill 4-8 pm in the lounge.
- Saturday February 8th Rotary Club of Lake City Sunrise, Bowling alley 1-3 pm.
- Sunday February 9th Superbowl party in the lounge beginning at 6:00pm.
- Tuesday February 11th Legion/Auxiliary Board meetings (6:30pm).
- February 12-15th Rider's Summit in Orlando.
- Friday February 14th Valentine's day dinner with the Vintage Trio 5:30-7:30.
- Saturday February 15th Quarter/Paddle Auction from 5-7 in the lounge.
- Sunday February 16th District 3 meeting/District 4 Chaplains Service beginning at 2pm Cherry Lake.
- Tuesday February 18th Legion/Auxiliary General Meetings 6:30 pm.
- Wednesday February 19th Honor Guard meeting 3:00 pm.
- Friday February 21st Legion Dinner 5:30-7:30.
- Saturday February 22nd Sea Cadet Drill 7:45 am til 3:00 pm.
- Saturday February 22nd Four Chaplains Service beginning at 7:00 pm.
- Sunday February 23rd North Florida Oratorical Contest 9:00 am.
- Tuesday February 25th Rider's meeting 6:30 pm.
- Wednesday February 26th Domiciliary Bingo 6:00 pm.
- Friday February 28th District 3 Dinner/fundraiser 5:30-7:30 pm.

For God and Country
Bill

Volunteer Spotlight

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH IS

Mary Smith

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU AND ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS DO!



Hello S.A.L. Squadron 57 Members

Hope everyone is having a great New Year!

I would like to thank Lee, Jim, Liam, Kristi, and Leland for all their help with Roadkill Bingo and I would also like to thank Jim, Vanessa, Leland, Don, and Seven for helping with our Friday Night Dinner. All your help made our events a huge success.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday February 4th @ 6:30 p.m. Squadron 57 Meeting

Saturday February 8th @ 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Roadkill Bingo

Friday February 28th @ 5:30 p.m. Dist. 3 Friday Night Dinner

Note: No S.A.L. Friday Night Dinner this month.

Reminder: It's not too late to pay your 2025 dues

S.A.L. Squadron Commander: Brian Wolfe

Honor Guard Volunteers Needed

Interested?

EMAIL: honorguardpost57@gmail.com

TEXT: (386) 984-5756 **

VOICE PHONE THROUGH RELAY: (386) 361-4298 **

**** The commander is deaf and uses text and email for main communications. Voice calls are relayed by an interpreter.**

Thank you for understanding.

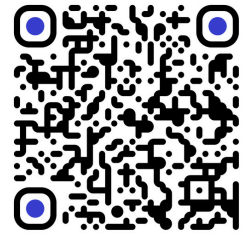




Columbia County Veteran Services Newsletter

February 2025 Edition

Columbia County Veteran Services Office



Scan to go to
Columbia County
Veteran Services

Message from Your Veteran Service Officer, Ronnie Beasley

Dear Veterans,

As we welcome President Donald Trump back to the White House, we are encouraged by the administration's renewed commitment to supporting our nation's veterans. This newsletter highlights recent initiatives and policies designed to enhance the benefits and services available to you.

New Administration's Initiatives Supporting Veterans Reinstatement of Service Members Discharged Over COVID-19 Vaccine Refusal

President Trump has signed an executive order to reinstate over 8,000 service members who were discharged for refusing the COVID-19 vaccine between 2021 and 2023. These individuals will be restored to their previous ranks, receive back pay, and have their benefits reinstated.

What This Means for You:

- If you were discharged under these circumstances, you are eligible for reinstatement and compensation.
- Contact your branch's personnel office or our office for assistance with the reinstatement process.

Appointment of Doug Collins as Secretary of Veterans Affairs

President Trump has nominated former Representative Doug Collins, a Navy veteran and current Air Force Reserve chaplain, to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Collins is committed to enhancing veterans' services and ensuring timely access to benefits.

Anticipated Improvements:

- Streamlining the VA claims process to reduce wait times.
- Expanding healthcare services, including mental health support.
- Implementing programs to address veteran homelessness.

Confirmation of Pete Hegseth as Secretary of Defense

Pete Hegseth, an Iraq and Afghanistan war veteran, has been confirmed as Secretary of Defense. He is dedicated to strengthening military readiness and supporting service members and veterans.

Key Initiatives:

- Enhancing support for veterans transitioning to civilian life.
- Focusing on mental health resources for active-duty personnel and veterans.
- Prioritizing policies that benefit veterans and their families.



County Service Officer (Cont.)

Veteran Spotlight: Honoring Those Who Served

This month, we recognize **Larry Rice**, a dedicated veteran working to establish his service connection for a back injury. His perseverance serves as an example for all veterans navigating the claims process. **Thank you for your service, Larry!**

Want to nominate a veteran for next month's spotlight? Email beasleyr@columbiacountyfl.com.

How We Can Assist You

Our office is here to help you navigate the benefits and services available to veterans. We offer assistance with:

- VA Disability Claims & Appeals
- Healthcare Enrollment
- Education Benefits
- Home Loan Guidance
- Mental Health Resources

Contact Us:

Address: Columbia County Veterans Office, 1486 SW McFarlane Ave 32025

Phone: (386) 758-3350

Email: beasleyr@columbiacountyfl.com

Final Thought

We are optimistic about the positive changes the new administration is implementing for our veterans. If you have any questions or need assistance with your benefits, please reach out to our office. We are here to serve you.

Until next month, stay well and thank you for your service!

Post 57 St. Patrick's Day Party

Saturday March 15th

Starts at 6:00 PM

Menu:

Corned Beef and
Cabbage, Boiled
Potatoes and
Dessert

\$10 Donation



Membership



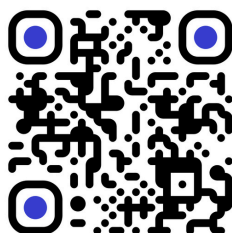
February Membership Newsletter

We are coming to the end of the membership year, we would like to be at 100% by the first of April. In order to do that, WE need your help! If you have not renewed for the 2025 year please go to [Legion.org](https://legion.org) and Renew there from the comfort of your own home. You will need your membership number and your credit/debit card. If you don't know your membership number just give us a holler here at the post and we can get that for you. You are always welcome to down to the post and renew of course. I check the reports daily and I will be sure to get your card out in the next day's mail.

We only need 113 more folks to renew and we are clean and clear!! Thank you all so much for your support of American Legion Programs and for your continued membership here at Post 57!

We would like to extend a hearty WELCOME to our new members for the month of December and January:

Dakota Linder USMC
Russel Lavendar USA
Walter Jenkins Jr USA
Virginia Blevins USA
James Davis USAF
Joe Bebout USA
James Gardner USN
Brittany Jolly USA
Ricky Mills USA
Luis Cuevas USAF
Leonetta Faulkner USA
Thomas Wade USA
Marc Harvey USA
Gerald Lamb USAF
Richard Guignon USAF
Alfred Vinette USMC
Joe Calvet USMC
Pete Menosky USA
Alex Mathe FL USAF/USA
Paul Beatty USAF
Darrell Walker USA
Lonnie Pippins USA
Denny Burkart USA



Scan to go to
www.legion.org



Membership report is as follows:

Warriors Cove Post 421 (Columbia County Correctional Institute) has 23 members, 8 new from last year's 15. They are at 153% of their goal of 15.

American Legion Post 57 We have 77 new members 67 Paid Up for Life (PUFL) 540 renewals and two 400AD (Cyber Post) with 3 pending. Total Paid members for 2025 is 686. We are 85.86% of our goal of 799 members.

Super Bowl Party February 9, 2025 6:00 PM in the Lounge

Menu: Italian Sausage, hot or mild with green peppers and onions Bratwurst and Sliders. Members are asked to bring a variety of sides and dips to share. Please take the time to RSVP if you plan on coming so that we know how much to buy.

You can RSVP using the following link:

<https://mailchi.mp/6452d68f6c78/super-bowl-party-landing-page>

Post 57 Buddy Check Program

On March 15th we will be conducting Buddy Checks at Post 57. We need volunteers to aid in our efforts to reach as many Post 57 members as possible. If you are interested, please email the Post Adjutant at post57adjutant@gmail.com or just show up!

As Legionnaires, our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow veterans. The American Legion National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18 during Spring Meetings in May 2019. The resolution called for "Buddy Checks" to be conducted Legion-wide during the weeks of The American Legion's birthday, March 15, and Veterans Day.

More information about the American Legion Buddy Check Program

In the first four years after The American Legion launched Buddy Checks as an official program, more than 1 million veterans have been reached and assisted

The number of local American Legion posts conducting Buddy Check operations in those first four years has grown from 3,683 to 4,456

Buddy Checks are not membership or fundraising calls; they are simple check-ins with veterans in the community to see how they are doing and to learn if the local post can help with anything

The MyLegion.org web platform contains contact information of American Legion members and former members

The Department of Veterans Affairs launched its own National Buddy Check Week in 2023 and invites involvement from local American Legion posts While Buddy Checks can be conducted year round, American Legion posts are strongly encouraged, by resolution, to make Buddy Check calls during Veterans Week (mid-November) and American Legion Birthday Week (mid-March)

Many American Legion posts have assembled Buddy Check teams that make calls monthly or even more frequently

Buddy Check teams are urged to have at their fingertips a list of local resources available if needed. These may be American Legion service officers, Vet Centers, VA health-care facilities, or others who can help

Veterans may be reminded of the 988 Crisis Line in case they know of someone who needs urgent assistance, or if they need it themselves

Riders

No Submission this Month



Auxiliary News

Congratulations to our Unit for turning 100 years old in January. The Anniversary luncheon was such a success. Everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves and reconnecting with members they haven't seen in years. Lots of thank yous need to go out to our members that put this all together, especially Maryann Dennis who spearheaded this event. Another special thank you to Connie Shumpert for the beautiful centerpieces that she made for us. I know there were many others that helped also but I don't have the full list, but I thank you all.

Auxiliary came out to help serve at "Breakfast with the Chief". Kudos to our 1st Vice Sharon Huggins and her Legion crew that made such a wonderful breakfast.

Unit 57 hosted our annual Americanism Essay Awards ceremony. We awarded certificates, medals, and scholarship money to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each of the grade groups. These kids worked so hard on their essays and it showed. The 1st place winners read their essays to the audience in attendance. Last year we had a National winner, maybe that will happen again.

The USO has contacted us and they are in need once again for troop bags, so we will be packing troop bags on Wednesday, Feb. 5th at 1 PM in the bingo hall. Please come out and help with the packing, enjoy some camaraderie, and help provide snacks to our active military.

Our next Friday night dinner will be on Feb. 7th from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM (or until the food runs out). Donna Sessa and Brenda Morgan will be serving up Pulled Pork, coleslaw, baked beans, and dessert for a \$10 donation. I'm still looking for someone to head up the March 14th dinner, in case you are interested. District 3 Auxiliary will be putting on a School of Instruction (Reports) on Saturday, Feb. 8th, hosted by Unit 57. Registration will start at 9 AM with class beginning at 10 AM. Lunch will be served, compliments of Unit 57 (and Sharon Huggins). The school is very important, especially if you are a program chairman or looking to be one next fiscal year. We will be going thru all the reports for each program and making sure that we get answers to any questions you have. We want District 3 to have 100% reporting this year.

The next District 3 meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb. 16th at Post 224 Cherry Lake. There will be a 4 Chaplains Ceremony prior to the meetings. Registration will begin at 1 PM and the ceremony will start at 2 PM, with meetings to follow. All members are encouraged to attend. Auxiliary usually has a caravan going together so you can carpool if you'd like.

Congratulations to Carolyn Anderson for having her ticket drawn at the January meeting. She will have her 2026 dues paid by the Unit. Each General Membership meeting we draw a ticket for those present at the meeting, and they will win their dues paid for the next year or they can pick from other prizes if they so choose. Come out to the next meeting on Tuesday, February 18th at 6:30 PM, who knows, you too might be a winner.

We are in need of bingo volunteers for both daytime and nighttime on Sunday, Monday, and Thursday. Even if you can just volunteer 1 or 2 days each month that would help tremendously. Please contact me if you are interested.

For God and Country,
Lisa Dye
President, Unit 57



Callers and Volunteers Needed

Sunday, Monday, Thursday

Day Shift: 2:30pm to 6:00pm

Night Shift: 6:30pm to 10:00pm

Benefits include: Tips and half price kitchen

Interested?

Contact Lisa Dye (386) 466-2851

February Canteen Specials

- Monday - [Mimosa Monday](#) - (All Day) \$3.00
- Tuesday - [Tequila](#) - (All Day) well \$2.00 - Top Shelf \$4.00
- Wednesday - [Well Wednesday](#) - (All Day) \$2.00
- Thursday - [Caramel or Blackberry Crown](#) - (All Day) \$4.00
- Friday - [White Russian](#) - (All Day) \$4.00
- Saturday - [Margaritas](#) - (All Day) Well Only \$2.00
- Sunday - [Wine](#) - (All Day) \$2.50





Hello Post 57,

Cold weather has kept most of us indoors this January.

4 Veterans have been helped this month with Gift cards for food, helping with car repairs, water bills, and phone repairs.

Thank you, to anyone who donates to the VSO account, so that these things can be done for our fellow veterans.

Changes to the GI Bill took effect this month. The following article is from the VA website.

Wilmington , DE — The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that — following the 2024 Supreme Court decision — it has updated the process for awarding GI Bill benefits.

This change means that many Veterans who served multiple periods of military service (for example, Veterans who reenlisted) will be eligible for up to an additional 12 months of education benefits.

Under the previous policy, eligible Veterans who served at least two periods of service were limited to a maximum total of 36 months of GI Bill benefits, between the Montgomery GI Bill and the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Under the updated policy, that limitation is removed — meaning that eligible Veterans can now qualify for up to 48 months of total GI Bill benefits.

This policy change also means that many Veterans who were previously limited to 36 months will now be eligible for additional education benefits. Specifically, Veterans who served at least two qualifying periods of service — one that qualified them for the Montgomery GI Bill and a second that qualified them for the Post-9/11 GI Bill — may be eligible to receive up to 12 months of additional GI Bill benefits (bringing them to a total of 48 months). This could impact as many as 1.04 million Veterans and beneficiaries, and VA is launching a targeted outreach campaign to make sure that every Veteran gets the additional benefits they deserve.

Supporting Veterans and their families is a key pillar of President Biden's Unity Agenda for the nation. VA and the entire Biden-Harris Administration are committed to helping Veterans get the high-quality, low-cost education they deserve. In 2024 alone, VA helped more than 900,000 Veterans or their families pay for school and cover expenses while training for a job. "This policy will not only help Veterans who apply for GI Bill benefits in the future — it will also allow VA to provide additional benefits to many Veterans who used GI Bill benefits in the past," said Under Secretary for Benefits Joshua Jacobs. "Every Veteran has earned the right to get a good, affordable education — and under this new policy, many Veterans will get additional 12 months of GI Bill benefits."

Of the 1.04 million Veterans who may potentially be eligible for an additional 12 months of benefits, VA will be able to automatically adjudicate the claims for approximately 660,000 without any further action required on their part. For all remaining Veterans, VA will be reaching out to them directly to encourage them to file a claim. As a part of this policy, VA is also extending the expiration dates for using GI Bill benefits for eligible Veterans. For each Veteran with multiple periods of service who chose the Post-9/11 GI Bill over the Montgomery GI Bill, VA will reinstate the time they had remaining at the time of their election plus 90 days. For example, if a Veteran chose to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill at a time when they had 5 years left to use the Montgomery GI Bill, they would be given 5 years plus 90 days to use any additional Montgomery GI Bill benefits. To receive an expiration date extension, applications must be submitted by October 1, 2030. Since its inception, the Post-9/11 GI Bill has paid over \$143 billion to over 2.7 million beneficiaries. The GI Bill has long been used as a recruiting and retention tool for the military. It has enabled Veterans and service members — as well as their eligible dependents, through the Department of Defense Transfer of Education Benefits program — to train and attend school while greatly reducing their out-of-pocket costs.

Lisa G Brown
Post Veteran Service Officer
Post 57, Lake City Florida

LIBERTY DIVISION, USNSCC

HONOR. RESPECT. COMMITMENT. SERVICE.

Building Leaders of America!



SCAN ME



Liberty Division



Lake City, FL

SCAN ME



WHO: YOUTH AGE 10-18

**WHERE: AMERICAN LEGION,
2602 SW MAIN BLVD, LAKE
CITY, FL 32025**

**WHEN: AUGUST - MAY,
TWO SATURDAYS A MONTH,
8AM-3PM**

**CONTACT US: TEXT OR CALL
(303) 725-3889**



February



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Hall Rental 7:00am Quarter Paddle Auction 5:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
2 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	3 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	4 Marine Corps League Meeting 6:30pm SAL Squadron 57 Meeting 6:30pm	5 \$1.75 Draft 1:00pm Troop Care Package Packing 1:00pm	6 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm 	7 Red Shirt Friday Auxiliary Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Karaoke w/Tom Daniels 6:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	8 Sea Cadet Drill 7:45am-3:00pm Auxiliary School of Instruction 9:00am-3:00pm Bowling Tournament 1:00-3:00pm SAL Roadkill Bingo 4:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
9 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Super Bowl Party 6:00pm 	10 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	11 Legion & Auxiliary Executive Meeting 6:30pm	12 Riders Summit \$1.75 Draft 1:00 PM Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm	13 Riders Summit Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	14  Riders Summit Red Shirt Friday Valentine's Day Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Vintage Trio Band 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	15 Riders Summit Quarter Paddle Auction 5:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
16 District 3 Meeting 2:00pm-3:00pm District 3 Four Chaplains 2:00pm Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	17 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	18 General Membership Meeting 6:30pm	19 \$1.75 Draft 1:00 PM Honor Guard Meeting 3:00pm	20 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	21 Red Shirt Friday Legion Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	22 Sea Cadet Drill 7:45am-3:00pm Queen or Hearts 6:00pm Riders Roadkill Bingo 6:00pm 4 Chaplains Ceremony 7:00pm
23 North Florida Oratorical Contest 9:00am Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	24 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	25 Riders Meeting 6:30pm	26 \$1.75 Draft 1:00 PM Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm	27 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	28 Red Shirt Friday District 3 Dinner & Fundraiser 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	