

Monthly Newsletter

AMERICAN LEGION POST 57

◆
June 2025



Post Info

American Legion
Post 57

Address:

2602 SW Main Blvd
Lake City FL 32025

Phone:

(386) 752-7776

Hours:

Mon to Sun
11:00am to 10:00pm

Kitchen Hours:
- Lunch -

Tuesday Thru Saturday
11:00am to 1:00pm

- Dinner -

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

Email & Website:

americanlegion57@comcast.net
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-

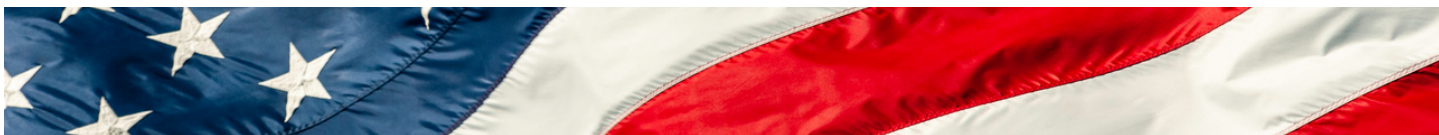
Robert Preston

-Judge Advocate-

Dave Mangrum

-Service Officer-

Lisa Brown



Commanders Corner

COMMANDER'S CORNER, June 2025

Very productive month of May.

May was such a great month, you should all be proud of everything that was accomplished this month. We initiated the Paddle auctions of the Saturdays where Roadkill Bingo (SAL or Rider's) isn't held to see that we have some type of activity in the lounge every Saturday. This has turned out to be a very fun event with everyone who participates having a great time.

Tuesday, May 20 saw the American Legion holding our elections for the 2025/2026 Officers. Congratulations to all the incoming Officers:

Commander:	William (Bill) Huggins
First Vice:	Kelly Valliere
Second Vice:	Terry Libbert
Third Vice:	Harrison Ambrose
Fourth Vice:	Matthew Knight
Finance Officer:	Andrew Framer
Chaplain:	William (Bill) Bell
Historian:	Thomas Wilcutts
Sgt at Arms:	Matthew Fetzer
Exec. Committee:	Ken Burkes
	Robert Preston
	Tony Nolan
	George Wehrli

As YOUR elected representatives we are here to listen to you as to the direction we wish to see the post to grow and prosper.

Monday, May 26th, 2025 we held our Memorial Day Observance to include a Post Everlasting for members of our post we lost over the past year and a Dignified Flag Disposal.

The event went off without a hitch thanks to over 25 volunteers who stepped up to prepare, set up, serve and clean up afterwards. Our volunteers are rocking it this year and making things happen.

During the event members and guests were served hot dogs, hamburgers, bratwursts and sides and fed over 125 members and guests.

As always we are trying to show our appreciation for everyone that helps get everything happening, from our paid employees but most especially all the volunteers who throughout the year work together to continue improving our post experience.

We will be holding an employee/volunteer appreciation dinner on June 21st. Dinner will be catered so that all our employees and volunteers can enjoy their time. Dave and Vicky Treziak will be providing the entertainment in the hall.

Commanders Corner (Cont.)

CONGRATULATIONS! We made over 100% in our membership, job well done to all involved.

Bingo every Sunday, Monday and Thursday, afternoon at 3:00 and evening at 6:45pm

Queen of Hearts drawing every Saturday at 6:00 in the lounge.

The kitchen is open every Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday to have food available for our members and guests from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm.

Queen of Hearts drawing every Saturday at 6:00 pm

The Post now opens at 11:00 am daily with lunch served Tuesday thru Saturday from 11:00 TIL 1:00 PM

Every Wednesday, Draft beer \$1.75

Texas Hold-em every Monday and Friday at 7:00 pm in the family meeting room.

Sunday	June 1	Juniors Meeting	3:30-5:30pm
Tuesday	June 3	Marine Corps League/SAL Meeting	6:30pm
Friday	June 6	Sea Cadet Friday Dinner/Karaoke	5:30-7:30pm
Saturday	June 7	Paddle Auction	5:00-7:00pm
Tuesday	June 10	Legion/Auxiliary Board Meeting	6:30pm
Wednesday	June 11	Flagpole Beatification/Sr. Services	5:30-6:30pm
Wednesday	June 11	Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary)	6:00-7:30pm
Friday-Sunday	June 11-15	Department Convention	
Friday	June 13	Legion Friday Dinner	5:30-7:30pm
Sunday	June 15	Juniors Meeting	3:30-5:30pm
Tuesday	June 17	Legion/Auxiliary General Meeting	6:30pm
Friday	June 20	Auxiliary Dinner	5:30-7:30pm
Saturday	June 21	Employee/Volunteer Dinner	5:30pm
Tuesday	June 24	Rider's Meeting	6:30pm
Wednesday	June 25	Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary)	6:00-7:30pm
Friday	June 27	SAL Dinner	5:30-7:30pm

Kitchen Volunteers Needed

All Shifts

Benefits include: Tips and half price kitchen

Interested?

Contact Sharon Huggins (386) 984-9568



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 David Demars (386) 288-9530



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.



June Membership Newsletter

Ending numbers for May won't be tallied and completed as of the writing of this newsletter, but it will be very close to what I'm going to give you today.

133 New Members, 612 Renewals, 77% Retention, 819 total members, We are at 102.50% of Goal with 11 members in process (transmittals) which should put us at almost 104% by Department Convention in June.

Well Done Post 57!! Thank you to all our members who have been actively recruiting to our post!

Welcome to our New Members!!!

Edward Callahan USN,

Ray Decant USN WWII

Jessica Booth USN

Jim Willems, USA

Harvey Strubell USA

Robert Richards USA/USMC

Donald Cardwell USN

Delbert Jayne USN

Christian Fletcher USMC

Timothy Lynch USA

Joan Gilbertson USA

Mickey Collins USA

Darin Webb USN

Michael Wiedinger USA

Anthony Dunaway USMC

Jerry Rexford, USN Trf FL0090

Dawn Milford USA

Buddy Check Program

We consider it our most sacred responsibility to look out for each other and our fellow veterans. Since May 2019, by way of an organization-wide Resolution, Legionnaires conduct Buddy Checks during the weeks of The American Legion's birthday, March 15, and Veterans Day. Legion posts also perform this vital function whenever it makes the most sense in their communities.

Buddy Checks are something your membership team does all year, every single day. We check in on all our members; current and past, to see if there is anything we can do for them. We provide our members with local resources, businesses, and community programs to assist them in many different ways. If you are interested in learning more about Buddy Checks you can click the link below:

<https://www.floridalegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Buddy-Check-Program.pdf>

Membership (Cont.)

Committees

We will also be forming committees in the near future. If you have an interest in serving your post as an advisor or trouble shooter we welcome you! We invite anyone from the Legion Auxiliary and Sons to sit on these committees to foster communication and teamwork. We have many family members who serve our community and have expertise that we can use to help better our post outreach to the community.

Finance Committee (overseeing post expenditures, identifying areas that need more explanation and oversight), This one is Legionnaires (Veterans) ONLY Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA and VSO liaison, identifying individuals at the VA who want to give classes),

House Committee (detecting issues with the building, possible upgrades, setting up work parties for cleaning and repairs),

Entertainment Committee (functions in the lounge, bands, entertainers, games, Super Bowl, Valentines Day, etc.)

Americanism/National Defense Committee (First Responder liaison, National Guard & Military Recruiter liaison, flag etiquette, National Veteran Holidays)

Children and Youth (partnering with the Legion Families for activities, fundraising, reaching the elementary, middle and high schools of Columbia County, Sea Cadets and ROTC and Sons and Auxiliary Jr. Programs Girls and Boys State)

Membership Committee (Buddy Checks, Social Media, identifying ways to get involved in the community, attending local functions to spread the word about what we do, New member initiation)

As always we are looking for cashiers and food runners for both the lunch and dinner shifts in the kitchen. Lunch is from 11am to 1pm Dinner Sunday, Monday, and Thursday 4pm to 8:30pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 5pm to 8pm. We are also looking for callers, runners and cashiers for Bingo. David Demars is the Chairman if interested I will provide him with your information. You can reach out to him at 386-288-9530.

If serving on any of these committees or volunteering for Buddy Check, in the Kitchen or Bingo appeal to you please feel free to reach out to me at: post57membership@gmail.com

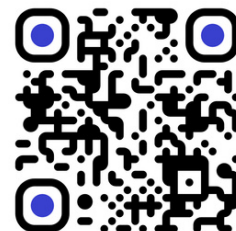
Once again thank you all for your trust in me as your First Vice Commander, it is a great honor to serve you.

For God, Country and Community,
Kelly Valliere, First Vice Commander



Junior Activities Program

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57 Juniors meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday from 3:00pm to 5:30pm. For more information contact Kay Peterson at alaux57@gmail.com.



Scan to go to
www.legion.org

Post Service Officer

Hello Post 57,

June is upon us, Happy Father's Day to all the Dads.

Senior serves is an important part of getting older, many Veteran think that none are available to them.

Disabled veterans can receive home care under certain conditions:

If they need nursing home care due to a service-connected disability.

If they have a combined disability rating of 70% or more.

If they have a disability rating of at least 60% and are deemed unemployable.

If they have been rated permanently and totally disabled.

If they have a 100% rating for a single permanent disability.

If they have a significant limitation due to disability severity.

If they are eligible for VA long-term care benefits.

If they are eligible for Veterans Affairs Life Insurance.

Columbia County also offer Senior Care through the Lifestyle Enrichment Center located at 628 S.E Allison Court, Lake City, Florida 32025. You can also call them at Phone: 386-755-0235. They offer many services meals, transport, art and crafts, home care, they even have a Day program for Alzheimer's. All Seniors in Columbia County are Eligible.

If you have any questions please reach out.

Thank you to all who donate to the VSO, this past month we helped 5 Veterans.

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

Volunteer Spotlight

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH IS

BARBARA RAMOS

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU AND ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS DO!



Auxiliary News



AUXILIARY NEWS

As our fiscal year comes to a close, I want to thank each and every one of our members for a very memorable year. It has been my honor to serve you and our veterans as your Auxiliary President for the past 3 years. I'm not going away. I will still be active in our Unit but I will be moving up a rung in the ladder and will be serving as your District President for the next year. I hope you will give your support to our new executive committee that was voted in at the May meeting.

President – Donna Sessa

2nd Vice President – Connie Shumpert

Secretary – Colleen Preston

Chaplain – Gwen Mathis

Historian – Krista Lorenzo

1st Vice President – Sharon Huggins

3rd Vice President – Maryann Dennis

Treasurer – Judy Morelan

Sgt-At-Arms – Penny Weber

Executive Committee – Niki Patterson
Kay Peterson

Karen Kraszewski

Installation of Officers will take place on Wednesday, July 2 at 6:30 PM in the bingo hall. All members of the Executive Committee must pay their 2026 dues prior to being installed. Dues will remain at \$45.00.

A few of us will be taking off for Department Convention from June 12-15. Hopefully coming back with new found knowledge and lots of ideas for the coming year.

Girls State is also in June. We will be sending off 4 young ladies to Tallahassee for a great adventure. The send-off will begin with breakfast at Cracker Barrel on June 19th at 10 AM. Anyone wishing to join in on the send-off is welcome to do so. Our Unit will pay for the girls and their parent's breakfast. If you are coming, you will be responsible for your own breakfast.

Our Auxiliary Friday Night Dinner on June 20th (5:30 PM to 7:30PM) will be hosted by one of our new members (new to our Post anyway), Eva Mills. Eva's menu will consist of Chicken and Waffles, Fruit Cup, and Dessert for a \$10 donation. If you can't stay to eat, please feel free to do take-out.

Department Workshop will be held on July 25 & 26 at the Hilton in Altamonte Springs. This is where you learn about all the programs that Auxiliary has, along with some great ideas from the new program Chairmen. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, go to the Department website at www.alafl.org and under "Events", click on Workshop.

Thank you to the Legion for allowing us to keep our 100th Anniversary banner flying proud in the bingo hall along with lots of pictures of the great work our unit has done of those 100 years. If you haven't seen them yet, come in and take a peek. Who knows, you might be on that wall.

For God and Country,

Lisa Dye

President – Unit 57 Lake City



Columbia County Veteran Services Newsletter

June 2025 Veterans Newsletter
Columbia County Veteran Services Office



Scan to go to
Columbia County
Veteran Services

Message from Your Veteran Service Officer, Ronnie Beasley

As the Florida summer heats up so does our commitment to making sure every veteran and their family gets the support they have earned. This month we are putting a spotlight on veteran caregiving in home support and housing adaptation benefits that can drastically improve quality of life for veterans facing health challenges.

VA Family Caregiver Program Caring for the Caregivers

If you are a veteran who needs help with daily living or if you are a spouse child or loved one providing that help the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers could be a life changer.

What It Offers

- A monthly stipend for the caregiver
- Access to health care for the caregiver through CHAMPVA
- Respite care and mental health counseling
- Ongoing training and support for caregivers

Eligibility Tip This program is available for veterans who sustained a serious injury including mental health injuries in the line of duty and require personal care services. Veterans from all eras of service are now eligible thanks to PACT Act expansions.

If you are caring for a veteran or know someone who is we can help you apply. This program honors the home front heroes who serve behind the scenes.

Aid and Attendance Additional Monthly Compensation for Those in Need

If you are a veteran or the surviving spouse of one who needs help with daily activities like dressing bathing or meal preparation VA Aid and Attendance could add hundreds of dollars to your monthly pension.



County Service Officer (Cont.)

Who Qualifies

- Veterans age 65 or older who are permanently and totally disabled
- Those receiving a VA pension who require assistance with daily activities
- Residents of nursing homes or assisted living facilities
- Individuals with limited eyesight

This benefit can be a lifeline especially for those struggling with long term care costs. If you are not sure whether you qualify contact our office for a one on one review.

Specially Adapted Housing SAH Grants Build Your Independence

The SAH and SHA Special Home Adaptation grants are designed for veterans with service connected disabilities who need modifications to their homes for safer more independent living.

What These Grants Can Help With

- Constructing an accessible home from the ground up
- Modifying an existing home for wheelchair access
- Installing features like ramps widened doors and roll in showers
- Remodeling a family member s home where the veteran resides

New in 2025 Veterans can reuse their grant benefit if they move or need further adaptations up to the maximum lifetime award.

If you are dealing with limited mobility or a major physical impairment due to your service do not wait to apply. These funds are available because you earned them.

Office Reminders

- Need help filing Schedule an appointment Walk ins welcome on Wednesdays - If you have had a VA claim denied bring your letter We will review it together - We also assist with dependency updates DIC claims and burial benefits

Final Thoughts

Whether you served in World War Two Vietnam Iraq or Afghanistan your service matters. Let us help ensure your benefits reflect that. Whether you need a ramp a break or a check there is a program for that and we are here to help.

Thank you for your service and for allowing us to serve you in return.

Respectfully,

Ronnie Beasley

County Veteran Service Officer

1486 SW McFarlane Ave, Lake City, FL

(386) 758-3350 | (386) 243-8364

rbeasley@columbiacountyfla.com



June



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Auxiliary Junior Meeting 3:00pm	2 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	3 SAL Squadron 57 Meeting 6:30pm Marine Corps League Meeting 6:30pm	4 \$1.75 Draft 11:00am Pool Sharp Shooters 7:00pm 	5 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	6 D Day Red Shirt Friday Sea Cadets Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Karaoke 6:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	7 Quarter Paddle Auction 5:00pm-7:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
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 11:00am Flagpole Beautification Project 5:30pm-6:30pm Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm-7:00pm	12 Women Veterans Recognition Day American Legion Convention Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	13 Red Shirt Friday Legion Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm American Legion Convention Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	14 US Army Birthday (1775) Flag Day American Legion Convention SAL Roadkill Bingo 3:00pm-5:00pm Hall Rental Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
15 Boys State American Legion Convention Auxiliary Junior Meeting 3:00pm Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	16 Boys State Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	17 Boys State Legion & Auxiliary General Membership Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm	18 Boys State \$1.75 Draft 11:00am	19 Boys State Girls State Send Off @ Cracker Barrel 10:00am Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	20 Boys State Red Shirt Friday Auxiliary Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	21 Boys State Quarter Paddle Auction 5:00pm-7:00pm Volunteer and Employee Award Dinner 5:30pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
22 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	23 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	24 Riders Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm 	25 \$1.75 Draft 1:00 PM Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm-7:00pm Pool - Sharp Shooters 7:00pm	26 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	27 Red Shirt Friday SAL Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	28 Hall Rental Queen of Hearts 6:00pm Riders Roadkill Bingo 6:00pm-8:00pm
29 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	30 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm					

