

Monthly Newsletter

AMERICAN LEGION POST 57

◆
March 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

Welcome to March 2025, it's hard to believe that this year is nearly over..

As we come into March some points we need to be aware of, first elections are coming up for the entire American Legion Family.

Nominations for the Legion open in March, if you want to run for the Executive Committee, please contact one of the following:

David Mangrum

Lisa Brown

Jason Massey

John (JP) Paul or

Albert Johns

While most of the current Board Members have indicated they wish to remain on the board, keep in mind that any and every seat can be challenged so please feel free to run.

That being said, I want all to know that I do plan on running for a second term as YOUR Commander. I feel that YOUR board with your help have accomplished a lot this year.

The kitchen has had a major upgrade, media for event notifications have been vastly improved as has communication to our members by the newsletter going out to all members of the American Legion Family, we've began opening the Kitchen on the off nights from 5-8pm (Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday), our post was named one of two disaster relief posts within 3rd District resulting in the purchase of a storage trailer, installed a gaming system for the entertainment of our younger Veterans and families and more. We also had several other firsts in that on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas day, we opened the post and provided a traditional dinner by donation only, geared to our members lacking family support and had an amazing Veterans day celebration, all three were attended by over 120 members and guests.

We continue to listen to you, our members for suggestions and ideas as to how we can improve our member experience, to that end look forward to another change in March, YOUR Executive Board has approved going back to pre-covid times and opening the post seven days a week and opening the kitchen from 11:00 am til 1:00 pm (Tuesday - Saturday) so members and guests can enjoy a mid-day meal.

Stay tuned in March as we will celebrate St. Patrick's day in the Lounge on Saturday, March 15th and serve up a tradition Irish dinner of corned beef and cabbage, boiled potatoes and dessert from 5:30-7:30 for a meer \$10.00 donation and we'll have Dave and Vicky Trezak playing for your dinning pleasure beginning at 6:30 pm.

MEMBERSHIP: We are so close to hitting our 100% membership goal, please, if you haven't renewed, please contact Kelly ASAP and help us hit our number.

Commanders Corner (Cont.)

MARCH CALENDAR AT A GLANCE:

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.

Beginning Tuesday, March 11th the post will begin opening at 11:00 every day of the week with the kitchen open Tuesday - Saturday from 11:00 am 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.

Saturday	March 1	Rider's Chili cook off/ Classic Car show from 11:00- 3 pm
Saturday	March 1	Paddle/Quarter Auction in the lounge from 5-7pm
Sunday	March 2	Auxiliary Junior meeting from 3-5:30 in the Family Room
Tuesday	March 4	Marine Corp League/SAL meeting from 6:30- 8:00 pm
Friday	March 7	Sea Cadet Dinner from 5:30-7:30/ Red Shirt Friday Karaoke
Saturday	March 8	Sea Cadet Drill from 7:00 am until 5:00 pm
Saturday	March 8	SAL Roadkill in the lounge from 4:00 til 6:00 in the lounge
Tuesday	March 11	Legion/Auxiliary Executive Board Meeting 6:30
Wednesday	March 12	Auxiliary Bingo at the Domiciliary from 6:00 til 7:30
Friday	March 14	Auxiliary Dinner from 5:30-7:30 / Red Shirt Friday
Saturday	March 15	Buddy Checks from 1:00-3:00 pm (Volunteers needed)
Saturday	March 15	St. Patrick's Day dinner 5:30-7:30 band starting at 6:30
Sunday	March 16	Auxiliary Junior meeting from 3:00-5:30
Tuesday	March 18	Legion/Auxiliary meeting beginning at 6:30 (nominations open)
Wednesday	March 19	Honor Guard meeting
Friday	March 21	Rider's Dinner from 5:30 til 7:30
Saturday	March 22	Rider's Roadkill from 6-8 PM
Tuesday	March 25	Rider's meeting (Nominations open for 2025/2026)
Friday	March 28	SAL Dinner 5:30- 7:30 pm
Saturday	March 29	Auxiliary Children and youth Activities
Saturday	March 29	Sea Cadet Drill 7:45 am til 3:00 pm

Volunteer Spotlight

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH IS

Gordon Smith

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU AND ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS DO!

VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED

Hello Squadron 57 Members

It's been another busy month of February!

I would like to thank Jim, Lee, Leland, Liam, and Bailey-Jo for all their help with Roadkill Bingo. I would also like to thank everyone that stopped by to play. All your help made our efforts a huge success.

Upcoming Events:

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

Saturday March 8th @ 3 to 5 pm Roadkill Bingo

Friday March 28th @ 5:30 pm Friday Night Dinner

March is the start of Officer Nominations. If you are interested in any positions, please come to our meetings.

Squadron 57 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.

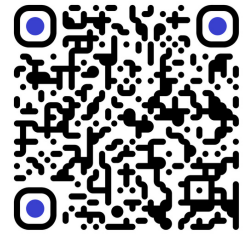




Columbia County Veteran Services Newsletter

March 2025 Edition

Columbia County Veteran Services Office



Scan to go to
Columbia County
Veteran Services

Message from Your Veteran Service Officer, Ronnie Beasley

Hello Veterans and Families,

As we welcome the month of March, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued trust and support. Serving as your **Columbia County Veteran Service Officer** is both an honor and a privilege. Our mission remains steadfast: to ensure that every veteran and their family receives the benefits and support they rightfully deserve.

This month, we are focusing on several critical areas, including enhancing disability claims, exploring secondary conditions, and providing resources to support your well-being. Our office is here to guide you every step of the way.

Success Stories and Impact

We are proud to highlight the positive impact our office has made in the veteran community. Over the past few months, we've assisted numerous veterans in increasing their VA disability ratings, which has significantly improved their financial stability.

Financial Impact of Increased VA Disability Ratings

Our continued advocacy and dedicated support have resulted in increased compensation for veterans, contributing positively to the local economy. We remain committed to empowering our veteran community by maximizing the benefits they deserve.

Ongoing Claims and Assistance

Here are some of the ongoing cases our office is diligently working on:

- **Larry:** Service connection for a back injury and bilateral hearing loss.
- **Daniel:** Discharge upgrade request to honorable.
- **Kevin:** Service connection for hypertension.
- **David:** Compensation claim for rhinitis.
- **William:** Service connection for right knee strain secondary to left knee degenerative joint disease.

If you are facing similar challenges or need help with your claims, don't hesitate to reach out. Our team is ready to assist you in navigating the VA system.



County Service Officer (Cont.)

Spotlight on Secondary Conditions

This month, we are raising awareness about secondary conditions related to service-connected disabilities. For example, we are actively exploring claims related to:

- **Residuals of Head Injury:** Including tremors and conditions resembling Parkinsonian symptoms.
- **Secondary Conditions Related to Prostate Cancer:** It's important to understand how these conditions impact overall health and VA compensation.

If you believe you may have a secondary condition related to your service-connected disability, reach out to our office for a thorough evaluation and guidance.

Resources and Support

- **Mental Health and Wellness:** We understand the importance of mental health in the well-being of our veterans. This month, we are collaborating with local organizations to provide access to counseling services, mental health workshops, and wellness programs.
- **Educational and Career Opportunities:** Are you considering a new career path or seeking educational opportunities? We can guide you through the process of utilizing your GI Bill benefits, vocational rehabilitation, and job placement programs.
- **Community Connection Events:** We believe in building a strong veteran community. Stay tuned for upcoming community events where you can connect with fellow veterans, share experiences, and build lasting friendships.

If you need help accessing any of these resources, please reach out to our office for personalized assistance.

Community Outreach and Updates

- **Veteran Support Groups:** We are working to establish veteran support groups in the community, offering a safe space to share experiences, provide mutual support, and build strong connections.
- **Community Partnerships:** We are actively building partnerships with local organizations and businesses to expand resources available to veterans and their families. If you know of a business or organization that would like to collaborate, let us know!

Contact Us

Our office is here to serve you. Whether you need help with claims, navigating benefits, or exploring new opportunities, don't hesitate to reach out.

Columbia County Veteran Service Office
Phone: **386-758-3350**
Email: **rbeasley@columbiacountyfla.com**
Website: **Columbia County Veteran Services**

Thank you for your service and sacrifice. This March, let's continue to support each other and grow stronger as a community. With gratitude,

Ronnie Beasley
Columbia County Veteran Service Officer

Membership



March Membership Newsletter

Membership was busy in February! We were able to recruit 9 new members and 11 transfers from other posts.

Welcome to Post 57

Marc Harvey
Leonetta Faulkner
Matthew Saylor
Matthew Collier
Matthew Knight
Walter Jenkins
Ricky Mills
Michael Heppner
Denny Burkhardt
Roy Brewer
Pete Hendrick
Gene Tyre
William Spencer
David Hinn
Joe Bebout
Timothy Wood
Steve Scott
Karen Scott
David Gross
Edgar Waldron

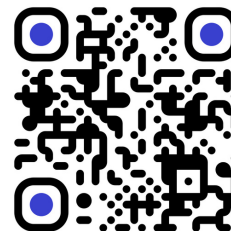
Please get those renewals in you can go to legion.org, with your credit or debit card, and your member # and pay National directly and we will get the notification the next day. You can now pay at the post with your credit for membership, and Red Friday T-Shirts. You are, as always, welcome to pay by cash or check at the post, so come down and see our membership team! We can't wait to meet you!

We want to thank all of you who bring your friends and family into our post. We are so appreciative of the attendance and the camaraderie we get to share with all of you! Thank you all so much for your support for all the new functions and events we've been able to bring to you this year. We are so very grateful for all our volunteers, and we may not thank you as often as we should, just know that without you none of the amazing events would have been possible without your selfless dedication to making Post 57 successful this year.

Our employees are amazing, from bookkeeping, to the Kitchen and Bar Staff, and especially to our Janitors who come and clean up the mess afterwards. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve you.

For God and Country,

Kelly Valliere, First Vice Commander, Membership Chair



Scan to go to
www.legion.org

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

AUXILIARY NEWS

February was busy with our District 3 Reports Class hosted by Unit 57. We also packed more troop care packages.

Well we will be at it again in March. Packing Troop care packages on Wednesday, March 12th at 1 PM. Please come out to help. Judy Morelan is arranging for us to meet some of the troops that are recipients of our little packages.

We are going to take the lady veterans from the Domiciliary out to lunch this month on Wednesday March 19th at 11 AM at Cedar River on US 90 in Lake City. Everyone is welcome to attend. Just remember you are responsible for the cost of your own meal.

Our next Auxiliary dinner will be Friday, March 14th from 5:30 to 7:30 or until the food runs out. Judy Morelan and her daughter T will be serving up a delicious meal for a donation of \$10.00.

If you are a program chairman and are responsible for year end reports, we will be meeting on Saturday, March 15th at 10 AM in the Auxiliary Room to work on those reports together. Please make sure you are there. Year end reports are due to District by April 1st .

The next District meeting will be on Saturday, March 29th at Post 83 MacClenny. I believe the start time is 11 AM. This is also the annual District 3 picnic.

Just a reminder that elections are coming up soon, in May. If you wish to hold an office on the Executive Committee, please contact Brenda Morgan, the chairman of the Nominating Committee.

For God and Country,
Lisa Dye
President – Unit 57



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.





March



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Riders Chili Cookoff & Car Show 11:00am-3:00pm Quarter Paddle Auction 5:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
2 Auxiliary Junior Meeting 3:00pm 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	6 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm 	7 Red Shirt Friday Sea Cadet Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Karaoke 6:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	8 Sea Cadet Drill 7:45am-3:00pm SAL Roadkill Bingo 4:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
9 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	10 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	11 Legion & Auxiliary Executive Meeting 6:30pm	12 \$1.75 Draft 1:00 PM Troop Care Package Packing 1:00pm Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm	13 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	14 Red Shirt Friday Auxiliary Dinner 5:30-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	15 Auxiliary Reports Meeting 10:00am Buddy Checks 1:00pm St. Patrick's Day Party 5:30pm Band - Dave and Vicky Trezak 6:30pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
16 Auxiliary Junior Meeting 3:00pm Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	17 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	18 Legion & Auxiliary General Membership Meeting 6:30pm	19  St. Patrick's Day Auxiliary Domiciliary Lunch 11:00am \$1.75 Draft 1:00 PM Honor Guard Meeting 3:00pm	20 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	21 Red Shirt Friday Riders Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	22 Queen of Hearts 6:00pm Riders Roadkill Bingo 6:00pm
23 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 SAL Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	29 Sea Cadet Drill 7:45am-3:00pm Auxiliary Children & Youth Activities District 3 Meeting & Picnic @ Post 83 11:00am Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
30 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	31 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm					