

Monthly Newsletter

AMERICAN LEGION POST 57

October 2026



Post Info

Address:

2602 SW Main Blvd
Lake City FL 32025

Phone:

Post: (386) 752-7776

Membership Office: (386) 243-8088

Hours:

Sunday Thru Thursday

11:00am to 10:00pm

Friday and Saturday

11:00am to 11:00pm

Kitchen Hours:

- Lunch -

Monday Thru Friday

11:00am to 1:00pm

- Dinner -

Saturday Thru Thursday

4:00pm to 8:00pm

Fridays

5:30pm to 7:30pm

Kitchen Phone:

(386) 752-7260

Email:

americanlegion57@comcast.net

Website:

www.americanlegion57.org



Post Officers

-Commander-

Bill Huggins

-1st Vice Commander-

Kelly Valliere

-2nd Vice Commander-

Terry Libbert

-3rd Vice Commander-

William Bell

-4th Vice Commander-

Kelly Luker

-Finance Officer-

Rick Harris

-Adjutant-

Jason Massey

-Chaplain-

Robert Charles

-Historian-

Thomas Wilcutts

-Sergeant at Arms-

Matthew Fetzer

-Executive Committeeman-

George Wehrli

-Executive Committeeman-

Jackson Koon

-Executive Committeeman-

Dan Higgins

-Executive Committeeman-

Robert Preston

-Judge Advocate-

Dave Mangrum

-Service Officer-

Mike Poreda

Mike Williams



Commanders Corner

Wow, October and fall are finally here and things are ramping up quickly for a very busy time of year so check your calendars to be sure you don't miss a thing,

This past Saturday, the Sons hosted their family picnic with hot dogs, hamburgers and sides, a classic car show, band and membership drive and blood mobile and face painting for the kids.

The day was absolutely stunning from a weather stand-point, while the crowd wasn't as large as we had hoped, everyone had a blast.

Kudos to Bill Bell and the Sons for hosting a very well organized event and looking forward to many more.

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is meeting here every Thursday at 6:30 PM and they are slowly gaining traction, If you have a desire to mentor youth in this program or have a child or grandchild who might be interested you are encouraged to attend to learn more.

The Son's Road-kill has been moved to the first Saturday of October due to a conflict the following week-end. Please come out and support our Sons for this endeavor. The Paddle auction for this date has been cancelled.

Saturday we have an amazing pair of events, 1st, from 4:30-6:30 PM the kitchen is serving up a delicious special meal of Prime Rib with roasted red potatoes, veggie and dessert for only \$15.00. Following the dinner, I hope you have your tickets for a night of clean comedy with KILLER BEAZ, a comedian who has appeared at the Grand-Ole Opry and starred on the Discovery Channel's series Moonshiners.

Wednesday, 10/14 the family will be hosting a Veteran's resource fair from 9:00 am until 3:00 in the hall. Many Vendors will be here to provide resources for our Veterans whether members or not, all volunteers are appreciated, if you're available to help reach out to Kelly and let her know.

The kitchen will be serving a taco bar to attendees. The menu for lunch is a taco bar complete with rice and beans.

Saturday, October 17 is the date for all who joined and or renewed early for the Early Bird Dinner from 5:30-7:30 in the Hall. The menu for the dinner is Chicken Marsala, Garlic Mashed potatoes, Caesar salad and dessert. After the dinner we'll migrate to the lounge for a night of entertainment by the Stone Jones band.

Wednesday, Oct. 21st is our bi-annual First Responder's luncheon from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm in honor of all those who continue to serve 24/7/365. Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, Corrections, etc..... All are welcome. The lunch menu is Pulled Pork sandwich, baked beans, cole-slaw and dessert.

Commanders Corner (Cont.)

Friday, Oct 23rd we will have our Member's Adult Halloween party in the lounge prizes to be awarded for best costume overall.

Saturday, October 31st is our annual Kid Safe Halloween party from 6:00 til 8:00 in the hall. The Legion's meeting room will be totally cleaned out after the Executive Board meeting on 10/13 for construction of the Haunted House. Volunteers are welcome to assist in bringing the magic to life to scare the dickens out of the kids. It's always a very well received event for the Community. WE NEED CANDY DONATIONS for this event as we tend to have over 250 children attend, volunteers will also be needed in the kitchen during the event.

Looking ahead, just a reminder that the Post will be open once again on both Thanksgiving and Christmas to serve the traditional meals. Donations of turkeys, hams and traditional sides to share are requested, there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to let us know what you can contribute.

Also, Kelly is planning the Veteran's Day Parade for Saturday, November 7th let her know if you can assist in any way.

The kitchen is now open every Sunday from 1:00 pm until 8:00pm as we now have the NFL Sunday ticket.

Bingo is every Sun, Mon and Thurs at 3:00pm of afternoon and 6:45 pm for night bingo

Queen of Hearts every Saturday at 6:00

CAP meeting every Thursday at 6:30 in the meeting room.

Texas hold-up Poker every Monday and Friday at 7pm in the meeting room.

Line Dancing lessons every Wednesday from 6:00-7:00 in the lounge



Post 57
Online
Calendar

SCAN HERE



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH IS

CINDI ELWOOD

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU AND ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS DO!

Thank you

Commanders Corner (Cont.)

Friday	October 2nd	Sea Cadet Dinner and Red-Shirt Friday With Karaoke	5:30-7:30
Saturday	October 3rd	Sea Cadet Drill	8:00a-3:30p
Saturday	October 3rd	Son's Roadkill	5:00-7:00
Tuesday	October 6th	Sons and Marine Corp league meeting	6:30
Friday	October 9th	Sal Friday Night Dinner	5:30-7:30
Saturday	October 10th	Prime Rib dinner Please RSVP	4:30-6:30
Saturday	October 10th	Comedy night with KILLER DEAZ	6:00-8:30
Tuesday	October 13th	Legion/Auxiliary Board meeting	6:30
Wednesday	October 14th	Veterans Resource fair/Stand down	9:00a-3:00p
Friday	October 16th	Auxiliary Dept President Hall Rental	9:00
Friday	October 16th	Auxiliary Friday Dinner	5:30-7:30
Saturday	October 17th	Sea Cadet Drill	8:00a-3:30
Saturday	October 17th	Early Bird Dinner	5:30-7:30
Tuesday	October 20th	Legion/Auxiliary General meeting	6:30
Wednesday	October 21st	Honor Guard Practice	11:00a
Wednesday	October 21st	First Responder's Luncheon	11:00 a
Friday	October 23rd	Rider's Friday Night Dinner/red shirt fri	5:30-7:30
Friday	October 23rd	Members Halloween Party (lounge)	7:00
Saturday	October 24th	Rider's Roadkill	5:00-7:00
Tuesday	October 27th	Rider's Meeting/nominations	6:30
Friday	October 30th	Legion Friday night dinner	5:30-7:30
Saturday	October 31st	Kid's Safe Halloween Party	6:00-8:00



Chaplain

As we enter October, we are called to pause, reflect, and draw strength from our faith as we honor those who have served and sacrificed for our nation and the legionnaires that we have lost recently. May they rest in peace and never be forgotten. Patriot Day September 11th, we remembered the lives lost and the courage of First Responders and everyday heroes. In the midst of tragedy, we trust In God's presence to bring comfort, hope and healing to all who grieve. Since 1919, the legion has supported veterans, strengthened communities and fostered patriotism and Leadership. Their commitment reflects the call to love and serve our neighbors with steadfast faith. As we enter October, may our hearts be filled with gratitude, our spirits strengthened by faith and our actions guided by compassion and service. Let us lift up those who serve, comfort those who mourn and walk in the path of courage and hope. As post chaplain I am continually encouraged by the way our post family shows up for one another, whether it is supporting a fellow veteran, mentoring our youth, organizing community events or simply sharing a meal together. We are living out the very values that make this organization strong.

Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be courageous - be strong.

1st Corinthians 16:13

Robert Charles

Chaplain, American Legion Post 57

Membership

Dear Veterans, Family and Friends,

Join me in Welcoming last month's New Members:

Anthony Hande USN, William "Bardin" Summerall USAF, Michael Stephens USA'
David Haffner USA, Michael Rieley USAF, David Hande USN, Ronald Bailey USA,
Daniel Davis USA

Another month is in the books! We are currently at 58.42% of our assigned goal of 1,003 members, with 586 total paid as of September 28, 2026. This means we have exceeded our 55% goal for the October 7 deadline!

Our veteran members rock—thank you for keeping Lake City on the map! Our retention rate is currently just over 50%. Thank you to everyone who renewed early, and a friendly reminder to get your dues in before the holidays creep up. Last year, we reached our goal by the New Year, and we can do it again.

If you are considering not renewing, please remember that the American Legion is your voice in Washington and Tallahassee—the more veterans we represent, the stronger our advocacy is. Beyond national advocacy, look at what our post is doing right here in the community! If you haven't heard about our recent community work, please reach out to me; I'd be happy to share details.

If you want to have a voice in your post's direction, please join us for our General Assembly Meetings on the third Tuesday of every month. **Our next meeting is on October 20th at 6:30 PM.** We hope to see you there!

Additionally, our Membership Team (which includes all of you) placed second in the nation for recruiting this year 218 at the competition deadline in May 2026 and 248 total as of June 30, 2026! !

That is an incredible achievement for our town. First place went to our very own National Vice Commander, Martha Bigbie, with an astounding 476 new members for the Department of Utah.

Upcoming Membership Events:

EARLY BIRD DINNER October 17th, 2026 Menu Chicken Marsala, homemade garlic Mashed Potatoes, Caesar Salad and a Pumpkin Dessert. We have over RSVP's already, if you haven't RSVP'd you can do so here: <https://americanlegion57.org/early-bird-dinner-2026> You should have your 2027 Membership card to present to Myself or Commander Huggins at the dinner.

Membership (Cont.)

North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Resource Fair and Stand Down

The North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Resource Fair and Stand Down will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

We are currently looking for volunteers to assist with the event:

- **Filling Stand Down Bags** For the Homeless October 7th 10:00AM
 - **Parking & Vendor Support (7:30 AM – 9:30 AM):** Robert Preston and Roy Armstrong have volunteered to help with morning parking. We need at least two more volunteers to direct vendors to the back grass parking lot.
 - **Lunch Service:** We are also looking for volunteers to help serve lunch around noon.
- All volunteers, vendors, and veterans attending are welcome to join us for a light breakfast in the morning and a taco bar for lunch at noon.
- Please email post57membership@gmail.com if you would be interested in helping out for a couple of hours!

The following vendors will be attending the Resource Fair: from the **VA**; Chaplain, Advanced Directives, Caregiver Support, Homeless Outreach, Primary Care Mental Health/ Social Work, Military Sexual Trauma, Outreach Coordinator, Suicide Prevention, Vocational Rehab, Volunteer Services, Women's Health, Intimate Partner Violence, Primary Care/Flu Shots, Primary Care Nursing, Fisher House (a free of charge VA resource that provides lodging For families outside of 50 mile radius of the VA hospital in Gainesville), Homeless Outreach, Whole health, BeneTravel, Registration, Geriatric Research, Clinical Contact Center (Fast Track/Urgent Care)

Community partners as follows: AARP Northeast Florida, Florida Veterans Foundation, Post 83 Veterans Service Officer Junie Watson, Post 107 Veteran Service Officer Robert Abreu, Charlie Fulmer from Career Source, Carter's Confident Care, Columbia County Senior Center, Columbia County Veterans Service Officer Ronnie Beasley, Florida Department and Children and Families Senior Services, FDVA Veterans Service Officer Olga Algary, Firewatch, Gateway School of Cosmetology (providing free haircuts), Haven Hospice, Lake City Hud VA Supportive Housing Program, Lakeview Health, Legionnaire Dogs, Living Hope, M3 wake Research Lake City, Women Veterans Ignited, Pinnacle Home Care, Quilts of Valor, American Red Cross, Renewed, Senior Health Advocates (medicare), Soldiers Angels, Suwannee Valley Transit Authority, Take a Warrior Fishing, Three Rivers Legal Services, Tru Home Care, United Way/Mission United, Volunteers of America, Wekiva Springs Center

Our Veterans Day Parade will be November 7th 2026, Our Veterans Day Parade will take place on November 7, 2026.

Parade Route & Schedule:

- **Staging Location:** FDOT parking lot on Marion Ave (Staging runs from 8:00 AM to 10:30 AM).
- **Registration:** Located at the American Flag circle, directly across from the main entrance of the FDOT building. Upon registration, all entrants will receive an assigned section, parking number, and a map of the area.
- **Route:** The parade starts at the FDOT parking lot, proceeds to the VA (where the CHS Marching Band will perform the National Anthem), and concludes at Memorial Stadium.
- **Transportation Note:** If you park at the FDOT lot, please arrange your own transportation back to FDOT from Memorial Stadium.

Membership (Cont.)

How to Participate:

If you would like to join the parade (float, car, motorcycle, or walkers), please email post57membership@gmail.com to request a registration form.

Volunteer Request & Vehicles:

- Registration Help: Two volunteers to help check in participants and give out vehicle numbers.
- Side-by-Side Drivers: We need volunteers to drive three side-by-sides, generously donated by Skip Aldous from Interstate Cycles. Volunteers will need to arrange a meeting with Skip prior to delivery at FDOT.
- Vehicle & Cart Donations: If you can bring your own golf cart or side-by-side to assist, your help would be greatly appreciated.
- Duties: These vehicles will be used to guide entrants to their parking spaces and transport individuals to the porta-potties located on the north side of the FDOT lot.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to a great event.

For God, Country, State, and Community,

Kelly Valliere
First Vice Commander
Membership Chair
904-563-0618
post57membership@gmail.com

2026

NORTH FLORIDA/SOUTH GEORGIA

Veterans Systems

Stand-Down and Resource Fair



October 14th, 2026

9:00am to 1:00PM



**Light Breakfast and Lunch Provided for
all in attendance**

**Sponsored by Columbia County American
Legion Post 57**

2602 SW Main Blvd Lake City FL 32025

**Community Resource Providers, sponsors and
Vendors Please Contact : Kelly Valliere 904-563-0618
Post57membership@gmail.com**



American Legion Post 57



Early Bird Dinner

Saturday, October 17th 2026

530 PM to 730 PM

Veterans Renewed By September 30

Are eligible for one of three drawings:

\$300, \$200, or \$100 Gift Card

How to Renew: Come in and do your renewal the post and pay by cash,
or Check Veterans also can pay by card in the membership office
or

Veterans and Sons can go to Legion.org and pay online using your
membership number and your credit card

Auxiliary can go to legion-aux.org/home and pay by credit card
or

Mail your Check to American Legion Post 57
2602 SW Main Blvd
Lake City FL 32025

Contact post57membership@gmail.com or scan to RSVP by October 7th





Kitchen Hours:

- Lunch -

Monday Thru Friday

11:00am to 1:00pm

- Dinner -

Saturday Thru Thursday

4:00pm to 8:00pm

Fridays

5:30pm to 7:30pm

Kitchen Phone:

(386) 752-7260

 American Legion POST 57 MENU LAKE CITY, FL			
Burgers		Appetizers	
Classic Burger	\$7.00	Egg Rolls (2)	\$4.50
Cheeseburger	\$7.50	Chicken Strips	\$7.25
Bacon Cheeseburger	\$8.00	French Fries	\$4.00
Sandwiches		Onion Rings	\$4.50
Patty Melt	\$7.50	Fried Mushrooms	\$5.00
Hot Dog	\$4.75	Fried Green Beans	\$4.50
Grilled Cheese	\$4.25	Corn Nuggets	\$4.50
Fried Chicken Sandwich	\$6.00	Jalapeno Poppers	\$5.50
BLT	\$6.00	Mozzarella Sticks	\$5.00
Chicken Salad Sandwich	\$6.25	Shrimp	\$6.00
Fried Fish Sandwich	\$6.00	Potato Skins	\$5.50
Grilled Chicken Sandwich	\$7.25	Corn Dogs (2)	\$5.25
Salads		Curly Fries	\$4.50
Chef Salad with Ham	\$8.25	Wings & Pizza	
Chef Salad with Chicken Salad	\$8.25	6 Wings	\$6.50
Chef Salad with Grilled Chicken	\$9.25	10 Wings	\$10.25
Chef Salad with Fried Chicken	\$9.25	10 Wings with Fries	\$11.75
Small Salad	\$3.25	Whole Pizza	\$8.75
Scoop Chicken Salad	\$5.00	Drinks & Candy	
Extras		Soda	\$1.50
Extra Ham	\$2.50	Water	\$1.50
Extra Bacon	\$2.50	Candy	\$2.50
Extra Burger Patty	\$3.50	Cookies	\$1.00
Extra Dressing	\$1.50	Chips	\$1.75
Extra Crackers	\$1.25	LUNCH MONDAY THUR FRIDAY 11:00AM TO 1:00PM	
To Go Boxes	\$5.00	DINNER SATURDAY THRU THURSDAY 4:00PM TO 8:00PM FRIDAYS ARE FAMILY DINNERS 5:30PM TO 7:30PM	



Place an online order by
scanning this QR code

AMERICAN LEGION POST 57 - PHONE: (386) 752-7260 - ADDRESS: 2602 SW MAIN BLVD, LAKE CITY, FL 32025
PRICES EFFECTIVE 10/01/2026
WE USE PEANUT OIL

Now you can order online
on our website or scan the
QR code on the menu!

Order Online





Auxiliary News

September has been a busy month gearing up for all of our fall activities. We kicked off the season with an awesome yard sale this month. We had more donations of items than we have seen in the last 10 years with high record sales. This event is one of our most profitable, adding to our ability to assist veterans and the community. Weegie Garcia, our President, would like to thank all of our members who contributed to the sale by either their donations or their time.

Remember that all ideas are appreciated. If there is something you enjoy doing, making or teaching we would like to use these talents to increase volunteer opportunities. Please see Weegie, one of our Executive Board members, or speak up in meetings.

As a reminder, our new colors for the year are kaki, navy blue, army green, camouflage, and black. This coincides with the motto this year of Mission Auxiliary; Serving Heroes, Success is the only option. This doesn't take the place of Red Shirt Friday, and it is still exciting to see all of the red at the Post on Fridays.

We are now beginning our candy collections for our Safe Halloween Party. Last year we had over 350 children and parents in attendance and expect that this year will be the same or bigger success. This is an all-hands-on-deck activity with much to do. The decorations for this event rival Disney when completed! Look for the dates for setting up the hall and for decorating before the big night. Volunteer where you can. This event has always been as much fun for the volunteers as for the children.

Ongoing projects and opportunities to be involved:

We are not collecting school supplies this year as we discovered that giving a money donation from the Auxiliary goes much farther than these individual donations.

Quilts of Valor is an ongoing project, and we host 1- 2 classes monthly teaching basic sewing skills in order to make the quilt tops. Bringing your own portable sewing machine would be helpful. The Riders group are also working on a specialty quilt project and ask that you donate T-shirts with patriotic symbols and sayings. You can give these to any Riders member for Dianne Johnson.

We continue to collect soda can pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House. When you have a small (or large) plastic bag filled you can turn these into the bar, into a large container in the bingo hall or at any of the Auxiliary meetings. These tops do not need to come exclusively from soda cans. Soup and vegetable cans are acceptable.

Auxiliary News (Cont.)

We also continue to collect new cosmetic bags to be stuffed with hygiene products. These go to homeless teens and adult women through various organizations and to school nurses in Columbia County schools for distribution as needed. If you know of an organization that could use these, please let Weegie know as we have a supply of them in our meeting room closet.

Dates to remember in October:

October 3rd- District Meeting in Lee, Florida

October 16th- Auxilliary Dinner will be a Low Country Boil. Our Florida President will be visiting, and we will have entertainment at this dinner with Johnny York graciously volunteering to sing for us.

October 7th and 17th - Quilts of Valor Sewing Class

October 20: ALA General Membership meeting

Additional volunteer opportunities for other events:

October 14th – Stand down.

October 21st- First Responders luncheon

Look for emails from the Auxiliary if there is more information on the happenings.

Weegie Garcia
President Unit 57 Auxiliary

For Spirit of Service, Not Self
Submitted by Maryann Dennis
Public Relations Auxiliary Unit 57





Sons of the American Legion News

Hello,

SAL Squadron 57

We had a good September thanks to our tireless volunteers for our Roadkill and Our Dinner. Thank you to all who helped out with the Picnic especially Bill and Kathy Bell. We did not do as well on the picnic as we had hoped, but we did register a few new members.

We have our Squadron meeting on October 6th at 1830 hours, and our SAL Friday night dinner on October 9th, Our Roadkill Bingo was moved to this Saturday October 3rd, at 1700 hours.

SAL has sponsored a Little League Baseball team; our first game is October 3rd at 2000 hours. Please come out and help cheer the team on to victory.

Hopefully some of you already have Deer meat in the freezer.....

Stay safe,

Eric Gibson

SAL Commander

**Join us on
Facebook!**





American Legion Riders

For September Newsletter American Legion Riders Post 57, Lake City Florida –

Many miles were accumulated in September with fellow riders. The most notable ride being the 6 th Annual POW/MIA Remembrance Ride, an escorted ride over 7 bridges in Jacksonville with 240 bikes that stretched for 2 miles. Each of our Post 57 Riders accumulated 300 plus miles on this ride.

The 3 rd District had a Unity Ride spent night at Steinhatchee, over the course of the weekend every legion in the district was visited and covered 364 mile in this weekend alone.

Up & Coming Events:

Oct 9-11, 2026 3 rd District - State Ride In - in Steinhatchee arrive Friday, Saturday OR Sunday, there will be all kinds on comradery and fellowship, Sunday a ride back home to home post. A challenge to benefit the charities of the 3rd District choice, a goal of \$ 15000 and already have more than half and we haven't even gotten to the Ride In weekend yet. Bike \$20; \$5 for a passenger and cage allowed, please check. Motel and camp grounds space available. Mention was made this is the 3 rd Districts Directors home post and he is a gracious host.

October 23, 2026 American Legion Riders Dinner - come support the riders

October 24, 2026 American Legion Riders Roadkill Bingo - come try your luck at a good hand!

Oct. 27th at 6:30 PM. American Legion Riders Monthly Meeting

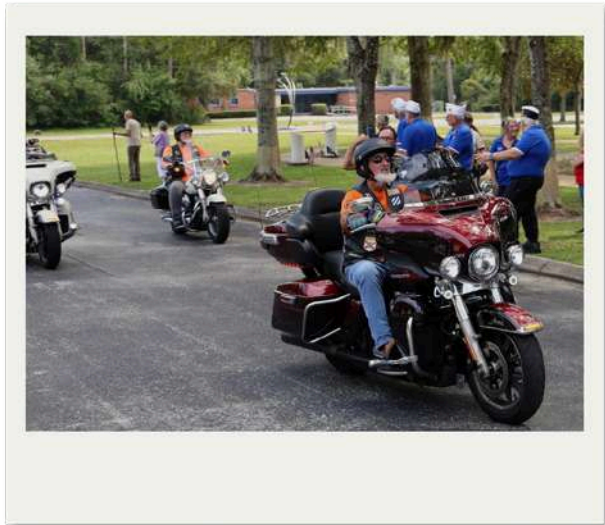
This is a highly important meeting that concerns ALL Chapter 57 Riders as nominations will be taken and elections will be held for the following positions: Director, Finance Officer and Road Captain.

It will also be an informational meeting as to how we came to this position that all current Riders and Supporters should know.

American Legion Riders (Cont.)

SOS-

People are needed for set up and clean up. For the Toy Run on November 21 - KSU 9:00am at Post 57. Entrance fee is \$20.00 rider with \$5.00 for the passenger plus 1(one) UNWRAPPED TOY going to Wellborn Community Center. Breakfast. KSU Wellborn 11:15am for an Escorted Ride and return to the Post for the Festivities including raffles and Chinese auction. This event is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Contact Elaine Lagasse to volunteer. Benefits Voices For Children of the Suwannee Valley; Wellborn Community Center.





Honor Guard

AMERICAN LEGION POST 57 HONOR GUARD

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

★ SERVICE • HONOR • REMEMBRANCE ★

Dear Legion Family and Community,
As we move through September, we are proud to serve, honor, and remember through four meaningful events.

★

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 57
LAKE CITY, FL
HONOR GUARD
FLAG ETIQUETTE CLASS
AT SUMMER'S ELEMENTARY**
SEPTEMBER 9, 2026 @ 8:00 AM
EVENT NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Created by Patty Koon

**SEPTEMBER 9 • 8:00 AM
FLAG ETIQUETTE TRAINING**
Summers Elementary • Lake City, Florida
Post 57 Honor Guard members will visit Summers Elementary to teach students proper flag etiquette and the importance of respect, care, handling, and traditions of the American flag.

★

**HONOR GUARD
FLAG ETIQUETTE CLASS
AT CAMBRIDGE ACADEMY**
SEPTEMBER 11, 2026 @ 8:00
AMERICAN LEGION POST 57
LAKE CITY, FL
EVENT NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Created by Patty Koon

**SEPTEMBER 11 • 8:00 AM
FLAG ETIQUETTE TRAINING**
Cambridge Academy • Lake City, Florida
Post 57 Honor Guard members will visit Cambridge Academy to teach students proper flag etiquette and the importance of respect, care, handling, and traditions of the American flag.

★

**Post Everlasting/Celebration
of Life For Peter Ojeda
USMC**
Potluck to follow
Created by Patty Koon

**SEPTEMBER 12 • 1:00 PM
POST EVERLASTING &
CELEBRATION OF LIFE**
For Peter Ojeda, USMC • Potluck to follow
Saturday, September 12, 2026 at 1PM
**Post Everlasting/Celebration of
Life For Peter Ojeda USMC Potluck
to follow**
Public - Event by IronPrincess Kelly and Florida American
Legion Post 57

★

CELEBRATION OF LIFE
Honoring Marine •

Charles Stanton Griffith
November 4, 1942 –
August 30, 2026
Once a Marine, Always a Marine

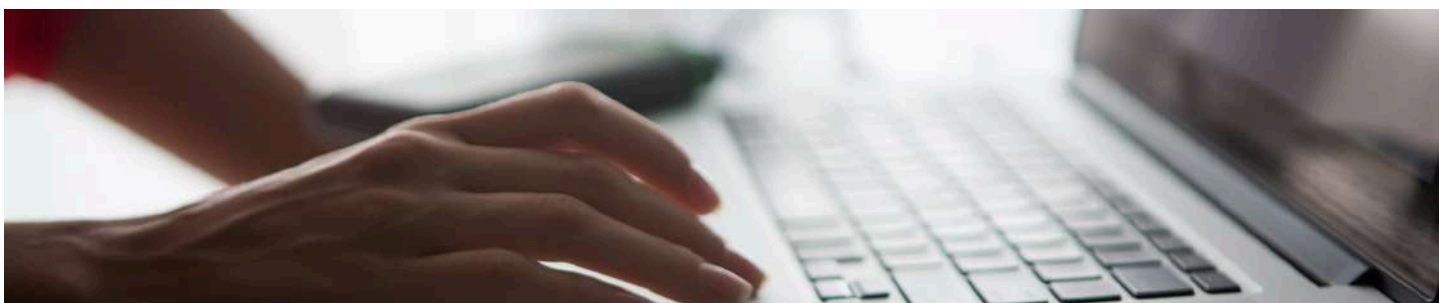
**SEPTEMBER 14 • 2:00 PM
CELEBRATION OF LIFE**
Honoring Marine Charles Stanton Griffith
November 4, 1942 – August 30, 2026
Forest Lawn
3596 US-41 • Lake City, Florida
Post 57 Honor Guard will honor the life and military
service of Marine Charles Stanton Griffith.
Once a Marine, Always a Marine.

★ **SERVICE NOT SELF** ★

Thank you to every Honor Guard member who gives their time to educate our youth, comfort grieving families, and represent Post 57 with dignity and pride.

Created by Patty Koon

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Post Service Officer

From the desk of the VSO.

Office Hours 10am-2pm Mondays excluding Holidays

The current wait time to resolve a claim varies, but on average an initial claim is resolved in about 90 days. An appeal can take up to 7 months and a judicial hearing about 2.5 years. A straightforward way to check on the status of your claim is through your VA.gov account. On your homepage under activity, you can follow the process. There are 8 stages, do not be surprised if you move up and down through the stages. It is normal. Here are the 8 stages.

1. **Claim Received:** The VA has logged your submitted application into its official system.
2. **Initial Review:** The VA checks your paperwork for basic required details, such as your name, Social Security number, and contact information. VA.gov Home | Veterans Affairs
3. **Evidence Gathering:** The VA actively requests and collects medical records, service records, and schedules any required Compensation & Pension (C&P) exams. This is usually the longest stage.
4. **Evidence Review:** The VA reviews all collected records. If any information is missing or you submit new documents, the claim may temporarily move back to Step 3. Claim Raven +1
5. **Rating:** A specialist evaluates the complete record, decides on the claim, and determines your individual disability percentage rating. VA.gov Home | Veterans Affairs +1
6. **Preparing Decision Letter:** The VA drafts your official decision packet detailing your approval, denial, or rating percentage. YouTube·KMD89 VA Claims Consulting - Dewayne Kimble +1
7. **Final Review:** A senior reviewer performs a final quality check on the decision letter and the claim file before approval. Claim Raven +1
8. **Claim Decided:** The final decision letter is finalized and made available for you to view or download online through your [VA.gov account](https://www.va.gov).



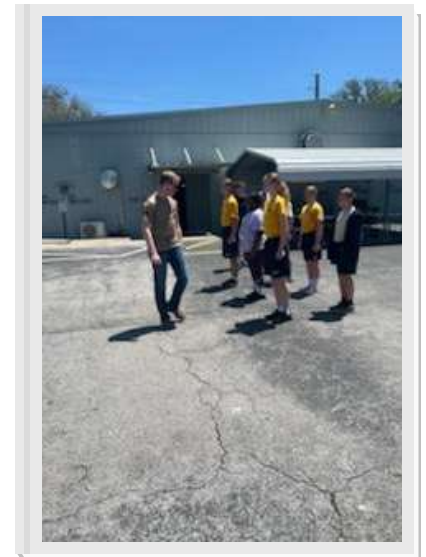
Sea Cadets

Sea Cadets are young men and women aged 10 to 18. We are supported by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard, and our Cadets train on naval bases and other military installations. Sea Cadets gain unique and valuable experiences that incorporate hands-on learning and teamwork. We meet at the American Legion in Lake City twice a month for drill. The cadets have many opportunities to go to training over the summer and winter. If you are interested and would like more information, you can contact Niki Patterson [303-725-3889](tel:303-725-3889). You can also click the link to get more information America's Sea Cadets - The US Navy's youth development program.

Our Sea Cadet drills are scheduled for 2026 -2027, These are the drills for the year, are subject to change.

October 3rd, 2026m October 17thm 2026, November 7th, 2026, November 21st , 2026, December 5th, 2026, December 19th, 2026, January 9th, 2027, January 23rd, 2027, February 6th, 2027, February 20th, 2027, March 6th, 2027, March 20th, 2027, April 3rd, 2027, April 17th, 2027, May 1st, 2027, and May 15th, 2027.

Sea Cadet fundraiser dinners are schedule as followed for until the end of this year:
October 2nd, 2026, December 4th, 2026 -





OUR COMMUNITY AND YOUTH NEED YOU! LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS & ADVISORS

The mission of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cadet Program is to transform youth into dynamic Americans and aerospace leaders

Suwannee River Composite Squadron SER-FL-607

POC-1st LT Terry Burgess (386) 208-9599

Maj Michael Ange (727) 271-8400 (Post 57 member)

We are looking for 3 members of the Legion to form an advisory board to help get a Civil Air Patrol Flight started at Post 57. You don't have to be a member of the Civil Air Patrol this is literally an advisory group to identify ways to get this flight launched. Anyone with community connections, connections to the public or private school system, religious youth organizations or other youth organizations fits the bill. We would expect you to familiarize yourself with CAP's cadet mission so that you can see where connections and outreach would work to get this program off the ground.

We also need adult leaders willing to join CAP. Your service gave you skills – use them to guide our next generation.

Core Elements of the Program - The cadet program achieves its mission through a four-pillared curriculum:

- Leadership: Training through hands-on responsibilities, textbook study (Learn to Lead), and command experiences.
- Aerospace Education: Classroom instruction, cyber/STEM subjects, and orientation flights in powered aircraft or gliders.
- Fitness: Physical training and activities promoting a healthy lifestyle.
- Character: Moral and ethical development centered on CAP's core values of Integrity, Volunteer Service, Excellence, and Respect.





October



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Civil Air Patrol Meeting 6:30pm-9:00am	2 Red Shirt Friday Sea Cadets Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	3 Sea Cadet Drill 8:00am-3:30pm District 3 Meeting (Post 422) 9:00am SAL Roadkill Bingo 5:00pm-7:00pm Paddle Auction 5:00pm-7:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
4 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	5 VSO Office Hours 10:00am-2:00pm Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	6 SAL Squadron Meeting 6:30pm-7:00pm Marine Corps League Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm	7 Line Dancing Lessons 6:00pm-7:00pm 	8 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Civil Air Patrol Meeting 6:30pm-9:00am	9 Red Shirt Friday SAL Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	10 Prime Rib Dinner 4:30pm-6:30pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm Comedy Night with Killer Beaz 7:00pm-8:30pm 
11 Columbus Day Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	12 VSO Office Hours 10:00am-2:00pm Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	13 Legion & Auxiliary Executive Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm	14 Stand Down and Resource Fair 9:00am-3:00pm Buddy Checks 1:00pm-3:00pm Line Dancing Lessons 6:00pm-7:00pm Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm-7:30pm	15 Begin Decorate for Halloween Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Civil Air Patrol Meeting 6:30pm-9:00am	16 Auxiliary Department President Visit (Hall) Red Shirt Friday Auxiliary Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	17 Sea Cadet Drill 8:00am-3:30pm Early Bird Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm 
18 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	19 VSO Office Hours 10:00am-2:00pm Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	20 Legion & Auxiliary General Membership Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm Birthday Celebration 7:30pm-8:30pm	21 Honor Guard Practice 11:00am First Responders Lunch 11:00am-2:00pm Line Dancing Lessons 6:00pm-7:00pm Marine Corps League Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm-7:30pm	22 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Civil Air Patrol Meeting 6:30pm-9:00am 	23 Red Shirt Friday Riders Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM Halloween Party 7:30pm 	24 Rider's Roadkill Bingo 5:00pm-7:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
25 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	26 VSO Office Hours 10:00am-2:00pm Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	27 Rider's Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm	28 Buddy Checks 1:00pm-3:00pm Line Dancing Lessons 6:00pm-7:00pm Legion Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm-7:30pm	29 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Civil Air Patrol Meeting 6:30pm-9:00am	30 Red Shirt Friday Legion Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	31 Halloween Kid Safe Halloween Party 6:00pm-8:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm 