

Monthly Newsletter

AMERICAN LEGION POST 57

September 2024



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

Email:

americanlegion57@comcast.net

Join us on Facebook:

American Legion Post 57 -
Lake City, FL

Post 57 Website:

www.americanlegion57.org



From the Chaplain

Volunteering is one of the greatest gifts you can give because it involves offering your time—something you can never get back.

When you volunteer, especially in upgrading our post, you're not just helping others; you're enriching your own life with a sense of purpose, fulfillment, and connection.

The personal rewards are immense, as you see the impact of your efforts on the community and feel the satisfaction of contributing to something greater than yourself.

Please consider providing your time and talents here as we make our post better in so many ways.

Come see the progress during the week after 1 PM. Talk with one of our officers and volunteers as we go about our work.

Visit our website at:
www.americanlegion57.org and send an email to anyone available under Post Officers.

Welcome to Post57.



Commanders August Newsletter

My how time is flying, here we are in September and y'all are shakin and bakin!

As you come into the post you may notice that we have upgraded signage to better communicate activities within the post in advance, as I write this we are putting the final touches on a major kitchen upgrade to include new epoxy flooring, insulated ceiling tiles to help with the major heat issues within the kitchen and removal of all wooden chopping blocks and shelving and upgrading to stainless steel tables and metal shelving to bring the kitchen into the "20th" century (still working on the 21st).

Events coming up in September:

- **Bingo** every Sunday, Monday and Thursday 3:00pm and 6:45pm
- **Texas Hold-em** every Monday and Friday at 7:00pm
- Wednesdays (all month) **\$1.75 drafts**
- Saturdays (all month) **Queen of Hearts** drawing at 6:00pm
- Tuesday 9/3 **SAL Meeting** at 6:30pm
- Friday 9/6 **Rider's Dinner** from 5:30pm to 7:30pm followed by **Karaoke**
- Tuesday 9/10 **Legion/Auxiliary Board Meeting** at 6:30pm
- Friday 9/13 **Veteran's Coffee Corner** at 10:00am at Grand Cypress Nursing Home
- Friday 9/13 **Auxiliary Dinner** 5:30pm to 7:30pm followed by the **Vintage Trio Band**
- Saturday 9/14 **Buddy Check Training** in the hall from 1:00pm until 3:00pm
- Saturday 9/14 **SAL Roadkill** from 3:00pm to 5:00pm in the lounge
- Tuesday 9/17 **Legion/Auxiliary General meeting**
- Wednesday 9/18 **Honor Guard Meeting** at 3:00pm
- Friday 9/20 **SAL Dinner**
- Saturday 9/21 **Auxiliary Yard Sale** from 8:00am to 1:00pm
- Tuesday 9/24 **Rider's Meeting** 6:30pm
- Friday 9/27 **Veteran's Summit** 10:00am to 4:00pm in Live Oak
- Friday 9/27 **Rider's Dinner**
- Saturday 9/28 **Gateway Beerfest** (membership tent) 10:00am to 4:00pm
- Saturday 9/28 **Rider's Roadkill** from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in the lounge

We are striving to make the Legion Post the place where members want to be and are always looking for things YOU want to see, if you have an idea (and a way to implement it) please let me or one of YOUR board members know.

A bit of advance notice, there will be a ceremony held on Wednesday, October 23rd there will be a Purple Heart Recognition here at the Post. Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Counties have been designated as Purple Heart Counties.

Dignitaries from the Counties and municipalities will gather at the Post from 4:00pm until 6:00pm for the presentation.

We are inviting any of our Purple Heart recipients to join us for this event, please contact any of your Board Members if you plan to attend as we plan to have some type of refreshments available for those in attendance.

As your Commander, I am committed to do everything we can to continually improve your membership experience.

For God and Country

Bill Huggins

Commander, American Legion Post 57

County Service Officer



Important Information for American Legion Volunteers: Maximizing Your Support and Benefits

Dear American Legion Volunteers,

First and foremost, thank you for your unwavering dedication and commitment to serving our veterans and their families. Your volunteer work is invaluable, and it makes a significant difference in our community. We understand that many of you generously contribute your time and effort to support our veterans, and we want to ensure that you have the resources and support you deserve.

A Key Concern: VA Disability Benefits

It has come to our attention that some of our dedicated volunteers may not be aware of, or may have questions about, VA disability benefits. Whether you are currently receiving benefits or are unsure how to apply, understanding and accessing these benefits can provide crucial support and improve your quality of life.

Why VA Disability Benefits Matter

For many volunteers, VA disability benefits can offer essential financial support, allowing you to focus more on the meaningful volunteer work you do. The additional income can ease financial stress, making it easier for you to continue your valuable contributions to our veterans' community without worrying about personal financial burdens.

How You Can Benefit

If you are not currently receiving VA disability benefits or are unsure of how to navigate the application process, please reach out for assistance. I am here to help you with all claims and benefits-related matters. My role as the Columbia County Veteran Service Officer is to assist veterans and their families in accessing the benefits they have earned.

What I Can Do for You

- **Guide You Through the Application Process:** I will provide step-by-step assistance with filing your VA disability claim, ensuring all necessary documentation is included.
- **Answer Your Questions:** Whether you need information about eligibility, benefits, or the application process, I am here to provide clear and accurate answers.
- **Support and Advocacy:** I will advocate on your behalf to ensure you receive the benefits you deserve, helping to address any issues or challenges that may arise.

Get in Touch

If you have questions about VA disability benefits or need assistance with your claims, please don't hesitate to contact me. Your volunteer work is deeply appreciated, and it's important to us that you have the support you need to continue your vital contributions.

Contact Information:

RONNIE BEASLEY

Columbia County Veteran Service Officer

(386) 758-3350

rbeasley@columbiacountyfla.com

Thank you once again for your extraordinary service and dedication. We are here to support you in every way possible, so you can continue making a positive impact on the lives of our veterans.

Warm regards,

Ronnie Beasley

Columbia County Veteran Service Officer

September Newsletter from Membership Chair

It's been a fantastic month for Post 57 Membership. We are currently at 50.6% of our membership goal of 799 active members. Our Goal for September 5th is to be at 50%. Everyone has been doing such a great job referring new members and sending me folks with questions. Thank you all so much for helping me help Post 57 be successful in our membership goals.

August was extremely busy! Bill and several of the Board members went to Veterans Coffee Corner at Grand Cypress Assisted Living, we were able to bring back great information for Seniors in our community and Grand Isle did a wonderful job hosting us. We look forward to this month's Veteran Coffee Corner, and hope more of you can join us. Keep reading for information on the next Veterans Coffee Corner.

We also met with Nathaniel at Columbia County Senior Services and learned about free lunches served to seniors in our community, they are looking to better serve veterans and they reached out to us and asked us for our help. If you would like more information on this program and the other free services to seniors you can go to www.columbiaseniors.org or call Kelly at the post for more information.

September 2nd Is a flag raising ceremony at 2189 SW Main Blvd. All Vets are welcome and encouraged TO attend. This Monument is to honor and commemorate Columbia County Veterans.

September 14th Buddy Check Training at 100pm in the Meeting Room. This training is to learn how to call members of our post and check on them, see if they need anything from us or if they know a veteran we can help. This is one of the ways we can help support members of our post.

September 13th at 10:00 we will be attending Veteran's Coffee Corner at Grand Cypress Assisted Living in Lake City this is a free veterans Social Group sponsored by the Life Style Enrichment Center in Lake City and Circle of Life Assisted Living Communities.

September 27th, we will be attending the Veterans Summit to be held at the Suwannee County Colosseum (Please see the flyer on the Special events Tab at americanlegion57.org for more information). There will be many Veteran Providers there to answer questions, and provide services and direction to veterans in almost every facet of mental health and wellness and veteran services. Please join us! A free lunch is provided to those attending.

On September 28th, we will also have a booth at the Gateway Beer and Wine Festival held in downtown Lake City. General admission is \$35-55 if you want to go to the event itself.

We are also looking for Volunteers to help set up tents at the event. I went myself last year as a volunteer and it was an awesome experience! Come out and help get the word out as either a volunteer helping the City of Lake City to set up and breakdown the event, provide ice to vendors, and other volunteer activities throughout or at our membership table. For more information visit www.gatewaybeerfest.com

Lisa Brown and I setting up an information table and we are looking for 3-4 volunteers to hang with us and talk to veterans and the public to let them know about events, Veteran organizations and community organizations we sponsor. The amenities the post has available such as Bingo and Texas Hold 'Em.

As always, I am always available to anyone who needs assistance. Please reach out to me anytime kellyvalliere49@gmail.com, or call the post at 386-752-7776. Thank you all for your continued membership.

Our October goal for membership is 65% please renew early to help us meet this goal. Refer any veterans that may want to join to me anytime. Thank you all so much for your support!

For God and Country
Kelly Valliere First Vice/Membership Chair



American Legion Riders Chapter 57

Director Update:

August was a very good month for the Riders as we continued with our capture the plaque mission. Several Riders braved the Hurricane and recovered our plaque from Riverview so that we could raid other posts for theirs. The folks from Macclenny, Fruitland Park and Lady Lake kindly donated their plaque to our quest. Unfortunately, while out gathering Booty during our raids we left the back door open and Chapter 9 snuck in and liberated ours. Don Hickman has suggested we get Pirate hats to wear when we raid other posts. We have since recovered our plaque with a great ride on the last day of the month.

Roadkill started off with a huge success and I think we have established the new way for Roadkill to operate and be fun for all that participate. Unfortunately, we were unable to have our dinner due to the kitchen renovations.

September looks to be a very busy month for the Riders, we will hopefully be doing two dinners this month along with our Roadkill (more info on the dinners to come). September the second we will participate in the Veteran Memorial near the post and we plan on other events to include the Ride at Gainesville Harley Davidson on the 14th. I will be setting up the District Riders motorcycle safety tent to promote safety awareness. We need volunteers for the Beer and Craft show in Lake City. I am also working on possibly having 57 Riders do the Grill and Chill at Gainesville Harley. We still need volunteers for Toys 4 Tots and the Chili Cook off. I have contacted the person who I deal with on our raffle items and hope to have them ordered this week. Don't forget October 26th for the Riders cookout and bonfire at our house (bring bathing suit and pool stick).

I also need that list of Veteran owned Businesses.

Welcome to our new member Cawan Talley (Crow).

As always it is FOR THE CAUSE NOT THE APPLAUSE.

CHARLES (CHUCK) CALDWELL
DIRECTOR
ALR 57





Liberty Division Sea Cadets

August was a busy month for the Liberty Division Sea Cadets. We are starting our new year and recruiting is an important goal this year. We gained several new recruits in August and are looking forward to growing even more in the future, Grayson and Niki Patterson attended recruit training in Virginia. Niki gained knowledge as an instructor and Grayson completed his recruit training requirement. This is all thanks to the support of the Legion to help fund these activities. In September we will be holding joint training at Jacksonville NAS and working with their group. The cadets will experience working with a larger group and be exposed to an actual Navy base. We are also planning to join them for their Blue Angels event and get exposure to that group. In the future the cadets will work on their swim qualifications. We are also planning a weekend campout at the Navy Seal Museum in Ft Perce for the Navy Seal Muster event. Before long the parades will begin and we hope to fully participate. We are looking forward to working with the Legion and thank you for all your support.

Liberty Division Navy Sea Cadets: A Path to Leadership and Adventure

The Liberty Division of the U.S. Navy Sea Cadets continues to offer an incredible opportunity for young people aged 10-18 to develop leadership skills, learn about the Navy, and engage in exciting activities. On Saturday, August 24, the Division held its regular drill, welcoming both new and returning cadets. The day was filled with physical training, flag exercises, and classroom sessions where cadets learned about the Navy and discussed upcoming events.

Earlier this month, on Aug. 3, 2024, the Division hosted an open house under the leadership of Lead Petty Officer Gracie Peterson. This event allowed prospective members and community members to experience a drill firsthand, showcasing the camaraderie and discipline that the Navy Sea Cadets program fosters.

The Liberty Division meets on the first and third Saturday of each month from 7:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the American Legion Post 57, located at 2602 SW Main Blvd., Lake City, FL 32025. Membership is open to all students aged 10-18, and everyone is welcome to observe any of our activities. Whether your child is interested in the military, developing leadership skills, or simply seeking a new challenge, the Navy Sea Cadets offers a supportive and exciting environment for growth.

For more information about joining the Liberty Division, please visit our website at www.libertyseacadets.org. You can also contact the Division Coordinator, Niki Patterson, at (303) 725-3889, or check out videos of our cadets in action at www.youtube.com/seacadetspublicaffairs.

We also invite you to support the Navy Sea Cadets by attending our fundraiser dinner on Friday, Aug. 30, at the American Legion Post 57 at 7:00 p.m. It's a great way to learn more about our program and meet the cadets who are making a difference in their community.

We hope to see you at our next drill or event—come and discover what the Navy Sea Cadets is all about!



Auxiliary News

I hope everyone fared well during the hurricane. If you need assistance with anything, please let us know.

We are in the process of getting ready for another awesome yard sale in the bingo hall. This will take place on Saturday, September 21st from 8 AM to 1 PM. If you have any items that you wish to donate for the yard sale, you can start bringing those items in on Tuesday, Sept. 17th (NO SOONER, PLEASE). If they are big items, please wait to bring them in on Friday, Sept. 20th thru the back door of the post. We just don't have a lot of space to store things. We will be accepting clothes and shoes this time.

The Ice Cream Social at the Domiciliary that had to be canceled right after the hurricane came through has been rescheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 4th at 2 PM. Everyone is welcome to come. These residents love seeing us and talking to us.

We packed another round of Troop Care Packages last month. The USO was so happy to see them as their shelves were empty. We plan to have another packing in October.

Come out Friday, Sept. 27th to the Suwannee County Fairgrounds from 9 AM to 4 PM to help us support the local veterans. This is called the Veterans Summit. They will provide all kinds of services for the vets. Our post plans to be there for a membership drive. If you are willing to help out, please do.

Just some of the awesome things we have been doing this past month is providing diapers to the Pregnancy Center, donating \$\$ to the Humane Society, visiting our veterans in the local nursing homes, collecting school supplies for our local schools and the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch and much more.

District 3 will be putting on an ABC School on Saturday, Sept. 14th at Post 224 Cherry Lake. Registration starts at 9 AM and class at 10 AM. Our instructors are two of the most awesome leaders our Department has. Everyone is encouraged to attend. If you want to carpool or follow, we are meeting at Harvey's (under the big tree) on West 90 at 8 AM.

Caitlyn will be our chef for the next Friday Night dinner on Sept. 13th. Her menu will consist of chicken & gravy, mashed potatoes, corn or glazed carrots and dessert for a \$10 donation. Serving will begin at 5:30 and go until 7:30 or until we sell out.

Our new Department President, Charlotte Bass will be making her District visit from Oct. 23rd to the 26th. Please come out to some or all of the activities that we have planned for her. Thursday, Oct. 24th we will be packing care packages in the hall and have lunch in the lounge, then off to the domiciliary for a tour. Friday, Oct. 25th we will be visiting the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch and have lunch with the kids and then she's off to Old Town or Steinhatchee for some fun events (no details on this yet). Come out and meet Charlotte and show her the awesomeness of District 3.

Congratulations to Lana Hagy. Her ticket was drawn at the August meeting and she will get her dues paid by the unit for 2025. You can have your dues paid too, all you have to do is attend the monthly meeting and hope your ticket is drawn too.

For God and Country,
Lisa Dye
President



Sons of the American Legion

Hello S.A.L Squadron 57 Members

Hope everyone had a safe and prosperous month of August!

We had another great month with Friday Night Dinner and Roadkill Bingo. I would like to thank Jim, Leland, Don, Vanessa, Liam, and Mason for Friday Night Dinner, and I would like to thank Lee, Liam, Bailey-Jo, and Harrison for your help with Roadkill Bingo. You all made our events a huge success.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday September 3rd @ 6:30 pm. Squadron 57 Meeting

Saturday September 14th @ 3:00 pm. Roadkill Bingo

Friday September 20th @ 5:30 pm. Friday Night Dinner

Reminder: It's time to pay your 2025 dues!

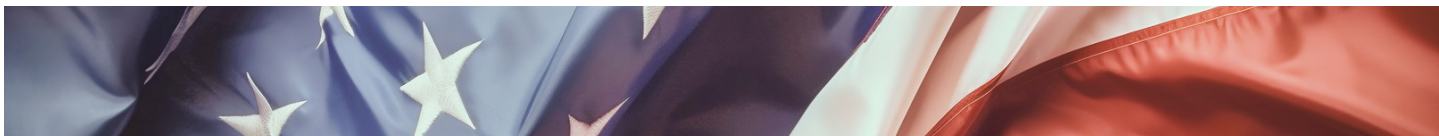
S.A.L. Squadron Commander: Brian Wolfe



Volunteer Spotlight

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH FOR JULY IS
--JAMES (JIMBO) HARRINGTON--
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU AND ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS DO!

**THANK
YOU!**



Post Service Officer

Hello 57,

Am I eligible for Commissary and Exchange Privileges?

I hear this question often, the answer is often yes.

In the US, if you are a veteran or service member and one of these must be true. You:

Have a service-connected disability rating and were honorably discharged, or

Are retired from military service, or

Are a former prisoner of war, or

Are a member of the Reserves, or

Have received a Purple Heart or the Medal of honor.

You must have the right kind of ID at check out. You can use your VA ID, that has your service connected Disability on it. You can also use a letter from the VA, along with a Driver's license or a Passport.

I hope this helps answer at least one of the many questions we all have as Veterans.

This past month I have had the pleasure of helping 4 Veterans.

Please feel free to ask me any question that you might have, I do not always have the answer but I will do the research to get you an answer.

Thanks,

Lisa G. Brown

VSO, Post 57, Lake City Florida

Information for this was obtained from VA website: <https://www.va.gov/resources/commissary-and-exchange-privileges-for-veterans/>

September Canteen Specials

- Monday - Margaritas - (All Day) Well \$2.00 and Top Shelf \$4.00
- Tuesday - Vodka & Tonic - (All Day) Well \$2.00 and Top Shelf \$4.00
- Wednesday - Wine - \$2.50 (All Day)
- Thursday - (All Day) Well \$2.00
- Friday - Fuzzy Navel - (All Day) Well \$2.00 and Top Shelf \$4.00
- Saturday - Berry Blast (Frozen Drinks) - (All Day) \$3.50
- Sunday - Tequila Sunrise - (All Day) Well \$2.00 and Top Shelf \$4.00





September



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	2 Flag Raising Ceremony 10:00am Texas Hold'em 7pm Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	3 SAL Squadron 57 Meeting 6:30pm	4 Ice Cream Social at the Domiciliary 2:00pm \$1.75 Draft 	5 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	6 Rider's Dinner 5:30pm to 7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7pm Karaoke 6:30pm Red Shirt Friday	7 Sea Cadets Meeting 7:45am to 3:00pm Queen of Hearts 6pm
8 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	9 Texas Hold'em 7pm Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	10 Legion & Auxiliary Executive Meeting 6:30pm	11 Patriot Day Auxiliary Bingo 6:00pm (Domiciliary) \$1.75 Draft 	12 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	13 Auxiliary Dinner 5:30pm to 7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7pm Veterans Coffee Corner at Grand Cypress 10:00am Vintage Trio Band 6:30 PM Red Shirt Friday	14 Buddy Check Training 1:00pm to 3:00pm ABC School (Aux) at Post 224 10:00am Queen of Hearts 6pm SAL Roadkill Bingo 3:00pm to 5:00pm
15 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	16 Texas Hold'em 7pm Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	17 General Membership Meeting 6:30pm	18 Honor Guard Meeting 3:00pm \$1.75 Draft	19 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	20  National POW/MIA Recognition Day Texas Hold'em 7pm SAL Dinner 5:30pm to 7:30pm Red Shirt Friday	21 Sea Cadets Meeting 7:45am to 3:00pm Auxiliary Yard Sale 8:00am to 1:00pm Queen of Hearts 6pm Room Rental
22 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	23 Texas Hold'em 7pm Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	24 Riders Meeting 6:30pm	25 Auxiliary Bingo 6:00pm (Domiciliary) \$1.75 Draft 	26 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	27 Riders Dinner 5:30pm - 7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7pm Veteran Services Summit 9:00am to 4:00pm Red Shirt Friday	28  Gateway Beerfest (Membership Tent) 10:00am to 4:00pm Queen of Hearts 6pm Rider's Roadkill Bingo 6:00pm
29 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	30 Texas Hold'em 7pm Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm					