



# The Shining Beacon

February 2015 Vol. V Issue 7

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**Legislative News & more!**

# Central Area Family 1<sup>st</sup> Hawaiï Ball



**Location:**  
**American Legion Post 8**

**Only 100  
Tickets Left!**

February 28, 2015 Time 4:00 pm Cost \$25.00

Place: American Legion Post 8, 300 Avenue NW, Winter Haven, Fl.

Hotel: Hampton Inn 202 Cypress Gardens Blvd, Winter Haven, FL. 863-299-9251

More Information call Eunice Butts 813-247-4267

# FAMILY FUN DAY

AMERICAN LEGION POST 1

1281 N HWY 1, TITUSVILLE

FEBRUARY 28, 2015 11 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

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## The Shining Beacon

### Mission Statement

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

### Vision Statement

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

**"Lighting the Way  
For Veterans"**

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[www.alafl.org](http://www.alafl.org)



# FROM THE



## *Erna Schwabe*

148 where we enjoyed a great dinner. It was nice to see people that I have known for years but to meet new members was exciting. We had such a nice time and the hospitality was superb. Thank you to everyone for a great time. Now it is time for WAA celebration.

Just a few side steps and the truck arrived, unloaded and volunteers in place. The ceremony presented by Commander Bill Hamblin and President Rosemary made everyone so appreciative to be able to honor our Veterans who have passed. The Post 5 cemetery is the only standalone American Legion Cemetery and honors 750 Veterans. It was a very humbling ceremony to attend. Off to AL Post 152 for dinner with PDP Mary Kehoe and her dedicated AL Family. The dinner was outstanding and sharing stories with the members was a lot of fun. My lighthouse collection is growing (and maybe an addition to my room is in order for my collection). I thank all of the members for a heartwarming welcome and dinner. You are all terrific.

On Sunday we had breakfast with Auxiliary members from Unit 138 on the Bay. It was a great time and we were joined by Central Area Commander Eunice Butts and Jose and Shelli Romeu. Now it is time for AL Post 5 Christmas Party. It was exciting to share stories of family and what we do as the American Legion Family. I thank the entire 15th District for a wonderful visit and making Art and I so welcome. We love you all.

Christmas is upon us and Art and I drove to Wisconsin to spend Christmas with our children. It was the first time in 5 years that we spent the actual holiday with them. Usually it was early in December or first part of the New Year. It was cold, snow, wind and rain. I was so glad to get home and have temperatures above 48.

I had the honor of spending New Years Eve with AL Family Post 117 in Palm Bay. Dinner was so good and we ate way too much, but we can work that off. Thanks

I hope all of you had a very wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year. We are looking forward to a great 2015. It is a time to make a difference, and take advantage of all the wonderful opportunities that we have to make someone's life better. Continue to work our programs and send your donations to Department so we can help our Veterans, Children and Communities.

I visited the 15th District and thank President Rosemary and Bill for a wonderful visit. We started the visit at McDill AF Base on Thursday for the Coalition International Food Night. This was held in the hanger and 58 countries were represented with food and drinks from their countries. I met so many wonderful people and the hospitality extended was outstanding. On Friday we visited Baldamero Lopez VA Nursing Home where we met up with Miss Louis Wilt and the wonderful Auxiliary members from Unit 111. It was the day of the Christmas party for the Veterans. A group of students from a local high school who are studying to become CNA'S volunteer hours at the VA assisting Veterans. We were given a wonderful tour of the facility and met many dedicated care givers and staff. Friday night we met up with the American Legion Family Post

# THE PRESIDENT



to everyone who worked so hard on this great party. January 3rd found us at Clearwater post 7 hosting a luncheon for WWII Veterans where families. 96 luncheons were served and it was so rewarding. Post 7 has 200 plus WWII Veterans that are members of their Post. Thank you to Commander Wilson, Adjutant Russ and the AL Post 7 Family for opening your doors. You are "Lighting the Way for Veterans".



As we move into 2015 we must work on membership. I know it is a struggle trying to get renewals and rejoins but in order for us to work our programs we need our members. Please make phone calls and drop personal notes to members. They may need our help and are shy to ask. Get a phone group together over a cup of coffee and make a few phone calls. Members who do not come to meetings are always glad to hear a friendly voice. Make them feel a part of the AL Family. Please send me a note letting me know how you are contacting members and we are here to help.

Thank you to the units that are reporting information for the Shining Beacon. We are hearing many good comments on the Shining Beacon and remember it is because of your input. You all do such wonderful work and sharing it makes you "shine". Keep sending in pictures and they will be included in the Beacon.

Sometimes we run out of space but those pictures will be worked in when we can. If you have an event happening in your Unit please send the information to Department and they will put it on the Calendar for you. We have a great Office Staff to serve you. Thank you Lou, Patty and Kimberly for all you do for us.

Off to the 14th District and then the 9th District for my visitation. My schedule is posted on the website so you can travel with me. If you have something happening in your area, please let me know and if my schedule permits I will attend.

Again, thank you for being the greatest Auxiliary Members!

## LIGHTHOUSE TRIVIA



### Trivia Question #6

***What lighthouse had the first Fresnel lens installed and what year?***

**Winner of Trivia #5:**

**Annie Anderson Unit 316 Jacksonville**



# From The



**Kimberly Sullivan**

Happy Valentine's Month!

## **Girls State**

We have filled about half the spots for Girls State! Get your applications, and over-quota applications, in as soon as possible so you don't miss out. On February 1, we will begin filling over-quota requests. The Delegate/Alternate girls applications are due by March 12.

## **Incorporation Renewal/Annual Report**

These are due between January 1 and May 1 to avoid a \$400 late penalty. Go to [sunbiz.org](http://sunbiz.org) to renew and send a copy of the renewal to department for our files.

## **Unit Information Forms**

The 2016 form is included in your newsletter mailing. Use the form to report the amount of Unit dues for the 2016 membership year. The amount listed must match your Unit's Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules on file with Department. Please return the form even if you have no changes to your dues.

## **Unit Elections**

The 2016 Officer's List is included in this mailing. Remember elections cannot be held before March 27 or after June 10, 2015. Results from the election must be reported to Department, using the enclosed form, no later than June 15, 2015.

Be sure that all elected members are current with their 2015 dues BEFORE the election, otherwise your election will be invalid.

## **Poppies**

Great job on distributing poppies so far this year! Through January 13, we have collected \$7,291.34 at Department from poppy proceeds. A reminder to a few Units whose poppy proceeds are now past due: Units 37, 63, 142, 149 and 399.

## **Quotas**

Thank you to all Units who have paid their quotas. Remember these must be current prior to Convention. The following Units are still outstanding: 29, 92, 118, 171, 177, 204, 209, 213, 225, 255, 269, 284, 288, 358, and 378.

## **Convention**

A reminder that Convention is June 25-28. Be sure to reserve your room now at the Renaissance Orlando SeaWorld.

# Secretary

Department has received the following Endorsement Letters:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Position</u>
Pearl McIntyre	Unit 162 - Deerfield Beach	Department President
Erna Schwabe	Unit 120 - Holly Hill	National Executive Committeewoman
Kelli Becraft	Unit 275 - Dunedin	1st Vice President
Treva Kaye Wildrick	Unit 183 - Fern Park	2nd Vice President
Michele DeGennaro	Unit 335 - Hudson	3rd Vice President
Gail Dupuis	Unit 36 - Ft Lauderdale	Historian
Lois Stachelrodt	Unit 19 - Orlando	Chaplain
Linda Knoblach-Harkness	Unit 340 - Pensacola	District 1 President
Annie Anderson	Unit 316 - Atlantic Beach	District 5 President
Charlotte Bass	Unit 80 - St Cloud	District 6 President
Jacqueline Moody	Unit 323 - Lehigh Acres	District 13 President
Dee Bell	Unit 305 - Long Key	District 16 President

Lighting the way for veterans,

Kimberly Sullivan

## Calendar

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
Girls State Unit Application Deadline	Feb 1, 2015	
Southern Area Ball	Feb 7, 2015	Post 142 Pompano Beach
Female Veterans luncheon	Feb 14	Unit 335 Hudson
Town & Country 2nd Annual Golf Tourn.	Feb 21 at 8am	Silver Dollar Golf Course
Central Area Family Hawaii Ball	Feb 28 at 4pm	Post 8
Family Fun Day	Feb 28 at 11am	Post 1 - Titusville
<b>Constitutional Conferences</b>		
• District 14	May 1 at 9am	Palmetto Bay
• District 6	May 16 at 9am	Post 80, St. Cloud
• District 17	June 7 at 3:30pm	Post 6, Deland
• District 5	June 7 at 8am	Post 137
Convention	June 25-28	Renaissance at SeaWorld
Girls State	July 9-17	FSU, Tallahassee

# Chaplain's Corner



**Lois Stachelrodt**

*Department of Florida Chaplain*

As we begin a new year, let us always reflect on the memories that will be in our hearts forever. Let us always remember that our loved ones are here with us, guiding us, protecting us and loving us as we continue through life. They are and always will be our "Angels". As we continue to light the way for our Veterans, let us pray that those still serving overseas will be home soon with their families.

***District 1***

**Unit 296** Britton, Takako  
Korns, Bonnie

**Unit 375** Golden, Carol

***District 3***

**Unit 57** Ash, Frances

**Unit 383** Crudep-Mondeau, Janus

***District 4***

**Unit 16** Tucker, Nancy

***District 6***

**Unit 101** Sprecher, Elizabeth  
Stanley, Ruth

***District 8***

**Unit 69** Garrett, Dorothy  
Stone, Julia

**Unit 254** Ferris, Gladys  
Guenin, Olympia A.

***District 12***

**Unit 163** Mullen, Dotti

**Unit 348** Morris, Sandra

***District 13***

**Unit 303** Szwast, Linda S.

**Unit 323** Ament, Joan  
Evans, Linda  
Molina, Juanita  
Weddel, Helen

***District 14***

**Unit 154** Alby, Marianne  
Branyan, Nancy L.

***District 15***

**Unit 152** Mckee, Janet  
Snow, Sandra

***District 16***

**Unit 273** Campbell, Shirley  
Jedrey, Marilyn  
Kelly, Norma L.

***District 17***

**Unit 17** Schramm, Margaret

**Early Call for Assistance in Memorial Service at Convention**

Chaplains, District Presidents or volunteers are needed for the Memorial Service on Sunday, June 28, 2015 at 8:00 AM, location Renaissance Convention Center. White outfit is not required, but would prefer it if you can.

Please Contact Chaplain Lois Stachelrodt at email – [lois\\_stachelrodt@yahoo.com](mailto:lois_stachelrodt@yahoo.com) or [Chaplain@alafll.org](mailto:Chaplain@alafll.org) if interested in assisting.





# Leadership



## Diane Rousseau

Have you met Florida's Leadership Goal for the 2014-2015 year? It is simply this: Every member must continue to learn and continue to teach others about our great organization! If we do so with enthusiasm, it will lead to members who are more likely to volunteer, take part in meetings, and take leadership positions ... thus ensuring that the leadership of this organization continues to be the very best.

Of course this goal is one that needs to continue! Let's not forget about it ... we must keep working on it ... make is a point to work on this goal in 2015!

**ABC SCHOOLS:** If you haven't heard about an ABC School being held in "your District" and would like to have one, please contact your District President! The following Districts have not scheduled an ABC School: Districts 2, 3, 4, 9, 14.

The 5th District has one scheduled for Saturday, March 14th at Post 316, Atlantic Beach ... registration at 9:30 a.m. and ABC School at 10:00 a.m. ... with Shirley Fraser as the Instructor! If you want to attend this one, let 5th District Leadership Chairman Wanda Brandt know by contacting her at [wanda.brandt@comcast.net](mailto:wanda.brandt@comcast.net).

Time is running out ... if you want an ABC School this Auxiliary year, it needs to be scheduled now and set for no later than the 2nd week of March! Once March hits, the Auxiliary year is starting to wind down ... year-end reports are being compiled for the April deadlines, then Constitutional Conferences are just around the corner, then Department Convention, and then National Convention. Time flies by so quickly!

Leaving you with 2 thoughts this time:  
"A leader's attitude is caught by his or her followers  
more quickly than his or her actions."  
John C. Maxwell

We could learn a lot from crayons:  
Some are sharp, some are pretty,  
Some are dull, some have weird names,  
And all are different colors ...  
But they all exist very nicely in the same box!  
Author unknown

Happy New Year!

Diane Rousseau  
Department Leadership Chairman  
Email: [leadership@alaf1.org](mailto:leadership@alaf1.org)



# *Legislative*



Thank you Districts and Units who sent in Mid-Year Reports. Please know that it is vitally important for all of us to complete the reports and get them to our District Program Chairman so they can get them to the Department Program Chairman so they can get them to the Department President and Regional Program Chairman. Keep checking the news and The American Legion website for legislative updates affecting our Veterans, active duty service members and their families. Once you have the necessary information please contact state and federal officials and educate them on the needs of these groups of individuals. Together we can make a difference! Thank you for all you do for our Veterans and service members and their families. May God bless you and God Bless America.

Nancy Anderson  
Legislative Program Chairman

## ***NEWS FROM JAMES A. HALEY VA HOSPITAL***

Firstly, we had a tremendous Christmas at James A. Haley. We received many donations, including toiletries, clothing!, socks, books, and all manner of accessories, all but the kitchen sink. I was extremely busy, having taken on the task of organizing the items that arrived in our tiny room.

For January events, we have Veterans Appreciation Week coming up. We serve coffee and donuts around the hospital to veterans and their companions. It is a fun time. Patients in the hospital receive gift bags from voluntary services.

We have a bingo for our hospitalized vets on January 7th, hosted by ALA unit #334. Our bingo for January 15 was cancelled by VAVS due to a program being presented in the auditorium. ALA Unit #8 from Winter Haven hosts bingo on January 29. They are always lots of fun.

Anne Sankowski, Representative  
American Legion Auxiliary  
James A. Haley VA Hospital  
13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd  
Tampa, Florida 33612

# Legislative News

## **Congress Blocks Reduced Housing Allowance for Student Veterans**

Jan 05, 2015 | by Bryant Jordan

Veterans going to school on the GI Bill will not be affected by lower basic housing allowances that Congress imposed on active-duty troops, thanks to eleventh-hour lobbying efforts by two House committees and veterans' service organizations.

Without the provision, student vets would have seen their housing assistance lowered because their housing stipends are tied to the Basic Allowance for Housing rates of the active duty force.

“We set up literally until midnight with both committees to wall [the BAH rates] off from each other,” said Steve Gonzalez, assistant director for The American Legion’s Veterans Employment & Education Division in Washington, DC. “Right now you have a BAH number that only corresponds to the GI Bill and BAH that only corresponds to the active duty military.”

Gonzalez said the fix is only temporary, however, and the Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars -- which also took part in the last-minute lobbying -- will begin working with the new Congress next week on a permanent solution.

The groups worked with the House Veterans Affairs Committee and House Armed Services Committee to get the language inserted into the National Defense Authorization Act, he said. The Senate committees were not involved at all even though they agreed with the final version of the bill that included the temporary fix, Gonzalez said.

The House Veterans Affairs Committee had been pushing legislation to exempt veterans from a 1 percent cut in the active duty BAH rate. The Defense Department sought the reduction as a cost-savings measure, apparently giving little thought to its impact on student veterans.

Veterans in school under the Post 9/11 GI Bill receive monthly housing allowances that are tied to the active duty BAH. The amount is based on the BAH rate for an E-5 with dependents and will go up or down each year in accordance with housing costs across the country.

Because housing costs vary from place to place, the allowances do as well.

For example, the current BAH for an E-5 with dependents at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, is \$1,560. For an E-5 assigned to the Pentagon, the allowance is \$2,175, according to the Defense Department’s calculator. The BAH reduction for service members will mean a loss of about \$187 for an E-5 stationed at Fort Sam Houston, and about \$261 for an E-5 assigned to the Pentagon. The amounts are relatively small but collectively represent millions in savings for the Pentagon.

The Pentagon originally asked for a 5 percent reduction to BAH over three years, but lawmakers backed off on that against pressure from veterans groups and military associations that lobbied on behalf of the active duty service members.



Post 112



Christmas Gifts to Veterans in Clifford Sims Nursing Home



Department President and Commander visit Clyde Lassen VA Nursing Home on December tour with Unit Members from Units 37 and 194.



Sunday Dinner at USS Tampa Post 5. NECA Art Schwabe, ALAFL President Erna Schwabe, 15th District ALA President Rosemary Hamblin.



Wreaths Across America. Post 5 Tampa Commander Bill Hamblin, 15th District President Rosemary Hamblin, Department President Erna Schwabe, NECA Art Schwabe.

# THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



Happy New Year!



Department President Erna Schwabe and VA Representative Louise Wilt with CNA Students from Wiregrass Ranch High School. The students volunteer their time giving back to the Veterans!

## Post 112 "Our Happenin' Auxiliary"

What a busy couple of months we've had! We kicked off November by attending the Department Fall Conference. Marge and Nell attended some very interesting classes and were able to bring back lots of great information that our Unit can use. Next up was Veterans Day. Aunita placed flags on Veterans graves in a local cemetery aided by her hubby Dick; Marge and her hubby Lou, the Commander for Post 243, attended Veterans Day services in Oviedo; and Nell and hubby Bob, Post 112 Adjutant attended the Veterans Day program at Eastbrook Elementary as well as stopping by our Post to support Jerry's Veterans Day open house. Of course, Unit 112 was well represented at the 6th District meeting at Post 80 on November 15th.

Our annual Reading Rockets book project came in conjunction with National Education Week. We delivered packets of books to a total of 20 classrooms at Aloma, Cheney and Eastbrook Elementary Schools. Each packet contains one fiction and one nonfiction paperback book along with reading helps program guides for parents. Dinosaurs was the theme this year for the third grade Cheney students. To support our teachers and staff at the three schools, we also delivered huge continental breakfast food baskets. We just love to see the smiling faces of our school Principal's. We took a short breather for Thanksgiving but hit the ground running in December by attending the Posts annual Christmas party held this year at Perkins. The Post party was soon followed by our annual Holiday Food Gift Basket project.

This year, the Auxiliary funded three baskets and shopped for the food for two more baskets given out on behalf of the Post. The week of December 15th was very busy and after \$500 dollars spent and more than 100 miles traveled, your Auxiliary delivered baskets to five Veteran families, all with children, who were very grateful for our assistance. Special thanks to Marge and Nell for handling the shopping detail and to Nell and Bob for delivering the baskets from Oviedo to Pine Hills, Kissimmee and a few points in between!

# FROM THE UNITS

## American Legion Auxiliary of Florida

### UNIT 80

On December 6th, members of our Legion Family participated in the annual Christmas Parade in St. Cloud. The theme for this year's parade was "There is no Place Like Home for the Holidays", and Betty Nelson came up with a great idea for our float. The float portrayed a soldier, sitting on his cot, opening a box of gifts from home. Michael, Betty Nelson's grandson played the role of the soldier. Michael, who is in ROTC at Harmony High School. Members carrying Legion and American flags included: Jerry Bennett, Gary Brunelle, Rita Johnson, Judy Martin, David Nigh, and Mike Turco. Our American Legion Riders had nine decorated motorcycles participating (see photos on page 2). Our Auxiliary members also marched and our Junior Auxiliary passed out candy to children along the parade route. December meeting so if you have not yet brought your school supplies donation, please remember to support Children and Youth efforts and bring your donation to the December meetings.



On December 13th, members of our Legion Family lead this year's Wreaths Across America ceremony in conjunction with VFW Post 3227 and the City of St. Cloud. Cindy Hoover was in charge of tracking wreath

sales and ordering of the wreaths for the Ceremony. Charlotte Bass was in charge of putting together the program's speakers. Gary Nelson was our Master of Ceremonies for the day. Ed & Chris Falkowski, Jerry Bennett, Daryl Bass, Jean Fritz, and John & Sue Wilding all carried memorial wreaths. The Wildings are gold star parents and carried the Marine Corps wreath in honor of their son, LCPL Tyler Owen Griffin. Mike Turco played Taps as part of the Osceola County Veterans Council's triple trumpet performance. Marilyn Cochran, who has been the ceremony coordinator for the past several years, gave the closing remarks for this year's ceremony. St. Cloud's Mayor, Rebecca Borders, gave the opening remarks. Michigan Ave. Elementary teacher & Unit 80 Auxiliary President Charlotte Bass had her students say the Pledge of Allegiance. Stephen Shuga who is the Membership Chairman for the American Legion's Department of Florida, was our guest speaker. He did an excellent job reminding us to "Remember, Honor and Teach," Wreaths Across America's mission. We must always remember the sacrifices of our Veterans and honor them for their service. And we must teach our children and grandchildren about all these sacrifices so that they will be remembered and honored in future generations.





Full Moon Music Festival.



Full Moon Music Festival.



Unit 125 -Lisa Russell, Erna Schwabe and Liz Close



Unit 117 President Sharon and Department President Erna.



Christmas Gifts to Veterans in Clifford Sims Nursing Home



Christmas Gifts to Veterans in Clifford Sims Nursing Home

# *Poppies*



I have received several calls concerning wanting to distribution poppies, at a different time other than what Department of Florida has as the normal distribution time Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. If you distributed poppies on a annual bases different than these dates, please write Department President Erna, and she will give you permission to distribute them and then have it filed on record at Department Headquarters, so next year you will not have to get permission.

Also Units get these "Miss Poppy" out, so she can be active in the community, educating them on what the poppy stands for and showing our Veterans we will never forget.

Wanda Brandt  
Department Poppy Chairman

## *Miss Poppy Contest*

1. Has your Unit selected a Miss Poppy?
2. Has she been out and participated in the poppy program?
3. Deadline to select a District Miss Poppy is April 15th, all judging must be done by the District by May 1, 2015. Criteria selection along with Miss Poppy information must be sent to Department Chairman by May 15th please send any pictures, publicity, write ups and her visits throughout her area.
4. Miss Poppy selection and scrapbook must be sent to Department Chairman by May 15th.
5. Send Poppy Posters May 15 2015.



# Americanism☆☆☆

When you hear the word “Americanism,” what comes to mind? The American flag, the Liberty Bell, Eagles, parades, patriotic celebrations...all symbols and events that portray our freedoms as Americans. But, Americanism goes far beyond all these things. Americanism is all about preserving the most cherished traditions of our American way.

When President Roosevelt was asked, “What is Americanism,” he replied. “Americanism means the virtues of courage, honor, justice, truth, sincerity and hardihood – the virtues that made America. The things that will destroy America are posterity-at-any-price, peace-at-any-price, safety-first instead of duty-first, the love of soft living and the get-rich-quick theory of life.”

The virtues of which President Roosevelt spoke must be passed down to our future generations of Americans.

As Auxiliary members, we have a great opportunity to pass these virtues to our youth through programs like the Americanism essay Contest. This year’s topic, “What Does Freedom Mean to Me and My Family” gives our children an opportunity to reflect upon and write about how our freedoms affect their daily lives. This contest is a great way to keep our traditions, interests and ideals alive for our youth.

All of the rules and information for this year’s contest can be found in this year’s Online Unit Guide at [www.alafl.org](http://www.alafl.org). Please make sure and follow the guidelines in the online guide, as there were some misprints in the hard copy version.

Please contact me at 321-723-6233 if I can be of any assistance.

Ann King-Smith  
Americanism Chairman



## ***Americanism Resources You Can Use***

1. Emblem Sales: [www.emblem.legion.org](http://www.emblem.legion.org) - flag education DVD: explains the history, significance, meaning, proper display and treatment of the U.S. flag. Let’s Be Right on Flag Etiquette - a “question and answer” booklet on proper flag etiquette.
2. The American Legion Flag Advocacy: [www.legion.org/flag](http://www.legion.org/flag)
3. The American Legion’s Action Program of Americanism brochure: [www.legion.org/publications](http://www.legion.org/publications)
4. Capitol Building flags: To order flags flown over the Capitol, contact your congressional representative or senator or visit his/her website. Flags are available for a nominal fee; four to six weeks should be allowed for delivery.
5. Your Americanism Chairman committee members

# Questions & Answers Ab

**Q: Can a flag that has been used to cover a casket be displayed after its original use?**

**A:** There are no provisions in the Flag Code to suggest otherwise. It would be a fitting tribute to the memory of the deceased veteran and their service to a grateful nation if their casket flag were displayed.

**Q: Can the United States flag be displayed on days when the weather is inclement?**

**A:** The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all weather (nylon or other non-absorbent material) flag is displayed. However, most all flags are made of all weather materials.

**Q: What is the significance of displaying the flag at half staff?**

**A:** This gesture is a sign to indicate the nation mourns the death of an individual(s), such as death of the President or former President, Vice President, Supreme Court Justice, member of Congress, Secretary of an executive or military department, etc. Only the President of the United States or the Governor of the State may order the flag to be half-staffed. The honor and reverence accorded this solemn act is quickly becoming eroded by those individuals and agencies that display the flag at half-staff on inappropriate occasions without proper authority to do so.

**Q: When the flag is not flown from a staff, how should it be displayed?**

**A:** It should be displayed vertically, whether indoors or out, and suspended so that its folds fall free as though the flag were staffed. The stripes may be displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right; that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window of a home or a place of business, the flag should be displayed in the same way; that is, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.

**Q: How are unserviceable flags destroyed?**

**A:** The Flag Code suggests that, "when a flag has served its useful purpose, it should be destroyed, preferably by burning." For individual citizens, this should be done discreetly so the act of destruction is not perceived as a protest or desecration. Many American Legion Posts conduct Disposal of Unserviceable Flag Ceremonies on June 14, Flag Day. This ceremony creates a particularly dignified and solemn occasion for the retirement of unserviceable flags.

**Q: Can the flag be washed or dry-cleaned?**

**A:** Yes. There are no provisions of the Flag Code which prohibit such care. The decision to wash or dry-clean would be dependent on the material.

**Q: Are you required to destroy the flag if it touches the ground?**

**A:** Flag Code section 176b states that the flag should not touch anything beneath it such as the ground. This is stated to indicate that care should be exercised in the handling of the flag, to protect it from becoming soiled or damaged. You ARE NOT required to destroy the flag when this happens. As long as the flag remains suitable for display, even if washing or dry-cleaning (which is acceptable practice) is required, you may continue to display the flag as a symbol of our great country.

# *out Our American Flag*

**Q: May a person other than a veteran have his/her casket draped with the flag of the United States?**

**A:** Yes, although this honor is usually reserved for veterans or highly regarded state and national figures, the Flag Code does not prohibit this use.

**Q: What is the significance of the gold fringe which we see on some American flags?**

**A:** Records indicate that fringe was first used on the flag as early as 1835. It was not until 1895 it was officially added to the National flag for all regiments of the Army. For civilian use, fringe is not required as an integral part of the flag, nor can its use be said to constitute an unauthorized addition to the design prescribed by statute. It is considered that fringe is used as an honorable enrichment only.

**Q: What is meant by the flag's own right?**

**A:** The "right" as the position of honor developed from the time when the "right hand" was the "weapon hand" or "point of danger." The right hand, raised without a weapon, was a sign of peace. The right hand, to any observer, is the observer's left. Therefore, as used in the Flag Code, the flag and/or blue field is displayed to the left of the observer, which is the flag's "own right."

**Q: Is it proper to fly the flag of the United States at night?**

**A:** The Flag Code states it is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. The American Legion interprets "proper illumination" as a light specifically placed to illuminate the flag (preferred) or having a light source sufficient to illuminate the flag so it is recognizable as such by the casual observer.

**Q: What should be the position of the flag when displayed from a staff in a church, public auditorium or other public meeting place, whether indoors or outdoors, on platform, or on the floor at ground level?**

**A:** When used on a speaker's platform, the flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. When displayed from a staff in a church, public auditorium or meeting place, the flag should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the audience. Prior to the Flag Code changes in 1976, the display procedure was somewhat different. Now the staffed flag should always be placed to the right of the speaker (observer's left) without regard to a platform or floor level.

**Q: What are the penalties for the physical desecration of the flag?**

**A:** There are currently no penalties for the physical desecration of the flag. The American Legion and other members of the Citizens Flag Alliance continue working towards securing a Constitutional amendment to protect the flag from physical desecration. 2

# Membership



**Jane Hardacre**

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The month of February is associated with love and affection because we celebrate Valentine's Day. This year we are going to include all of our members who have not renewed. Let's show them that we care by personally calling them. Get several of your members together and start dialing. The Membership team is here to help you. Call your District Membership Chairman to share the workload.

Climbing further up the Florida lighthouse is even more important as we head into February. If you haven't mailed out postcards or survey letters to your members, please do so. You can get them on the Department of Florida website under Membership. Let's take President Erna right to the top!

If your Unit has a Facebook page, website or other social media outlet, utilize it. Put an ad in your local newspaper reminding your members to renew. Technology makes 'reaching out' easier than ever. Newsletter articles can still be a good renewal tool.

The next membership goal for Renew/Rejoin is February 7th for 85%. Don't give up on us; we are not giving up on you! Membership is the strength of our organization. We are all ONE IN A MILLION! We can show National that Florida is "Lighting the Way for Veterans" through Membership.

For God and Country,  
Jane Hardacre



# HOMECOMING 2015



## *For God and Country*

The American Legion Department of Florida Commander, Jay Conti Sr.  
The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida President, Erna Schwabe  
The American Legion Detachment of Florida Commander, Kirk Miller  
*Present*

## **Homecoming 2015**

**April 25, 2015**

**Post 103 – Punta Gorda**

2101 Taylor Road, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

***Cocktails: 5:00 pm      Dinner: 6:00 pm***

**Tickets: \$25.00**

***Theme is Red, White and Blue – Theme casual attire***

# Membership Report

## District 1

UNIT	CITY	OBJ*	NEW	TOTAL %	Rejoin/ Renew	R/R %
0075	Crestview	183	109	59.56%	176	65.91%
0078	Milton	38	25	65.79%	36	63.89%
0121	Jay	15	0	0.00%	14	0.00%
0193	Pensacola	112	81	62.50%	110	72.73%
0221	Niceville	64	64	98.44%	66	83.33%
0235	Ft Walton Bch	188	128	65.96%	179	69.27%
0240	Pensacola	265	150	56.60%	255	53.33%
0296	Destin	65	38	58.46%	62	61.29%
0340	Pensacola	310	208	62.58%	306	64.38%
0356	Lynn Haven	186	137	73.66%	178	66.85%
0375	Southport	93	44	41.94%	91	40.66%
0378	Gulf Breeze	11	19	172.73%	11	145.45%
0382	Navarre	142	52	36.62%	135	44.44%
0392	Panama City	177	111	62.71%	183	58.47%
Total		1849	1166	61.17%	1802	61.49%

## District 2

UNIT	CITY	OBJ*	NEW	TOTAL %	Rejoin/ Renew	R/R %
0013	Tallahassee	91	81	89.01%	89	83.15%
0082	Lanark	95	70	73.68%	94	68.09%
0084	Havana	30	23	76.67%	29	75.86%
0100	Marianna	66	38	57.58%	63	60.32%
0114	Crawfordville	32	2	6.25%	30	6.67%
0172	Telogia	16	13	81.25%	15	86.67%
0217	Quincy	57	49	85.96%	54	90.74%
0241	Sneads	71	52	73.24%	68	76.47%
0272	Blountstown	14	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Total		472	328	69.49%	442	71.04%

## District 3

UNIT	CITY	OBJ*	NEW	TOTAL %	Rejoin/ Renew	R/R %
0049	Monticello	24	17	70.83%	23	60.87%
0057	Lake City	297	213	71.72%	292	71.92%
0107	Live Oak	40	38	95.00%	39	89.74%
0131	Greenville	36	20	55.56%	34	58.82%
0215	Jasper	47	26	55.32%	45	57.78%
0224	Madison	43	11	25.58%	42	26.19%
0291	Steinhatchee	165	117	70.91%	158	70.25%
0383	Old Town	147	114	77.55%	144	79.17%
Total		799	556	69.59%	777	69.63%

## District 4

UNIT	CITY
0016	Gainesville
0027	Ocala
0056	Starke
0058	Dunnellon
0077	Inverness
0091	Trenton
0149	Newberry
0155	Crystal River
0210	Ocala
0225	Floral City
0230	Hawthorne
0236	Bronson
0237	Beverly Hills
0284	Bellevue
0314	Starke
Total	

## District 5

UNIT	CITY
0009	Jacksonville
0037	Saint Augustine
0054	Fernandina Beach
0088	Jacksonville
0129	Jacksonville Beach
0137	Jacksonville
0174	Jacksonville
0194	St Augustine
0197	Jacksonville
0202	Keystone Heights
0233	Ponte Vedra Beach
0244	Jacksonville
0250	Middleburg
0283	Jacksonville
0316	Atlantic Beach
0373	Orange Park
0401	Hilliard
Total	

OBJ*	NEW	TOTAL %	Rejoin/ Renew	R/R %
71	54	76.06%	68	73.53%
35	34	97.14%	33	100.00%
18	14	77.78%	17	82.35%
48	48	100.00%	47	85.11%
54	28	51.85%	51	52.94%
18	8	44.44%	18	38.89%
26	18	69.23%	28	64.29%
314	226	71.97%	311	71.06%
17	11	64.71%	16	68.75%
19	2	10.53%	18	11.11%
47	39	82.98%	54	72.22%
18	24	133.33%	24	75.00%
104	98	94.23%	107	80.37%
162	73	45.06%	156	46.79%
18	13	72.22%	17	94.12%
969	690	71.21%	965	67.88%

OBJ*	NEW	TOTAL %	Rejoin/ Renew	R/R %
34	14	41.18%	32	40.63%
109	78	71.56%	120	60.83%
239	157	65.69%	232	62.93%
137	97	70.80%	135	69.63%
299	233	77.93%	308	71.10%
590	413	70.00%	602	66.28%
15	0	0.00%	7	0.00%
34	22	64.71%	32	62.50%
37	33	89.19%	37	81.08%
80	45	56.25%	78	57.69%
161	113	70.19%	158	59.49%
53	42	79.25%	50	80.00%
331	248	74.92%	323	69.66%
319	269	84.33%	317	75.71%
417	280	67.15%	398	66.33%
30	30	100.00%	29	93.10%
33	23	69.70%	31	54.84%
2918	2097	71.86%	2889	67.36%

## District 6

UNIT	CITY	OBJ*	NEW	TOTAL %	Rejoin/ Renew	R/R %
0010	Kissimmee	270	184	68.15%	263	68.06%
0019	Orlando	172	120	69.77%	171	57.31%
0021	Umatilla	27	9	33.33%	28	32.14%
0035	Mount Dora	91	51	56.04%	88	52.27%
0041	Eustis	19	19	100.00%	19	94.74%
0052	Leesburg	35	28	80.00%	33	66.67%
0053	Sanford	160	101	63.13%	158	62.03%
0055	Clermont	160	125	78.13%	161	71.43%
0063	Winter Garden	18	25	138.89%	40	62.50%
0076	Tavares	17	11	64.71%	17	64.71%
0080	Saint Cloud	322	225	69.88%	315	66.03%
0101	Bushnell	139	106	76.26%	144	68.06%
0109	Ocoee	40	1	2.50%	38	2.63%
0112	Winter Park	22	20	90.91%	22	86.36%
0183	Fern Park	159	113	71.07%	152	69.08%
0219	Fruitland Park	244	196	80.33%	239	80.75%
0242	Orlando	174	131	75.29%	167	73.65%
0286	Orlando	302	232	76.82%	288	76.04%
0330	Leesburg	58	55	94.83%	55	87.27%
0331	Orlando	12	23	191.67%	26	88.46%
0347	Lady Lake	1265	1188	93.91%	1237	84.16%
0357	Clearmont	0	17		0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>		<b>3706</b>	<b>2980</b>	<b>80.41%</b>	<b>3661</b>	<b>74.02%</b>

## District 7

UNIT	CITY	OBJ*	NEW	TOTAL %	Rejoin/ Renew	R/R %
0003	Bartow	80	62	77.50%	78	78.21%
0004	Lakeland	118	75	63.56%	113	65.49%
0008	Winter Haven	632	24	3.80%	629	3.82%
0034	Haines City	75	55	73.33%	73	73.97%
0071	Lake Wales	60	68	113.33%	59	100.00%
0072	Mulberry	172	115	66.86%	168	65.48%
0118	Zephyrhills	36	2	5.56%	34	5.88%
0201	Florence Villa	41	39	95.12%	41	90.24%
0339	Nalcrest	43	14	32.56%	41	34.15%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1257</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>36.12%</b>	<b>1236</b>	<b>35.19%</b>

\*OBJ = OBJECTIVE

# District 8

UNIT	CITY	OBJ*	NEW	TOTAL %	Rejoin/ Renew	R/R %
0011	Arcadia	20	11	55.00%	25	44.00%
0024	Bradenton	468	308	65.81%	449	62.36%
0025	Lake Placid	389	263	67.61%	375	66.93%
0030	Sarasota	76	54	71.05%	72	70.83%
0069	Avon Park	372	326	87.63%	361	75.35%
0074	Sebring	105	69	65.71%	102	64.71%
0113	Rotonda West	421	300	71.26%	414	71.74%
0159	Venice	760	574	75.53%	741	73.28%
0254	North Port	91	62	68.13%	92	58.70%
0266	Sarasota	106	58	54.72%	101	79.21%
0309	Palmetto	235	170	72.34%	225	74.22%
0312	Oneco	235	138	58.72%	230	57.83%
0325	Ellenton	63	67	106.35%	63	96.83%
Total		3341	2400	71.83%	3250	69.72%

# District 9

UNIT	CITY	OBJ*	NEW	TOTAL %	Rejoin/ Renew	R/R %
0036	Ft Lauderdale	92	57	61.96%	53	58.89%
0092	Hollywood	127	88	69.29%	88	72.13%
0142	Pompano Beach	294	219	74.49%	209	75.27%
0157	Margate	383	224	58.49%	223	61.10%
0162	Deerfield Beach	306	214	69.93%	205	70.76%
0180	Fort Lauderdale	109	88	80.73%	79	75.24%
0209	Dania Beach	19	8	42.11%	8	26.67%
0220	Ft Lauderdale	19	20	105.26%	17	94.44%
0222	Fort Lauderdale	75	52	69.33%	49	69.01%
0287	Deerfield Beach	29	16	55.17%	14	50.00%
0304	Dania	203	142	69.95%	141	71.94%
0310	Hallandale	37	17	45.95%	17	47.22%
0321	Cooper City	112	117	104.46%	100	68.03%
Total		1805	1262	69.92%	1203	67.80%

\*OBJ = OBJECTIVE

\*OBJ = OBJECTIVE

# District 11

UNIT	CITY	OBJ*	NEW
0020	Belle Glade	71	28
0047	Lake Worth	138	10
0062	Stuart	139	13
0064	Okeechobee	133	98
0065	Delray Beach	53	42
0141	West Palm Beach	93	75
0164	Boynton Beach	176	10
0188	West Palm Beach	16	10
0199	Riviera Beach	30	38
0258	Greenacres	29	22
0268	Lake Park	112	62
0269	Lantana	11	2
0271	Tequesta	192	15
0277	Boca Raton	118	84
0288	Boynton Beach	67	55
0367	Royal Palm Beach	46	37
0399	Palm City	16	14
Total		1440	107

# District 13

UNIT	CITY	OBJ*	NEW
0038	Fort Myers	98	55
0090	Cape Coral	195	130
0103	Punta Gorda	339	269
0110	Port Charlotte	565	415
0123	Sanibel	97	36
0130	Labelle	183	117
0135	Naples	422	301
0136	Saint James City	476	347
0192	Fort Myers	26	20
0274	Fort Myers Beach	596	446
0303	Bonita Springs	407	311
0323	Lehigh Acres	505	484
0336	N Ft Myers	289	275
0351	Fort Myers	87	61
Total		4285	3267



UNIT	TOTAL %	Rejoin/ Renew	R/R %
0001	39.44%	68	41.18%
0002	77.54%	132	75.76%
0003	96.40%	136	91.91%
0004	73.68%	133	69.17%
0005	79.25%	51	80.39%
0006	80.65%	89	76.40%
0007	61.36%	170	63.53%
0008	62.50%	15	113.33%
0009	126.67%	35	100.00%
0010	75.86%	28	78.57%
0011	55.36%	117	51.28%
0012	18.18%	10	220.00%
0013	81.25%	183	32.79%
0014	71.19%	112	73.21%
0015	82.09%	64	93.75%
0016	80.43%	45	80.00%
0017	87.50%	17	70.59%
<b>Total</b>	<b>74.44%</b>	<b>1405</b>	<b>73.74%</b>

## District 12

UNIT	CITY	OBJ*	NEW	TOTAL %	Rejoin/ Renew	R/R %
0001	Titusville	323	251	77.71%	312	79.81%
0022	Cocoa	93	94	101.08%	91	82.42%
0039	Vero Beach	190	151	79.47%	183	73.22%
0040	Fort Pierce	197	123	62.44%	196	62.24%
0081	Melbourne	143	93	65.03%	143	62.94%
0117	Palm Bay	419	314	74.94%	416	70.19%
0126	Jensen Beach	195	158	81.03%	200	77.00%
0163	Melbourne	392	306	78.06%	374	81.02%
0171	Fort Pierce	39	3	7.69%	37	13.51%
0177	Cocoa	10	0	0.00%	8	0.00%
0189	Sebastian	95	59	62.11%	90	64.44%
0191	Melbourne	148	83	56.08%	142	58.45%
0200	Satellite Beach	111	96	86.49%	107	83.18%
0318	Port St Lucie	521	461	88.48%	545	68.99%
0332	Merritt Island	29	6	20.69%	28	21.43%
0348	Cape Canaveral	144	124	86.11%	158	72.78%
0358	White City	51	32	62.75%	49	65.31%
0359	Port St John	272	213	78.31%	268	75.75%
0366	Roseland	88	71	80.68%	84	82.14%
0394	Palm Bay	61	52	85.25%	62	69.35%
<b>Total</b>		<b>3521</b>	<b>2690</b>	<b>76.40%</b>	<b>3493</b>	<b>71.51%</b>

UNIT	TOTAL %	Rejoin/ Renew	R/R %
0018	56.12%	95	56.84%
0019	66.67%	200	57.00%
0020	79.35%	328	74.39%
0021	73.45%	560	73.21%
0022	37.11%	93	38.71%
0023	63.93%	181	65.19%
0024	71.33%	414	66.91%
0025	72.90%	462	72.29%
0026	76.92%	25	76.00%
0027	74.83%	573	76.44%
0028	76.41%	398	75.38%
0029	95.84%	482	93.78%
0030	95.16%	283	82.33%
0031	70.11%	88	67.05%
<b>Total</b>	<b>76.24%</b>	<b>4182</b>	<b>73.84%</b>

## District 14

UNIT	CITY	OBJ*	NEW	TOTAL %	Rejoin/ Renew	R/R %
0028	Key West	82	56	68.29%	79	69.62%
0029	Miami	23	3	13.04%	23	13.04%
0031	South Miami	153	125	81.70%	147	76.19%
0043	Homestead	67	43	64.18%	64	64.06%
0067	North Miami	75	44	58.67%	71	61.97%
0098	Coral Gables	25	1	4.00%	24	4.17%
0133	Miami	81	61	75.31%	79	75.95%
0154	Marathon	167	124	74.25%	165	71.52%
0168	Key West	27	14	51.85%	28	50.00%
0333	Key Largo	86	58	67.44%	84	65.48%
0346	Miami	26	18	69.23%	25	72.00%
0374	Key Biscayne	75	45	60.00%	72	59.72%
<b>Total</b>		<b>887</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>66.74%</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>65.51%</b>

## District 15

UNIT	CITY	OBJ*	NEW	TOTAL %	Rejoin/ Renew	R/R %
0005	Tampa	45	35	77.78%	44	75.00%
0026	Plant City	34	18	52.94%	34	52.94%
0099	Brooksville	40	30	75.00%	38	78.95%
0111	Tampa	49	32	65.31%	47	65.96%
0138	Tampa	392	300	76.53%	377	74.54%
0139	Tampa	183	134	73.22%	173	71.10%
0147	Odessa	40	28	70.00%	38	68.42%
0148	Riverview	249	154	61.85%	239	62.76%
0152	Tampa	319	240	75.24%	306	69.93%
0167	Tampa	33	26	78.79%	31	83.87%
0186	Spring Hill	416	291	69.95%	415	65.54%
0248	West Tampa	23	25	108.70%	28	82.14%
0334	Tampa	41	29	70.73%	41	73.17%
0389	Ruskin	26	12	46.15%	25	40.00%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1890</b>	<b>1354</b>	<b>71.64%</b>	<b>1836</b>	<b>69.01%</b>

## District 16

UNIT	CITY	OBJ*	NEW	TOTAL %	Rejoin/ Renew	R/R %
0007	Clearwater	392	273	69.64%	377	66.05%
0014	St Petersburg	164	102	62.20%	160	71.25%
0079	New Port Richey	340	252	74.12%	343	64.43%
0104	Pinellas Park	245	179	73.06%	236	72.03%
0119	Largo	383	260	67.89%	366	71.04%
0125	Gulfport	392	282	71.94%	379	72.56%
0158	Treasure Island	183	148	80.87%	181	77.35%
0173	Holiday	277	225	81.23%	268	76.87%
0238	Safety Harbor	294	195	66.33%	283	67.49%
0252	Seminole	726	623	85.81%	729	77.91%
0273	Seminole	2331	1492	64.01%	2232	59.77%
0275	Dunedin	390	329	84.36%	373	78.55%
0305	St Pete Beach	189	102	53.97%	180	51.67%
0335	Hudson	235	150	63.83%	235	61.28%
<b>Total</b>		<b>6541</b>	<b>4612</b>	<b>70.51%</b>	<b>6342</b>	<b>67.14%</b>

\*OBJ = OBJECTIVE

## District 17

UNIT	CITY	OBJ*	N
0006	Deland	145	
0017	New Smyrna Beach	316	
0045	Palatka	32	
0115	Palm Coast	61	
0120	Holly Hill	266	
0127	Lake Helen	25	
0204	Daytona Beach	45	
0255	Deltona	34	
0259	Debary	35	
0267	Ormond Beach	134	
0270	Port Orange	162	
0285	Edgewater	221	
0293	Interlachen	80	
0361	S Daytona	188	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1744</b>	<b>1</b>

## Department

UNIT	CITY	OBJ*	N
0400	Orlando	432	
Total		432	
Dept Total		37856	

\*OBJ = OBJECTIVE

NEW	TOTAL %	Rejoin/ Renew	R/R %
112	77.24%	144	69.44%
211	66.77%	301	69.77%
14	43.75%	36	36.11%
43	70.49%	61	70.49%
224	84.21%	256	82.42%
21	84.00%	25	84.00%
32	71.11%	43	72.09%
27	79.41%	32	78.13%
27	77.14%	33	69.70%
117	87.31%	133	78.20%
124	76.54%	156	70.51%
131	59.28%	218	57.34%
48	60.00%	79	58.23%
105	55.85%	180	61.67%
<b>236</b>	<b>70.87%</b>	<b>1697</b>	<b>69.12%</b>



*I want to thank everyone for the cards, prayers,  
and well wishes after my surgery.*

*You truly made a difference in my speedy recovery.*

*Love to all,*

*Michele DeGennaro*

NEW	TOTAL %	Rejoin/ Renew	R/R %
182	42.13%	235	74.04%
182	42.13%	235	74.04%
26953	71.20%	36865	68.50%



**You can give hope to a COTA family.**

Raise funds to give hope to a family in your area. Make a gift to make a miracle for a child. Plan an activity to raise funds and awareness.

# **GIVING HOPE MAKING MIRACLES**

**Become a Miracle Maker today.**

Go to [www.cota.org](http://www.cota.org) to learn more about COTA and how you can help.



Join Legion Posts, SAL Squadrons, Auxiliary Units and Rider Chapters across the country as they raise funds for COTA to help a family in their area.



**Children's Organ  
Transplant Association®**

[www.cota.org](http://www.cota.org) 800.366.2682 [doug@cota.org](mailto:doug@cota.org)

Please support Department of Florida American Legion Auxiliary President Erna Schwabe's *Caring for COTA Kids* project. All funds raised will stay within the Sunshine State to help COTA families in need.