



The Kaleidoscope

September 2017 Volume VII Issue 2

President's Message

From the VA&R Chairman

From The Historian

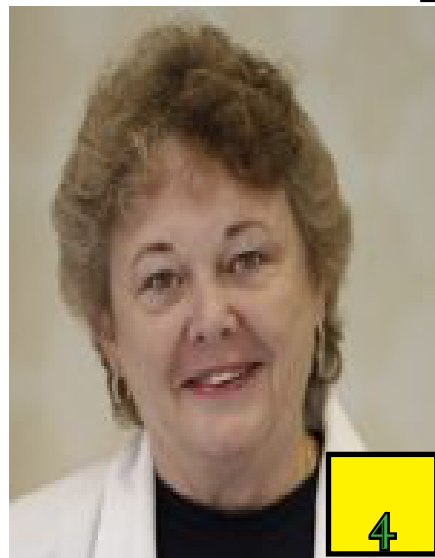
From the Constitution & Bylaws Chairman



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The Kaleidoscope

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.

For Submissions:

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**"Catching Rays, Creating
Brighter Futures!"**



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT T.K. WILDRICK

It's already September and Football is in the Air!! I have seen many Units hosting their School Supply Drives sending eager youngsters back to school with backpacks filled with supplies and loads of extra goodies for the teachers to start the New Year in good shape and renewed enthusiasm. "I can and I will – just watch me!!"

Bernie and I (Amigo 2 and Amigo 3 as we have been nicknamed) took "Jake" to Lazy Days outside of Tampa for an impromptu long weekend visit to several Post homes in District 7 and District 15. We had a lovely visit and met several Unit Members at Mulberry 72. I love the 'Program Poster' for their monthly activities - great idea!!

Then we were off to Winter Haven 8 where the Sons members were busy in the Kitchen moving appliances. We had a tour of their Post and took heed of the

Warning about snakes and alligators in the lake – I didn't take off my sandals to test the water.... They were absolutely correct, I had never seen an Eagle statue carved out of an enormous tree such as the one in the back yard – very impressive and will not soon forget it!

As we had skipped lunch, we headed to Riverview 148 for the infamous Fish Dinner provided by the Sons. Low and behold, our 15th District President Georgia McKenzie and her husband came in for dinner as well. We had a lovely visit – Thank You and keep up the great work!!

Saturday morning after breakfast, we spent some time exploring the camp ground and let Tonka and Browser play in the Dog Park. Then we were off to Lakeland 4 for their Installation of Officers. It was a great honor to be Presiding Installing Officer for the Unit members. The

incoming President, Pam 'Jo' Snyder, was a gracious hostess and presented me a beautiful bouquet of roses - THANK YOU!! They lasted several days when we returned home. Past National Detachment Commander Jimmy Roberts also attended the ceremony surprising the incoming Sons officers. Yes, I had the Chicken Salad Croissant and (2) cookies – Yum-sickles!

The next day we broke camp and survived the torrential downpour as we made our way to Bushnell 101 for their Installation of Officers. It was great to see many of the Unit members I have made friends with over the past several years. I know they will support President Karen Griscom as she leads the way creating new ways to complete our programs.

The beginning of August found me traveling to Port Charlotte 110 for the 8 & 40 Marche. It was very

special to see and visit with many of our Senior Auxiliary members who are mentors and Partners of this organization. Chapeau Diann Dircz had a "Beee-utiful" year! During the Banquet Dinner, one of the Unit members, Fay, was rallying for a 50/50 Raffle with proceeds going to K-9's for Warriors, my special charity project. Everyone was very excited about the program and how they assist our veterans. When the band took their break, I was asked to draw the ticket – my first official 'act' for this wonderful cause!! PS: if you are in the area, make sure you plan to stay for breakfast, lunch or dinner – the food is Terrrrrific!!

—Continued on page 2





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continued from Pg. 1

Past Detachment Commander Larry Smith had invited Bernie to attend the Installation of Officers at Okeechobee 64. I was able to get out of work early enough to make the trip. It was a great pleasure to see 11th District President Mary Beth Marioni and Dee Butler. We are sure to have a great time during my 'official' visit... Congratulations to President Penny Hite and her new officers – I believe you will give the Legionnaires and the Sons a run for their money to keep up with you. The homemade Chicken Dumplings hit the spot before our journey home.

Amigo 1, Commander Steve Shuga, and his First Lady, Leo, packed the Department vehicle and are on their way to meet up with the American Legion Riders heading to Reno for the National Convention. He has been posting on Facebook along the way – safe travels and see you soon!!

Before Bernie and I take off to Reno, we went to the 12th District to attend their Membership Processing meeting at Cocoa 22. It began as a Sons event and the Legion and Auxiliary followed suit making it a Legion Family Affair. I was thrilled to see so many Unit members in attendance. District President Shirley Fashano made arrangements and our Department Secretary, Patty MacDonald, provided ALAMIS instruction as well as How To's for

completing Transmittals to Department for Membership. It was great to see our Eastern Area Crystal Sweep, Dorothy Walsh; our Department Finance Chairman, Cathie McMullin and our Audit Committee Member, Karen Humann among the attendees. The questions were great, everyone gave helpful suggestions for situations or issues and the comradery was priceless. It just goes to show that we are ALL in it for Membership!

That afternoon we were in East Orlando 242 (formally Bithlo / Union Park) for their Installation of Officers. Again, I was very happy to see many long-time members and spent time catching up. The District staff was happy to see 6th District President Carole Pirone-Udell back in the saddle after having hip surgery. Thank You Mary LaNoce for being Chauffeur! Best of Luck to President Cindy Brunat – I have faith your renewed spirit will lead Unit 242 to a successful year.

This past Sunday, Orlando Memorial 19 held their Installation of Officers. Our very own Department Chaplain, Lois Stachelrodt, is the incoming Unit President – Congratulations!!

Unit 19 has a long history of great achievements – their newly elected officers will continue the tradition for sure. The Legion and SAL Commanders along with the Riders Director have all pledged to work

together as a Legion Family. I heard about some of their planned events and I believe they are certainly headed in the right direction.

Speaking of working together as a Legion Family, please try to attend your District meetings. This is where the Units come together to share upcoming events, discuss new ideas for the success of our programs, meet new members and make new friends building the Legion Family.

I hope to see many of you at Workshop, September 8 & 9, at the Wyndham Resort in Lake Buena Vista. Friday evening we will have our meet and greet of the Department Chairmen and Officers. Saturday promises to be Fun and SUPER-CALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS!!

We only live once, so let's think twice!! Looking forward to National Convention in Reno and gathering great ideas to share. We have started to schedule the District visits as well. If you would like me to visit for events or attend your activities, please let me know via email President@alafl.org or cellular (407) 267-7258.

*For God and Country ~
TK*

*Treva Kay Wildrick
Department President*

Membership



Debbie Sviderskas

Hello again!!! It's Mary Poppins flying over your State of Florida. I see many prospects for membership in your areas. They are willing to join you as a star in your unit if you only ask, ask again, and ask again. Marketing says it take 6-8 times reaching out to people to get them to respond to you. Don't give up. I know you are all busy and so are they but it is worth the effort if you want someone with the heart, the imagination, the creativity and the passion to carry on the work we do.

Did you know that National has Interest Forms located on

various web pages for visitors to express an interest in membership or volunteering? These forms are passed on from National to your Department Membership chairman and then to the area in which this person lives so they can be contacted by someone in their area. PLEASE make sure these contacts are followed up with and the results sent back up the chain to National. This is a very useful tool especially since they are asking for the information. You can also use something to this effect in your local papers, websites, etc. Work Smart, Not Hard!

Please don't forget to invite your local area membership chairman and myself to your local events promoting membership. We would love to be involved in your local events. Most local Area Chairmen have started their own Facebook page for their area. Be sure to check it out and participate in the discussions, posts, etc.

I hope you have all sent in your first transmittal by now. Installation of officers is almost finished for the year if not done. Please be PRO-ACTIVE in getting your membership renewals, rejoins, and new membership applications

rolling in. National's first renewal will not be sent out till January. Don't wait and ask your members not to wait. The mind set needs to be changed that "You need a piece of paper" to pay your dues.

Don't forget WORK-SHOP!! We have soooo much to teach you!!

-Debbie Sviderskas

When you're in a position to have gotten so much, the gift at this point is giving back.

-Paul Stanley

CONSTITUTION & Bylaws

Pat Devine

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS – All District Constitution & Bylaws Chairmen will be given packets at Workshop. District Constitution & Bylaws Chairmen and District Presidents were given copies of requests for contact information on District Chairmen. Please fill out these forms and send to me so that I may be able to contact your District Chairmen. Also included in the packets is information on Units, either long overdue for updating/updated

during the 2014-2016 years that are incorrect or Units C&BL that were returned for corrections that have not been returned. PLEASE!!! - Contact the Units in question to see if there are problems or need help. Refer to the Constitution & Bylaws sample template that is currently on line. When submitting revised C&BL, send 2 original, signed copies to Department Chairman's home address by regular mail. Remember – Unit Mid-Year written reports

are due to District Chairmen by December 1 and District Chairmen written reports are due to Department Chairman by December 15. Please do not hesitate to contact me if help is needed. Let's see if we can't get all the Constitution and Bylaws 100% current.

– Pat Devine - Cbylaws@alafl.org

Note from the Treasurer

Please note that the July Membership Credit Reports, schedule to go out on August 15, 2017 was delayed due to an accounting backlog from processing our fiscal year close of books and external accounting process. The August report scheduled to be sent on September 15, 2017 report will unfortunately also be delayed due to being away at Workshop the weekend before. Therefore, we will send out the first membership credit report for the new fiscal year by October 1st, and will include membership credits processed through first quarter. Monthly membership credit reports will resume as normal on November 15, 2017.

Thank you for your understanding and patience!

Remember you can always check your online payments from National by accessing your Unit's ALAMIS, then "Unit Reports" section and the "Paid Dues Online" report. If your Unit does not have ALAMIS and you need this portion of the report, please contact Department at membership@alafl.org and someone in membership can provide this report for you.

As a reminder, September 1, 2017 opens up the 2018 NEW MEMBER processing for National. Start sending in your new memberships now for processing!

-Becky Gripton



From the Historian

Eleanor Amato

THE VALUE OF HISTORY

To Ourselves:

1. History will enable units to discover their own place in the stories of their unit, post, communities and nation.
2. They learn the stories of individuals and committees that have come before them and shaped the unit in which they serve.

Critical Skills:

1. We learn independent thinking.
2. History teaches research, judgment, reliability of sources, validation of facts, clear and persuasive written and oral communication and other skills that have been identified as critical to a successful and productive unit.

To Our Communities:

1. History lays the groundwork for strong, resilient units.
2. Our connections and commitment to one another are strengthened when we share stories and experiences.

(Economic) Development - in other words fatten the check book:

1. People are drawn to organizations that have preserved a strong sense of historic identity and character.
2. Your history will attract talent.

Our Future:

1. History helps units craft better solutions.
2. By bringing in history into discussions, we can better understand challenges facing our units.

Leadership:

1. History inspires leaders.
2. History provides role models meeting our complex challenges. Their stories reveal how they met the challenges of their day which can give new leaders the courage and wisdom to confront the challenges of our time.

Legacy:

1. History saved and preserved is the foundation for future generations. Without the preservation of our histories, future members will have no grounding in what it means to be a member/officer.

REMEMBER: I am here for you!

*For God and Country,
Eleanor Amato
Department Historian*

Veterans Affairs

Ann King-Smith



I hope everyone is “geared up and ready” for an exciting year of year of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (better known as VA&R) activities. Working alongside President T.K. Wildrick, we will be “Catching Rays and Creating Brighter Futures” for all Florida veterans. The mission of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program is to enhance the lives of veterans, military and their families. Working together, we can fulfill this important mission.

Guiding us along the way this year will be our VA&R Mascot, Lima Charlie, a most handsome Golden Retriever. As some of you may know, Lima Charlie means “loud and clear” in military lingo. So, all over Florida, we will be shouting out “loud and clear” for each and every veteran. For those that cannot see, we will be their eyes. For the veteran that cannot speak, Auxiliary members can be their voice and for those that cannot hear, we will be listening.

As I mentioned in the beginning of this article, I mentioned that we will be “Catching Rays and Creating Brighter Futures” for our Florida veterans. In addition, I will be asking each and every member to also “Collect and Deliver Rays” to our hospitalized and homeless veter-

ans. Each District will be working together, as a TEAM to collect and deliver items to the VA Hospital (VAMC), VA Nursing Home or Homeless Veterans Facility of their choice. So, let’s all get ready for an exciting year of serving our veterans with the same DEDICATION, LOYALTY and SERVICE they have given to each and every one of us.

Sometimes, when the day seems a little cloudy and we can’t see the bright Florida sunshine, we must make every effort to CREATE our own “rays.”

C = Commitment
R = Resourcefulness
E = Enthusiasm
A = Abundance
T = Transform
E = Every

I already know that Florida ALA members are ready to make the commitment to use our resourcefulness and always show lots of enthusiasm while collecting an abundance of sunshine that will help transform the lives of every veteran we serve.

I am excited to work with VA&R Committee Members, Terry Gallagher and Sandie Eck throughout the upcoming year. Both of these members have an abundance of creativity and the ability to make

things happen for our veterans. It is my wish that we all have a fun and exciting year as we all work together to make great things happen here in Florida. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us and always remember that there is never a “stupid question.”

Sandie Eck – sanran38@aol.com – 239-218-9912

Terry Gallagher – thcb1wd@yahoo.com - 863-446-2726

In each Kaleidoscope article, I will try to list upcoming events, information and contact information. Please feel free to join in and make each event a success for our veterans. If your Unit or district has events planned, please let me know. I would like to give a “Lima Charlie” shout out to Kaye Rogers-Wells of Unit 45 in Palatka for making “ditty bags” using military uniforms donated by a retired veteran. These bags will be filled with personal care items and puzzle books that will be distributed at the West Palm VAMC on August 27th. Great job, Kaye !

*For God and Country,
Ann King-Smith
Department Chairman
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
veteransaffairs@alafl.org
321-312-5788*

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

LOIS STACHELRODT

As we begin to Catch the Rays for our Veterans, let us also start to Create New ways to show them how much we care. Let's also Create new ways to support our Members as they continue to work with our communities and our youth. The Rays are also being caught by the members whom the Lord has decided he needed at his home. Let us always remember that they did Create new ways for us to continue to make our organization stronger. They will be missed but never forgotten.

District 5

Unit 129 Allen, Faye
Unit 250 Anderson, Dorothy
Rhoades, Hazel
Unit 316 Farnell, Theresa
Verretti, Mary E.
Wooten, Muriel
Yardley, Roberta H.

District 6

Unit 101 Richardson, Megan
Unit 219 Johnston, Karen
Unit 347 Curlew, Claire Marie
Unit 357 Aspers, Barbara J.

District 8

Unit 24 Carlson, Marion E.
Schall, Frances
Stranburg, Marian
Unit 69 Hartman, Shirley

District 9

Unit 65 Loomis, Virginia

District 11

Unit 62 Fritz, Debra

District 12

Unit 39 Cox, Janet
Unit 348 Caron, Ida Jean
Unit 358 McGovern, Dixie
Smith, Charlotte
Unit 359 Spiteri, Adelina D.

District 13

Unit 38 Altig, Edith
Unit 274 Fogel, Betty
Unit 323 Kise, Debra J.
Oakes, Lynne
Unit 336 Cusick, Catherine
Robeson, Madilyn

District 14

Unit 67 Kearns, Helen G.
Unit 374 Davis, Mae T.
Goodman, Elsie

District 15

Unit 26 Starling, Mary
Unit 152 Neal, Charlotte

District 16

Unit 17 Palmatier, Ruth Anne

District 17

Unit 120 Fordham, Barbara

List of Deceased Members



President's Fundraiser



Crochet Afghan measurements 39" high by 54" wide
Tickets will be sold at Department Workshop and Fall Conference
Drawing at Fall conference

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida President TK Wildrick's Special Charity

K-9s For Warriors provides service canines to our Warriors suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disability, traumatic brain injury, and/or military sexual trauma as a result of military service post-9/11. K-9s for Warriors goal is to empower them to return to civilian life with dignity and independence. Training of one service dog for a veteran costs \$27,000.00. How many dogs can the ALA Dept. of FL assist in training for our veterans?

**Raffle will be held at the ALA
Dept. of Florida Fall
conference.**

**Tickets are one for \$1.00 or
6 for \$5.00**

Make checks payable to Dept. of
Florida ALA with K-9s for
Warriors in the memo note.

K-9 for Warriors fundraiser

District 13 Spotlight

JEANNE NADEAU

Saturday September 23rd
Mark your calendars

District 13 will be going to Jacobson State Veterans Nursing Home in Port Charlotte and they were so excited to hear that we wanted to come up and visit with their veterans! I explained that not only do we want to visit, but we want to bring them ice cream and our Department Second Vice President Ann King-Smith too. I have a list of the things that they can use for the Veterans so we will be bringing gifts also. I may have to break out the trailer for this one! They have 120 patients plus staff. So we will need a lot of ice cream (vanilla, chocolate and coffee ice cream their choices), cups, spoons and napkins. I have a rather large cooler (white Coleman) that we could keep the ice cream in. I asked about the diabetic patients and she stated that if we only give them a little bit, it will be ok. For the ones that cannot make it to the social room, we will go to their room and bring them ice cream. We will be visiting between 2:00-2:30pm on Saturday September 23rd.

This is a great opportunity to add to your VA&R hours and donations. Keep track of all the hours you put in collecting items to bring.

Thank You in advance.

For God and Country,
Jeanne Nadeau
District 13 President

Electric razors, Electric nose and ear trimmers After shave sets, such as Old Spice Portable CD players Personal DVD players Movies—DVD's western, comedies, 40's-50's, Nova, BBC's documentaries. Music CD's—40's, 50's, 60's Blue Ray DVD Players Socks—Ladies—bright colors Large/X-Large New colored, collared shirt sleeve t-shirts Ladies PJ's M, L, XL Ladies sweaters full zip up M, L, and XL Nail Polish, Perfume, sweat pants M, L, XL Men's White T-Shirts, S, M, L & XL and colored T-Shirts Men's cotton briefs, M, Large Men's sneakers—Sizes 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 Large/XLG separating front zipper sweaters Men's Sweatpants, Med & Large Gift cards to Wal-Mart (Used for snacks for resident Food functions/Holiday Parties Gift Cards to Restaurants (I.E. Denny's, Bob Evans, Ihop, Olive Garden, Cracker Barrel, Applebee's, Perkins, Ruby Tuesday, Hooters Gift Cards—Michaels & LTM party & Hobby Lobby & Jo-Ann's Fabric Non Alcoholic Beer and wine for Resident Happy Hour Functions 12pk sodas—regular and diet Crafts Items: Elmer's glue, ribbons, cotton balls, craft tissue paper, wooden bird houses, popsicle sticks Foam board(20x30") "Acrylic "paint, colored markers, colored pencils, Latex Balloons & Mallard (We blow up with Helium for Resident Birthdays) various colors Puzzles— Large pieces—24 piece and 100 piece Adult coloring books PLEASE DO NOT DONATE "DRY CLEAN ONLY" CLOTHES, AS WE HAVE NO WAY TO CLEAN THEM.

District 5 Spotlight

MOLLY MAIN

Fifth District President Molly Main assisted with the National Blind Veterans Convention in Jacksonville FL. District President Molly Main met the Veterans at the Jacksonville Airport and assisted them getting their luggage and boarding the vans to the Hyatt Hotel downtown Jacksonville.



**FROM
THE
UNITS**



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 285, Edgewater delivers uniforms to Edgewater Public School to help their needy children. Pictured from left to right Eleanor Amato Department Historian, EPS Kay Holland, Principal Ms Becky Porter, President Dora Lee Dawson, Education Chairman Barbara Noto.

Unit 285

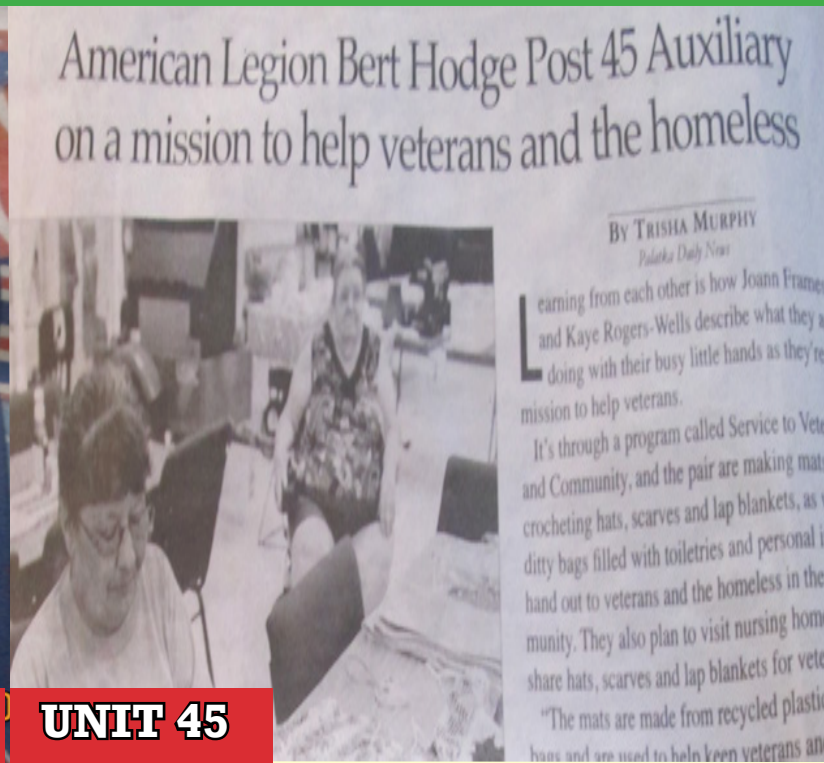


American Legion Auxiliary Unit 285, Edgewater delivered School uniforms to Indian River Elementary School for needy Children. Pictured are Eleanor Amato, Department Historian, Jennifer Holmgreen Assistant Principal, President Dora Lee Dawson, Junior Member Piper Amato, Carrie Crkvenac Principal and Education Chairman Barbara Noto. ,

From The Units



UNIT 45



UNIT 45

Kaye Rogers-Wells (left) and Joann Frames(right) Unit 45
Crochet items for our veteran and homeless community

TAMPA BAY TROOP SUPPORT PACKING EVENT HOSTED BY AMERICAN LEGION POST 273 AND AMERICAN AUXILIARY UNIT 273 AUGUST 12th



On Saturday, August 12, 2017 the American Legion Post 273 and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 273, Madeira Beach hosted the Tampa Bay Support's Fall Packing Event. Volunteers from Troop Support, Unit 273, Tampa Homeless Outreach and Post 273 packed 61 care boxes to be shipped to overseas troops around the world.



NOTES FROM THE WEST PALM BEACH VA MEDICAL CENTER

By Linda Grevera, WPB VAMC Representative

The West Palm Beach VA Medical Center has been busy adding services at their facility: Warriors to Soulmates Retreat. This retreat helps strengthen the bond between married couples. The 3-day retreat is open to couples of all ages, provided one of them is a veteran. Donations are needed for this program. Baby Showers. Twenty veteran mothers-to-be attended the shower in July. The next shower takes place in February. Donations to purchase baby supplies are welcome.

The new Lactation Room is a huge success! The room was created using a Make A Difference grant and the usage has exceeded all expectations.

A new paging system, similar to the restaurant-style pager, is in place so that discharged patients who are waiting for a ride home can roam the medical center while waiting.

Photos taken by veterans can be viewed all throughout the medical center.

Kudos to the WPB staff for creating and implementing the use of red bands to alert medical staff that a patient has a port in their arm. This eliminates the chance of the staff using a blood pressure cuff on the ported arm. New In-Patient Personal Hygiene kits will be distributed in the near future which include pneumonia-resistant products made in America.

Quiet Kits featuring sleep masks and ear plugs are now being distributed to in-patients.

The annual West Palm Beach Veterans Day Parade is scheduled for Sunday, November 5th at 2:00 pm starting on Clematis Street. Everyone is encouraged to attend this fabulous event.

Groundbreaking of the new 60-bed mental health domiciliary will take place on September 6th at 11:00 am. All are welcome.

On Friday, September 22nd, at 11:00 am, the VA will be holding a POW/MIA commemoration in the Chapel. All are welcome. The Legion Riders are scheduled to attend.

On Sunday, October 29th, the ALA will be hosting a Halloween party at the VAMC's Community Living Center from 2:00 – 3:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Ongoing needs at the medical center include food for the pantry and shoes for the clothing closet.



Visit Your Local Tag Office and get yours today!

**Proceeds benefit Veterans and their families
in the State of Florida.**

floridalegion.org



How to Plan a Powerful POW/MIA Remembrance Service

According to the Department of Defense's Prisoner of War-Missing Personnel Office, there are still more than 83,000 American troops missing in action. The American Legion Family is dedicated to ensuring that America's POW/MIAs be honored and recognized by conducting remembrance services on or about the 3rd Friday in September, which this year falls on September 15th.

Please invite your Legion Family and your community to attend this powerful ceremony where Americans are asked to pause and reflect on the sacrifices made by the military men and women who are imprisoned or unaccounted for as a result of their military service.

The remembrance service script is traditionally read by just one person -- an American Legion Auxiliary member (usually the Chaplain) or a Legionnaire -- and the table is set before the meeting begins. The entire remembrance service usually lasts 15 minutes. The full script for the ceremony and further guidelines can be found on www.alaforveterans.org/programs/national-security.

The POW/MIA table should be staged with the following items:

- small table with a white tablecloth
- plate, fork, knife, spoon
- and napkin on the table
- inverted water glass
- chair placed at plate setting
- vase with a single rose in it
- and a red ribbon tied around the vase
- slice of lemon on the plate and salt sprinkled onto the plate
- white candle in a holder, lit at the beginning of the ceremony
- POW/MIA flag draped over a chair in front of table
- American flag on the table

Please make sure to report your POW/MIA service activities on your mid-year and year-end reports.

*By Linda Grevera
National Security Chairman*

*No man is worth his salt who is not ready at all
times to risk his well-being, to risk his body, to risk
his life, in a great cause.*

-Theodore Roosevelt



A.L.A. LEGISLATIVE ALERT

H.R. 2765 PERPETUAL POW/MIA STAMP ACT Sponsored by Fl. Rep. Gus Bilirakis

To provide for the issuance of a forever stamp to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women of the Armed Forces who are still prisoner, missing, or unaccounted for and for other purposes.

Why should this bill be passed? The U.S. Congress finds that:

1. The Department of Defense reports that more than 83,000 service members remain missing since WWII;
2. The United States Government has an obligation to achieve the fullest possible accounting for the Americans who have gone missing while serving the country and to leave no one unaccounted for in future conflicts;
3. In 1982, the POW/MIA flag became the first flag other than the Flag of the United States to fly over the White House in Washington D.C.;
4. On August 10, 1990, Public Law 101-355 designated the POW/MIA flag as “The Symbol of our Nation’s concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing, and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.” and
5. The POW/MIA flag should maintain continued visibility as a constant reminder of the plight of America’s Prisoners of War and Missing in Action.

What are the specifics of this Act?

1. **In General** – In order to continue to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women of the Armed Forces who have been prisoner, missing, or unaccounted for, the Postmaster General shall provide for the issuance of a forever stamp suitable for that purpose and depicts the National League of Families POW/MIA flag.
2. **Definition** – For purposes of this Act, the term “forever stamp” means a definitive stamp which meets the postage required for first-class mail up to one ounce of weight, and which retains full validity for that purpose even if the rate of that postage is later increased.
3. **Effective Date** – The stamp described shall be issued beginning as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall not thereafter be discontinued at all.

Please contact your Representative and ask them to support H.R. BILL 2765

POW/MIA PERPETUAL STAMP ACT

Ditty Bags made by Kaye Wells

(As mentioned by Ann King-Smith, VA&R Chairman)



The Story of the Butterfly

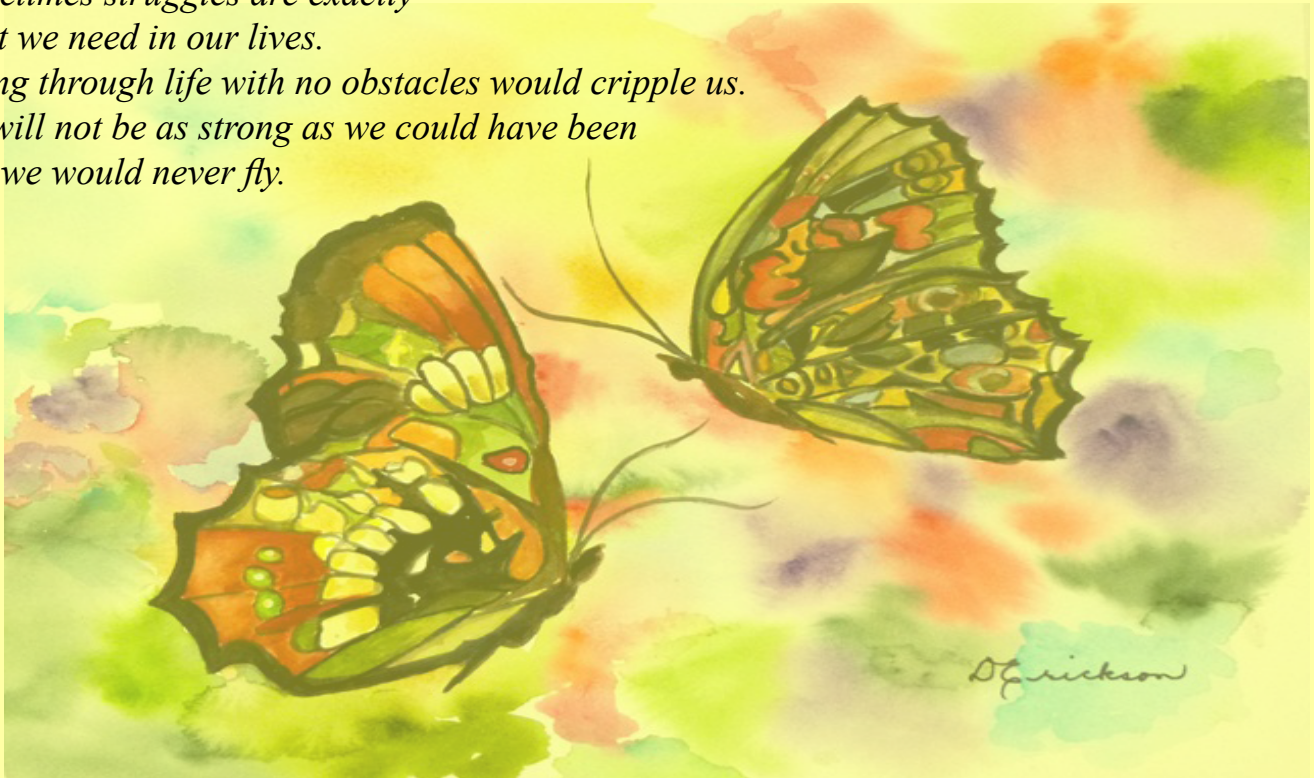
shared as found on motivationalwellbeing.com

*A man found a cocoon of a butterfly.
One day a small opening appeared.
He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours
as it struggled to squeeze its body through the tiny hole.
Then it stopped, as if it couldn't go further.
So the man decided to help the butterfly.
He took a pair of scissors and
snipped off the remaining bits of cocoon.
The butterfly emerged easily but
it had a swollen body and shriveled wings.
The man continued to watch it,
expecting that any minute the wings would enlarge
and expand enough to support the body,
Neither happened!
In fact the butterfly spent the rest of its life
crawling around.
It was never able to fly.
What the man in his kindness
and haste did not understand:
The restricting cocoon and the struggle
required by the butterfly to get through the opening
was a way of forcing the fluid from the body
into the wings so that it would be ready
for flight once that was achieved.
Sometimes struggles are exactly
what we need in our lives.
Going through life with no obstacles would cripple us.
We will not be as strong as we could have been
and we would never fly.*



*Yesterday is history, tomorrow
is a mystery, today is God's
gift, that's why we call it the
present.*

-Joan Rivers



From The Units



Unit 19 Installation



Unit 242 Installation

**FROM
THE
UNITS**



Unit 4 Installation



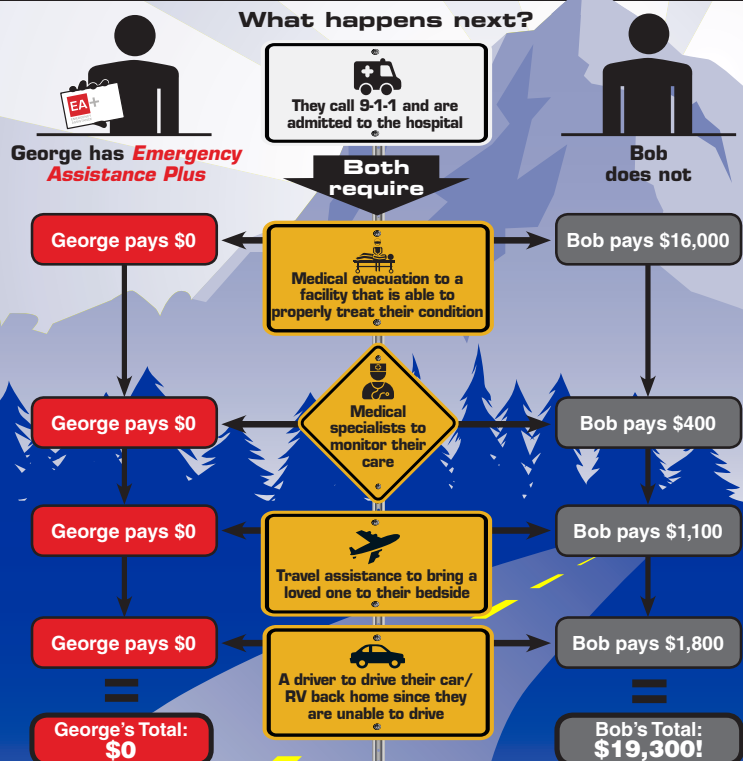
President's Coloring Page



What if you were Bob?

George and Bob both go on a solo fishing trip to a beautiful, but remote, town in Alaska every summer. While enjoying the idyllic scenery, they both notice chest pains — **they are having a heart attack!**

What happens next?



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-Thomas Jefferson

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