



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

1	LABOR DAY
14	PROCTOR REMBRANCE
20	POW/MIA RIDE
27	UNIT 199 APPRECIATION



EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR
MORE DETAILS VISIT THE CALENDAR AT:

[ALAFL.ORG/EVENTS](https://alafl.org/events)

PASSIONATE POSTS

SEPTEMBER 2025



Shining Bright with a Star-Spangled Heart

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



ROBIN BURK
PRESIDENT@ALAFL.ORG

Greetings, members!
I am happy to report that I received many positive comments about our Workshop, held in July. The attendance was huge! I hope you were part of the crowd and were able to experience the wonderful messages from all the Department chairpersons' presentations. I am proud of everyone who helped to make this training session a success! Schools of Instruction are in full swing! It is important that unit members attend the schools, so they can be an effective volunteers, have the tools to work our programs to the best of their abilities and to spread our PASSION FOR VETERANS.
Unit chairpersons and members: Do not be shy about suggesting a new program or fund-raiser. As you could glean from our very enthusiastic Department Chairpersons at Workshop, innovative ideas are plentiful this year! Grab hold of a new idea and run with it at your unit! Or, tag-team with a neighboring unit for even better participation and results.

District and Unit Chairpersons, please visit each of the committee web pages for additional information to enhance your committee presentations. We, in the department, would like nothing more than to see many, many entries for honorary awards, chairperson awards, and national awards at convention in June. We are here to help you achieve your goals! Department officers and chairpersons are here to help you. Telephone numbers and email addresses are all in the new Guidebook.

Speaking of goals, this is the time of year when Units should be presenting their new budget and ideas to their membership. The key here is planning:

GOALS for 2025 - 2026:

- What fund-raisers do you want to bring forth?
- What is your fund-raising goal (\$)?
- What is your membership goal? Rejoin, renew, recruit
- Do you have a team of volunteers ready to work that is sufficient to meet your goals?
- Have you set dates for your events so there is plenty of time for advertising, planning and gathering donations?

After your event, do you hold a brief review to discuss the good, the bad and the ugly about the event? This helps with planning your next event, so you can expand on the satisfactory results, but not repeat what went wrong, if anything did. It is always a learning experience so make it part of your post-event discussions.

I am starting my District visits this month and will be in Districts 17 and 1. I look forward to greeting the members in these Districts and to hear about planned events, programs and fund-raisers. See you soon!

For God and Country,

Robin Burk

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FROM THE SECRETARY

GIANT Thank You for All the Well Wishes to the upcoming year! I am overwhelmed by your kindness and your excitement shows how Passionate you are for our Organization and loyal to our Mission of Helpfulness to our Veterans and their Families, Communities and our Youth.

I admit there has been a learning curve to the technology 'behind the screens' and I am truly grateful for your patience. I am a quick study, and am proud to have mastered the "website-beast" by uploading all the Program Engagement Plans, Year-End Reports and other resource materials provided by our Department Chairmen. If you find an error or encounter another problem, please let me know so it can be corrected accordingly.

I have also entered the world of iPhone. As a sole Android user – you would not believe the differences! To those who have been 'dropped' upon answering or 'multi-dialed' while adding to contacts, I again apologize for any inconvenience. To Eileen W and others who have helped teach "iPhone" I appreciate ALL your efforts (along with our giggles and laughter).

We are a Team and have vast resources and varied knowledge. We are ALL here to Help our Members.

I can be reached via email:

Secretary@al afl.org or cellular:

407-451-0410. If you have Financial questions such as quotas or invoices, reach out to our **Department Treasurer, Brandi Seeber at Treasurer@al afl.org.** For ALAMIS and Membership Processing, **Patsy Sewell is your gal: Membership@al afl.org.** Go to our Department website:

ALAFL.org. It is a wealth of resources and filled with additional information about our Programs, Quicklinks to Friday Membership

Report, Forms (most are fillable - whoohoo), our Calendar with upcoming Events and links to other resources right at your fingertips!! As the Schools of instructions are wrapping up, please make sure you have submitted your Unit and District lists of Officers and Chairmen to Department. These will facilitate communication to and from our District and Department Chairmen. They have lots of activities and events planned this year and you don't want to miss out!!

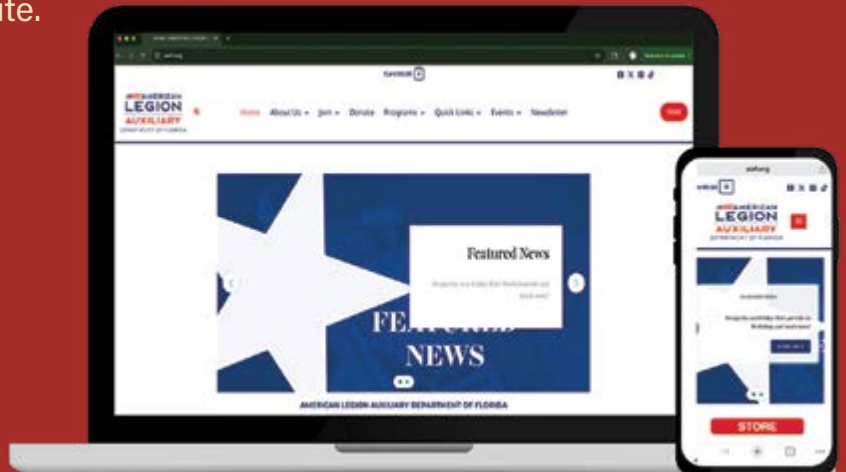


TK WILDRICK
SECRETARY@ALAFL.ORG

ALAFL.ORG

Looking for a form?
We have them!
Looking for events?
Check out the calendar!

Many answers to your questions can be found on the website.



FROM THE CHAPLAIN



KAREN MARKS
CHAPLAIN@ALAFL.ORG

Hello friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. I am writing this as I am preparing for our National Convention in Tampa. Putting things together and trying not to forget anything is always a challenge, but I am excited to share my Passion as I meet new friends and connect with those I have met at past conventions.

Sharing our Passion is easy when we believe in something. Being a proud member of my family with a long line of Veterans has shown me the honor and dedication they have undergone. I am thankful every day for my freedom and my family members who took that oath to protect and defend our great nation. I know they all did it with Passion in their Hearts!

As we move forward, I want to thank everyone who attended workshop! What an amazing turnout. We had standing room only and our presenters showed the Passion and Dedication they are setting forth for this year. What are your Passions for our American Legion Auxiliary this

year? Feel free to share them with me on our Chaplain Facebook Page. Giving selflessly for the good of mankind is one way we show passion. As Auxiliary members, we do that sometimes without even realizing it. We attend meetings with positive attitudes. We volunteer to help with special events with a smile on our faces. We spend time talking with and listening to our Legionnaires who have served our country. We continue to "Be the One" every time we show compassion for others!

We look to help others, that is Passion! I am so proud to be a part of the American Legion Family, and I look forward to what this year has in store for all of us. My passion is to serve. I serve through our Lord as well as through my heart. When I end my emails, my signature ending is "In the Spirit of Service Not Self" This is my way of saying I have passion for service. I am a Servant of the Lord, and I serve as He would.

Romans 10:10 states, "It is with your heart that you believe and are justified".

Please note that all Deceased Member Forms should be submitted to me by the 14th of each month for the following month's newsletter. This is the deadline the department has set in place, and I am hoping that as you have members who pass on that you will get the information to me as soon as possible! My email address is chaplain@alafl.org.

May God spread his blessings upon each of you as He shows His Passion for us!

Name	District	Unit
Jeanie Myers	1	340
Gail Edith Kool-Page	1	240
Pat Ouzts	2	100
Jean Ann Murphy	2	84
Kathleen Harkcom	6	347
Sharon Leimer	6	112
Gwendolyn Rutter	6	347
Carol Lee	8	113
Lori J Wiles	12	81
Helen L Hainsworth	12	1
Caroline Momberg	13	336
Barbara Rhodes	13	336
Sandra L Eck	13	336
Judy Weber	13	274
Betsy Kay Hannon	13	415
Evelyn Bartoni	13	110
Jimmie Miller	14	31
Debora Dittl	15	186
Barbara Leach	15	186
Sally M Marra	15	186
Jean Hall	16	275
Ellen Lebohner	16	273
Pamela Mollman	16	104
Patricia Harris	16	104
Jane Ridgeway	16	79
Lisa Hadeed	17	361
Barbara Notto	17	361
Dorothy Williams	17	120
Helen Sondheim	17	120

ALAFL.ORG/CHAPLAIN

FROM MEMBERSHIP

My name is Dawn Davis, and I am delighted to be your Membership Chairperson for this year as your Voice of Membership. This year is all about your membership story. Maybe you have already shared it or maybe you'll share it later this year. But please share it. These moments are what connect us, inspire others, and keep our passion burning for our mission, our veterans, and each other. Whether your story is about a family member who served, a program that stole your heart, or the friendships you've made here, every single voice matters.

And speaking of voices, our Area Membership Chairpersons have been hard at work making sure those voices are heard! A HUGE shout-out to them for creating Area Facebook pages to share ideas, tips, reminders, and inspiration. If you haven't joined your area's page yet, please do so. Post your updates, share your photos, and let's fill those pages with the energy of this membership year. Communication is everything when it comes to keeping our momentum strong.

In addition, our Membership team wants to literally see your "why." If you are able, please get one of the red hearts from your District or Area Membership Chairman, write your name on it along with the person you have eligibility through, and send it in to me or give it back to them. These hearts will be proudly displayed at the Fall Conference for everyone to see.

Our Juniors are such an important part of this mission. They are our footsteps who are walking us into the future and carrying our mission forward. Let's make a conscious effort this year to recruit, mentor, and include them in everything we do. Every Junior we bring in today is another leader, volunteer, and voice for tomorrow. They remind us that our mission isn't just for now, but it's for generations to come. Once the National Convention is over, our Florida Membership story takes off! We will start receiving our Friday membership reports, and I cannot wait to see how we are working membership and begin making those phone calls of celebration. These reports are not just numbers, they show your hard work, connection, and passion.

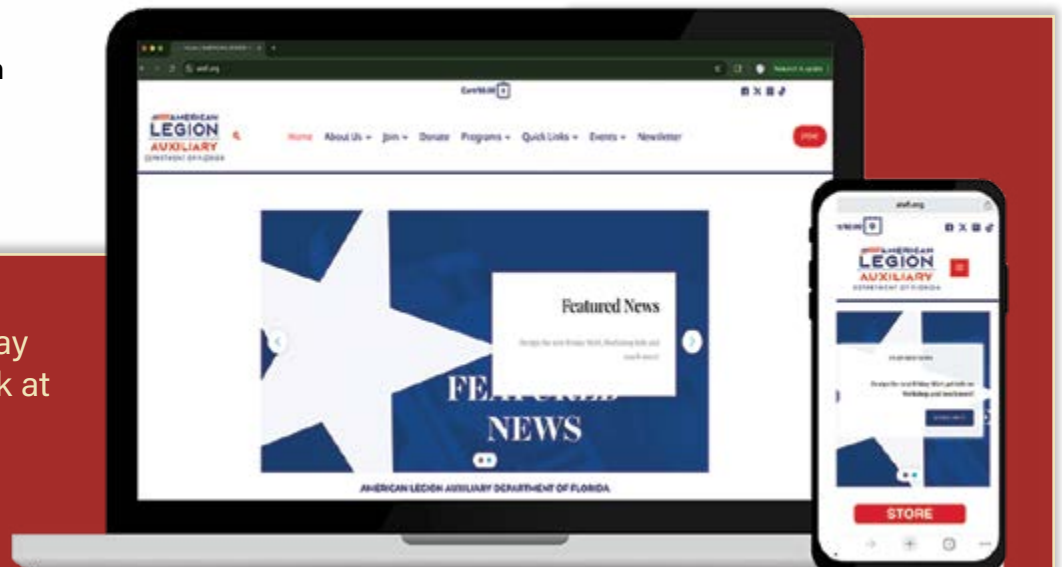
I have absolutely loved watching how each District and Unit has been incorporating their own themes and songs into membership this year. From creative visuals to music that gets people moving, your passion is shining through in ways that are unique, powerful, and inspiring. Have you seen the District President karaoke challenge from the 15th District? She's a Firework!



DAWN DAVIS
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
@ALAFL.ORG

Let's start strong, renew early, encourage your friends to do the same, and tell the story that will inspire the next person to join us. After all, our passion is contagious, and there's always room for one more heart in this mission. Thank you for all you do; you are appreciated.

Visit the website for the Friday Reports available every week at alafl.org/friday-reports.



FROM PUBLIC RELATIONS



VIRNA LUKE
PUBLICRELATIONS
@ALAFL.ORG

What is Public Relations? Let's Make It Simple! PR is just a fancy way of saying **"let's share our amazing story with others!"** It's how we show people what the American Legion Auxiliary does for Veterans, families, and our community. We help others. We care deeply. And we work hard.

Now it's time to let everyone know about it!

Why PR is important?

If no one knows what we're doing, they might think we're not doing anything at all. But we are! From giving out poppies, to helping Veterans, to teaching kids about the American flag, we do so much good! That's why we share our story in ways people can see and feel:

- Posting on social media
- Talking to local news reporters
- Sharing flyers, photos, and good news
- Smiling and telling friends what we're up to

Who Can Do PR?

EVERYONE! That's right! Every Auxiliary member is a storyteller. When you talk to a friend, post a picture, or hand out a flyer, you're doing PR. But each unit can also have a PR Chairperson who helps make sure **the community sees our passion.**

How Do We Share?

- Contact newspapers, radio, and TV stations
- Share on community calendars and social media
- Ask local shows if we can share a message or a Veteran's story
- Offer to be part of interviews or local events
- Always say thank you to the media for sharing our message!

Remember This:

You don't have to be perfect; you just have to be **real**. Be excited. Be kind. And always share from the heart. Together, we can spread our message far and wide:

"We are the Florida American Legion Auxiliary, Passionate About Helping Veterans, Caregivers, and Families!"

ALAFL.ORG/PUBLIC-RELATIONS



FROM LEADERSHIP

Welcome to the 2025-2026 year.

My name is Penny Kanbara and I am very Passionate and excited to be your Leadership Chairperson for this year! I look forward to bringing you helpful information along your way and inspiring messages about what Leadership means. "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and Listen" – Winston Churchill. I welcome everyone to join our Facebook page – ALAFL Leadership where we will be focusing on different aspects of Leaders, key qualities to become an effective leader, and sharing ideas on how to lead during difficult situations. In addition, we are featuring a segment for Mentor Monday. This is a shout out on the Facebook page for members to thank someone that has mentored them along their ALA journey. (Please note, this is separate from the Mentor of the Year Award that is under the Past President's Parley Program Engagement Plan) Please send a brief story about how this person has mentored you along with a photo and Unit name and number.

Please send all submissions to leadership@alafl.org.

Now, some of you may be asking, what is the story behind this question mark I keep seeing online. I am glad you asked! Que (the character of the Question Mark) was created to enhance our curiosity about how the American Legion Auxiliary operates in everything from understanding our programs to how to run a proper unit meeting, and the ever-important governing documents of our Unit, Department, and National. The Chairman's Award this year will be the Unit that uses Que in the most creative way throughout the year, showcasing her increasing

her knowledge in meetings, District events, Schools of Instruction, ABC schools and more. There is a cut out version under the Leadership Program Engagement Plan, but you can also reach out to me if you would like for me to email it to you. Here is Que's Story:

So, this is the story of a gal named Que, she just joined the auxiliary and didn't have a clue!

A member named Em invited her to a meeting everyone was so friendly, oh what a feeling! Chairman discussed VA&R & poppies too So many programs to learn what to do! Que heard all about the delegates to girls state "wow" she thought, "this is so great"!

After the meeting, she was so excited she wanted to jump right in but there is so much to learn, "where do i begin" Em took Que to the district meeting She heard chairman reports and awards; her mind was reeling! From ABC schools and unit guides Que wanted to learn all about the things she needed to find.

Que's quest for knowledge was filled with passion and desire she spent her evenings researching Robert's Rules by the fire.

Soon she felt she was ready to be a unit chair.

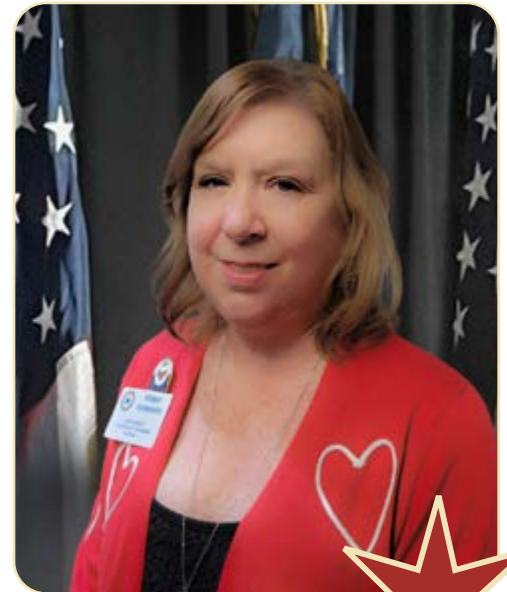
But she needed to learn protocol, "How do i wear all my flair"

At last, she felt she had all the tools constitution and by laws and standing rules!

Que was well on her way of mastering her passion because knowledge is always in fashion!

Continue to follow Que on this quest Because she thinks the American Legion Auxiliary is simply the best!

In closing, be sure to check out the Program Engagement Plan for more



PENNY KANBARA
LEADERSHIP@ALAFL.ORG

information on awards and deadlines. Make sure your District Presidents have scheduled their Schools of Instruction and ABC schools.

"The single biggest way to impact an organization is to focus on leadership development. There is almost no limit to the potential of an organization that recruits good people, raises them up as leaders and continually develops them" – John Maxwell



FROM VETERAN AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION



LISA HOYLAND
VA&R@ALAFL.ORG

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Caring Heart Bear Project and brought teddy Bears to our Department workshop. We collected over 50 bears! These bears were then distributed to our hospital representatives to take them to the facilities and hand them out. Some of the stories that I have already received back have been heartfelt. One story that hit me was that of a female veteran who was handed a bear after being diagnosed with cancer. The reason for this program is to let the veterans we meet know that the American Legion Auxiliary cares for them. In researching the internet, you will find many organizations that do the same thing. The symbolism of bears represent comfort, appreciation, and a tangible token of appreciation for the veterans service. Bears are often associated with strength, courage, and grounding. Overall, to simply say Thank you for your service and you are not alone. I encourage all units to plan a time during the year and hold a unit drive for bears and then distribute them out at a community event, your local nursing home or even at an event at your post.

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. Today, the No. 1 issue facing the veteran community is suicide. The mission of The American Legion's Be The One initiative is to reduce the rate of veteran suicide. We're actively working on lessening the stigma associated with mental health treatment and empowering everyone to take appropriate action when a veteran or service member may be at risk – one life at a time. One contributing factor is posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). PTSD is a mental health problem that some people develop after experiencing or witnessing a life-threatening event, like combat, a natural disaster, a car accident, or sexual assault. Other factors can include drug and/or alcohol abuse, depression, and other mental illnesses.

How can we help? We need to be aware of the warning signs and be open to talking about them and suicide. For more information and resources on supporting veterans, please refer to www.legion.org - Advocacy - Be The One.



On September 19th is POW/MIA – POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday of September, on September 19 this year, to recommit to full accountability to the families of the more than 80,000 veterans captured or still missing from wars that the United States has participated in. The POW/MIA flag symbolizes the United States' resolve to never forget POWs or those who served their country in conflicts and are still missing. Newt Heisley designed the flag. The flag's design features a silhouette of a young man, which is based on Mr. Heisley's son, who was medically discharged from the military. As Mr. Heisley looked at

his returning son's gaunt features, he imagined what life was like for those behind barbed wire fences on foreign shores. He then sketched the profile of his son as the new flag's design was created in his mind.

The flag features a white disk bearing in black silhouette a man's bust, a watch tower with a guard on patrol, and a strand of barbed wire. White letters "POW" and "MIA", with a white five-pointed star in between, are typed above the disk. Below the disk is a black and white wreath above the motto "You Are Not Forgotten" written in white, capital letters.

Focus VA&R Program of the Month

This month I would like to focus on how we can help with Honor Flight. Every veteran deserves to hear two simple words: Thank you.

There are so many ways that unit members can get involved with Honor Flight. Make cards at your next unit meeting for Honor Flight mail call on the plane. Attend a homecoming and welcome the veterans back home when they return from Washington, DC. You could even bring a bear or two and a hand to veterans at the airport. Wave flags and say "thank you" to these veterans as this special day come to an end. I would encourage all units in the coming months to plan a way to get involved.

In 2021, the American Legion Auxiliary entered an official collaboration with Honor Flight Inc. to support its mission to celebrate America's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials in Washington, D.C. The ALA signed a memorandum of understanding with Honor Flight that allows ALA units and departments to directly donate funds generated from the distribution of our poppy activities.

Caring Heart Buddy Check Week. Caring Heart bear, our VA&R mascot, would like to encourage all our members to make a Buddy check call the last week of the month. American

FROM VETERAN AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Legion Auxiliary members can make Buddy Check calls to let veterans, and their families know they are not alone and that The American Legion Family stands ready to assist them in any way we can.

VA& R is on Facebook. Have you joined the VA&R Facebook page yet at ALAFL VA&R? Join Today and meet the VA&R committee, find out about local events in your area, and connect to other members. I will be posting information weekly. Unit members, please also share how you are promoting the VA&R program. If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to call me.

Medical Facility Representative Updates

Each month, I will be reporting an update from our Medical Representatives. Units, please contact the representative in your area for a needs list for your local facility. If you can provide any of these items, please do so, and do not forget your time and monetary donations in the Unit report.

Lee County Veterans VA Outpatient Clinic

It is with a heavy heart that we report that we lost one of our dedicated Veteran Outpatient Clinic representatives, Sandy Eck. Sandy served for many years at the Lee County Veterans' VA Outpatient Clinic and will be deeply missed.

Sgt. Ernest I "Boots" Thomas (Tallahassee) VA Outpatient Clinic:

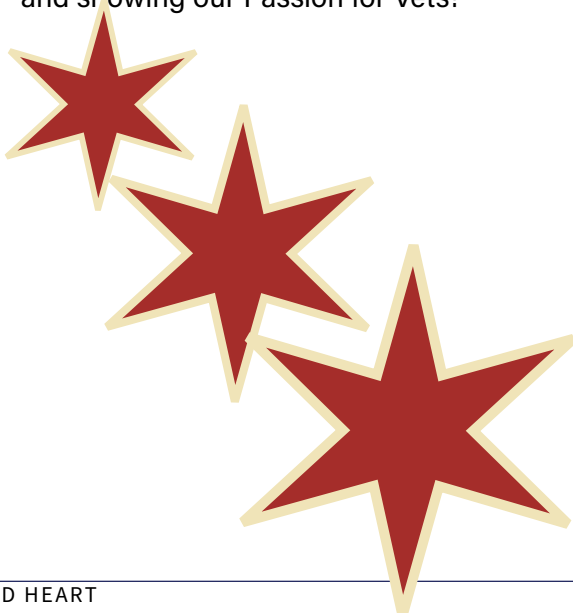


Please welcome I've "Nell" Hewitt, District 2, Member of Unit 13, Sauls-Bridges Tallahassee. This is her first year serving at this facility. She recently met with the volunteer and discussed several ways the American

Legion Auxiliary can become involved in the clinic's activities. Nell said, "I am looking forward to working with the administration and veterans there in the future."

Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic

My name is Sandi Kass, and I have been a proud member of Unit #88 in Jacksonville 5th District since 2008. A decade ago, a Legionnaire told me he nearly passed out on the bus when leaving a lab appointment and maybe we could bring some juice and maybe a snack. When I retired in 2014, this project began on the 2nd Thursday every month and continued for more than 7 years. The year before Covid, we had a team in all three clinics serving juice, coffee and homemade muffins every month. Once we were allowed back in, we have been there sporadically but since January, we have been scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday thanking our veterans in this small way. They are always so grateful and stop at our table to talk about their service. What always motivated us to continue this program long ago was the day we told a veteran wearing a Viet Nam War hat "Thank you for your service" and he told us that was the first time anyone ever told him thank you. As members of the American Legion Auxiliary, we feel this is unacceptable. We will keep on handing out Caring Bears on Jefferson Street throughout the year and showing our Passion for Vets!



ALAFL.ORG/VETERANS-AFFAIRS



FROM NATIONAL SECURITY



JULIE KAY
NATIONAL SECURITY
@ALAFI.ORG

Welcome to a new year where we as members of the largest Veterans organization get to share our Passion! It is an honor to serve as your 2025-2026 National Security Chair. I am excited to share my Passion with you as we explore the National Security Program and ways we can support our Active Duty Military and their families.

I am excited to share with you that there will be a National Security newsletter each month as well as a Zoom call with featured guest speakers. The Zoom call will be the 3rd Tuesday of each month beginning at 7pm EST. Please email me at nationalsecurity@alafi.org if you would like to receive an invite



to the monthly Zoom call. I will be sending the newsletter to the District Presidents through the Department Secretary, so make sure you reach



out to them to receive a copy. Our September guest speaker is Crystal Guerrero. She is an event resource provider for the FL Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. They host events for our pre/post deployment service members. Helping our active duty find the resources they need. YRRP is hosting several events coming up and are looking for Units who would like to attend. The events are free for the American Legion Auxiliary to set up a table. I have listed the dates, location and some info below. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or you would like your unit to attend.

26 October 2025 Pre Deployment Lakeland Projected 380 guests
15 November 2025 Pre Deployment Tallahassee/Panama City Projected 350 guests
07 December 2025 Post Deployment Daytona Projected 450 guests
13 December 2025 Pre Deploying Orlando Projected 330 guests
18 January 2026 Pre Deployment Near CBJTC (Blanding) Projected 1400 guests

What can you do to support the National Security Program in September?

- Post a POW/MIA flag at your unit meeting or event
- Educate others about Resolution 288
- Host or attend a POW/MIA Ceremony or Gold Star Family event
- Host a meal at your American Legion Post for families who have lost a service member
- Offer to run errands or provide respite for the Gold Star family member

August was a busy month with District Chairs presenting at School of



Instructions, Units and members distributing school supplies through Operation Homefront and attendance at Purple Heart Recognition Day events. Toy Soldiers are making their appearance as members work the National Security Program. Make sure you #DeployToySoldier and share your adventures and hard work.

Upcoming September dates

- National Suicide Prevention Month - Month of September
- National Service Dog Month - Month of September
- V-J Day (Victory over Japan) - Sept. 2
- Patriot Day-Sept. 11
- Air Force (USAF) Birthday -Sept. 18
- Air National Guard Birthday - Sept. 18
- National POW/MIA Recognition Day - Sept. 19
- FL 5th Annual Seven Bridges POW/MIA Remembrance Day Ride & Ceremony - Sept 20
- Gold Star Mother's Day - Sept. 28
- VFW Day - Sept. 29

I look forward to seeing all of your accomplishments this year as you share your love and #PassionForVeterans as we #FillTheirHeart! G.K. Chesterton said, "The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him." Let's continue to support our Active Duty Military, ensuring their fight remains worthwhile.





DISTRICTS & UNITS



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida units are shining bright with a star-spangled heart in the community! The next few pages highlight achievements, meetings, and donations throughout the community.

DISTRICT 8 - UNIT 12

Our Bulletin Board is all set and ready with our theme for the year!



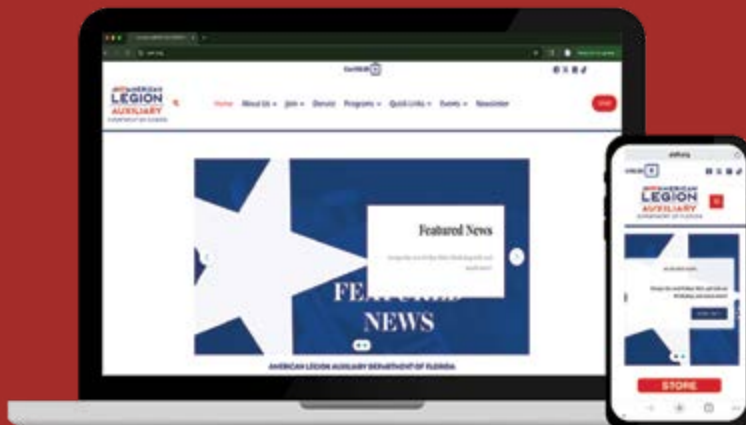
UNIT 241



Unit 241 held its Officer Installation on July 21st at Post 241. Pictured left to right are Elizabeth Walden, Margaret Zeigler, Ann Shepard, Kaye Brown, Debra Mann (District 2 President), Faye Walden, Michael Mann

Want to share your unit's story?
Submit your stories and photos and
share your fun with all of us!

ALAFL.ORG/newsletter



DISTRICT 4 UNIT 77

District 4, Unit 77 joined forces with the Legion Family to collect donations for the Citrus County Coalition Food Pantry and held a Christmas in July celebration to raise funds and donated items for the Pregnancy and Life Center.



DISTRICT 15 UNIT 138

On Saturday July 19th, The Post 138 Family held their annual Early Bird Membership Drive. All members who renewed their membership, or new members who joined, received a free fish dinner, and are also invited to come back in October for a free steak dinner.

The Auxiliary of Unit 138 wanted to make the event even more special, as Unit 138 is home to not only our Department Membership Chair Dawn Davis, but the District 15 Membership Chair Tammy Zell, and District 15 President Andrea Sherman.

With each membership renewal, we offered a free ticket to a raffle, and first dibs on purchasing our new t-shirts that are limited edition!

We also got our Juniors involved. They ran a lemonade stand and raised over \$120 for Buddy Bags!

Led by our Unit Membership Chair, Dawn Steele, Unit 138 renewed over 96

members, and had an additional 7 members join during the event.

A HUGE Shout out to Darla, Georjeana, Drew, Max, Maxine, Lisa, Jose and the rest of our amazing volunteers for helping with the event!

This unprecedented turnout showed the dedication of our members and the strength of our Unit. We are not just renewing memberships, we are renewing our commitment to serve those who have served our nation.

Here is to another year of service, friendship, and PASSION for our Veterans!!



DISTRICT 17 UNIT 45

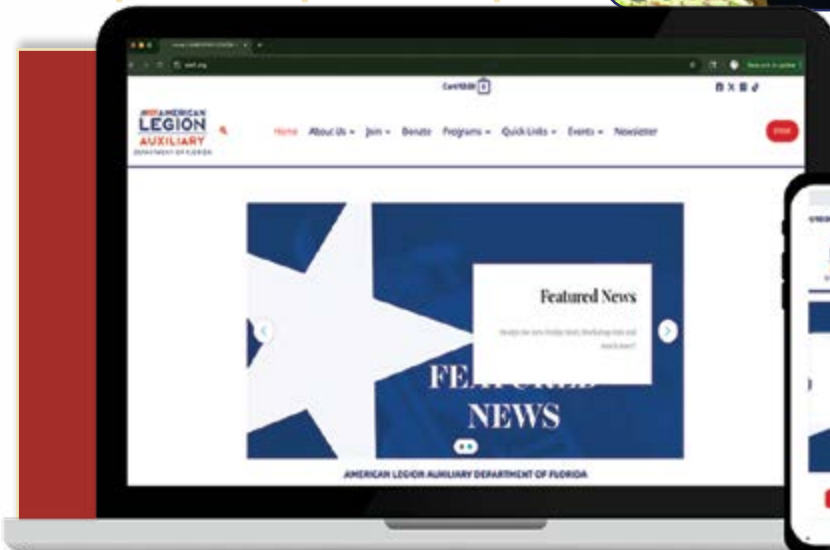


OPEN HOUSE! We are so happy to announce Open House for our new American Legion Auxiliary building. We are told that it is the only stand-alone auxiliary building in Florida. Come and see us Thursday, October 23 between 2:00 and 7:00. We will have a ribbon cutting at 2:00 and light refreshments. There will be displays of projects our auxiliary has worked on and we will feature the Gary Sinise Foundations' Snowball Express which dual member Sandi Barrett and her husband attend annually. Some have asked if they can make a donation, so we will give any offerings to the families of our fallen heroes and to our operational expenses. We would love to share our new venture with you at 318 Osceola St., Palatka, FL. Some of our helpers who are prepping the building and landscaping are Peggy Almodóvar, Edna Bayler, Sandi Barrett, Doreen Freeman, Linda Sheppard, and Esme Coward.

Treasurer Linda Sheppard headed up a school supply give away for children at School of The Heights in Palatka. Pictured are Susie Stewart, Linda, President Esme Coward, and 1st Vice Peggy Almodóvar.

Past President Pat Andries installed Marion James as Member at Large at our August meeting. Pictured are Pat, Marion, and President Esme Coward.

If you are around Palatka, September 19-20, stop in for our first yard sale. Friday we will have breakfast and lunch items for sale. Saturday light breakfast items will be available and the Legion will be selling dinner from 12-2. The event is organized by Doreen Freeman. We must have something you need.



ALAFL.ORG/newsletter

Share your unit's stories with
the rest of the Auxiliary!



DISTRICT 2 UNIT 13

American Legion Auxiliary Juniors
Handing Out Raffle Baskets July 2025
Sauls-Bridges Post 13 Tallahassee,
Florida



DISTRICT 2 UNIT 241

District 2 unit 241 hosted the District II School of Instruction on Saturday, August 9th at their post in Sneads, Florida. I want to first recognize their post for the exceptional hospitality and food they provided for us during this event. You will see from the photos that we did not go hungry. These members know how to host an event. Before the session started we had biscuits and gravy, homemade preserves, sausage muffins, plain muffins and juices. Now that was just for breakfast. For lunch we had taco salad with all the fixings that you smother with sour cream and salsa. For dessert, they made these individual key lime cups and oreo, peanut butter, chocolate cups. See picture. They even provided tiny, tiny spoons to eat these with. Have i made you hungry yet? I am, i'm ready to go back for another meeting. The historian for that unit and i were taking pictures and i'm sure they will provide information covering this event. I was so impressed so i wanted to include my impression in my reporting. This event covered the committies and how they should be run and utilized in daily Auxiliary life and how to count your work numbers. There were district chair presenters from all units that attended. I will only highlight the chairmen of unit 13 that had presentations.

AmericanismCeryl Marrs
 Chaplain Muriel Kweyama
 Community Service.. Katrina Rosedale
 Girls State Marjorie Mcneil
 MembershipNell Hewitt
 Public Relations..... Muriel Kweyama

PHOTOS CONT ON PAGE 16



Katrina Rosedale making a decision on the dainty key lime vs chocolate peanut butter desserts.



Unit 13



Look at these smiling faces!



Ms Jane Powell's unit 100 receiving their ribbons and plaque for reaching over 100% membership by district President Debra Mann. ➡



Our Hosts Unit 241



DISTRICT 2 UNIT 13

District 11 School of Instruction



Muriel Kweyama



Nell Hewitt



Katrina Rosedale



Margie Mcneil



Margie Mcneil



Debra Mann



DISTRICT 2 UNIT 13

The chairman of Community Service suggested we do a project for veterans housed in nursing homes. She recruited two other auxiliary ladies and we put together twelve baskets. Five were delivered yesterday, July 29th to Aviata Nursing Home.



Dottie Hall Delivers Baskets



Katrina Rosedale And Dottie Hall



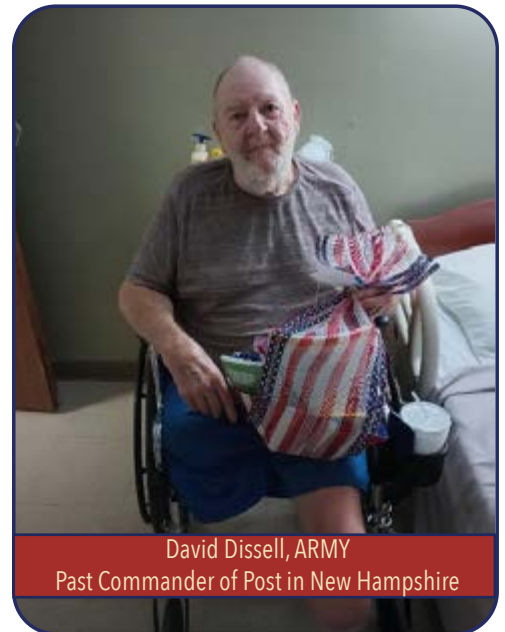
Stacey Gayhart and Katrina Rosedale



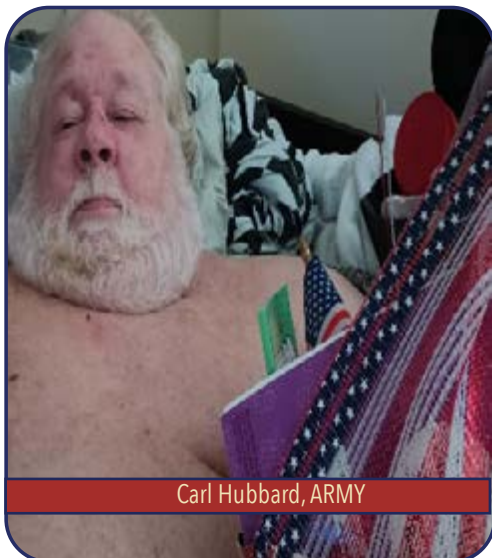
Jack Conoly, 98 yr. NAVY KACSU



Ozzie Mitchell, ARMY



David Dissell, ARMY
Past Commander of Post in New Hampshire



Carl Hubbard, ARMY

Not Pictured from Aviata Nursing Home is Charlie McDonald who was having his Chemo treatments.

We delivered seven baskets to Happy recipients in Centre Pointe Nursing Home. I was not allowed to take pictures there. But the Veterans were all smiles and thankful for the baskets.

RANDAL WOOD, NAVY
MICHAEL WONDERLY, MARINE
DAVID JOSTOCK, ARMY
HALEY WEEBSTER, ARMY
WILLIAM COMAN, NAVY
LIEBENHAUT EDWARD, NAVY
NATHANIAL MCSWAIN, ARMY. NATHANIAL WAS PAST MEMBER
OF SAULS-BRIDGES, POST 13, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA



DISTRICT 12 UNIT 81

After visiting a local VA clinic in Palm Bay, Florida, I noticed that the bookshelf in the sitting area was holding only a few books. "Operation Book Drop" was set in motion early in July at Unit 81 in Melbourne, Florida and the members of the Frank B. Huddleston Post stepped up in a huge way! Within a few days, there were boxes overflowing with hard cover and paperback books donated to veterans, totaling over 500 in all.

Knowing that reading has been known and described as a "great escape" from troops across the globe, we thought everyone has books at home and they are probably wondering what to do with them after they are read. These books can provide mental and emotional escape to service people who are in very difficult circumstances - being deployed, military suffering from PTSD, etc. Books can be educational, comforting and inspiring or they may just take you away for a bit so you can return to life a bit refreshed. The goal was to support our veterans with something to do so they can relax and escape to a place of calm. We hope and pray that someone chose reading over something more drastic. The most rewarding thing is knowing someone can make a difference in someone else's life...even if it's one book at a time.



DISTRICT 5 UNIT 54



ALA Unit 54 Fernandina Beach donated Walmart gift cards to MVP of Nassau County Schools. Pictured Roberta Tucker Unit 54 education chair with Mollie Cressy the MVP homeless liaison.



Theodore H. Hernandez American Legion Auxiliary Unit 54 of Fernandina Beach permanent Poppy Display at Post 54.



5th District, Unit 54 members Robin Watrous and Roberta Tucker greeted ALA National President Trish Ward during the ALR Legacy ride at the POW/MIA Memorial.

MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

ON THE NEXT FEW PAGES FIND THE MEMBERSHIP REPORTS BY
DISTRICT AND UNIT.
REPORTS CURRENT AS OF 22 AUGUST 25

DISTRICT 1

0075	Crestview	235	0	16	16	6.81%
0078	Milton	13	0	1	1	7.69%
0193	Pensacola	69	0	2	2	2.90%
0221	Niceville	245	2	44	46	18.78%
0235	Ft Walton Bch	148	0	24	24	16.22%
0240	Pensacola	246	1	18	19	7.72%
0296	Destin	98	0	14	14	14.29%
0340	Pensacola	344	0	87	87	25.29%
0356	Lynn Haven	146	2	16	18	12.33%
0378	Gulf Breeze	68	0	2	2	2.94%
0382	Navarre	210	0	41	41	19.52%
0392	Panama City	204	0	23	23	11.27%
0402	PC Beach	63	0	10	10	15.87%
Total		2089	5	298	303	14.50%

DISTRICT 2

0013	Tallahassee	71	0	15	15	21.13%
0082	Lanark	75	0	4	4	5.33%
0084	Havana	22	2	2	4	18.18%
0100	Marianna	37	0	0	0	0.00%
0217	Quincy	29	0	10	10	34.48%
0241	Sneads	63	15	25	40	63.49%
Total		297	17	56	73	24.58%

DISTRICT 3

0049	Monticello	30	0	10	10	33.33%
0057	Lake City	294	0	28	28	9.52%
0083	Macclenny	74	0	3	3	4.05%
0107	Live Oak	57	0	0	0	0.00%
0215	Jasper	37	0	0	0	0.00%
0224	Madison	58	0	0	0	0.00%

0291	Steinhatchee	207	0	39	39	18.84%
0383	Old Town	156	2	27	29	18.59%
Total		913	2	107	109	11.94%

DISTRICT 4

0016	Gainesville	35	0	0	0	0.00%
0027	Ocala	14	0	5	5	35.71%
0058	Dunnellon	29	0	2	2	6.90%
0077	Inverness	103	1	12	13	12.62%
0149	Newberry	28	0	3	3	10.71%
0155	Crystal River	435	0	58	58	13.33%
0166	Homosassa Springs	192	0	29	29	15.10%
0230	Hawthorne	48	3	27	30	62.50%
0236	Bronson	66	0	9	9	13.64%
0237	Beverly Hills	154	0	6	6	3.90%
0284	Bellevue	85	0	4	4	4.71%
0354	Ocala	0	0	0	0	0
Total		1189	4	155	159	13.37%

DISTRICT 5

0009	Jacksonville	83	0	1	1	1.20%
0054	Fernandina Bch	309	3	68	71	22.98%
0088	Jacksonville	89	0	8	8	8.99%
0129	J'ville Beach	437	0	82	82	18.76%
0137	Jacksonville	477	1	61	62	13.00%
0194	St Augustine	44	2	18	20	45.45%
0197	Jacksonville	62	0	2	2	3.23%
0202	Keystone Heights	113	0	29	29	25.66%
0233	Ponte Vedra Beach	193	17	33	50	25.91%
0244	Jacksonville	28	0	3	3	10.71%



0250	Middleburg	316	20	28	48	15.19%
0283	Arlington	466	0	47	47	10.09%
0316	Atlantic Beach	382	30	26	56	14.66%
0372	Mandarin	45	0	11	11	24.44%
0373	Orange Park	40	0	0	0	0.00%
0401	Hilliard	40	0	0	0	0.00%
Total		3124	73	417	490	15.69%

DISTRICT 6

0010	Kissimmee	202	0	11	11	5.45%
0018	Wildwood	23	0	0	0	0.00%
0019	Orlando	74	0	1	1	1.35%
0035	Mount Dora	153	0	10	10	6.54%
0055	Clermont	299	0	16	16	5.35%
0063	Winter Garden	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!
0080	Saint Cloud	310	16	27	43	13.87%
0101	Bushnell	108	0	4	4	3.70%
0112	Winter Park	35	4	18	22	62.86%
0183	Fern Park	124	0	4	4	3.23%
0219	Fruitland Park	251	0	33	33	13.15%
0239	Groveland	22	0	1	1	4.55%
0242	Orlando	134	9	15	24	17.91%
0286	Orlando	191	1	41	42	21.99%
0330	Leesburg	45	2	5	7	15.56%
0331	Orlando	27	0	0	0	0.00%
0347	Lady Lake	2823	8	753	761	26.96%
0412	Orlando	11	0	1	1	9.09%
Total		4832	40	940	980	20.28%

DISTRICT 7

0003	Bartow	100	0	3	3	3.00%
0004	Lakeland	61	0	2	2	3.28%
0008	Winter Haven	714	0	122	122	17.09%
0015	Dade City	29	0	0	0	0.00%
0034	Haines City	100	0	15	15	15.00%
0071	Lake Wales	29	0	0	0	0.00%
0072	Mulberry	140	0	3	3	2.14%
0201	Florence Villa	20	0	0	0	0.00%
Total		1193	0	145	145	12.15%

DISTRICT 8

0011	Arcadia	53	5	12	17	32.08%
0024	Bradenton	343	0	23	23	6.71%
0025	Lake Placid	463	0	33	33	7.13%
0030	Sarasota	57	0	11	11	19.30%
0069	Avon Park	824	11	120	131	15.90%
0074	Sebring	142	0	21	21	14.79%
0113	Rotonda West	383	1	34	35	9.14%
0159	Venice	616	0	22	22	3.57%
0254	North Port	199	0	15	15	7.54%
0266	Fruitville	188	0	15	15	7.98%
0309	Palmetto	214	0	30	30	14.02%
0312	Oneco	166	0	6	6	3.61%
0325	Ellenton	205	0	12	12	5.85%
Total		3853	17	354	371	9.63%

DISTRICT 9

0036	Ft Lauderdale	38	1	2	3	7.89%
0092	Hollywood	73	0	10	10	13.70%
0142	Pompano Beach	159	5	27	32	20.13%
0157	Margate	185	0	5	5	2.70%
0162	Deerfield Beach	187	11	26	37	19.79%
0180	Fort Lauderdale	94	0	31	31	32.98%
0209	Dania Beach	21	0	0	0	0.00%
0220	Ft Lauderdale	26	0	0	0	0.00%
0222	Fort Lauderdale	58	0	17	17	29.31%
0287	Deerfield Beach	22	0	0	0	0.00%
0304	Dania	78	0	18	18	23.08%
0310	Hallandale	37	0	2	2	5.41%
0321	Cooper City	247	4	41	45	18.22%
0365	Sunrise	16	0	3	3	18.75%
Total		1241	21	182	203	16.36%

DISTRICT 11

0020	Belle Glade	50	2	12	14	28.00%
0047	Lake Worth	79	0	3	3	3.80%
0062	Stuart	909	2	230	232	25.52%
0064	Okeechobee	73	0	3	3	4.11%

0065	Delray Beach	51	0	0	0	0.00%
0141	West Palm Beach	68	3	19	22	32.35%
0164	Boynton Beach	219	2	28	30	13.70%
0199	W Palm Beach	48	0	7	7	14.58%
0268	Riviera Beach	74	0	47	47	63.51%
0271	Tequesta	198	3	58	61	30.81%
0277	Boca Raton	62	0	2	2	3.23%
0288	Boynton Beach	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!
0367	Royal Palm Beach	38	1	9	10	26.32%
Total		1869	13	418	431	23.06%

DISTRICT 12

0001	Titusville	231	0	42	42	18.18%
0022	Cocoa	147	0	22	22	14.97%
0039	Vero Beach	243	0	13	13	5.35%
0040	Fort Pierce	238	0	39	39	16.39%
0081	Melbourne	251	2	31	33	13.15%
0117	Palm Bay	651	1	43	44	6.76%
0126	Jensen Beach	209	0	8	8	3.83%
0163	Eau Gallie	263	0	8	8	3.04%
0189	Sebastian	187	0	21	21	11.23%
0191	Melbourne	67	0	0	0	0.00%
0200	Satellite Beach	154	0	1	1	0.65%
0318	Port St Lucie	1622	0	299	299	18.43%
0344	Merritt Island	24	1	6	7	29.17%
0348	Cape Canaveral	290	0	33	33	11.38%
0358	White City	77	0	11	11	14.29%
0359	Port St John	389	0	51	51	13.11%
0366	Barefoot Bay	46	0	0	0	0.00%
0394	Palm Bay	303	2	53	55	18.15%
Total		5392	6	681	687	12.74%

DISTRICT 13

0038	Fort Myers	37	0	0	0	0.00%
0090	Cape Coral	408	1	31	32	7.84%
0103	Punta Gorda	955	1	166	167	17.49%
0110	Port Charlotte	573	2	74	76	13.26%

0123	Sanibel	79	0	8	8	10.13%
0130	Labelle	178	0	3	3	1.69%
0135	Naples	454	0	42	42	9.25%
0136	Saint James City	579	0	38	38	6.56%
0192	Fort Myers	23	0	11	11	47.83%
0274	Fort Myers Beach	405	0	23	23	5.68%
0303	Bonita Springs	584	3	113	116	19.86%
0323	Lehigh Acres	472	4	79	83	17.58%
0336	N Ft Myers	599	0	174	174	29.05%
0351	Fort Myers	104	0	12	12	11.54%
0415	Punta Gorda	40	0	10	10	25.00%
Total		5490	11	784	795	14.48%

DISTRICT 14

0028	Key West	53	0	0	0	0.00%
0031	South Miami	140	0	27	27	19.29%
0043	Homestead	58	0	2	2	3.45%
0067	North Miami	36	0	2	2	5.56%
0098	Coral Gables	19	0	1	1	5.26%
0133	Miami	61	3	5	8	13.11%
0154	Marathon	165	0	18	18	10.91%
0168	Key West	20	0	0	0	0.00%
0333	Key Largo	90	0	10	10	11.11%
0346	Miami	21	0	1	1	4.76%
0374	Key Biscayne	32	0	0	0	0.00%
Total		695	3	66	69	9.93%

DISTRICT 15

0005	Tampa	25	1	9	10	40.00%
0099	Brooksville	24	0	7	7	29.17%
0108	Land O' Lakes	25	0	2	2	8.00%
0111	Tampa	58	0	14	14	24.14%
0138	Tampa	682	0	31	31	4.55%
0139	Tampa	114	0	2	2	1.75%
0147	Odessa	28	0	1	1	3.57%
0148	Riverview	236	2	29	31	13.14%
0152	Tampa	287	0	26	26	9.06%



0186	Brooksville	423	0	38	38	8.98%
0248	West Tampa	0	0	0	0	0
0418	Spring Hill	38	0	10	10	26.32%
Total		1940	3	169	172	8.87%

DISTRICT 16						
0007	Clearwater	259	0	10	10	3.86%
0014	St Petersburg	155	0	14	14	9.03%
0079	New Port Richey	501	0	18	18	3.59%
0104	Pinellas Park	366	6	108	114	31.15%
0119	Largo	368	1	36	37	10.05%
0125	St Petersburg	295	20	38	58	19.66%
0158	Treasure Island	362	1	43	44	12.15%
0173	Holiday	366	0	26	26	7.10%
0238	Safety Harbor	448	6	48	54	12.05%
0252	Seminole	1316	0	243	243	18.47%
0273	Madeira Beach	3683	1	267	268	7.28%
0275	Dunedin	1384	1	125	126	9.10%
0305	St Pete Beach	180	0	24	24	13.33%
0335	Hudson	120	0	9	9	7.50%
Total		9803	36	1009	1045	10.66%

DISTRICT 17						
0006	Deland	114	0	14	14	12.28%
0017	New Smyrna Beach	188	0	7	7	3.72%
0045	Palatka	46	0	4	4	8.70%
0115	Palm Coast	42	0	6	6	14.29%
0120	Holly Hill	196	0	42	42	21.43%
0127	Lake Helen	16	0	0	0	0.00%
0255	Deltona	29	0	1	1	3.45%
0259	Debary	43	2	19	21	48.84%
0267	Ormond Beach	257	0	23	23	8.95%
0270	Port Orange	235	0	24	24	10.21%
0285	Edgewater	176	0	18	18	10.23%
0293	Interlachen	36	0	24	24	66.67%
0361	S Daytona	290	0	21	21	7.24%
Total		1668	2	203	205	12.29%

DISTRICT 2						
0116	Port Saint Joe	28	0	10	10	35.71%
Total		28	0	10	10	35.71%

DISTRICT 99						
0400	Orlando	382	1	53	54	14.14%
Total		382	1	53	54	14.14%
Total		46008	254	6047	6301	13.70%




SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

FLORIDA'S 5TH ANNUAL SEVEN BRIDGES POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE DAY RIDE & CEREMONY

Sponsored by: The American Legion Riders Department of Florida

Police Escorted Ride from Adamec HD Baymeadows, over the Seven Bridges, crossing the St. Johns River, and ending at the National POW/MIA Memorial (6112 POW-MIA Memorial Pkwy, Jacksonville FL 32221) for a POW/MIA Ceremony at 1:30 PM.

All Riders Welcome!

Scan QR for: Registration Hotel Info Event page...



limit to 250 motorcycles or trikes (no autocycles)

- Meet & Greet on Friday Night September 19 at American Legion Post 316 (1127 Atlantic Blvd, Atlantic Bch, FL 32233) at 5:00PM
- After Event Social following ceremony
- Registration 8:00AM-10:00AM at Adamec Harley-Davidson® 8909 Baymeadows Rd Jacksonville, FL 32256
- KSU 10:30AM
- Cost: \$20 Per Bike/\$5 passenger

POC: Denny Luke, POW/MIA Chair
904-403-0181
POWMIA@legionmail.org





