

American Legion Post 129

: Post129@comcast.net

December 2013

Upcoming Events

- **December 4th**
7:00 House Committee
- **December 5th**
7:00 E-Board
7:00 Auxiliary
7:30 General meeting
- **December 7th**
5:00 Commander's dinner
ALR Christmas Party
- **December 14th**
Wreaths at National Cemetery
11:00 Childrens Xmas Pty
4:00 Early Bird Dinner
- **December 18th**
6:00 SAL meeting
- **December 21st**
10:00 ALR meeting
- **December 31st**
New Year's Eve Party

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Commander's Corner by Danny Rodriguez

Well family another month has gone by. I want to take a few minutes to talk about membership. I would like to be at 90% by January 1st and 100% by January 31st. So if you can help reach our goals please send in your dues if you have not paid them. I have some new members working on our membership by bringing in active duty members. Thank you for this

So we have had a good month so far. The 129 players put on a great show. And the dinner was excellent. I am looking forward for their next show. We had a good turnout for the Marine Corps birthday and

and Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving will be great. Looking forward to December and what comes up.

We need volunteers for projects coming up in December if you can help please see me or JD. I want to thank JD and his crew for continuing efforts to keep the post put together. If you can't do physical work we need donations to help fund them. One of the biggest projects is our roof.

Speaking of volunteers I would like to thank Wanda Brandt for helping in the kitchen as well as Kathy Jewel. Also Cathy and Debbie for selling raffle tickets and supporting the Post and Canteen. (continued on page 3)



1st Vice Comments by Don Grzena

I would like to **THANK** all the volunteers that helped out with the Halloween Party with the Jacksonville Beach PD. Our next project will be the Christmas Party with Jacksonville Beach PD. I will have a Volunteer list at the front bulletin board

THE 2014 CARDS ARE IN!

Please see either Jerry or myself to get your card. Remember, dues are now \$35. If you are between the ages of 70 – 79, then the dues are \$22.50. If you are 80 or older and in good standard with 5yrs of good membership, then the dues are paid by the Post. **"The Early Bird Dinner"** will be Saturday

Saturday the 14th of December at 4pm. If you have the Early Bird stamp on your membership card, then you eat for **FREE**. All other are a \$8 donation. One more (continued on page 3)



Auxiliary News

by Kelly Bush



A Little Funny

Thank you very much for everyone that participated in and enjoyed the “Blast from the Past” Show; it was a huge success and Mary Ellen will elaborate but I especially want to thank Mary Ellen & Candace for their efforts, Ann & John for cooking the wonderful meal, and the Fletcher National Honor Society for serving & cleaning the dishes. Thank you to Commander Danny for cooking a wonderful fish dinner for the Auxiliary and to all who helped serve, clean up, and run steak bingo. Please remember that this is the season of giving and we will soon have our Christmas Giving Tree up; a food barrel for canned/dry goods to help the less fortunate; and a list of needed items for the Five Star Veterans

Center – read more about this project at <http://5starveteranscenter.org/>

The sign-up sheet for the Annual Auxiliary Christmas Party is now up; please sign up your children & grand children to come and have fun, ages 0-10 please. The party will be held at Post 129 on Saturday, December 14, 11-1 p.m., cut off for signing up is December 1, 2013. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends and remember to count your many blessings & share what you can!

Kelly Bush, ALA Unit 129 President

I feel sorry for the young man who joined the Navy to see the world and spent the next three years in a submarine!

One day my wife said, “I’d like to go some place I’ve never been.” “Try the Kitchen!”

The terrible thing about hitting a jackpot on a slot machine is that it takes a long time to put the money back.

A woman rushed after the garbage truck and asked, “Am I too late for the garbage?” The Collector said, “No jump in!”

Then there was the ghost who was a bed wetter. He went around in a rubber sheet

S.A.L News

by JD Kapeghian



The S.A.L. would like to send our prayers out to the Bradford family, for the loss of their beloved Denny. He will be sadly missed. As of today, the Hangover Crawl II has been put on hold due to the fact that Bigtoot is out of commission, transmission problems. We will keep you posted. S.A.L. cards are available to all those who haven’t renewed or signed up as a new member for 2014. January 1st, 2014 they will be checking cards at

at the door. Please come see J.D. or one of the bartenders for your 2014 card. Friday, December 6th the S.A.L. will be having a stuffed chicken breast dinner, with homemade scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, garlic bread and homemade dessert. PLEASE either see J.D. or one of the bartenders to pre-order dinner so there will be enough for everyone. Monday, December 16th we will be doing steamed mussels

with toast points and a garlic butter wine sauce. Please come out and support the S.A.L. and as always volunteers are needed! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! Enjoy your holiday season.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year...

Thank you and Good night.

Officers for 2013—2014

Commander.....Danny Rodriguez
 1st Vice.....Don Grzena
 2nd Vice.....Terry Stickle
 3rd Vice.....Stephanie Cain
 4th Vice.....Frank DeCoste
 Sgt at Arms.....A.K. Rogers
 Adjutant.....Jerry Brandt
 Judge Advocate.....Bob Wilson
 Finance.....Bob Schlatter
 Chaplain.....Brian Hancher
 Service Officer.....Robert Schmitt

<i>E-Board Members</i>	<i>House Committee</i>
Frank Bolin	Bill Wilson
Tommy Williams	Frank Redmond
Lee Fair	Rich Hansberg
Chuck Nist	Kathy Jewell (Aux)
Robert Schmitt	Dale Peterson
	Nolan Bomar
	Dave Jordan

Auxiliary President,
 Kelly Bush
Commander S.A.L.,
 JD Kapeghian
Chef De Gare 40 & 8,
 Marie Kraemer
La Presidente, Cabane 215,
 Louise Bagdasarian
AL Riders Director
 Lee Fair

Commander (continue from page 1)

Tommy Williams for his support to the Post. The ladies of the Aux. for everything that they do behind the scenes

I would also like to thank Chuck Nist and the riders for their participation in the laying to rest of 12 veterans' and one spouse that had been forgotten. This is known as the MIAP (missing in a America project). These are those veterans that had been forgotten and not claimed and left in the back rooms of funeral homes. Our participation is to give them the final resting place with honors. I myself have placed my name on the list of pallbearers. It is an honor to give them a final rest. If you would like to help please contact

me for information.

The commander will be available for all members on Wednesday & Friday from 17:00 hrs to 19:00 hrs at the Post. You can also contact me by e-mail (zeug58@live.com)

Legion meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 7:30pm. Please attend. As a reminder, the American Legion Post 129 is still giving away the Blue Star Banners. Please let the Commander know if you have a loved one in the military service



CABANE News

by Louise Bagdasarian

I would like to thank everyone for Helping out for the Oct. and Nov. NFL day's. The Rueben's were a great hit! Thanks everybody. Don't forget we are doing another NFL Day on Dec. 22nd. (meatball subs). Come one and all and enjoy the fun!!

We still need school supplies for the children at San Pablo elementary.

Our raffle is doing very well. Check it out!! The drawing will be Nov. 29th. It will be exciting!!! We will also have a 50/50 that evening, give it a try as well.

We are looking forward to having Christmas Dinner with the Voyageurs on Dec. 12th.

Hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving, see you all soon!!

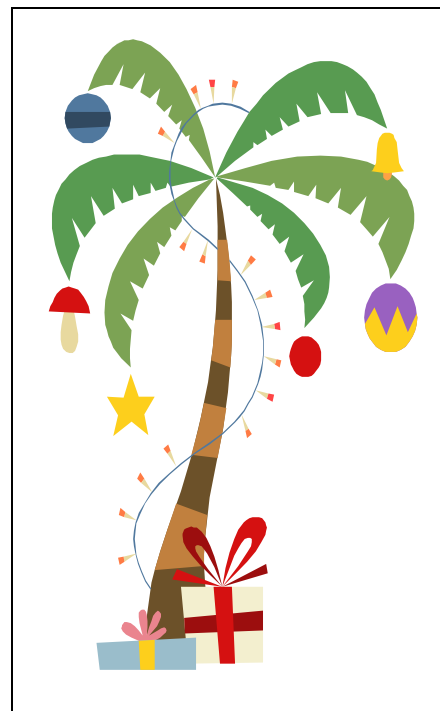
Faithfully yours,



2014 Cards!!

more thing, when you get your notice from National and you are 80yrs or older, please, don't send money. Just put down your age on the Notice and send/or drop off the Notice at the Post and we will do the rest. Right now, we are at 70%!! I know we can be at 100% by December!! With the E-board permission, I am starting something new with Membership. Any Post Member that gets **Three new members** to join will get his or her yearly dues paid by the Post. And if you get **Six new members**, the Post will pay for two years of your membership. Any question about this or your cards, please see me.

Merry Christmas



Canteen Update

by Brandi Roberts



Hello from your Canteen Staff
December is already here and it's hard to believe! It's been a busy year and December is no different. We will hold our annual Christmas Eve party on December 24th. **Post 129 will be open for Christmas Day!** We will open at noon and close when business declines. We will not have food available but if you would like to bring something to share with your Post family you are welcome to.

New Year's Eve will be the same as it has been for a few years. The G-Men and sister Karen will be here to entertain us from 830pm to 1230am. There will NOT be a seat or cover charge this year. It is a no fuss party. There will be party favors and we will put out some munchies around mid-night but other than that it is just come, party, drink and dance!

No dinner will be available that evening. We are requesting that if possible everyone brings in some snacks to share.

We are already starting to plan next year's events and I believe it will be another wonderful year. We will be holding our annual Chili cook off on January 11th. So start cooking and experimenting with those wonderful Chili's. If anyone would like to judge please let me know. We are also planning to bring back Comedy night and Monte Carlo night next year. Please let me know if you have any other ideas.

Football season is well underway and the NFL Sunday Ticket and the Game Plan from Direct TV has been a huge

success!!! You will be seeing every game every week! We know there is a lot going on at our Post and in an effort to keep everyone informed of all the great events, meals, activities, and specials we have started a weekly email. If you would like to be added to the list please sign up on the bulletin board.

As always we would like to thank all the members that help out around the canteen there are too many of you to name but we hope that you know how thankful we are for your help. This canteen could not run without you! We are continuing to bring new and exciting events to the post! If you have any ideas or would like to get involved please let us know. We can always use your help! Let us know your needs, expectations, and hopes. We hope to serve you soon!

Ask Ethel.....

Dear Ethel: My daughter has an eating disorder and is too thin. When I try to get her to eat more, she says it makes her arms tired. I'm thinking of giving her an assortment of easy-to-eat food for Christmas. What do you think?---Munch-mor Mom

Dear Mom: Give her a battery-operated fork.

Dear Ethel: For the New Year, let's try to make the federal government's "help" lasts no longer than our resolutions. Comment?---
Skeptical citizen

Dear Citizen: Agree. Otherwise we may be yelling for real help.



If you have any questions for the "Ask Ethel" column, she would appreciate your input. Send the questions to Ethel at: triplejj@comcast.net

Wall of Honor

We are attempting to start a new tradition at American Legion Post 129. We would like to place up pictures of all ACTIVE DUTY Personnel, in Uniform on our wall.

Please give a picture of your service person to the Commander Danny Rodriguez or Jerry Brandt

Very Little Christmas Humor

I gave my wife a \$25 gift certificate. She used it as a down payment on a new car.

Our local department store had two Santas..one for regular kids and one for kids who wanted ten toys or less.

Talk about cheap...on Christmas Eve, my neighbor shoots off three blanks and tells his kids Santa Claus just committed suicide.

I bought my son a bat for Christmas. On New Years day it flew away.

I bought my mother in law a beautiful chair for Christmas but she won't let me plug it in.

The Post Office is very careful nowadays. When they get a package marked "Fragile," they throw it underhand.

"Mommy, is it true that Santa brings us presents?" Yes. "The stork brings us babies?" Yes. "The police protect us?" The Fire Department puts out fires?" Yes, Yes. "What do we need Daddy for?"

Legion Lore

by Jack Hardebeck



When I got into our World War II Navy, I was surprised at how many sailors complained about the food. Actually, I thought it was good. I even liked the powdered eggs we had for breakfast. The only time I didn't consume them with gusto was on a destroyer cruise when the "tin can" was pitching and tossing in stormy weather. The green-faced, seasick swabby sitting across from me tossed up (i.e., vomited) his breakfast into my loaded tray. For some reason, I lost my appetite. (Urp)

An especially good chow hall that I worked in as a mess cook was a

small one serving only chief petty officers on a base. That was where I learned how dogs are probably taught to discover hidden explosives. They may be bribed with delicious food. One of the chiefs had a meat mutt which he fed from the serving line at the chiefs' gourmet eatery. Whenever the menu there included tasty meet such as roast beef or steaks, that chief would take a big bag of it back to his pampered pooch. If dogs could talk, I imagine this carnivorous canine would say to his friend, "This chow sure beats bones and dog biscuits!"

What's wrong with a dog's life? Your Fido should join the Navy.

Softball is Back!!



We are looking for personnel who would like to play Softball, in the upcoming season. The season will start in the February/March time frame and we will be facing other Softball teams fielded by other Legion Posts. You may not realize it, but American Legion Post revitalize the Softball League for the 5th District, however now we have a hard time fielding a team. If interested, please see Mike Barker JR or Jerry Brandt.

American Legion Riders...by Lee Fair

Thanks to everyone for all your help. We need more people to step up for to step up on our meals . We were thankful to have Deb Left and Nicole and Patty to step up for our Monday night meal. I can help in the kitchen but am not a good cook. I have appointed Linda as our event coordinator. . Remember that December 7th is our Bike night and our riders Christmas Party.

Lets have another good month we need more people to help with our functions and keep the riders part of the Legion family.



Commander Dinner

You are invited to the Department Commander's Dinner (at Post 129) on December 7th at 7:00 p.m. A sirloin and shrimp skewer with veggies and dessert. Music and dancing to follow.

RSVP required — RSVP to:

Commander Danny Rodriguez
or
Terry Stickles
904-249-2266

Editor's Comments

by Sterling L. Phaklides

We need your help. The cost of printing and mailing our newsletter each month is \$500 plus. If you have a computer at home you can get the newsletter by going to our website...it is there. You can also request to have the newsletter e-mailed to you. If more of our members would elect to receive it by e-mail or just go to the website it

will save the post a lot of money each month. Let me know what you choose as your option: 1. Mailed via US Post office, 2. Receiving the newsletter by e-mail or 3. Just going to our website each month Post129@comcast.net. Contact me by e-mail or phone (294-4234) with your choice. Thanks for your help in advance.....

You can also choose to pick up a copy at the Post!!

My contact information is: sterling1960@comcast.net or you can reach me on my cell phone 294-4234



What you Need to Know

by Pat Cornell

My husband Joe Cornell was the Service Officer for Post 129 for many years. Approximately 6 years ago he wrote an article for the newsletter stating what you needed to know in the event of the death of your spouse. I would like to update that article:

1. Know where your spouse's last DD214 is and make copies. This is something you will need immediately, especially if they will be interned in the VA National Cemetery.
2. Know the phone number to the Pay Center where the check comes from if retired. 1-785-339-3415.
3. Know the phone number to the VA Office & the Social Security Office. If receives VA Benefits and/or Social Security.

VA 1-800-827-1000...SS 1-800-772-1213

4. Know where the Life Insurance Policy is and how to contact them.

When making final arrangements order at least 5-6 Death Certificates as you will need them for many of the above and also to change names on bank accounts etc.

If you are going to claim their Social Security because it is larger than yours you will need an original Marriage Certificate or certified copy from the State you were married in.

As hard as it is the earlier you call and take care of these arrangements the better off you will be. If you haven't notified these people in a timely manner and you receive a check after their death you may be liable to pay it back.



Voiture 215 News

by Marie Kraemer

I hope everyone has a Happy and Safe Holiday Season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

In an effort to improve communication, I would like to create an e-mail listing for Voiture 215. Please send me an e-mail with V-215 in the subject line and your name in the text block. Dames are welcome to be included in this list, just put C-215 in the subject line. Thank you.

Upcoming events: Thanksgiving 28 Nov; Joint Christmas Party 12 Dec 013; Christmas 25 Dec; Grand Petite Promenade 17 - 19 Jan 2014, Sebring FL; North-East Florida, First-Coast Wreck Association Wreck 21-23 Mar 2014, hosted by Voiture 1610; Southland Dixie Promenade 24-27 Apr 2014 at The Plantation Inn and Resort, Crystal River; Chef de Chemin de Fer's Homecoming Dinner 26 Apr 2014, at Southland Dixie.

Voyageurs, how would you like to win your 2015 dues

paid by the Voiture? At our Promenade of 08 Aug, it was passed that the Voyageur who nominates the highest number of eligible candidates between now and 01 Jun 2014, would have their 2015 dues paid by the Voiture.

Our next Cheminot and Promenade will be our Joint Christmas Party with the Cabane at 1800 on 12 Dec 2013. More information to follow. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there, so please mark your calendars.

For any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions I can be reached at e-mail address: gamblerk@hotmail.com or via text message at 352-697-1749. Please indicate 40/8 or 215 in the subject line. Thank you for your support.
Marie Kraemer, Chef De Gare Voiture 215

The World According to Me by Patty Rodriguez

Life is a series of tiny miracles

Notice them.

We have so many things to be thankful for.

I am so proud to be a part of this Legion Family, we are a huge circle of LOVE.

With every challenge faced, every blessing celebrated, every joy shared, and every loss mourned, our bond grows stronger. Together we can work miracles

The New Year is right around the corner and many things are awaiting us. I find this quote to be very fitting and hope that it will empower us to make an impact on others and share what Our

Legion Family has to offer.

"Too often we under estimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around"

Leo Buscaglia

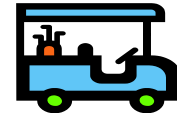
Remember that one small positive thought in the morning can change your whole day!

Believe in Yourself



9 Hole Golf (Sat)

On Saturdays in November we have had 14—21 golfers enjoying the sun and the game of golf. We have over 37 now signed up to play. Come on down and join us. Give me a call at 294-4234 or e-mail me at sterling1960@comcast.net. I send out an e-mail every Tuesday to find out who will be playing the following Saturday. Need to have individuals that are going to play let me know so that I can schedule the proper number of t-times. First t-time is around 11:15am. Have some fun, join us.



New Members

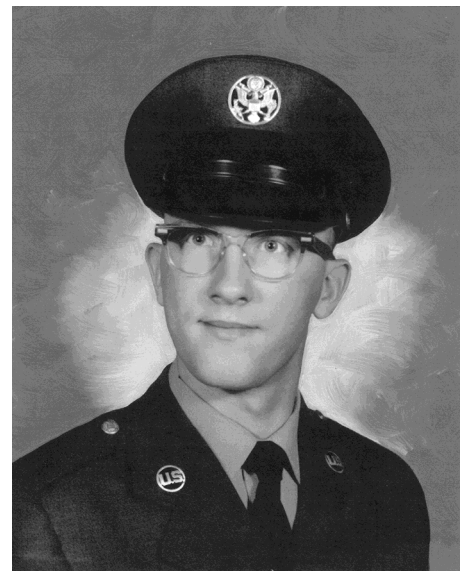
Let's Welcome these new members to American Legion Post 129 (November 2013)

Roy Stark	Army
Linda Barefoot	Navy
Harold Burch	Navy
Alexander Wolfert	Navy
Owen Carlson	Navy
Robert Young	Navy

Who is this Post 129 Member?



The young Airman, picture here, is a great singer, and has performed at various functions, not only with the American Legion, but also with the Mason's. He has held various offices within the Mason's and with the Legion, he has also served as the 5th District Adjutant and as Post Commander of American Legion Post 316. See Sterling if you can guess who he is.



Operation Open Door

"Operation Open Door!" is back on track. **Thank you** so far to **ALL** that have donated to this worthy cost!!!. I have about \$500 right now. My goal is \$2,000. I will take checks, money, and loose change. If giving a check, please make it out to the Post. In the "for" section of the check, put down Operation Open Door fund. I will **not stop** until I reach my goal!! Any questions about this, please ask me. Thank you!!

Football Sundays

Lunches will be served on Football Sundays. The menu will vary weekly and donations will go to Post 129 organizations (Post 129, Auxiliary, SAL, ALR etc). Donations of \$5:00—\$6:00 depending on the menu for that week.

In order to provide the above we need volunteers to help serve the lunches...Please volunteer if you can.

**The
American
Legion**

1151 S. Fourth St.
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

**POST
129**

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Address Service Requested

If you would like to become a Post 129 booster, please contact the Finance Officer. The dates below are booster expiration dates. Levels of booster sponsorship; Diamond \$100+, Platinum \$100, Gold \$50, Silver \$25, Bronze \$10.

BOOSTER LIST

Diamond Level, \$100+

Bob Schlatter (11/13)
Sonny & Suzanne Sternberg (10/13)
Shannon Devlin & Gregory Stanford (11/13)
In memory of F. Joe Cornell (10/14)

Platinum Level, \$100

In memory of Cindy Burroughs (7/14)
Frank & Margie Redmond (8/13)
Vince Rogers (1/14)

Gold Level, \$50

Chuck & Sue Nist (4/14)
James M. Denholm (1/14)
Jim and Mary Jo Davis (9/13)
Charlie Parker (9/14)
Bill Garrett (6/14)
Sally & Pearse Doherty (8/14)

Silver Level, \$25

In memory of Brad & Gerry Terrell (12/13)
Sterling & Linda Phaklides (6/14)
In memory of Kim White (10/14)
Jack & Ethel (11/13)
Nicholas Patrizio (10/14)
P-Nut & Liz Wilson (11/14)

C.M. Walker (10/14)
Nick Patrizio (10/13)
Louise Taylor Braren (2/14)
In memory of Jim Forbess 11/14
In memory of Donald Forbess (11/14)

Bronze Level, \$10

Jim Smith (8/13)
Estelle Mellon (9/14)
In memory of Dottie Smith (8/13)
In memory of Skip Hilliker (10/14)
William & Fannie Bivens (10/14)
Maddy Chitko (2/14)
Richard & Jo Ann Scoggins (4/15)
Robert Gomez (1/16)
Russell & Mary Lou Jones (9/14)
Shorty Heiman (11/13)
Towney Kennard (11/13)
Pete Riebesehl (11/13) MIA Henry Koch
John & Gloria Molisani (8/15)

Let's
Fill
This
Booster
List
Up
Again