

American Legion Post 129

: Post129@comcast.net

January 2014

Upcoming Events

- **January 2nd**
6:00 Planning Board
7:00 E-Board
7:00 Auxiliary
7:30 General meeting
- **January 8th**
11:00 National Commander visit
7:00 House Committee
7:00 40&8 & Cabane
- **January 11th**
1:00 Chili Cook Off
- **January 18th**
10:00 ALR meeting
- **January 19th**
Fancy Pants Fish Fry
- **January 29th**
6:00 S.A.L. meeting

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Commander's Corner by Danny Rodriguez

So as I see it, the post is a shining star. The 129 players put on short show for the Department Commander and Madam President. And the dinner was excellent. Then everyone joined the riders in the canteen for the party. Just got some news to help make us shine a little more. I would like to invite all those that can come on the 8th of January to meet the National Commander. He will be in Jacksonville for 1 day and we have been selected as one of the post that he will be visiting.

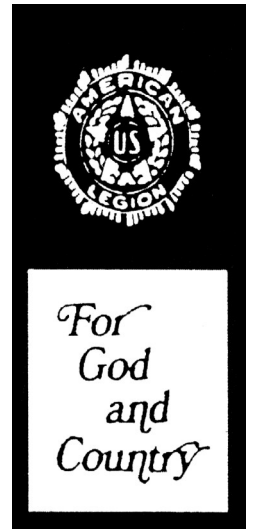
I would like to thank the Family for their outstanding work for veterans. The Family has been working with the 5 Star veteran's center. They have been painting, plastering and serving doughnuts and just visiting with the

Veterans. They have supplied them with blankets and other personal items. We are looking for others that can come out and visit with and talk to the vets.

I want to take a few minutes to talk about membership. At the time that I am writing this we are at 85%, this puts us a month ahead of the department goals. I am still hoping to make 100% by the end of the month.

The riders helped with the 19th Street Charities with the "Toys for Tots" drive and escorting the toys to the U. S. Marines. They also escorted the Wreaths to The National Cemetery to honor our past vets. To Quote our Department Commander, "Bravo Zulu", Great Job.

(continued on page 3)



1st Vice Comments by Don Grzena

First off, I hope everyone had a "Merry Christmas" and a "Happy New Year! Let's hope this year will be a lot better than last year!!

I would like to **THANK** all the volunteers that helped out with Thanksgiving Party! Our next project will be the Vet for Vet Coffee month at the Five Star house. I will have a volunteer

at the front bulletin. I would like to have at least one person from each Organization that we have at the Legion to help me out each Saturday. We will have each Saturday in January from 0930 to 1130. We will provide Coffee and Donuts to the Veterans living at the home. Any questions, please contact me.

THE 2014 CARDS ARE NOW DUE!! In the month of January, **ALL** the Bartenders will be asking you to show your 2014 Card. Be proud to show it!!

Continued on page #6



Auxiliary News

by Kelly Bush



It was an honor to represent our Auxiliary Unit at the Pearl Harbor Ceremony on December 7th at Mayport; the camaraderie was wonderful and the bright, young Naval Officers were an inspiration to all in attendance. We were honored to host our Department President Gerrie Bailey & Fifth District President Liz Hill for dinner and a mini show that night; they really had a great time. Thank you to everyone that attended and participated in the show!

Our Children's Christmas party was a huge success: Many thanks to our Legion Riders & JB Fire Department for escorting Santa to the Post, Santa & Mrs. Claus for making the kids happy, our cooks – Danny & Terry, and Mary Ellen & Erin for organizing the event & shopping for gifts, and those members that helped with crafts and face painting to entertain the children. I

hope we will have even more children sign up next year.

Thank you to Toni for cooking a wonderful spaghetti dinner for the Auxiliary and to all who helped serve, clean up, and run steak bingo. A great big thanks for donations to our Giving Tree, food barrel, Toys for Tots, coupons for our troops, box tops for schools- we really made a huge difference in our community this month. Please join us for these upcoming events: Chili cook off on January 11, dinner on January 17, and Auxiliary visit to the Five Star Veterans Center on January 25, 9-11 a.m.

Happy New Year! God Bless our Troops!

Yours in service, Kelly Bush, ALA Unit 129 President

Old Age

The old man growled, "Where the heck are my glasses?" "On you nose," his wife said. "Be more specific".

There's only one thing wrong with going through second childhood. You can't blame your parents.

I know a man who's really going through a second childhood. He went to a dentist and had braces put on his dentures!

I'm growing old by myself. My wife hasn't had a birthday in 10 years.

As far as I'm concerned, old age is fifteen years from now.

Old age is when a woman buys a sheer nightie and doesn't know anyone who can see through it!

S.A.L News

by JD Kapeghian



We would like to say a sad goodbye to Ms. Lou! She will be sadly missed. We send our prayers out to her family. Hope everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year! 2014-lets make it a great year. If you have not renewed your membership they will be checking cards at the door for the next couple of months to ensure all members are carrying a 2014 card. If you have not renewed please see one of the bartenders or one of the S.A.L. officers. 2013 would not have been possible without all the volunteers: Richard and Cindy Jordan,

Richard and Shannon Kasovich, Garth Collins, Erin Donahue, Pattie Kapeghian, Charles Greco, New York Tom, Tommy and Sandi, and too many others to mention. In the coming weeks Richard Kasovich will be leaving us and joining Shannon and Garth up north, to freeze his butt off! We wish him the best of luck. S.A.L. can not thank him enough for all his help and support!! The month of January is S.A.L.s raffle month. We will be raffling a new beach cruiser and other items. All proceeds and donations will go to Canine

Canine for Warriors and the training of new dogs. We will be taking donations of peanut butter, dog biscuits or money to aid in their training. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Friday, January 3rd S.A.L. will be cooking a stuffed chicken breast dinner, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables and garlic bread. Monday the 20th, we will be doing steamed mussels with garlic toast points and some kind of slider, TBD, with tots. If I didn't mention some of the volunteers, please know your efforts have made a big impact for 2013 being a successful year. Thank you and goodnight.

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)

I have to thank all the volunteers that have worked so hard and done so much from the smallest task like fixing a toilet while dressed in a suit, to those who cook dinners and cook and serve food on the foot ball games. Also an especial thanks JD and his crew of volunteers who keep the building together and clean.

I am looking forward to the next year. I just want to see how the post and the Family are going to shine even more. I want to see us grow. Like I said when I was elected that I wanted us to support and work on the 4 pillars. And we have. Let us keep up the great work. I also am asking that all the members that have done work on the four pillars to report their hours and if you had given

monetary gifts please tell us, we report these to national and lets them know what we are doing. In case you don't remember what the 4 pillars are they are veterans, child welfare, national security, and Americanism. We can all help by just donating just a little time by volunteering or with financial support. Your dues help us but most of that money is spent as soon as we get it. So by supporting raffles and dinners you are helping those organizations get money for projects.



Four Chaplains



All are invited to the American Legion 5th District of Florida's FOUR CHAPLAINS MEMORIAL SERVICE on Sunday, February 2, 2014 at 2pm.

American Legion Ocean Beaches
Post 129, 1151 S. Fourth Street,
Jacksonville Beach.

For more information contact Chaplain Bill Reno. Whr2aol.com or 904-318-0363
www.fourchaplains.org

Voiture News by Marie K Spine, Chef DeGare

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

Our train participated in the Fernindina Veteran's Parade on 09 Nov 2013 and took 3rd place. The train (a.k.a.: "Big Toot") also participated in the Children's Christmas Party at American Legion Post 316. A Big Merci to those Voyageurs who helped to make these events a huge success.

As there are 5 Fridays in January, the Voiture will be hosting a dinner on Friday 31 Jan 2014. The menu will be discussed at our next Promenade on 09 Jan.

Upcoming events: 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, St. Augustine; Southland Dixie Promenade 24-27 Apr 2014 at The Plantation Inn and Resort, Crystal River; Chef de Chemin de Fer Pat Beamer's Homecoming Dinner 26 April 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.

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.

Our next Cheminot and Promenade will be 09 Jan 2014 at 1900. 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.

Cabane News

December was a very busy month for all. On our usual rendezvous night, 23 Dames and Voyageurs went out to Bonefish Grill to celebrate the Holidays together. The food was great and enjoyed by everyone. I hope that everyone had enjoyable Christmas with family and friends.

Our next Rendezvous will be January 8th. Look forward to see you all at that time. Bring your Beret.

Faithfully yours,
Louise Bagdasarian
La Presidente

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Canteen Update

by Brandi Roberts



Hello from your Canteen Staff,

Welcome to 2014! We are already planning great events for you this year and hope that you are looking forward to a fabulous 2014. I hope by now that you have checked out our new website and are finding it helpful and informative. If you haven't head over there soon. <http://www.post129.org/>. Also make sure that you get signed up for the weekly newsletter. The weekly newsletter has all the updated menus and events. You can sign up via our website or by sending me an email.

This month we will be holding our annual Chili cook off on Saturday, January 11th. So start cooking and experimenting! All entries must be at the Post by noon. Judges will work their magic between noon and 1pm and then after they have made their

decisions the chili will be available for purchase. All leftover chili will be served the following day on Sunday during football. Also Sunday, January 19th the Fancy Pants crew will be at it again bringing your amazing fish dinner. Watch the calendar and weekly email for dates on upcoming events such as comedy night, oldies review, and more!

Due to the increase in beer and liquor costs from our vendors, we must unfortunately cancel the drink of the week program. We are doing this to avoid raising drink prices for as long as possible. We thank you for your continued support and thank you for understanding the necessity for this change.

We know there is a lot going on at our

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: Tax time is coming, and I read about a really dumb crook. He filed for a big refund under the name on a stolen credit card, then signed his real name and put it also on the envelope's return mail space with his real address. How would you describe his crime?--- Clean Gene

Dear Clean Gene: I reckon his acts left

a trail of crooked facts.

Dear Ethel: Economists are worried about inflation. How can we fight it?-- --Worry Walt

Dear Walt: Don't put too much air in your tires.



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

A few of the Events Coming in 2014

January: SAL Raffle month

January 11th: Chili Cook Off

January 19th: Fancy Pants Fish Fry

February 2: Super Bowl
Four Chaplains Memorial

February 14th: Valentines Day

March: Cabane Raffle month

March 4th: Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras

March 17th: St Patrick's Day

April: Legion Raffle month

April 12th: Comedy night

April 20th Easter Sunday

April 27th: Beaches Parade

Legion Lore

by Jack Hardebeck

They don't make movies like "Mister Roberts" anymore. I saw it again on TV a while ago. It has everything, including drama, information (about the U.S. Navy and WW II), and, above all, comedy. The scenes are performed mainly on the ship, a Navy cargo vessel delivering supplies (e.g., toilet paper) in a boring, non-combat part of the Pacific. Fittingly named the U.S.S. Reluctant, the ship was also referred to as "the Bucket."

Certainly, one of the funniest scenes in the film was the one in which a small group of ship's "brass" are assembled in their quarters. They're trying to decide how to make some fake scotch whisky. The ship's doctor, "Doc", has a bottle of

drinkable alcohol from the "sick bay." He's already added some Coke "for color." Addressing Mister Roberts, he says, "Doug, what do you think scotch tastes like?" Pondering, Roberts replies, "A bit like iodine." "Right!" states Doc, adding a drop of the medicine from a little bottle and shaking the "scotch" again. The others advance with their glasses in hand. "Wait!" Doc commands. "We have to age it." Looking at his watch for a few seconds, he barks, "That's enough!"

Now you know how they withstood the boredom.



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

American Legion Riders chapters are well known for their charitable work, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local children's hospitals, schools, veterans homes, severely wounded service members and scholarships. Since 2006, Riders nationwide have participated in the Legion Legacy Run to annually raise money for the Legacy Scholarship Fund established to provide scholarships to children of U.S. military personnel

killed since September 11, 2001.

Currently over 100,000 American Legion Riders meet in over 1,000 chapters.



Coming to Post 129

Beginning Tuesday, January 7, 2014 lunch will be available from 11:00 to 3:00. Richard Jordan will be preparing a limited menu with menu items posted each week. The price range will be from \$4.00 to \$6.00. Come join us and share a mid-day meal. Lunches will be served Tuesday through Friday of each week.

Editor's Comments

by Sterling L. Phaklides

I invite your comments. What would you like to see in this newsletter? Do you have a question about any one of the American Legion families (Legion, Auxiliary, ALR, SAL) that we might answer in the newsletter. Maybe others have the same question. Would you be interested in writing a article once in a while. Let me know what you

like or don't like.

Maybe you are even interested in becoming the newsletter editor. The job is always open. It takes some time but it is not only fun it keeps you in the loop with what is going on at the Post. Please let me know what you would like to see to improve this newsletter.

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



1st Vice comments (continued from page 1)

By now you should have your 2014 cards. If you don't, please see either Danny, Jerry or myself to get your card. **REMEMBER**, if you **DON'T** have your card after the 1st of January, You will **NOT** be able to come into the Legion until you renew your card.

Another member **CAN'T** sign you in!! 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. Please, 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 85%!! 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 due paid by the Post. And if you get **six new members**, the Post will pay for two year of your membership. Any question about this or your cards, please see me.

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. **PLEASE** help out with this great project!! 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!!

C U around the Post.....:

Veterans Center

Our Post 129 Family has done it again. On Saturday December 21, 2014, due to the generosity of all the Post' Units and generous private donations, we were able to take Gift Cards, Towels sets and toiletry items to the Five Star Veterans Center. There are currently 22 Veterans living at the center. All were homeless before they began their residence there. We spoke with a large number of these young men and women and their stories truly touched our hearts. Thirteen members of our Post made the visit. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to our Post Family for taking the time and giving from their heart to make Christmas a little more happy for these servicemen and women.

by Cindy Jordan



Five Star Veterans Center...Jacksonville

Five Star Veterans Center Mission Statement

The Five STAR Veterans Center is a nonprofit corporation committed to making a positive impact in the community by assisting those men and women who, when answering the call to duty, protected the freedom of that same community by serving their nation.

Our mission is to ensure a positive impact in North Florida by offering safe/secure transitional housing to displaced veterans, in an attempt to alleviate veteran homelessness. Our military residents are treated with the dignity, compassion and respect they deserve, while providing a structured "Passport to Independence" program to re-integrate these heroes back into the society, whose freedoms they fought to protect.

Many of our young population, some right out of high school, hear the call to duty, and continue to act on that conviction

Today. Isn't it now our "duty" to offer these American heroes a chance to excel in life and become a viable member of society again?

The Five STAR Veterans Center believes it is now our turn for the ultimate call to duty...that of giving back to this great nation by serving veterans in need...and by defending the promise that is America.

.....
The Five STAR Veterans Center will serve both male and female Veterans. There will be caseworkers to assist with securing benefits and computer-training laboratory will give Veterans the opportunity to train for skilled positions. Here is an example of services offered: Employment & training, skills assessment and development, career counseling, job placement, financial counseling, health & wellness, transportation, housing support, case management, financial assessments, transitional housing, permanent housing referrals plus much more.

The World According to Me by Patty Rodriguez

As we say farewell to the year 2013 and welcome in the New Year this quote comes to mind;

"Remember how far you've come, not just how far you have to go.
You are not where you want to be, but neither are you where you used to be"
"Rick Warren"

Lets fondly look back on this past year and smile when we think of all the years events whether happy or sad;
Celebrating the new babies into our families & the lives of the ones who have left us. As we make our New Years resolutions keep in mind what you do today can improve all your tomorrows.

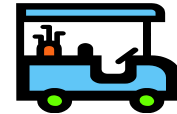
We all should to try to make at least one person happy everyday, spread your kindness & love.

A simple How are you are often the most kind and important words that we can say that could make a difference in someone's day. One person x one day x one year = 365 . What a awesome year we shall have.



9 Hole Golf (Sat)

On Saturdays in December we have had 14—23 golfers enjoying the sun and the game of golf. We now have over 40 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 Monday to find out who will be playing the following Saturday. Individuals that are going to play need to 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)

Jeffrey Ashton

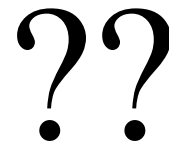
Victoria Bastian

Charles Adams

Who is this Post 129 Member?



We do not have a man or woman in uniform this month. If you know someone who has a picture of themselves and would like to share it with others, , please let Jerry Brandt or Sterling know.



National Commander to visit Post

Be proud of our Post. National Commander, Tom Dellinger, will be visiting American Legion Post 129 on Wednesday, January 8th between 11am and Noon. Please come down and meet with the National Commander.

“The Queen of Diamonds”

In January 2014 a new type of raffle, “The Queen of Diamonds” will be played every Saturday at 7pm.

Information about the “Queen of Diamonds” will be posted.

**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