

# American Legion Post 129

April 2015

## Upcoming Events

- **April 2**  
6:00 p.m. Planning Board  
6:30 p.m. E-Board  
7:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting  
7:30 p.m. General meeting
- **April 4**  
5:30-10 p.m. ALR Bike Night
- **April 5**  
**Happy Easter!**
- **April 9**  
6 p.m. Cabane Meeting
- **April 11**  
10:00 a.m. ALR meeting
- **April 12**  
USS Hue City Deployment Party  
Early-Bird Appreciation Picnic
- **April 18**  
Children and Youth Golf  
Tournament
- **April 30**  
6:30 p.m. S.A.L. Meeting

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## Commander's Corner by Danny Rodriguez

If you want something done in the Post, or you want to get involved, the best way is to attend the monthly meetings. You have a vote on what goes on. Your voice can decide on what we do and how we spend the money.

We are coming up on the Post elections, and your vote can decide who represents you and the Post. Remember, they represent you as the membership in the District and the Department. The best way to ensure that this is done is by having 100% membership. I know that at the end of the election year it is hard to get the last 5% of the membership. That's why we need all members to try to bring in new members for the next year.

On Monday, March 2, the National Veterans Employment & Education staff met with staff from Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick's office to discuss the furthering of the Legion-sponsored Fairness to Veterans Act. Also discussed was an intermediary action to force the Department of Transportation to report on the effect of adding veterans to the DBE program. On Wednesday, Congressman Fitzpatrick went to the floor and successfully added an amendment to rail infrastructure legislation which passed the House Wednesday and takes the first step toward

leveling the playing field for veteran-owned businesses in federal contracting.

If you are having issues with the VA, let the Legion know. Yes, there are issues with the Jacksonville VA being slow. There are issues with the St. Johns County VA not knowing where they are going to be moved to. These have been reported to the American Legion. But did you know that if your doctor orders an outside appointment, that you should receive an appointment within 30 days? If you don't, you need to call back and make sure they get you on the list.

Speaking of the VA, the National Commander had a lot of good points when he addressed Congress. PTSD was one point against the VA. There is no magic pill. Each case is not the same. Every case should be addressed to the Veteran and the family should be involved in the treatment. If you look at the numbers, 22 warriors are lost every day. If you know someone that has PTSD, talk to them, comfort them, and let them know there is help. I have posted the phone number for the VA crisis center all over the Post. Cards have been placed by the door. I carry a card in my wallet. I can get more. The phone number is on the front, and the signs of suicide risk is on the back. My



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# Auxiliary News by Kelly Bush



**Our general meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2 at 7 p.m.**

A very big thank you to Wanda and Judy for the great March dinner. We have our next monthly Auxiliary dinner and steak bingo on Friday, April 10. Please come out and support your unit!

Erin is collecting children's books for the Carver Center. Please donate if you can.

We will host a welcome party for our military members and their families for our ship, Hue City, on Sunday, April 12. We will have lots of food and fun. Check our Post 129 Web site and Tuesday email blast for details.

Please be sure to complete your hours for reports. The April 15 deadline will be here soon! Chairmen should review their reports on the Web site [www.alafl.org](http://www.alafl.org) and start collecting their data.

We will be electing new officers soon. Please consider taking an office for next year. We need you!

Yours in service,

Kelly Bush  
ALA Unit 129 President

## S.A.L. News

by J.D. Kapeghian



The S.A.L. would like to say a sad good-bye to John "the banker" Boardman. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. He was awesome!

We would like to thank Norman Sullivan for all his time and his donation of the NASCAR ride-along certificate raffled off on Super Bowl Sunday. It is much appreciated, and the money will be well-distributed.

S.A.L. will be cooking dinner on Friday, April 17, starting at 5:30 p.m. Meal to be determined.

**PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE** get your S.A.L. Dues in ASAP to help us reach our goal of 100% plus. They are way over

due. Don't let your membership lapse! Thank you and good night!

Our offer still stands: any member attending the S.A.L. meeting, your first beverage is on us. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m., the last Thursday of the month.

The S.A.L. and other organizations are planning to purchase t-shirts and backpacks for students at Alden Road Exceptional Learning Center. Donations of supplies to stuff the backpacks are needed. Get with J.D. or Brandi. Barbara Kapeghian is the teacher of these kids, and also a member of Post 129. So let's see if we can help these special kids as much as possible.

## Officers for 2014—2015

Commander.....	Danny Rodriguez
1st Vice.....	Tommy Williams
2nd Vice.....	Terry Stickles
3rd Vice.....	Jerry Brandt
4th Vice.....	Joe Maichle
Sgt at Arms.....	Anna Rogers
Finance.....	Bob Schlatter
Chaplain.....	Brian Hancher
Adjutant.....	Ernie Florig
Judge Advocate.....	Bob Wilson
Service Officer.....	Ken Aune
Historian.....	Kelly Rice

E-Board Members	House Committee
Cathy Berry	Dwight Deyo
Lee Fair	Rich Hansberg
Deborah Left	Kathy Jewell
Dennis McDowell	Dale Peterson
Chuck Nist	Rich Reyman
	Bill Wilson
	Jim Winelnad

<b>Auxiliary President</b> Kelly Bush
<b>Commander-S.A.L.</b> J.D. Kapeghian
<b>Director-Legion Riders</b> Jim Wineland
<b>Chef De Gare 40 &amp; 8</b> D.R. Richards
<b>La Presidente, Cabane 215</b> Louise Bagdasarian

## The World According to Me by Patty Rodriguez

### The Starfish Story

"An old man was walking on the beach one morning after a storm. In the distance, he could see someone moving like a dancer. As he came closer, he saw that it was a young woman picking up starfish and gently throwing them back into the ocean.

"Young lady, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?"

"The sun is up, and the tide is going out, and if I do not throw them back in, they will die," she said.

"But young lady, do you realize that there are many miles of beach and thousands of starfish? You cannot possibly make a difference."

The young woman listened politely, then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea.

"It made a difference for that one."

Adapted from the original by  
Loren Eiseley

We might not every know what kind of storm that someone is going through in their everyday life.

Everything we do or say will make a difference in someone's life, and you are the only one that can decide what type of difference you want to make. A nod hello, a hug or even a simple smile to a stranger could brighten their day.

**Happy  
Easter!**



## American Legion Riders by Jim Wineland



This year's Florida Legacy Run began on Monday, March 23, at Post 57 in Lake City. Each day of the ride ended in a different city: Havana, Pensacola, Navarre, Panama City, Steinhatchee, and finally Crystal River. Two other legs of the ride came from the Southeastern and Eastern posts, joining us at the final stop.

Four riders from our Post completed the ride: Chris Chinery, Bobby Greer, Wayne Parrott, and Jim Wineland. In 2014, we raised \$50,000 in-state, about a half million nationally. After the final

tally, an unnamed source matched the half million, for a total of \$1 million for the year.

We are coming to the end of the fiscal year, and we need all your numbers turned in. Don't forget, after the last 5th District meeting, we were in a solid second place based on our miles, hours and donations. There are a few of you who have not turned in any of your numbers this year. Please take a minute and turn in what you have so they can be counted.

Please remember that officer nominations are still open for the April and May meetings.

Bike Night is Saturday, April 4. Please remember that April's ALR meeting is the second Saturday, April 11.

See you on bike night or our next meeting.

Ride Safe!

# Canteen Update

by Brandi Roberts



Hello from your Canteen Staff!

As always, this year is ramping up to be a busy year. Every organization it seems has something great in the works for you! This month we have two big events starting with the Hue City Deployment Party on Sunday, April 12. Please see Mary Ellen or Ernie for additional information.

Also, we will be hosting the Department of Florida Golf Tournament on Saturday, April 18. Please plan on joining us for a great day of golf and fun! For more details, please visit our Web site at [www.post129.org](http://www.post129.org).

The bands we have booked for this month are awesome as well, so we hope to see you each and every Friday night!

Saturday night's Queen of Diamonds raffle is getting bigger every week! Remember you can't win unless you play, so come on out and give it a try!

And as always, we have some really great singers that have been coming out for karaoke night on Wednesdays. It truly is a great time to see the talents your Post family has!

Also, mark your calendars! May will be a busy month around here, starting off with the ALR Bike Night/Kentucky Derby Party on Saturday, May 2. Plan on coming up to the Post for a GREAT time! There will be food and drink specials, as well as horse racing and steak bingo.

Then following close behind on Saturday, May 9, the Auxiliary and your fellow Post members will be putting on the Gong Show. Tickets will be available for the Gong Show starting mid March. This will be a show you will not want to miss.

Also, please note the Cabane will be holding their annual rummage sale the weekend of May 15. So start cleaning

those closets and plan on coming up and see what treasures you may find.

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!

## Saturday Golf League

This April, we will be going into our 3rd year of the American Legion Post 129 Nine-Hole Golf League. We play every Saturday at Jacksonville Beach Golf Course. The first t-time is 11:15 a.m. If you are playing, you should be at the course by 10:45 a.m. When you register to play, you will receive a reminder each Monday asking if you will be playing. The format is 9-hole Captain's Choice. Join today, have fun.

If you are interested, email or call Sterling: [sterling1960@comcast.net](mailto:sterling1960@comcast.net) or 904-294-4234.



## Wall of Honor

We are attempting to start a new tradition at American Legion Post 129. We would like to place 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.

## Queen of Diamonds

Please join us every Saturday night at 7 p.m. for the Queen of Diamonds.

Rules are on the board at the Post.

Good Luck!



## Pass the Trash

Come out Sunday nights at 6 p.m. and have some fun playing "Pass the Trash".



## Commander's Corner

(Continued from Page 1)

suggestion is that all members at least become familiar with the warning signs so that we can help save a warrior and a life.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced the establishment of the MyVA Advisory Committee (MVAC). The Committee brings together skilled experts from the private, non-profit and government sectors to assist in reorienting the Department to better meet the needs of Veterans. This Committee is charged with advising the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with a focus on improving customer service. Veteran outcomes and setting the course for long-term reform and excellence.

The Advisory Committee will meet multiple times per year and will engage in periodic reviews to ensure the Department achieves the goals of MyVA. The Committee will provide advice on competing short-term and long-range plans, priorities and strategies to improve the operational functions, services, processes and outputs of the Department, and will also advise on appropriate levels of support and funding necessary to achieve objectives. Further, the Committee will review implementation of recommended improvements and suggest any necessary course corrections.

Members of the Committee have extensive experience in customer service, large-scale organizational change and advocacy for Veterans.

"The success of MyVA will be Veterans who are better served by the VA, so the work of this committee is incredibly important," said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. "The collective wisdom of our committee members is invaluable and each of them understands that the VA must improve customer service and focus the Department on the needs of our Veterans. They are dedicated to that mission and I am grateful for their principled service to our Veterans."

Another point that the National Commander made is that Congress pass the "flag protection act". It has failed in Congress by one vote every time it has come up. This act would make it a federal law that the desecration of the American Flag would be a criminal act and those responsible would be subject to arrest. Do you want to see the symbol of our nation walked on, burned, or other acts of desecration done to it? I fought for it, YOU fought for it. It covers those whom have DIED for our COUNTRY. IT IS THE SYMBOL OF WHAT WE HOLD DEAR ABOUT OUR NATION.

Ok. I will get off my soap box and put some things that are going on. We are going to restart the croaker tournament. If you would like to help, please attend the next meeting. I want to thank Linda and Al Wilshire for stepping up and getting it going again.

Boys State orientation will be held at Post 137 on June 4 at 18:00.

The DAV will be holding a hiring event at Everbank Field on Thursday, April 9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is for Veterans and transition military members and their spouse. For more information, visit <http://events/recruitmilitary.com>.

The Children and Youth Golf Tournament will be held here at Jacksonville Beach Golf Course. For more information you can call 904-910-5201 or email [jer-ry.brandt@comcast.net](mailto:jer-ry.brandt@comcast.net) for information.

The Post CPRs are coming due. Please get your information in to the Post. This would be your volunteer hours and donations that you have made to Legion charities.

Elections are going to be held on May 15. This is a Friday. You still have time to get your name on the list to be an officer of the Post. See any officer of the Post to submit your name.

Welcome new Legion members:

Robert Kiely - Gulf - Army - Transfer from FL 400  
 Joseph "Joey" Lee - Gulf - Marine Corps - New (Readmission)  
 Peter Levy - Vietnam - Navy - Transfer from FL 400  
 Edwin Messer - Vietnam - Navy - New  
 Roger Nelson - Korea - Navy - Transfer FL 400  
 Jake Scott - Gulf - Navy - Transfer FL 400  
 Michelle Ulmer - Gulf - Army - New

## Cabane News

by Louise Bagdasarian

The Wreck was a great success and lots of fun by all!

### Up and coming dates:

April 9 at 6 p.m.: a Dames Outing has been organized by Sharon Hardville at Iciban Restaurant at 675 N. Third St. at the grill table. 10% discount for military. Happy hour is all day. Special Happy Hour Sushi Rolls 5-7 p.m.

Contact Sharon by email [nonobaby@bellsouth.net](mailto:nonobaby@bellsouth.net) or phone 904-635-7373 by April 2 to finalize reservations. Such a nice evening to be had by all you Dames!

Other business to be discussed and thought of: April is nomination month. I will be stepping down from La Presidente after

two years.

May is the Cabane's elections.

Before we know it, the Yard Sale will be here May 15-16. Mark your calendars!

Faithfully yours,  
 Louise Bagdasarian  
 La Presidente

# American Legion-Ocean Beaches

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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 (11/15)  
In memory of George A. Campbell (1/15)  
In memory of James M. Chilton (1/15)  
In memory of Arlene G. Chilton (1/15)

#### **Platinum Level, \$100**

In memory of Cindy Burroughs (7/15)

#### **Gold Level, \$50**

Chuck & Sue Nist (4/15)  
Charlie Parker (9/15)  
Bill Garrett (6/15)  
Rush K Abry (2/15)

#### **Silver Level, \$25**

In memory of Brad & Gerry Terrell (12/14)  
Sterling & Linda Phaklides (6/15)  
In memory of Kim White (10/16)  
P-Nut & Liz Wilson (11/15)  
C.M. Walker (10/15)  
Jack & Ethel (2/15)  
Louise Taylor Braren (2/15)  
Franklin Friers (3/15)  
Paul "Shorts" Urff (8/15)  
Frank and Joan Baagoe (3/16)

#### **Bronze Level, \$10**

Estelle Mellon (9/15)  
Maddy Chitko (2/16)  
Richard & Jo Ann Scoggins (4/15)  
Robert Gomez (1/16)  
Russell & Mary Lou Jones (9/15)  
John & Gloria Molisani (8/15)  
Thomas Selig (7/15)  
Pete Riebesehl (9/15) MIA Henry Koch  
William and Fannie Bivens (2/16)