

# American Legion Post 129

February 2015

## Upcoming Events

- **Feb. 1**  
Four Chaplains' Service  
Super Bowl Party
- **Feb. 5**  
6:00 p.m. Planning Board  
6:30 p.m. E-Board  
7:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting  
7:30 p.m. General meeting
- **Feb. 7**  
5:30-10 p.m. ALR Bike Night
- **Feb. 12**  
7 p.m. Cabane Meeting
- **Feb. 21**  
10:00 a.m. ALR meeting
- **Feb. 22**  
Meatloaf Cookoff
- **Feb. 26**  
S.A.L. Meeting

## Commander's Corner by Danny Rodriguez

Well family, we have had a good month, but I am concerned that there are a lot of people who have not renewed their membership. We need to get out and talk to them to find out why. So please, if you know someone that has not renewed, please talk to them. If you need to pick up your card, please see Ernie Florig or Tommy Williams. I made the decision several years ago that the Commander does not need to touch the cards. It can mess up the record keeping.

Speaking of the family, if you have a family member or yourself are on active duty, please send a picture to me so that we can put them on a slide show to show our heroes.

Since we have had a mild winter, I would like some volunteers to help clean up around the Post. Mainly, I am looking for people to help clean out and rebuild the flower bed at the south entrance. I would like the flower bed across from the front doors cleaned out as well. Donations of plants would be nice for these two beds, but I will purchase some from Home Depot as well.

The Queen of Diamonds has started its second game. Tickets are only sold on Saturday. They start selling around 1600 and close at 1845. Remember, the first Saturday of the month is Bike Night.

The Post is not turning into a biker bar. Bike night was started to help the Riders get some support and to bring in other Posts to come and see what we have to offer. It is also a way for them to generate income for their different functions.

February 1st there are a lot of things going on. First of all, the "Four Chaplains' Service" in the back hall. The service starts at 1400. If you have never seen this, you should make a point to be there. It is inspiring. The other event is the Super Bowl Party. See the bar-tenders for information.

Remember to turn in your time that you spend on projects and community service. It all counts. To our active duty military members, I will write a letter to your command so you get credit.



George L. Fox, Alexander D. Goode

Clark V. Poling, John P. Washington

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# Auxiliary News by Kelly Bush



**Our general meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m.**

Thank you to my helpers for the January dinner: Wanda, Judy, and especially Chef Gary. We have our next monthly Auxiliary dinner and steak bingo on Friday, Feb. 13. Please come out and support your unit!

Also, thank you to Ann, Toni, Erin, and Wanda for their great fundraising during the Queen of Diamonds raffle in December.

Thank you for all of your help/support during the Golf Tournament for Girls/Boys State. Candace and Sterling and all the wonderful volunteers and donations made it a super success!

We will be serving a special meal at the Mission House on Sunday, Feb. 22. Please see Mary Ellen Bolin for details and let her know if you can help that day.

Mark your calendars now for the Northern Area Commander's Ball on March 7. Post 129 will host the event for our own Jerry Brandt. Deadline for reservations is Feb. 15.

Please be sure to complete your hours for reports. The April 15 deadline will be here soon!

Welcome to our new/transfer members: Joann Blink, Zoe Buckworth, Jaime Daigle, Lucy Hale, and Odette Reynolds.

We look forward to your active participation.

Yours in service,

Kelly Bush  
ALA Unit 129 President

# S.A.L. News by J.D. Kapeghian



The S.A.L. would like to give our condolences to the Leaptrott family for their untimely loss of their beloved son, brother, cousin, Scott Leaptrott. Our prayers are with them.

S.A.L. dues are over due. Please do not let your membership lapse. Help us get to 100%

On Friday, Feb. 20th, S.A.L. will be cooking, meal to be set at "market price", from 5:30 p.m. til... Please come out and enjoy and support us.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 26th at 6 p.m. Your attendance and ideas are welcome! Everyone in attendance, your first drink is on us!

We would like to thank Marty Manley Jr., and Coastal Cash for all his time, patience and donations with our last raffle. All the moneys raised will be going to support our "family" on the Hue City while they are on deployment. Thank you for your support and donations are still welcome.

We would also like to send our condolences to the family of Jack Gregory. We are sorry for your loss.

Thank you and good night!

## 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

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

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

## The Four Chaplains (www.fourchaplains.org)

### The Story

It was the evening of Feb. 2, 1943, and the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers.

Once a luxury coastal liner, the 5,649-ton vessel had been converted into an Army transport ship. The Dorchester, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland. SG-19 was escorted by Coast Guard Cutters Tampa, Escanaba and Comanche.

Hans J. Danielsen, the ship's captain, was concerned and cautious. Earlier the Tampa had detected a submarine with its sonar. Danielsen knew he was in dangerous waters even before he got the alarming information. German U-boats were constantly prowling these vital sea lanes, and several ships had already been blasted and sunk.

The Dorchester was now only 150 miles from its destination, but the captain ordered the men to sleep in their clothing and keep life jackets on. Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ship's hold disregarded the order because of the engine's heat. Others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable.

On Feb. 3, at 12:55 a.m., a periscope broke the chilly Atlantic waters. Through the cross hairs, an officer aboard the German submarine U-233 spotted the Dorchester. The U-233 approached the convoy on the surface, and after identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire the torpedoes, a fan of three were fired. The one that hit was decisive—and deadly—striking the starboard side, amid ship, far below the water line.

Danielsen, alerted that the Dorchester was taking water rapidly and sinking, gave the order to abandon ship. In less than 20 minutes, the Dorchester would slip beneath the Atlantic's icy waters.

Tragically, the hit had knocked out power and radio contact with the three escort ships. The CGC Comanche, however, saw the flash of the explosion. It responded and then rescued 97 survivors. The CGC Escanaba circles the Dorchester, rescuing an additional 132 survivors. The third cutter, CGC Tampa, continued on, escorting the remaining two ships.

Aboard the Dorchester, panic and chaos had set in. The blast had killed scores of men, and many more were seriously wounded. Others, stunned by the explosion were groping in the darkness. Those sleeping without clothing rushed topside where they were confronted first by a blast of icy Arctic air and then by the knowledge that death awaited.

Men jumped from the ship into lifeboats, overcrowding them to the point of capsizing, according to eyewitnesses. Other rafts, tossed into the Atlantic, drifted away before soldiers could get in them.

Through the pandemonium, according to those present, four Army chaplains brought hope in despair and light in darkness. Those chaplains were Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Coode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed.

Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers. There they tried to calm the frightened, tend the wounded and guide the disoriented toward safety.

"Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offer prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live," says Wyatt R. Fox, son of Reverend Fox.

One witness, Private William B. Bednar, found himself floating in oil-smeared water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying," Bednar recalls. "I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

Another sailor, Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, tried to reenter his cabin but Rabbi Goode stopped him. Mahoney, concerned about the cold Arctic air, explained he had forgotten his gloves.

"Never mind," Goode responded. "I have two pairs." The rabbi then gave the petty officer his own gloves. In retrospect, Mahoney realized that Rabbi Goode was not conveniently carrying two pairs of gloves, and that the rabbi had decided not to leave the Dorchester.

By this time, most of the men were topside, and the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight. When there were no more life jackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to the four frightened young men.

"It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, another survivor who saw the chaplains' selfless act.

*(Continued on Page 5)*

## American Legion Riders by Jim Wineland



With the start of the New Year, it was also the start of our 2015 Bike Night and ALR meetings.

But first, let's take a moment to reflect on our 2014 performance. Our Wreaths Across America Poker Run was very successful. Also, the End of the Summer Bash has a great turn out. Based on our ALR accomplishments, we are #2 in the district. Our finances are solid, and our membership is steadily growing. This doesn't happen on its own; we accomplished this as an ALR and Legion family.

For 2015, we are going to change our donation strategy. We are going to focus on local beach and Jacksonville charities. We are starting to develop a list, so if anyone has any ideas, please let us know and your ideas will be added. For starters, we are considering "BEAM" as a possibility.

Keep your eyes open for upcoming ALR 5th District events. Post 233 is having a Poker Run in February, and our friends at 19th Street Charities are always making things happen.

Welcome new members: Kathy Maichle and Ernie Florig.

See you on bike night or our next meeting. Happy New Year!

Ride Safe!

# Canteen Update

by Brandi Roberts



Hello from your Canteen Staff!

Be sure to join us for our annual Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 1st! Also, be sure to watch the weekly email for details on Valentine's Day Special Dinner.

We are planning to bring back Comedy night and Monte Carlo night next year. Please let me know if you have any other ideas.

Mark your calendars for our first meatloaf cookoff on Sunday, Feb. 22. See Brandi for additional details.

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!

## Golf Tournament Benefiting Boys and Girls State by Candice Mabry

The tournament has not taken place by the deadline of this newsletter, but I wanted everyone to know our sponsors and companies that have given us prizes. So if you're in the community and frequent these businesses, please say THANK YOU! Without their support, we would not have had such a success. I'm looking forward to giving everyone a full report next month!

**Silver Sponsor — \$500**

Dominos Pizza on North 3rd Street — supplied dinner after banquet

**Bronze Sponsor — \$250**

Coastline Custom Floors  
American Legion Post 129  
Sons of American Legion Squadron 129

Coldwell Banker Commercial  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 129  
American Legion Riders Chapter 129

**Hole Sponsors — \$100**

Terry's Country Store	Greater Beaches VFW Post 3270	Ponte Vedra Golf Carts	Beach Bowl
David Merritt Roofing	Academy Sports	Zoom Air Daytona or Orlando	

**Prizes**

Academy Sports	Angie's Sub	Beach Bowl	Beach Diner	Beachview Club Hotel
Blue Sky Golf	Chick-fil-a	Chilis	Edwin Watts Golf	Ellen's Kitchen
Espeto Steak	Fancy Sushi	Gingers	Hampton Inn	Jacksonville Jaguars
Jaxon Social	Jekyll Island Golf	Jekyll Island Hotel	Kasgro Rail	LA Fitness
Longhorns Steak	Lynch's Irish Pub	Maple Street Biscuit	Marlin Moon	Mattiace Golf
Monkeys Uncle	Pep Boys	PV Golf Carts	Quality Inn Jekyll	Seahorse Florist
Steinmart	Tire Kingdom	Trader Joe's	TTX Rail	Vapors
Victory Cruise	Windsor Park Golf			

### 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

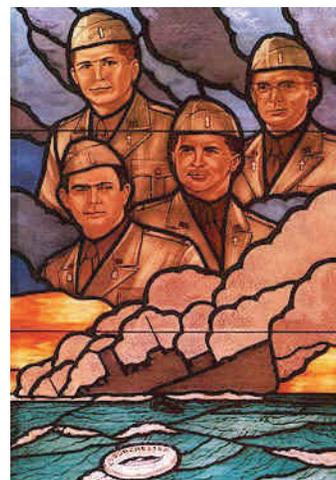
Come out Sunday nights at 6 p.m. and have some fun playing "Pass the Trash".



## Commander's Corner (Continued from Page 1)

Welcome new Legion members:

- Andrew Bilk - Gulf - Army - New (Active Duty)
- Delos Cloud - Vietnam - Navy - Transfer VA Post 177
- Joe Crittenton II - Vietnam - Air Force - Transfer FL Post 400
- Gordon Harvey - WWII - Air Force - Transfer Post 136
- Greg Meehan - Vietnam - Army - New
- Dallas Nelson - Vietnam - Navy - Transfer FL Post 400
- Leonard Rowell - Vietnam - Air Force - Transfer FL Post 400
- John Schaaf - Lebanon/Grenada - Navy - New
- Natalie Slepski - Gulf - Navy - New (Active Duty)
- Derrick Thomas - Gulf - Navy - New



## Four Chaplains... (Continued from Page 3)

Ladd's response is understandable. The altruistic action of the four chaplains constitutes one of the purest spiritual and ethical acts a person can make. When giving their life jackets, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew; Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic; nor did the Reverends Fox and Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line.

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains—arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers.

Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors. When the news

reached American shores, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and heroic conduct of the four chaplains.

"Valor is a gift," Carl Sandburg once said. "Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes."

That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington passed life's ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness.

The Distinguished Service Cross and

Purple Heart were awarded posthumously December 19, 1944, to the next of kin by Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, Commanding General of the Army Service Forces, in a ceremony at the post chapel at Fort Myer, VA.

A one-time only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961. Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements that required heroism performed under fire. The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

## Cabane News

by Louise Bagdasarian

February is rather quiet, a prelude to what is to come! Be on the look out for another surprise raffle in March!

The Voyageurs and Cabane 215 will host the First Coast Wreck to be held at the Days Inn, 1401 Atlantic Blvd., Neptune Beach, March 26-28. More info to follow. The theme this year is

a luau. Dress is casual. Start thinking of making plans!! Fun is sure to be had!!

Our next rendezvous is Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. We have to make plans for The First Coast Wreck.

See all you Dames at rendezvous!.

Faithfully yours,  
Louise Bagdasarian  
La Presidente

## Editor's Comments

by Sue Nist

Would you like to know more about your Post and the programs the Legion family supports?

Would you like to know how you can be more involved or what you can do to help with various projects and volunteer opportunities around the Post?

Please send me an email letting me know what information you're interested in, and I will do my best to find out the information and include in the newsletter.

My contact information is:  
susan.nist@gmail.com.



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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)

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

Estelle Mellon (9/15)  
Maddy Chitko (2/15)  
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