

American Legion Post 129

May 2015

Upcoming Events

- **May 2**
5:30-10 p.m. ALR Bike Night
Kentucky Derby Party
- **May 7**
6:00 p.m. Planning Board
7:00 p.m. E-Board
7:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting
7:30 p.m. General meeting
- **May 9**
7:15 p.m. The Gong Show
- **May 14**
6 p.m. Cabane Meeting
- **May 16**
10:00 a.m. ALR meeting
- **May 23**
5 p.m. Low Country Boil
5:30-9:30 p.m. Trunk Monkeys
- **May 25**
Memorial Day!
- **May 28**
6:30 p.m. S.A.L. Meeting

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Commander's Corner by Danny Rodriguez

Well, family, it is coming down to the wire on membership. We need to get a few more members to renew or some new blood in the Post to make 100%. So if you know anyone that has not renewed or that are eligible to be members, please bring them in, show them what a good time we have, and that we are not just a bunch of old veterans sitting around telling war stories.

This year's election ballots are ready and the absentee ballots will be available on May 8th. To get one, please see a Post officer or the bartender. You must show your current card and put your name and ID number on the ballot. This is to insure that you are checked off on the roster. After it is checked off, it will be blacked out for counting. Elections are going to be held on Friday, May 15.

If you know any of our Boys State candidates, please remind them and their parents that they need to be at orientation. Bobs State orientation will be held at Post 137 on June 4th at 18:00. It is important that they be there.

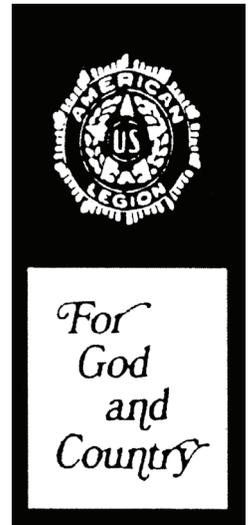
The Children and Youth Golf Tournament was to be held here at Jacksonville Beach Golf Course. The event was cancelled. It had nothing to do with us, but a lack of teams

signing up in time for the event. Hats off to Jerry and Candice for trying to get this going. It would have shown our Post off to the rest of the State.

I am happy to say that I will be holding my volunteer luncheon on June 13th. I invite the Auxiliary and the SAL, as well as the Riders, to join me in presenting their awards at that time. Remember we cannot function without our volunteers.

At this time, do not have a lot to report from the Legislature, but as I get information, I will pass it along. I only hope that it keeps you informed and is helpful in some way.

I want to thank John Burroughs for doing the school medals program for the Legion, and coming out of retirement to cook "Uncle John's Famous Fried Chicken" on Friday, May 15th. Remember to come early because it most certainly will sell out fast.



Auxiliary News by Kelly Bush



Our general meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7 at 7 p.m. Elections will be held.

We have our next monthly Auxiliary dinner and steak bingo on Friday, May 8th. Please come out and support your unit!

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

The Gong Show will be held on Saturday, May 9. A donation of a can for BEAM — non-perishable items = canned goods, dry goods, instant items, etc. The show will begin immediately after the Queen of Diamonds drawing.

A big thank you to our Unit Chairmen that completed reports and turned them in to the 5th District.

Yours in service,

Kelly Bush
ALA Unit 129 President



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



The S.A.L. would like to thank Cindy and Richard Jordan for their donation of 14 backpacks, and helping us in achieving our goal of supplying the Alden Road Exception Learning Center with the supplies they need. More donations of anything craft or supply oriented is welcome.

On Friday, May 1, the S.A.L. will be hosting Friday Night Steak Dinner Cookout! Early orders are welcome so we can estimate how many we will need.

Once again, the S.A.L. dues are overdue. Any member that has not paid is subject to lapse their membership. PLEASE help us get to our 100% goal and to help keep

you up on your continuous years. Your support is very important to us!

On Sunday, May 24th, the pre-Memorial Day Crawl will be held. Anyone choosing to go should be at the Post no later than 11 a.m. to join us on a traditional trolley crawl. Hosted by the "dark side of the bar," otherwise known as the North end. Anyone that would like to join us in our adventure, see ya there!

Thank you and good night!



Officers for 2014—2015

Commander.....Danny Rodriguez
1st Vice.....Tommy Williams
2nd Vice.....Terry Stickle
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	Frank Redmond
	Bill Wilson
	Jim Winelnad

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

Canteen Update

by Brandi Roberts



Hello from your Canteen Staff!

Have you been to the Post for lunch or dinner? If not, plan on stopping by soon! We have a new cook in the kitchen and everyone is loving the menu. Steven is doing a great job of putting out great meals with fresh ingredients at reasonable prices.

There is still a lot in the works here at Post 129 this month and continuing over the next few months. Starting with the ALR Bike Night/Kentucky Derby Party on Saturday, May 2nd. 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!

The following close behind on Saturday, May 9, the Auxiliary and your fellow Post members will be putting on the Gong Show. There is no cost to attend this show. All they ask is that you bring a non-perishable food item to donate. All donations will be given to BEAM.

Then on Friday, May 15th, the Legion will be holding their elections, so be sure to stop by and cast your vote for next year's officers. Dinner on this night will be Uncle John's famous fried chicken. Don't miss out!

Mark your calendars and plan on joining us for our famous Low Country Boil on Saturday, May 23rd starting at 5 p.m. All proceeds to go towards the Croaker Tournament. Reserve your dinner today by signing up at the canteen. The band Trunk Monkeys will be here to entertain us from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. This is one of our new bands, so be sure to come up to the Post and check them out. Also, we will hold steak bingo that evening directly following the Queen of Diamonds raffle.

We are also planning on a group trip to the watch the new Jacksonville soccer team, the Armada, on Sunday, June 7th. We will have a bus pick us up at Post 129 and take us down to the game so no one has to worry about driving in the city or parking. Plan on joining us. This will be a trip you do not want to miss! Cost for the ticket and the bus are only \$35 per person! We only have 40 spots available, and I have a feeling these are going to go fast. So run up to the Post to reserve your spot today. Payment MUST be done at time of reservation.

Also in the works this year is a Post Crawl, another Casino boat trip, a zip lining trip in Daytona, and another

comedy night. Make sure to sign up for our weekly email so you don't miss out!

Also, please note the Cabane has pushed back their rummage sale. They will be holding their annual rummage sale the weekend of June 20th. So start cleaning out those closets and plan on coming up and see what treasures you may find.

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!

American Legion Riders

by Jim Wineland



Ok, you are most likely getting tired of me talking about the State Legacy Run. Well, you're going to have to read just one more article about it. Now it's time to talk about the 2015 experience.

As I've state before, it all started at Post 57 in Lake City. We stopped at 36 Posts carrying our message of support for the Scholarship Fund designed to help children of fallen veterans since 9/11. Based on some of the numbers, there are over 14,000 children that will fall under the guidelines of this program; an estimated 2,500 have taken advantage of the program so far.

One example of what we experienced during the run, one of the couples stopped at a gas station in Panama

City. During the process of servicing their bike, a gentleman walked up and started asking what the ride was about. After they shared our story, he dug around in his pockets and pulled out a dollar and gave it to us for the fund. Turned out he was a homeless veteran, but insisted and would not let us give him the dollar back.

The American Legion/VFW Post in Port Saint Joe share facilities, and between the two organizations, they donated \$3,000 to the program. They also have connections with the Independence Fund, a program sponsored by Bill O'Reilly on Fox News. They donated \$10,000 to support the Legacy Fund.

These are just a few examples of what I experienced on the run. This is what brings you back every year. There were seven riders from the 5th District, and four of them were from Post 129: Bobby Greer, Wayne Parrott, Chris Chinery, and myself. I believe it's something that everyone should experience just once. If not all of it, at least the last stop. We rolled into Crystal River with over 130 bikes. What an experience!

Please remember Bike Night is Saturday, May 2, and our next ALR meeting is Saturday, May 16. Officer nominations are still open for the May meeting.

Ride Safe!

Legion News

by Ernie Florig

Welcome Legion members:

New

Tommy Hinds - Vietnam - Air Force
Charles King - Vietnam - Navy

Transfers

Aaron Johnson - Gulf - Army - From CO Post 1992

Stewart "Casper" Lilly - Lebanon/Grenada - Navy - From FL Post 233

Richard Thomas - Vietnam - Navy - From FL Post 233

Paul Vaccard - Lebanon/Grenada - Navy - From FL 400

Candidates for Post 129 Officers
2015-2016

Commander — Ernie Florig

1st Vice Commander — Tommy Williams / Joe Maichle

2nd Vice Commander — Terry Stickles

3rd Vice Commander — Debbie Left / Bob Daigle, Jr.

4th Vice Commander — Stew "Casper" Lilly / Pete Riebesehl

Finance Officer — Bob Schlatter

Chaplain — Brian Hancher

Sergeant-at-Arms — Kevin Robbs

Historian — Kelly Rice

Executive Board (5 Positions) — Lee Fair / Chuck Nist / Jeff Durden / Linda Barefoot / Dave Tarnowski / Bob "Stubby" Daigle, Sr.

Additional nominations and a final reading of the slate of officers will be done at the May 7th business meeting.

Proposed change to the Post's By-Laws:

Article VII. Meetings Section 2: Ten members, with at least six being officers, shall constitute a quorum at any Post meeting; and eight officers shall constitute a quorum at any executive board meeting.

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 or 904-294-4234.



Thank You!

Thank you to everyone for bringing in empty pill bottles for the Sulzbacher Center. We are continually collecting the empty pill bottles, and encourage you to keep bringing them in. There is a collection box inside the Auxiliary room for donations.

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".



Memorial Day [\(usmemorialday.org\)](http://usmemorialday.org)

“Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Over two dozen cities and towns claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. While Waterloo, NY, was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it’s difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day.

Regardless of the exact date or location or its origins, one thing is clear — Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. It was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11. “The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land,” he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn’t the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General Games Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there.

The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting any war).

It is now observed in almost every state on the last Monday in May with Congressional passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 - 363). This helped ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays, though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead; January 19th in Texas; April 26th in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10th in South Carolina; and June 3rd (Jefferson Davis’ birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

Red Poppies

In 1915, inspired by the poem “in Flanders Fields,” Moina Michael replied with her own poem:

We cherish too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies

She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Later a Madam Guerin from France was visiting the United States and learned of this new custom started by Ms. Michael. When she returned to France she made artificial red poppies to raise money for war orphaned children and widowed women. This tradition spread to other countries. In 1921, the Franco-American Children’s League sold poppies nationally to benefit war orphans of France and Belgium. The League disbanded a year later and

and Madam Guerin approached the VFW for help.

Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922 the VFW became the first veterans’ organization to nationally sell poppies. Two year later their “Buddy” Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans. In 1948 the US Post Office honored Ms. Michael for her role in founding the National Poppy movement by issuing a red 3 cent postage stamp with her likeness on it.”

American Flags should be flown at half-staff from dawn until noon local time.

Over 200 volunteers place flags at each grave site at Jacksonville National Cemetery on the Saturday before Memorial Day. Anyone can volunteer to help place the flags.



Cabane News

by Louise Bagdasarian

Please come to our next Rendezvous on Thursday, May 14. Elections will be held.

Our annual yard sale date has changed: it will be held on Friday, June 19, and Saturday, June 20.

Please bring your miles and hours for reports on May 14.

Thanks for all your support.

Faithfully yours,
Louise Bagdasarian
La Presidente

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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 (4/16)
- 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" Urrf (8/15)
- Frank and Joan Baagoe (3/16)
- In Memory of Brad & Gerry Terrell (12/15)

Bronze Level, \$10

- Estelle Mellon (9/15)
- Maddy Chitko (2/16)
- Richard & Jo Ann Scoggins (4/19)
- 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)
- In Memory of John C. Ford (5/17)