

American Legion Post 129

October 2014

Upcoming Events

- **Oct. 2**
6:00 p.m. Planning Board
6:30 p.m. E-Board
7:00 p.m. Auxiliary meeting
7:30 General meeting
- **Oct. 4**
5:30-10 p.m. ALR Bike Night
- **Oct. 9**
7:00 p.m. 40&8 and Cabane
- **Oct. 11**
ALR Wreaths Across American Poker Run
- **Oct. 18**
10:00 a.m. ALR meeting
- **Oct. 30**
6:00 p.m. S.A.L. meeting

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Commander's Corner by Danny Rodriguez

Well, family, the year is going by so fast, and with this, I need to bring up membership. We fell short of the deadline for September, so I am asking everyone to renew now. Please do not wait until the end of the year. If you know someone that has dropped out or who is eligible to join, please talk to them and see what we can do to get them into the Legion. Membership is strength, and we need to show we are strong. We also need to show the Department and National the things we are doing. "We are family" is not just something we say, it needs to be something we practice. I know the Riders are doing a lot of things, but we aren't telling anyone. As we do things, we need to let the community know and the Department know. Remember, we need to blow our horn long and loud.

We had the "fancy pants" dinner, and I appreciate all those who came by and supported us. We made some money for the USO, but at this time, I don't have any figures.

I am still looking for volunteers to help with some future meals. I need to put together a meal for Boy's State. We lost the croaker tournament this year because we started too late and did not have a chair-

person to coordinate the event. We have planning for a golf tournament in the works, but the details are not finished yet. We are also looking to have a tournament in April that looks like it will bring in visitors from all over the state.

The Department Commander and President will be here in December for Pearl Harbor Day and the district meeting. I would like as many members as possible come to the dinner and meeting. It would be nice to have a great turnout.

Again, I would like to thank all the volunteers for all they do. Without them, there would be no Post. Remember, it does not take a lot to help. If you can help for just an hour, it makes a difference. As the old saying goes, "many hands make light work." Please help if you can.

Welcome to the following new Legion members:

- Russ Adams—Marine Corps
- Larry Barz—Navy
- John Deighan—Air Force
- Don Roscoe—Army
- James Ward—Air Force
- Richard Paz (transfer)—Army
- Jason Washman (active duty)
—Navy



Auxiliary News

by Kelly Bush



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

Please come and help us choose our "Miss Poppy" at the meeting.

Thank you to all who donated items for our Homeless Veterans at the Jacksonville Stand Down; they were greatly appreciated.

We have an Auxiliary list for email blasts. Please let me know if you wish to be added to the list, kellytbush@att.net.

We have new rules for the coupon clipping project. They are posted on the front of the red collection bucket. No expired coupons, please.

Thank you to Judy Moody and crew for a spectacular meal in September. We have our next monthly Auxiliary dinner and steak bingo on Friday, Oct. 10. Please come out and support your unit! There is a sign-up sheet in the Auxiliary meeting room for you to volunteer to cook a monthly Friday meal.

Mark your calendars now for our wonderful Patriotic dinner/show on Nov. 15. As usual, it will be an event you won't want to miss.

Welcome to our new/transfer members:

Sandra Attewell
Jaime Daigle
Leslie Alison Jayner
Mary Mutta
Chelsea Priester

Yours in service,

Kelly Bush
ALA Unit 129 President

S.A.L. News

by J.D. Kapeghian



Rumor coming through the Legion grapevine is that our beloved train "Big Toot" is finally up and running! That means it's time for another 'crawl'. It looks like it's going to be a "hangover crawl", the second one, on New Year's Day, which falls on a Thursday. The name will be the "Crawl...drink...crawl." Or if anyone has any suggestions for a catchier name, please let me know. A sign up sheet will be posted. Please sign up ASAP to ensure we have time to get the t-shirts ordered for everyone.

Congratulations to Steve Smith, S.A.L.'s 1st Vice, on winning the bike raffle. The day he picked up the bike, he donated it to the Lion's Club to be raffled off. All their raffle proceeds go to the purchase of a Seeing-Eye Dog for a veteran. Nice job, Steve.

At 5:30 p.m., on **Oct. 17**, I don't know what the hell I'm cooking yet. Just show up and try it. I'm sure you'll like it.

S.A.L. meeting night will be Thursday, Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. Please try to attend. All suggestions are welcome.

I hope everyone has a safe and Happy Halloween!

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

E-Board Members

Cathy Berry
Lee Fair
Deborah Left
Dennis McDowell
Chuck Nist

House Committee

Dwight Deyo
Rich Hansberg
Kathy Jewell
Dale Peterson
Rich Reyman
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

The World According to Me by Patty Rodriguez

As I was randomly reading various recent Facebook postings, something that many of us do, I had the blessing to come across a very heartfelt posting of a fellow classmate of mine whom I had not seen in person for several years. As, I read his words my eyes began to water, and then a smile filled my heart. At that moment, I knew his words needed to be shared with more than just Facebook friends and family, but also with our Legion family.

The man who wrote the following words has been one of the many active duty members of our Great United States of America, serving in the USAF for 25 years and counting.

"If you happen to read this entry, I'm closing out my day and thinking about being in the Autumn of my life, extremely thankful for having lived in the United States. As a nation we have endured many challenges, and yet we continually persevere only to be better Union. Our common denominator is/has always been the American spirit which has sustained dynamic challenges, rising above adversi-

ty, holding fast to our way of life. I agree that we are in trying times as a nation...but now more than ever we must protect each other and our ideals. I believe that our future remains bright, but it is not without appreciation for those people who've enriched our lives.

When you have a moment, stop to make a call to a loved one, a friend, or an old acquaintance just to say thanks, and that you are thinking of them. Reflect to those special people how they have brought you joy, happiness, or even how they have touched your life with valuable lessons. There is a reason for their presence in your life. To have had each of those wonderful people, even for just a season, was in itself a blessing from God.

If I may, I'd like to leave you with a short passage that has come to mean a great deal to me - read it often. 'Please, don't worry so much, because in the end none of us have very long on this earth - life is fleeting. And if you're ever distressed, cast your eyes to the summer sky when the stars are strung across the velvety

night, and when a shooting star streaks through the blackness turning night into day, make a wish and think of me. Make your life spectacular. I know I did.' Robin Williams, from the movie "Jack". Until the next time...may God bless you and yours, Ron."

Thank you Lt Col Ron Thornton for giving me permission to share your words and a huge THANK YOU for your many years of service.

American Legion Riders by Jim Wineland



As director of the Legion Riders, I can't tell you how proud I am of our Assistant Director, Debbie Left, and the group of Cathy Berry, Patti Kapeghian, Barbara Martin, Rich Reyman and Nicole Neal, on the great job they did organizing and following through on an end of the summer celebration.

The following message has been supplied by Debbie Left:

"I want to thank everyone who donated and participated in making the End-of-Summer Part I a BIG Success! The purpose of this event was to raise money for local community children and Seabreeze Elementary School. The American Legion Riders Chapter 129 provided 36 backpacks full to school supplies to the children waiting at the Carver Center on Aug. 8, 2014. The Carver Center is part of the City of Jacksonville Beach and provides numerous programs and activities in the areas of recreation, the arts, and

education, free of charge to low to moderate-income families and children in the community. The children also enjoyed the numerous motorcycles that carried the backpacks to them. The American Legion Post 129, through donations and a Low Country Boil, provided a total of approximately \$3,000 worth of school supplies to Seabreeze Elementary School. We are working on new ideas for next year.

Thanks again, Debbie Left".

October is going to be a big month for the Riders. We have our regularly scheduled bike night on Oct. 4, followed by our second annual Wreaths Across America Poker Run on Saturday, Oct. 11. We have been to every Post involved in the Poker Run and have received overwhelming support. It looks like it's going to be a great event!

Keep your phones on as we get closer to the date. We may need a few more volunteers to make it a success for Post 129.

Welcome to our new ALR member, Joyce Ingle.

Ride Safe!



Canteen Update

by Brandi Roberts



Mark your calendars for ALR bike night to be held on Saturday, Nov. 1st. It will have a football theme with it being Florida/Georgia weekend.

This month, on October 11th, we will host the second annual ALR Wreaths Across America Poker Run. This should be an amazing event, and we are looking forward to seeing exactly how it turns out.

Also don't forget that on Saturday nights we are still running the Queen of Diamonds raffle. This has been so popular that we have now put two bartenders on at night to ensure that everyone is served quickly!

We still have amazing bands each and every Friday night as well as Steak Bingo, and hope that you plan on coming out and having a great time with us.

Make sure you mark your calendars and plan on joining us on Friday, October 31st for our annual Halloween Party!

Football season is here (BTW we do have the SEC Network as well as the Game Day Package and the NFL ticket, so we have you covered!!!)

We are still looking for volunteers to cook. We would like to make sure that there is food EVERY weekend for the football games, but in order to do so we need your help! You can cook whatever you like and donate the money to whichever Legion organization you would like. There is a signup sheet on the kitchen board. Please think about which day you would like to volunteer and then sign up!

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 send an email to Brandi at brandiroberts@att.net

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!

9 Hole Golf on Saturdays by Sterling Phaklides

Another Saturday has come and gone and all that played had a great time. Each Saturday we play at Jacksonville Beach Golf Course. You need to be at the course by 11 a.m. if you are playing. First t-time is 11:15 a.m. We only play 9 holes, and it is a best ball tournament. New teams are formed each week, so you get to meet new golfers. There is prize money for the winning team, and we also play off for closest to the pin on one of the par 3s. If you are interested, please send your name and email address to me (sterling1960@comcast.net) and I will put you on the weekly mailing list. (You can also call me at 904-294-4234.) I send out an email invitation each Monday. This helps me get the correct number of t-times needed, as well as selecting teams. We normally have 15-20 golfers each Saturday. Fun is had by all. Come join the fun on Saturday mornings. We all then meet at Post 129 to award prize money and maybe even tell a story or two about your game.



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.

The 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.

Pass the Trash

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



POW MIA Recognition by Ernie Florig

On September 19th, 1800 hours, Post 129 held its annual observation of POW MIA Recognition Day. The event was to honor prisoners of war and those who are still missing. It also recognized the sorrows of their families and our government's unwavering commitment to account for all MIAs.

The ceremony was emceed by 1st Vice Commander Tommy Williams. Assisting in the POW MIA Empty Table Ceremony were Post Commander Danny Rodriguez, Auxiliary Chaplain Kathy Jewell, Legion Riders Sergeant-at-Arms Chuck Nist, and SAL member Frank Hotmer. This was truly a team effort from our entire Legion family.

Thanks to all who participated and witnessed this solemn ceremony!



Thank You.....

	<p>A big THANK YOU to Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning for the deep cleaning they gave both of our bathroom floors! They look incredible!</p> <p>If you are in need of cleaning at your home please consider using Heaven's Best! Jim Wilson, Owner of Heaven's Best and member of Post 129, can be reached at 904-280-2900 or check out their website at www.heavensbestjim.com</p>
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Cabane News by Louise Bagdasarian

Hi everyone! In September we went as a group to a Japanese restaurant for food and comradery. It was a great evening for all.

We will be providing food for the following NFL Sundays: Oct. 12th, Nov. 23rd, and Dec. 14th. Come on down and enjoy the fun!

Look out for our Football Fantasy Raffle for October. Surprise, Surprise! Our next rendezvous is Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. Don't forget your beret.

Faithfully yours,
Louise Bagdasarian
La Presidente



Editor's Comments by Sue Nist

Please remember that the newsletter is only as good as the information given to me.

If there is something you'd like to see in the newsletter, let me know, and I will talk to Commander Rodriguez about adding the information in upcoming issues.

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



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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 (11/14)
In memory of F. Joe Cornell (10/14)
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)
Sally & Pearse Doherty (8/14)
Rush K Abry (2/15)

Silver Level, \$25

In memory of Brad & Gerry Terrell (12/14)
Sterling & Linda Phaklides (6/14)
In memory of Kim White (10/14)
Nicholas Patrizio (10/14)
P-Nut & Liz Wilson (11/14)
C.M. Walker (10/15)
Jack & Ethel (2/15)
Nick Patrizio (10/14)
Louise Taylor Braren (2/15)

In memory of Jim Forbess 11/14
In memory of Donald Forbess (11/14)
Franklin Friers (3/15)
Paul "Shorts" Urff (8/15)

Bronze Level, \$10

Estelle Mellon (9/15)
In memory of Skip Hilliker (10/14)
William & Fannie Bivens (10/14)
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