



THE SOURCE



TOM KLINGER
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA
COMMANDER
DETCOMMANDER@LEGIONMAIL.ORG



Well Hello Everyone. I hope you and your loved ones are staying safe and obeying the rules as to not spreading or catching this dreadful virus.

According to the Department of Florida, all Post Meetings, Post Elections, Celebrations of Life, and all Scheduled events are cancelled until further notice. I know your Squadrons are struggling trying to figure out how to have meetings, nominations, elections and fund raisers. I was on a conference call with the Department Officers and a letter stating how to handle these situations will be going out to every Post very soon. All the Detachment can tell you is you have to follow whatever your Home Posts instructions are.

Let's talk membership. Recruiting new members will be tough to do now since you can't invite a prospective member to your Post or Activities. So let's concentrate on renewals and reinstatements. Make a phone call to the members whose dues are past due or to those you haven't seen in a while. Ask them to mail their dues in - it will help us to continue support all our charities despite the bizarre situation were in.

I had the honor of playing in Post 275's golf scramble on March 7th. They raised approx. \$15,000.00 for Project Vet Relief. The event was very well run and a great time was had

by all. The Northern Area Ball, Aux. Presidents Homecoming, Detachment Commander's Homecoming and the Children & Youth picnic have all been cancelled or postponed. We can all expect this trend to continue until the pandemic has run its course.

Please just remember to stay safe and be smart. Stay home if you can, follow the 6 foot rule, and wash your hands. Let's all hope and pray this is all over in time to have a great Convention in June. Thank You for what you do and all you do.

Until next time. Be good and take care

For God and Country,

Tom Klinger
Detachment Commander



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STAY HOME • STAY SAFE
STAY HEALTHY • SAVE LIVES

2019-2020 Membership Target Dates:

September 1, 2019	15%	Congratulations! 15.96%
October 9, 2019	25%	Congratulations! 30.10%
November 14, 2019	35%	Congratulations!
December 11, 2019	45%	Congratulations! 55.61%
January 15, 2020	60%	Congratulations! 73.57%
February 12, 2020	75%	Congratulations! 84.63%
March 11, 2020	80%	Legion Birthday
April 8, 2020	90%	Congratulations! 94.10%
May 13, 2020	100%	
June 11, 2020	20,500	Commander's Goal Delegate Cut-Off



Greetings fellow Sons!

There is no doubt that the phrase 'May you live in interesting times' can be considered both a wish and a curse. Further, there's no doubt that we are currently living in a very interesting and somewhat frightening time.

As Governor DeSantis has recently issued a statewide 'Safer at Home' order, we law abiding and faithful citizens of Florida comply and limit our outside movements, maintaining distance and putting ourselves in a type of isolation that can be very unnerving.

It is at this time that we must never forget that we are a family of like-minded, well intended citizens of the greatest nation ever to have existed in the history of mankind. It is at this time that we must follow our hearts and reach out to those around us who may need a friendly voice – a reminder that none of us, no matter how physically isolated, are alone.

We, the members of The Sons of the American Legion, have never failed to stand tall in the face of adversity, following in the brave footsteps of our Veterans – those men and women who vowed to fight, if needed, to keep us free and whole. It is in their honor that we serve and we must never forget that our service is needed right now, during this crisis.

Please reach out to neighbors, friends and family. Stay in touch using the amazing technologies we have available. If anyone feels depressed and thinks they have no one to talk to, so very many of us would gladly make ourselves available to help in anyone's time of need.

The spirit in which our organization was founded lives on inside each and every one of us. We must remember that "this too shall pass" and before long we will be able to continue living our passions – helping veterans, their families and being a benefit to our nation.

Stay strong. Stay healthy and may God bless each and every one of you.

Raymond S. Leventhal

Editor, *The Source*

**UNITED
WE
STAND**



Gentlemen, in this time of National crisis I would like to commend all of you for the hard work that you have done during this year and especially now. The Social Distancing that we are all participating in is extremely difficult on our organization and its programs. Some of the things that are being affected are meetings, nomination and election of officers and the many community programs that we all participate in. Hopefully this crisis will run its course and things can return to normal as soon as possible.

Until then there are many things that we can be working on. First, we can do "Buddy Checks" on our members to make sure that they are able to navigate this difficult time. Remember that our members are the lifeblood of our organization.

Year-End reports will be mailed out to all Squadrons once Department Headquarters has re-opened for business. However, most of our report forms are available on the Florida Sons website. These reports are now fillable online, thanks to our Webmaster, Christian Rapp. It is extremely important that we complete these year-end reports as they are used to determine several Detachment Awards. By not completing these reports, not only do you risk your Squadron's chance of qualifying for these awards. But, you also take away from our time and monetary contributions that are reported to the National Organization. With so much EXCELLENT WORK being accomplished by all of you, there is no reason not to claim credit. Make sure your efforts are recognized by submitting the proper reports. Even if your squadron had "NO ACTIVITY" last year you must return the reports with NO ACTIVITY written on them. **If you are mailing reports, please mail them using first class mail (not registered or requiring signature) to:**

**Jim Roberts, Detachment Adjutant
2691 Mt. Pleasant Rd
Quincy, Florida 32352-6325**

At this time we are actively planning for the 48th Detachment Convention, June 25-28, 2020. This year the Convention will again be held at the Marriott Orlando World Center. If you have not made your reservations, please do so soon. The Convention Agenda will be coming out soon, we hope to see you all there for a great turn out!

I know this is a difficult and trying time for all of us, but if we work together there is nothing we cannot accomplish! Thank you for all that you do!





Greeting Membership Team,

As we move toward Convention and our 25th consecutive all-time high we need to continue to stay focused on our membership. We all need to remember the 3 "R's" (Recruit, Reinstate, & Renew). We had passed our mid-way point in membership and we have made our first (7) seven targets. Our April 2th, 2020 membership report had the Detachment at 94.10% having already blown away the April 8th target of 90%.

We've reduced our ZERO SQUADRONS from 8 last month to only 2 as of this report. That is GREAT WORK!

March was a busy, effective month. Amazing work by all the 'boots on the ground' have accomplished some remarkable membership numbers:

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Cards Transmitted:	103
Zero Squadrons	2 (down from 8! Great work!)
Squadrons at or above Target	117
Districts at or above Target	13 out of 16
Areas at or above Target	All 6! Fantastic!

While the membership numbers do reflect the closure of Posts state wide, we can still work the phones. Reach out by phone to members who could probably use some contact during quarantine. Use the Buddy Check system and let it work for you. There's nothing wrong with talking about membership while you do a wellness check.

To date we have 84 Squadrons that are signed up for MySAL. If you are not signed up, talk to your Post Commander or Adjutant to get on board with the new process. It does help with reporting and will in time make it much easier to get your membership done. I have talked with several Squadron Adjutants and they really like to ability to work their membership from a desk and not have to mail information. So, if you are not signed up, get signed up. Your Squadron Officer report form is the first step .

Please each of you, your family and friends stay safe and healthy. We will get through this together. Keep in touch with one another, pray for one another, help one another, be nice to one another and most importantly, be thankful for what you have under these very difficult times.

Prayers for everyone's safety and well being.

Until next month!





Nominations and Election of Officers

Gentlemen,

In these trying times there is much uncertainty about when the Legion Posts will reopen, as we are under a government mandated quarantine situation.

Questions also abound as to when will we be able to have our nominations and elections for Squadron Officers. We realize that each Post and Squadron have their own guiding documents that require elections at specific times. These guiding documents in all cases are superseded by State Law, so nominations and elections will have to wait.

For those Squadrons that have already held nominations, the actual elections can wait. If your Squadron has not started nominations at this time, please do not worry about it. You will receive directions once we have some idea of when things can return to normal. Please keep in contact with your Post for updates and information.

As to the District Constitutional Conferences, at best the schedules are now very tentative. Again, you will get some direction once we have an idea of when things can and will return to normal. Once we have an action plan we will let you know.

If you have any questions on the nomination and election process at this time, please feel free to email me at Fishermn9@aol.com and I will answer your questions to the best of my ability.

Regards,

Ed Sheubrooks

Detachment Judge Advocate





Your Detachment of Florida was proudly represented at the Washington Conference this year and presented your Florida Wreath at the World War II Memorial in front of the Florida Monument on Sunday, March 8th, 2020. James Bowers [402, Panama City Beach] along with your Detachment Legislative Chairman and National Legislative Commission man William D (Bill) Kelly [137, Jacksonville] made the presentation on behalf of The Detachment of Florida to memorialize all that served and died in World War II from Florida. The SAL and The American Legion Family of over 100 members loaded into 2 buses to pay homage to our War Memorials and the SAL National Commander Clint Bolt presentation of a wreath on behalf of all members at the Tomb of The Unknown in Arlington National Cemetery was the highlight of the day.

The 60th Annual American Legion Washington Conference got into full swing the next day at 9 AM when our SAL National Legislative Commission and FL Legislative Commission attended the American Legion National Legislative Commission Meeting at the Washington Hilton. TAL National Legislative Chairman James Troiola opened the meeting and proceeded directly into business by turning the program over to Legislative Director Melissa Bryant. She went point by point through The American Legion Legislative Agenda. This way we would be able to meet with and communicate to our Florida House of Representatives and Senators the concerns of our veterans.



Jim Bowers and Bill Kelly

Tuesday morning our Department Commander Johnson, Adjutants McDaniels, & Comer, NEC Boland, PDC Boland, PDC Smith, PDC Magee, Jim, & Linda Bowers myself and others attended National Commanders Oxford's Call. This is where the commander introduces various speakers, ALA National President Nicole Clapp and SAL National Commander Clint Bolt to an audience of over 1000 Legion Family Members including the keynote speaker Secretary of Veteran Affairs Robert Wilkie.

We then all split up to Storm Capitol Hill and call on all of our 27 FL. Congressman and 2 FL. Senators. Jim, & Linda Bowers and I present an American Legion Family approach to lobbying our legislators. We had confirmed appointments with Congressman Neal Dunn MD (FL-2) and Congressman John Rutherford (FL-4). We provided our Congressman with an American Legion Legislative Agenda and proceeded to go point by point through the agenda. Some of the key points of the 2020 agenda were to thank them for our 2019 legislative victories they helped with including, The Mission Act and the Expanded Agent Orange Benefits. This year's Agenda's Key Points are Toxic Exposures and Burn Pits Exposure, Expanded HealthCare for Woman, and Supporting VA's Suicide Prevention Efforts, and other agenda issues that help support veteran issues. We ended our appointments with a presentation of The Department of Florida's Commander Johnson's Challenge Coin as a token of our appreciation.

Wednesday is one of the most important days. This is the day when all of the volunteer work that you reported on your 2019 Consolidated Reports is reported to a Joint Session of the Veterans Affairs Committee. Members of The American Legion Family attend to support The American Legion National Commander Bill Oxford explains to Congress the importance of supporting our veterans.

Now you may understand better why your District Commanders are saying *Fill out your Consolidated Reports*, so my final request to you from 2020 Washington Conference is let's give the National Commander next year more to report.

PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR 2020 CONSOLIDATED AND END OF THE YEAR REPORTS.



Good Morning my fellow blue caps,

I hope everyone is hanging in there and doing well with what we are dealing with.

In today's world we need to come together more than ever. Helping our veterans, community and our children and youth has always been at the top of our list. With the changing times each day is another challenge for us to continue our mission. We can still help whether we are to shelter in place or have limited availability access to move about.

We still have the internet and phones, and with these resources you can still make a difference just by reaching out to a friend or a member of our great organization. National Commander Bill Oxford is calling for buddy checks. And he is asking all family members to get involved. When you call see if they are ok or may need something from the store or maybe just to hear a friendly voice. That may be all some people need at this time is a friend.

This is also the time to get in touch with members we have lost in membership or maybe need that reminder to pay their membership. At this time of year we are getting ready for the year ahead usually. Squadron Commanders start to think of how you can get your elections done. Might be a phone tree, conference call or email, but we need to let our membership know we are still here and moving forward even if we can't meet together. Send out a letter to your membership, ask for their ideas. Communication is key to the success of a great organization one person does not make a team. A leader is only as good as those they lead.

Together we will get through this bump in the road and when we do we will be stronger for ourselves, our veterans, and for the United States of America.

Thank you for all you do and I will see you on the other side Stronger and more driven to make The Detachment of Florida the best anywhere.

Northern Area Vice Commander

Brian Carter

Commissions and Committees Update

Due to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic and new Florida state regulations, the following events have been cancelled or postponed:

- Children and Youth Picnic originally scheduled on April 4, 2020.
- Children and Youth Golf Tournament originally scheduled for April 25th, 2020.

Tom Soeder, Children & Youth Chairman, 2019-2020

Commissions and Committees Update (continued)

Special Olympics – Randy Chilcott, Chairman

March's Special Olympics Events:

Due to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic and new Florida state regulations, all Special Olympics of Florida events have been cancelled.

We will get through this together. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of you at this difficult time.

I need your help to know about any events you are doing for Special Olympics so I can come and participate. Contact me at saldistrict12@legionmail.org. The cutoff date to receive recognition at convention is May 1st

Cash donations can be made by sending your tax-deductible donation payable to;

Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Florida Special Olympics

Mail to:

Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Florida
1912A Lee Road
Orlando, FL 32810

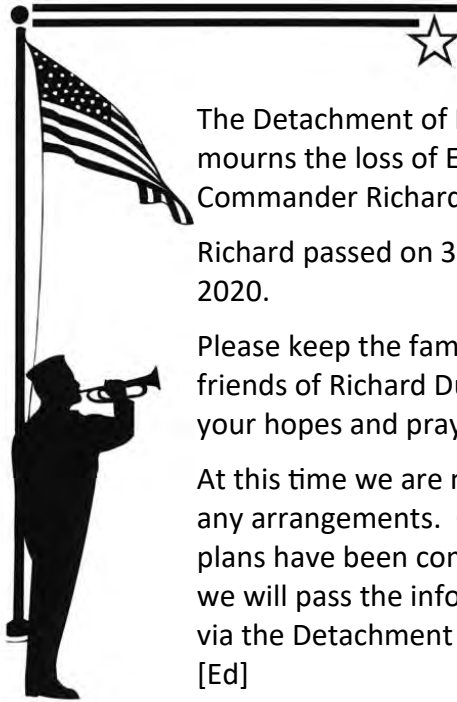
To receive recognition at our convention please forward copies of the checks/money orders along with a letter describing the donation to:

Randy Chilcott, Special Olympics Chairman
Detachment of Florida
189 Veterans Dr.
Palm Bay, FL 32909





Richard Duncan 347, Lady Lake



The Detachment of Florida mourns the loss of Eastern Area Commander Richard Duncan.

Richard passed on 31 March 2020.

Please keep the family and friends of Richard Duncan in your hopes and prayers.

At this time we are not aware of any arrangements. Once these plans have been communicated, we will pass the information on via the Detachment Mailing List.
[Ed]





It is the policy of the Detachment of Florida that no endorsement be posted prior to the Annual Fall Conference. The Detachment of Florida provides this information for the benefit of our membership. The addition of endorsement information does not indicate support for an individual candidate by the Detachment of Florida.

In order for an endorsement to be posted to the Detachment Newsletter "The Source" or the Detachment Website, an endorsement letter must meet the following requirements.

1. Each endorsement letter must come from a Florida Squadron or Post and must be signed by the Squadron Commander and Squadron Adjutant, or the Post Commander and Post Adjutant or any combination of these.
 - a. The letter must be on Squadron or Post letterhead and include the date that the Squadron or Post made the endorsement and that the membership approved said endorsement.
 - b. This letter should contain information explaining why the individual should be considered for the office he is seeking and a narrative of positions held to show his leadership potential.
2. Endorsements will only be accepted for the elected Detachment Officers, District Commanders as follows:
 - a. Detachment Commander, Detachment Vice Commanders, National Executive Committeeman, National Executive Committeeman Alternate, Detachment Historian, Detachment Chaplain, Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms and the District Commanders

Endorsement letters must be submitted, in writing, to the Detachment Adjutant as follows with the required signatures (in the format listed above).

1. Endorsement letters can be sent via the US Postal Service to the Detachment Adjutant Jim Roberts – 2691 Mount Pleasant Rd, Quincy, FL 32352.
2. Endorsement letters can be scanned and sent by e-mail to the Detachment at floridasons@legionmail.org. Scanned documents are required to be in an Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf) and must have all of the original signatures as required and be of good quality.



Detachment Officer Endorsements

Detachment Commander	<u>Brian Carter (120, Holly Hill)</u>
Office of Detachment Vice Commander	
Western Area	<u>Robert Farley (240, Pensacola)</u>
Northern Area	<u>Bryan Barcomb (270, Port Orange)</u>
Eastern Area	<u>Randy Chilcott (117, Palm Bay)</u>
Central Area	
Southwestern Area	<u>Ernest Sheffield (266, Sarasota)</u>
Southern Area	
National Executive Committeeman	<u>William D Kelly Jr (137, Jacksonville)</u>
National Executive Committeeman Alternate	<u>Tom Klinger (7, Clearwater)</u>
Detachment Chaplain	<u>Randy Collinsworth (7, Clearwater)</u>
Detachment Historian	<u>Chris Richert (117, Palm Bay)</u>
Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms	<u>George Steger, (238, Safety Harbor)</u>

District Commander & Vice Commander Endorsements

District	District Commander Endorsements	District Vice Commander Endorsements
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8	<u>Jim Edwards (69, Avon Park)</u>	
9		
10		
11		
12	<u>Peter Puzzo (189, Sebastian)</u>	
13	<u>Christian M Rapp (323, Lehigh Acres)</u>	<u>Michael Nigbor (136, St James City)</u>
14		
15	<u>Mark Getty (148, Riverview)</u>	
16		
17		

Upcoming Events

As of this publication, this event is still a 'go'. Visit <http://www.floridaveteransreunion.com/> for information on this event. This event is not a function of the Florida American Legion. [Ed]



**Vietnam and all Veterans
of Brevard**

Present:

**Florida's 33rd Annual
All Veterans Reunion**

The Nation's Largest Veterans Reunion
PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND
May 7th – 10th, 2020

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall on display **May 3-10, 2020**

LIVE MUSIC
FOOD & DRINKS
MILITARY VENDORS
MILITARY DISPLAYS

THE SOME GAVE ALL MOVING TRIBUTE

Wall Escort May 3, 2020 Leaves at 10am
Eastern Florida State College Cocoa Campus
Reunion Web Page at:
floridaveteransreunion.com



Wickham Park
321-255-4307 - 2500 Parkway Dr
Melbourne, FL
No Coolers, Glass or Pets allowed
in the Reunion Area
Per Wickham Park: Golf Carts Permitted
For the Handicapped Only And Must
Abide By FL Highway Laws
Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall
<http://travelingwall.us>



Call For Info
321-408-2698
321-652-4185
Vendor call 321-652-4185
Vet.reunion.vendor@gmail.com
RaRusso1962@gmail.com
Candy1540@yahoo.com
Club Escort Lineup Info
vvbreunionescort@gmail.com



HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

Each member has access to many benefits including the National Emergency Fund if a natural disaster should occur. However, your dues have to be current at the National Organization for you to be eligible for this and many other benefits.

Remember, your dues also help support Squadron Programs, the Child Welfare Foundation, National Emergency Fund, Operation Comfort Warriors, Fisher House and many more.

Without your support we cannot continue to support the great programs of the American Legion Family. Please follow up with your Squadron Membership Chairman to pay your dues and ensure they are transmitted for the current year.

Having an Event? Let the Detachment of Florida Help!

Attention all Sons of the American Legion

If your Squadron, Post Family, District or Area are having an event, we can help get the word out.

If you are interested in getting your event published and promoted using:

- The Detachment of Florida's Website (floridasons.org)
- The Detachment of Florida's Facebook page (facebook.com/pg/FloridaSAL)
- The Detachment of Florida's Newsletter, The Source

There's only one thing you have to do: Let Us Know!

Visit the Detachment of Florida's online events calendar at

<https://floridasons.org/detachment-events-calendar/>, and click the button labeled 'Click Here To Submit Your Event'.

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida

Department Headquarters
PO Box 547859
Orlando, FL 32854
(407) 295-2631

Detachment Adjutant James Roberts III
1112 S. Magnolia Dr. - Apt S106
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Detachment E-mail: floridasons@legionmail.org
Internet: www.floridasons.org

***In Honor of Those Who Serve and
Those Who Served***

The Florida Sons of The American Legion with over 180 Squadrons and over 19,000 members this year donated hundreds of thousands of dollars and hours to the many programs of The American Legion Family.

For More Information about the Florida Sons of The American Legion, visit us on the Internet at:

www.floridasons.org

Or e-mail us at floridasons@legionmail.org

Scan the QR Code below to
visit our website



www.facebook.com/FI

Source Articles

We are looking for your input and help to keep this newsletter going. We are looking for articles from the Squadrons, Districts, or Areas. Let us know what is happening in your Squadron, District & Area and we will inform the rest of the Detachment. It could increase attendance at your functions and or meetings!!!! This is your newsletter.

Please send all articles to the Detachment by the 23rd of every month. Articles can be e-mailed to TheSource@floridasons.org.