



GERARD SAMBETS

★ DETACHMENT COMMANDER ★
 COMMANDER@FLORIDASONS.ORG



VOLUNTEER
 EDUCATE
 TRAIN
 SUPPORT

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION - DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA

THE SOURCE

“Remember always Veterans First”

I really love this time of the year. Which Area will rise to the top? Will the Eastern area keep the lead? How about the Central area moving to the top? And don't forget the Southern area, they keep on fighting to stay in the race! Everyone is in this! Or should I say everyone SHOULD be doing their best TO BE IN THIS! #BeTheOne

We have to keep on transmitting membership each week. As I said last month, you have to keep pushing, no weeks with zero transmittals. The finish line is just ahead, so keep in communication with your Squadrons and ask why they aren't sending in memberships each week. Area commanders should be staying on their squadrons that are falling behind. Do they need help? Computer troubles? Squads with 100%+ still have room for new and renewal members, Please keep going!

PAPERWORK!!! It's just about time to complete your end-of-year reports. If you all were listening last year at the MTD classes, you are recording all of your accomplishments, hours, and charitable donations from your monthly meeting notes. Your Adjutant can look back at the minutes and add up all that has been done to input it on the year-end reports. Simple and quick reporting. Everything you need is online and fillable. This reporting is necessary, it is your job as an officer of your squadron to make sure this is done and in a timely fashion. Also, your Squadron officer's reports must be sent in BEFORE some of the other end-year reports are due. **Squadron's Officer reports should be sent in immediately after elections.** This is a must because your adjutant will be on the list to transmit membership. You can not transmit without the change of officers' report. All reports are online and if you are having trouble finding them or completing them, Please reach out to Christian, adjutant@floridasons.org

I just attended a very successful Central Area Ball, at the new post #418 in Spring Hill. This post is located inside a very beautiful VFW, and they do it correctly. It's all about the Veterans.

If you have a chance to visit this Post, it's worth the drive. The 9-11 memorial walk thru garden honors all of the military branches, first responders, all lives lost in 9-11, and USS Cole Navy Veterans. It is a beautiful garden honoring & remembering all.

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2023-2024 Membership Target Dates:

September 7, 2022	10%	21.95! Congratulations!!
October 12, 2022	25%	31.26% Congratulations!
November 9, 2022	35%	39.29% Congratulations!
December 7, 2022	45%	61.37% Congratulations!
January 11, 2024	60%	80.14% Congratulations!
February 8, 2024	75%	88.48% Congratulations!
March 7, 2024*	80%	94.29% Congratulations!
April 4, 2024	90%	
May 9, 2024	100%	
May 31, 2024**	105%	

* Legion Birthday (March 13th) ** Delegate Cut-Off

Detachment Commander (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Next up is the Children and Youth picnic @ #117, in Palm Bay on April 6th, and On April 13th the Western Area Ball, @ #235 Ft. Walton Beach. Thank You all for your accomplishments this year and I know there is more to come.

"Keep doing what you do Best"

For God and Country,

Gerard Sambets, Commander
Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Florida



**DETACHMENT
OF FLORIDA**



CHRISTIAN M RAPP

★ DETACHMENT ADJUTANT ★
ADJUTANT@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello Sons!

It's almost Convention Time! By now, you should have received the end of the year reporting packets from Department. When you have your reports completed, please mail or email me your completed reports. Email is preferred, if possible.

NOTE: Each report is available on our website as a fillable PDF document. You can fill the forms out on your computer, save them and then email them. All report forms can be found at <https://floridasons.org/detachment-report-forms/>.

52nd ANNUAL DETACHMENT CONVENTION ROOMS

Our 52nd Annual Detachment Convention will be held June 13th – 16th at the Hilton Lake Buena Vista. The hotel is located 1751 Hotel Plaza Blvd, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830. Per Diandra at Department, the room block at the Hilton is sold out. If you didn't already book your rooms, you'll have to book them at one of the overflow hotels. Here's the information:

Holiday Inn Orlando-Disney Springs Area
1805 Hotel Plaza Boulevard
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830
1-877-394-5765

Rate: \$135 +tax

Group Code: ADF

Cut-Off Date: May 20, 2024

Mandatory Resort Fee: Discounted \$30 per room per night, to include: 2 welcome drinks at check-in, 2 bottles of water per day per room, morning coffee in the lobby (6:00 am – 11:30 am), afternoon cookies and lemonade (4:00 pm – 6:00 pm at the bar), 24-hour access to the fitness center, local calls, 800 calls, refrigerators and microwaves in every guest room, computer and printing access, 50% discount on rental equipment at the Walt Disney World Golf Course.

Cancellations: Individuals must cancel within 48 hours before the check-in date, or the hotel may charge the credit card for one night's room fee plus any applicable taxes. Early departure fees may also be incurred where applicable.

Daily Parking: \$20 per night for self parking, \$28 for valet, and subject to change without notice

Wyndham Garden Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area
1850B Hotel Plaza Boulevard
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830
1-877-999-3223

Rate: \$140 +tax

Group Code: 061224AME

Cut-Off Date: May 13, 2024

Mandatory Resort Fee: Discounted \$20 per room per night, to include: Use of in-room safe, Telephone access for local calls up to 20 minutes, Access to fitness center, Oasis Pool Area and all recreational amenities, Premium WIFI with Unlimited Device Connections in Guest Room and Public Areas, 10% off

(Continued on page 4)

Detachment Adjutant (continued)

Food & non-alcoholic beverage purchases at the Oasis Restaurant & Bar located poolside, 30 minutes early entry to any Disney Theme Park every day (reservations and valid theme park ticket required)

Cancellations: Individuals must cancel 72 hours prior to 4:00 pm day of arrival to avoid 1 night charge plus tax.

Daily Parking: Parking fee is waived for hotel guests under the group for self-parking. Valet is available for \$28 plus tax per night, per vehicle.

TRAINING AT CONVENTION

The MT&D Team is hard at work revising and creating training classes. We still have not received your input. If there is a particular topic you would like covered, please let the team or me know. You can email the MT&D Team at mtd@floridasons.org.

VISITATION REPORTS (AGAIN!)

DISTRICT COMMANDERS: Your position requires that you visit each squadron in your district a minimum of **TWO** times during the year. You are required to submit a **Visitation Report** to me for each visit. So far this I have had only **ONE** district Commander send me visitation reports - **this is unacceptable**. You can find the form on our website at <https://floridasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/svr-rev-7-2022.pdf>, it is also available in your District Commanders Guide. If you need the guide, please let me know.

Note: When I included this in last month's newsletter, I had forgotten that I received visitation reports from 15th District Commander Micheal "Tank" Sherman. Thank you, Commander Sherman, for sending in your visitation reports!

COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING UPDATED!

Commander Sambets' Homecoming is scheduled for Saturday, May 14th at Post 275 in Dunedin. The theme is "**BE THE ONE to put Veterans 1st**", the theme will be a Kentucky Derby Theme. Dress is "Be The One" or Legion Casual. Tickets are \$30/single or \$50/couple. All proceeds benefit My Warriors Place. See the advertisement in this Edition of "The Source".

IMPORTANT END OF YEAR TO-DOs

ENDORSEMENTS FOR OFFICE

I am starting to receive endorsement letters. If you are considering running for an elected office such as District Commander, District Vice Commander, Area Commander or Detachment Officer you must submit an endorsement. All endorsements must be on Post/Squadron letterhead and must have two signatures. Signatures can be any combination of Post or Squadron Commander and Post or Squadron Adjutant. **YOU CANNOT SIGN YOUR OWN ENDORSEMENT** if you currently hold one of these positions. All endorsements for office will be posted to our website. You can view them here anytime:

<https://floridasons.org/detachment-officer-endorsements/>. You will see the most current listing towards the end of this edition of "The Source".

DISTRICT CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCES (DCCs)

Please send me a schedule of your DCC dates. I will post these to the website so we can inform the Detachment. I will also share the dates with Commander Sambets. If you would like the Commander to attend, please send him an email at commander@floridasons.org.

SQUADRON ELECTIONS

Once you have completed your Squadron Elections for the upcoming Service Year, you must fill out and send in your **Squadron Officers Report (SOR)** to me. This paperwork gets forwarded to Department. Department then vets the officers listed to make sure they are in good standing. The Squadron's information gets updated at Department when the above steps are completed. ***This is one of the most important forms to receive from squadrons every year, yet we continually have to chase these down.*** The form

Detachment Adjutant (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

is located on our website at <https://floridasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/03-SOR-rev-07-2023.pdf>.

DISTRICT COMMANDERS: Please start reaching out to your Squadrons and make sure they are completing these reports.

That's it for now. Keep up the good work, and don't delay on getting your reporting completed. Department and Detachment have to process all of that data before we meet in June!

For God and Country,

Christian M Rapp
Detachment Adjutant
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Florida



BE THE ONE



Be The One is SAL
National Commander's
Slogan.

Be The One Who Helps!

Use this code to sign up
for the American Legion
Voter Voice.



AL Voter Voice



JOHN JENNINGS

★ MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN ★

MEMBERSHIP@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Membership Team,

The Detachment of Florida “Source”. The Editor, Ray Leventhal, puts a lot of effort into the “Source” which has turned into an advertisement avenue instead of a communication tool. In the Last “Source” we have NINE (9) Officer articles and more than twice as many flyers of events. No articles praising the work of a Post Family, A Squadron, A Community Event, just to name a few. What is going on? Have we lost that love of what this great organization has done of the years. Are we not wanting others to know what we do? Let’s get back to the basics and use our “Source” for what is intended for and that is to support the work of our Squadrons and to help develop the growth of our Squadrons and the Detachment.

We must STAY in touch with our Squadrons and their leadership. We must do a better job dealing with Squadron issues (not personal issues), dealing with Squadrons that are not reporting membership, and working with these Squadrons.

To help you with membership issues, below are the members of the Membership Committee. Please use these men to help. Their contact emails can be found on our Detachment website. www.floridasons.org

- John Jennings – Chairman
- Paul Stawicki – Vice Chairman
 - ⇒ **North:** Gerry Kaufman
 - ⇒ **Central:** Rick Cummings
 - ⇒ **East:** John Gorsuch
 - ⇒ **Southwest:** Michael Nigbor
 - ⇒ **South:** Michael Mathias
 - ⇒ **West:** Henry Richard

The Committee members will be contacting the District Leadership with the questions on Squadrons that are not reach goals or are struggling with membership. It will be our job to see that membership starts stays strong and finishes strong,

As of our March 21st, 2024, membership report the Detachment was at 96.80% with a 79.63% renewal rate. We had 13 of 16 District at our 90% target and all 5 out of 6 Areas over the 90% target. You guys have been on fire! WOW!!! We are needing 1,572 members to reach Commander Sambets goal of 23,900 members by delegate cut-off. You keep doing what you have been doing and we will make Commander Sambets very happy.

As we move closer to our Annual Convention and the celebration of all our great achievements lets keep one close. The National Triple Nickle Award.

This is awarded by National at National Convention, and we have won this award in the past and we have another opportunity to receive this award. Below is what we must do to qualify.

- Charter 5 New Squadrons—**We have 4 New Squadrons!!!!**
 - Welcome
 - i. Squadron 108, Lutz (District 5)
 - ii. Squadron 83, Macclenny (District 3)
 - iii. Squadron 418 Spring Hill (District 15)

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Membership (continued)

(Continued from page 6)

iv. Squadron 287 Deerfield Beach (District #9)

v. **I hear rumblings that District 12 may have a new Squadron coming.**

- 105% Membership by National Delegate Cutoff
- 85% Renewal Rate by National Delegate Cutoff – **Currently at 79.63%** - We have work to do, but we can do this. Get on the phone, send that email, and get the renewals done. We can do this.

As we continue our membership year let's all remember the three 3 Rs of membership. *Reinstate – Renew – Recruit* – This would be a great Squadron meeting topic to discuss the meaning of each word and the value it brings to the Squadron. Just what do these three simple words mean to you and your Squadron.

THE TIME IS HERE!!!! WE MUST SUBMIT OUR SDR's by MAY 1st of EACH YEAR BY EACH SQUADRON. This is no longer an option. Get with you Post Adjutant or Commander for help and direction. The required form can be found on our website. (www.floridasons.org)

For our membership campaign to be a great success, we must work on it each day. Membership is not a part time job – it is a full-time job, and it requires WORK. When a Squadron reaches the 100% goal and does not move from that 100%, what does that tell you? I watch this, and I hope all of you will also.

Membership numbers should always be moving in a positive way and never standing still. If a Squadron is to grow it must add new members if they and the Detachment are to grow. We have plenty of resources in Florida and we must reach out to them if the Detachment is to grow.

The next membership renewal reminder mailing from National will be May 27-31, 2024

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* Legion Birthday (March 13th) ** Delegate Cut-Off

All target dates are the second Thursday of each month.

**YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS**



MICHAEL RAYMOND

★ DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ★

COMMANDER@FLORIDLEGION.ORG



As our membership numbers continue to rise, we should all be very proud of what we are accomplishing this year. We are now entering our final quarter and achieving numbers we haven't seen in many years. We have surpassed last years numbers and I'm asking you for that final push to continue the amazing year we are having. As I travel around the State of Florida, I see how hard you are working to achieve our goals this year. They are not only being recognized locally, but nationally. As the second largest department in the Nation, we are improving the numbers of our entire country. As of this writing the Auxiliary is currently in 1st place, the Legion is in 3rd and the SAL is in 5th nationally! Those are some serious bragging rights! We are also very close to our renewal goal of 90% but have a bit more work to do. Please continue this final push by contacting your members who have not yet renewed, not just last year, but in previous years also. Currently the Legion alone has over 10,000 members who have not renewed this year. It could take just a quick phone call or email to get them back in the family. Again, thank you for all you do.

I am currently finishing up our District visits for the year. I've travelled the state with many Past Dept. Commanders in previous years, but nothing can compare to what I'm seeing this year. There are so many hard-working Legion family members that I see every day that deserve so much appreciation, but never get it. I encourage you as leaders to show these folks the appreciation they deserve. One of the biggest complaints I hear is the lack of volunteers. "The same ole six!" I believe we have lots of volunteers. We just don't know how to keep them. The problem is getting them to come back. The reason is, we don't thank them enough. We don't give them the appreciation they deserve. So, let's recognize what our volunteers do and reward accordingly. God Bless and stay safe.



Be The One is SAL
National Commander's
Slogan.

Be The One Who Helps!

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for the American Legion
Voter Voice.



AL Voter Voice



WILLIAM D KELLY, JR

★ NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN ★

NEC@FLORIDASONS.ORG



APRIL is The National American Legion Children & Youth Month so do something at your Post with your Squadron to support the C&Y Programs. My contribution this year is after being on the Post Boys State selection committee for this and the past 5 years. My Post Commander asked me to chair the post program this year. Charing Boys State for our post this year has been very rewarding and I recommend it, so find your way to contribute to your Post's Americanism/Children & Youth Program with your Squadron.

REMEMBER TAL National CDR Dan Seehafer proclaimed April 27th 2024 as The American Legion Family Day. Get with your Post and plan to invite your local community into your Post and tell them all your Post and Legion Family do. It's up to you to show off all the great things The American Legion does.

Next month's report will include the National Executive Committee Meetings Reports.

Last but not least Don't Forget your Detachment & National Consolidated Squadron Reports. You have done all the work but that is only half the job. Now report the time you spent and the money you raised on your Consolidated Squadron Reports.



WILLIAM D KELLY, JR

★ LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ★

LEGISLATIVE@FLORIDASONS.ORG



We hope everyone enjoyed our Washington Conference travel article. You all know everyone should be writing an article on their travels and events they attend. I see some things on facebook that are not being reported in a Source article. The excuse that I didn't travel or attend any events doesn't wash! Write an article every month.

We will once again be looking for new members for the Legislative Commission and other Committees for 2023-2024 year. Step up and be a part of your Detachment.

Sign up for **Voters Voice**, by using the QR code on this page and contact your State Representatives & National Representatives. Simply tell them you are a part of The American Legion Florida Family and you support Veterans Legislation. There is power in numbers.



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RAY LEVENTHAL

★ DETACHMENT CHAPLAIN ★

CHAPLAIN@FLORIDASONS.ORG



“Leadership Is More Than A Title”

My brothers and sisters, it is a time in our organization for reviewing and assessing the year nearly past, for taking measure of our successes and our limitations, for deciding not only how we want to serve, but also how we hope our legacy will be remembered.

Leadership is not a title. Leadership is not a name. Leadership is a lifestyle of setting an example through your actions and your demeanor. Each year, as we head into our Detachment Convention, we see letters of endorsement for members who seek to hold an office within the Detachment of Florida. At every level - from the Squadrons, to the Districts to the Detachment itself, we are asked to read, evaluate and vote for our members who seek to be leaders.

My friend and mentor, past National Commander of the Sons of the American Legion, James K. Roberts III, has always said ‘*The higher up you go in our organization, the more people you work for*’. I implore all of those seeking office to remember that statement. To coopt the slogan of the American Legion Auxiliary, we do what we do for ‘Service, not Self’.

Just as God would seek for you to live a virtuous life and walk the path set forth by the righteous who have come before us, I now ask you to think carefully about your desire to hold office. If you are doing it for the general good and benefit of our veterans, their families, and the nation in general, BRAVO. If it is just about the title, please stop and re-evaluate your motives and your motivation.

This is NOT an admonishment of any one person, just a reminder that with the title comes responsibilities. If a candidate is not able or willing to fulfill those responsibilities, it may be best to abdicate that position in favor of someone who not only wants to fulfill them, but also has the time and ability to.

I’ve said recently that we live in troubled times. I firmly believe that our nation has never been more divided in my lifetime. This brings me to a point where I feel we are at a juncture. The choices we make today and over the next few months will determine the fate not only of ourselves, but the very heart of our nation and what it was created to be. Let me state here that I am not talking about politics. I am merely reminding all of us, me included, that the relegation of faith to government is not only anti-scriptural but also very dangerous.

Our founding fathers built a belief system and wrote into both the Declaration of Independence and the United State Constitution, a document we’ve all sworn to uphold and defend. I believe that we need to re-center ourselves around the theory that our great nation was created with God’s blessings. I believe that we need to set aside our differences and remember that the United States of America is and will always be the greatest nation ever to come into existence. I believe that we, through strength, humility, virtue and honor, have an obligation to the world and to all people to uphold the rule of law as blessed by our heavenly Father over 200 years ago.

Lastly, I believe that the United States of America can regain its place in the world as the true ‘Shining City on the Hill’ where all who see equal justice, freedom and opportunity should come – legally – and become part of the greatest nation God has ever blessed.

I pray God’s peace to you all.

As always, I’m available to anyone who needs prayer, conversation or fellowship.

For God and Country,

Ray Leventhal, Chaplain Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Florida

chaplain@floridasons.org | 561 801 5822



MICHAEL NIGBOR

★ SOUTHWESTERN AREA COMMANDER ★
VCSW@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greetings from The Southwestern Area,

Congratulations to everyone on their fantastic renewal numbers. Especially to District 8 Commander Robert Medley and his team for being the first to achieve 100%. It has been a pleasure working with you. We would also like to congratulate Squadron 69, Avon Park for the addition of 12 year old Jaxxrabbit as Sgt-At-Arms. Awesome.

As the convention date nears, membership becomes more important. Membership helps our mission, our fund raising and helps The Sons of The American Legion keep a solid base. Rather than looking at an unpaid member as delinquent, let's use a more hopeful word. We all need to put different strategies in place to get these members back and involved.

Have you tried calling these people? Have you sent a reminder letter? Have you done a "BUDDY CHECK"? Maybe someone has fallen on financial hardship, or is ill, or just needs to feel valued. We need to give everyone a reason to be a part of this wonderful organization. Making these important connections makes our members feel wanted and needed.

In the spirit of camaraderie and support, I emphasize the importance of conducting "Buddy Checks" within the Post and Squadron. If you notice a fellow member's absence from your meetings or events, reach out to them and offer your support. Small gestures of care and concern can have a significant impact and ensure that no member feels forgotten or isolated.

We must remain visible and vigilant, standing as beacons of hope and support. Let us all strive to "Be The One" that makes a difference and fosters a sense of belonging and importance. We are a team. We have a duty to reach out and help others, our communities, children and youth and our veterans.

Remember your "WHY". Why did you join the greatest veteran's organization in the world, The American Legion? What were you hoping to accomplish?

What positive impact have you made in your organization?

For God and Country,

Mike Nigbor

Southwestern Area Vice Commander

Detachment of Florida



L to R: D8 CDR Robert Medley, Jaxxrabbit, VCSW Michael Nigbor





PETER PUZZO

★ MEMBERSHIP TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT ★
SALSQUAD189@GMAIL.COM



Convention Training

The MT & D is working on a plan to bring about a way to get more training at the grassroots level. Its called Train the Trainer. This is not a new concept but one that has been used in large organizations for years.

On Thursday of the Convention weekend, we will hold a class for all District Commanders and Area Commanders on their job, and how to teach Position Training to each of their Squadrons.

The Detachment Staff cannot be everywhere to handle the training. We need the boots on the ground to reach all our Squadrons with the same information.

I know many of you arrive in the afternoon to check in at the hotel. The class will be held from 1 -4 pm (this is tentative) and you can check in following the class.

As an Officer you have a responsibility to those above you as well as those in your jurisdiction to see to it that things get done.

Let's hit the ground running in 2025. Please make every effort to attend the class.

TOGETHER WE CAN AND WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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Be The One

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Endorsements for Office



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 Christian Rapp – 215 Greenwood Ave, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936-1452.
2. Endorsement letters can be scanned and sent by e-mail to the Detachment Adjutant at adjutant@floridasons.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	Rocco Cirigliano (81, Melbourne)
Office of Detachment Vice Commander	
Western Area	
Northern Area	Gerald Kaufman (383, Old Town)
Eastern Area	Steve Vilgats (163, Melbourne) Randy Chilcot (117, Palm Bay)
Central Area	Michael 'Tank' Sherman (152, Tampa) Gregory Tong (158, Treasure Island)
Southwestern Area	Michael Nigbor (303, Bonita Springs)
Southern Area	Michael Mathias (164, Boynton Beach)
National Executive Committeeman	William D. Kelly Jr (137, Jacksonville)
National Executive Committeeman Alternate	Gerard Sambets (275, Dunedin)
Detachment Chaplain	Raymond Leventhal (323, Lehigh Acres)
Detachment Historian	Brian R Patt (158, Treasure Island)
Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms	Stanley Borowy (103, Punta Gorda)

District Commander & Vice Commander Endorsements

District	District Commander Endorsements	District Vice Commander Endorsements
1		
2		
3	Brian Wolfe (57, Lake City)	Delbert 'Stan' Gaddis (383, Old Town)
4	Denton 'Shay' Woods (77, Inverness)	
5		
6		
7		
8	Robert 'Buzzard' Medley (312, Oneco)	
9	Martin Kraemer (310, Hallendale)	
11		
12	Andy Campbell (117, Palm Bay)	Gary Raymond (395, Palm Bay)
13	Sean Wing (90, Cape Coral) Mitchell Pace (323, Lehigh Acres)	Christopher Ellsworth (323, Lehigh Acres)
14		
15	Eric Rikansrud (138, Tampa)	Victor Kelly (138, Tampa)
16	Gary Sanderson (173, Holiday)	
17		



RAY LEVENTHAL

★ EDITOR OF "THE SOURCE" ★

THESOURCE@FLORIDASONS.ORG



All Squadrons are urged to submit highlights of their events to *The Source*. Let's let the world know how the Detachment of Florida 'rocks the house' when it comes to making the words in our preamble come to life.

The Source will continue to be a great place to let the rest of the Detachment know about your upcoming events and your fundraising successes. Thanks to the Detachment of Florida's Public Relations Chairman Christian Rapp, it is now easier than ever to make a submission for publication in The Source.

Simply visit <https://floridasons.org/the-source-source-article-submission-form/> to submit your article. Submissions are due by the 23rd of each month, as we make every effort to publish on or near the 5th.

Now more than ever it is important that we use all means available to us to remain connected and in communication. *The Source* is **your newsletter** and is intended to serve all we do as Sons of the American Legion. If you know anyone, in or out of the American Legion family, who could be inspired by what we do, ask them to subscribe.

Subscription is easy and free. Simply join the [Detachment of Florida Mailing List](#).

***The Source* can only continue to be a viable and vital tool with your help and involvement.**

In an effort to provide the easiest access to important forms and information, we've compiled this quick reference list of links for you:

- [Detachment of Florida Website](#)
- [Squadron Administration Manual](#)
- [All Squadron Report Forms](#)
- [Squadron Membership Report](#)
- [District Membership Report](#)
- [Detachment Officer Endorsements](#)
- [Detachment Email List Subscription](#)
- [Article Submission Form for *The Source*](#)
- [Event Submission Form — Promote Your Event\(s\) to the entire Detachment](#)

Thank you for what you do and for helping to keep *The Source* focused on what we do and who we are!



Be The One is SAL
National Commander's
Slogan.

Be The One Who Helps!

Be The One

Use this code to sign up
for the American Legion
Voter Voice.



AL Voter Voice



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION - DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA



THE SOURCE

BE THE ONE

TO PUT VETERANS 1ST



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA COMMANDER
GERARD SAMBETS
HOMECOMING

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024

LOCATION

AMERICAN LEGION POST 275
360 WILSON ST
DUNEDIN, FL 34698

ATTIRE

"BE THE ONE"
OR
LEGION CASUAL

TIMES

START TIME: 5PM
DINNER SERVED
6PM TO 8PM

TICKETS

GERARD SAMBETS
29250 US HWY 19 LOT 142
CLEARWATER FL 33761
MEMO: HOMECOMING
VENMO: @ERIN-CROSS-10

\$30
SINGLE
\$50
DOUBLE

*YOU MAY PAY AT THE DOOR. PLEASE EMAIL ERIN YOUR **RSVP BY APRIL 28** IN ORDER SO WE HAVE AN ACCURATE HEAD COUNT*

IF PAYING BY CHECK, PLEASE PROVIDE THE NAMES OF THE GUESTS THAT YOU ARE PAYING FOR.

HOTEL

HAMPTON INN DUNEDIN
2641 MICHAEL PLACE
DUNEDIN, FL 34698

CAILAN MASON
(727) 733-1400 EXT 1400

MENTION GERARD'S HOMECOMING



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO BOOK ROOM ON
HOTEL WEBSITE

ANY QUESTIONS OR TO RSVP, CONTACT ERIN SAMBETS AT ERINLCROSS@AOL.COM

**ALL PROCEEDS FROM
THIS EVENT BENEFIT**





LIVE BAND • DANCING

POST 103

2101 Taylor Rd; Punta Gorda FL 33950
(941) 639-6337

\$40 EA
MAIL CHECKS
TO POST 103

MAY
18 2024

5:00 PM

COCKTAILS THEN
DINNER AT 6:00 PM

YOUR CHOICE OF

PRIME RIB • FISH • SHRIMP

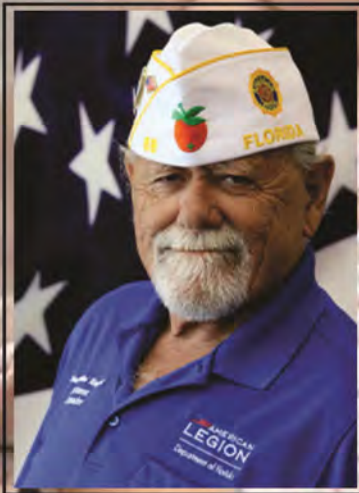
• Dress in Island Casual •

Accommodations at Sleep Inn & Suites (941) 613-6300

Rate: \$120+tax | 806 Kings Highway, Port Charlotte, FL 33980

Proceeds to benefit Disaster Relief fund and C.O.T.A.

Ponytail cutting to support Commander Raymond's Charity
Children's Organ Transplant Association.
\$25,000 raised at the event for the hair cutting to take place
Bring your Donations to the Commander's Homecoming
on May 18, 2024 at American Legion Post 103
Punta Gorda



Commander
Mike "Gambler" Raymond



Look who's getting their hair cut



Sgt-at-Arms
Les Martin



Eastern Area Comm.
Joe Marcheggiani



Blood Doner Chair
Jamie Grinis



April 13 2024

11 AM to 3 PM



Spring Craft show &

Swap & Shop

Public Welcome

Outdoors at

American Legion Post 1

1281 N US Hwy 1, Titusville, Fl.

**Come out and enjoy the fun of a craft show and swap meet
all in one location !**

Food and drinks will be available to purchase

Vendor Space is \$25

(Proceeds go Children in Youth Program)

Come into American Legion Post 1

1281 N US Hwy 1 Titusville, Fl.

To sign up

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

REBUILD OUR AMERICAN LEGION POST 110 PORT CHARLOTTE



MUSIC BLAST!!!

1PM

SHOW ME THE MONEY!

CONNOR

APRIL 21ST

STARTS AT 1PM TILL CLOSE BRING YOUR CHAIRS!



**1 - 3 FOOD BY AUXILLARY
3 - ? FOOD BY RICK**



QUIET FIRE 3:30 - 6



6 - 9



B2 Bouncer entertainment



JOE FETTERER 9 - 11

RAFFLES:

- BBQ GRILL & ICE COOLER - DONATED BY HOME DEPOT**
- 2 QUILTS - DONATED BY HUGGABLE QUILTS & CHARLOTTE SEWING**
- GIFT CARD WREATH - DONATED BY LADIES AUXILARY AND MORE...**
- SPA DAY - DONATED BY POLISHED BOUTIQUE**



**2 GIFT CARDS TO CURLEY'S CUTTING EDGE
LOTS OF BASKETS AND MORE...**

JELLO SHOTS



VENDORS WELCOME:

**DAV - SPM TO HELP WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS
JEWELRY / T-SHIRTS / DREAM CATCHERS / & MORE...
CONTACT DONNA OR DEBBIE IF YOU WOULD LIKE
TO BE A VENDOR.**

3152 HARBOR BLVD. PORT CHARLOTTE

**DETACHMENT COMMANDER'S
POLO ORDER FORM
2024-2025**



Name: _____ Squadron: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

DELIVERY METHOD

Pick Up at HQ Orlando Pick Up at Dept Convention Pick Up at Fall Conference Delivery*

**An additional shipping flat fee of \$10 is required for delivery.
Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. You will be notified before shipment.*

Shipping Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

SHIRT OPTIONS Enter Quantity for each style/size.

Style	Size	Qty	Size	Qty	Size	Qty	Size	Qty	Size	Qty	Size	Qty	Size	Qty	Size	Qty	Cost
Men's Pocket	XS		S		M		L		XL		2X		3X		4X		\$
Men's No Pocket	XS		S		M		L		XL		2X		3X		4X		\$

TOTAL

Shirts are **\$40 each**, add \$2 each for Men's w/Pocket, price includes personalization. Please see the next page for personalization options. If tax-exempt, please include a copy of the exemption form, if not already on file.

Delivery is a flat rate of \$10. Pickups at headquarters, convention, and conference are free, however, please wait until you receive notification your order is ready before picking up.

Subtotal	\$
Tax (6.5%)	\$
Shipping	\$
Grand Total	\$

PAYMENT

Please return form and payment to Department Headquarters: Email (emblemsales@floridalegion.org) | Fax (407-299-0901)
Mail (The American Legion, Dept of FL; Attn: Emblem Sales, PO Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32854)

Cash Check # _____ Credit Card

Card Type: Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Card Holder Name: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PO. BOX 547859 ORLANDO, FL 32854-7859	www.floridalegion.org	TOLL FREE (800) 493-5378 FAX (407) 299-0901
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Detachment of Florida

DETACHMENT COMMANDER'S POLO ORDER FORM 2024-2025

PERSONALIZATION You are allowed up to two lines of personalization, with up to 20 characters on each line, including spaces and special characters. (Line 1 example: First Name Last Name. Line 2 Example: Squadron # Title)

Style: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Size: _____ Line 2: _____

Style: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Size: _____ Line 2: _____

Style: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Size: _____ Line 2: _____

Style: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Size: _____ Line 2: _____

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Style: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Size: _____ Line 2: _____

Style: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Size: _____ Line 2: _____

Style: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Size: _____ Line 2: _____

Style: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Size: _____ Line 2: _____

By signing below, I agree that I have verified the information provided as correct and free of errors. I acknowledge that The American Legion, Department of Florida is NOT responsible for incorrect information provided.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

P.O. BOX 517859 ORLANDO, FL 32754-7859

www.floridalegion.org

TOLL FREE (800) 493-5378 FAX (407) 299-1191

Golf Tournament May 11, 2024

The Detachment Golf Tournament sponsored by Squadron 347 is filled, and we want to thank all those who responded and made up the teams which will compete at the Stonecrest Country Club golf course in Summerfield.

We still encourage Posts and Squadrons throughout the state to support our pledge to the Children & Youth activities to which the proceeds of the tournament are dedicated.

Donations will be recognized by signs placed at holes on the golf course as well as inclusion in the list of donors in the tournament brochure. Donors may take credit for their donations in the annual report and will be recognized at the Convention in June.

Checks should be made out to:

Squadron 347

P.O. Box 1534

Lady Lake, FL 32158

ATTN: C&Y Golf Tournament



EVENT INFORMATION

**Location: Stonecrest Golf Club
11560 SE 176th Place Rd
Summerfield, FL 34491**

- Shotgun Scramble Start-8:15
- Cost per Golfer-\$85.00
- Coffee & Donuts before golf
- Longest Drive Contests
 - Men&Women
- Hole-in Ones-Men & Women
- Hole-in-One (Golf Cart) #15
- Closest to Pin-Men&Women
- Prizes & surprises
- Mulligans

****After golf please join us
at Post 347, 699 W.Lady Lake
Blvd in Lady Lake for lunch,
raffles, 50/50, auction and
more**

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ Bronze Hole Sponsor-\$100
- ◆ Silver Hole Sponsor - \$200
- ◆ Gold Hole Sponsor - \$300
- ◆ *Platinum Sponsor - \$500-\$999

***Includes Table Space**

- ◆ ***Major Sponsor - \$1,000 & Up**

***Includes Table Space &
4 Golfers**

- ◆ **Donate a gift to be used as a**
 - ◆ **raffle prize**

**Cut-off date for sponsorships and
gift submissions:**

April 26, 2024

Make all checks payable to:

Squadron 347

P.O. Box 1534 Lady Lake, FL 32158

ATTN: C&Y Golf Tournament

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 347
CHILDREN & YOUTH CHARITY
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Deadline for signups April 26,2024

Golfer _____

Golfer _____

Golfer _____

Golfer _____

Contact for the Team _____

Contact Phone# _____

Contact Email _____

Hole Sponsor:

Bronze _____ Silver _____ Gold _____ Platinum _____ Major _____

Additional Guests for Dinner at Post 347 are \$10.00 _____

Please make checks payable to: Squadron 347

PO Box 1534, Lady Lake, FL 32158

Attn: Children & Youth Golf Tournament

If you have any questions, please contact:

Danny Roe (317)508-6465

George Worton – (410)382-0473

WIN BIG & HUGE PRIZES SUPPORT VETS

50/50 RAFFLE 4 VETERANS

RAFFLE

★ ★ ★ **BI-WEEKLY DRAWINGS** ★ ★ ★
 Florida participants only

Show your support for Florida's veterans and their families through
The American Legion, Department of Florida's 50/50 Raffle!

Support Post _____ when you submit your tickets!

Questions: 1-800-393-3378

AMERICAN LEGION | Department of Florida

The Florida Legion 50/50 Raffle is a fundraising effort where proceeds benefit The American Legion, Department of Florida, Inc., a 501(c)(19) nonprofit organization located at 1912A Lee Rd, Orlando, FL 32810. Cash prizes will be paid to our lucky winner(s) from the net proceeds generated from each raffle. Any additional or special drawing, such as an early bird drawing, will be announced before the start of any bi-weekly drawing. Participating Florida American Legion Posts will receive a part of the proceeds, too! All winners, early bird and grand prize winners, will be selected at the American Legion, Department of Florida's Headquarters | 1912A Lee Rd, Orlando, FL 32810 | bi-weekly by an electronic randomizer. Although no purchase is necessary to win, donations received from this raffle will benefit the many programs we offer for Florida Veterans and their families. To request your FREE entry, please email draws@floridalion.org with your name, address, phone, and email. For a full list of rules, visit: www.florida5050.org

www.florida5050.org

**Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Florida
Limited Edition 50th Anniversary
Commemorative Challenge Coin**



Order Form

Your Name _____
Your Phone _____
Your Email _____
Your Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

**Only 1,000 of these coins will be created to commemorate this auspicious event.
Reserve YOUR collector's item commemorative coin today!**

I am ordering _____ 50th Anniversary Commemorative Challenge Coins, at \$10 ea.

Include this form and your check, payable to SAL Detachment of Florida, for \$10/coin and send to:

**Ed Sheubrooks
Finance Committee Chairman
800 S Brocksmith Rd
Ft Pierce, FL 34945**

Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Florida

**Coins are still available. Get a piece of history and help
your Detachment at the same time.
Order your coins today!**



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/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
Christian Rapp
215 Greenwood Ave
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936-1452
adjutant@floridasons.org

The Florida Sons of The American Legion with over 185 Squadrons and over 21,000 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@floridasons.org

Source Articles

Scan the QR Code below to
visit our website



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 Editor by the 23rd of every month.

The official way to submit articles for publication in The Source is to simply click here.