

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 1

AUGUST 2025



COMMUNICATE  
ACT  
RECRUIT  
EDUCATE

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION - DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA

# THE SOURCE



## MICHAEL NIGBOR

DETACHMENT COMMANDER  
COMMANDER@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greetings All!

Thank you to everyone that attended our 53rd annual convention. Lots of exciting things have happened. Congratulations to Assistant Detachment Adjutant John Jennings for being selected as the Sons Member of The Year. John is always dedicated to helping us be the best we can be for ourselves and the organization.

Congratulations to PDC Rocky on your fantastic year. And WOW, accomplishing the "Triple Nickle Award". Absolutely amazing. The Theme R.A.C.E. was a wonderful program for our veterans. We have reached over 105%. Great job to all of our dedicated volunteers.

Right after Convention, I was invited to attend Boy's State in Tallahassee. What an awesome event for these young men. It was so inspiring to see their patriotism and to support these young leaders as they carried forward the legacy of civic duty. I witnessed the inspiring voices of young Americans speaking passionately about the U.S. Constitution and the responsibilities of citizenship. After I gave my speech, eight of them approached me with their S.A.L. covers on and asked to have a group picture.

I have traveled the state from Navarre to Panama City, Maderia Beach, Treasure Island, Palm Bay, Melbourne, St.Petersburg, Winter Haven, all of District 8 and 13, and many places in between. It has been an absolute pleasure meeting with the quality of leadership we have in our squadrons. As I was preparing for this position, our team on The Commander's Advisory Committee was exceptional in helping me. Their guidance, assistance, and expertise helped make this a smooth transition for me.

Several of us were invited to the Safety Harbor 4th of July parade. We had awesome custom Jeeps to ride in. A great time was had by all. Almost every child was waving and holding the American Flag as well as their parents. Thank you to everyone that volunteered to make this a huge success.

I have installed officers at several squadrons and attended many others. Great job from the District Commanders for speaking about our 2025-2026 mission, C.A.R.E. (Communicate, Action, Recruit, Educate), and our charity, C.O.T.A. (Children's Organ Transplant Association).

I have been invited to speak at the Department's annual Leadership Retreat in Orlando. This presentation will be a general overview of the Detachment including some of our accomplishments, donations, membership, and a look forward to our mission.

By now, most of your installations have been done and you have been consolidating all the SIR reports. Let's make sure we keep the momentum of our great year going strong and keep helping each other with all the necessary reports throughout the year. We need to do a better job. We have a great team of advisors that are willing to come to your area and help you because we C.A.R.E. Please log into floridasons.org and familiarize yourselves with all the information available.

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### 2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES:

September 10, 2025	10%
October 15, 2025	25%
November 13, 2025	35%
December 10, 2025	45%
January 14, 2026	60%
February 11, 2026	75%
March 1, 2026 *	80%
April 8, 2026	90%
May 13, 2026	100%
May 28, 2026**	105%

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

*(Detachment Commander Continued)*

Continue working your membership. Call your members and see how they are doing. Thank them for their continued support and let them know about our challenge. I would like to see every member recruit at least ONE new member this year so we can surpass our next goal. Recruit, renew, rejoin and retention. This is vital for our growth and survival.

If you would like me to attend any of your events, please feel free to contact me. I am looking forward to traveling to EVERY SINGLE District in the State of Florida. This is going to be a fantastic year and with your help, I am looking forward to meeting all of you and working together.

We **are** The American Legion Family, Florida Strong. Use **#SALCares** in all your social media and advertising so I can follow you.

For God and Country,

Michael Nigbor

Detachment Commander

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida







# CHRISTIAN M RAPP

DETACHMENT ADJUTANT  
ADJUTANT@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello Sons!

It's August! Detachment Convention is behind us and Installation Season is wrapping up and it's time to dive into a new year!

## BUT FIRST, SOME THANKS...

Even though we experienced some hiccups, everyone's convention was successful. Personally, I'd like to thank everyone who helped make our annual convention a success. There's too many people to thank individually on both the Legion Side and the Sons side, but you know who you are.

*Thank you*

I'd also like to thank all of you who submitted your reports. Many of you used the submission portal that I created, and that made our jobs collating the reports a bit easier. I am currently working on something (in my copious amounts of spare time) that should make this year's reporting a bit easier. If you have suggestions (other than not filing reports!), I'd like to hear them - just drop me a line.

I'd also like to thank those of you who I've asked to resend reports. Even though we have email/electronic capabilities, I still get flooded with good old fashioned snail mail. Those reports get scanned and sent off to the responsible parties as they come in. We currently have 194 squadrons in the Mighty Detachment of Florida. Multiply that number by the amount of different reports we have to complete and it's easy to see how some things can get missed or lost. Thanks again for resending the information when asked.

Finally, a big thank you to George Steger, Gary Sanderson and the rest of Squadron 238 for inviting and hosting Shari and I for your annual 4th of July parade. It was an amazing event and we had a fantastic time!

## SQUADRON INFORMATION REPORTS (SIRS)

Yeah, yeah.. You're thinking 'This again?'.. Sorry, not sorry. This report is **vital** as you start your year. It allows Department to set your squadron officers up to process membership in the myL-region.org system. It also allows them to build the directory for Department and Detachment. If your squadron doesn't have access to process membership in the portal, this is most likely the reason. Most of the reports are in, although there is a big handful still outstanding. I will continue to contact the Area and District Commanders until we have **all** of the reports have come in.

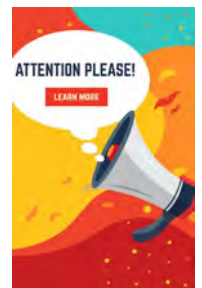
Thank you to the Commanders of Districts 3, 12, 14, 15 & 16 for helping get 100% of these reports in. You men are Rock Stars and I can't wait to see what other good things you do in your districts this year!

## PROMOTING YOUR EVENTS

When creating promotional materials for your events - whether flyers, Facebook posts, or other advertisements - please remember to include your **Post/Squadron number and location**. Many of us follow pages from across the Detachment and even nationwide. By clearly listing your location, you increase the chances of attracting members from neighboring Squadrons, Districts, or even traveling Legion Family members who happen to be in the area.

Also, feel free to **tag the Detachment** in your Facebook posts (@FloridaSAL). I'll be happy to share your event on the Detachment page and save it for inclusion in the next edition of "The Source." You can also email your event details directly to me for promotion.

Let's help spread the word and support each other's events!



## INVITE THE DETACHMENT COMMANDER TO YOUR EVENTS

If you would like Detachment Commander Nigbor to attend your upcoming events, please send him an email at [commander@floridasons.org](mailto:commander@floridasons.org). Commander Mike enjoys meeting members and traveling throughout the Detachment, as you may have noticed from his recent updates!

By reaching out in advance, you help him keep track of his visits and make it easier to coordinate additional stops along his travels. Your invitation is always welcomed and appreciated.



## FRIENDLY REMINDER REGARDING EVENT PHOTOS

As you take photos during your events, we kindly ask that you take a moment to review and edit your pictures before sharing them publicly, especially on social media or organizational platforms. Specifically, please make an effort to crop out or blur any visible alcoholic beverages.



## (Detachment Adjutant Continued)

This simple step is important in helping us maintain a positive public image. The American Legion Family continuously works to challenge the outdated stereotype that our organization is merely a gathering place for veterans to drink and swap war stories. By presenting a more accurate reflection of our programs, community service, and family-friendly activities, we can show the true mission and values of The American Legion Family.

Thank you for your help in promoting the professionalism and purpose of our organization.

### CAR SIGNS & BUSINESS CARDS

**Detachment Officers and District Commanders:** If you would like car signs or business cards, I have pre-made templates available and would be happy to share the files with you. These items can be submitted for reimbursement - just remember, in order to be reimbursed, car signs must not include personal names, so they can be passed along to your successor.

If you'd like a personalized template for business cards or a template for car signs, simply email me at [adjutant@floridasons.org](mailto:adjutant@floridasons.org) and I'll send you everything you need to get them printed.



### NATIONAL CONVENTION

In case you haven't heard, National Convention will be held in Tampa at the JW Marriott August 22-28. Information about National Convention can be found on pages 16-19 of this edition of 'The Source'. I've asked Detachment Adjutant Emeritus, Ed Sheubrooks, to write an article on what first-time attendees, such as myself, can expect. You'll find his article on those pages. **Thanks, Ed!**



### EMAIL ALIASES

I have set up email aliases for all Detachment Officers, Committee & Commission Chairmen and District Commanders, District Vice Commanders and District Adjutants. *These are just aliases that forward to your personal email address on file.* Test the email address (send an email from your personal account to the new address) and see if it works, if it is not working, please let me know. Here is a list of the addresses



### DETACHMENT ADJUTANT TEAM

Christian Rapp   Detachment Adjutant	<a href="mailto:adjutant@floridasons.org">adjutant@floridasons.org</a>
George Steger   Assistant Adjutant	<a href="mailto:asstadj1@floridasons.org">asstadj1@floridasons.org</a>
George Aichele   Assistant Adjutant	<a href="mailto:asstadj2@floridasons.org">asstadj2@floridasons.org</a>
John Jennings   Assistant Adjutant	<a href="mailto:asstadj3@floridasons.org">asstadj3@floridasons.org</a>

### DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDERS & OFFICERS

<a href="mailto:vcnorth@floridasons.org">vcnorth@floridasons.org</a>	<a href="mailto:vccentral@floridasons.org">vccentral@floridasons.org</a>	<a href="mailto:vceast@floridasons.org">vceast@floridasons.org</a>	<a href="mailto:vcsw@floridasons.org">vcsw@floridasons.org</a>
<a href="mailto:vcsouth@floridasons.org">vcsouth@floridasons.org</a>	<a href="mailto:historian@floridasons.org">historian@floridasons.org</a>	<a href="mailto:sgtatarms@floridasons.org">sgtatarms@floridasons.org</a>	

### DISTRICT OFFICERS (ALL DISTRICTS FOLLOW THE SAME FORMAT)

<a href="mailto:district1@floridasons.org">district1@floridasons.org</a>	<a href="mailto:district1vc@floridasons.org">district1vc@floridasons.org</a>	<a href="mailto:district1adj@floridasons.org">district1adj@floridasons.org</a>
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### COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS

<a href="mailto:americanism@floridasons.org">americanism@floridasons.org</a>	<a href="mailto:childrenyouth@floridasons.org">childrenyouth@floridasons.org</a>	<a href="mailto:var@floridasons.org">var@floridasons.org</a>	<a href="mailto:pvr@floridasons.org">pvr@floridasons.org</a>
<a href="mailto:activities@floridasons.org">activities@floridasons.org</a>	<a href="mailto:membership@floridasons.org">membership@floridasons.org</a>	<a href="mailto:finance@floridasons.org">finance@floridasons.org</a>	<a href="mailto:mtd@floridasons.org">mtd@floridasons.org</a>
<a href="mailto:legislative@floridasons.org">legislative@floridasons.org</a>	<a href="mailto:nec@floridasons.org">nec@floridasons.org</a>	<a href="mailto:neca@floridasons.org">neca@floridasons.org</a>	<a href="mailto:finance@floridasons.org">finance@floridasons.org</a>
<a href="mailto:judgeadvocate@floridasons.org">judgeadvocate@floridasons.org</a>	<a href="mailto:so@floridasons.org">so@floridasons.org</a>	<a href="mailto:var@floridasons.org">var@floridasons.org</a>	<a href="mailto:pr@floridasons.org">pr@floridasons.org</a>
<a href="mailto:community@floridasons.org">community@floridasons.org</a>			

I think that's it for now. Remember that your Adjutant Team cares about you and is here to help **YOU** be successful. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us. **#SALCares**

For God and Country,

Christian M Rapp

Detachment Adjutant  
Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Florida





# PAUL STAWICKI

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
MEMBERSHIP@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Gentlemen,

## Welcome to Our 2025-2026 Membership Year!

You, the Detachment of Florida Sons of The American Legion, have so much to be proud of in the accomplishments of last year. We raised a lot of money, and we gave A LOT of money away to our Charities. The Volunteer hours are always amazing!!! We Reached another milestone in Membership, 30 Years consecutive **All-time High in Membership 27,536**. Just Amazing!!! We added 5 new Squadrons for a total of 195. A Renewal Rate of 87% and 105.04% in total Membership. Yes, we achieved the Triple Nickle Award!!!! Thank you for all for your hard work, Blue Caps especially.

Commander Nigbor **#SALCares** and I know that we will have another banner year. You always find a way to show that The Detachment of Florida is the Shining Star, the best of the best. We show National and the other Detachments that we can achieve anything that we put our minds to. Our Goal this year is very simple. We will do better than we did last year. The Commander's Goal this Year is **30,000**. Enough said on that!!! Time to **Get'Er Done!** Let's Start off strong and make our Goals early so we never play catch up

Below you will see the chart of target dates. This will appear every month in my membership article - It will also appear on the first page. As we achieve our goals, the chart will be updated.

Also below is the listing of when National will be sending out renewal postcards. Notice that our first membership target is **BEFORE** the first mailing date. Keep in mind that you do not have to wait until National sends these out - you can do your own mailing at any time to get a jump start on helping our Detachment reach 30,000 members and receive yet another All-Time High in membership.

For God and Country,

Paul Stawicki

Membership Chairman  
Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Florida

# YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

### 2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES:

September 10, 2025	10%
October 15, 2025	25%
November 13, 2025	35%
December 10, 2025	45%
January 14, 2026	60%
February 11, 2026	75%
March 1, 2026 *	80%
April 8, 2026	90%
May 13, 2026	100%
May 28, 2026**	105%

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

### RENEWAL POSTCARD MAIL DATE

1<sup>ST</sup> NOTICE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

2<sup>ND</sup> NOTICE: FEBRUARY 12, 2026

3<sup>RD</sup> NOTICE: APRIL 9, 2026

### RECEIVING DATES

SEPT 28 – OCT 3, 2025

FEB 22 – 28, 2026

APRI 26 – MAY 2,





# WILLIAM D KELLY, JR

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN  
NEC@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Gentlemen,

With the 2025 Detachment Convention in the rear view mirror we must one more time commend Adjutant Christian's Administrative team, Chairman Paul Stawicki Membership team and 2025 CDR Rocky's Detachment Leadership. Outstanding Job, with a **TRIPLE NICKLE AWARD** as our Detachment crowning achievement.

The convention started a new year with the election and installation of our the 2026 Detachment CDR Michael Nigbor. CDR Nigbor hit the ground running with his **#SALCares** program that will Communicate, Action, Recruit, Educate theme.

Our Detachment will be hosting The Sons of The American Legion National Convention at the JW Marriott August 22, 23, 24, 2025 in Tampa Florida. The Detachment Convention Committee has been working very hard on all the arrangements. A big shout out to Ed Sheubrooks and team for their hard work.

Our Florida Delegation will be led by PDC & National Convention Chairman Rocky and administered by Florida National Convention Secretary Christian Rapp. My title as NEC man is only for The SAL Pre NEC Meeting and The SAL Post NEC Meeting, when the National Convention convenes we all become delegates and alternates from Florida to the National Convention.

I look forward to seeing you at our The Sons of The American Legion National Convention in Tampa. God Bless and Be Safe,

William D Kelly, Jr

National Executive Committeeman  
Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Florida



# GERARD SAMBETS

ALT NAT'L EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN  
ANEC@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Gentlemen,

I would like to thank Rocky for his tremendous year as our Detachment Commander and wish our new Commander, Mike, the same success in his year. I want you all to know that Bill and I as your NEC and ANEC, are working for our Detachment Commander and the Detachment of Florida. We will protect the interests of the Sons of the American Legion from our National organization's decisions to change things that are not broken.

The National Convention will be here in Tampa on August 22nd at the J. W. Marriott. I wish all could be there, but we are allowed 53 delegates on the convention floor. The convention starts at 1 pm on Friday. There will also be meetings on Saturday and Sunday. We are there to support our outgoing Commander Rocky and be recognized as one of the top 10 states in the Nation, **Florida is finishing at #6!!!** We are welcoming delegates with a dozen or so pirates who will be handing out beads and coins to the group.

The Detachment of Florida will be hosting an after-party for the delegates from around the nation on Friday night (see ad in at the end of this edition) and we hope to outdo our last National Convention that was in New Orleans. I would like to thank the Convention committee for their suggestions and input this past year in making this happen. Special thanks to our Finance Officer Ed Shuebrooks for his support and knowledge.

Gerard Sambets

Alternate National Executive Committeeman  
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida  
**#SALCares**



# RAYMOND LEVENTHAL

DETACHMENT CHAPLAIN  
CHAPLAIN@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## THE TRUTH ABOUT WHO WE ARE

The History of our nation's founding and the men who formed our culture and our government are foundational facts we should all be at least somewhat familiar with. Being American should and does mean more than being born here or having gone through a naturalization or citizenship process, and the only way that we can grasp that is if we come to terms, on a personal level, with the spirit, the belief system, and the fortitude it took for those men and women who broke from the crowns of Europe to form a more perfect union in a new and untamed land.

Our founders and the generation before them knew what discipline was. Not the modern definition which implies some form of punishment, but the original meaning of the word. Simply put, and quoting Webster's Dictionary of the English Language (1828) discipline is:

*"Education; instruction; cultivation and improvement, comprehending instruction in arts, sciences, correct sentiments, morals and manners, and due subordination to authority."*

In the budding days of our nation, our fore-bearers toiled by hand to build their shelters, worked the land for the food they ate, and created communities based on faith in the one true God. To be disciplined enough to continue one's learning, practice one's faith, improve one's station is what the new free world meant to those fleeing the monarchies of Europe. This is the core of Americanism. We must remember that none of this would be possible without the strong, solid faith in our Lord God, for this faith and His Grace is what allowed the United States to be the thriving and flourishing land of promise that it is in the world.

For this greatness and for this freedom we must remain vigilant for and thankful to all of our citizens who serve and have served in our military. They, and the families that support them in their service, are owed a debt of gratitude from all of us who live in the greatest country ever known by man, thanks to the blessings of God.

As we begin the new service year in our great organization, I pray a return to the understanding that through hard work, faith, and fondness for our fellow man - in good times and bad - we may continue to be blessed by God in Heaven, and that we never forget the faith that inspired our founding fathers in the creation of this country.

I pray peace upon all of you, and I ask that you never forget the sacrifices of our neighbors and friends who serve or have served in our military. Many suffer from wounds, some of which can be seen, others which cannot, and upon them all, I ask for His Grace and His Blessings, as I do for our country today and every day.

As always, I'm available to anyone who seeks fellowship, a conversation, a joke or just company.

For God and Country,

Ray Leventhal

Chaplain, Detachment of Florida

chaplain@floridasons.org

561 801 5822







# MICHAEL 'TANK' SHERMAN

VICE COMMANDER CENTRAL AREA  
[VCCENTRAL@FLORIDASONS.ORG](mailto:VCCENTRAL@FLORIDASONS.ORG)



## Greetings from the Central Area!

Hard to believe a new service year is upon us already! Thank you to everyone for your support this year at Convention. I am absolutely honored and humbled to once again be elected as the Detachment Vice Commander for the Central Area. I hope I have served you well this past year, and I hope to continue doing so again this year. I want to offer my congratulations to Detachment Commander Mike Nigbor and wish him the best of luck as we embark on a new year. To now Past Detachment Commander Rocky Cirigliano, thank you for a great year, and it has been an honor serving with you.

I want to send a special shoutout to Squadron 238 and the entire Post 238 family for the invite to once again participate in the town of Safety Harbor's annual Fourth of July parade, which is coordinated by the Unit 238 Auxiliary. I was able to have my wife, newly installed District 15 Auxiliary President Andrea Sherman, ride with me this year and we had a blast! It was awesome to see Detachment Commander Nigbor, Detachment Adjutant Christian Rapp, 16th District Commander Rob Huddle and Squadron 238 Commander George Steger all riding along as well.

Installation season is winding down, and I want to once again congratulate all the new Squadron officers on their new (or continued) positions. I wish I had been able to make everyone's installation ceremonies, but with so many happening at the same time, it's just about impossible. I am thankful for the ones I was invited to and I look forward to attending more events and meetings in the coming year. Please make sure to send both your District Commanders and me an invite so we know what's going on and hopefully we can attend.

National Convention is just a few short weeks away, right here in the heart of the Central Area in Tampa. I look forward to seeing everyone who will be visiting the area, not just from our Detachment, but from Posts, Units, and Squadrons from all over the world. If you're coming into town for the Convention, please make sure to stop in and visit any of the posts in the Area. We'd love to host you!

The Central Area ball will be Saturday March 7th at Post 7 in Clearwater in District 16. This year, we are going to be doing a Margaritaville themed casino party with a Jimmy Buffet inspired buffet! You can check out all the details on the attached flyer or on Facebook! Last year's Central Area ball was a lot of fun, and we hope to make it even bigger and better this year! We'll once again be splitting the proceeds between the Department Commander, Detachment Commander, and Department President's charities. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or to RSVP. We will be reaching out to our posts, squadrons, and units for volunteers, donations, and raffle baskets at a later date, and there will also be sponsorship opportunities announced later.

As always, please let me know what your squadrons or districts have going on. I would love to come out and participate in and support your events!

For God and Country,

Michael "Tank" Sherman Jr.  
Vice Commander Central Area | Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida







# DANNY ROE

VICE COMMANDER EASTERN AREA  
[EAVC@FLORIDASONS.ORG](mailto:EAVC@FLORIDASONS.ORG)



## Hello from the Eastern Area!

First, I am excited to begin this year as your Eastern Area Vice Commander. Thanks to Sonny Perchitti for stepping up and Andy Campbell for continuing as District Commanders. Both District 6 and 12 Installation teams hit the ground rolling in getting Squadron Officer installations completed. Special thanks to Gary Raymand in District 12 and George Worton and John Gorsuch in District 6 for all your work in getting many of the Installations completed. At the publishing of this article most installations will be complete, and the Squadrons will be hard at work on their various programs.

Congratulations to Andy Campbell and District 12 in winning the Golden Gavel back at the Convention. It was a close race, and I am excited to see District 6 and District 12 fighting it out again this year to see who will be leading at Fall Conference. On a high note, thanks to all Squadrons who put in that extra push in the last month to get our membership rate to over 105% - the last obstacle for us to earn the Triple Nickle Award at National Convention.

First District 12 meeting is Saturday, July 26th at Post 117 in Palm Bay at 10:00 AM. Hope to see you there.  
First District 6 meeting is Saturday, Sept 6th at Post 117 in Palm Bay at 10:00 AM. Hope to see you there.  
Area Vice Commander this year. What a great race team we had this year. I look forward to seeing everyone at convention.

If you would like me to attend any meetings or events let me know.

For God and Country,  
Danny Roe  
Vice Commander Eastern Area  
Children & Youth Committee Chairman  
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida



# SAM ALOI

DISTRICT 9 VICE COMMANDER  
[DISTRICT9VC@FLORIDASONS.ORG](mailto:DISTRICT9VC@FLORIDASONS.ORG)



## Greetings from the Mighty 9th District!

Welcome back from Convention.. time to get down to the nitty-gritty time for the installations.

Congratulations to all of those who have moved in or up into officer positions and those that are behind the scenes working just as hard to keep us rolling.

We have a New 9th District SAL Commander Jesse Bogle, he comes from squadron 180 where he served as SAL Commander. He is very active in both the SAL and his post and hand with post Commander as well as all the members of his post. Our Past SAL district Commander Marty Kraemer continues to get better and better and it's part of our driving force in the 9th District. Let's all strive to work with the family, to make this year, an overwhelming success. **#SALCares**

For God and Country,  
Sam Aloï

9th District Vice Commander  
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida





# ANDY CAMPBELL

12TH DISTRICT COMMANDER  
DISTRICT12@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## Greetings from the 12th District!

Well by now you have all started transmitting your membership. Lets have a great year and help Commander Nigbor meet his goals for the year.

If anyone is still not online please contact Gary or myself to get this done.

I will be making my rounds in the next few weeks to all of the posts to deliver envelopes with your certificates that were received at convention

District 12's picnic will be at Post 81 on October 11th with lots of Auction items and raffles. I urge you all to attend this to raise money for Boys and Girls state.

As of this year we are combining our District meetings with the Legion and the riders and our first meeting will be at Post 117 on July 26th

I am also planning on attending all of our squadrons meetings this year at least once so be prepared.

For God and Country,

Andy Campbell  
12th District Commander  
Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Florida



# MITCHELL PACE

13TH DISTRICT COMMANDER  
DISTRICT13@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## Greetings from the Mighty 13th District!

My name is Michell Pace for those who do not know me. I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself. As I am an 12 year member of the Sons of the American Legion and have been honored to previously served as Squadron 323's (in beautiful downtown [sometimes soggy] Lehigh Acres) Commander, Vice Commander, Sgt-At-Arms and Historian, for district previous Vice and your Current Commander.

We are still working on our Squadron installations and I am learning more & more with every installation of how many amazing people we have in our District working towards our goals. I cannot wait to come back to the posts and attend your events. My goal this year is Communication and Mentorship. Children are our future and Communication is key.

Please, if you have any events let me know I will post it on our district pages and get the word out. While I can't be in multiple places at once I will do my best to attend.

Last year , District 13th was 1st in membership thanks to all of you, let's keep that going and have another amazing year. The district staff is here to help you in any way please feel free to reach out to us.

Our first District Meeting will be Sunday, September 21 at Post 103 in Punta Gorda. Riders start at 9am, All Families at 10am.

#SALCares #oneteamonedream

For God and Country,

Mitchell Pace  
13th District Commander | Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Florida







# ROCKY CIRIGLIANO

INTERNAL AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN

IA@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greetings!

First and Foremost, Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Congratulations to all the members, especially the blue hats on achieving over 105% Membership, over 85% in retention of members and five new Squadrons which allow us to receive the prestigious Triple Nickel Award from National. Your hard work and commitment are second to none.

Congratulations to our newly elected Commander Michael Nigbor and to all the Officers, Commission/Committee Chairs, and members for 2025-2026.

The Internal Affairs Commission is made up of the following members, Denton "Shay" Woods, Squadron 155, Rob McCarten, Squadron 142, and John Jennings, Squadron 137.

## COMMITTEES OF THE COMMISSION AND THEIR CHAIRMEN

**MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT (MT&D)**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**CONVENTION COMMITTEE**  
**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE**  
**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Pete Puzzo | Squadron 189 Sebastian  
Ed Sheubrooks | Squadron 40 Fort Pierce  
Ed Sheubrooks | Squadron 40 Fort Pierce  
James K Roberts III | Squadron 4 Lakeland  
Paul Stawicki | Squadron 142 Pompano

Member Training & Development continues to work on training needs for our Detachment. Him and his Committee are making plans for another great training opportunity at our upcoming Convention. Please Contact the Detachment Member Training & Development Chairman Peter Puzzo, on your interest to hold training classes for your Squadron, in your District or Area. His contact information can be found on our website [www.floridasons.com](http://www.floridasons.com). We need to make every attempt to educate our members to support our growth and development.

## DETACHMENT EMAIL GROUP

All Squadrons and Squadron Officers should have an email and should be signed up to our Google email group and have been receiving the Detachment communications. If you are not signed up, WHY? If you are not signed up it is simple, just go to the Detachment website ([www.floridasons.org](http://www.floridasons.org)) and go toward the bottom of the first page. You will see a button and information about Google Group. Click the button and just follow the props. You are now set up to receive information about your Detachment. Oh, we do not sell email addresses, they are safe with us. This is just one of many communication tools available to our membership. Area & District Commanders, you can help with this issue by talking with your Squadrons during your visits and helping them to help us get the much needed information distributed. This is another item that needs great attention and correction.

A full page version of the QR code you to the right is available at the end of this edition of 'The Source'. Print it out and display it at your Post!



Scan to join our mailing list!

## MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

MT&D continues to work on training needs for our Detachment. Please Contact the Detachment Member Training & Development Chairman Peter Puzzo, on your interest to hold training classes for your Squadron, in your District or Area. You can email him at [mtd@floridasons.org](mailto:mtd@floridasons.org). We need to make every attempt to educate our members to support our growth and development. Also, please contact him if you have any suggestions as to specific training needs.

## MEMBERSHIP

Chairman Paul Stawicki, thank you for your untiring efforts in reporting membership. We have a lot going on with membership as our numbers continue to grow. It is becoming increasingly important that everyone participates in membership and that the growth of our Squadrons and Detachment gets the attention of everyone. We now begin our quest for our 31<sup>st</sup> consecutive all-time high. **#SALCares**

## PREAMBLE

I will publish our Preamble with every Internal Affairs article I submit. Please read and memorized our preamble to our Constitution. Read each line and stop for just a minute and reflect on the words. These words are powerful and should have great meaning to us all. Think about what each line is saying. This is why, we do what we do! This would also be a great training opportunity at each Squadron meeting. I keep this in my article because I think it is something very meaningfully and important for you as a member and us a Veteran Organization. It is our duty, and it was the duty of all our wonderful Veterans, without them we would not be what we are today, **A FREE NATION.**

# PREAMBLE TO THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

**PROUD POSSESSORS OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE, WE MALE DESCENDANTS OF VETERANS OF ALL WARS,  
ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER AS "SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION" FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:**

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America,
- to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism,
- to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in all wars,
- to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation,
- to combat the autocracy of both the classes and masses,
- to make right the master of might,
- to promote peace and good will on earth,
- to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy,
- to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness,
- to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands,
- and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.







# PETE PUZZO

MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT  
MTD@FLORIDASONS.ORG



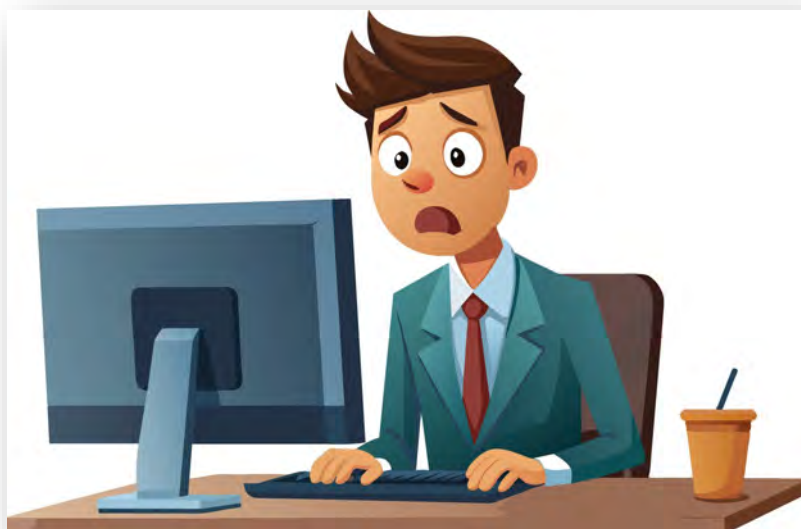
## COMPUTER OPERATIONS FOR NON-TECHIES

### *Let's start 2026 off hitting the ground running!*

I've heard a lot of complaints from District Commanders that there are a lot of Squadron Commanders that just don't know how to use a computer and its causing problems.

Well...to that I say..."suck it up cupcakes"...it's now 2026, and the computer has been a staple in our lives since before the turn of the Century. There is NO excuse for not knowing how to use a computer or a cell phone, for that matter.

Every Squadron should have an email address (or several) to receive updated materials. District Commanders need to talk to any of their Squadrons who do not have an email address, and help them get one. At the end of this article, I have attached a link to help you understand 'Microsoft Word'. It is a very useful tool for all levels of this Organization. If you use it for a word processing program, it will ensure your spelling is correct, offer suggestions in phrasing, allow you to include photos, graphs, or PowerPoint presentations.



The Squadron cannot afford a computer...hold a 50-50 raffle or two, stand in front of your local grocery store, go talk to the Manager of the nearest Best Buy, Walmart, Sam's Club and ask them to perform a 'good will' act and donate one for a little press release in the local paper, or at least reduce to the cost. Amazon, and other large merchandisers have loads of computers at different prices. Now come up with an idea of your own, but JUST DO IT. Then if you do not have a teenager in the Squadron or a computer class in the nearest Adult Education Program, seek out an organization that can teach your Officers how to use the computer.

Did you know that there is a way to communicate an email to text messaging & vice-versa? Now tell me you can't get 'er done.

As a District Commander or an Area Vice Commander, the time to simply say "I guess they can't" is OVER. My Committee and I are dedicated to assisting this Detachment improve in any way possible.

The link is below. I found it by simply 'googling' Word for Dummies. If you use any other word processing program, you can do the same thing by substituting the name of your program instead of Word.

<https://youtu.be/S-nHYzK-BVg>

District Commanders, and Area Vice Commanders please start scheduling your training session and offering me a couple of different dates so I can check the Committee's schedules. I have had some problems receiving emails at the **mtd@floridasons.org** address but they are now repaired and I am receiving emails again. If anyone sent me something & I didn't respond, I do apologize...if it happens, please text me at 772-532-6511 (my cell phone)...I will get back to you.

For God and Country,  
Peter Puzzo

Chairman | Member Training & Development Committee  
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida



# BOB O'NEAL

PROJECT: VETRELIEF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
PVR@FLORIDASONS.ORG



How can we as individuals help reduce the 22 per day Veteran suicides? One way is by supporting the Department of Florida's Project: Vet Relief, a 501 (c)3 organization, whose two main initiatives are emergency assistance and suicide prevention within the state of Florida.

We need to spread the word and raise the awareness within our squadrons and members of the benefits of this project and the ongoing need to fund these efforts. The support for this organization has been declining, but the need has not.

I encourage District Commanders of this Detachment to pass this messages to all the Squadrons and encourage them add Project:Vet Relief to their budget, or increase their commitment. Last year we raised \$18,000, but were outdone by the Riders, who raised \$120,000. We could easily surpass that number if all the Squadrons participated.

***Please see the Project:VetRelief Flyer on page 27***

For God and Country,

Bob O'Neal

Chairman | Project:VetRelief Committee

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida



# DENNIS BOLAND

PRESIDENT  
CHILD WELL-BEING FOUNDATION



## HOW TO HELP THE CWF RAISE MONEY FOR OUR KIDS

The American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation memorial contribution envelope. For just a \$25.00 or higher amount the Foundation will notify the next of kin for your contribution in memory of their deceased loved one. Your contribution will also allow you to name what organization you want to give credit to from your donation.

Filling out the memorial card is simple and easy to do. You would put your name and address as the sender and also the persons name in memory of and then fill out the next of kin name and address.

We will inform the next of Kin by letter of your donation in memory of their deceased loved one.

You can contact, Stacy Cope at [scope@legion.org](mailto:scope@legion.org) to order the memorial envelopes.

Also we have the 100% Per Capita banner Program.

Each American Legion Post, Auxiliary Unit, SAL, AIR Chapter and Eight and Forty salon donating at least one dollar for each member during the American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation's award year (June 1, 2025, to May 31, 2026) may receive a beautiful banner/streamer.

To qualify for the 2025-2026 year you must donate one dollar per member based upon its official membership total from their national organization as of June 1, 2025. You have from June 1, 2025, to May 31, 2026, to submit the form, along with the donation, to the American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation.

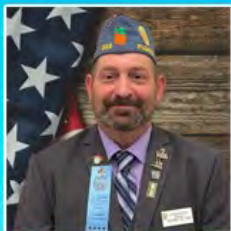
You can get the form at [www.cwf-inc.org](http://www.cwf-inc.org).

Dennis Boland

President

American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation





# CHRISTIAN M RAPP

EDITOR OF 'THE SOURCE'  
THESOURCE@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello All!

Welcome to the first edition of the 2025-2026 Service Year. We had a big year last year, and I know we'll go even bigger this year. One way to help the Detachment be successful is by keeping everyone informed about what is going on in your squadrons, districts and areas. The **easiest** way to do that is by submitting an article to 'The Source'. You can also submit flyers for your events.

My goal this year is to have every Area Commander and District Commander submitting articles every month. Ideally, I'd like Squadrons submitting articles regularly as well. 'The Source' is **FOR EVERYBODY**, not just Detachment Leadership.

My other goal, and this is a major one, is to get more members signed up to our Detachment email list. As of July 15, 2025, the Detachment of Florida stands at **27,112** members. We currently have only **480** members signed up to our email group - **THAT'S ONLY 1.77%!** We need to increase the number of people who receive our emails. This could result in more people attending your events, more awareness of important issues that need addressed and even better reporting. I've included a page with a QR code that you can print out and display at your Posts. This page is located as the last page of 'The Source' and will remain there all year. Please use this tool to help spread the reach of our newsletter.

The due date for submitting articles for 'The Source' is **the 15th of each month**. This will keep us inline with the Department of Florida and their publication of '**The Legion Link**'. Additionally, we're working with the Department to aid in distribution to their members that receive 'The Legion Link'. **The more people we can cover with our information will make us stronger.**

Please submit your articles and event flyers so that we can continue to bring you this important information. Event flyers will run every month until the event is complete. If any of your fellow members do not get **The Source** delivered via email, feel free to share it with them and encourage them to sign-up on the mailing list. 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!***

For God and Country,

Christian M Rapp

Editor of 'The Source', the Detachment of Florida Newsletter





# SPOTLIGHT

*'The Source Spotlight' is a feature of our newsletter where members have an opportunity to highlight something special that has happened at their posts, districts or areas. All members are encouraged to submit items for this feature.*

Submitted by Christian Rapp | Detachment Adjutant

July 19, 2025

The American Legion Family of John F Murphy Post 303 Bonita Springs celebrated their first Installation of Officers in their newly remodeled Post Home. Their Post was totally destroyed by Hurricane Ian 2 1/2 years ago. How did they celebrate their first installation in their new home? In true Post 303 Family Style - ***They had a Luau!***

Attendees included Department Commander Jessica Moore, Past American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida President Jane Hardacre and many more guests that were integral in the recovery and rebuilding efforts of Post 303. They also decided to have a little fun with our Detachment Commander Michael Nigbor and his nickname of 'Cabana Boy'. **This is the first time Commander Cabana Boy has seen these pictures.** His wife, Jan Farrington, was very good at making sure to get the pictures without being seen! ***Who says installations have to be boring?***





(Spotlight Continued)







# AMERICAN LEGION

FAMILY

 AMERICAN  
LEGION  
AUXILIARY

 AMERICAN  
LEGION

 AMERICAN  
LEGION  
RIDERS

#oneteamonedream

#SALCares





# CLARENCE HILL

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER 2010-2011  
2025 TAMPA CONVENTION COPR PRESIDENT



*The latest from Clarence Hill, PNC, 2025 Tampa Convention Corporation President*

The Chairpersons of the various committees are as follows: Badges and Packets: Keith Berres; Distinguished Guests: Dennis Boland; Information/Registration: James Burk; Memorial Service/ Special Events: Karen Warren; and Liaison: Don Hinst. The Chairpersons are putting the final touches to their teams, and it has not been easy. While we had nearly 90 volunteers, many backed out after being contacted by the chairperson of the committee for which they had volunteered. The convention is upon us, and the committees will need to complete their assigned tasks to get the convention off to a good start.

The State Legislature passed the budget, and we are due to receive \$125,000 for the transportation portion, which was contracted at \$236,000. Post/Auxiliary/SAL/Riders donations and fundraisers would also be most welcome. The Chairpersons and their committees will meet with The American Legion national just before the national convention to complete their duties in time for the convention.

I have emphasized that this is an immense project that Florida has undertaken, and the importance of your support, donations, and volunteering will be crucial to its success. The deadlines are upon us, and we need to perform and make Florida proud. Hosting a National Convention is not an easy task, costs a lot of money, and every member of all the other Departments is a critic. This is a great opportunity to showcase Florida. If you can volunteer in any way, we would greatly appreciate your help. **The volunteer form is on Floridalegion.org.**

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

Want to volunteer to help with  
**2025 National Convention in Tampa?**

**SIGN UP AT** [floridalegion.org/volunteer2025](http://floridalegion.org/volunteer2025) OR page 24

# 2025 NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE



The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida  
2025 Tampa National Convention Committee  
Chairman Bill Kelly

Committeeman Ed Sheubrooks, Jim Roberts,  
Gerard Sambets, Christian Rapp & Detachment Commander Rocky  
Cirigliano

This is your committee for the National Convention in Tampa in August 2025. We would like all of our members to help create an emblem for pins and coins and submit them to the committee. We would like the artist drawing or rendering to include a Florida and a Tampa symbols for example, palm tree, manatee, waterfront. We would like all submissions in by November 15, 2024 and decisions to be made at Fall Conference.

***If any Squadron in the Tampa Area near the Convention Center would like to do an event for the Convention attendees, Please Contact the Committee.***

 **AMERICAN  
LEGION**

**BE THE ONE**



# ED SHEUBROOKS

NATIONAL ASSISTANT ADJUTANT  
DETACHMENT ADJUTANT EMERITUS



## NATIONAL CONVENTION UPDATE

With the National Convention rapidly approaching in August, I wanted to take this opportunity to address some items for those that have never attended a National Convention before. By now, you should have made your hotel reservations through Department Headquarters. If you have not made the reservation yet, you may not be able to get a room at the JW Marriott. Contact Department Headquarters to see what they can do for you.

**Registration:** The cost is \$35.00 per Delegate, Alternate and Guest, The Detachment pays for all the Delegates. If you have a guest attending, you must pay \$35.00 for them. Anyone under 18 years of age is no cost, but I must know their names to have Credentials for them. If you wish for the Detachment to register your Guest, please send me their names as well. You can send me a check made payable to the Detachment of Florida or pay at the Convention. Everyone must have a Convention Badge to get into the meetings or Convention Center. Currently we have 38 Delegates that will be attending. I will need your guest names by **July 28th** for the Detachment to register them.

**Youth Academy:** There is a Youth Academy for the Younger members that are planning on attending. I will need their names as well to make sure we have them listed and Credentials ready. The Youth Academy is on Saturday morning, August 23rd. Time 8:30am – 12:30pm. Please see the Flyer that went out last week.

**Dress Code:** I know it's hot in August, but please NO SHORTS are to be worn during the meetings. Legion casual, or Coat and Tie is recommended. If you are going up on stage for any reason, Coat and Tie must be worn. SAL covers, no baseball caps or Cowboy hats during the meetings. No flip flops or sandals as well.

**All meetings of the SAL will take place at the JW Marriott, Tampa Bay Ballroom on the fourth floor.** The only exceptions are the Committee and Commission meetings that will be held in the Manatee, Edison, and Franklin rooms. Please see the Agenda Flyer attached in The Source as well. If anyone wishes to serve on a Convention Committee, please let me know by July 28th so I can submit your names to the National Adjutant. There are 9 Committees and two are already filled.

**There will be a Friday Night Social** for all SAL members compliments of the Detachment of Florida on Friday, August 22nd at the Dallas Bull in Tampa. Buses will leave the JW Marriott around 6:30pm and take out to Dallas Bull. They will reload at 9:00pm and head back to the JW Marriott. Free food and reasonably priced drinks at Tampa's premier Country and Western Bar. Come ride the Mechanical Bull.

**Volunteers Needed:** As the host Detachment, we are the only ones allowed to sell the Convention Pins and coins. Volunteers will be needed to help sell these items during the Convention. In addition, we will need some help with the food serving at the Friday evening Social. If you would like to help, please contact me as soon as possible.

**Compensation:** Delegates will receive some compensation from the Detachment for attending the National Convention. Detachment Officers and District Commanders and Chairmen MAY NOT use their budget to receive compensation from the Detachment. Compensation is based on the number of Delegates attending. If we have all 54 Delegates attending, then each one will receive \$300.00. If less than 54 attend it will change the rate of compensation. You will be told how much you will receive on Sunday, August 24th. Delegates may miss one meeting to receive Compensation from the Detachment.

I believe that about covers everything. If anyone has questions, please feel free to email me or call me at (772) 216-3063. Other information about National Convention, such as the Convention Agenda, can be found on the pages immediately following my article.

***Have a safe trip to Tampa, and look forward to seeing you there!***

Regards,  
Ed Sheubrooks  
National Assistant Adjutant  
Detachment Adjutant Emeritus

SONS OF THE  
 AMERICAN  
LEGION





## SOUTHERN REGION SOCIAL AND COTA BENEFIT SATURDAY NIGHT DURING OUR NATIONAL CONVENTION 5-8PM

Aye,

We will have our first annual Southern region National Convention social Saturday night at Post 138. This is a benefit for COTA at Post 138. Post 138 has an impeccable view of Tampa bay and you don't even have to be a Bucs fan. You just kind of fake it. Arghh ye just need to talk like a pirate and ye be in like flinn. This will be a great time for the SE region to get together and socialize while enjoying a nice view of Tampa Bay.

***All legion family members are welcome to attend.***

There will be a **COTA** benefit Saturday night during our National Convention 5-8pm (see flyer next page).

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 138  
5535 W PRESCOTT ST,  
TAMPA, FL 33616**

Cost is \$20.00 per person with a cash bar and entertainment. Limited are tickets available. Registration link is below along with the flyer attached.

Transportation to and from Post 138 is on your own.

### **WHAT'S GOING ON:**

- ◆ LIVE MUSIC FROM LOCAL BANDS
- ◆ FOOD TRUCKS
- ◆ CASH BAR
- ◆ COTA FAMILIES SHARE THEIR STORIES
- ◆ AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY AWARDS

[Click here for Registration Options](#)





PROUDLY HOSTED BY



Children's Organ  
Transplant Association.

# HEARTS AND HEROES FEST

JOIN US IN SUPPORT OF COTA CHILDREN AND YOUNG  
ADULTS WHO NEED A LIFE-SAVING TRANSPLANT.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 23<sup>RD</sup>**  
**5PM - 8PM**

**LIVE MUSIC FROM LOCAL BANDS**  
**FOOD TRUCKS**  
**CASH BAR**  
**COTA FAMILIES SHARE THEIR STORIES**  
**AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY AWARDS**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 138**

5535 W PRESCOTT ST,

TAMPA, FL 33616

SPACE IS LIMITED,  
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

**REGISTER NOW**



Or Register Here:

[bit.ly/HeartsAndHeroesFest](http://bit.ly/HeartsAndHeroesFest)

SCAN HERE





THE DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA PROUDLY PRESENTS



# A FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL COUNTRY STYLE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2025 7PM-9PM



## DALLAS BULL

WHERE COUNTRY COMES TO PLAY

3322 N US HIGHWAY 301 TAMPA, FL 33619

7 MILES FROM DOWNTOWN

**ENJOY FREE FOOD AND INEXPENSIVE  
BEVERAGES COURTESY OF  
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA!**

**MAYBE EVEN TRY YOUR LUCK ON THE MECHANICAL BULL!**

**FREE TRANSPORTATION FROM THE JW MARRIOTT  
TO THE DALLAS BULL WILL BE AVAILABLE.**

**3 BUSES WILL BOARD AT 6:30PM AT THE HOTEL  
BUSES WILL REBOARD AT THE DALLAS BULL AT 9:05PM**

**CONTACT ED SHEUBROOKS AT (772) 216-3063 FOR MORE INFORMATION**





## 53rd National Convention Agenda Flyer

### Tampa Convention Center and JW Marriott

Tampa, Florida | August 22 - 24, 2025

#### SAL National Convention Registration for Delegates, Alternate Delegates, and Guests

Location: Tampa Convention Center | National Staff Offices (Rooms 114-117, First Floor)

- **Wednesday, August 20 - Friday, August 22** 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
- **Saturday, August 23** 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM (hours subject to change)

SAL Information Services - Tampa Convention Center, Room 101 (First Floor)

#### MEETINGS & EVENTS

\*\* All meetings and events listed below will be held at the JW Marriott.

#### SAL Staff Office

- **Pinellas** (Fourth Floor) | Wednesday, August 20 - Monday, August 25 | 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

#### SAL Detachment Commander's Training

- **Hillsborough** (Fourth Floor) | August 22, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

#### SAL National Convention Committee Meetings | Friday, August 22

- **Manatee** (Fourth Floor)
  - 8:00 AM Internal Affairs
  - 9:30 AM Membership and Squadron Activities (M&SA)
  - 11:00 AM Finance
- **Edison** (Third Floor)
  - 8:00 AM Children and Youth (C&Y)
  - 9:30 AM Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R)
  - 11:00 AM Constitutional Amendments
- **Franklin** (Third Floor)
  - 8:00 AM Americanism
  - 9:30 AM Scrapbook / History Book Contest
  - 11:00 AM Legislation & Rules
- **Tampa Bay Ballroom** (Fourth Floor)
  - 11:00 AM Credentials



#### SAL National Executive Committee and General Sessions | Tampa Bay Ballroom (Fourth Floor)

- Pre-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting | August 22 10:00 AM
- Sons of The American Legion National Convention General Sessions
  - August 22 1:00 PM (Opening)
  - August 23 9:00 AM
  - August 24 8:00 AM
- Post-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting | August 24 2:00 PM

#### SAL National Children and Youth Academy

- **Edison** (Third Floor) August 23 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

#### SAL Transition Meeting (National Officers & Chairmen Only)

- **Fowler** (Third Floor) August 25 8:00 AM

As of: 7/01/2025

\*\* National Convention Agenda Subject To Change Without Notice





## DETACHMENT COMMANDER SHIRT ORDER FORM 2025-2026



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### DELIVERY METHOD

☐ Pick Up at Legion HQ Orlando ☐ Pick Up at Dept Convention ☐ Delivery\*

*\*An additional shipping fee of \$10 is required for delivery.*

*Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. You will be notified before shipment.*

Shipping Address (If Delivery): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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
Men's	XS		S		M		L		XL		2X		3X		4X	

### TOTAL

Shirts are **\$38 each\*** with two lines of personalization\*\* included. See next page for options.  
If tax-exempt, provide an exemption form if not already on file.

**\*Extended sizes:** 2XL +\$2.00 ea., 3XL +\$5.00 ea., 4XL +6.00 ea.

**\*\*Up to 20 characters per line, including spaces and special characters.**

☐ Check here  
if tax exempt.

Subtotal \$ 0.00

Tax (6.5%) \$ 0.00

Delivery \$ 0.00

Grand Total \$ 0.00

### PAYMENT

Please return form and payment to Department Headquarters: Email ([emblemsales@floridalegion.org](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. BOX 547859  
ORLANDO, FL 32854-7859

[www.floridalegion.org](http://www.floridalegion.org)

TOLL FREE (800) 393-3378  
FAX (407) 299-0901



## DETACHMENT COMMANDER SHIRT ORDER FORM 2025-2026

**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: Men's ST361 Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: XS Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Style: Men's ST361 Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: XS Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Style: Men's ST361 Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: XS Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Style: Men's ST361 Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: XS Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Style: Men's ST361 Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

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Style: Men's ST361 Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: XS Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Style: Men's ST361 Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

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Style: Men's ST361 Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: XS 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 547859  
ORLANDO, FL 32854-7859

[www.floridalegion.org](http://www.floridalegion.org)

TOLL FREE (800) 393-3378  
FAX (407) 299-0901



# PROJECT: VETRELIEF



## HELP US FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

PROJECT: VetRelief is a program of The American Legion, Department of Florida and is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The program has been around for over ten years and continues to grow and evolve to meet the demands of our veteran community. *Our journey and mission have only begun!*

### DONATE ★ FUNDRAISE ★ SUPPORT

Your support will allow us to **expand our program** and **continue to provide quality services** to those who fought so bravely for us; whether it be keeping them within their homes or preventing them from taking their own life.



## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

When dealing with a life emergency, PROJECT: VetRelief supports our service members and their families with immediate financial assistance. The funds we provide are not a loan, and are granted during a financial crisis, no strings attached. Our hope is to keep food on the table or the lights on while a family works through a trying time in their lives.

### FUNDING GUIDELINES:

1. Veteran, Active Duty Military, or Immediate Family Member (*Spouse, Legal Guardian, or Child*)
2. Acceptable Discharges: *Honorable or General Under Honorable Conditions*
3. Florida Resident for minimum of 120 Days
4. Show Sustainability - balance of income and expenses
5. Provided for necessities: *shelter, food, utilities, and some transportation and medical expenses*
6. Application / Interview does **not** guarantee funding
7. Awarded on a case by case basis
8. Funds are granted one time annually

### 11 YEAR IMPACT REPORT:

★ **1,821** ★  
FAMILIES HELPED

★ **\$1,918,603** ★  
AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED

## SUICIDE PREVENTION

YOU can help us make a dent in the tragic statistic of 22 veteran suicides a day that happen throughout our nation.

### RAISING AWARENESS

#### *Informing Communities of this epidemic*

PROJECT: VetRelief is committed to shedding light on the staggering reality of Veteran suicide through our Suicide Prevention events. Whether it's a ruck walk, educational seminar, or speaking engagement, each event creates an opportunity to engage communities, spark conversations, and emphasize the importance of mental health for Veterans.

By increasing awareness and understanding the severity of Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS), we can take meaningful steps toward supporting those who served and preventing future tragedies. Join us in making a difference, because awareness is the first step to saving lives.

### BUILDING A NETWORK

#### *Working together to end veteran suicide*

PROJECT: VetRelief is building a statewide network of trusted partners and providing financial support to ensure more Veterans get the help they need. Whether through sponsoring Veterans in existing programs or expanding critical services, we are committed to making a difference.



1912A Lee Road, Orlando, FL 32810 | 407-295-2631  
**WWW.PROJECTVETRELIEF.ORG**







# **AMERICAN LEGION MYLEGION TRAINING**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 2ND, 2025**

**11:30 AM**

**POST 4, LAKE LAND, FL**

Join us for an in-depth session covering  
the essential MyLegion functions:

- ✓ Registering for MyLegion
- ✓ Assigning permissions
- ✓ Processing membership
- ✓ Running reports

**ALL POST AND SAL COMMANDERS  
AND ADJUTANTS ARE STRONGLY  
ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.**



**ALL POST AND SAL  
COMMANDERS AND  
ADJUTANTS ARE  
STRONGLY ENCOURAGED  
TO ATTEND.**

This hands-on training will  
equip leaders with the tools  
needed to streamline  
operations and better serve





 **AMERICAN  
LEGION**  
FAMILY

*Hugh Gilbert Strickland*  
**POST 138**



# GRAND REOPENING *Bash*

**SATURDAY  
AUG 16  
5PM-10PM**

**Join the Celebration!  
As we “reopen” our beloved  
Hugh Gilbert Strickland  
American Legion Post 138.**

**Post Dedication 6-7pm**

**Raffles drawn at 8:30pm**

★ **RAFFLES &  
50/50** ★  
**MILITARY THEMED  
RAFFLE BASKETS &  
MORE!**

**FREE  
LIGHT APPETIZERS  
5-6PM** ★  
**FOOD SPECIALS  
ALL NIGHT**

★ **LIVE BAND:  
7-10PM** ★  
**ANTIQUE POETS  
ON THE  
BACK DECK**



**\$20**

**PRE-PAID**

**SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION**

**\$25**

**AT DOOR**

**TICKETS  
NOW ON  
SALE**

# BBOQ PARTY

**FOOD  
& FUN**

**COLE SLAW**

**BAKED BEANS  
2 TYPES**

**MAC &  
CHEESE**

**CORN  
BREAD**

**BANANA  
PUDDING**

**Saturday August 16 5pm**  
**2 CHICKEN THIGHS**

**WIN!**

**1ST 25 TICKETS SOLD,  
ELIGIBLE TO WIN \$25  
CANTEEN CREDIT**

**BASKET RAFFLE**

**LIVE  
ENTERTAINMENT**

*By Brent*

**50/50  
\$\$\$**

**SCRATCH TICKET  
RAFFLE**



**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT**

**SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION PROGRAMS**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 394 - 396 COGAN DR PALM BAY (BAYSIDE LAKES)**



AMERICAN LEGION POST 8

# CAR & MOTORCYCLE SHOW

PRESENTED BY  
SONS OF THE  
 AMERICAN  
LEGION

SATURDAY, SEPT. 27

9:30 AM - 3 PM

REGISTRATION STARTS  
AT 8:00 AM

GREAT FOOD BY  
LEGIONARY GRILL

TROPHIES PRESENTED  
AT 3:00 PM



\$25

ENTRY DONATION

**TROPHIES INCLUDE:**

1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE

2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE

3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE

COMMANDERS CHOICE

CONTACT DAN HEIER FOR MORE INFO  
heierh@aol.com | 863-212-6327

FRIERSON-NICHOLS AMERICAN LEGION POST 8  
300 AVE. M NW, WINTER HAVEN, FL 33881



# ANNUAL WALK-A-THON

FOR  
**MILITARY/VETERAN  
SUICIDE AWARENESS**

**Sunday, November 2, 2025  
9:00am - 12:00pm**

## 2.2 MILE WALK & VETERANS EXPO

Join Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County  
for a community walk to  
**Let's help END Military/Veteran Suicide!**

**REGISTER  
NOW!**

**SCAN QR  
CODE**



### **Riverside Park**

Registration at the Grand Pavillion - Opens at 9:00am

**\$35 / person online ~ \$40 / person - day of walk**

**DJ ★ Gift Raffle ★ 50/50 Raffle ★ Wall of Valor**

**T-SHIRTS:** Available for the First 200 walkers who register

**EARLY SHIRT PICK UP:** (if you registered online)

**Thursday 10/30 from 10am-3pm at American Legion Post 39 • 1535 Old Dixie Hwy**

**Proceeds to Benefiting:**



✉ [michdaleircgoldstarmoms@gmail.com](mailto:michdaleircgoldstarmoms@gmail.com)

f [@ircgoldstarmoms](https://www.facebook.com/ircgoldstarmoms)

🌐 [www.ircgoldstarmoms.org](http://www.ircgoldstarmoms.org)

☎ **570-885-2811**

★ **Please note our new mailing address:  
7855 14th Lane, VB 32966**

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State. Registration #DTN3348471. American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County, Inc. is a non-profit tax-exempt organization as described under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)3. Federal ID #85-0621175.





## 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.

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## Having an Event? Let the Detachment of Florida Help!

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### 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](http://floridasons.org))
- The Detachment of Florida's Facebook page ([facebook.com/FloridaSAL](https://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](mailto:adjutant@floridasons.org)

*The Florida Sons of The American Legion with over 185 Squadrons and over 25,000 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](http://www.floridasons.org)  
Or e-mail us at [floridasons@floridasons.org](mailto:floridasons@floridasons.org)

## Source Articles

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visit our website



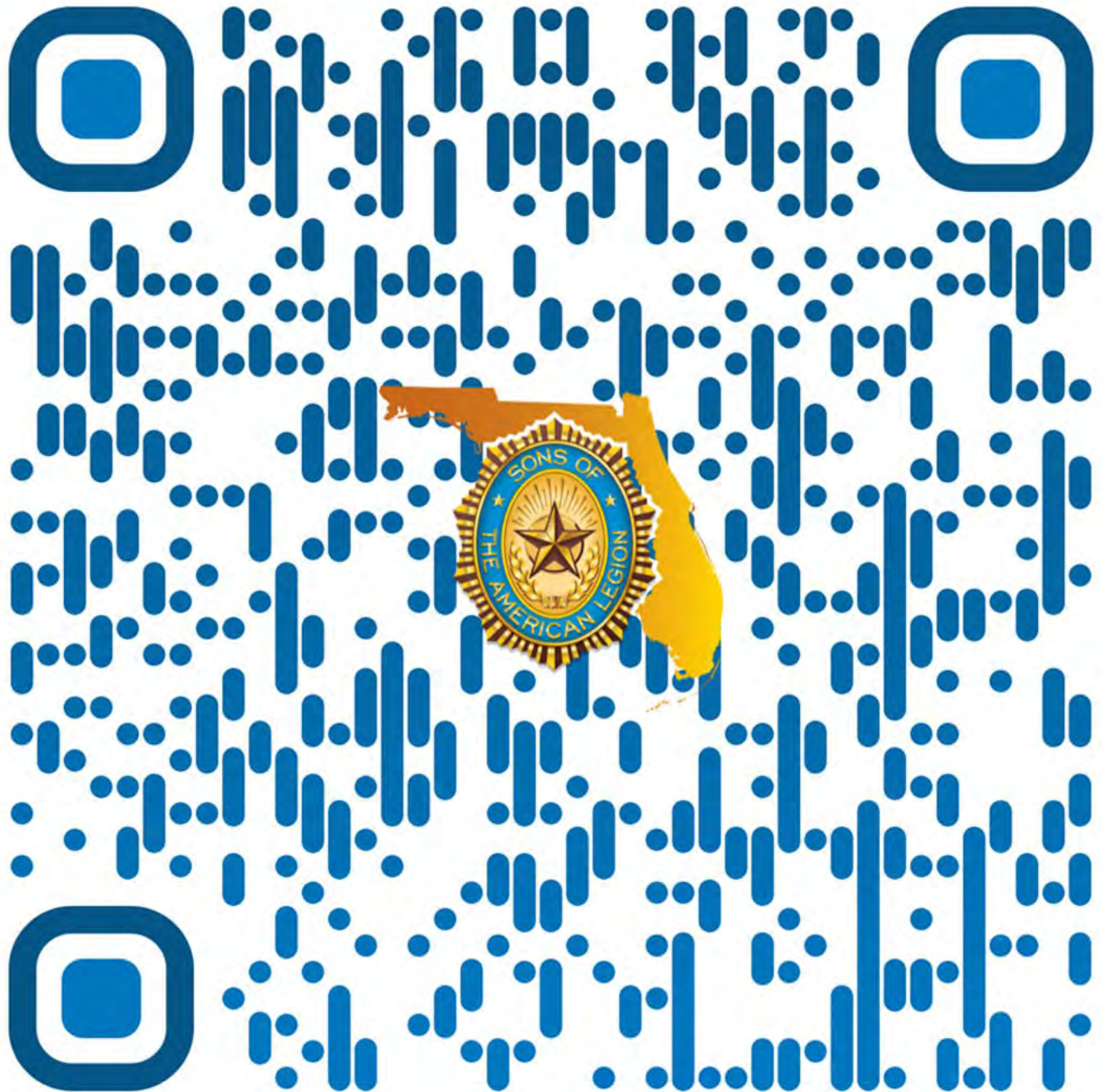
We are looking for your input and help to keep this newsletter going. We are looking for articles from the Squadrons, Districts, or Areas. Let us know what is happening in your Squadron, District & Area and we will inform the rest of the Detachment. It could increase attendance at your functions and or meetings!!!! This is your newsletter. ***Please send all articles to the Editor by the 15th of every month.***

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



# STAY INFORMED!

JOIN THE DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA EMAIL GROUP!



**SCAN THIS CODE AND CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR  
A CONFIRMATION MESSAGE. IT'S **THAT** EASY!**

THE DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA VALUES YOUR PRIVACY.  
WE WILL NEVER GIVE OR SELL YOUR INFORMATION TO ANOTHER PARTY.

[HTTPS://GROUPS.GOOGLE.COM/FORUM/#!FORUM/FLORIDA-SONS/JOIN](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/florida-sons/join)