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ACT  
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# THE SOURCE



## MICHAEL NIGBOR

DETACHMENT COMMANDER  
COMMANDER@FLORIDASONS.ORG



### Greetings from your Detachment of Florida Commander!

As we enter 2026, I would like to wish everyone a very prosperous, happy and healthy New Year. We already have so many events planned that are going to be amazing. I am looking forward to meeting all of you at your events and District meetings. Area Vice Commanders and District Commanders, continue your communications with all of your members, including the reporting training so we can achieve better results on what we are supposed to be doing as an organization. It is imperative that our members get their 2026 cards to continue the benefits we have access to.

I will report in the next issue about visitations I will be making or have made. For December, I will be joining Department Commander Jessica Moore for the District 13 Tour. We will be visiting 15 of the posts. I am looking forward to meeting all the squadron officers and members at this time.

I would like to congratulate everyone for all the hard work they have been accomplishing on membership and "Buddy Checks". Recruit, Renew, Retention. These are key components to our progress and our future. Each new member brings fresh energy, ideas, and hands willing to help where needed. As we work toward our ambitious goals, remind your friends and fellow community members that their membership not only helps veterans and their families, but they are also helping each other to build stronger community service.

We, the Sons of The American Legion, are more than just a group of volunteers. We are a growing and influential force, dedicated to serving veterans, supporting our communities, children and youth. We are very important in promoting the principles our nation was built on and are part of an historic tradition, with every new recruit helping extend our impact across the country.

Recruiting isn't an isolated act. It creates outward reach benefitting our youth, schools, and civic institutions. It is up to us to empower programs that support American ideals and patriotic education. Let your enthusiasm open doors of opportunity for others to get involved. Let your actions speak. People listen, and together we grow stronger.

By emphasizing The American Legion Family, we are setting our organization up for future success. When we work together as a team, we can accomplish anything. New members are our lifeline as well as existing members. When our members feel a real connection with other members, they will keep coming back and volunteer more often. We work hard for the benefit of our veterans who helped make this country great and for the children who will help make our country even greater, better and stronger.

Communication and teamwork is the key. I asked everyone to try to recruit at least one new member this year. Please get back to me and let me know what your squadron is accomplishing. We have been given a list of names from Detachment Adjutant Christian Rapp about the 9999 members. These are members that you might be able to attain. Call them. The time is now, to show our mission is rooted in service, patriotism, kindness, and community engagement, honoring all who served and are continuing to serve. It is our responsibility to continue the legacy of

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#### 2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES:

September 4, 2025	10%	<b>ACHIEVED!</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
October 9, 2025	25%	<b>ACHIEVED!</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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January 8, 2026	60%		
February 5, 2026	75%		
March 5, 2026 *	80%		
April 2, 2026	90%		
May 7, 2026	100%		
May 28, 2026**	<b>105%</b>		

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

(Detachment Commander Continued)

service.

Buddy Checks are not just for the holidays. Checking on someone anytime can provide valuable insight into how they are doing emotionally. Don't be afraid to reach out. Be The One to make that call, see how your members are doing. Invite them to your meetings and events. Keep them engaged and involved. Make them feel needed and important to the future of our organization, because they are.

I believe in the Four Pillars of our organization and what they stand for. The Sons of The American Legion can reach new heights and crush our records for volunteer hours and donations. Remember your "WHY." Why did you want to be a member of the Worlds Largest Veterans Organization? What were you hoping to accomplish? Be The One in more ways than one. Call, text or email me. I would like to attend your meetings and events. I would also like to hear your feedback on these articles you should be receiving.

For God and Country,

Michael Nigbor

Detachment Commander  
Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Florida



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

I hope that you all had a wonderful and safe Holiday Season. It's now time to start preparing for the end of the year reporting season and making preparations to attend our Annual Convention in June.

### **END OF YEAR REPORTING**

The Department will be sending out end-of-year reporting packets in March. I am working closely with Bekki at Department to ensure that all required reports are included this year. As a reminder, last year the National and Detachment Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) forms were unintentionally omitted.

Please note that these packets are distributed by The American Legion Department of Florida, not by me personally. While we coordinate to provide the most complete packet possible, there may be occasions when a form is inadvertently missed. If that happens, I will notify all Detachment Vice Commanders and District Staff promptly. It will then be the responsibility of those leaders to ensure the squadrons in their districts are informed and provided with any missing forms.

**Your Adjutant Team is here to support and guide you through the process, but squadrons remain responsible for completing their own reporting.**

By the end of this month, all report forms will be updated for consistency. These forms will be posted on our website and included in the end-of-year reporting packets. Beginning in February, Assistant Adjutant Jennings will address reporting in his monthly articles. He will explain why reporting is critical to our mission as Sons of The American Legion and will also provide practical tips for completing the reports accurately. Please be sure to read his article each month.

Last month, I mentioned the Squadron Information Portal that I have been developing to help simplify reporting for those who are comfortable with technology. I asked anyone who expressed interest at Fall Conference in serving as a Beta Tester to reach out and confirm their interest. If you did express interest and have not yet contacted me, please do so.

If you would like to participate as a Beta Tester for the Squadron Information Portal, please email me at [adjutant@floridasons.org](mailto:adjutant@floridasons.org). I would appreciate hearing from you after you have finished reading this edition of The Source.

### **54TH ANNUAL CONVENTION**

Our 54th Annual Detachment Convention will be held June 11 - June 14, 2026 at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista. **THIS WILL BE OUR LAST CONVENTION AT THIS LOCATION.** If you are planning on attending, make sure to reserve your rooms ASAP. You can call the hotel at **1-800-782-4414**. Make sure to ask for the Legion Rate. The agenda, training session information and other important information will be released as the time of Convention gets closer. If you would like to get an idea of what the week-end agenda might look like, you can view the Detachment Convention Page on our website and see last year's information.

(Detachment Adjutant Continued)

## SQUADRON VISITATIONS

District Commanders: I have uploaded the revised District Commander Visitation form that your Member Training and Development Team (MTD) created and explained at Fall Conference. You can find it on our website as a fillable PDF at <https://floridasons.org/detachment-report-forms/> and clicking on the button in the 'District Commander Forms' section of the page.

## ENDORSEMENTS FOR OFFICE

Now that we are halfway through our service year, we will be accepting endorsements for office for the 2026-2027 Service Year. If you are considering running for a Detachment Officer Position, or a District Commander/Vice Commander position you may now submit your endorsement. All endorsements will be posted on our website at <https://floridasons.org/detachment-officer-endorsements/>, as well as be published in 'The Source' as they come in. There is a format that all endorsements should follow:

- 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.

## MORE NATIONAL AWARDS

Last month, I had mentioned a couple of membership awards available to your squadrons and members of your American Legion Family that assist with membership. This month I would like to tell you about the Sons of The American Legion **SNAPSHOTS AND VIDEOS of SERVICE** programs. These programs are a national program that can earn your Squadron national recognition as well as a national award.

### SNAPSHOTS of SERVICE

Snapshots of Service has been around for quite some time now. Photos submitted to the Snapshots of Service program must represent one of the Four Pillars: Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, or Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

Any SAL squadron may make up to three submissions for each of the Four Pillars. Each submission must be sent in JPG format and accompanied by the proper forms. Our very own Jim Steele from Squadron 137 | Jacksonville won this award a few years ago.

### VIDEOS of SERVICE

Videos of Service is a newer program that is open to all SAL members. Video submissions must contain an SAL member or members wearing SAL covers or SAL-branded clothing participating in an activity or event that falls under one of three categories: program support; community engagement; or membership and recruitment.

The video must be no longer than five minutes in length and have been posted on social media. Entries will be judged by the SAL Public and Media Communications Commission on quality, content and branding.

Entry forms for both programs can be found at <https://www.legion.org/about/american-legion-family/sons-of-the-american-legion/publications-and-forms>

## RESPECT YOUR PERSONAL TIME

We are all deeply committed to what we do - no one volunteers for leadership roles without caring. That dedication is admirable, but it's easy to let "Legion Life" take over everything. When you're spending personal time with friends or fellow members, conversations can naturally drift toward Post business. Sometimes, even after being asked not to, those discussions continue. Remember: our organization will survive a day without talking about it. Taking time to enjoy your personal life is important for your mental health. Failing to step away can lead to burnout and may even create strain with your spouse or family.

Please also be mindful of the time of day when communicating with leaders about organizational matters. I recently received a text at 9:00 p.m. on a Saturday about a non-urgent issue. If something comes to mind late at night, make a note of it and follow up by email the next day or during appropriate hours. **True emergencies are, of course, an exception and should be handled immediately.**

Many of us still work, and weekends may be the only opportunity to truly unplug. Respect your time, and respect the time of others. Allow yourself - and those around you - the space to take a break. Once again, our organization will be just fine if we step away from talking about it for a day or two.

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 the New Year!**

Gentlemen, I pray we all had a Happy and healthy Holliday Season. I want to congratulate you on a very good first half of our Fiscal Year. We have met and exceeded our goals with a sense of determination. Well Done!!! I trust we can keep up the momentum though to the second half of the year. To do this we must keep working our Rosters and bring those that have not renewed back into our Squadrons.

We must also help our struggling Squadrons. Those flourishing Squadrons should help out by showing what you know works to your struggling Brothers, Remember, we are a Family. I don't want to see any of us fail. That being said, we will be losing 2 Squadrons for 2026-2027 year that the Legion has Voted to Revoke Charters. I don't want to have a repeat this again next year. We are stronger than that. Let's Get 'Er Done and get our Squadrons not making minimum strength of 10 members up and working toward the 4 Pillars and successful again.

Remember, we still have a lot of work to do to make Commander Nigbor's Goal of 30,000 Membership **#SALCares**. Don't forget to keep a running total of all you do for your end-of-year paperwork. This too is most important for us to know at Detachment. Thank you for all you do.

For God and Country,

Paul Stawicki

Membership Chairman  
 Sons of The American Legion  
 Detachment of Florida



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**RENEWAL POSTCARD MAIL DATE**

**RECEIVING DATES**

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

**SEPT 28 – OCT 3, 2025**

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

**FEB 22 – 28, 2026**

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

**APR 26 – MAY 2, 2026**



Detachment  
of Florida

# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION WHY MEMBERSHIP GOALS MATTER

**RENEW EARLY - HELP US HIT OUR TARGETS!**

## **STRENGTH IN NUMBERS = INFLUENCE**

Meeting our Detachment & National goals shows that the SAL is **large, united & active**. Strong membership means having a **louder voice** for veteran causes across the country.

## **FUNDING & PROGRAM SUPPORT**

Membership dues help fund our scholarships, youth programs & veterans assistance. **Strong membership numbers** help ensure these important programs are fully supported all year long.

## **RECOGNITION & PRIDE**

Squadrons & Detachments that lead the way in renewals receive **public recognition** that boosts **morale & pride**.

## **MOMENTUM MATTERS**

Our goals have specific checkpoints to keep our momentum going (30% by Oct. 1; 60% by Dec. 31, etc.). Hitting targets early in the year makes it **easier to reach 100%** by the end.

## **UNITY ACROSS THE LEGION FAMILY**

Strong SAL numbers show that we are **active partners** in the **Legion Family** & ready to serve.

## **MISSION READINESS**

Reaching membership goals ensures we're **ready to support** our **veterans**, their families & our communities.

***"But I paid my dues for the whole year, and I want my money's worth"***

If you renew early, you can get an entire 1½ years out of your membership!

**EVERY RENEWAL HELPS US HIT OUR GOALS - DON'T WAIT TO RENEW FOR 2026!**

[LEGION.ORG/SAL-RENEW](https://legion.org/sal-renew)



# RAYMOND LEVENTHAL

DETACHMENT CHAPLAIN  
CHAPLAIN@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## FAITH, FREEDOM, AND A NEW YEAR'S RESOLVE

As we turn the page from Hanukkah, Christmas and the New Year into the early days of 2026, many of us feel a mixture of emotions. The decorations are coming down, the gatherings are over, and life is returning to its usual pace. Yet, if we look closely, this season leaves behind more than empty boxes and quiet homes. It leaves us with reminders — of faith, of family, of country, and of the enduring ideals that built the United States of America.

As Sons of the American Legion, we stand at a unique crossroads where faith and patriotism meet. We are not just members of an organization; we are heirs to a legacy of sacrifice, conviction, and belief in a higher purpose. This new year invites us to consider how we will carry that legacy forward.

## FAITH AT THE HEART OF OUR CALLING

Celebrating Hannukah, our brothers and sisters of the Jewish faith praise the one true God for the miracle of the lights at the temple, where one day's worth of oil remained lit for 8 days, giving birth to the Festival of Lights, a palpable revelation of God's presence to the faithful.

The Christmas season centers on the birth of Christ — a reminder of God's presence in a troubled world.

Even now, as the holidays fade in the rearview mirror, that truth remains. Faith is not limited to dates on the calendar. It is a daily posture of trust, gratitude, and obedience to God's call.

Our founders, though not perfect men, understood the importance of belief in something greater than themselves. Many of them spoke openly of "Providence," the Creator, and the moral order they believed God had placed in the world. They recognized that human freedom cannot survive long without moral responsibility, and that moral responsibility is grounded in a reverence for God.

As we step into this new year, our faith calls us beyond mere resolutions and into transformation. It calls us to pray for our nation, to seek wisdom, and to anchor our lives in the One who does not change — even as the times do. Whether in moments of national unity or division, faith reminds us who ultimately holds this country, and each of us, in His hands.

## PATRIOTISM ROOTED IN GRATITUDE

Patriotism is more than waving a flag or singing an anthem — though we rightly do both with pride. True patriotism is a grateful love of country, expressed in service, sacrifice, and a commitment to the ideals that make this nation worth loving.

The veterans from whom we draw our lineage understood this deeply. Many served far from home, away from family and comfort, because they believed America was worth defending. Some did not return; others returned forever changed. As Sons of the American Legion, we honor them not only with ceremonies and words, but by the way we live as citizens and as people of faith.

When we stand in a color guard, attend a memorial, or support a veteran's family, we are living out a patriotic faith — one that recognizes freedom as a gift and a responsibility. In a time when it can be easy to focus on what divides us, we are called to embody what unites us: loyalty, honor, respect, and love of country.

## THE FOUNDERS' IDEALS AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY

The founding fathers of the United States were men of differing backgrounds, denominations, and even theological views. Yet many of them agreed on several key truths:

1. That human rights come from God, not from government.
2. That government exists to secure those God-given rights.
3. That a free people must be a moral people, capable of self-governance.

These convictions were not born in a vacuum. They came from a worldview that saw the human person as created in the image of God and accountable to Him. Our founding documents reflect this belief in their references to a Creator, to Nature's God, and to Divine Providence.

Today, those ideals are still our inheritance, but also our responsibility. It is not enough to quote the Constitution or admire the Declaration of Independence from a distance. We must ask ourselves:

- Am I living in a way that respects the God-given dignity of every person I meet?
- Am I doing my part to safeguard liberty—not just for myself, but for future generations?
- Am I willing to stand for truth and righteousness, even when it is unpopular?

*(Detachment Chaplain continued)*

The beliefs of the founding generation call us to more than nostalgia. They call us to action rooted in virtue: courage, integrity, humility, and charity.

### **A NEW YEAR'S CHALLENGE**

As chaplain, I invite each of us in the Detachment of Florida to make this more than just another start to another calendar year. Let this be a season when we renew our commitment to faith and patriotism in concrete, visible ways.

Consider three simple but powerful practices for the months ahead:

1. *Pray Intentionally*

Pray for our nation, its leaders, our veterans, our active-duty service members, and our communities. Pray for unity where there is division, wisdom where there is confusion, and courage where there is fear. Set aside a specific time each week to lift our country before God.

2. *Serve Generously*

Look for opportunities within your Squadron, your Post home and your community to serve: visit a shut-in veteran, make buddy calls, support a military family in need, volunteer at a Post event, or mentor a young person. Service keeps patriotism from becoming just a feeling and turns it into a way of life.

3. *Live Honorably*

The founding fathers knew that freedom without virtue would eventually collapse. Let us be men whose words and actions reflect honor: at home, at work, online, and in public. Let our character be a quiet testimony that faith in God and love of country still run deep in this land.

### **CARRYING THE LIGHT FORWARD**

The Christmas lights may be packed away, but the light they symbolize must not be. The same God who guided our founders and sustained our nation through war, hardship, and uncertainty is still with us today. The same spirit of sacrifice that moved our forefathers to take up arms for liberty lives on in every veteran, in every service member, and in every Son who chooses to serve faithfully.

As we move deeper into this new year, may we do so with hearts anchored in faith, hands ready to serve, and eyes fixed on the higher calling that unites us. Let us remember the beliefs that helped shape this great nation and do our part, with God's help, to see that those beliefs continue to shape its future.

May God bless you, your families, the Detachment of Florida, and these United States of America.

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

For God and Country,

Ray Leventhal  
Detachment Chaplain Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida  
chaplain@floridasons.org  
561 801 5822





# DANNY ROE

VICE COMMANDER EASTERN AREA  
VCEAST@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## ***Greetings from the Eastern Area!***

We have now entered a new calendar year. I wish you all the best year yet as we navigate 2026. Remember if you or your members have not renewed their membership yet, they will not be allowed to enter a legion post as a member. Let's all reach out and get those delinquent members renewed.

The competition between District 6 and District 12 continues to Convention. **Andy Campbell, District 12 Commander** still maintains a commanding lead over District 6. As of 12/10/25: District 12 is **67.91%** to District 6 at **62.21%**. Great Job both of you for being well above the December 45% goal. Next goal is 60% on January 8th. Eastern Area is still hanging out in 2nd place, but we want the top spot. Let's do all we can to get **Commander Nigbor to his goal of 30,000 members!**

Now that we are through the Holiday season, let's get to work and do what we do to support our veterans and help those in need.

Both Districts had their meetings on Dec 6th. The meetings were great and lots of information was exchanged. I attended the District 6 meeting and I have to say I was **very disappointed with the attendance**. If you don't come, we cannot share the information with you as well. Emails are fine, but personal attendance is a must if we are going to be successful. I encourage every Squadron to send representatives to the meetings.

Next District meetings:

**District 12:** End of Feb or early March Registration 8:30, Meeting at 9:30 Date and location TBD. See District 12 Facebook page.

**Next Picnic for Boys and Girls State Transportation. Post 189 03/28/26 watch the Facebook page.**

**District 6:** March 7th, Registration 9:00, Meeting at 10:00 Post #347, Lady Lake.

**District 6 Picnic 03/22/26 Hickory Point Park, Tavares. See Flyer.**

Please feel free to contact me at [vceast@floridasons.org](mailto:vceast@floridasons.org) for any needs you may have and to invite me to your events.

For God and Country,  
Danny Roe  
Vice Commander Eastern Area  
Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Florida

# SONS OF THE

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# AMERICAN LEGION



# ANDY CAMPBELL

12TH DISTRICT COMMANDER  
DISTRICT12@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## Greetings from the 12th District !

Hopefully as we have gotten thru the holidays and everyone is safe!

Thanks to every Squadron so far for keeping us in 2nd place in the state but we can do it! Lets get these renewals in and be #1 in the state!

Lets also make sure the bartenders are checking cards at your post as well so that we can get to 100% as quickly as possible!

Lets keep thinking about our reporting that is coming up quickly. Make sure you keep track and get these reports in on time again this year like you all did last year!

I will continue to send out emails to all of the folks that have not renewed in the District. I will also be sending out emails to all the Squadrons that have members with invalid email address and let's get these fixed in the system. We also need to start contacting members that don't have emails associated with their membership ID as at some point this will be a required field as we start to move away from the manual process in membership.

If any squadron has questions or needs help please reach out to me or Gary Raymond for help!

For God and Country,  
Andy Campbell

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



# SAM ALOI

DISTRICT 9 VICE COMMANDER  
DISTRICT9VC@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## Greetings from the 9th District !

Hope your Holidays were Awesome and the new year Prosperous .

As we work together to get the membership numbers up, let us pause and remember who we are, who we serve and what we stand for. We are members of a Family that supports our Veterans and their families. STAND PROUD for we work tirelessly to accomplish that mission. As you meet and exceed that mission I would like to begin the New Year and every month with reminders of things we sometimes take for granted:

### “Flag Etiquette”

The Flag of the United States is a symbol of this Nation. There are certain recommended practices and procedures that we, as an organization, should be able to follow and teach others how to do the same.

Always rise, remove any head covering and place your right hand over your heart. If you are under uniform cover, you should render a military salute.

If you fly a Flag at home, be sure it is in good condition, and if left outside at night, have it illuminated. During anticipated inclement weather, bring the Flag inside. If it is not in good condition, replace it. Have the old one retired properly. Better yet conduct a Retirement Ceremony and invite the community to participate.

The American Legion catalog has a booklet available that can be of immeasurable service in teaching your members and the community about Flag Etiquette. You can find it at Emblem Sales at: <https://emblem.legion.org/Lets-Be-Right-on-Flag-Etiquette/productinfo/755.200/>. The cost is \$1.

The funeral Flag is folded into a triangle that is representative of our original Patriots Tri-cornered hats. It is folded 13 times representing the original Colonies.

This training falls under the Americanism Pillar. Remember to add these hours along with any expenditures to your Squadron Composite Forms at the End of the Year. If you have other ideas, please share them with the District, other Squadrons and your Membership Training & Development Committee.

Sam Aloï

9th District Vice Commander & Member of MT&D Committee Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Florida



# DANNY ROE

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION CHAIR  
CHILDRENYOUTH@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## HELLO FROM YOUR CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIRMAN!

### Welcome to 2026!

Hope you all had a great Holiday Season. From what I am seeing on social media, it looks like we have all been busy with special events and activities that I am sure put a smile on many a child's face.

One such event was sponsored by Sonny Perchitti and Squadron 55 in Clermont. Their Christmas party for Special Olympics athletes from the South Lake Bowlers was a great success that supported approximately 65 Athletes. The room was full and loud with laughter As Santa and his elves paid a visit. Thank you, Sonny, for having such a great event for these athletes. I was honored to be there.

Please see Flyer for National Children and Youth Committee Tasks and Goals. Any questions, feel free to contact me.

I would like to reach out to everyone and ask that you keep me informed of any Children and Youth events you are having. It is my desire to attend and support as many local events as possible. I encourage you to post your events on social media and here in The Source.

## SAVE THE DATES

*(More info to come as we get closer to the events)*

**March 23rd at 8:00 AM,** Golf Tournament: Post 8 Winterhaven (See Source flyer in January for details)

**March 27th at Plantation Palms golf course.** Golf Tournament: Post 108, Land of Lakes, (See Source flyer in January for details)

**April 4th:** SW Area C&Y Picnic

**April 11th:** Department C&Y Picnic, Hosted by Palm Bay Post 117, A great venue and always a great time raising money for C.O.T.A (Childrens Organ Transplant Association)

**April 26th:** District 13 C&Y Picnic, Hosted by Post 323 Lehigh Acres.

**May 16th:** C&Y Golf Tournament, Hosted by Lady Lake Post 347 Family (See Flyer and let me know if you want to bring a team to represent your Post or Squadron.)

Please plan to support these upcoming events. Feel free to contact me at [childrenyouth@floridasons.org](mailto:childrenyouth@floridasons.org) for any needs you may have and to invite me to your events.

For God and Country,

Danny Roe

Chairman  
Children & Youth Commission  
Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Florida



Children and Youth Committee  
Tasks and Goals  
2025-2026



Assist the Americanism Commission with development of guidelines for Detachment level Youth Academy

Distribute and promote digital materials to plant a Victory Garden

 **Children's Organ Transplant Association.**

**SONS OF THE**  
 **AMERICAN LEGION**

Increase donations by 10% for the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA)

Increase donations by 10% for The American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF)

Increase donations by 10% for Children's Miracle Network (CMN)

Increase donations by 10% for Ronald McDonald House



# BOB O'NEAL

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHAB CHAIRMAN  
VAR@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The holidays are over. We just celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas and toasted the new year. As we celebrated with friends and family, I hope we did not forget those less fortunate who are out there and in need of help.

At our Post 347, we gave Thanksgiving and Christmas food packages to those in the community. We also support 3 food pantries in the area.

We also donated to Marines and families at Camp Lejeune, a drive organized by one of our Sons members whose Marine son was killed in Afghanistan.

We donated a large sum to the Gainesville Fisher House as well as gifts for Veterans in the VA hospital at Christmas. We logged many hours in these and other holiday events.

We encourage everyone to participate in community activities which benefit Veterans, including "Buddy Checks" and REPORT ALL HOURS ON YOUR ANNUAL REPORT.

**Please Note that the current rate for volunteer hours is \$33.49 per hour if you are starting your reports.**

For God and Country,

Bob O'Neal  
Chairman | Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission  
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida



# BOB O'NEAL

PROJECT: VETRELIEF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
PVR@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Socializing is a powerful means to help those who might be contemplating suicide. I have made 11 contacts, both by phone and in person, with 4 individuals who were Vietnam Veterans with varying degrees of Agent Orange and PTSD issues. They have all thanked me for listening to them.

Call a Veteran to see how he or she is doing, and give them a chance to open up and discuss their issues. It is very therapeutic and just might help bring them back from the brink.

Help can come in many forms, including financial and emotional. It has been well documented that financial insecurity is a leading cause of suicide.

This is where Project: Vet Relief comes in. PVR helps Veterans through unexpected financial times such as layoffs, storm damage, etc.

Project Vet Relief also offers counseling and emotional support for Veterans as they work through their issues. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

For God and Country,

Bob O'Neal  
Chairman | Project:VetRelief Committee  
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida



**PROJECT: VETRELIEF**  
They Fought for Us. We Fight for Them.



# PETE PUZZO

MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT  
MTD@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## END OF YEAR REPORTING

Following Membership Goals, End Of Year Reporting is the second Priority of the Detachment.

MT & D will begin working on the End Of Year Reporting Training. I cannot tell you how important to the Detachment it is to fill in these forms.

After the Holidays, we will be reaching out to every District and Area to make ourselves available to you. In the meantime, we will be creating a 'mock' up for each form. It will show how each line item should be filled out. Since every Squadron's information is different, you can put your information in the form where the mock up shows it

As we complete each form we will get them out. Remember that if you have been keeping records of events and work details, you have the basic information that you will need.

To be able to complete the forms, you need the records of what your Squadron has been doing all year. Hopefully you took my earlier advice and wrote it down. If you haven't done so, it's not too late. Take a calendar, and circle each month that an event took place. Circle the dates involved, and gather any records you may have on those events. List the title of the event, count the number of members that helped, figure the number of hours each member spent (include preparation and clean up). That is your man-hours for the event. Figure a round trip mileage for everyone, and any & all expenses used to conduct or participate in the event. Show the man-hours, expenses and what Category the event falls under.

As an example, Squadron 3351 conducted a Flag Retirement Ceremony. In attendance, with preparation and clean up, a total of 15 members spent 45 hours on that event. An estimated mileage used was 15 members at 7 miles or 105 miles.

Flag Retirement Ceremony on 6/14/25...

15 members

45 hours total (\$33.95 per hour)=\$1527.75...\$1528.00

105 miles (\$0.35 per mile) =\$36.75...\$37.00

Squadron and Members Out of Pocket Expenses = \$100.00

Your one Flag Retirement Ceremony accounted for...**\$1665.00** as an In-Kind Donation. An In-Kind Donation is a figurative donation (no money changed hands but rather it is a value).

Now, was that just an in-house event? If so, that is an Americanism Event. Was the public invited and responded? Then it was also a Community Activity Event as well. You get to claim it on that report as well.

Now you're on your way. Tally up all your Events by Category and you will have the basic components of your End Of Year Reports.

Contact your District Officers for any assistance you may need. As always MT & D is there as well... [mtd@floridasons.org](mailto:mtd@floridasons.org)

For God and Country,

Pete Puzzo

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





# DAVID CAMPBELL

## MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER



### Hello Sons!

I am David Campbell with Flagler Squadron 115, and I am a member of the Detachments Member Training & Development Committee.

Some of you may have met me along the way, I will tell you that I am not as charismatic as Peter Puzzo, the Chair of the committee, but we, the members of the committee are all willing to help you, your squadron, or your district with matters of training or just if you need to talk and work things out, one on one... we are available to do that.

This year we had 1 District Training, what I call a "Dog and Pony Show" for District 6, we had many participants including the Detachment Commander attending. We covered different items, basically we went over the info grams and we along with the participants had a great "Round Table" discussion with lots of questions, but they the district squadron participants answered their own questions amongst themselves, with just a little prodding and pointing in the right direction.

The 2nd training we had was at the Fall Conference. That covered the same basic training with a larger venue and some more people attending.

We, the Detachment MTD Committee, can build a training plan around your needs, you, the District Commander just need to request that to Peter Puzzo and you can reach him via his email at: [mtd@floridasons.org](mailto:mtd@floridasons.org)

What I would recommend is that you find a central location within your district, provide us with a few different dates and as a strong suggestion, I would ask that you have a minimum of 10 plus members at this training, and if possible open the training up to the surrounding districts. Please consider going through your Area Vice Commander, it's always good to keep him involved, and do invite him to the training!

We are here to help and direct the members, squadrons and district function as a "TEAM", if you do not know what "Team" means, here is your answer...

***Together Everyone Accomplishes More!***

If you have any questions for the committee, please feel free to contact me, and if I do not have the answer, I will get someone who does have the answer, and we / I will get back to you!

For God and Country,

David Campbell

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





# JAMES K ROBERTS III

JUDGE ADVOCATE

JUDGEADVOCATE@FLORIDASONS.ORG



***My Fellow SAL Members,***

The Department of Florida made several changes and updates to their Constitution and By-Laws over the last couple of years which has necessitated that we conduct a review of our documents. Over the course of the last few months, I have reviewed all the information and began preparing the items in our Constitution and By-Laws that would need to be updated and more in line with the Department of Florida and to make sure our documents do not conflict.

There are numerous amendments that I am proposing to the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee and the Department of Florida were discussed when we met at the fall conference. These amendments were not be read in their entirety unless there are specifics that needed to be addressed with the membership or if requested by the membership until we get to the Detachment Convention where they will be voted upon. Each of these amendments will require a 2/3 vote of the Convention delegates present to be adopted and the changes to be made. These changes will become effective immediately upon approval.

Only one of these amendments is considered as an automatic update and that is the one that provides an update to the district boundaries for Districts 11 and 12. It is still published for everyone to understand the update. Be advised that this revision will not be updated in the document until after the 2026 Detachment Convention.

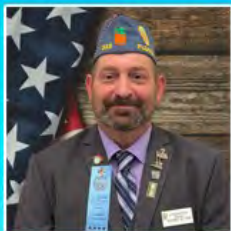
Please understand that these are updates to our Detachment Constitution and By-Laws and that everyone needs to be aware of the changes even though as of now none of these should impact our Squadrons. However, we want to make sure this information is shared with you so you can share amongst your members. This is the most amendments that we have had since our Detachment Constitution and By-Laws were first adopted in 1984.

Should you have any questions or comments, please attend the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee Meeting at our Fall Conference and the Detachment Convention. You may also contact me by email at **[judgeadvocate@floridasons.org](mailto:judgeadvocate@floridasons.org)** or by phone at **(863) 559-1748**.

All amendments have been sent out to the Detachment Executive Committee, which includes the Area Vice Commanders, District Commanders and District Vice Commanders. The all have been charged with making sure each squadron receives a copy of the amendments for review. Additionally, they have been posted to our website, You can view each on in its entirety by visiting **<https://floridasons.org/cbl-amendments/>**

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,  
James K Roberts III  
Judge Advocate  
Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Florida



# CHRISTIAN M RAPP

EDITOR OF 'THE SOURCE'  
THESOURCE@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Since last month, we've had **ONE new members subscribe to our mailing list**. That's still 492 out of 27,041 members - **just 1.82% of our membership**. Each article submitted represents time and effort from members who want to share information they feel is important. On top of that, it can take up to two weeks to put together and proof one edition of The Source.

We also rely on our email group to distribute membership reports and other vital updates. But with such a small portion of our membership receiving these communications - and with some of those subscribers being Legion and Auxiliary members or SAL members from other states - the actual percentage is even lower. This has led many of us to question whether maintaining the email group and investing the time to create a monthly newsletter is truly worth the effort.

**I ask everyone reading this, including Legion and Auxiliary members, to print out the last page of this newsletter with the QR code and display it in your Post. Help YOUR Sons of the American Legion extend the reach of their communications.**

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

**EMAIL GROUP SUBSCRIPTION PROGRESS METER 1/5/26 - ONE NEW SIGNUP SINCE OCTOBER 2025**



The due date for submitting articles for 'The Source' is **the 15th of each month**. This will keeps us inline with the Department of Florida and their publication of '[The Legion Link](#)'. Additionally, we're working with 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 Email List Subscription](#)

[Article Submission Form for The Source](#)

**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

Congratulations! You've made it this far. Let's see who's actually reading 'The Source'. Send me an email with "Easter Egg" in the subject line and copy and paste from my Adjutant's article the line containing what Assistant Adjutant Jenings will be talking about in his February article. All who respond properly will be put into a drawing for a \$25 prepaid gift card. The winner will be announced in the February Edition of 'The Source'

OFFICE OF:	CANDIDATE
DETACHMENT COMMANDER	MICHAEL NIGBOR   SQUADRON 303 – BONITA SPRINGS
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER WEST	
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER NORTH	
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER EAST	
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER CENTRAL	
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER SOUTHWEST	
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER SOUTH	
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN <small>2 YEAR APPOINTMENT</small>	GERARD SAMBETS   SQUADRON 275 – DUNEDIN
ALT NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN <small>2 YEAR APPOINTMENT</small>	
DETACHMENT CHAPLAIN	
DETACHMENT HISTORIAN	
DETACHMENT SEARGENT-AT-ARMS	

## DISTRICT COMMANDERS

## DISTRICT VICE COMMANDERS

DISTRICT 1
DISTRICT 2
DISTRICT 3
DISTRICT 4
DISTRICT 5
DISTRICT 6
DISTRICT 7
DISTRICT 8
DISTRICT 9
DISTRICT 11
DISTRICT 12
DISTRICT 13
DISTRICT 14
DISTRICT 15
DISTRICT 16
DISTRICT 17

This listing as well as guidelines for endorsements can be found on the Detachment website at:

<https://floridasons.org/detachment-officer-endorsements/>

All endorsements must be sent to the Detachment Adjutant at [adjutant@floridasons.org](mailto:adjutant@floridasons.org)

# Vegas Night at The American Legion sponsored by



Why go to Vegas when you can play your favorite games at the American Legion, Post 275?

Blackjack, **Roulette**, 3 Card Poker, **Let It Ride**, Craps

**\$20 = \$1000 play money/\$40 = \$2500 play money**



*Chips and play money can only be redeemed through bidding on prizes at the live auction or purchasing raffle tickets (\$100 play money = 1 ticket)*

**WHEN: Saturday, January 10, 2026 6:00pm—10:00 pm**

**WHERE: American Legion Post 275, 360 Wilson St., Dunedin**

Open to the public \* Food available for purchase

**All proceeds go to**



# Raffles ★ Live Auction ★ 50/50's



**Sons of the American Legion Squadron  
163 SAL Presents our  
Annual Chili Cook-off**



**Chili**  
**COOK-OFF**



**Location: American Legion Post 163  
1795 North Harbor Blvd  
Eau Gallie, FL**

**Date: Sunday, January 18th**

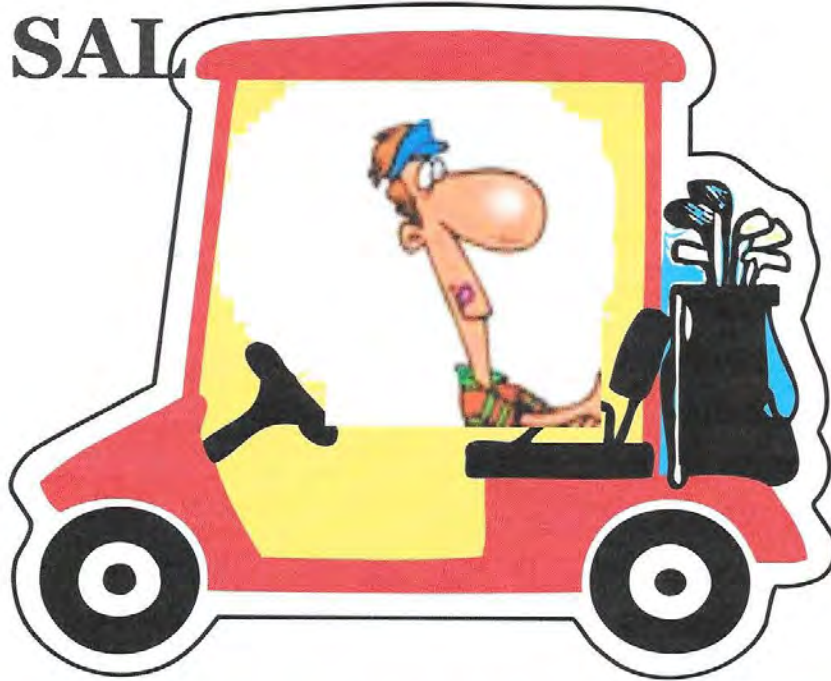
**Time: Pots in by 12:30 pm  
Tasting Starts at 1:00 pm**

**Cost: \$10.00 Per Entry (Includes 1 taster  
ticket)  
\$3.00 Taster Ticket**



**Proceeds to benefit SAL service programs**

**SAL**



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

# **CHARITY GOLF Tournament**

**COCOA BEACH  
COUNTRY CLUB**

**Scramble / Shot Gun Start @8am  
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Prizes**

**Date : February 1, 2026  
Teams Needed  
4 PERSON TEAMS  
\$75.00 PER GOLFER**

Fill out signup  
sheet and turn it  
in at

American Legion  
Post 348  
105 Lincoln Ave  
Cape Canaveral

Also  
Hole Sponsors  
**NEEDED**



**FOR MORE INFO CALL  
MIKE BARGLEY @  
321-302-1042  
OR  
REX PRINCE  
863-602-1964**

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**Sons of American Legion Squadron 348**  
**105 Lincoln Ave Cape Canaveral, FL 32920**

**Golf Tournament at Cocoa Beach CC**

**Sunday February 1, 2026**

**8:00am Shotgun Start/Scramble**

**\$75.00 per player      \$300.00 per team**

**1st, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Prizes, Door Prizes**

**Closest to Pin, Closest to the Line**

**Golf/Lunch/Prizes**

**Player #1\_\_\_\_\_ Phone#\_\_\_\_\_ (captain)**

**Player#2\_\_\_\_\_ Phone#\_\_\_\_\_**

**Player#3\_\_\_\_\_ Phone#\_\_\_\_\_**

**Player#4\_\_\_\_\_ Phone#\_\_\_\_\_**

**All proceeds Benefit the Local Community Veterans and Family**

**Tournament Hole Sponsors : \$100.00 each**

**Name on sign for hole sponsorship \_\_\_\_\_**

**Mulligan Packages: gives player two mulligan shots for the day.**

**Mulligan cost: \$ 10 per player, or \$ 25 for the entire foresome.**

**Contact Rex Prince 863-602-1964 , [beachbumrex@gmail.com](mailto:beachbumrex@gmail.com), or**

**Mike Barclay 321-302-1042 if you have any questions.**

# 16TH ANNUAL CAR & TRUCK SHOW

**FREE  
ADMISSION  
TO SPECTATORS**



**Saturday, February 21, 2026**

**11AM to 4PM (Open to the Public)**

**American Legion Post 138 – Pavilion Area**

**5535 W. Prescott St, Tampa, FL 33616**

**COME FOR THE CARS STAY FOR THE FUN  
GREAT TROPHIES, 50/60'S DJ MUSIC, RAFFLES, 50/50  
FOOD AND T-SHIRTS FOR SALE**

**\*\*\*ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT VETERAN & CHILDREN CHARITIES\*\*\***

## **ENTRY REGISTRATION FEES**

\$15 in advance - \$20 Day of Event

(No rain checks, Arrive early to select  
your parking spot)

All entrants receive 1 meal, 1 raffle ticket  
& Voting Ballot

To Register see S.A.L Facebook or check  
in with the bartender at the Post

## **BE A SPONSOR!**

Put your company's logo or a loved one's  
name on the back of the  
Car & Truck Show T-Shirt for only  
\$150.00.

Sponsors get one free show entry,  
T-Shirt, meal and raffle ticket.

For More Information, call Larry Begy  
(813) 767-1197



6TH  
DISTRICT  
FAMILY

FUN FEST



 AMERICAN  
**LEGION**  
FAMILY

**SUNDAY** MARCH 22, 2026  
12:00PM - 5PM

HICKORY POINT PARK, 27341 FL 19 TAVARES

FOOD, CARNIVAL GAMES, SILENT AUCTION AND MORE  
ALL AGES WELCOME

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: GATORPENNY@ICLOUD.COM

# American Legion Family at Post #347 Charity Golf Tournament

May 16, 2026



## EVENT INFORMATION

**Location: Broad Stripes Golf Club**  
**11560 SE 176th Place Road**  
**Summerfield, FL 34491**

- Shotgun Scramble – Start at 8:00 AM
- Cost per Golfer - \$100
- Coffee & Breakfast snacks 7:30 AM
- **Double-Flight Scoring - Allows average groups a better chance to win on score.**
- Longest Drive Contests - Men/Women
- Hole-in-One Contest - Men/Women
- Hole #15 PRIZE: Golf Cart
- Closest-to-the-Pin - Men/Women
- Many Prizes & Surprises!
- Purchase Mulligans for Charity

\*\*\*\*\*

**After golf, please join us at Post 347**  
**699 W. Lady Lake Blvd, in Lady Lake for**  
**Lunch, Raffles, 50/50, Auctions, & More**

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Bronze Hole Sponsor: \$100
- Silver Hole Sponsor: \$200
- Gold Hole Sponsor: \$300
- \*Platinum Hole Sponsor: \$500-\$999  
 \*Includes Table Space
- **\*Major Sponsor-\$1,000 & Up**  
 \*Includes Table Space & Foursome
- **Donate Gifts for Raffle Prizes**

**Accepting Sponsorships & Gift Donations**  
**NOW through April 25, 2026**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Golf Foursome Registration Starts**  
**February 1, 2026**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Make all Checks payable to:**

Squadron #347

**Mail to:** Attention: C&Y Golf Tournament  
 P.O. Box 1534  
 Lady Lake, FL 32158

**The American Legion Family is Donating**  
**All Proceeds to Benefit Children & Youth Programs**



**AMERICAN LEGION POST 347  
CHILDREN & YOUTH CHARITY  
GOLF TOURNAMENT - May 16, 2026**

**Golf Foursome Registration Starts February 1, 2026**

**(We Sell-Out Quick, so Don't Delay!)**

Golfer (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_

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 each \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please make checks payable to: Squadron 347**

**PO Box 1534, Lady Lake, FL 32158**

**Attention: C&Y Golf Tournament**

**If you have any questions, please contact:**

**Danny Roe – (317) 508-6465**

**dannyroe@prodigy.net**



## 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

Scan the QR Code below to  
visit our website

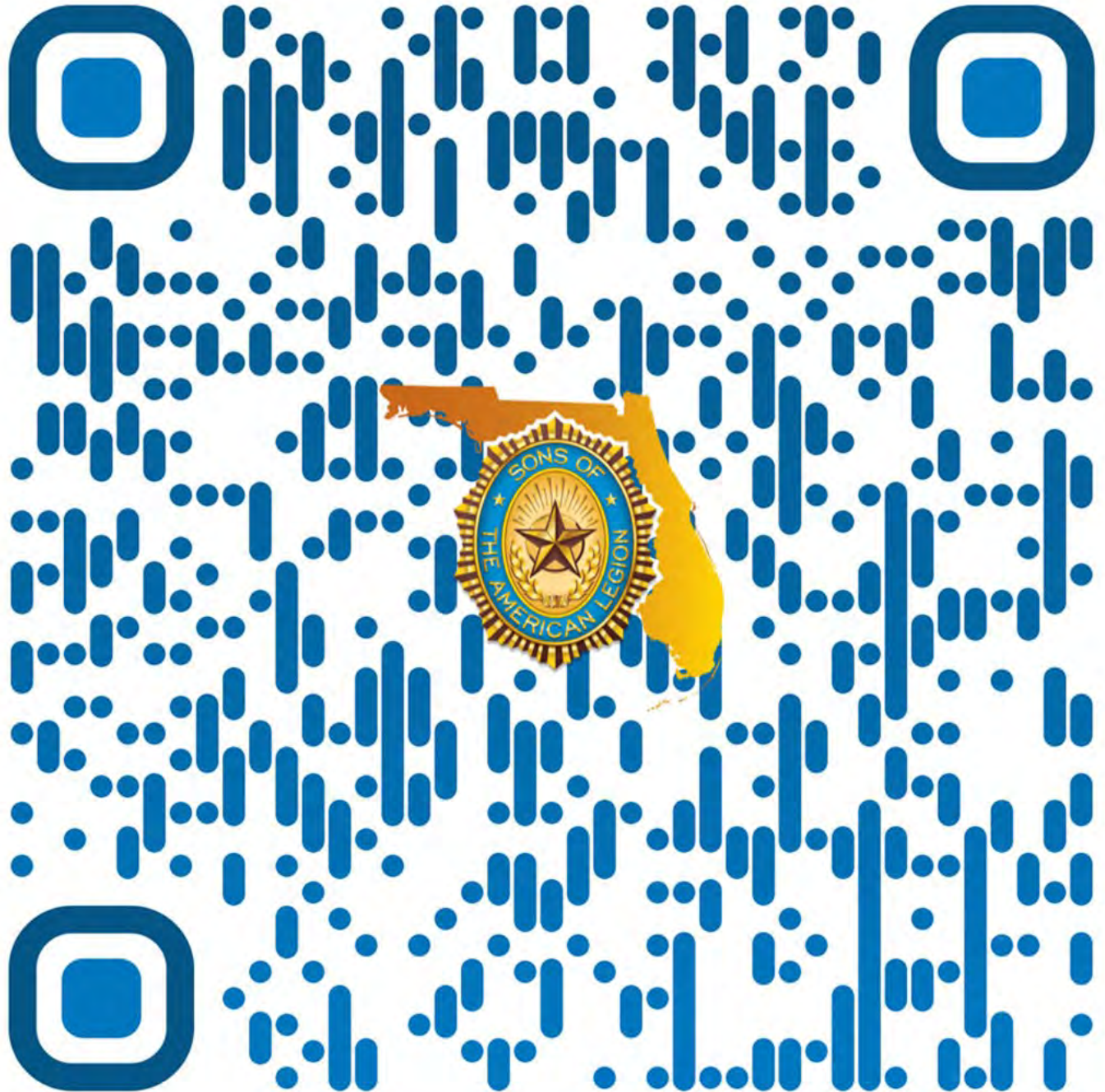


We are looking for your input and help to keep this newsletter going. We are looking for articles from the Squadrons, Districts, or Areas. Let us know what is happening in your Squadron, District & Area and we will inform the rest of the Detachment. It could increase attendance at your functions and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