



## MICHAEL NIGBOR DETACHMENT COMMANDER

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### Greetings from your Detachment of Florida Commander!

Thank you to everyone that is taking the time to contribute articles to “OUR” newsletter, The Source. I try not to be too repetitive with information I am passing along because of the knowledge and devotion shown from our other authors and their areas of expertise. There is a lot of time, energy and thought put into publishing this newsletter. That’s why we would like to see more participation from all our members on what events they are having and the accomplishments of their squadrons. It would be nice if we all send a thank you email to adjutant@floridasons.org for everything Detachment Adjutant Christian Rapp is doing to help us be the best we can be with all of the information he shares for our squadrons and the entire American Legion Organization.

Remember, if your Squadron only does one thing, it needs to be reported on the CSR. What our Squadrons do everyday matters. It needs to be documented. The CSR is one of the most important documents a Squadron can complete. Every volunteer hour and every dollar donated turns good intentions into verifiable proof of impact. The CSR shows how we support veterans, youth, military families and our communities. It demonstrates transparency, accountability, and charitable purpose. This is all essential when facing audits, regulatory reviews and public scrutiny. Service that is not documented cannot be defended, validated or verified.

December 14th was the day Bonita Springs Post 303 Commander Adam Prentki III created to be our Family Fun Day. It started with a poker run to a couple local businesses and ended at Post 303, all to support our Detachment Charity, C.O.T.A. The 3 winners of the 50/50 ‘s donated their winnings back and after all the auctions and donations were accounted for, over \$3800.00 was collected.

Some recent highlights for me were traveling District 13 with Department Commander Jessica Moore. Starting Thursday December 18th and ending Sunday December 21st, we went to Posts 110, 103, 136, 351, 90, 415, 192, 130, 135, 303, 38, 123, 274, 323, and day four ending at 336. After a few New Years Day events, January 7th to Sunday January 11th was the District 8 tour. Commander Moore and I, along with several department dignitaries, all escorted by the American Legion Riders, visited Posts 24, 309, 325, 266, 30, 69, 2, 113, 159 and ended at 254. January 9th and 10th included the wonderful Veterans Expo at Post 69. Saturday night was an event at ANEC Gerard Sambets’ Post 275 that supported their charities. It was very well attended and very generous donations were collected. Squadron 69 and District 8 S.A.L. Commander Mark Kahn presented a check of \$500.00 for C.O.T.A.

At June convention, I put out a challenge to every squadron member to recruit at least one new member. Squadron Commanders, please get back to me and let me know how your members are doing. As you do your “Buddy Checks” by calling your members, this is when you can get them engaged, something for them to get involved in and try to make a difference. Reach out to your fellow Sons, especially those that have not renewed for 2026. A simple phone call ensures no brother is left behind. Membership is an invitation to be remembered as a builder, a leader, a steward and a

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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"/>
November 6, 2025	35%	<b>ACHIEVED!</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
December 4, 2025	45%	<b>ACHIEVED!</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
January 8, 2026	60%	<b>ACHIEVED</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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)*

a mentor. Whether you help grow our numbers, mentor our youth, or expand community projects, you matter. Your support matters. Encourage your members to see that their participation is a chance to shape our future.

Our strength is in our “ Family “ approach. By working with the American Legion and the Auxiliary, we are “ Better Together “ in serving our communities. Service is our mission, and it’s how we light the way for others to follow. “Legacy is not leaving something for people. It’s leaving something in people.” We are a growing and influential force, dedicated to serving our veterans, supporting our communities and children and youth. Every renewal and recruitment helps extend our impact across the state.

Communication and teamwork are always the key to our success. 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.

Thank you for all you do to prove The Detachment of Florida is an unwavering force. Please send me an invitation to your meetings and events. I would like to attend. Get out and communicate with your neighbor squadrons. Promote each other. We are a team. We are stronger together.

Always keep in mind, The Dignity of being a Son of The American Legion is Non-Negotiable. Duty, Honor, Country is what we stand for, what we are about.

For God and Country,

Michael Nigbor

Detachment Commander

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida





# CHRISTIAN M RAPP

DETACHMENT ADJUTANT  
ADJUTANT@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## HAPPY FEBRUARY! (MY FAVORITE MONTH OF THE YEAR)

Hard to believe that we're into the second month of 2026 already. It's **definitely** 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 have already provided the end of year packets to Bekki at Department for mailing.

**THE PACKETS ARE NEW THIS YEAR. EVERYTHING** in the packet has changed - including the reports. Make sure you - especially those of you who fill out the reports electronically - open the packet and read everything. As soon as I have confirmation that the packets have been mailed, I will let everyone know through our outlets. I will also let the Area and District Commanders know so they can follow up with their Squadrons.

**REMEMBER** 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.**

These forms will be posted on our website and included in the end-of-year reporting packets. Starting this month, 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 **EVERY** month.

### ONLINE SUBMISSION PORTAL

The portal for submitting reports that I created last year has been updated and is live. If you are computer savvy, you can use the PDF versions of the reports found on our website (see Assistant Adjutant Jennings' article for the URL) and complete them, save them to your computer, and submit them through the portal. The Report Submission Portal can be found at <https://reporting.floridasons.org/>. If you don't use the fillable PDF versions, but you know how to scan your reports - you can also use the portal to submit your reports.



**COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION CHAIRMEN** - you will be receiving the reports when they come in. I will set up email boxes for your committee/commission so the reports will be sent directly to you prior to Convention. You'll need to print out a copy of each report and bring them with you to Convention so your Committee/Commission can judge the reports. I have been told that giving you the reports in advance has been very advantageous in helping your meetings be more productive in the time allotted. **Expect contact from me in the coming weeks.**

### BETA TESTERS

The Squadron Information Portal has been updated and is in the final stages of testing before we can release it. If you haven't gone in and done your testing yet, please do so. If you have difficulty logging in, please let me know.

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 - BOOK YOUR ROOMS NOW!

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.

### ***A Note on Endorsements:***

If you are considering running for a position but notice that someone else has already submitted an endorsement, you are still encouraged to submit your own endorsement letter. An endorsement serves as a letter of intent and simply communicates your interest in serving in that role.

Please remember that under our current Constitution and By-Laws, any member in good standing is eligible to run for any position. In addition, nominations may also be made from the floor at Convention - including for the office of Detachment Commander.

The Sons of The American Legion does not operate with a predetermined slate of candidates. We value member involvement, leadership development, and open participation. Interest in serving and a willingness to step forward are encouraged, and healthy competition through the election process is an important part of a strong and successful Detachment.

## TAKING CARE OF OURSELVES WHILE WE SERVE

Last month, I touched on the importance of respecting personal time. I wanted to revisit and expand on that message, because mental health - quite simply - is a very real and ongoing issue today. In volunteer organizations such as ours, it's easy to overlook just how much we ask of ourselves and one another.

We are all deeply committed to what we do. No one volunteers for leadership roles without caring, and that dedication is one of the greatest strengths of our organization. However, with that commitment comes a responsibility we often overlook: ***taking care of ourselves.***

It's easy to let "Legion Life" slowly take over everything. Conversations during social time with friends or fellow members can naturally drift toward Post or Detachment business. Sometimes, even after someone has asked not to discuss Legion matters, those conversations continue anyway. While the intentions are usually good, it's important to remember that our organization will survive a day - or even a weekend - without constant discussion or decision-making.

Stepping away is not a sign of weakness or lack of commitment. In fact, taking time to enjoy your personal life is essential to maintaining good mental health and your long-term ability to serve. When we fail to unplug, burnout becomes real, and that stress often carries over into our relationships with spouses, family members, and even fellow volunteers.

Please also be mindful of when and how we communicate with one another. Late-night texts or weekend messages about non-urgent matters may seem harmless, but they can prevent someone from truly disconnecting. If something comes to mind late in the evening, make a note and follow up by email or during appropriate hours the next day. True emergencies are, of course, an exception and should be handled immediately - but most issues can wait.

Many of our members still work full-time jobs, run businesses, or juggle family responsibilities. For some, evenings and weekends may be the only opportunity to slow down, recharge, and be present with those who matter most. Respect your own time, and respect the time of others.

Our organization depends on healthy, willing volunteers. Allow yourself - and those around you - the space to rest, reset, and take a break. When we return, we do so clearer-headed, more focused, and better equipped to serve. The Sons of The American Legion 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



# JOHN JENNINGS

DETACHMENT ASSISTANT ADJUTANT  
ASSTADJ3@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Gentlemen,

It is getting to be that time of year to start discussing the need for **ALL** Squadrons to complete **ALL** Detachment required paperwork to be supplied at or before our Annual Detachment Convention **EACH & EVERY YEAR**. This year is no different than any other year. Vice Commanders, District Commanders, and District Vice Commanders, please see that this information is given to all the Squadrons in your areas of responsibilities. Thank you in advance for your help and support. Let's make this year our best reporting year yet!

## SQUADRON CONSOLIDATED REPORT – Detachment & National Forms

Both forms can be found on our website at <https://floridasons.org/detachment-report-forms/>. They are printable and saveable with different **DUE DATES**. Please use these forms and fully complete them. Put N/A in space that your Squadrons did not do any work in. **Please follow the instruction at the bottom of the forms for submittal.**

What our squadrons do everyday matters - but if it is not documented, it is invisible beyond our four walls.

### WHY THE CONSOLIDATED SQUADRON REPORT MATTERS:

The Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) is not paperwork for the sake of paperwork. It is one of the most critical documents a squadron can complete. Information reported by squadrons is combined nationwide, used by The American Legion, forwarded to the U.S. Congress, and relied upon to apply for and verify many awards.

Every volunteer hour served and every dollar donated turns good intentions into verifiable proof of impact. The CSR captures how Sons of The American Legion support veterans, youth, military families, and local communities. When documented, local service becomes part of a statewide and national narrative that proves relevance, effectiveness, and mission execution.

Accurate CSR reporting protects the organization's nonprofit standing. It demonstrates transparency, accountability, and charitable purpose - essential when facing audits, regulatory reviews, or public scrutiny. Service that is not reported cannot be defended, validated, or verified.

CSR data strengthens the organization's ability to secure funding, grants, donations, and partnerships. Grantors, donors, and sponsors expect measurable outcomes. Squadrons that document their service help justify continued support and position the organization for future opportunities.

At the department and national levels, consolidated CSR data drives advocacy, visibility, and influence. Leadership relies on these numbers to speak with authority to legislators, government agencies, and community partners. Real data - not anecdotes - demonstrates the true scope of our nationwide impact.

The CSR also preserves institutional history. It ensures today's service is permanently recorded, honors the work of our members, and ensures future leaders understand the legacy they inherited. Unreported service may still occur - but it is effectively lost to time.

If a squadron does not submit a Consolidated Squadron Report, its service cannot be included in national tabulations and cannot be considered for awards verified at National Convention. The work may have been done - but it will not be counted.

### WHY AWARDS MATTER BEYOND THE CONSOLIDATED SQUADRON REPORT

Awards are not about bragging rights, and they are not limited to CSR-based recognition.

Awards establish standards of excellence across membership growth, retention, engagement, leadership, administration, and community service. They define what "good" looks like and push squadrons beyond minimum compliance toward continuous improvement.

- **Recognition drives member engagement and retention. Members are more likely to remain active when their service is acknowledged, when they see tangible results from their efforts, and when their squadron takes pride in striving for excellence.**
- **Awards build credibility and trust. Squadrons that earn recognition are viewed as organized, accountable, and effective - by members, donors, sponsors, community partners, and the public. That credibility attracts new members and strengthens long-term support.**
- **Pursuing awards develops future leaders. It requires planning, coordination, delegation, accountability, documentation, and follow-through - the same skills required to lead at the district, detachment, and national levels. Awards programs are, in practice, leadership development pipelines.**

(Detachment Assistant Adjutant continued)

- **Many awards rely on CSR data to validate service and impact, but many others recognize leadership, innovation, growth, professionalism, and excellence that cannot be captured by any single report. Together, these programs ensure well-rounded, mission-focused squadrons.**

When squadrons participate, the benefits extend beyond the local level. Strong participation elevates the detachment, strengthens the department, and presents a unified, professional organization nationwide. One squadron's excellence strengthens the credibility of all.

When squadrons fully document their service through the Consolidated Squadron Report and actively pursue available awards, they are not checking boxes.

**OTHER REPORT FORMS**      <https://floridasons.org/detachment-report-forms/>.

- **Squadron Information Report (SIR)** – To be completed after Squadron Elections and can also be used for Officer changes during the year.
- **Annual Squadron Data Report (SDR)** - Submit this form ONLY if there are changes in dues, address, email, or contact information that has been previously submitted. **If you have no changes, no submission of the form is required.**
- **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Report** – This is an individual Squadron Award report that will be graded at Convention.
- **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Volunteer of the Year** – This is an individual award to be determined by the VA & R Committee at Convention.
- **Americanism Report** – This is an individual Squadron Award report that will be graded at Convention.
- **Children & Youth Commission Report** - This is an individual Squadron Award report that will be graded at Convention.

This is a list of the seven possible reports that each Squadron may need to complete. Look at these reports and save your copies for use. If you are completed with a fundraiser complete the required form ahead of time and have it ready to submit. Always remember to count all your support hours to the Post and their functions.

More to come in the future month articles. Any questions please contact me at [fl.johnjennings@gmail.com](mailto:fl.johnjennings@gmail.com) , I am here to help, always.

For God and Country,

John Jennings

Detachment Assistant Adjutant  
Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Florida



Scan to join our mailing list!



# PAUL STAWICKI

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
MEMBERSHIP@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## Gentlemen, We have made it into February.

As a whole, we have met and exceeded our 60% goal threshold. I am very proud of the detachment of Florida and what we have accomplished so far this year. We cannot however sit back now. If we slow down now We will not make our 100% Much less The commander's goal and don't even think about our 105%. Now is the time that" We pick up ourselves by our bootstraps" as my Grandfather the Marine used to say to me and Get'Er Done. The effort that you have put out so far this year has been exemplary!!! I feel that some of us get into a rut and just trudge along once we get past the new year. We have a competition going that includes The Department Auxiliary and Legion. Nobody wants to see me in a Cabana Boy outfit looking like Chris Farley. We need to win this Membership Competition!!! We have the Best Department and Detachment of the entire family worldwide. We show them Each year how successful we can be. Every time I talk about The American Legion I feel so proud to be part of this great organization. I received and email from a friend of mine recently who questioned his resolve on wanting to stay an active member. Thankfully he reconsidered. This brings me to and email from Butch Ray, Chairman SAL National Membership Committee. He wrote about Resolve and it resonated with me:

We must remember that the word **"Resolved"** is powerful. It is more than just another word for "decided". In fact the word resolved works as a bridge between a "wish" and a "reality". It transforms an idea into a Goal! When a person is **"Resolved"** all debate ends and the pursuit of the goal begins.

One way this can be illustrated is to remember Japanese Admiral Yamamoto who after the success of the attacks on Pearl Harbor Hawaii on December 7, 1941 was quoted as saying **"I feel all we have done is awaken a sleeping Giant and filled him with a terrible RESOLVE"** His prediction as we know of course, came true!

We, the members of the Sons of The American Legion, need to make and keep our own New Year's Resolutions for the good of the American Legion Family!

In regards to our membership, our January 6th membership report showed that we were approximately 3,000 members ahead of that same time the year before! This is great news but we still have about 35% to go to reach our 100% goal. **We need to Seek to Resolve rather than retreat!**

According to Webster's Dictionary, the definition of **RESOLUTE** is to be **purposeful, determined, and unwavering!**

We've almost reached the halfway point in our year-long journey, but the finish line is still in sight. Take a moment to celebrate this progress! "It always seems impossible until it's done." Every member, every event, every hour volunteered, builds the momentum we need.

New and renewed membership reflects commitment. **"Commitment builds trust. Trust builds family."**

There is no shortage of opportunity in the Sons of the American legion, only a shortage of **Resolve** to do what our opportunities and our missions require.

One of our greatest missions is passing on knowledge - of flag respect, American history, and

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January 8, 2026	60%	ACHIEVED	✓
February 5, 2026	75%		✓
March 5, 2026 *	80%		
April 2, 2026	90%		
May 7, 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

APR 26 – MAY 2, 2026

(Membership Chairman continued)

citizenship. With America's 250th birthday approaching, educational outreach is more important than ever. SAL members can play a vital role in teaching young Americans. Educational programs, flag etiquette workshops, and patriotic events teach respect and pride in our country's symbols and heritage. These are ways to engage members and attract new recruits who seek purpose and community.

These outreach efforts extend beyond our membership - schools, civic organizations, and local governments benefit from SAL participation. Being visible in our communities builds public respect and membership growth.

US Statesman Benjamin Franklin once said **"Energy and Persistence conquer all things."** Every new or renewed member helps us continue our legacy of helping veterans, children, and our communities!

Every year, many members return because they believe in SAL's mission and value the camaraderie and service it offers. Recognize those renewing their membership to reinforce the value of their dedication. Their loyalty should be applauded and appreciated.

**"Always bear in mind that your own Resolution to succeed is more important than any other one thing."** - President Abraham Lincoln

Resolutions don't change your life; your actions do. We don't need a plan; just consistent effort to continue working towards our membership and mission goals!

**Therefore be it Finally Resolved...**

I hope this resonated with you as it did with me.

Thank you all for what you do and God Bless and be Safe,

For God and Country,

Paul Stawicki

Membership Chairman  
Sons of The American Legion  
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



As we begin our life's trek through February 2026, we Sons of the American Legion, as members of the American Legion family stand in honor and in service of those who have come before us. We should, along with all Americans, focus on one of the most important events of World War Two...the story of the Four Chaplains.

As a student of history myself, I was aghast that I'd not even heard a whisper about their gallantry and love of country until I joined the Sons of the American Legion over 20 years ago.

The story of the Four Chaplains is more than a wartime narrative - it is a profound testament to fearless faith, unity, and the extraordinary ideals that define the United States of America. As Chaplain of the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Florida, I believe it is our sacred duty to ensure that this story is not only remembered within our Squadrons, but taught in classrooms and communities across the nation. It is a shining example of what it truly means to be American - courageous, compassionate, selfless, and united beyond all differences.

When the USAT Dorchester was struck by a German torpedo on February 3, 1943, Lt. George L. Fox, Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Lt. Clark V. Poling, and Lt. John P. Washington exemplified a level of fearlessness that few in history have ever matched. In a moment when panic consumed the ship, these four chaplains moved without hesitation through smoke and chaos, offering prayers, guiding the frightened, and distributing life jackets. When those life jackets ran out, they did not waiver - they removed their own and handed them over, fully aware that they were giving away their only chance of survival. Their final act - standing arm in arm on the deck, praying as the Dorchester slipped beneath the waves - is one of the greatest demonstrations of spiritual courage in the history of our military.

Their heroism embodied the values of a nation that, despite its imperfections, has always strived to be the greatest force for good the world has ever known. The United States - powerful yet committed to peace, strong yet devoted to liberty - has long been a symbol of hope. These chaplains believed deeply in the ideals of their country. They were sons of the American promise, men of faith who understood that being American meant more than citizenship. It meant service. It meant sacrifice. It meant believing in a nation where people of different faiths, backgrounds, and beliefs can stand united under one flag. Their extraordinary sacrifice was recognized in 1961 when Congress created the Four Chaplains' Medal, a unique decoration awarded only once in our nation's history. This rare honor underscored that their courage transcended the battlefield - it represented the very soul of America.

And it is precisely because their story captures the essence of who we are as a nation that it must be taught in schools nationwide. This is not a political issue - it is a patriotic responsibility. Teaching the history of our country, the greatest and most peaceful superpower the world has known, helps our youth understand the cost of freedom and the character of those who defend it. The Four Chaplains show us that heroism is born not from power, but from compassion and unity. As members of the Sons of the American Legion, we are the custodians of this legacy. Let us share it widely, proudly, and without hesitation - so that future generations may learn what these brave men already knew: that to be American is to serve something greater than oneself.

I'm proud and honored to have participated in Post 323, Lehigh Acres service to honor this event in our nation's history and very grateful to be one of many Americans who will never forget this viable, accurate and important event in our nation's past. Should any Post family want or need assistance in creating a service to honor these truly heroic Men and this historically important day in our nation's history, please contact me directly and I will be consider myself blessed to provide everything I possess to assist you in this important endeavor.

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!***

I hope everything is going well and remember to keep working membership. If 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 1/15/26, District 12 is **83.19%** to District 6 at **79.67%**. Great Job both of you and Andy is so close to taking over 1st place in the Detachment. **Eastern Area is at this time in 1st place, just barely.** Thank you for your hard work. **The next goal is 75% on February 5th.** The good news is most of you have already achieved that goal, but if we are going to get Commander Nigbor to his 30,000 Member goal, we must all work to get him there. *Let's do all we can to help Commander Nigbor reach this milestone.*

Be sure to check the Events calendars for Department and Detachment. As the weather is changing we are getting busy with various events. Let's do what we can to support our veterans and help those in need.

***Please support your District's meetings.*** The meetings are a great source of information and a time to get together and share your achievements. If you don't come, you miss out on shared information and **you** may have the answer someone is looking for. 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  
AMERICAN  
LEGION

Detachment  
of Florida



# MICHAEL 'TANK' SHERMAN

VICE COMMANDER CENTRAL AREA  
VCCENTRAL@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## Greetings from the Central Area!

I apologize for not having an article submitted for The Source last month, but I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful start to the new year!

A few months ago, I was honored to be appointed to the National SAL Membership and Squadron Activities Committee as a Consultant. It's been fun looking behind the scenes and seeing what's in the works from National. The Committee has been hard at work putting together a new mentoring program guide as well as a New Member Orientation guide, and I look forward to being able to share that with you in the future. The Committee also has open Zoom calls every other month on the third Tuesday at 7:00pm, and it is open to all SAL members. I will include the call in details in next month's article for those who may want to attend on March 17th.

I hope everything is going well and remember to keep working membership. If 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.

December 13th was National Wreath's Across America Day. I was honored to attend a ceremony hosted by the Chapter 275 Riders from Dunedin at the local Curlew Hills Memory Gardens in the 16th District. I, along with members from several Legion and VFW post families, spent the morning honoring those who served by saying their names and placing wreaths on their graves, just like what was being done at thousands of cemeteries across the nation. It was an honor to be part of something so special as we paid tribute to our veterans and ensured their service and sacrifice are never forgotten.

On January 10th, I was able to attend Squadron 275 and Unit 275's joint "Vegas Night" at Post 275 in Dunedin. They had dozens of table games set up, including Blackjack (my personal favorite), Roulette, Poker, Let It Ride, and Craps. All the money raised that night went to the local charities **Steps To Recovery and Gulf Coast Valor**. I got to spend some time with Commander Nigbor on the blackjack table, and it was overall a fun night supporting two great causes. (Casino pictures courtesy of SAL District 16 Historian)

The following weekend, I made my way out to Post 8 in Winter Haven to attend the Department Vice's Event hosted by the Legion and Auxiliary Department Vice Commanders. There were dozens of baskets and raffle items, as well as good food and better camaraderie. The event raised \$2,500 for the Department Commander's and Department President's charities, Special Olympics and ALA FL Disaster Relief. Looking forward to next year's event! (Vice event photos courtesy of ALA Dept 3rd Vice President Dara Oliver)

To close out January, I had the pleasure of joining the Post 238 family from Safety Harbor in participating in the Tunnels To Towers 5K walk/run in Clearwater. Over 20 members of the Post 238 family joined over 600 other participants in honoring those first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice almost 25 years ago on September 11th, as well as honoring our veterans, their families, and those first responders who have died in the line of duty since. It was very humbling to see firefighters from several different companies come together to participate in the 5K in full turnout gear to honor their fallen comrades, as well as uniformed police officers and active duty military personnel. If you aren't familiar with the Tunnels To Towers Foundation and their mission, I urge you to check them out at [t2t.org](http://t2t.org). Their mission: **"Since 9/11, we have been helping America's heroes by providing mortgage-free homes to Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children and by building specially-adapted smart homes for catastrophically injured veterans and first responders. We are also committed to eradicating veteran homelessness and helping America to Never Forget September 11, 2001."**

As I mentioned last month during Fall Conference, I'm challenging every Squadron in the Central Area, or any other Squadron that wants to join in, to go to <https://cota.org/find-a-family/>, enter your zip code, and find a COTA family that need support, right in your back yard. Give your support of Commander Nigbor's charity a personal touch and put a name and face to the mission by supporting someone in need right in your local community. If you choose to accept my challenge, or have any questions about it, please reach out and let me know. I would love to hear about the family you decide to support and would love to attend any events you plan to hold for them.

It's a month away from the Central Area Ball! As I mentioned before, it will be 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! We'll once again be splitting the proceeds between the Department Commander, Detachment Commander, and Department President's charities, Special Olympics, COTA, and Florida ALA Disaster Relief. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or to RSVP. We're also

(Vice Commander Central continued)

looking for volunteers to donate raffle baskets, decorations, or your time to help make this event a success. Please reach out to either Legion Central Area Commander Rick O or myself if you have items to donate or would like to help!

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  
Vice Commander Central Area Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida





# ANDY CAMPBELL

12TH DISTRICT COMMANDER  
DISTRICT12@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## ***Greetings from the 12th District !***

Hopefully we are done with this cold weather soon, and everyone is safe from the colder temps in the few weeks

We have a lot coming up in February in the district with the District meeting being on February 28th at Post 40. We also have a lot of other things going on in the district. Check the district Facebook page for more information.

Our DCC will be at Post 394 on April 11th so please attend. I have sent out emails to all the folks in District 12 that have emails attached to their membership that have not renewed and have got some responses back. Make sure you check your emails to see if I have sent any of those members to you for renewal.

Also moving forward it is imperative that we start putting emails on all our members so they can access mylegion.org. I will be sending out a list of those members that don't have email on them to the Commanders of each squadron so keep an eye out for that email.

Also I will be running for Eastern Area Commander this coming year and would appreciate everyone's support!

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 !***

First, I hope everyone is well and staying warm in the unusually cold weather. The good thing is a couple more weeks and we should begin to warm up again.

Our membership is good. At the time of this writing, we are at 83.44% We must keep going to reach 100% We are well ahead of detachment goals which is fantastic!

I also look forward to seeing you all at the next District 13 meeting at Post 323 Beautiful downtown Lehigh Acres at 10:00 AM on March 1st. I hope many of you will be able to attend.

As always, let me know if there's something you would like me to include in the meeting agenda. Also, I would like to begin the second round of Squadron visitations. I would love to attend your meeting or just come for a visit, **but you need to invite me I cannot show up unannounced for an official visit.** Please keep in mind I do work a full time job Please call or email me a good time to visit. I

In closing, it's my honor to represent District 13 this year. At our last Squadron Meeting, Squadron 323 has voted to endorse me to be your 13th District Commander once again. They have also endorsed Christ Ellsworth for District Vice Commander. Please come to our District Constitutional Conference (DCC) in May at post 103 Punta Gorda and vote!

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,

As your Chairman of Internal Affairs for the Detachment of Florida, I want to take a moment to talk about something that strengthens not only our individual squadrons, but our entire Detachment - **communication**.

Here in Florida, we are part of one of the most active and dedicated detachments in the nation. Our programs, our service projects, and our commitment to veterans and their families are second to none. But the success of all that work depends on one thing: our ability to communicate clearly, consistently, and respectfully at every level.

Communication is what keeps our squadrons connected to the Detachment's goals and priorities. It ensures that members across the state know about upcoming initiatives, membership drives, training opportunities, and the programs that define who we are as Sons of the American Legion. When we stay informed, we stay united - and when we stay united, we stay strong. Within each squadron and district, communication is just as essential. It helps members understand their roles, stay engaged, and feel like part of something meaningful. It builds trust, strengthens teamwork, and creates an environment where every member - from the newest recruit to the most seasoned officer - feels valued and included.

We are here to help maintain that flow of information. That means supporting squadrons, assisting officers, encouraging transparency, and making sure our Detachment remains connected from the Panhandle to the Keys. It also means listening - listening to concerns, listening to ideas, and listening to the voices that make this Detachment strong. Effective communication helps us avoid misunderstandings, improve participation, and represent the Sons of the American Legion with professionalism and pride. It ensures that our Detachment continues to grow, continues to serve, and continues to honor the legacy of the veterans who gave us the privilege to wear this emblem.

So, as we move forward, I encourage all of us to stay engaged, stay informed, and stay connected. Sign up for the google groups, read our monthly newsletter, author an article about what you are doing. Let us continue building a culture of communication that strengthens our squadrons, supports our districts, and elevates the entire Detachment of Florida. Together, with clear communication and shared purpose, there is no limit to what we can accomplish.

I will publish our Preamble with every Internal Affairs article I submit. Please read and memorize 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 it is something very meaningful and important for you as a member and us a Veteran Organization. It is our duty, and it was the duty of all our Veterans, without them we would not be what we are today, **A FREE NATION**.

For God and Country,  
Rocky Cirigliano

Internal Affairs Commission Chairman  
Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Florida



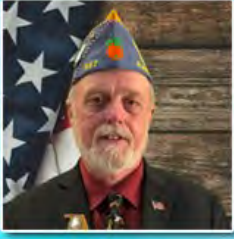
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# PREAMBLE TO THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

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.





# DANNY ROE

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION CHAIR  
CHILDRENYOUTH@FLORIDASONS.ORG



**HELLO FROM YOUR CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIRMAN!**

**Welcome to February.!**

The weather is beginning to change and Squadrons and Districts are getting busy. Please make yourself available to help if you see a Children and Youth event near you. Most will jump at the chance to have your help. From experience, I will tell you that helping children and adults that are less fortunate than many of us can be heartwarming and extremely gratifying.

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. As always, I am including C&Y events that are happening around the state. If you have an event or my information is incorrect, please let me know. I do like to put the events out there for you to be able to support them.



*(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 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:** 13th District C&Y Picnic Hosted by Post 323 in BEAUTIFUL Downtown Lehigh Acres Start time 12pm.

**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)

**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



The American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission assists veterans with healthcare, benefits, and reintegration. One pressing issue is homelessness among veterans, who have served bravely. The Commission encourages Squadrons and members to engage in community service and support veterans with PTSD and other health challenges through “buddy checks.”

Homelessness among veterans is distressing. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reports over 37,000 veterans experience homelessness nightly. The Commission works to alleviate this problem by finding housing, providing medical care, and offering mental health support.

Squadrons and members can contribute by identifying homeless veterans and connecting them with resources. Collaborating with local organizations, they can assist veterans in accessing shelters, healthcare, and job training.

The Commission advocates for “buddy checks” with veterans facing difficulties. These checks provide support, monitor well-being, and facilitate access to mental health resources. They foster community and support, reducing isolation and care.

Beyond homelessness and mental health, the Commission advocates for policies and programs that ensure seamless access to healthcare, benefits, and rehabilitation services for all veterans. By collaborating with government agencies, healthcare providers, and stakeholders, the Commission ensures veterans receive appropriate care and support.

The American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission is a valuable resource for veterans, providing support in areas like homelessness, mental health, and reintegration. By collaborating with Squadrons and members, the Commission can significantly impact veterans’ lives, helping them achieve success.

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



Project Vet Relief’s mission to provide a helping handoff Veterans began in 2014 and continues to grow. The tagline “They fought for us. We fight for them” is inspirational. The organization’s 2026 goal is to strengthen and increase communication and to serve more Veterans. Jennifer Cooper produces a monthly newsletter with plans for a wider distribution to reach all squadrons. She is also preparing a new website and a shared calendar; more on that as it comes online.

Three things you can do: (1) contact Jennifer @ (407)295-2631 to get the latest flyers for your Post/Squadron, (2) Display the flyers on your bulletin boards, (3) Complete the attached Legion District Commander Post Report and send it to Jennifer.

**Never forget the Veterans who served and who need our help. Never forget the words our Post Honor Guards says at Military funerals “because of THEM our lives are free”**

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



## A NEW YEAR

First of all I hope everyone had a good holiday season. Wow it's a new calendar year already. That means we begin thinking about...yes...the End Of Year Reports. Start them now...your District Officers will shortly be receiving the guide to help you in completing them. Ask about them.

I read an interesting article in The Millennium (National SAL Newsletter). The writer suggested that Officers need to get out of the home Post. He was referring to visiting other Posts and Squadrons to see things that they do, and how they do it.

If you see something that you believe can benefit your Squadron, talk to your members about it. It would be a good idea to let them know you would like to do something similar to what you saw. Remember to tell them that you will need their help to get it done.

So let's put this back in line with my opening statement about EOY Reports. Your neighbor Squadron has a good record in the Reports. Give that Squadron Commander a call, and ask for information on completing them. You can get ideas from other people in similar positions.

We are pushing the EOY Reports because they are **THAT** important to the Detachment.

**NOW** is the time to sit down with the 2025 Calendar and remember all the work your Squadron put in. Remember, if you and/or your members did ANYTHING to benefit Veterans, Children and Youth, or our Communities, it counts.

On paper (or by using a spreadsheet program), write each event (by category)...the number of members that participated (even if it is 1), the total hours used (start to finish), and any money laid out of the Squadron bank account, members individually, and mileage used start to finish.

If you need help with this or if you want to set up a Centralized Training Session, get your District Officers involved. **We are willing to come to you.**

For God and Country,

Pete Puzzo

Chairman | 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.

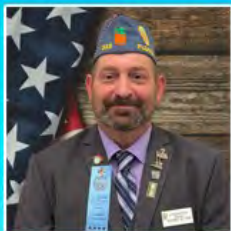
Please understand that these are updates to our Detachment Constitution and By-Laws and that everyone needs to be aware of the changes even though as of now none of these should impact our Squadrons. However, we want to make sure this information is shared with you so you can share amongst your members. 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 **SIX new members subscribe to our mailing list**. That's still 498 out of 22,646 new/renewed 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 as many of our submitters forget the deadline.

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 2/3/26

**498 of 22,646 Subscriptions (2.20%)** ★★☆☆

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 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.**

Last month, I put an 'Easter Egg' in this article in small print at the very end to see who ACTUALLY reads 'The Source'. If the reader followed the instructions they would be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift card. The only person to respond, without me prompting them was American Legion Past National Commander **Clarence Hill**. Clarence will either receive a \$25 Gift Card, a check or the Detachment of Florida will make a \$25 donation to the charity of his choice. He will email me his preference and we will give him his award.

If you're reading this, consider this the February 'Easter Egg'. Email me at [adjutant@floridasons.org](mailto:adjutant@floridasons.org) with the subject 'Easter Egg' to be entered in the \$25 drawing. In the body of your email, tell me who last month's winner was.

**NOTE:** Starting in March, we will be placing the 'Easter Egg' **somewhere else** in the issue - not on this page. We'll see who actually reads this important tool that we provide.

**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

OFFICE OF:	CANDIDATE
DETACHMENT COMMANDER	MICHAEL NIGBOR   SQUADRON 303 – BONITA SPRINGS
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER WEST	
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER NORTH	
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER EAST	ANDY CAMPBELL   SQUADRON 117 – PALM BAY
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER CENTRAL	ERIC RIKANSRUD   SQUADRON 138 – TAMPA MICHAEL 'TANK' SHERMAN   SQUADRON 138 – TAMPA
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	RAYMOND LEVENTHAL   SQUADRON 323 – LEHIGH ACRES
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	MITCHELL PACE   SQUADRON 323 – LEHIGH ACRES	CHRISTOPHER ELLSWORTH   SQUADRON 323 – LEHIGH ACRES
DISTRICT 14		
DISTRICT 15		VICTOR 'SCOTT' KELLY   SQUADRON 138 – TAMPA
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)

# 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

AMERICAN  
**LEGION**  
AUXILIARY

AMERICAN  
**LEGION**

SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN  
**LEGION**

THE CENTRAL AREA LEADERSHIP PRESENTS:

**2026**  
**CENTRAL AREA**  
*Margaritaville*  
*Casino Party!*

**MARCH 7, 2026**

**AT CLEARWATER AMERICAN LEGION POST 7**

**5 PM - COCKTAILS/GAMES**

**6 PM - JIMMY BUFFETT INSPIRED BUFFET**

**LIVE DJ - CASINO GAMES - RAFFLES - BASKETS**

**PUT ON YOUR BEST JIMMY BUFFETT OUTFIT  
AND ENJOY A FUN NIGHT IN PARADISE!**

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT: SPECIAL OLYMPICS,  
C.O.T.A., & ALA DISASTER RELIEF**

**\$45 PER PERSON  
\$80 PER COUPLE**

**RSVP/MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MICHAEL SHERMAN  
(813) 541-3452 | VCCENTRAL@FLORIDASONS.ORG  
MAIL TO: 12308 OLIVE JONES RD, TAMPA, FL 33625**

**2026**  
**CENTRAL AREA BALL**

**MENU:**  
**MARGARITAVILLE ISLAND**  
**FEAST BUFFET**

**ISLAND GREENS W/ CITRUS VINAGRETTE**  
**-MIXED GREENS, MANDARIN ORANGES**  
**-TOASTED COCONUT, ALMONDS**

**TROPICAL SHRIMP COCKTAIL WITH MANGO SALSA**

**ROASTED SEASONAL VEGETABLE PLATTER**

**"CHEESBURGER IN PARADISE" SLIDERS**

**CITRUS MOJO PULLED PORK WITH HAWAIIAN BUNS**

**ISLAND MARINATED GRILLED CHICKEN & PINEAPPLE OVER**  
**COCONUT MILK INFUSED RICE**

**SEASONAL FRUIT DISPLAY**

**MINI KEY LIME PIE**  
**COCONUT MACAROONS**



**EASTERN AREA**

**WRANGLER BALL**

Saturday, March 21, 2026

2:00pm to 6:00pm

**POST 1**

**1281 US 1, TITUSVILLE FL 32796**

Yeehaw! Join us for a Texas-style Supper & Dance! Dust off those cowboy boots and don your finest Western gear! The Blue Diamond Band will keep your feet stompin', and don't miss the raffles and a 50/50 drawing for a chance at some loot!

**Tickets \$25/person**

Call **407-301-3153** to reserve and purchase your tickets.

All profits to benefit the Dept Commander's charity



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: CATOPPENNY@ICLOUD.COM

American Legion  
Department of FL  
Presents

## CHILDREN & YOUTH PICNIC

Music by  
Doc Holiday

Raffle Baskets  
50/50  
Carnival Games  
+ More!



Poker Run

Registration  
10am  
KSU 11am

Location:  
American Legion Post 117  
189 Veterans Drive  
Palm Bay, FL 32909

### Saturday April 11th 2026 12-5PM

1/3 Pound Burger or, 1/4 Hot Dog \$10

Kids Under 12 1/4 Burger or Hot Dog \$5

All Meals Served with Sides

Questions: Contact

AL Dept C&Y Chaiman Chris Hamerick 321-313-3469

MaryAnn Spellman 917-834-5763

All Proceeds go to  
Commander Charites



Questions: Contact

AL Dept C&Y Chaiman Chris Hamerick 321-313-3469



# Special Olympics

## Fundraiser

## American Legion

## Family Fun Day

**Fun  
Food  
Games  
and  
Vendors**

PLEASE JOIN US ON

APRIL 25, 2026

11:00 to 6:00

*Hosted by*

American Legion Post 321  
9081 SW 51st Street  
Cooper City, Florida 33328

**Raffle Baskets  
Silent Auction**

All proceeds  
benefit the Special  
Olympics



**Special Olympics  
Florida**

**MUSIC:**  
**Southern Blood**  
Plays from 1:00 to 5:00



# 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**

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

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**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

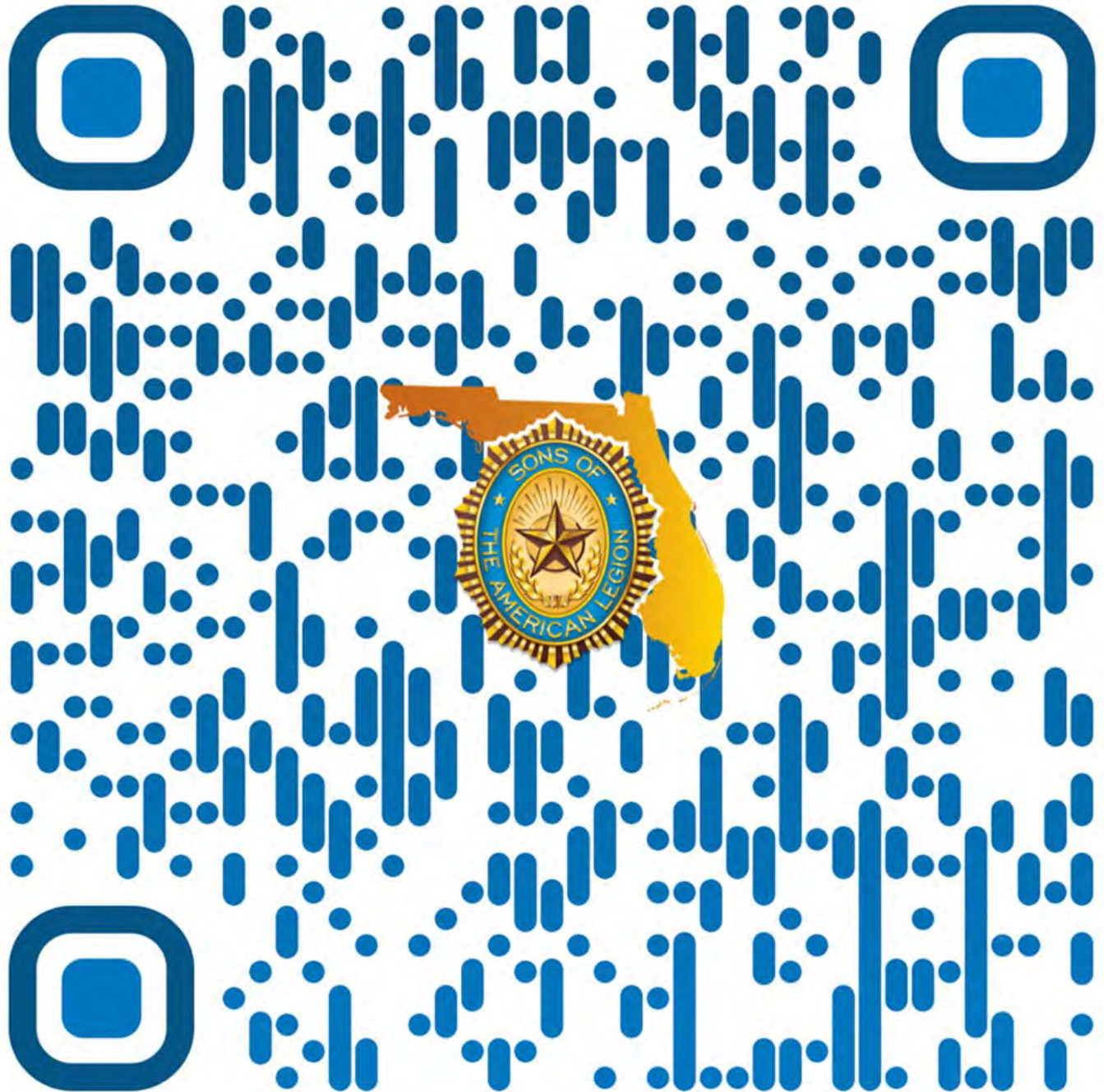


We are looking for your input and help to keep this newsletter going. We are looking for articles from the Squadrons, Districts, or Areas. Let us know what is happening in your Squadron, District & Area and we will inform the rest of the Detachment. It could increase attendance at your functions and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