

# THE SOURCE

COMMUNICATE  
ACT  
RECRUIT  
EDUCATE



VOLUME 33  
ISSUE 8  
MARCH 2026



## MICHAEL NIGBOR DETACHMENT COMMANDER

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### Greetings from your Detachment of Florida Commander!

I am looking forward to seeing all the articles our members will be sharing this month in this newsletter. The "Source" is our fantastic outlet to letting our organization know about our events, programs, achievements, community involvement and all the good we do in promoting Americanism.

One of our greatest missions is passing on the knowledge of flag respect, American history and citizenship. With America's 250th birthday approaching, educational outreach is more important than ever. It is exciting to see all the groups that are getting ready to promote their events. S.A.L. members play a vital role in teaching young Americans the proper protocols of flag etiquette, and our country's heritage. When you do your "Buddy Checks", get your members engaged and ask them if they can help with some of these programs and events. Reach out to your schools, city government, and community residents to get involved with your post.

On January 17th, I traveled to Winter Haven Post 8 for Department Commander Moore and Auxiliary President Burks' Charity event. A good time was had by all with several donations being made as well, for their designated charities. January 18th was a fantastic celebration for American Legion Post 103 in Punta Gorda for their 100th Anniversary. January 24th was Auxiliary President Burks' ball at Post 40 in Fort Pierce. Great attendance, donations and costumes for the WWII USO inspired event.

Next up, January 31st, was the Southern Area Ball, Sock Hop Theme at Post 321 in Cooper City. Great costumes, food and fantastic music. A good way to catch up with other Sons of The American Legion members. The following Day, February 1st was the annual Four Chaplains Ceremony at the I.T. Parker Community Center in Dania Beach, hosted by District 9 leadership. Wonderful speakers and dignified memorials. February 8th I attended the Super Bowl Event at Post 323 in Lehigh Acres. This was really another fantastic evening with proceeds going to our Detachment Charity, C.O.T.A. Thanks go out to Detachment Adjutant Christian Rapp and District 13 Commander as well as the 323 Riders for their generous donations.

Oh, and there's more, lol. February 12th to the 15th was the District 4 tour. Department Commander Moore, Auxiliary President Burk and myself traveled together and met some very thoughtful, dedicated members and leaders from the area. Detachment Vice Commander Shay Woods and I gave lots of information about the Sons to a couple of the posts that would like to start a program. I went to Posts 153 Lake Butler, 236 Bronson, 237 Beverly Hills, The Vets helping Vets Organization in Ocala, 284 Belleview, 58 Dunnellon, 77 Inverness, 230 Hawthorne, 56 Starke, 16 Gainesville, 153 Crystal River and finally 166 Homosassa. For those that aren't familiar with this organization, they are very significant in helping homeless veterans in the area, caring for their needs with love and dignity.

Remember to work on our mission, C.A.R.E. Caring about our mission with our own actions in helping veterans. To help the veterans throughout our community by communicating who we are and what we do. Take action in a way that will help them. Recruit them and educate them in what The

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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%	<b>ACHIEVED</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
March 5, 2026 *	80%	<b>ACHIEVED</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
April 2, 2026	90%		
May 7, 2026	100%		
May 28, 2026**	<b>105%</b>		

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

*(Detachment Commander Continued)*

American Legion stands for. #SALCares

As we enter the month of March, we are officially half way though the current American Legion Family administrative year. If you have not yet submitted one, each Squadron must complete a Squadron Data Report which will allow the online renewals and better communication.

Now is also the time to begin filling out the Squadron Consolidated Report Form. It I your opportunity to list and show off your accomplishments since Detachment Convention.

Don't forget to continue to work on membership. Keep reaching out to those that have yet to renew and we will attain our goals. As Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage, we continue to honor our forebearers' legacy by serving veterans, supporting youth programs, and promoting patriotism across the nation. Our dedication ensures that the values and sacrifices of America's veterans are remembered and respected for generations. Our membership will affect our future service to these ideals.

Success is the result of hard work and dedication. Our job is to bring in those last few members to reach all of our targets. We can and will set new membership records again this year. This is a great way to show The American Legion Family that we believe in their mission and that we will continue to "Honor our Heritage" of supporting our veterans and communities.

This year, let us continue to celebrate our past, but also move forward and commit to shaping a brighter future for our organization. Engage with your communities and inspire others to join us in honoring our nation's legacy. Thank you all for what you do to make us successful and your unwavering love for our organization and our country.

Together, We Can and We Will Achieve our Goals.

For God and Country,

Michael Nigbor

Detachment Commander

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida





# CHRISTIAN M RAPP

## DETACHMENT ADJUTANT

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### WELCOME TO MARCH!

March is a very significant month for us as Sons of The American Legion. It signifies the start of the end of our Service Year. It's time to start our end of the year reporting, hold our elections at the squadron and District levels and prep for our Annual Detachment Convention that will be held June 11 - June 14, 2026 at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista. Here's some very important things you need to know:

## DISTRICT & SQUADRON ELECTIONS

**According to Article IX (District Organization) Section 8 of the Detachment Constitution:** In addition to any other conference that may be held in the several Districts of the Detachment, there shall be held in each District a District Constitutional Conference not more than sixty (60) nor less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the Detachment Convention.

**THIS MEANS YOUR DCCs CAN ONLY BE HELD FROM APRIL 12, 2026 - JUNE 1, 2026**

Also: in regards to District Elections, voting should be done by Delegate Strength. Prior to your District Elections, please reach out to me and I will provide a Delegate Strength Report based on the current membership report for that time.

**According to Article X (Squadron Organization) Section 13 of the Detachment Constitution:** *All officers of Squadrons, except the Squadron Adjutant and the Squadron Judge Advocate, shall be elected and certified to the Department Adjutant and Detachment Adjutant, not more than ninety (90) days, nor less than ten (10) days prior to the Annual Detachment Convention.*

**THIS MEANS YOUR SQUADRON ELECTIONS CAN ONLY BE HELD FROM MARCH 12, 2026 - JUNE 1, 2026**

## END OF YEAR REPORTING

The Department will be start sending out end-of-year reporting packets this month.

**THE PACKETS ARE NEW THIS YEAR. EVERYTHING** in the packet has changed - including the reports. Make sure you - especially those of you how 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. Please read this issue all the way through as Assistant Adjutant Jennings is addressing 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.

### 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.**

(Detachment Adjutant Continued)

### ENDORSEMENTS FOR OFFICE

Endorsements for office for the 2026-2027 Service Year are starting to come in. 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.

### COMMANDER NIGBOR'S HOMECOMING | CABANA BOY'S ISLAND BASH

By now, I'm sure you all have seen the flyer for the Commander's Homecoming - if not, it's included after the articles in this edition. Commander Nigbor's Homecoming will be on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at Post 323 in BEAUTIFUL Downtown Lehigh Acres. Cost is \$25 per person. Our Squadron will be handling the funds for the event. You can make checks payable to **Squadron 323** or you can use Venmo if you prefer to pay that way. If using Venmo, please use **@Christian-Rapp-3** when using Venmo - apparently, there's two more of me somewhere!

I have secured a group rate with the local hotel which is just around the corner from the Post. They have a block of rooms set aside at \$89/night plus taxes. Yu can call the hotel directly to reserve your rooms, or you can use this link they set up: <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/KL97G5>

The hotel is the Quality Inn & Suites and their phone number is **(239) 491-01049**.

As you can tell, we're running with the 'Cabana Boy' theme. The dress will be tropical/beach casual. Put on your flip-flops / sandals and a Hawaiian Shirt and join the fun! All proceeds from the event will benefit COTA which is the Commander's Charity of Choice this year. If you cannot attend, but would like to make a donation, you can mail a check to Squadron 323 - **payable to COTA** - and it will be presented to the Commander at his event. The mailing address for Squadron 323 is on the flyer.

That's it for now, I hope to see many of you at the Commander's Homecoming next month! Good luck as you begin your end of the year 'festivities'. Please reach out to me or the rest of your Adjutant Team if you need help with ANYTHING.

For God and Country,

Christian M Rapp

Detachment Adjutant  
Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Florida





# JOHN JENNINGS

## DETACHMENT ASSISTANT ADJUTANT

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Gentlemen,

As we move closer to our annual Detachment Convention and the importance of Squadron reporting becomes more of or/your focus to insurance that the Squadrons and the Detachment receive all the credit we are due for the hard work that each Squadron does. This is another article on Squadron reporting and its importance.

Vice Commanders, District & District Vice Commanders, it is time to get your plans together to assist your Squadrons in the completion of the required forms prior to Convention. You helping them will help us do our jobs collecting the information and delivering that information to the General Assembly at Convention.

**ALL** Squadrons need 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!

### REQUIRED SQUADRON REPORTS

#### • SQUADRON CONSOLIDATED REPORT (CSR)

- **NATIONAL CSR** can be completed from two locations.
  - [www.MyLegion.org](http://www.MyLegion.org) for those in the Squadron with access.
  - [www.floridasons.org](http://www.floridasons.org) under the reporting tab and follow the instructions to mail to National Headquarters or use the supplied email.

#### • DETACHMENT CSR

- [www.floridasons.org](http://www.floridasons.org) under the reporting tab and follow the instructions
- **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.

The priority reports are the National and Detachment Squadrons Consolidated Reports (CSR). **BOTH** reports are critical that the Squadrons complete BOTH reports and submitted as instructed. These reports are different and the calculations serve to different functions. The Detachment report supplies the Detachment with information so we the Detachment can submit our Detachment report to National. The National report is used to collect all information needed to put together information for the American Legion National Commander when he addresses Congress at the Washington Conference. As you see these reports have different importance and both need to be completed.

This is a list of the six 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.

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

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*(Detachment Assistant Adjutant continued)*

## **WHY DOES THE CONSOLIDATED SQUADRON REPORT MATTER:**

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.

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.**
- **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.

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





# PAUL STAWICKI

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

membership@floridasons.org



Gentlemen,

At the time of writing this article, we have **already surpassed our 75% goal**. This is a tremendous accomplishment and shows that we are well on our way toward strong end-of-year numbers. So far, we have met or exceeded every goal with excellence.

I firmly believe our continued monthly success is due to the oversight and dedication of our Vice Commanders and District Commanders - but even more importantly, to the outstanding efforts of our Squadrons. You blue hats have accomplished amazing things - over the past 31+ years, and year after year you continue to persevere and succeed. It makes me incredibly proud to be part of this organization and to know that we have such dedicated individuals in leadership positions guiding us forward.

Springtime is just around the corner - a season of new life and growth. It also happens to be one of the busiest times for the Sons of The American Legion, as we host many events leading up to the end of our fiscal year. At the same time, we continue strengthening our membership numbers to ensure we meet each and every goal.

For those of you facing challenges - whether large or small - I encourage you to look to neighboring Squadrons that are succeeding. Reach out. Pick up the phone. Make a visit. Ask what is working for them and consider how you might apply those ideas within your own Squadron. One of the greatest strengths of being in a large state like Florida is that we can differentiate in many ways while still remaining cohesive. From north to south and east to west, we are here to support one another - as an organization, as members, and as family.

We hope everyone who attends our two annual meetings recognizes our commitment to supporting each of you and the genuine love we have for what we do. Whenever you find yourself questioning your commitment or motivation, take a moment to reflect on the countless individuals who benefit each day from the work of The American Legion and its Family. That impact is truly remarkable.

Our membership numbers speak for themselves. We have achieved every goal this year well ahead of schedule. While not every Squadron operates at the same pace or enjoys the same level of cohesion within their Legion Family, we continue to serve as a shining example of a Detachment of the Sons of The American Legion at the national level. If we achieve our primary goal this year, we will be well positioned to advance significantly among the largest Detachments nationwide.

It is truly an honor to serve as your Detachment Membership Chairman. The things I witness and the conversations I have across this state make me proud to be part of the greatest veterans organization in the world.

### OUR NUMBERS

- 11th Place Nationally
- 27,427 Members Needed to Reach 100%
- Currently at 23,609 Members
- Short 3,039 Members
- 86.08% of Goal Achieved
- Renewal Rate: 74.62%
- Commander's Goal: 30,000 Members by Delegate Cut-off for National Convention

If we reach the Commander's goal of 30,000 members, we will also accomplish every additional benchmark set before us - including 32nd All-Time High and reaching 105% nationally.

***Our numbers speak clearly. Our dedication speaks even louder.***

For God and Country,

Paul Stawicki Membership Chairman

2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES:			
September 4, 2025	10%	ACHIEVED!	✓
October 9, 2025	25%	ACHIEVED!	✓
November 6, 2025	35%	ACHIEVED!	✓
December 4, 2025	45%	ACHIEVED!	✓
January 8, 2026	60%	ACHIEVED!	✓
February 5, 2026	75%	ACHIEVED!	✓
March 5, 2026 *	80%	ACHIEVED	✓
April 2, 2026	90%		
May 7, 2026	100%		
May 28, 2026**	105%		
* Legion Birthday (March 13th) ** Delegate Cut-Off			

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

# 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



### MORALITY, VIRTUE, AND THE 250TH YEAR OF THE UNITED STATES

As 2026 moves forward, we find ourselves standing at a meaningful threshold: one foot planted in gratitude for the sacrifice and vision that birthed our nation 250 years ago, and the other stepping into a future that will test whether we still deserve the inheritance we celebrate. For the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Florida, this anniversary is not only an occasion for parades and speeches - it is a summons. We honor the flag best when we honor the ideals it represents, and those ideals cannot endure by law, policy, or military strength alone. They require something deeper: the moral character of a free people.

We plainly affirm the Judeo-Christian ethos that has shaped so much of our nation's moral imagination. We speak of God as our Heavenly Father. That language is not a political slogan; it is a confession of humility. It reminds us that human authority is limited, that conscience matters, and that every person is made to answer not merely to the judgment of history but to the righteous standard of Heaven. In an age that often reduces liberty to personal preference, this anniversary invites us to recover a more demanding, more hopeful understanding: liberty is a gift that must be stewarded with virtue.

The Founding Fathers understood that a republic is sustained, not by coercion, but by self-government. Yet self-government is impossible if the self is undisciplined - if appetite rules the soul, if passion overpowers reason, if power becomes the only measure of truth. The founders were realistic about human nature. They constructed checks and balances because they knew our temptations. But they also insisted that no system - however ingenious - can substitute for the moral formation of the citizen.

George Washington, in his Farewell Address of 1796, spoke with sober clarity about the spiritual foundations of public life: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and morality are indispensable supports." He did not claim that government should compel faith, but he did insist that public prosperity depends upon personal integrity. He went further: "Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." Washington's point is as timely in our 250th year as it was in the first generation of our republic: when a people loses its reverence for truth, accountability, and the sacred worth of God, it begins to spend the moral capital on which freedom depends. John Adams made a similar warning, and his words are worth repeating slowly, especially when we imagine that our Constitution can run on autopilot. In a message to the Massachusetts militia in 1798, Adams wrote: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." This is not a narrow denominational claim; it is a statement about the kind of person a free system requires. Laws can restrain outward action to a degree, but they cannot manufacture inner restraint. Rights can be written on paper, but they cannot be kept alive without the virtues that honor those rights in practice.

Consider what this means for us as a veterans' family organization. Many of us have watched, firsthand, what happens when order collapses and violence fills the vacuum. We have seen the cost of lawlessness, and we know that stability is precious. Yet the founders remind us that stability is not created merely by force. It is created when ordinary people - neighbors, parents, workers, students - choose honesty over deception, fidelity over convenience, and service over selfishness. A republic is not only protected at its borders; it is protected in its homes, its churches and synagogues, its schools, and its local communities where character is formed.

Thomas Jefferson, often remembered for his language about rights, also connected liberty to a moral conviction grounded in God. In his Notes on the State of Virginia (Query XVIII), he asked, "Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the gift of God?" Jefferson's question cuts through the fog of our modern debates. If rights are merely granted by the strong, they can be taken by the strong. But if rights are understood as endowed - if we believe the human person bears a dignity that precedes government - then we have a moral reason to protect the weak, to restrain the powerful, and to govern with justice.

This is where the Judeo-Christian ethos offers enduring guidance. It teaches that power is a trust, not a toy. It teaches that truth is not whatever is useful, and that human beings are not disposable. It teaches that mercy and justice belong together, and that repentance is possible. In the language of Scripture, the "fruit" of a life - what it produces in conduct and character - matters. Virtue is not perfection; it is the steady orientation of the heart toward what is right, and the willingness to be corrected when we fall short.

In the founders' vision, civic virtue includes habits that sound almost old-fashioned, yet they remain essential: self-control, personal responsibility, courage, patience, gratitude, and a willingness to sacrifice. Virtue also includes the courage to speak truth without hatred and to seek peace without surrendering principle.

A free society depends on citizens who can disagree without dehumanizing, who can debate without destroying, and who can pursue justice without becoming unjust in the process.

*(Detachment Chaplain continued)*

For the Sons of the American Legion, our mission is anchored in service - service to veterans, to their families, to children, and to the communities we call home. Service is not simply a project list; it is an ethic. It is what keeps love of country from becoming mere sentiment. **What we do as Sons of the American Legion is the practical expression of a deeper loyalty: to the good, to the true, and to the God who calls us to love our neighbor.**

The 250th year is also a moment to take inventory. Are we teaching our children that freedom is a responsibility before it is a privilege? Are we modeling the kind of speech that heals rather than inflames? Are we guarding our own hearts against bitterness, envy, and contempt - the silent enemies that fracture communities? Are we, in our posts and squadrons, known as peacemakers and helpers, or merely as critics? The measure of our patriotism is not only what we say about America, but what we practice as Americans.

Virtue must be lived locally. It begins with keeping one's word, paying what is owed, working with diligence, treating others with fairness, and standing up for those who cannot stand alone. It includes refusing to exploit others for personal gain, and refusing to excuse wrongdoing because it is committed by "our side." A nation cannot be more righteous than its people, and a people cannot be more righteous than its daily habits.

So, in this 250th year, let us celebrate with gratitude - but let us also recommit with seriousness. Let us honor those who came before us, through whom we're eligible to be in the great organization, living in a way that makes their lives and their sacrifices meaningful. Let us be citizens who prove that freedom can be both strong and good. Let our Detachment, our Squadrons, and our families be places where virtue is practiced, where compassion is normal, where truth is treasured, and where young people learn that greatness is not measured only by success, but by character.

I encourage each of you to reflect on how we can personally embody these virtues in our local squadrons. May our Heavenly Father grant us wisdom for these days: wisdom to discern truth, courage to do what is right, and mercy to treat others as we would wish to be treated. May He strengthen our love for this nation - not as an idol, but as a sacred trust. And may He help us to pass on, to the next generation, not only the story of American independence, but the moral and spiritual inheritance that makes liberty sustainable. Then, when the 300th year comes, those who gather will be able to say that in the 250th we did more than remember: we renewed.

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

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





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

Everyone is doing a fantastic job with membership, but we can all do better. Please reach out to your delinquent members. They may be going through hard times or are struggling, and a phone call or a card may make the difference in their lives. Let's keep watch and be there for each other.

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 2/12/26, District 12 is **90.76%** to District 6 at **84.68%**. Great Job! Congratulations, Andy on your hard work.

Eastern Area is in 3rd place. It is a very tight race. The next goal is **80% on March 5th**. I am happy to report that 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. Let's do what we can to support our veterans and help those in need.

The **Eastern Area Wrangler Ball** will be held at Post #1 Titusville on Saturday, March 21st from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$25 per person. Call 407-301-3153 to reserve and purchase your tickets. I hope to see you there. See Flyer

**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



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

With Spring on the air, we have a lot going on here in the 12th District!

We have the District Picnic coming up on April 18th. Please attend and support Boys and Girls State transportation donations. There will be plenty of baskets, auction items, food, live music and more!

The children and youth picnic will be at Post 117 on April 11th so make sure you plan on attending.

The District 12 DCC will be held at Post 394 on April 25th. 9am Registration, 10am meeting

District 12 is getting close to 100% but we must stay ahead of District 6 to keep our golden gavel! So let's get that membership in! I have been emailing all those members that have not renewed in the 12th district for all of the squadrons to try to get that number moving forward

If you would like something on the District 12 Facebook page, please email me the flyer and I will get it up there!  
Also 1st round of nominations will be happening this month as well. Let's make sure we get moving on this with your squadron meetings.

One more thing, I would appreciate everyone's support this year as I will be running for Eastern area Commander for the coming year.

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



***Greetings from the Mighty 13th District !***

First thing great job to the squadrons in the mighty 13th most of you have made February's goal of 75% and on to the 80% thank you for that and big thank you to the 100% squadrons .

I was able to attend a super bowl party at post 323 and we had a visit from Commander Nigbor as we were raising money for COTA A fun time was had by all - well maybe not so much for the Pats fans.

I also attended post 130 45th annual Valentines Day Steak Dinner. A big thanks to the Post 130 Family for the invite and great meal .

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

We have the district meeting on March 1st at Post 323. Riders meet at 9am, the Auxiliary and Sons at 10am with the Legion meeting at 11am.

The 13th District will be also be held on April 4th at post 323. Start time is 12pm.

In closing, please keep up the great work on membership. - Let's help Commander Nigbor get to the 100% goal !

For God and Country,  
Mitchell Pace  
13th District Commander Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Florida



**Greetings from the 7th District!**

This is a reminder of our remaining upcoming meetings for the 7th District.

Our remaining meeting will be held on **May 9, 2026 at Post 8** in Winter Haven. This meeting will be our District Constitutional Conference (DCC). The times are as follows:

**SONS: 11:00AM      LEGION: 1:00PM      RIDERS: 2:30PM**

I hope to see many of you in attendance at our last meeting of the year.

For God and Country,  
 Dan Heier  
 7th District Commander  
 Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Florida



**I hope your Valentine's Day was Awesome!**

The Southern Area Ball( Sock Hop) was a success. The 4Chaplains Ceremony was as always well done. The SAL Detachment Commander as well as other dignitaries were a special honor.

This month I would like to review **Hallowed or Sacred Ground"**.

What is 'Hallowed Ground' or 'Sacred Ground'?

It is the imaginary line between the American Flag and the Sons of The American Legion Flag, as they are set up in front of the dais during a meeting, holds significant meaning.

When arranging the meeting space, the American Flag is placed to the Commander's right and positioned slightly forward of the table or seating area. The Sons of The American Legion Flag is posted to the Commander's left at the opposite end and forward of the table. The area between these two flags is considered "Hallowed Ground" (or "Sacred Ground"), dedicated to those who have passed before. No person or object should cross this line, and all members should be aware of its importance.

Anyone needing to pass the flag line must approach on the left side of the American Flag, stop at the flag, offer a salute, and then proceed behind it. Upon leaving, they should follow the reverse path of entry. Auxiliary members are the only individuals who may enter and exit to the right of the Sons of The American Legion Flag. The Sergeant-at-Arms should be informed of this procedure, as they are responsible for escorting individuals past the portals.

Another area of "Hallowed Ground" is the Missing Man or POW-MIA Table, which should be protected from any disruptions to its items.

For God and Country,  
 Sam Aloï

9th District Vice Commander  
 Member of the Member Training & Development Committee  
 Sons of the American Legion  
 Detachment of Florida



# ROCKY CIRIGLIANO

## INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CHAIR

ia@floridasons.org



Greetings All,

The Sons of The American Legion (SAL) continues its proud tradition of supporting veterans, promoting patriotism, and serving communities across the nation. As we approach the end of another year it is important to reflect on one of our most essential administrative responsibilities: **completing and submitting year-end reports.**

These reports are more than paperwork - they are a vital tool for honoring our mission, strengthening our effectiveness, and ensuring the continued growth of our organization.

### ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Year-end reports serve as the official record of a squadron's activities, achievements, and financial operations. They help ensure transparency, allowing both members and leadership to evaluate how resources were used and how effectively programs supported our mission. This documentation confirms our commitment to the guiding principles of the national organization.

### MEASURING OUR IMPACT

From community service to fundraising and outreach, many of our efforts shine through the data captured in these annual reports. By clearly documenting participation, volunteer hours, and engagement, squadrons gain valuable insights that support:

- Program evaluation
- Goal setting
- Planning future initiatives

These metrics help us better serve veterans, families, and communities.

### STAYING COMPLIANT WITH NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Annual reporting is a requirement of both The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion. Submitting complete and accurate reports ensures all squadrons remain in good standing while maintaining the integrity and unity of our organization.

### SUPPORTING GRANTS AND FUNDING

A well-prepared year-end report strengthens SAL's credibility when applying for grants or seeking donations. These reports demonstrate:

- Responsible stewardship
- Documented results
- Proven community impact

Granting agencies often rely on this information to evaluate organizational stability and effectiveness.

### RECOGNIZING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Year-end reports also highlight the best part of SAL - our people. Celebrating accomplishments and recognizing volunteers fosters a sense of pride and inspires continued engagement.

*These elements build camaraderie and encourage new members to join our mission.*

For God and Country,  
Rocky Cirigliano  
Internal Affairs Commission Chairman  
Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Florida

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*(Membership Chairman continued)*

As a standing tradition, we include the Preamble to the Sons of The American Legion National Constitution in every Internal Affairs article. Members are encouraged to read and reflect on its powerful words. This is more than a statement, the foundation of why we serve.

Consider taking a minute at your next Squadron meeting to read the preamble together. Use it as a training tool and a reminder of the duty and sacrifice of the veterans who made our freedom possible.

## 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 CHAIRMAN

vchildrenyouth@floridasons.org



### HELLO FROM YOUR CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIRMAN!

Here we are in March already. Lots of events are going on as we enter Spring. 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.

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. 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 CHAIR**  
 var@floridasons.org



**PTSD:** we hear that word a lot. What is it? It is a mental health problem which may be caused by experiencing a life threatening event such as combat, a natural disaster, car accident or physical or sexual assault.

It is natural to have upsetting memories, but longer than a month, the person may have PTSD. Typical types of symptoms: (1) reliving the event;(2) avoiding things that remind them of the event;(3) having more negative thoughts and feelings than before-be sad or numb or lose interest: (4) Feeling on edge-hard to relax-trouble sleeping or concentrating-getting suddenly angry.

Effects of aging which may lead to PTSD: (1) Self reflection;(2) Retirement; (3) Loss of Spouse: (4) Physical ability decline; (5) Change of environment; (6) Increased screen time; (7) Medical problems.

If all this sounds overwhelming, that is because it can be! **How can we help?** Buddy checks are the best thing that most of us can do. Call or visit and encourage open dialogue. You will never know how much you have helped until you get a "Thank you" from that person you contacted.

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 CHAIR**  
 pvr@floridasons.org



Suicide prevention remains a paramount objective of Project Vet Relief. Strategies encompass stabilizing housing and enhancing the financial security of Veterans facing financial hardships. A significant aspect of programming involves therapeutic activities such as horseback riding, fishing excursions, and other group engagements that foster social interactions. Counseling services are also provided.

Squadrons are encouraged to contribute to this noble cause administered through the Florida Department. All funds are allocated within the State of Florida.

**Buddy checks** continue to be a crucial opportunity and challenge for each of us to connect with Veterans who may require someone to confide in.

**"Be The One"** is Commander Michael Nigbor's message to all of us.

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.



**Greetings from the MT&D staff!**

This month will be a kind of 'pep' talk.

**First Item - Membership:**

We are doing well so far this year. A little work to do. Squadrons not meeting their Goal should be seeking assistance from their District Officers and, if needed, from MT&D - just ask.

**Second Item- Annual Reports:**

You should all have your activities listed and should be well on your way to successfully completing the Reports in a timely manner. If not, why not? Do not wait until May 1st to begin drafting the reports. Once again, seek assistance from the District, as well as MTD.

**Lastly - Election of Officers:**

It is well into the nomination portion of the election process. Be sure to discuss the job descriptions in the Info-Grams you should have received. It is the best way to find members that might want to step up. If you need a Position Training Class, please text me at 772-532-6511 (be sure to tell me who you are, and what Squadron you are with), or email me at mtd@floridasons.org for information.

Attention to these details will help the Detachment end another banner year. We are here to help.

For God and Country,

Pete Puzzo

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



**TALLAHASSEE CAPITOL DAYS**

Your Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida Legislative Commission were included along with The American Legion Department of Florida Legislative Commission and Department Officer Corp for Capitol Days in Tallahassee February 2,3,4, 2026. The American Legion Family and other Veteran Service Organizations takes this opportunity to advocate for Veterans & Veteran Legislation.

The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs conducts Veteran Legislative Days at the Capitol to heighten veteran awareness with our legislators. TAL Department of FL. Legislative Commission Chairman Stuart Scott coordinates with the FDVA. for Capitol Days that starts with the FDVA hosting a mixer Monday evening for all the VSOs on the 21st floor of the Capitol Building.

Tuesday Morning we met at the Governors Inn just up the street from the Capitol for a Know Before You Go. Chairman Scott led our Delegation to several Senators and Representatives Offices where Chairman Scott explained some of the benefits of SB 50 Veterans Criminal Court. TAL Dept. of FL. The delegation consisted of CDR Moore, Adjutant Comer, Assistant Adjutant Hanselman, 2nd Vice Bruce Carl, Membership Chairman Lena Heredia Perez and others including several state officers of the VFW. The importance of a large group is to show unity and concern of the VSOs.

At 1 PM our delegation attended the Senate Judiciary Committee Meeting in 110 Senate Judiciary Committee Room.

*(Legislative Commission Chairman continued)*

The Committee was chaired by 4th District Senator Clay Yarbrough from Jacksonville. The committee was called to order and after a few housekeeping bills we got to Senate Bill 50 Veterans Criminal Court. This would allow 1st time non violent offenders a 2nd chance instead of State District Court. This would make it applicable in all State District Courts. Duval County District Court has already instituted veterans courts. SB 50 was approved by the Judiciary Committee and was moved on for scheduling.

The next morning we once again met at the Governors Inn again for the Know before you go. We were addressed by a House of Representatives Air Force Veteran from Southwest Florida before heading off to the Capitol again.

It was my honor to be teamed up with TAL past 5th District, and the current Department Membership Chairman Lena Heredia Perez. We met with Mr Zachary Etchberger the 4th District Senator's Yarborough Legislative Aid in 308 Senate Bldg due to the unavailability of the Senator. We discussed SB 50 and because of our familiarity with SB 50s provisions of Veterans Criminal Court due to our involvement with Veterans Council of Duval County which has already been instituted by The State District Court in Jacksonville FL. This bill would make it available in the rest of the state. We thanked Mr Etchberger and asked him to thank Senator Yarborough for all the Senator does to support Veterans Legislation in our State Capitol.

Chairman Perez went and I went to HoR Bldg 402 to meet with State House of Representative Dean Black. Mrs Lena Heredia Perez and I are constituents of District 15. We had contacted Legislative Aid Ms Elena Lopez about stopping by to briefly meet with Representative Black, unfortunately Representative Black and Ms Lopez were not available. We left our business cards and left a note thanking them for supporting Veterans Legislation.

I would like to finish my Legislative report by once again asking you our membership to get involved. On your County Voter information card you're usually sent every year has your State Representative's District and your Senatorial District take a moment to go to myflorida.gov and email your Representative and Senator. All you need to say is that you are a member of The Florida American Legion Family and ask them to support Veteran's Legislation. It's so easy and means so much when we meet with them and they say you know we just got a bunch of emails from The Florida American Legion Family members.

We still need members from the Detachment of Florida to be a part of The FL Legislative Commission. Please help us support our veterans. Next Month The Washington Conference Legislative Meetings.

For God and Country,

William D Kelly, Jr

Chairman | Legislative Commission  
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida

## Grassroots Action Center



The American Legion's Grassroots Action Center provides updates and alerts on legislation of interest to the organization. Scan this QR code or visit [legion.org/legislative](https://legion.org/legislative) to visit the center, learn about bills and contact congressional delegations.

 AMERICAN  
LEGION

BE THE ONE



***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** 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 **ZERO** new members subscribe to our mailing list. That's still 498 out of 22,646 new/renewed members - just **2.20%** of our membership. **Are the Area Vice Commanders and District Commanders not encouraging our members to sign up when they hold visitations?** 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.

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

### EMAIL GROUP SUBSCRIPTION PROGRESS METER 2/20/26

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.**

Over the last two months, I've put 'Easter Eggs' in random places in 'The Source' 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 or check from the Detachment. The only person to respond, without me prompting them this month was **Doug White - 1st Vice Commander of Squadron 347 Lady Lake**. Thank you Doug! We'll get your check mailed to you.

I will be discontinuing the 'Easter Egg' program. I'll have to come up with some other way to determine if our members are actually reading 'The Source' all the way through. Reading our monthly newsletter doesn't take that much time. You can do it with your morning coffee one day, instead of scrolling through Facebook / Playing games. Our members take their time to provide you with great information - making 'The Source' another tool to help you be successful at what you do for our great organization. I hope all reading this will print out the very last page and display it at their Posts and encourage more members to sign up and receive our mailings.

**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
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER SOUTHWEST	
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER SOUTH	MICHAEL MATHIAS   SQUADRON 164 – BOYNTON BEACH SAM ALOI   SQUADRON 321 – COOPER CITY
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	RICHARD BUTLER   SQUADRON 113 – ROTONDA WEST	
DISTRICT 9		
DISTRICT 11		
DISTRICT 12	GARY RAYMOND   SQUADRON 394 – PALM BAY	
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)



# Cabana Boy's Island Bash

Homecoming Celebration & BBQ



***The Beach Is Coming Indoors!***

CELEBRATE OUR DETACHMENT COMMANDER **MICHAEL 'CABANA BOY' NIGBOR** AT CABANA BOY'S ISLAND BASH, A TROPICAL HOMECOMING FILLED WITH BBQ, ISLAND VIBES, AND AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY FELLOWSHIP.

TROPICAL ATTIRE ENCOURAGED.  
FLIP-FLOPS OPTIONAL. **FUN REQUIRED.**

***Saturday April 25, 2026 12pm - 4pm***

AMERICAN LEGION POST 323 | 1124 ASHLAR AVENUE | LEHIGH ACRES, FL 33936



## ***Event Highlights***

Entertainment by A Lil' Mixed Up  
Raffles / Games  
BBQ & More  
Dress: Tropical / Casual



*Proceeds Benefit*

**Children's Organ  
Transplant Association.**



## ***Payment Info***

**Cost: \$25 Per Person**

Checks Payable to Squadron 323  
(mailed to the above address)

Venmo: @Christian-Rapp-3

**Contact:**

Christian Rapp  
adjutant@floridasons.org  
(239) 243-2205



## ***Hotel Information***

**Quality Inn & Suites**  
1320 Business Way  
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936  
(239) 491-0049

# Commander Jessica Moore's Homecoming Please respond by March 15!!

You may mail a check to Jan  
Farrington 9848 CONNECTICUT STREET  
BONITA SPRINGS 34135 or Venmo

Janice Farrington  
@janfarrington



**venmo**



**Saturday, MARCH 28 4:00 pm|**

AMERICAN LEGION POST 103 2101 TAYLOR ROAD  
PUNTA GORDA 33950



**WE NEED TO KNOW FOR FINAL PREPARATIONS.**

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**

# BBQ RIB

**throwdown**

*Who's got  
the best  
ribs?*

*Vote for  
your  
favorites!*

\$10 Entry Fee  
Tastings Available for  
Purchase \$5

**Do you make  
the best bbq  
ribs? Here's  
your chance to  
win prizes, and  
more  
importantly,  
bragging  
rights!**

**win  
prizes!**

**Sunday  
March 8th  
12pm to 4pm  
Competitors  
will arrive early  
to cook**

American Legion  
Post 192  
3130 Martin Luther King Blvd  
Fort Myers

**DISTRICT 13**





**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



*American Legion Riders 138 Presents*

# **BIKES** *by the Bay!*

**Saturday, March 21, 2026**

**8 TO 11 AM**

**VENDORS | BREAKFAST | 50/50 & RAFFLE BASKETS**

**KSU 11:45 AM**

**SAFETY BRIEF 11:15AM**

**ROUTE TBD - COME SUPPORT US AND WE'LL SUPPORT YOU  
LET'S SEE HOW MANY POSTS WE CAN RIDE TO IN A DAY!**



**BENEFITTING ALR  
CHAPTER 138 CHARITABLE DONATIONS**

**OPEN TO ALL LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS**

**BIKESBYTHEBAY138@GMAIL.COM  
5535 W PRESCOTT ST, TAMPA FL 33616**

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

You're invited to District 13's

# BARBECUE PARTY

To benefit Legion Family Charities  
at Lehigh Acres Post 323  
1124 Ashlar Ave, Lehigh Acres

**4**

APRIL

SATURDAY

**STARTING 2 PM**

MUSIC | GRILLED GOODIES |  
COLD DRINKS | GOOD VIBES  
RAFFLE BASKETS & 50/50  
BEER PONG TOURNAMENT



Made with PosterMyWall.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**

\*\*\*\*\*

**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

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visit our website

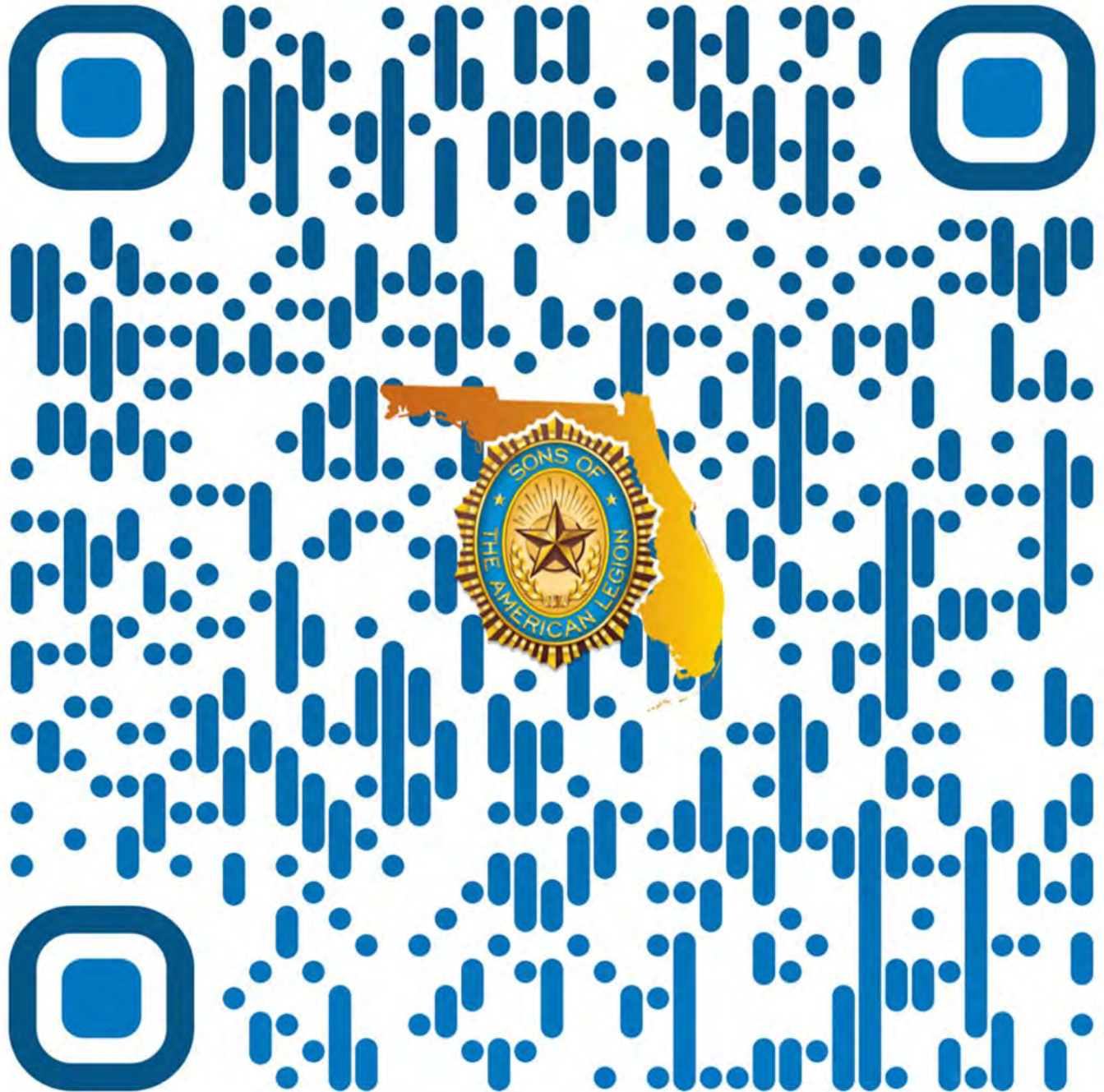


We are looking for your input and help to keep this newsletter going. We are looking for articles from the Squadrons, Districts, or Areas. Let us know what is happening in your Squadron, District & Area and we will inform the rest of the Detachment. It could increase attendance at your functions and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

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

# STAY INFORMED!

JOIN THE DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA EMAIL GROUP!



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

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

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