

# Monthly Newsletter

AMERICAN LEGION POST 57



February 2026



## Post Info

American Legion  
Post 57

**Address:**

2602 SW Main Blvd  
Lake City FL 32025

**Phone:**

Post: (386) 752-7776  
Membership Office: (386) 243-8088

**Hours:**

Mon to Sun  
11:00am to 10:00pm

**Kitchen Hours:**
**- Lunch -**

Monday Thru Friday  
11:00am to 1:00pm

**- Dinner -**

Saturday Thru Thursday  
4:00pm to 8:00pm  
Fridays

5:30pm to 7:30pm

**Kitchen Phone:**

(386) 752-7260

**Email & Website:**

americanlegion57@comcast.net  
www.americanlegion57.org



## Post Officers

**-Commander-**

Bill Huggins

**-1st Vice Commander-**

Kelly Valliere

**-2nd Vice Commander-**

Terry Libbert

**-3rd Vice Commander-**

Harrison Ambrose

**-4th Vice Commander-**

Rick Harris

**-Finance Officer-**

Andrew Framer

**-Adjutant-**

Jason Massey

**-Chaplain-**

William Bell

**-Historian-**

Thomas Wilcutts

**-Sergeant at Arms-**

Matthew Fetzer

**-Executive Committeeman-**

George Wehrli

**-Executive Committeeman-**

Tony Nolan

**-Executive Committeeman-**

Ken Burkes

**-Executive Committeeman-**

Robert Preston

**-Judge Advocate-**

Dave Mangrum

**-Service Officer-**

Lisa Brown



## Commanders Corner

Where did January go? This year's passing way too quickly.

I never like to give news no one wants to hear; However, we haven't raised prices in the kitchen in nearly three years and yet our costs continue to increase. For this reason effective March 1, 2026 we will have to increase prices in the kitchen, we will do so minimally but we can't continue to operate at a loss.

Y'all asked for it, we listened, the north entry to the driveway is notoriously dark and easy to miss, we have put out solar powered lights along the driveway to help see it better, please if you're coming in at night let us know how they work.

We were honored to host a birthday party for Ray Decant for his 101st birthday, great turnout for a very special WWII Veteran.

We are excited to let you know that we are upgrading our outdated, hard to read 3x6 sign with a high resolution 4x8 screen to better showcase our post and keep events updated in a timely manner. Great things are happening at your post to help us continue on our very positive trajectory of growth.

We will have our Superbowl party on Sunday, February 8th beginning at 6 pm in the lounge. The Post is providing wings and members are asked to bring a side to share. This promises to be a great time for all who attend, you may want to get here early to assure seat availability.

Saturday, February 14 we will host our Valentine's Dinner, the menu is prime rib, shrimp scampi over rice, salad roll and dessert. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and are available at the bar. Dinner will be served in the big hall beginning at 6:00PM and is open to the public. We will have a band (The Vintage Trio) in the lounge beginning at 7:00 for your entertainment.

## Commanders Corner (Cont.)

Texas Holdem poker every Monday and Friday night at 7:00.

Bingo is every Sun, Mon and Thurs, afternoon begins at 3:00 and evening at 6:45.

Girl Scout troop 21000 meets every Wednesday from 4-6 pm

Queen of Hearts every Saturday at 6:00 in the lounge.

Draft beer every Wednesday \$1.75 all day

Tuesday	Feb 3	Four Chaplain's Ceremony in the Hall	5:30 PM
Tuesday	Feb 3	SAL/Marine Corps meetings	6:30 PM
Friday	Feb 6	Legion Friday Dinner/ with karaoke	5:30-7:30 PM
Saturday	Feb 7	District 3 Meeting (Cherry Lake)	9:00 AM
Saturday	Feb 7	Youth recruitment (Hall)	11:00 AM
Saturday	Feb 7	Paddle Auction	5:00-7:00 PM
Sunday	Feb 8	Superbowl Party in the lounge	6:00 PM
Tuesday	Feb 10	Legion/Auxiliary E-Board meetings	6:30 PM
Wednesday	Feb 11	Domiciliary Bingo	6:00-7:30 PM
Friday	Feb 13	Rider's Friday night dinner	5:30-7:30 PM
Saturday	Feb 14	Valentine's dinner in the hall	6:00-8:00 PM
Saturday	Feb 14	Valentine's dance (lounge)	7:00-9:30 PM
Monday	Feb 16	DAV meeting (Family Room)	4:45 PM
Tuesday	Feb 17	Legion/Auxiliary Meeting	6:30 PM
Wed-Sun	Feb 18-22	Rider's Summit (Daytona)	
Wednesday	Feb 18	Honor Guard Practice (Hall)	11:00 AM
Friday	Feb 20	Auxiliary Friday night Dinner	5:30-7:30 PM
Saturday	Feb 21	Paddle Auction	5:00-7:00 PM
Tuesday	Feb 24	Rider's meeting	6:30 PM
Wednesday	Feb 25	Domiciliary Bingo	6:00-7:30 PM
Friday	Feb 27	SAL Friday Dinner	5:30-7:30 PM



Post 57

Online  
Calendar

SCAN HERE





## Chaplain

**“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”**

**— Matthew 18:20**

It is truly uplifting to see **American Legion Post 57** coming together with such strong member involvement. Our membership continues to grow steadily, our Honor Guard is welcoming new members, and we are excited to begin our new youth program this month. In addition, we are creating an outdoor, family-friendly space with a fire pit, beautiful wooden swings, and children's outdoor activities. These efforts reflect the heart of Post 57—building fellowship, strengthening families, and creating a welcoming place where veterans and our community can gather, connect, and support one another.

As we reflect during this month, we also remember the legacy of the **Four Chaplains**, whose selfless sacrifice reminds us that faith, unity, and service know no boundaries. Their example calls us to stand together, care for one another, and place love and service above all else—values that continue to guide our Legion family today.

May God's presence continue to be felt within our Post and among all who gather here. Please keep our veterans, those currently serving, and those facing illness, loss, or hardship in your prayers.

*For God and Country,*

**William Bell**

**Chaplain**

## AMERICAN LEGION POST 57 PRESENTS

### Menu:

Prime Rib,  
Shrimp with rice  
pilaf, salad, roll,  
desert

*Valentine's  
Day*

### Music By:

The Vintage Trio  
Band

## DINNER

6:00pm to 10:00pm (Entertainment starts at 6:00)

Tickets are available in the canteen and are \$25 per person in advance or \$30 per person the day of the event.

### Happy February!

**Because of our members, we have achieved our goal of 840 members as of January 29th!** This is quite a feat for our post to be 100% Membership before January 31st!. I'm so proud of everyone who has worked toward reaching this goal!

Our Next big goal is to be the Post with the most New Members. Currently we are third with 157 new and a total of 840 members, competing against FL-0347 Veterans Memorial Lady Lake 234new members with over 6000 total members and FL-0273 Augustus Ruser, Jr Madeira Beach 214 new members with over 3800 total members! We have got some work to do!!

Help me in Welcoming our New Members from December 18th 2025 to January 20th, 2026 We are currently at 72% retention rate.

### New Members:

Veronica Howlett USAF  
Dwight Maxwell USA  
Douglas Dials USAF  
Michael Wilson USN  
Laura Freda-Shippee USA  
Larry Heal USA  
Erin Mason USA  
Ronald Schofill USA  
Jesus Mota JR USA  
Jack Shanks USN  
Eric Thompson USA  
Wallace Shellhouse USAF  
Tyler Horton USA  
Julian Campbell USMC  
Donald Osborn USA  
Cindy Snook USAF  
Mark Snook USMC  
Darla "de Cha" Summers-Fleck USN  
James Mullis USN  
Gary Fleck USA  
Shakona Wright USA AD  
Jose Torres USA AD  
Skylar Bragg USA AD  
Morgan Britton USA AD  
Markieta Bryant USA AD  
Angel Calderon USA AD  
Hamilton Colon-Silva USA AD  
Mario Gay USA AD  
Jose Linares USA AD

## Membership (Cont.)

Travis Hales USA AD  
Tristen Mavis USA AD  
Larry Shelton USA AD  
Cliffangela Snow USA AD  
Justin Toadvine USA AD  
Christopher Epps USA

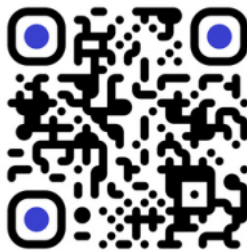
### **Transfers:**

Laurel Farrell USAF ME 0047  
Michael Schwartz USN FL 0107  
William Hall USAF MO 0344  
Gregory Conner USA FL 0224  
Calvin Straker USMC FL 0400  
Henry Anderhold USA FL 0400  
Robert Doty USCG FL 0273

There is still plenty of time to renew! You can use [Legion.org](https://www.legion.org) to pay online, Auxiliary can renew at [Legion-AUX.org](https://www.legion.org/AUX) and Sons can renew online at [Legion.org](https://www.legion.org). Sons and Auxiliary renewing at the post can renew using cash or check options. Legionnaires can pay by check cash or debit card.

Please renew and be a part of the awesome things we are doing in our community!!

**One of my goals for the rest of 2026 is to reach out to all our Active Duty families in Lake City, Columbia County and the surrounding area. Armed Forces Day is on May 16th, 2026, I would truly love to have a Blue Star Family Celebration and honor those families with Active Duty Personnel. If you are aware of a family who has active duty members, please reach out to me so that we can let them know that the American Legion is here for them also. Gold Star Families are also encouraged to reach out. (Gold Star families who have lost a family member serving on active duty) These are families that also desperately need our support. Please help me find these families so that we can honor them.**



Scan to go to  
[www.legion.org](https://www.legion.org)

## Membership (Cont.)

Official Membership numbers as of December 18:

Due to the Holidays we have not received a Department Membership report since December 18th. Membership reports usually are received every Thursday.

Post Goal: 840 paid members

157 New Members

602 Renewals

840 Total Paid

Thank you for all your support and encouragement throughout the 2025 year and we'll see you in 2026! Stay tuned because there is so much more to come!!!

For God and Country,

Kelly Valliere,  
First Vice Commander,  
US Navy Veteran,  
904-563-0618  
Post57membership@gmail.com



## Sea Cadets

Sea Cadets are young men and women aged 10 to 18. We are supported by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard, and our Cadets train on naval bases and other military installations. Sea Cadets gain unique and valuable experiences that incorporate hands on learning and teamwork. We meet at the American Legion in Lake City twice a month for drill. The cadets have many opportunities to go to training over the summer and winter. If you are interested and would like more information you can contact Niki Patterson 303-725-3889. You can also click the link to get more information [America's Sea Cadets - The US Navy's youth development program.](#)

Our Sea Cadet drills are scheduled for 2025 -2026, These are the drills for the first part of the year.  
January 24th, 2025, February 14th, 2026, February 21st, 2026, March 14th, 2026, March 21st, 2026, April 4th, 2026, April 18th, 2026, May 2nd, 2026, May 16th, 2026.

Sea Cadet fundraiser dinners are schedule as followed for until the end of this year:  
March 13th, 2026, May 15th, 2026, July 31st, 2026.





*American Legion*

POST 57

# MENU

LAKE CITY, FL



## Burgers

Classic Burger	\$5.50
Cheeseburger	\$6.00
Bacon Cheeseburger	\$6.50

## Sandwiches

Patty Melt	\$6.00
Hot Dog	\$4.25
Grilled Cheese	\$3.75
Fried Chicken Sandwich	\$5.25
BLT	\$5.25
Chicken Salad Sandwich	\$4.75
Fried Fish Sandwich	\$5.00
Grilled Chicken Sandwich	\$6.25

## Salads

Chef Salad with Ham	\$6.75
Chef Salad with Chicken Salad	\$6.75
Chef Salad with Grilled Chicken	\$7.75
Chef Salad with Fried Chicken	\$7.75
Small Salad	\$1.75
Scoop Chicken Salad	\$3.50

## Extras

Extra Ham	\$2.00
Extra Bacon	\$2.00
Extra Burger Patty	\$2.00
Extra Dressing	\$.50
Extra Crackers	\$.25
To Go Boxes	\$.50

## Appetizers

Egg Rolls (2)	\$3.75
Chicken Strips	\$6.50
French Fries	\$3.25
Onion Rings	\$3.75
Fried Mushrooms	\$4.25
Fried Green Beans	\$3.75
Corn Nuggets	\$3.75
Jalapeno Peppers	\$4.75
Tater Tots	\$3.25
Mozzarella Sticks	\$4.25
Shrimp	\$5.25
Potato Skins	\$4.75
Sampler (any 3 above)	\$7.25
Corn Dogs (2)	\$4.50

## Wings & Pizza

6 Wings	\$6.50
10 Wings	\$10.25
10 Wings with Fries	\$11.75
Whole Pizza	\$8.25

## Drinks & Candy

Soda	\$1.50
Water	\$1.50
Candy	\$2.00
Chips & Cookies	\$.50

**LUNCH**  
MONDAY THUR FRIDAY  
11:00AM TO 1:00PM



Place an online order by  
scanning this QR code

**DINNER**  
SATURDAY THRU THURSDAY  
4:00PM TO 8:00PM

FRIDAYS ARE FAMILY DINNERS  
5:30PM TO 7:30PM

AMERICAN LEGION POST 57 - PHONE: (386) 752-7260 - ADDRESS: 2602 SW MAIN BLVD, LAKE CITY, FL 32025

*Come in* We're  
**OPEN**

## Kitchen Hours:

- Lunch -

**Monday Thru Friday**

11:00am to 1:00pm

- Dinner -

**Saturday Thru Thursday**

4:00pm to 8:00pm

**Fridays**

5:30pm to 7:30pm

**Kitchen Phone:**

(386) 752-7260



Now you can order online  
on our website or scan the  
QR code on the menu!

**Order Online**





## Riders

Hello and Welcome Chapter 57 Riders' to the New Year!

### Board Members:

**Director**  
Dakota Linder

**Assistant Director**  
Eric Daniels

**Road Captain**  
James Gruber

**Sgt-At-Arms**  
Rob Charles

**Safety Officer**  
Cason Adams

**Finance**  
Elaine Lagasse  
A/G Shirley Gruber

**Membership**  
Shirley Gruber

**Adjutant**  
Samanthia Reid

**Historian**  
Thomas Wilcutts

**Chaplain**  
Maryann Dennis

### New Members:

Roy Brewer Jr.  
Nikki Patterson  
Derek Edwards  
Linda Edwards  
Chris Ringlein  
Donna Hayes  
Philip Hayes  
Kathryn Honeycutt

Thank you for joining the ALR Chapter 57 Riders!

### Past Events:

#### January 1st Polar Bear Ride

This ride was in loving memory for Dermot Burke. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event. We had an amazing turnout of 11 motorcycles and 1 vehicle for a total of 15 participants from the riders'.

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## Riders (Cont.)

### **January 10th Bike Bash / Columbia Cycles**

Thank you to Columbia Cycles and the community for the wonderful time we had. We had a total of 10 motorcycles and 1 vehicle for a total of 11 participants from the riders'.

### **January 17th Plaque Retrieval Post 283**

The riders' rode out to post 283 Jacksonville to retrieve our plaque. We had a total of 12 motorcycles and 1 vehicle and 1 passenger for a total of 14 participants. Thank you to post 283 for your hospitality and to everyone who participated.

### **Upcoming Events:**

### **February 7th Plaque Retrieval Post 250**

We look forward to riding to Middleburg to get our plaque back. Hope to see all eligible riders show up for this event. Meet will be Post 57 at 9:30 AM, KSU 10:00 AM. Attire will be Orange Shirts and Vests.

### **February 13th Friday Dinner**

Come out and support the Riders' for our Friday Dinner. The current menu is; Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, and Cookies. \$12 a plate. 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

### **February 28th Roadkill Bingo**

Roadkill Bingo is 6 PM to 8 PM. Early bird tickets go on sale at 5 PM to 5:30 PM for 2 cards for \$15, after 5:30 PM its 1 card for \$10.

**Riders' Dues are \$20. If you haven't already, please pay your dues!**

**Please make sure to update your contact info to stay up-to-date on future events.**

**Please refer to our Riders' Facebook page for any new events or changes.**





## Auxiliary News

We are growing our membership by leaps and bounds. Our new members are joining with a wonderful variety of talents, and all are finding their own personal niche in the many activities and opportunities that we have to serve our veterans.

Our Friday Auxiliary dinner will be on January 30th, and we will be serving meatloaf, mashed potatoes and green beans with dessert. Donna and Brenda are the cooks and Brenda's meatloaf is the best! Our dinner for February will be on February 20th .

We are no longer collecting coats, sweatshirts, and jackets. We will resume this project next fall. If you are doing spring cleaning please save these donations for the next winter season. Thanks to everyone who participated in this drive. Many of these were delivered in the past three months and they were greatly needed.

The Auxiliary room is really coming together with the new chairs. To our delight we did not initially order enough. The attendance at our meetings has grown considerably over the last year and more chairs are on the way.

We celebrated our Americanism event on January 24 th with the first-place winners of the essay contest reading their winning essays. These winners will now go on to state and then national competitions. We have had a national winner in the past and hope our representative children will do well this year as well.

Our Junior Auxiliary program is now in process of being reformed. We will be partnering with SAL Juniors and planning several fun and educational activities for our Legion youth. If you have a child under 18 that you would like to have participate, please let us know, we are trying to get as many members as possible for this youth group to be a great success.

January has been a great month for planning, and we have several good things on the way for the Auxiliary. All suggestions for activities are appreciated.

### **Ongoing projects and opportunities to be involved:**

We continue to collect soda can pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House. When you have a small (or large) plastic bag filled you can turn these into the bar, into a large container in the bingo hall or at any of the Auxiliary meetings. These tops do not need to come exclusively from soda cans. Soup and vegetable cans are acceptable.

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## Auxiliary News (Cont.)

We have a standing invitation to join the ladies at the Domiciliary for Tea every month. Karen from the Domiciliary will give us the dates and these will be announced via email. The Tea for January was held this month on January 27th . This is a great opportunity to provide for our lady veterans who reside in the Domiciliary. It is always a fun time.

The Auxiliary continues to be enthusiastic about the making and stuffing of bears for the Boggy Creek children. For the knitters and crocheters we also make afagans. We will resume making more after the holidays. If interested, please contact Weegie Garcia.

We continue to collect new cosmetic bags to be stuffed with hygiene products. These go to homeless teens and adult women through various organizations and to school nurses in Columbia County schools for distribution as needed.

For our upcoming Family Day in April, we are asking the members to bring in empty baskets and any new, unused, unopened items that can be used for the Chinese Auction for this event. No item is excluded as we will be making up a variety of themed baskets for both children and adults. For example, last year we had a children's basket with toys, puzzles and games, a cat basket, and a dog basket. We had adult baskets with wine and liquor and snacks. Anything that can be included in a Chinese auction is appreciated and of course, if you would like to make up a whole basket on your own, we encourage you to do so.

### **Dates to remember in February and beyond:**

January 30th: Auxiliary dinner

January 31st : 2:00PM until done – stuff hygiene bags.

February 7th : District Meeting at Unit 224 in Madison 9:00 Am check in, meeting at 10:00

February 7th : 11:00AM Youth meeting. All interested youth, parents and grandparents may attend. This is a planning meeting for going forward with this program.

February 20th : Auxiliary dinner

February 21st : 2:00- 4:00 Bunko Please RSVP for this to Weegie Garcia

February 28th : Members luncheon to celebrate us! 11:30 -2:00. Invitations for this event have been mailed out. Please RSVP by February 22

March 14th : Chili Cookoff sponsored by the Riders. We are looking for participants for our booth at this event to make the best chili and claim first place for the Auxiliary.

Look for emails from the Auxiliary if there is more information on the happenings.

Donna Sessa

President Unit 57 Auxiliary

For Spirit of Service, Not Self



## Sons of the American Legion News

Hello, SAL Squadron, 57

We are headed in the right direction starting off the new year 2026 with a great month of January. Our Roadkill Bingo and our SAL Dinner Night were very successful thanks to our SAL members and their hard work. Thank you to all who participated and volunteered their time.

We have some great ideas to expand our activities and continue our effort to support the Legion and its endeavors to include expanding our youth programs in an effort to gather more interest and involvement from our sons and grandsons. We have a new board in place with great ideas for a pathway to grow our squadron, and new younger participants with great ideas to ensure a strong squadron for many years.

We have our Squadron meeting on February 3rd at 1830 and our SAL Friday night dinner on February 27th at 1730.

Please do your best to attend our meeting and discover all the changes that are taking place as we move forward in the new year.

Thank you again  
Eric Gibson  
SAL Commander

**Join us on  
Facebook!**







## Honor Guard

January was an eventful month for the team. We provided funeral honors for both a USMC Veteran and a Navy Veteran, presented the colors at the Miss Olustee pageant, and joined the post in celebrating Mr. Ray Decant's 101st birthday.

We are pleased to welcome four new members to the team: Army Veteran Johnny York, Army Veteran Sami Davis, and Navy Veteran Mark Reifschneider. Additionally, Patty Koon has joined us as our Public Affairs Coordinator and is already doing a fantastic job representing the Honor Guard.

Regarding operations, we are currently in the process of obtaining improved uniforms as well as a larger armory and office space.

Our January meeting included flag folding, rifle practice, a discussion of upcoming events, and an official welcome for our new members. As a reminder, our next practice is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, at 1100 hrs.

Best regards,

Honor Guard P57



## Honor Guard Volunteers Needed



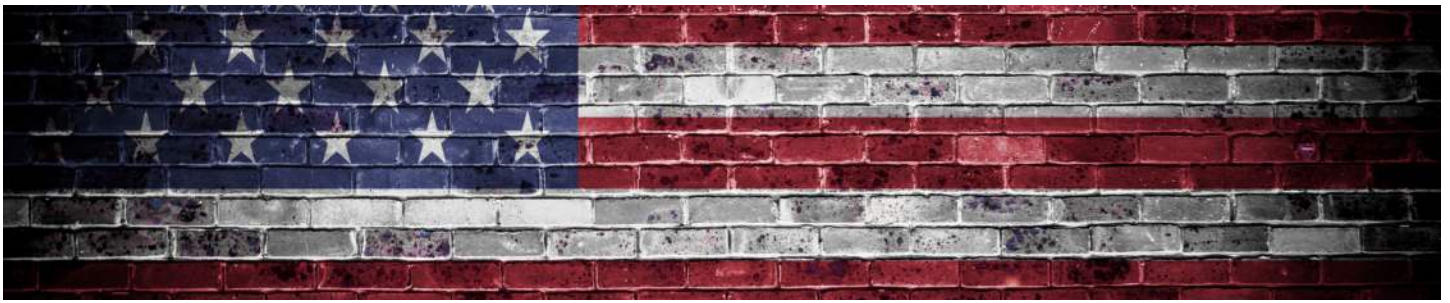
**Practice:**

**Every Third Wednesday at 11:00am at the Post**

**Interested?**

**Contact Kelly Luker (386) 213-2369**





## Post Service Officer

Lake City proudly supports its veterans through a variety of veteran-owned businesses that deliver quality services with the same dedication they showed in uniform. From local directories like American Legion Post 57 and VeteranOwnedBusiness.com, here are some highlights:

- The Leather Shop — 309 Marion Ave, Lake City (386-752-7591) – Leather goods and repairs.
- Rapid Press Printing — 412 SW Alachua Ave, Lake City (386-752-4243) – Custom printing services.
- Shepard and Sons — Land clearing, junk removal, lawn care (386-225-0597).
- J and J Lawn Service — Residential/commercial lawn care, owned by retired Army veteran Jim Nelson.
- Mangrum Plumbing Inc — Licensed plumbing for residential and commercial needs (Lake City area).
- Hoodz — Kitchen exhaust cleaning, serving the Lake City region.

Other mentions include Veteran's Tree Services, Gator Nation Hauling, and more—many proudly veteran-operated.

Supporting these businesses strengthens our community and honors service every day. Check [americanlegion57.org](http://americanlegion57.org) or [veteranownedbusiness.com](http://veteranownedbusiness.com) for updates, and patronize local vets when you can!

Thank you to all who served.

Thank you, to all that donate to the VSO!

Lisa Brown  
Veteran Service Officer  
Post 57  
Lake City, FL

## Volunteer Spotlight

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH IS

**Joey “The King” Louks**

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU AND ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS DO!

*Thank You*



## Youth

Join the American Legion Post 57 Youth!

### Calling All Youth!

We are excited to invite all Auxiliary Juniors and SAL Youth, ages 3 to 17, to join us for a special meeting and team-building event!

### Event Details

- Date: February 7, 2026
- Time: 11:00 AM
- Location: American Legion Post 57

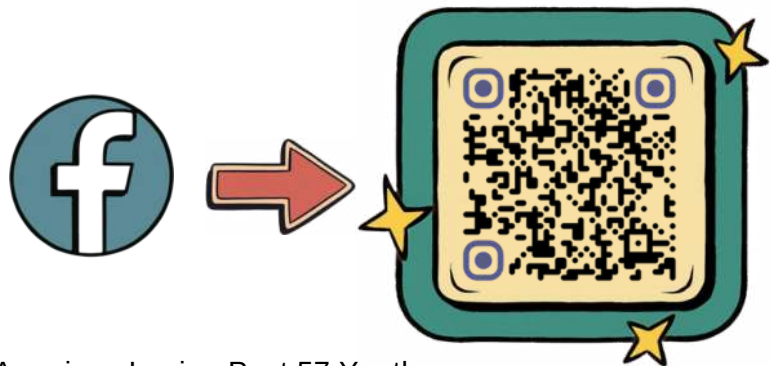
### Get Involved

This is your chance to be a part of the American Legion Post 57 youth! Come ready to participate, share your ideas, and demonstrate your spirit.

We welcome all youth members to come together, make new friends, and enjoy fun activities designed just for you.

### Why Join?

- Build leadership and teamwork skills
- Meet new friends
- Make your voice heard
- Help shape future youth events



### Contact Information

If you have any questions, please contact the American Legion Post 57 Youth Coordinators.

Tiffany Louks 386-898-8649 or Bill Bell 561-723-4582

Email: [legionyouth57@gmail.com](mailto:legionyouth57@gmail.com)

Facebook: American Legion Youth 57

### Let's Show the Adults How to Have Fun!

Bring your energy, ideas, and enthusiasm. We can't wait to see what our amazing youth members can accomplish together!



## Columbia County Veteran Service Officer

### February Newsletter

#### Message from Your Veteran Service Officer

February may be the shortest month, but we're still getting a full month's worth of work done for our veterans. Our office continues to focus on claims development, appeals, survivor benefits, and protecting existing ratings. As always, our mission stays the same: take care of those who took care of us.

#### 📌 Office Highlights – February

Assisted veterans with new VA compensation claims and supplemental appeals  
Continued support for 100% P&T veterans, including VA health care and billing issues  
Helped surviving spouses and families with DIC, burial, and pension benefits  
Coordinated with VA Medical Centers and regional offices to resolve delays  
Ongoing outreach to ensure veterans understand their earned benefits

#### 📋 Common Issues We're Seeing Right Now

##### VA Billing & Private Insurance

If you are rated **100% Permanent & Total**, VA care should not result in out-of-pocket costs. If you notice insurance issues, premium increases, or billing concerns, contact our office immediately so we can address it.

##### Claims & Appeals Delays

Some claims are taking longer than expected. Delays do not mean denial. We actively track and follow up when needed.

##### Health Care & Benefits Reminders

- 100% P&T veterans are eligible for **full VA health care with no copays**
- Dependents may qualify for **CHAMPVA**
- Property tax exemptions may be available for eligible veterans
- Keep your **contact information updated** with VA



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## Columbia County Veteran Service Officer (Cont.)

### Claim Tip of the Month

When filing a claim, **secondary conditions matter**. Many veterans qualify for additional benefits because service-connected conditions cause or worsen other issues. If your condition affects sleep, mobility, mental health, or daily functioning, it may be worth reviewing.

### Upcoming Focus


In the coming months, our office will continue focusing on:

- Protecting existing ratings from improper reductions
- Assisting incarcerated veterans
- Helping veterans understand secondary service connection options
- Increasing outreach and education within the community

### Need Assistance?

#### Columbia County Veteran Service Office

 1486 SW McFarlane Ave, Lake City, FL 32025

 386-758-3350

 [rbeasley@columbiacountyfla.com](mailto:rbeasley@columbiacountyfla.com)

Office visits are by appointment to ensure every veteran gets the time and attention they deserve.

*This office exists for one reason: to serve veterans and their families with honesty, respect, and results.*





# February



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> NFL Sunday Ticket Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	<b>2</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	<b>3</b> Four Chaplains 5:30pm SAL Squadron 57 Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm Marine Corps League Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm	<b>4</b> \$1.75 Draft 11:00am Girl Scout Meeting 4:00pm-6:30pm	<b>5</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm 	<b>6</b> Red Shirt Friday Legion Friday Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Karaoke 6:30pm-9:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	<b>7</b> Four Chaplains Day Plaque Retrieval Post 250 9:30am Youth Meeting 11:00am Paddle Auction 5:00pm-7:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
<b>8</b> Super Bowl Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm 	<b>9</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	<b>10</b> Legion & Auxiliary Executive Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm	<b>11</b> \$1.75 Draft 11:00am Girl Scout Meeting 4:00pm-6:30pm Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm-7:00pm	<b>12</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	<b>13</b> Red Shirt Friday Rider's Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Hall Rental (Life is Good Agency) 6:30pm-8:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	<b>14</b> Sea Cadet Drill 8:00am-3:30pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm Post Valentine's Day Dinner 6:00pm-10:00pm 
<b>15</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	<b>16</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm DAV Meeting 4:30pm-6:00pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	<b>17</b> Legion & Auxiliary General Membership Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm	<b>18</b> Rider's Summit Honor Guard Practice 11:00am \$1.75 Draft 11:00am Girl Scout Meeting 4:00pm-6:30pm	<b>19</b> Rider's Summit Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	<b>20</b> Rider's Summit Red Shirt Friday Auxiliary Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	<b>21</b> Rider's Summit Sea Cadet Drill 8:00am-3:30pm Paddle Auction 5:00pm-7:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm 
<b>22</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	<b>23</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	<b>24</b> Rider's Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm 	<b>25</b> \$1.75 Draft 11:00 am Girl Scout Meeting 4:00pm-6:30pm Legion Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm-7:00pm	<b>26</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	<b>27</b> Red Shirt Friday SAL Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	<b>28</b> Auxiliary Luncheon 11:30am-2:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm Riders Roadkill Bingo 6:00pm-8:00pm 