Monthly Newsletter

AMERICAN LEGION POST 57

+

July 2025



Post Info

American Legion Post 57

Address:

2602 SW Main Blvd Lake City FL 32025

Phone:

(386) 752-7776

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-

Matthew Knight

-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

COMMANDER'S CORNER, July 2025

A new Day is dawning at American Legion Post 57.

On Wednesday, July 2nd the 2025/2026 Officers from Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion will be installed at 6:30 in the big hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Sharon is preparing for you a delicious dinner of Hamburger steak with mashed potatoes w/ gravy and a veggie. Dinner will be by donation and available to all.

Following installation we will also be honoring our 20 year plus members with certificates of appreciation.

The kitchen now has new hours, lunch will be served Monday through Friday from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm and the evening hours Saturday through Thursday will be from 4:00 pm until 8 pm with Fridays continuing to be the weekly family dinner from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm. New for your convenience, you can go to our website and scan the QR Code to have your order ready when you arrive..

Friday, July 4th, the kitchen will be serving your choice of BBQ spare ribs or Chicken leg quarters with baked beans, pasta salad and dessert from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm then come on back in at 4 pm when we'll be hosting a covered dish dinner from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm with open jukebox and fun for all, inside where it's climate controlled to beat the heat.

As you will see when you read the Rider's submission, our family is evolving, hopefully for the better, as the Riders morph into a different mind set, I ask everyone to support them during this transitional time.

Bingo every Sunday, Monday and Thursday, afternoon at 3:00 and evening at 6:45pm Queen of Hearts drawing every Saturday at 6:00 in the lounge.

Queen of Hearts drawing every Saturday at 6:00 pm

Every Wednesday, Draft beer \$1.75

Texas Hold-em every Monday and Friday at 7:00 pm in the family meeting room.



Commanders Corner (Cont.)

Upcoming events for the month of July:						
Tuesday	July 1st	SAL an Marine Corps League Meeting at 6:30pm.				
Wednesday	July 2nd	Installation of Officers / Recognition of 20 plus members at 6:30pm.				
Friday	July 4th	4 th of July lunch from 11:00am to 1:00pm and evening potluck in the				
		lounge from 4:00pm to 7:00pm fun time for all.				
Saturday	July 5th	Legion Family Calendar planning meeting 3:30pm.				
Sunday	July 6th	Auxiliary Junior's meeting at 3:00pm.				
Tuesday	July 8th	Legion / Auxiliary Executive Board meetings at 6:30pm.				
Wednesday	July 9th	Post 59 and Post 215 Installation of Officers at 5pm in the hall.				
Friday	July 11th	Auxiliary Friday Night Dinner followed by karaoke in the lounge.				
Saturday	July 12th	SAL Roadkill Bingo from 3:00pm to 5:00pm.				
Tuesday	July 15th	Legion / Auxiliary General Membership Meeting at 6:30pm.				
Friday	July 18th	Sea Cadet Friday Night Dinner from 7:30pm to 7:30pm.				
Saturday	July 19th	Paddle Auction in the lounge from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.				
Sunday	July 20th	Auxiliary Junior's Meeting from 3:00pm to 5:30pm.				
Tuesday	July 22nd	Rider's Meeting at 6:30pm.				
Friday	July 25th	Legion Friday Night Dinner from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.				
Saturday	July 26th	Rider's Roadkill Bingo (Tentative).				
Tuesday	July 29th	Senior Health Associates Seminar (Open to all Medicaid / Medicare)				

Volunteer Spotlight

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH IS CHARLOTTE HOUSTON

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU AND ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS DO!





Callers and Volunteers Needed

Sunday, Monday, Thursday

Day Shift: 2:30pm to 6:00pm

Night Shift: 6:30pm to 10:00pm

Benefits include: Tips and half price kitchen

Interested?

Contact David Demars (386) 288-9530



Honor Guard Volunteers Needed

Interested?

EMAIL: honorguardpost57@gmail.com

TEXT: (386) 984-5756 **

VOICE PHONE THROUGH RELAY: (386)

361-4298 **

** The Director is deaf and uses text and email for main communications. Voice calls are relayed by an interpreter. Thank you for understanding.



Membership



July Membership Newsletter

Hello everyone!! Starting of the new Membership year with a bang!!!

I will be attending the July 4th Festivities at the Fairgrounds with our County Veteran Service Officer from 5pm to 9pm. If you are attending the festivities please come over to our tent and say hello!

We have made so many new friends last year, and we were awarded the Post with the highest number of new members for the Department of Florida and we came in tenth in the Nation!!! Little Lake City was put on the map! Let's go out and find Veterans, get them registered into the VA system, and get them working on their disability claims. If you were ever injured in the military, you have a possible CLAIM. PLEASE do it for yourself and your loved ones. Our Veteran forefathers fought hard for the rights and benefits that we are so fortunate to be eligible for today. Do not let the Government reduce these benefits. Help the American Legion advocate for change in the VA system, for more benefits, and keep veterans healthy and help them lead fulfilling lives. You do this by renewing and finding other Veterans to lend their names to the list of Veterans fighting for a life when they return to the world. Do not let the blood, sweat and tears of those who came before us be in vain! Renew today!!!

July 1st, 2025 opens our Early Bird Renewal Cycle Until September 30, 2025. If you renew your membership by September 30,2025 this affords you an opportunity to have dinner on the Post! Who doesn't like FREE food???

Renewing is easier than ever at legion.org All you need is your member number and last name. Click on the Renew button on the upper right of the website and you can pay your dues from home. I receive daily updates and will mail your card to you within two days. You can also renew at mylegion.org. The benefit to registering at Mylegion is that you get to review your information, make corrections to any misspellings. You can add additional Eras you served in, retirement from military service, address updates, new email address, additional email addresses or phone numbers, emergency contact information, or update incorrect information. You can register at mylegion.org have your email address, member number handy. If you don't know your member number, just give me a holler via email, text or phone call and I'll happily provide you with that information. You can pay online and as stated above I will mail your card directly to you. If you have questions, as always feel free to reach out to me! We also have a computer available here at the post and I can help you get registered and walk you through the whole process.

As you come up for renewal, remember there is a 3 year option for \$150.00. This protects you from any uprate in dues until 2028. We also have the Paid Up For Life (PUFL) option that has a monthly payment, or you can pay the whole thing at one time, and your dues will never go up. You can use mylegion.com or Legion.com to take advantage of this option or come into the post and I will walk you through the process. If you pay your dues for the current year, the 3 year option will not be available to you until the following year.

Membership (Cont.)

You are absolutely welcome to come into the office to pay your dues also, I love seeing you and chatting with you anytime! The membership year runs from January 1st to December 31, 2025, so please try to get your dues in before December 31.

December 31st, 2025 is our target date. Let's be the first post to be at 100% this year. It is an extremely difficult task as all the other posts in our District have the advantage. We have 800 plus members. We need 9 people per percentage point. Most of the other posts are between 20-200 members. We are the largest post between Jacksonville and Tallahassee.

For God, Country and Community, Kelly Valliere, First Vice Commander





Chaplain

Dear Legion Family,

As we gather in the heart of summer and prepare to celebrate our nation's birthday, let us take time to reflect on the blessings of freedom and the responsibilities that come with it. The Fourth of July is not only a celebration of independence but a reminder of the sacrifices made to secure it - by our founders, by generations of service members, and by many of us.

Galatians 5:13 reminds us, "For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." May we honor the spirit of this holiday by continuing to serve our fellow veterans, our community, and our country - with love, humility, and faith.

July 29th is also the 250th birthday of the Chaplaincy. You don't need to feel obligated to get a gift for the Chaplain.

William Bell Chaplain

Kitchen Volunteers Needed

All Shifts

Benefits include: Tips and half price kitchen

Interested?

Contact Sharon Huggins (386) 984-9568



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!







Post Service Officer

Hello Post 57,

July is upon us, Happy July the Fourth!

Thank you to all who donate to the Service officer's fund! You are the reason why we can continue to help local Veterans.

This month GI Law is the topic:

DeSantis Announces Governor's Initiative on Lawyers Assisting Warriors (GI LAW) April 18, 2019

EGLIN AFB, Fla. – Gov. Ron DeSantis announced today the Governor's Initiative on Lawyers Assisting Warriors (GI LAW), an initiative to leverage the talent of Florida's leading law firms to provide pro bono services to military members.

Joined by Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Executive Director Danny Burgess, Enterprise Florida President and CEO Jamal Sowell, U.S. Coast Guard Chief of Legal Assistance Chris Dunne and several of the state's most prominent legal professionals, Governor DeSantis unveiled the new program as well as its leadership.

To spearhead the initiative, the Governor announced Chuck Faircloth, General Counsel of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, will serve as Executive Director. Steering Committee members include: Maj. Gen. James O. Eifert, Adjutant General of the Florida National Guard, Danny Burgess, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs', Bruce Grant, Vice President of Military and Defense Programs at Enterprise Florida, partners from Greenberg Traurig, partners from Holland & Knight, partners from Shutts & Bowen and partners from the Gunster law firm.

"I'm proud to be able to lead this remarkable effort to provide our active duty service members free legal services from some of the best law firms in our state," said Governor DeSantis. "This is a big win for our service members and our military here in Florida and I commend all those involved for their commitment to our military."

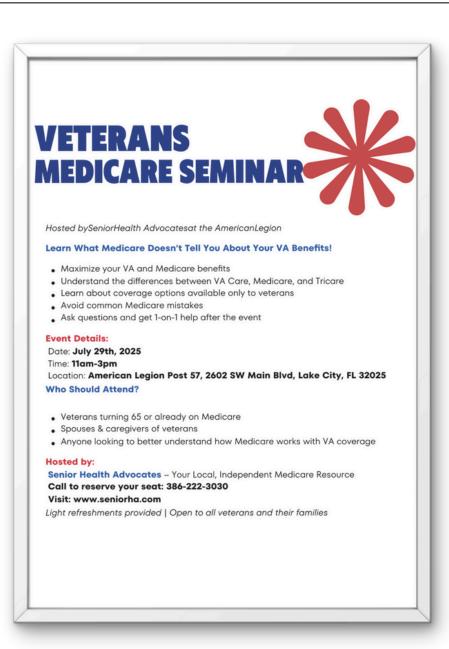
Through GI LAW, our state's men and women in uniform will receive free legal counsel in a variety of civil manners, including actions in local courts. Participating attorneys will dedicate time and expertise to ensure prompt and fair resolution of the legal matters of our service men and women. The Governor also announced GI LAW has secured the commitment of four of Florida's top law firms: Greenberg Traurig, Holland & Knight, Shutts & Bowen and Gunster.

Post Service Officer (Cont.)

The application process will be housed on a soon-to-be live webpage through Enterprise Florida's website. Military members looking for local legal counsel will contact a JAG officer in their area, who will then work to fill out the application. The leadership of GI LAW will then work with participating firms to coordinate legal services on their behalf.

For more information, visit https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/lawyers-assisting-warriors/.

Lisa G Brown Post Veteran Service Officer Post 57, Lake City Florida





Riders

Riders Emergency Meeting Recap 6/28/2025

Hey everyone!

No way to do this but just straight to it. On Tuesday, June 24th, 2025 the entire Riders Board with the exception of Rob "Gabby" Mixon and our Chaplain Maryann Dennis stepped down from their current and future positions.

A special meeting was called on Saturday, June 28, 2025 at 12:30 PM to discuss the way forward. A vote was taken by raised hand as to whether or not the 25 attendees wished for the chapter to continue. All 25 members agreed to continue with chapter 57.

The discussion culminated in appointing the following interim officers:

Interim Riders Director - Kelly Valliere
Interim Assistant Riders Director - Dakota Linder
Interim Adjutant/Finance Officer - Elaine Lagasse
Interim Road Captain/Safety Officer - Rob Mixon
Interim Historian - Tom Wilcutts
Interim Chaplain - Maryann Dennis

The Nominees are:

Rider's Director - Art Palecek

JD Warren

Assistant Riders Director - Dakota Linder

Sergeant at Arms - John "Toad" Dennis

Bob Charles

Finance/Adjutant - Elaine Lagasse

Road Captain/Safety Officer - Open

Historian - Thomas Wilcutts

Chaplain - Maryann Dennis

With these interim officers in place the regularly scheduled meeting for July 22, 2025 will be held at 6:30 PM in the family room.

Riders (Cont.)

Opening Ceremonies, Officer Reports, and then new riders will then be voted in. We shall then take nominations from the floor for all the positions.

It is within the commander's purview to appoint officers to the Riders board. But during discussion, everyone agreed that they would like to hold an official election.

The Post Commander Bill Huggins, Judge Advocate David Mangrum, and the Riders Oversight Committee; Ed Sweedy and Robert Preston, Post Board Member Tony Nolan and incoming Post Sergeant at Arms Mat Fetzer were in attendance.

The nomination Committee consists of:

Jennifer Dixon jaynomk@gmail.com

Cawan Talley cltally96@gmail.com

Gabby Mixon flbobob@gmail.com (he is not a nominee only serving as interim)

If you wish to be nominate yourself please contact the above individuals The tellers for the election will be Terry Libbert, Robert Preston, Ed Sweedy.

Thank you to all who showed up to the meeting and participated. Your input is much appreciated and we will be well on our way in August!





Auxiliary News

As your new President for the following year, I would like to see us build membership with more people involved in our committees and activities. I'm hoping to have a very productive year and the Board and I welcome all new ideas and suggestions.

Our new year begins July 1, 2025 with our installation following on July 2nd at 6:30 in the Bingo Hall with dinner following. If possible, please wear a red shirt for installation as this is our Department President, Robin Burk's color for this year. Our theme for the year is Declare Your Mission and our song is "Roar" by Katy Perry, we are the Scroll of the Banners.

Friday, July 4th, the Legion will be serving barbecued chicken and ribs with various sides between 1100 and 1:00. Auxiliary members are asked to bring a dessert to the barbecue. There will also be pot luck in the lounge from 4-7. If coming, please bring a dish to share.

Irma Wehrli has volunteered for the July Auxiliary Dinner which is on July 11th. Please come out and support her and her charity.

Our first board meeting is July 8th at 6:30 and our first general meeting will be July 15th. Hope to see you all there.

On July 23rd we'll be taking the Domiciliary ladies out to lunch at Chili's at 1100. All members are invited but will be responsible for your own meal.

Four of us will be attending Workshop from July 25th to the 27th. We will be coming back with new knowledge and ideas to share with everybody.

I'll be meeting with the Planning Committee, Saturday, July 5th, and will have dates of dinners, events, etc. for the year after that meeting and will share with all.

For Spirit of Service Not Self, Donna Sessa President – Unit 57 Lake City



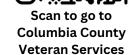


County Service Officer

Columbia County Veteran Services Newsletter

June 2025 Veterans Newsletter
Columbia County Veteran Services Office

Message from Your Veteran Service Officer, Ronnie Beasley



1486 SW McFarlane Ave, Lake City, FL 32025

📞 (386) 758-3350 | 🖂 rbeasley@columbiacountyfla.com

Office Notice

Office Closed: June 30 – July 11, 2025

Please note I will be out of the office during this time. If you need assistance, contact the **Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs** at (727) 319-7400 or visit <u>www.floridavets.org</u>.

- In Join Me at the 1st Annual Fourth of July Celebration!

 Columbia County and the City of Lake City present:
- **Image:** Fourth of July Celebration "More Than Just Fireworks"
- 📍 Florida Gateway Fairgrounds
- 📅 Friday, July 4, 2025
- 5:00 PM Fireworks at 9:00 PM

I'll be on site representing **Columbia County Veteran Services** — stop by the vendor area for free benefit info, VA claim help, and good old-fashioned conversation. This is a great chance to catch up, ask questions, and enjoy the community.

Event Highlights Include:

- Car Show
- Vendors
- Live Music
- Food Trucks \underset
- Family Activities
- Bounce Houses
- Fireworks

County Service Officer (Cont.)



- ightharpoonup July Reminders & Veteran Updates
 - PACT Act: If you served in a toxic exposure location and haven't filed, schedule a review.
 - DIC and Survivor Benefits: We're reviewing eligibility for new and pending applications.
- VA Compensation: Still accepting claims for increases, secondary conditions, and new connections.
- VA Benefit Tips
- VA Dental Eligibility: If you're rated 100% P&T or on IU, you may qualify for full dental care.
- home Loan Perks: Your VA rating may eliminate funding fees. Ask how to save on your next home.
- Need a Statement or Appeal Drafted? We're knocking those out fast. Let's get it right the first time.
- Veteran Spotlight

Do you know a Columbia County veteran doing amazing things in the community? Nominate them for our August Spotlight by emailing me at rbeasley@columbiacountyfla.com.

- Thank you for your continued service and support. See you at the fireworks!
- Ronnie Beasley, County VSO



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.



Scan to go to www.seacadets.org

You can also click the link to get more information <u>America's Sea Cadets - The US Navy's youth development program.</u>

We do not meet in the summer for drills. A lot of cadets attend summer trainings. We will start our monthly drills back up in August.



The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57 Juniors meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday from 3:00pm to 5:30pm. For more information contact Kay Peterson at alaux57@gmail.com.









Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 SAL Squadron 57 Meeting 6:30pm Marine Corps League Meeting 6:30pm	\$1.75 Draft 11:00am Continuous Membership Award Ceremony 6:00pm Installation of Post Officers 6:30pm-7:30pm	3 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	4 Red Shirt Friday Independence Day July 4th Potluck 4:00pm-8:00pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm Happy Happy Happy	5 Maya Hall Rental 3:00pm-1:00am Calendar Planning Meeting 3:30pm-4:30pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
6 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Auxiliary Junior Meeting 3:00pm	7 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	8 Legion & Auxiliary Executive Meeting 6:30pm	\$1.75 Draft 11:00am Post 59 & 215 Installation of Officers 5:00pm 7:00pm Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm-7:00pm	10 Charity Ride Planning Meeting 2:00pm-3:00pm Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	Red Shirt Friday Auxiliary Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30mp Karaoke w/ Tom Daniels 6:30pm- 9:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	12 SAL Roadkill Bingo 3:00pm- 5:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
13 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	14 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	15 Legion & Auxiliary General Membership Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm	16 \$1.75 Draft 11:00am	17 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	18 Red Shirt Friday Sea Cadet Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	Hall Rental (Wedding) Paddle Auction 5:00pm-7:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
20 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Auxiliary Junior Meeting 3:00pm	21 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	22 Riders Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm	\$1.75 Draft 11:00 am Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm-7:00pm	24 United Way Planning Meeting 10:00am-11:00am Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	25 Red Shirt Friday Legion Friday Night Dinner with Band 5:30pm- 7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	26 Queen of Hearts 6:00pm Riders Roadkill Bingo 6:00pm- 8:00pm
27 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	28 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	29 Senior Health Associates Seminar 11:00am-3:00pm	30 \$1.75 Draft 11:00 am	31 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm		