

March 2024  
American Legion Post 57



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## COMMANDERS CORNER



Members February has been a busy month,  
Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, we had the Four Chaplin's Ceremony at Post 224 Cherry Lake at 10am.  
Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, we held our Valentines Dance and steak dinner, grate turnout raised money for the service officer fund.  
Feb 11<sup>th</sup> Auxiliary Game Day, and SAL Roadkill Bingo  
Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, we held our Super Bowl Party in Lounge, congratulations for the winners.  
Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, we held our Four Chaplin's Ceremony for post 57, good turn thanks to our Chaplain Mel Haynes for a job well done and for our speakers.  
Feb 25<sup>th</sup> ALR held their Chili Cookoff, weather was good and great turnout, great job Riders and volunteers that helped with the event.  
Thanks to Kimbelry (SEVEN) Blumer for donating her books and signing them, she donated all proceeds to our service officer fund.

Now for March:

Mar 1<sup>st</sup> Karaoke 6:30 pm and Auxiliary Dinner 5:30 – 7:00pm

Mar 2<sup>ND</sup> Auxiliary Hooked on Vets 1- 3 pm

Mar 8<sup>th</sup> Sea Cadets Dinner 5:30-7:00pm

Mar 9<sup>th</sup> SAL Roadkill bingo 7pm

Mar 15<sup>th</sup> ALR Dinner and Men dress as ladies' night.

Mar 22 SAL Dinner 5:30-7:00pm

Mar 23<sup>rd</sup> ALR Roadkill bingo at 7pm

Mar 29<sup>th</sup> Legion Dinner fish fry its Good Friday 5:30-7pm

Queen of Hearts is doing great last month's winners were

Bill Huggins, Sue Hoffman, Rick Freshour and Steve Cox

Red Shirt Fridays winners were Tom Wilcutts and Dave Holmes

As always Volunteers are needed in Bingo, Kitchen and Events please take time

To Volunteer and help your post. Thanks. Nominations for all Executive positions are open, If interested please contact our nominating committee, any member in good standing are eligible to run for office.

For God and Country

Commander

Rick Cabrera

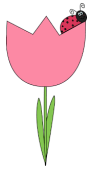
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# VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

## Colleen

Thanks for all you do!

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# S.A.L SQUADRON 57



Hello S.A.L. Squadron 57 Members

Hope everyone had a safe month in February!

We had another fun filled month with Roadkill Bingo and Friday Night Dinner. I would like to thank Lee, Jim, Liam, and Bailey-Jo for their help with Roadkill. I would also like to thank Jim, Ron, Warren, and Vanessa for helping with Friday Night Dinner and Leland for representing the SONS with his chili entry in the Chili Cook Off. All of you are awesome and made our events a huge success.

The March meeting starts with nominations for Officer positions. If you are interested, please come to our meetings and give your opinions.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday March 5th @ 6:30pm Squadron 57 Meeting/nominations.

Saturday March 9th @ 7:00 to 9:00pm Roadkill Bingo

Friday March 22nd @ 5:30 to 7:30pm Friday Night Dinner

S.A.L. Squadron 57 Commander:

Brian Wolfe



The start of 2024 has been very busy for our Unit.

We have taken the lady vets from the Domiciliary to lunch at Beef O'Brady's and hosted a Ladies Tea at the Dom for them. They were so thankful for both of these events.

We had our Americanism Awards program giving out awards and scholarships to the top 3 essays in each grade group. These kids really put some thought into these essays. The first-place winners will now go on to the Department for judging on the state level. We are continuing to pack our "Care Packages" of food snacks and hygiene products that we take to the USO in Jacksonville to be shipped out to our deployed troops. We have found that the need is great. These packages have been shipped out almost immediately after taking them to the USO. Also, we have had several Units in our District contribute items for our mission. Sharon Manning, chairman of the Education program, has been working on a new project. She is providing snacks for an elementary school each month until the end of the school year. So far, the schools picked are Niblack, Eastside, and Melrose. The Junior program has been super busy since the holidays. They now meet once a month and work on crafts, bracelets, and other projects. They entered the Riders Chili Cook-off and won the People's Choice Award. The girls and boys (from SAL) had their own little competition between themselves by letting the public vote which of the 2 teams had the best chili and the girls won. If you have a granddaughter or grandson that can qualify to join the Auxiliary or the sons, please consider letting them join. These kids are really having fun. Congratulations goes out to a long time Junior member, Caitlyn Hanechak, for transitioning into a Senior member this year. Caitlyn will be working closely with Kay Peterson, the Juniors chairman, to help out with these kids and teach them all the stuff she has learned over the years. Our next Auxiliary dinner will be Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM or until the food runs out. The menu will bake chicken, yellow rice, green beans and cake. All for a \$10.00 donation. If you know of an auxiliary member that is in a nursing home, please let us know. We would like to be able to visit her and see if there is anything needed. Also, if you know of a member that is sick, has passed away, or any other life event, we need to know so we can send a card, flowers, or just visit. Bingo at the VA Hospital has started back again after being shut down during the pandemic. Elaine Warner is in charge, and she is looking for some volunteers that will help out a few hours each week. Congratulations to our Unit for exceeding the 100% mark in membership. Kay Peterson has worked really hard to get us to this point. If you haven't renewed yet, please do so as soon as possible.

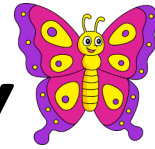
For God and Country,

Lisa Dye

President – Unit 57 Lake City



# JUNIOR AUXILIARY



February was a busy month for our Junior Auxiliary and Sons. We began the month making bracelets and other trinkets to sell at the Chili Cook-off and worked on our decorations at the second meeting. Everybody was so excited making preparations for the cook-off. Looking for a place with adequate kitchen space to make the chili, Donna Sessa offered up her house for the preparation. The Tinkerbells were taught how to follow a recipe, cut up bacon and onion and how to measure the spices needed for the recipe. Three pots of chili were prepared with a couple of the girls working as a team. Ms. Brenda Morgan and I helped the Tinkerbells (when needed) with the chili preparation. Ms. Sessa provided grilled hamburgers and hot dogs for our dinner. Thank you, Ms. Sessa and Ms. Morgan, for all you did to help us get ready for February 24<sup>th</sup>. Would also like to thank Ms. Maryann Dennis and Ms. Carolyn Anderson for their help with the tent decoration and assisting the Tinkerbells in making items for fundraisers. A big thank you to Ms. Morgan for crocheting and donating additional items to use as fundraisers and thank you to Judy Morelan for getting us the needed groceries for our chili.

In this case it took a team to build a village to get where we needed to be and we sure had our village with the help of these ladies, the Lost Boys and Mr. Ambrose (mentor of the Lost Boys). Thank you to everyone who was involved in one aspect or another, we do appreciate your involvement. Because of our village, the Junior Auxiliary members won the People's Choice Award for our chili and the competition with the Lost Boys.

Now we move to March where we will be helping our Juniors earn patches through our Junior Patch Program and learning more about what the Auxiliary does and why. We'll be starting with Ms. Wehrli visiting the group and going over Americanism, what it means, and how to earn the Americanism patch. Ms. Sessa will also visit and tell the Juniors about Community Service, what it means, and how the Juniors can get involved in community service activities and how they can earn additional patches.

We're looking forward to more team participation as we move forward. All patch awards will be submitted to Department not later than May 15<sup>th</sup> so we can ensure the submission is timely. I'm asking that parents, grandparents, etc. help your Junior member to complete some of their patch requirements. It would be wonderful for all Junior members to be awarded patches. More to come for the months ahead and I'm looking forward to seeing our Juniors and parents at some, if not all, of our future meetings.

Kay Peterson  
Junior Chair  
Membership Chair/Auxiliary Secretary





# HONOR GUARD



Honor Guard received a last-minute request to support US Naval Honor Corps with a rifle salute for Master Chief William Bright on January 30<sup>th</sup>. We traveled to McKinney Cemetery outside of Live Oak. The family and funerary staff were extremely grateful and bestowed a donation. Master Chief Bright served 27 years in the US Navy earning numerous awards and commendations including the Bronze Star. Our February meeting was moved forward to Valentine's Day so we could prepare for our role in the Four Chaplain memorial service. Our new Chaplain and his wife joined us along with our new team members. This was their first Four Chaplain service. It was an honor for our Coast Guard member, William Bell, to memorialize the brave actions of Coast Guard Stewards mate First Class Charles Walter David, Jr. during the service. On a special note, we are proud to be members of an Honor Guard. The American Legion hosts both Color Guards and Honor Guards and even has a national competition for Color Guard teams. By definition a Color Guard's only duty is to Present and Retire the Colors for special and public events. The Sea Cadets have a Color Guard. Although an Honor Guard may also perform this duty, our main function is to provide military HONORS to veterans upon their passing. The US military has given the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) the special privilege to be their substitute when a military honor corps cannot be provided for a veteran's funeral or memorial service. No other organization has that special trust. Our guns are provided by the US Army. The guns were used in WW2 and the Army converted them to specialized ceremonial rifles that fire blanks. We also HONOR living veterans by participating in ceremonies held in our community, nursing homes, hospitals and assistive living facilities. Our badge on our uniform says it all... HONOR Guard...and we are grateful to be on this very special team.

As always, we look forward to serving our Post and the community and thank you for your support.

Respectfully,  
Commander JD



Hello Team,

February has been a busy and fun month for us. We began the month with our Friday night dinner on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Alice and her team served Chicken Carbonara, salad, and a dessert and it was a phenomenal success with all dinners sold out. Thank you, Alice and your team for a great dinner and everyone for coming out and supporting your Legion Riders. On the 17<sup>th</sup> the Post had their Four Chaplains Ceremony coordinated by Chaplain Mel Haines. We had participation by Commander Rick Cabrera, Chuck Caldwell, Bill Huggins, Tom Johnson, James Taylor to help make this event a success, thank you. That night Chuck Caldwell, Commander Rick Cabrera and the rest of the team hosted Roadkill Bingo. They provided a good time for our members to have another opportunity to win some food and enjoy each other's company. We finished off February with the Chili Cookoff held on February 24<sup>th</sup>. We had 12 chili entries and several classic cars with Treetop Flyers to provide food and entertainment for the public. This event was a huge success. Thank you to Chapter 57 for your assistance in making it a success and to everyone for supporting us. March is not so busy for us but just as important in the success of your Riders. We will officially open up nomination for your board for 2024 and 2025. We will have our dinner on March 15 and Roadkill on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. In April we will host the in-State Unity Ride on April 21 serving them dinner at 5pm with them starting the ride on April 22 all supporting Veteran Suicide Prevention. On April 13, the Gold Star Memorial Ride is coming to support Gold Star Families. If you are a Gold Star Family, please let your Legion Family Membership Officer or myself know. Until next month, thank you for your support with what your Riders do.

Michael Ziegler



# SERVICE OFFICER

And finally, the rest of the story....

Another busy month at Post 57 assisting veterans with claims and financial emergencies. We helped 4 veterans with lodging until space was available at nursing home or housing through HUD Wash.

Our last Veteran's Education Class was a success with 8 veterans and dependents attending. This class started out with answering basic questions on filing a claim with the Veterans Benefit Administration. Our next class is Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

This class will discuss Death and Burial Benefits.

This class then turned into a wonderful conversation from these veterans, on changes they would like to see happen here at our Post. Lots of great ideas but, we need membership to tell us what THEY/YOU want.

I was contacted several days ago by a firefighter in Jasper who had responded to a house fire. The homeowner, an elderly veteran, had lost everything including a family member. I am waiting for more information but, I hope to organize a fundraiser to assist this gentleman. Specifics to follow when I have more information.

The Post was gifted with a motorized scooter that I have personally tested out, and it works great. We would like to loan this to a veteran that can use it. If you know someone that could benefit from this scooter, please get in contact with me or another board member.

Have a wonderful month and don't forget to look out for your neighbors and friends.

Duty, Honor, Country  
Rustyann Brown  
Service Officer

