# Monthly Newsletter

## **AMERICAN LEGION POST 57**

October 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**

Fall is finally here, nicer temperatures and football.

Thanks to the donation of one of our members, we now have 3 86", 1 75" and a 65" televisions to enjoy the newly installed NFLST package. All Sunday and Thursday games are now available to enjoy in the comfort of the lounge, and in addition, the kitchen is open during those times for quick snacks or full meals for your convenience..

The membership office is now complete and Kelly has moved in giving her more privacy in dealing with new members, come see her and the office she's in.

We had a great time celebrating the Post 105th birthday with bands in both the hall and the lounge, over 100 prime rib dinners were sold with nothing but compliments on the meal. If you missed it, you'll never know.

Thursday, Sept. 25th we were honored to host our Department Commander, Jessica Moore along with Area and District Officers.

At our September American Legion Board and General meeting it was brought up and approved to move forward with the purchase and installation of a new generator capable of powering the entire post. As a designated disaster distribution center this will help in holding up our responsibilities, moreover this will provide relief to our members in such an event. This will add the capability for our members to come in and get a hot meal, cold drinks and camaraderie in such a time of stress.

Reminder, that this Saturday the American Legion Family is helping to host a fund-raiser for a local resident, Ricky Crawford. The day will begin with Riders doing registrations at Harvey's Supermarket from 9:30 until 11:00 am when kickstands go up for an escorted country ride back to Post 57 for the after-party where there will be classic cars, the blood-mobile, raffles, 50/50, auctions and so much more. Lunch of pulled pork or pulled chicken, baked beans, coleslaw will be provided by Fenced in BBQ.

Candy drive all month, please bring candy to donate to go to the "Kid Safe" Halloween party.

Coat drive, all month, time to clean out your closets for those jackets, wind breakers and sweaters that are either out of style or no longer fit (imagine that)

VETERAN'S DAY PARADE: The American Legion family in cooperation with the VFW will be hosting the Veteran's Day Parade on Saturday, Nov. 8, while we didn't select the date, our First Vice along with a number of Post Family members are doing a terrific job in putting this together. With brilliant new ideas, this could be the best Veteran's day parade that Lake City has ever had. Interested in participating? Contact Kelly.

# Commanders Corner (Cont.)

VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION: Tuesday, Nov. 11 the American Legion Family will come together to pay tribute to our Veterans, plans are in the works to make this a great event. The plan is to begin the event at 11:11 am with the posting of the Colors of our nation to be followed by a Veteran's day program then a Veteran's day cook-out.

EARLY-BIRD DINNER: Our early-bird dinner is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 25th, please go on-line and RSVP the number coming with your party so we can figure out how much to prepare, unfortunately, the menu is yet to be determined.

As always, we have Bingo every Sun, Mon and Thur., the afternoon session beginning at 3:00 pm and evening session begins at 6:45.

The Kitchen is open Mon-Friday from 11:00 until 1:00 pm. afternoon/evening hours

Thurs. 4-8

Fri. 5:30-7:30 (Family Friday Dinner)

Sat. 4-8

Sun 1-8 To support the NFL Sunday ticket

Mon 4-8 Tues 4-8 Wed 4-8 Thur 4-8

Texas Hold-em Monday and Friday

Queen of Hearts, every Sat. at 6:00 pm

Friday Oct 3 Legion Friday Dinner with Karaoke 5:30-7:30

Wednesday are \$1.75 draft

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Sat.	Oct 4	Ricky Crawford Fundraiser	9:30-4 pm
Sat.	Oct 4	Sea Cadet Drill	8:00 am-3:00 pm
Tues	Oct 7	SAL meeting	6:30
Wed	Oct 8	Auxiliary Dom. Bingo	6:00-7:30 pm
Fri	Oct 10	Auxiliary Friday Dinner	5:30-7:30 pm
Sat	Oct 11	SAL Roadkill Bingo	3-5 pm
Tues	Oct 14	Legion/Auxiliary Exec. Meeting	6:30 pm
Wed.	Oct 15	Veteran's Stand Down	9:00 am until 3 pm
Wed	Oct 15	Begin Haunted house build	
Fri	Oct.17	Rider's Dinner	5:30-7:30 pm
Sat	Oct 18	Sea Cadet Drill	8:00 am til 3 pm
Sat	Oct 19	Bunko	2:00-4:00 pm
Sat	Oct 19	Paddle Auction	5:00-7:00 pm
Tue	Oct 21	Legion/Auxiliary General meeting	6:30 pm
Wed	Oct 22	1st Responder Luncheon	11:00 am til 1:00 pm
Wed	Oct 22	Paint and Mingle	5:30 pm-7:30 pm
Fri	Oct 24	Sea Cadet Dinner	5:30-7:30 pm
Fri	Oct 24	Adult Halloween Party	6:00-10:00 pm
Sat	Oct 25	Rider's Roadkill	6:00-8:00 pm
Tue	Oct 28	Rider's Meeting	6:30 pm
Fri	Oct 31	Kid Safe Halloween (no Fri dinner	6:00-8:00 pm



## Chaplain

Dear Legion Family,

As the days grow shorter and the crisp air of autumn surrounds us, October reminds us of both change and gratitude. The falling leaves show us the beauty of letting go, and in our own lives, we are reminded to release what no longer serves us and to hold onto faith, hope, and love.

It is exciting to watch our Post grow with new members and to see the success of the programs we have sponsored throughout our community over the past month. The turnout at recent events has been inspiring, and it is truly a blessing to witness the strength of our Legion family in action.

I also had the privilege of meeting with the coaches of the two baseball teams we are sponsoring this year. Although their first games were unfortunately rained out, the coaches shared that they have a strong group of players and are looking forward to a great season. I encourage you to come out and catch a game when you can—it's a wonderful way to support our youth and show the community the heart of the American Legion.

October is also a time of remembrance. We honor those who gave all for our country, those still serving, and the families who carry on their legacy. In our gatherings and prayers, may we never forget the cost of freedom and the blessings we share because of their sacrifice.

For God and Country,

William Bell

Chaplain

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

- Galatians 6:9

# Membership



Happy Halloween!!!

Membership numbers as of September 25:

Post goal: 840

Percentage of goal Achieved: 60.60%

Total Paid Memberships: 509
New Members: 47
Renewals: 391
Transfers from 400\_AD (cyber post): 3
Transfers in: 11
Transfers out: 3



Scan to go to www.legion.org

Okay, now for the great things your membership team has going on!

On October 15th American Legion Post 57 is hosting our Veteran's Stand Down and Resource Fair!!! Many of the Departments at the VA are sending their best people to give you information on department related services. Suicide Prevention, Military Sexual Trauma, Registration, Women's health, Primary Care, Vocational Rehab, Advance Directives, Benetravel, Homeless Outreach, Caregiver Support, Vet Center in Gainesville, and the DAV Post 129, American Legion Post 59, VFW Post 2206 will all be attending.

The Columbia County and Lake City Community has stepped up and there are many resources available locally also: Dave Hill, US Air Force Retired

Director, Veterans and Military Services

Office of Congresswoman Kat Cammack (FL03),

Ronnie Beasley (Columbia County Veteran Service Officer), Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families (Volunteers of America), Mission United, United Way, Hope Florida, Career Source, Senior Health Advocates, Three Rivers Legal Services, Southeast Elite Working Dogs, Renewed, Haven Hospice, Alzheimer's Association, Department of Children and Families, Living Hope (outreach for first Responders and Veteran peer group) Project Hope (Hurricane Helene), Bankers Life, Carter's Confident Care, Elder Options, Cornerstone Caregiving, Tru Home Care, Ferreira Funeral Services National Cemetery (advance planning for memorials, costs that the VA picks up).

# Membership (Cont.)

There will be free haircuts provided by Gateway Community College of Cosmetology. Coffee and donuts will be provided by the American Legion Auxiliary in the morning and our Legion Kitchen will be providing lunch! Please tell all your veteran friends to come down and enjoy the camaraderie and information. There will be tote bags for the homeless with snacks, and personal care items. We are so excited and pleased that our community has come together to provide you with information and resources for making the transition from homelessness, from active duty to civilian life, and ongoing care for Veterans and their loved ones.

Your local Veterans Service agencies have teamed up to bring you the Lake City/Columbia County Veteran's Day Parade! We have over 30 registrants already, with many more entry forms out there! I'm happy to say that all of local Veterans Service organizations have registered; DAV, VFW, American Legion Posts 57 and 423, many local businesses, National Guard, CHS Band, CHS ROTC, FHP Motorcycles, LC Fire Department, Columbia County Sheriff's Office, American Legion Riders, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, and so many more!!! There will be youth dancers, horses and dogs... goodness gracious its going to be a great Parade!!! November 8th, lineup starts at 8:00 AM at the FDOT Parking Lot at 1109 S Marion Ave (US HWY 441 south of the VA. Truthfully I could use some volunteers to help me get this parade off to a good start on the morning of...please feel free to contact me if interested. It's going to be a fabulous parade!

Last but not least...membership dues are due by December 31, 2025, we are so close to our November 13th Goal already please get those dues in, you can go to legion.org and pay using your last name and member number. If you don't know your member number, simply send me an email or give me a call. You can also come by the post and pay or send your check or money order to American Legion Post 57, Attn: Kelly, 2602 SW Main Blvd, Lake City FL 32025. Your membership is greatly appreciated! We take names to Congress at both the state and federal level to advocate for Veteran Programs, rights, and benefits right here in Florida and Lake City! We have so many fabulous things going on here at the post, check out our website Americanlegion57.org and check out the Events Calendar tab on the menu!

For God and Country,

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

# 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,

October is here, Halloween is 30 days away! Thank you, to everyone who donates to the Service officer's fund and comes to the Paddle Auctions! You are the reason why we can continue to help local Veterans.

Post 57 has helped 7 Veterans this month!

This month's topic is VA and Social Security COLA increases for 2026!

Projected COLA for VA disability benefits in 2026 is expected to be 2.7%, based on the latest inflation data from the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). This increase will take effect on December 1, 2025, with new monthly pay rates showing up in your January 1, 2026 VA disability check. The Social Security Administration (SSA) usually releases its official COLA for the coming year in the second week of October, but the projected increase for 2026 is based on the average retiree receiving a \$2,008.31 monthly benefit, which would increase by \$54.22 to \$2,062.53 in 2026. This increase would leave the average retiree more than \$650 richer at the end of the year. VA Claims Insider

+1

For VA disability benefits, the increase will be effective from December 1, 2025, with the new monthly pay rates showing up in your January 1, 2026 VA disability check. The exact percentage will be confirmed by the SSA in mid-October 2025, and the VA will automatically adjust your payments based on your current rating and dependents.

VA Claims Insider

The Social Security Administration (SSA) usually releases its official cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the coming year in the second week of October. Until then, The Senior Citizens League, the country's foremost COLA prognosticator, projected that beneficiaries will get a 2.7% raise in 2026.

Boooooo, Have a great Halloween!

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



#### Riders

Hello, and welcome to October, to all of the ALR Chapter 57 Riders

I'm slowly getting a grasp of what we need to do as Officers of this Chapter. I greatly appreciate the assistance I've received in getting us pointed in the right direction. We've had some great riding weather recently, and the day time temperatures are slowly dropping, which only makes the ride better.

Rides our Riders participated in include: the Fifth Annual 7 Bridges POW/MIA Remembrance Ride; Fund raisers for individuals at Posts 83 and 383; Rides to recover our plaque from Posts 83 and 383; Individual rides south to Key West and north as far as NY, visiting Posts, veterans and military units along the way; and the Fun Rides, which usually involve riding for lunch. All told our riders accumulated over 9000 miles in the saddle.

Considering most of your new officers, including myself, have little experience organizing events, Riders Friday Night dinner and Roadkill Bingo were both very successful, and we are grateful to all who came out to help and to support. We sold over 60 dinners, and raffled off a liquor basket. Roadkill bingo was equally successful, raffling off two dinner baskets raising nearly \$500.00 for Riders Programs.

I'm looking forward to seeing more of you showing up for rides, events, fundraisers, etc. Our Ride Captain has put together a ride schedule, out to December. The schedule is somewhat flexible and updated as needed. Included in the schedule are fun rides for lunch and fellowship. If you have some place you would like to ride, bring it to the Ride Captains attention, and we will do what we can to make it happen. Most of our rides are planned for the weekends, but some of us are available during the weekdays, and ready to ride.

## Riders (Cont.)

#### **Upcoming Events:**

**October 4th - Charity ride for Ricky Crawford:** a Lake City resident, who has stage four cancer, and the Riders will be participating in that event also, in numerous ways. The Riders also agreed to donate \$500 to the Ricky Crawford fundraising effort.

**October 12th - Riders Dinner:** Menu is Philly Cheesesteaks, with a choice of fries or onion rings, and brownies. Hope to hear from a few members to volunteer on the griddle, the fryers, register, and running meals.

October 27th - Riders Roadkill Bingo

**November 8th - Veterans Parade:** The parade details are still being worked out, and will be released as soon as they come available.

**November 15th - Voices for the Children:** This ride will start in Wellborn and end at AL Post 57. More details will be released as they come available.

For God and Country,

JD Warren Rider Director ALR Chapter 57



# 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** 



# **Auxiliary News**

The Auxiliary continues to highlight the making and stuffing bears for the Boggy Creek children. Our current collecting is for coats, sweatshirts and jackets (gently used please) for the Domiciliary and for homeless children of Columbia county. We are also collecting Halloween candy for the big safe Halloween party on October 31st.

Saturday, September 13th was our annual indoor yard sale. The sale runs from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday. We collected more donations than any of us remembered in the past and made more money as well. It was a huge success. We thank all of our members who volunteered for the setup, during the sale, and cleanup.

We are currently collecting 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. Other can tops, including those from soup and vegetable cans are acceptable.

The Junior Auxiliary is now in the process of regrouping for the coming year. The first meeting will be announced shortly by email. We hope that all of our current Juniors will maintain their enthusiasm and that we will be recruiting new participants.

As a fun activity for Auxiliary members, we will be starting a Bunko group on October 10th from 2PM -4:00PM. Details will be shared with members once plans are finalized.

The meeting room renovation is in full swing and we will have the opportunity to make our area really shine. If you have suggestions, please give them to a member of the Auxiliary executive board.

The next district meeting will be Saturday, October 4th at Post 49 in Monticello. Registration begins at 9:00 am and the meeting starts at 10:00. These are informative and fun with meeting Auxiliary members from other units. The meetings are open to all Auxiliary members.

# **Auxiliary News (Cont.)**

On October 4th there will be a Crawford Fund raiser at the Post with food and music.

On October 11 we will be packing troop bags at 2PM. This will also be an opportunity to meet our Florida President, Robin Burke.

October 22 is our annual First Responders Luncheon from 11-1PM. Please help with this event if available.

November is Poppy month and we will be in full force on November 1 at Publix and at Winn Dixie the following Saturday. Please consider volunteering for these events.

Thank you all for your dedication to our veterans and our community.

Donna Sessa President Unit 57 Auxiliary

For Spirit of Service, Not Self







#### 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 schedule for 2025 -2026, These are the drills until the end of this year.

September 6, 2025, September 20, 2025, October 4, 2025, October 18, 2025, November 1, 2025, November 15, 2025, December 6, 2025, December 20, 2025.

Sea Cadet fundraiser dinners are schedule as followed for until the end of this year: September 19, 2025, October 24, 2025, November 21, 2025, January 9, 2026

The Cadets will also be doing a fundraiser selling Peanut Brittle and Jerky from October 4 through the 18th. Be on the lookout for order forms coming soon.



Scan to go to www.seacadets.org





# Sons of the American Legion

On Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 the Commander, Finance Officer and and Sgt. at Arms resigned from their respective positions.

This means that we have no current leadership for the Detachment.

I have appointed Jeff Stewart, former Sons Commander as the interim Commander.

At the next scheduled meeting of the SONS it is imperative that all current members show up at 6:30 and be prepared to take on a leadership role.

The SONs are an integral part of our American Legion Family so it's very important that we revitalize this program.

Respectfully

Bill Huggins, Commander, American Legion Post 57

# Volunteer Spotlight

# VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH IS JIMBO HARRINGTON THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU AND ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS DO!









Constant	Manual	Turnel	Workers	Thomas	Polidon	Codemil
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 \$1.75 Draft 11:00am Merry-Go-Round Start (All Month) Candy Drive Start (All Month) Coat Drive Start (All Month)	2 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	3 Red Shirt Friday Legion Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Karaoke 6:30pm- 9:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	4 Sea Cadet Drill 8:00am-3:30pm Ricky Crawford Fundraiser 9:30am-4:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
5 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Auxiliary Junior Meeting 3:00pm	6 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	7 SAL Squadron 57 Meeting 6:30pm- 7:30pm Marine Corps League Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm	8 \$1.75 Draft 11:00am Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm-7:00pm	<b>9</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	10 Red Shirt Friday Auxiliary Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	11 SAL Roadkill Bingo 3:00pm- 5:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
<b>12</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	13 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	14 Legion & Auxiliary Executive Meeting 6:30pm	\$1.75 Draft 11:00am Start Haunted House Setup Veteran Stand Down 9:00am- 3:00pm	<b>16</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	17 Red Shirt Friday Riders Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	Sea Cadet Drill 8:00am-3:30pm Bunko 2:00pm- 4:00pm Paddle Auction 5:00pm-7:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
19 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Auxiliary Junior Meeting 3:00pm	20 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	21 Legion & Auxiliary General Membership Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm	\$1.75 Draft 11:00 am Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm-7:00pm Paint and Mingle 5:30pm-7:30pm 1st Responders Luncheon 11:00pm-2:00pm	23 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	24 Red Shirt Friday Sea Cadet Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM Member Halloween Party W/ Vintage Trio Band 6:00pm- 10:00pm	Queen of Hearts 6:00pm Riders Roadkill Bingo 5:00pm- 7:00pm Early Bird Dinner 6:00pm-8:00pm
<b>26</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	27 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	28 Medicare Seminar 3:00pm-5:00pm Riders Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm	<b>29</b> \$1.75 Draft 11:00 am	<b>30</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	Red Shirt Friday Halloween Party 6:00pm-8:00pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	