

# Monthly Newsletter

AMERICAN LEGION POST 57

September 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

We're finally coming into football season and what better way to celebrate that than having the NFL Season Ticket introduced in the lounge.

You no longer have to go anywhere else to catch your favorite games than right here at American Legion Post 57 with a different NFL game on every screen. That's every day the NFL plays to include Monday and Thursday nights.

Football and iced-cold beverages and food from the kitchen, what better combination can you ask for.

The sound system in the bingo hall has been upgraded and works really well, thank you to Jason for making that happen.

Work has also begun on an office for the Membership Officer and it's moving along at a fairly rapid pace. I want to thank all who were and are involved in getting this put together so membership can be more effective.

On August 26th, the Riders had their special election and we now have a full board of Riders that understand the need to support the post and become more visible within the community. We look forward to seeing the positive changes within the group. We look forward to the one team, one dream philosophy of our Department Commander.

September 23 is our post's 105th birthday which we will celebrate on Saturday, Sept. 20 featuring a Prime Rib Dinner complete with baked potato, green beans and a dessert. The dinner is only \$20.00 per person. Entertainment will be provided by the Vintage Trio Band and we'll have raffles and 50/50 tickets available.

The post and the Riders are going forward on October 4th to host a fundraiser ride to benefit Ricky Crawford. The ride will begin at Harvey's supermarket with registration running from 9:30 until kickstands up at 11:00 am for the escorted ride back to the post for the after-party. Entertainment will be provided by the band, Late for Class. The Bloodmobile will be on hand as well as classic cars, raffles, auctions and of course a 50/50 drawing.

As always, Bingo every Sunday, Monday and Thursday with afternoon beginning at 3 PM and evening at 6:45 PM.

The kitchen is now open Monday thru Friday for lunch from 11 AM til 1 PM and open in the evenings for dinner from 4 PM til 8 PM Saturday thru Thursday with Friday continuing to the Family special dinner from 5:30 til 7:30 PM.

Texas Hold-em poker every Monday and Friday beginning at 7:00 PM

Queen of Hearts Drawing every Saturday at 6 PM  
Every Wednesday is \$1.75 draft beer all day.

## Commanders Corner (Cont.)

Tuesday	Sept. 2 SAL and Marine Corp. meeting	6:30 PM
Wednesday	Sept 3 Two Trials beginning at 6:30 PM Closed to membership	
Friday	Sept 5 Auxiliary Dinner with Karaoke	5:30-7:30 PM
Saturday	Sept 6 Sea Cadet Drill	8:00 AM-3:30 PM
Saturday	Sept 6 Paddle Auction	5:00-7:00 PM
Sunday	Sept 6 Auxiliary Junior's meeting	3:00-5:30 PM
Tuesday	Sept 9 Legion/Auxiliary Board meeting	6:30 PM
Wednesday	Sept 10 Auxiliary Bingo Domiciliary	6:00-7:30 PM
Thursday	Sept 11 Patriot Day (9/11)	6:00 PM
Friday	Sept 12 Rider's Dinner	5:30-7:30 PM
Saturday	Sept 13 SAL Roadkill	3:00- 5:00 PM
Tuesday	Sept 16 Legion/Auxiliary General meeting	6:30 PM
Wednesday	Sept 17 Paint and Mingle in the hall	6:30 PM
Friday	Sept 19 Sea Cadet Dinner	5:30-7:30 PM
Friday	Sept 19 POW/MIA Recognition Day	
Saturday	Sept 20 American Legion post 57 birthday	5:30-7:30 PM
Sunday	Sept 21 Auxiliary Junior meeting	3:00-5:30 PM
Tuesday	Sept 23 Rider's meeting	6:30 PM
Wednesday	Sept 24 Auxiliary Bingo Domiciliary	6:00-7:30 PM
Friday	Sept 26 SAL Dinner	5:30-7:30 PM
Saturday	Sept 27 Rider's Roadkill	6:00-8:00 PM
Wednesday	Sept 30 Early Bird membership cut off	

## Volunteer Spotlight

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH IS

**Nikki Patterson**

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU AND ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS DO!





## Chaplain

### September: A Month of Faith, Remembrance, and Service

As we enter September, we are called to pause, reflect, and draw strength from our faith as we honor those who have served and sacrificed for our nation.

On **Patriot Day, September 11th**, we remember the lives lost and the courage of first responders and everyday heroes. In the midst of tragedy, we trust in God's presence to bring comfort, hope, and healing to all who grieve.

**American Legion Day, September 16th**, reminds us of the enduring spirit of service. Since 1919, the Legion has supported veterans, strengthened communities, and fostered patriotism and leadership. Their commitment reflects the call to love and serve our neighbors with steadfast faith.

On **POW/MIA Recognition Day**, we honor those held captive or missing in action. The empty chair, white tablecloth, and single rose serve as powerful symbols of sacrifice and the hope that God's protection surrounds those still absent.

In this month of remembrance, may our hearts be filled with gratitude, our spirits strengthened by faith, and our actions guided by compassion and service. Let us lift up those who serve, comfort those who mourn, and walk in the path of courage and hope.

**"For God and Country,"**

William Bell

Chaplain

**PAINT & MINGLE**  
at the  
**POST 57**

**WEDNESDAY  
September  
17TH @ 6:30pm**

**RSVP by Sept. 10**  
AT POST 57 AMERICAN LEGION  
FEE IS \$30, KIDS 12 & UNDER IS \$20

THIS EVENT IS FOR  
*Veterans & their Family*  
@ 2602 SW MAIN BLVD  
LAKE CITY, FL 32025

*Choose To Shine!*

**Autumn  
Sunflower**



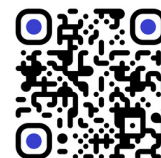
## Membership



### September Membership Newsletter

Hello Fellow Veterans and Legion Family!

Lets welcome last month's New Members!



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

Mark Barron	USN
Charles Griffith	USMC
Michael Scippio	USA
John "Jack" Fitzpatrick	USMC
Nicholas Russell	USA
Cason Adams	USMC
Douglas Ward	USAF
Paul Frazier	USA
James Mullis JR	USA
Paul Daniel	USN Domiciliary
Michael Jones	USAF Domiciliary
Paul Dixon	USN Domiciliary
John "Ken" Roos	USA Domiciliary
Beatriz Rodriguez	USN Domiciliary
Steven Sessions	USA Domiciliary
Peter Boggs	USMCDomiciliary
Ronnette Walker	USN Domiciliary
McLain Monroe	USMC Domiciliary
James Heiden	USN Domiciliary
Jerry Riddle	USN/USA Domiciliary
Daniel Gamez	USA/Active Duty
Bonnie Brady	USA

August's numbers:

31 New Members

68 PUFL (paid up for life)

358 Renewals

459 Total Paid members

54.64% of our annual goal Last year this time (52.44% with 419 total paid members)

Thank you all so much for renewing with American Legion Post 57! It's been an exciting month with so many things going on! Our Members are our best asset and the best recruiters for this post, and you have been doing such a great job! Thank you for being so supportive of all the things we've been planning and doing this year!

## Membership (Cont.)

We're off to a great start, and we appreciate all you do to support all the American Legion Programs! Friday Night Dinner, Paddle Auction, Bingo, participating in our lunch program, donating to Stand Down, The Auxiliary's Yard Sale, everything you do makes it possible to help more Vets (Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation) in our community, strengthen our Youth Children Programs and uphold the Four Pillars of the American Legion:

- Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
- National Security
- Americanism
- Children and Youth

Special shout out to our Bookkeeper Amanda Wilcox and her mother, Weegie Garcia for helping me to plan the Veteran Stand Down and Resource Fair for October 15th. Without these two ladies We definitely wouldn't be as far along in the process as we are now. They have such great attention to detail and fantastic ideas! This is what it's all about, everyone of us has skills that can be used to make this the best post in North Florida! Please don't be shy about using them, speak up and speak out, come to meetings and use your voice to help us get better everyday! We need all the help we can get! Sometimes the running of this post can get overwhelming, and members are the folks that keep us going! This is your post, tell us what you want, be prepared to be a part of the solution though. Bring your skills to help, bring your Ideas, bring your hands, hearts and minds! Imagine all the good we can do in our community if we all work together!! American Legion Post 57 Legion Family Rocks!!!

For God and Country,  
Kelly Valliere  
First Vice Commander  
12 year US Navy Veteran PN2

### *American Legion Post 57 105th Birthday Bash September 20, 2025*

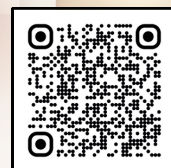
*Dinner  
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM*



*Prime Rib Dinner  
\$20.00 donation*

*Entertainment:  
Vintage Trio Band*

*Please Rsvp on our website, at the post, on FB,  
text or call (904) 563-0618 or scan the QR Code >*



# 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!

**Order Online**

**Pick Up or Dine In**

# 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	\$5.00
Extra Crackers	\$2.25
To Go Boxes	\$5.50

### 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	\$5.00

**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



## Post Service Officer

Hello Post 57,

September is Hot, Football and Tailgating are activities of fall! Cooler weather is a hope and No Hurricanes!

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

Post 57 has helped 8 Veterans this month!

This months topic is 65 year old or older New Tax Senior Deduction:

Congressional compromise brings individuals over 65 a \$6,000 Senior Deduction added to standard deduction.

### LEARN HOW YOUR PLANNED GIFT CAN HELP THE AMERICAN LEGION

While there had been discussion of eliminating tax on Social Security, a compromise in Congress was to provide individuals over 65 with a \$6,000 Senior Deduction added to the standard deduction. This added deduction is available for 2025-2028. The deduction phases out at a rate of 6% of the excess amount for single taxpayers with incomes over \$75,000 and married couples filing jointly with incomes over \$150,000. The deduction is fully phased out for single taxpayers with incomes over \$175,000 and married couples filing jointly with incomes over \$250,000.

The effect of this \$6,000 deduction will reduce taxes for many taxpayers. Here are some scenarios to consider:

Susan\*/Single Susan is 78, has Social Security of \$28,000 and other income, for a total of \$34,000. A single senior has a 2025 standard deduction of \$15,750, an existing \$2,000 deduction for those 65 and over, plus \$6,000, for a total of \$23,750. Because her combined income is over \$25,000, part of her Social Security is tax-free and part is taxable. With her standard deduction, tax-free portion of Social Security and the added \$6,000 Senior Deduction, Susan will pay zero federal income tax.

Helen/Single Helen, 82, has Social Security of \$36,000, a large IRA payout and other income, for a total of \$100,000. A senior filing as a single taxpayer has a 2025 standard deduction of \$15,750, as well as the existing \$2,000 additional deduction and the new Senior Deduction. However, Helen's Senior Deduction is reduced because she has over \$75,000 in income, to \$4,500 for a total of \$22,250. Because her income is over \$34,000, a larger portion of her Social Security is taxable. While her \$4,500 Senior Deduction saves some, Helen is likely to pay about \$6,000 in income tax.



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## Post Service Officer (Cont.)

Jim and Kate/Married Jim is 80 and Kate is 78. They receive Social Security of \$44,000 and other income, for a total of \$75,000. A married couple filing a joint tax return can claim a 2025 standard deduction of \$31,500 and the existing senior deduction of \$3,200, plus the new Senior Deduction of \$12,000, for a total of \$46,700. Because their income is over \$32,000, part of the Social Security is tax-free and part is taxable. With their standard deduction, tax-free portion of Social Security and the added \$12,000 Senior Deduction, Jim and Kate will pay zero federal income tax.

Joe and Alice/Married Joe is 84 and Alice is 79. They receive Social Security of \$64,000, a pension, two large IRA payouts and investment income, for a total of \$200,000. A married couple filing a joint tax return benefits from a 2025 standard deduction of \$31,500 plus a Senior Deduction. Because their income is over \$150,000, the \$12,000 Senior Deduction is reduced to \$9,000. The standard deduction, existing \$3,200 deduction, plus the Senior Deduction equals \$43,700. Because their income is over \$32,000, part of the Social Security is tax-free and part is taxable. With their standard deduction, tax-free portion of Social Security and the added \$6,000 Senior Deduction, Joe and Alice are likely to pay about \$22,000 in income tax.

This content is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal or tax advice. Individuals should consult with a qualified tax professional or adviser for advice specific to their personal financial situation.

\*Please note: The information above is representative of a typical donor and may or may not be an actual donor to our organization. The American Legion's Fund Development program, a way of establishing your legacy of support while providing for your current financial needs. Consider naming The American Legion in your will or trust as a part of your personal legacy. Learn more about the process, and the variety of charitable programs you can benefit, at [legion.org/plannedgiving](https://legion.org/plannedgiving). Clicking on "Learn more" will bring up an "E-newsletter" button, where you can sign up for regular information.

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



## Riders

Happy September Legion Family!

First and foremost let me introduce the new Riders board that was voted upon at the August 26th meeting:

Director JD Warren  
Asst Director Dakota Linder  
Adjutant Samanthia (Sam) Reid  
Finance Elaine Lagasse  
Chaplain Mary Ann Dennis  
Road Captain/Safety Officer Tim Woods  
Sgt at Arms Bob Charles  
Historian Thomas Wilcutts

Congratulations to all of you! Thank you for stepping up and continuing the Mission of the American Legion Riders Program!

We are getting into the “perfect riding weather” season and I am excited! We have several Flyers we are looking at for additional rides in the coming months. The first major ride in September is scheduled to be September 20th. The Fifth Annual 7 Bridges POW/MIA Remembrance Ride. We first put out in an email earlier in August. This is a great Police escorted ride going over all 7 Bridges that cross the St. John's River. The ride starts at Adamec Harley Davidson in Jacksonville and ends at the National POW/MIA Monument a mere 48 miles from our post. If you can make it we'd love to have a contingent at the ceremony. This is not a “Riders only” event and all our members are invited to meet us at the National Monument at 6112 POW/MIA Parkway for the POW/MIA Ceremony! We have a Facebook post detailing the pertinent information and if you want more information please feel free to contact me. Flyers are available in the main office at the post.

I am super excited to be a part of this Rider program and look forward to participating under Director JD Warren's Leadership!

Riders Friday Night dinner was very successful, and we are grateful to all who came out to help and to support. We sold 60 dinners, and raffled off a liquor basket. Roadkill bingo was amazing, raising over \$500.00 for Riders Programs. The American Legion donated \$500.00 to the Legacy Ride that came through Jacksonville and we met them at the POW/MIA Memorial to donate those funds.

## Riders (Cont.)

Our riders rode a total of 4500 miles, with 120 volunteer hours, and donating \$160.00 to various Poker runs throughout the month. The \$160.00 is the fee to ride in the event, and many of us also donated money to various 50/50's, and basket raffles in those rides. All Proceeds going to individuals going through significant medical issues.

Upcoming Events:

**September 12th Riders Dinner**, Director Warren will have more information on that in the next week or so.

**September 20 is the POW/MIA 7 Bridges ride in Jacksonville.**

**September 27th Riders Roadkill Bingo**

**October 4 the American Legion is hosting a 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.

Thank you to the American Legion Family for your support while we rebuild! Special Thanks to all our riders, who supported me throughout the transition period, showed up for meetings and voiced their opinions and kept us on track for the last 2 months!! I appreciate you all so much!

For God and Country,

Kelly Valliere  
First Vice Commander



# 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 was involved in several projects during the summer. Our highlight project for the month was making and stuffing bears for the Boggy Creek children. Our crocheters are also making afghans for this project as well. We collected school supplies for Columbia County schools and hosted an ice cream social at the Domiciliary.

This coming month we will be losing one of our most active members. The Auxiliary would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Kay Peterson. Kay is moving to the Tampa area, and we will miss her dearly. She has been an integral part of our operations as the membership chairman and the leader of the Junior Volunteers. We wish her luck and hope she will come to visit us.

Moving into fall, next month we have several dates to put on your calendars:

Friday, September 5th's dinner will be hosted by Connie and Eloise. These two Southern ladies will be cooking up shrimp and grits, vegetables, homemade cheese and garlic biscuits and peach cobbler for dessert.

Saturday, September 13th is our annual indoor yard sale. If you wish to donate items that can fit in boxes these can come into the building beginning September 9th. Larger items will be accepted on September 12th. This is the day we will be setting up the hall for the sale beginning at 3:00PM. The sale runs from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday. Volunteers are needed for setup, during the sale, and cleanup. Any time you have during these times is greatly appreciated.

Saturday September 20th from 11:00AM to 2:00PM we will be doing our second bear stuffing for Boggy Creek. Participation in this project is open to everyone.

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 2:00PM -4:00PM. Details will be shared with members once plans are finalized.



## Auxiliary News (Cont.)

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.

As a last note we would like everyone to start cleaning out their closets, garages and anywhere else your 'stuff' accumulates! This is for both the yard sale and our fall coat drive. We are collecting coats, jackets, sweatshirts, and heavy sweaters for the residents of the Domiciliary and for the homeless children of Columbia County.

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

Donna Sessa  
President Unit 57 Auxiliary

For Spirit of Service, Not Self



## Presented by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57

### Indoor Yard Sale

Household Items, Toys, Tools, linens and  
so much more.

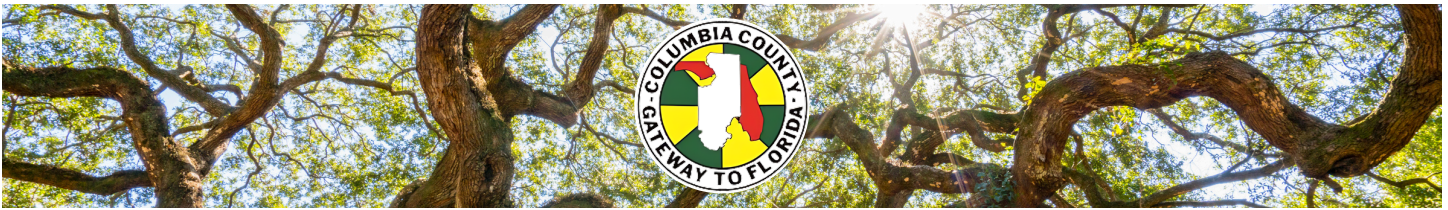


For more information Call Or Text

**Saturday, September 13**

**8:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

**Maryann Dennis at 352-843-2353**



## County Service Officer

### Columbia County Veteran Services Newsletter

September 2025 Newsletter  
Serving Those Who Served



Scan to go to  
Columbia County  
Veteran Services

#### A Message from Your County Veteran Service Officer

As summer winds down and fall approaches, I want to thank each of you who stopped by the office in August. We've had another busy month working on claims, appeals, and outreach efforts across Columbia County. Every day I'm reminded how important it is to stay informed and connected, so I hope this newsletter gives you some useful updates and encouragement.

#### VA Claims & Benefits Update

- **Prostate Cancer Reductions** – Several veterans statewide are receiving proposals to reduce their 100% ratings for prostate cancer after treatment. If you receive one of these letters, do not ignore it. You have the right to respond within 60 days. Our office can help you submit medical evidence showing residuals like urinary issues, ED, or fatigue.
- **Secondary Conditions** – Many veterans overlook how secondary claims can increase their rating. Conditions such as sleep apnea, hypertension, migraines, and joint issues may connect to already service-connected disabilities. Stop by if you'd like to explore these options.
- **Apportionment Questions** – We've had multiple inquiries about how VA benefits are apportioned during incarceration or family situations. Remember, apportionments go directly to dependent children or custodial parents—not to unauthorized third parties.

#### Community Events

- **Patriot Day – September 11th** – Please take a moment this month to remember the lives lost and the sacrifices made on this day. Several local schools and organizations will hold small memorial events; attending or volunteering is always appreciated.
- **Columbia County Fair Planning** – October is right around the corner, and we'll be setting up a Veterans Information Booth at the fair. Volunteers are welcome!

## County Service Officer (Cont.)



### Office Highlights

- In August, our office assisted **95 veterans and families**.
- Since March, we have brought **\$773,678.52 in VA benefits** directly into Columbia County.
- If you haven't already, now is a good time to review your benefits before the end of the year.

### Reminders

- **Bring Your DD-214** – If you're new to the office, having your discharge paperwork speeds up the process.
- **Keep Your Address Updated** – VA correspondence is time-sensitive. If you move, notify both the VA and our office.

### Closing Thoughts

As always, it's an honor to serve the veterans of Columbia County. Whether you need help with a new claim, an appeal, or just want to talk through your options, my door is open. Let's make September a month of preparation and remembrance as we move into the last part of the year.

**Respectfully,**

Ronnie Beasley

Columbia County Veteran Service Officer

📍 1486 SW McFarlane Ave, Lake City, FL 32025

☎ 386-758-3350 | ✉ rbeasley@columbiacountyfla.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.

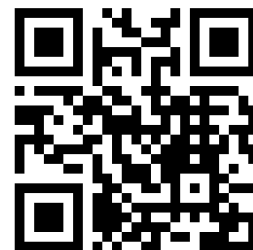
Our Sea Cadet drills are schedule for 2025 -2026, These are the drills until the end of this year.

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](http://www.seacadets.org)







## Honor Guard

Our new members of the Honor Guard team have begun their service. On Saturday 23 August seven members of our team along with the USAF Honor Guard served military honors for Airman First Class Wayne Keller, Sr. We had a three-man rifle team along with four flag bearers carrying the USAF, US Army, POW and Legion flags. The service was conducted in the Live Oak City Cemetery Veteran's section where the Keller family laid to rest the ashes of AFC Keller and his wife.



On August 18th, every school principal except CHS, received an invitation for our Honor Guard to instruct students responsible for raising and lowering the American and state flags each day at school on flag etiquette and posting and retiring. The next morning, we received our first enthusiastic response from Fort White Elementary school! August 27th we will be hosting 16 Safety Patrol officers for an instruction session and September 16th we will be working with students at Lake City Middle School. We hope our opportunities continue and we visit many schools. Honor Guard members participating are Eric Persons, Elaine LaGasse, Wayne Hons, William Bell and JD Morris.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the Legion for the approval of our requests for a casual uniform, more chairs for the new members (we take chairs to sit in when called to graveside services) and new Legion berets. Thank you!

As always if we can be of service, please call upon us.

---HG CDR JD



# September



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Labor Day Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm 	<b>2</b> SAL Squadron 57 Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm Marine Corps League Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm	<b>3</b> \$1.75 Draft 11:00am	<b>4</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	<b>5</b> Red Shirt Friday Auxiliary Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Karaoke 6:30pm- 9:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	<b>6</b> Sea Cadet Drill 8:00am-3:30pm Paddle Auction 5:00pm-7:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm 
<b>7</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Auxiliary Junior Meeting 3:00pm	<b>8</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	<b>9</b> Legion & Auxiliary Executive Meeting 6:30pm	<b>10</b> \$1.75 Draft 11:00am Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm-7:00pm	<b>11</b> Patriot Day (9/11) Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Patriot Day Remembrance Ceremony 6:00pm-7:00pm 	<b>12</b> Red Shirt Friday Riders Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	<b>13</b> Auxiliary Yard Sale 8:00am- 1:00pm SAL Roadkill Bingo 3:00pm- 5:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
<b>14</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	<b>15</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	<b>16</b> American Legion Day Legion & Auxiliary General Membership Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm	<b>17</b> \$1.75 Draft 11:00am Paint & Mingle 6:30pm 	<b>18</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	<b>19</b> Red Shirt Friday POW/MIA Recognition Day Sea Cadet Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	<b>20</b> POW/MIA 7 Bridges Ride Post 57 105 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash 5:30pm-7:30pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
<b>21</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Auxiliary Junior Meeting 3:00pm	<b>22</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	<b>23</b> Post 57 105 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Riders Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm 	<b>24</b> \$1.75 Draft 11:00 am Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm-7:00pm	<b>25</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	<b>26</b> Red Shirt Friday SAL Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm- 7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	<b>27</b> Queen of Hearts 6:00pm Riders Roadkill Bingo 6:00pm- 8:00pm
<b>28</b> Gold Star Mother's and Family Day Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	<b>29</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	<b>30</b> Early Bird Cut off 				