



JULY 2026

Newsletter



All American Post

VFW POST 3349

3201 REID ST., PALATKA, FL 32177

Phone: 386-328-2863

VFW3349.org



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



VFW POST 3349
P.O. BOX 218, PALATKA, FL 32178
PHONE: 386-328-2863



FROM THE POST COMMANDER
Gerald Donnelly
July 2026



Greetings Comrades:

At the June meeting I made an announcement that this is my last year as commander due to health issue. I am now seeing different doctors for my heart. I plan to do all the requirements for All State that I have done in the past. I need somebody to step up to learn the commander position and how to run these programs.

I went to the State Convention on June 12th to receive the Post All State award. The Post made All American for the 6th straight year. I am starting the Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy by contacting the different High Schools that the Post continues to work with. I gave Crescent City High School JROTC papers for the Voice of Democracy.

As we celebrate 250 years of America Strong, I hope everyone has a safe and happy July 4.

Sincerely,

Commander Gerald Donnelly





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FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Marian Chialastri

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!!!

Annual members be on the lookout for your renewal letters. National is running a special deal for annual members to become life members with a 25 percent discount. This offer will run from July 1st thru August 31, 2026. All dues for this reduced rate must be to National by August 31st so please have your money to Lucie no later than August 10th so she can make sure it is to National on time. This a great way to never have to pay annual dues again and save some money. Please consider becoming a life Member.

July 8th—Monthly meeting at 7PM. New officers start their positions July 1st.

July 14th—Lunch at Longhorn Steak at noon.

July 12th—Malta yearly meeting at 2PM, all members are encouraged to attend.

I will rep

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Chialastri

Auxiliary President



The United States celebrates its 250th anniversary, or Semiquincentennial, on July 4, 2026, marking 250 years since the Declaration of Independence was signed.

The 250th anniversary, officially called the **United States Semiquincentennial** or **America250**, Commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 . This milestone is a once-in-a-lifetime celebration reflecting on the nation's history, honoring contributions of Americans, and looking forward to the next 250 years.

Cultural and Historical Significance; The Semiquincentennial honors the **Declaration of Independence**, the Revolutionary War, and the nation's founding ideals. It also provides an opportunity to reflect on the contributions of diverse Americans, preserve historic sites, and inspire civic engagement for future generations.

The United States' 250th anniversary is the largest national commemoration in modern history, surpassing the Bicentennial of 1976, and aims to engage citizens nationwide in celebrating the country's heritage and future.

HURRICANE SEASON IS IN FULLSWING

STAY PREPARED

Checklists for disaster planning

Though most older adults think they're prepared for an emergency, fewer than 3 in 10 have a plan in place for when disaster strikes. For more information on preparing for an emergency, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a list of resources specifically for older Americans. Among the items the agency recommends you have on hand:

- A minimum three-day supply of medications along with a cooler and ice packs if your medications require refrigeration. Also, if needed, medical supplies such as syringes.
- Contact lens solution, glasses and/or hearing aids and extra batteries for people who need them.
- An identification band with your full name, a list of any allergies and a family member's contact number.
- Information about your medical devices, including oxygen, walkers and wheelchairs.

The information should include model numbers and the vendor of the products.

- Documents in a waterproof bag. They should include a personal care plan; contact information for family members; a medication list including the dosage, exact name, pharmacy information and the prescribing doctor for each medication; a list of food or medical allergies; copies of photo IDs and medical insurance cards; and durable power of attorney and/or medical power of attorney documents.
- Cash to be used if automatic teller and credit card machines are not working.

The CDC recommends people include additional supplies based on individual needs, such as soap, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer and over-the-counter medicine as well as food and extra water for your pet.

VFW Palatka Post 3349 Calendar. We are located at 3201 Reid St.
(Web Site: VFW3349.org) Phone 386-328-2863

July 2026

Canteen Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - 3:00 to 9:00 PM Thursday, Friday - 12:00 to 9:00 PM Sat - noon to 5:00 PM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1st	2nd	3rd	4th
	5:30PM Bowling	6PM BINGO	7PM Queen of Hearts	6PM House Committee 7 PM Darts / Bowling	6PM Dinner Hamburgers	Happy 250th- Birthday America
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	5:30PM Bowling	6PM BINGO	6:50 Queen of Hearts 7PM Post Meeting	7 PM Darts / Bowling	6PM Dinner Pork Chops	1PM In House Bowling
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
MALTA Mtg. 2PM All members Welcome.	5:30PM Bowling	6PM BINGO	7PM Queen of Hearts	7 PM Darts / Bowling	6PM Dinner TBD	
19	20	21	22	23	26	25
	5:30PM Bowling	6PM BINGO	7PM Queen of Hearts	7 PM Darts / Bowling	6PM Dinner Jerry's Dinner TBD	1PM In House Bowling
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	5:30PM Bowling	6PM BINGO	7PM Queen of Hearts	7 PM Darts / Bowling	NO DINNER	
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POST OFFICERS

Commander	Gerald Donnelly
Sr Vice Commander	Tammy Spaulding
Jr Vice Commander	Jack Gibbs
Judge Advocate	Weldon Taylor
Adjutant	Gerald Shuler
Quartermaster	Gerald Shuler
Chaplin	Kevin Donnelly
Surgeon	Vacant
Service Officer	Bruce Howe
Trustees 1 yr	Weldon Taylor
2 yr	Valerie Johns
3 yr	William Thompson
Membership Chairman	Commander
Employment Officer	Weldon Taylor
Legislative Officer	John Dillingham
Disaster Preparedness/Relief	Bill Thompson
Historian	John Dillingham
House Committee Chairman	Gene Nieman
National Home for Children	Quartermaster
Communications/Media Relations	Commander

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairman	Gerald Donnelly
Members	Commander and ALL Members

COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA RELATIONS

Chairman	Commander
Members	Adjutant and Quartermaster

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Gene Nieman
Members	Gerald Donnelly Kevin Donnelly Gerald Shuler Jack Gibbs
Canteen Manager	Vickie Dixon

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President	Marian Chialastri
Sr. Vice	Joyce Donnelly
Jr. Vice	Malinda Taylor
Treasurer	Lucie Barnette
Secretary	Jan Stephens
Chaplain	Kathie Thompson
Conductress	Valerie French
Guard	Betty Burnham
1Yr. Trustee	Valerie French
2Yr. Trustee	Robert Stephens
3Yr. Trustee	Teresa Cromer
Patriotic Inst.	Kathie Thompson

DISTRICT 14 MEETING SCHEDULE

Qtr	Date	Post	Location	Time
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Useful Web Sites

Get copy of DD Form 214 or other discharge documents: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

Request Lost and Replacement Medals:
<http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/public/awards-and-decorations.html>

VFW National Headquarters Web Site:
www.vfw.org

VFW Magazine:
<https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/vfw-magazine>

VFW Store Online:
www.vfwstore.org

VFW Department of Florida Web Site:
<https://vfwfl.org>

National Do Not Call Registry
www.donotcall.gov

VFW Post Website
<http://vfw3349.org>

From the Publisher:

Please forward any news, pictures, or article submissions to:

MediaVFW3349@gmail.com

by the 20th of each month.

Thank you

Newsletter Editors — Bill and Kathie Thompson