



# October 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**  
October 2026



Greetings Comrades:

We recently lost Past Post Commander Weldon Taylor. "Doc" made many contributions and improvements to the VFW during his time with us and he will be missed by all.

The Post supported the Putnam County Veterans Service Office Symposium at the Putnam fair grounds on Sept 15 and 16. This event helped many veterans in our community achieve veterans benefits. Thanks to the Putnam VSO for holding this event. The Post held a membership drive during the symposium and was able to communicate with many prospective new members. Special thanks to Jack Gibbs and Bill Thompson for manning our booth and providing free hot dogs to all that attended the event.

I will be doing follow-ups with Putnam County Schools for Patriot Pen, Voice of Democracy contests and our Teachers of the Year awards.  
I sent an email to the City of Palatka and Putnam County reminding them of our EMT, Fireman and Police Officer of the year dates and deadlines for receiving their inputs.

We are working on the Veterans Day Parade for Wednesday November 11th at 10AM. We will hold our first meeting on October 14th at the American Legion Post at 1500.

The District 14 meeting will be held at our Post on Saturday November 14th at 10AM. We will need help early that morning to prepare breakfast and set up the room. Breakfast serves at 9AM.

Sincerely,  
*Commander Gerald Donnelly*





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**FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT**

**Marian Chialastri**

Happy Halloween Everyone!

Our annual Cancer Bingo will be held on October 3rd. Doors open at 11:30-AM. Lunch will be sold starting at noon until sold out. Bingo will be from 1PM till 5PM. Door prizes, 50/50 and cookie jar will be available for sale. All money raised stays in Putnam County. Please invite your family and friends to join us for a fun day!

October 7th—Aux lunch at Noon at CP Deli.

October 14th—Monthly Meeting at 7PM.

October 23rd—Aux dinner by Sisters, Chicken Pot Pie

October 30-31—Fall Conference in Orlando. Lucie, Joyce, Valerie, Lisa and I will be attending and will report at our November Meeting.

I will rep

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Marian Chialastri*

*Auxiliary President*



## Navy Birthday 2026: 251 Years on October 13



The U.S. Navy celebrates its 251st birthday on Tuesday, October 13, 2026. On October 13, 1775, the Continental Congress voted to fit out two armed vessels to intercept British supply ships — the founding act of the Continental Navy and the beginning of American sea power.

It reflects centuries of **service at sea**, from a handful of hastily armed ships to today's global maritime power, embodying the dedication, resilience, and strategic role of **American sailors** throughout history. The observance began officially in 1972, when Admiral Elmo Zumwalt designated the date to foster pride in the Navy's enduring **heritage**.

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

# October 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                                                      |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
|         | 5:30PM<br>Bowling                                      | 6PM<br>BINGO                                  | 7PM<br>Queen of<br>Hearts                                   | 1<br>7PM<br>Darts<br>Bowling                    | 2<br>6PM Dnner<br>Sandwiches                          | 3<br><b>Cancer<br/>Bingo</b><br>1-5                      |
| 4       | 5<br>5:30PM<br>Bowling                                 | 6<br>6PM<br>BINGO                             | 7<br>7PM<br>Queen of<br>Hearts                              | 6PM<br>House<br>Comm<br>7PM<br>Darts<br>Bowling | 9<br>Pork Chops                                       | 10<br>1 PM<br>In House<br>Bowling<br><br>Bike Run        |
| 11      | 12<br>5:30PM<br>Bowling<br><br><b>Columbus<br/>Day</b> | 13<br><b>NO Bingo</b><br><br>Navy<br>Birthday | 14<br>6:50 PM<br>Queen of<br>Hearts<br>7PM Month-<br>ly Mtg | 15<br>7 PM<br>Darts /<br>Bowling                | 16<br><b>TBD</b>                                      | 17<br>VFW Golf<br>Tournament                             |
| 18      | 19<br>5:30PM<br>Bowling                                | 20<br>6PM<br>BINGO                            | 21<br>7PM<br>Queen of<br>Hearts                             | 22<br>7 PM<br>Darts /<br>Bowling                | 23<br>6PM Aux<br>Dinner<br>Chick Pot<br>Pie \$8       | 24<br>1 PM<br>In House<br>Bowling                        |
| 25      | 26<br>5:30PM<br>Bowling                                | 27<br>6PM<br>BINGO                            | 28<br>7PM<br>Queen of<br>Hearts                             | 29<br>7 PM<br>Darts /<br>Bowling                | 30<br>6PM Dinner<br>by Connie<br>Chicken<br>Divan \$8 | 31<br>Halloween<br><br>VFW Fall<br>Conference<br>Orlando |
| Nov 1st | 2<br>5:30PM<br>Bowling                                 | 3<br>6PM<br>BINGO                             | 4<br>7PM<br>Queen of<br>Hearts                              | 5<br>6PM<br>House<br>Comm<br>Darts 7            | 6                                                     | 7                                                        |

### 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                  | Kevin Donnelly   |
| 2 yr                           | Valerie Johns    |
| 3 yr                           | William Thompson |
| Membership Chairman            | Commander        |
| 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<br>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    | Wanda Allen       |
| Patriotic Inst. | Kathie Thompson   |

### DISTRICT 14 MEETING SCHEDULE

| Qtr | Date     | Post      | Location | Time    |
|-----|----------|-----------|----------|---------|
| 2nd | Nov 14th | Post 3349 | Palatka  | 10:00AN |

### 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](http://www.vfw.org)

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

VFW Store Online:  
[www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org)

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

National Do Not Call Registry  
[www.donotcall.gov](http://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