



September 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:

On August 11th, the Post was notified by VFW National Headquarters that we will receive All American award again this year. This makes 6 years in a row.

Thanks to everyone that assisted with our programs and community efforts.

I am starting to put together the program for this year. I am starting with the Voice of Democracy and the Patriots Pen as well as the teachers of the year. Your assistance with these programs will be greatly appreciated. We will also be doing the Police, Firefighter, and EMT awards.

Jerry Schuler and I attended the school of Instructions.

There are a lot of events taking place this month. Please take a close look at the calendar.

Sept 7. Labor Day

Sept 11, Patriots Day

Sept 15 & 16, 9 to 2, Putnam County Veterans Service Office will be conducting a Veterans Claims Clinic at Putnam County Fairgrounds.

Sept 18, National POW/MIA Recognition Day

October 29, Department Fall Conference Orlando

Sincerely,

Commander Gerald Donnelly





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FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Marian Chialastri

Happy Labor Day!!!!

Valerie, Lisa, Lucie and I will attend School of Instruction in Orlando.

We will report what we learned at our next meeting.

Yard Sale is September 18 and 19, 8 am till noon.

Please bring all donations by September 12th, as we will be setting up Sept 14th.

Cancer Bingo will be held October 3rd, from 1-5pm. Doors open at 11:30, lunch to be served starting at noon along with door prizes, bingo papers, and 50/50 Tickets.

Lunch Menu: Sloppy Joes/chips or Pasta Salad for \$5. Drinks are purchased from bartenders. Please invite friends and family, all money raised stays in Putnam County.

I will rep

Sept 9th-Monthly Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Chialastri

Auxiliary President



September Events

September 4, 2026, Jimmy Buffett Day is celebrated, honoring the life, music, and philanthropic legacy of Jimmy Buffett. Jimmy Buffett Day is a celebration of the singer-songwriter's life, music, and relaxed, community-focused lifestyle. It honors his spirit of joy, generosity, and connection, bringing fans together to enjoy music, food, and themed experiences while supporting charitable causes, particularly Buffett's nonprofit, Singing for Change, which promotes grassroots organizations and community improvement. Keep the party going!

September 7, 2026 Labor Day is a federal holiday celebrated on the first Monday of September to honor and recognize American Labor and the works and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements in the United States.

Beginning in the late 19th century, trade unionists proposed that a day be set aside to celebrate labor. (Labor Day) was promoted by the Central Labor Union, which organized the first parade in New York City. It became an official federal holiday in 1894.

Labor Day is called the unofficial end of summer, because it marks the end of the U.S. culture nominal summer season. Of the 7% of Americans who take two-week vacations, many take their vacations during the two weeks ending Labor Day weekend. Many fall activities, such as school and sports (particularly football), begin about this time.

Patriot Day — September 11, 2026

Patriot Day, observed every September 11, calls for solemn remembrance of the nearly 3,000 lives lost in the 2001 terror attacks. We honor victims, survivors, and the brave first responders who exemplified heroism. Take a moment to reflect on our nation's resilience and commit to acts of service and unity. Observe a moment of silence at 8:46 AM ET, the time the first plane struck the North Tower. Fly your flag at half-staff and consider donating blood.

History of Patriot Day - It was a terrifying day when four planes were hijacked on September 11, 2001 (also known as nine-eleven). The hijackers flew three planes into iconic buildings: the Pentagon in Washington DC and the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York. The fourth plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania after the plane passengers fought the hijackers. Nobody is certain where it was supposed to crash, but some people believe it was headed for the White House, the U.S. Capitol, the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland, or one of several nuclear power plants along the eastern seaboard.

The impact of this attack was devastating. Around 3,000 lives were lost between plane passengers, those in the buildings that were struck, and front-line workers trying to save people. It was the biggest act of terrorism ever in the United States. Since then, airplane security has become stricter in many countries as they attempt to avoid a future terrorist attack like nine-eleven.

The majority of lives that were people that worked in the Twin Towers, especially the floors above the collision point as people were trapped and stranded at the top of the burning skyscraper. 411 men and women working in emergency services lost their lives trying to fight fires and rescue people from the buildings. It was a heartbreaking attack, which is why Patriot Day was proclaimed by President George W. Bush and is recognized every year on September 11.

On Patriot Day, U.S. flags are lowered halfway, and there is a country-wide moment of silence at 8:46 am (Eastern Daylight Time), which is when the first plane crashed into one of the Twin Towers. Although the attacks were in the U.S., Patriot Day is recognized worldwide as the news devastated and impacted people all over.

September 15 and 16, 9AM to 2PM, Putnam County Veterans Services presents a Veterans Claims Clinic at Putnam County Fairgrounds. Please spread the word. The following will and can be addressed. Please attend if you are veteran and need assistance or questions answered about disability claims.

- ☐ VA Disability Claims
- ☐ Pension and Survivor Benefits
- ☐ Health care enrollment
- ☐ Dependency Claims
- ☐ And More

September 18, 2026, National POW/MIA Recognition Day is a U.S. observance honoring prisoners of war and those still missing in action from all conflicts. It underscores the nation's pledge to account for every unreturned service member, symbolized by the black-and-white POW/MIA flag bearing the words (You Are Not Forgotten.); Established after families of Vietnam War POWs and MIAs organized advocacy efforts in the 1970s, it was first proclaimed in 1979 and set to the third Friday in September in 1986 to commemorate all wars equally.

In the United States, National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday in September. It honors those who were prisoners of war (POWs) and those who are still missing in action (MIA). It is most associated with those who were POWs during the Vietnam War. National Vietnam War Veterans Day is March 29, the date in 1973 when the last US combat troops departed the Republic of Vietnam.

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

September 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	2	3	4	5
	5:30PM Bowling	6PM BINGO	7PM Queen of Hearts	6 PM House Comm Darts 7PM Bowling	6 PM Sand- wiches \$6 <i>Jimmy Buffet Day</i>	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	5:30PM Bowling <i>Labor Day Holiday</i>	6PM BINGO	7 PM Monthly Mtg 6:50 Queen of Hearts	7PM Darts Bowling	<i>Patriots Day</i> 6 PM Pork Chops \$10	1 PM In House Bowling
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<i>Grand- parents Day</i>	5:30PM Bowling <i>VFW Aux Organized 1914</i>	6PM BINGO <i>Aux Lunch Noon Bradleys</i>	7PM Queen of Hearts	7 PM Darts / Bowling	Jerrys Dinner TBD <i>AUX Yard Sale 8-Noon POWMIA DAY</i>	<i>AUX Yard Sale 8- Noon</i>
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	5:30PM Bowling	6PM BINGO	7PM Queen of Hearts	7 PM Darts / Bowling	6PM Bill's Burgers \$8	1 PM In House Bowling
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
<i>Gold Star Mothers Day</i>	5:30PM Bowling	<i>VFW Established 1899</i> 6PM BINGO	7PM Queen of Hearts	7 PM Darts / Bowling		1-5PM Cancer Bingo
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

POST OFFICERS

Commander	Gerald Donnelly
Sr Vice Commander	Tammy Spaulding
Jr Vice Commander	
Judge Advocate	Vacant
Adjutant	Gerald Shuler
Quartermaster	Gerald Shuler
Chaplin	
Surgeon	Vacant
Service Officer	Bruce Howe
Trustees 1 yr	Valerie Jahns
2 yr	William Thmpson
3 yr	
Membership Chairman	Commander
Employment Officer	Vacant
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	Vacant
Patriotic Inst.	Kathie Thompson

DISTRICT 14 MEETING SCHEDULE

Qtr	Date	Post	Location	Time
1 st	Aug 22	10164	Interlachen	10:00 am
2nd	Nov 14	3349	Palatka	10:00 am
3rd	Feb 20	10082	Lake Butler	10:00 am
4th	April 24	2811	Gainesville	10:00am

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