



Jan 2025 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

January 2025



Greetings Comrades, FROM THE POST COMMANDER GERALD DONNELLY

The Children Christmas Party and breakfast with Santa was very nice. The Auxiliary served 30 children with gifts. It was nice to see the Auxiliary and Post members working together. Special thanks to the kitchen help for preparing the breakfast.

The post held a luncheon (catered by Coward's) for the 993 rd TPC Unit. The Auxiliary served the lunch. The 993 rd gave out their awards and promotions. The 993 rd presented a plaque to the Post to show their appreciation for what the post does for them.

On December 10 the post teamed up with the American Legion Burt Hodge Post 45 and provided an honor guard for Community Hospice.

On December 14th we chose up sides for Army/Navy football. It was a great time had by all with Navy winning. We will all be back next year for another round. This led into the Bartender appreciation celebration and I want to thank everyone who volunteered as guest Bartenders.

January 2025 is going to be a busy month.

January 8th the post will honor our Teacher of the year, Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen winners. The ceremony will start at 1800 hours.

January 15th the post will hold a VA Benefits Work-Shop from 0900 to 1100 hours. We will have two VA service representatives on site to help you with any questions, to offer additional appointments and start your VA benefit case. Please bring your DD-214 and picture ID. Check the attached flyer for more Information.

I hope everybody had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Commander,
Gerald Donnelly



VFW3349.org

VA Benefits Workshop

Sponsored by VFW Palatka Post 3349



Wednesday
January 15th, 2025
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

3201 Reid St.
Palatka, Fl. 32177



VA representatives will be on site to help you with any questions, to offer additional appointments, and to start your benefits case. All you need to bring is your DD214 and picture ID for the VA reps to input your case requests.

Call VFW Post 3349 Commander Gerald Donnelly at (717) 965-3266 for additional information.

Chuck Foster
 VETERANS' CLAIMS EXAMINER SUPERVISOR
 DIVISION OF VETERANS' BENEFITS & ASSISTANCE

STATE OF FLORIDA
 FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
 VAMC Medical Center
 1601 SW Archer Road, Room D-163
 Gainesville, Florida 32608

Telephone: (352) 548-6029
 PC Clinic: (352) 548-1900 x 185325
 Fax: (352) 548-6152
 Chuck.Foster@fdva.fl.gov
 www.FloridaVets.org

 COUNTY OF PUTNAM
 Veterans Services 

Allen Buquo "BQ" USN (Ret)
 County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO)
 allen.buquo@putnam-fl.gov

The PACT Act and your VA benefits

This new law expands and extends eligibility for care and benefits for Veterans and survivors



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FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Marian Chialastri

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE

The Children's Christmas Party was a wonderful success. All the kids enjoyed receiving a gift from Santa along with a delicious breakfast. Thanks to everyone who helped with cooking, serving and cleanup.

January 8th VFW monthly meeting will be a joint meeting. We will be honoring our Teacher of the year, Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen winners. Bring finger food to share with the winners and their families as well as Post members.

January 10th at 10 AM Sewing in the Auxiliary Room

January 14th at Noon Lunch "Mariscos El Pacifico Seafood (Old Woodys)

January 17th Auxiliary Dinner, Kathie, Lucie and Jan

January 24-26 VFW Mid Winter Conference West Gate Lakes Resort Orlando

I will rep

Respectfully submitted,

*Hope Everyone has a Happy, Healthy and
Blessed New Year.*

Marian Chialastri

Auxiliary President



Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

3rd Monday in January

Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, in the United States, was established as a holiday on the third Monday in January to honor the achievements of Martin Luther King Jr. A Baptist minister who advocated the use of nonviolent means to end racial segregation. He first came to national prominence during a bus boycott by African Americans in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955. He led the 1963 March on Washington to show support for major civil rights legislation that was pending in Congress. He is recognized as the most influential of African American civil rights leaders of the 1960s and was instrumental in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed discrimination in public accommodations, facilities, and employment, and advocated the Voting Rights Act of 1965. King was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1964. In 1983, legislation making the third Monday in January a federal holiday was passed, and the first observance nationwide was in 1986. The day is usually celebrated with marches and parades and with speeches by civil rights and political leaders. (Written and fact-checked by The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. Last Updated: Nov 19, 2024)

United States Presidential Inauguration

Between 73 and 79 days after the Presidential Election, the president elect of the United States is inaugurated as President by taking the Presidential oath of Office. It takes place at noon Eastern time on January 20, the first day of the new term. Recitation of the presidential oath of office is the only component in this ceremony mandated by the United States Constitution under Article II, Section One, Clause 8. Though it is not a constitutional requirement, the Chief Justice of the United States typically administers the presidential oath of office.

January Events

January 8th VFW monthly meeting will be a joint meeting. We will be honoring our Teacher of the year, Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen winners. Bring finger food to share with the winners and their families as well as Post members.

January 10th at 10 AM Sewing in the Auxiliary Room

January 14th at Noon Auxiliary Lunch “Mariscos El Pacifico Seafood (Old Woody’s BBQ)

January 20th Presidential Inauguration and Martin Luther King Jr Day

January 15th the post will hold a VA Benefits Work-Shop from 0900 to 1100 hours. We will have two VA service representatives on site to help you with any questions, to offer additional appointments and start your benefit case. Please bring your DD-214 and picture ID. Check the flyer at the post for more Information.

January 24-26 VFW Mid Winter Conference West Gate Lakes Resort Orlando. Check the flyer at the post for more Information.

January 31st, Bills Ribs order early they go fast

Next District 14 Meeting will be Feb 22 at 10 AM in Lake Butler

January 2025

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
			Jan 1st	Jan 2	Jan 3	Jan 4
			NEW Years Day Bloody Mary Specials	7PM Darts / Bowling 7PM House Cmtg	6PM Hamburgers \$6.00	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	5:30 PM Pizza & Bowling	6 PM Bingo	Post Meeting 7PM VOD, Patriots Pen Teacher of the Year	7PM Darts / Bowling National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day	Steak Night \$15.00	1 PM IN House Bowling
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	5:30 PM Pizza & Bowling	6 PM Bingo	Veterans Open House Workshop 9-11 AM	7 PM Darts / Bowling	Aux Dinner Buffalo Cheesy Chicken Lasagna \$7.00	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Pres Inauguration/ Martin Luther King Jr Day 5:30 PM Pizza & Bowling	6 PM Bingo	7PM Queen of Hearts	7 PM Darts/ Bowling	6PM Dinner TBD VFW MID-WINTER CONF	In House Bowling Submariners Mtg VFW MID-WINTER CONF
26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1
VFW MID-WINTER CONF	5:30 PM Pizza & Bowling	6 PM Bingo	7PM Queen of Hearts	7 PM Darts/ Bowling	Bills Ribs	
Feb 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	5:30 PM Pizza & Bowling	6 PM Bingo	7 PM Queen of Hearts	7 PM Darts/ Bowling House CMTG	6PM Hamburgers \$6.00	1 PM IN House Bowling

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	Rubin Myers
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	Rubin Myers
	Jack Gibbs	Bruce Howe
Canteen Manager	Vickie Dixon	

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President	Marian Chialastri
Sr. Vice	Joyce Donnelly
Jr. Vice	Malinda Taylor
Treasurer	Valerie French
Secretary	Jan Stephens
Chaplain	Kathie Thompson
Conductress	Sherry Smith
Guard	Robert Stephens
1Yr. Trustee	Sherry Smith
2Yr. Trustee	Joyce Donnelly
3Yr. Trustee	Kathie Thompson
Patriotic Inst.	Kathie Thompson

DISTRICT 14 MEETING SCHEDULE

Qtr	Date	Post	Location	Time
3rd	Feb 22	10084	Lake Butler	10AM

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