



May 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

April 2025



Greetings Comrades:

Commander Gerald Donnelly

May is the month that we remember our fallen hero's on Memorial Day May 26th. Please take a moment to remember those who served and are no longer with us. Memorial Day we will start off with the Parade in down town Palatka at 10AM roll time. Please be there early for line up. I will need help with the parade this year because I will be out of town at a family event. There is a planning meeting with the American Legion on May 7th at 1500 hours. I need someone to go with me to the meeting that is willing to be the VFW representative for the parade. We are still searching for a Grand Marshall if you have any ideas please provide some input. Also, we will have an open house with lunch starting at Noon. The Post will provide the chicken and please bring a side dish or dessert.

April was a busy month. We just had our elections with all officers remaining in their elected positions for another year. I am officially giving notice this coming year will be my last year as Commander. I have had and am still enjoying being in this leadership position, but my age and health are catching up with me and I have to make the hard decision to step back. I will help and mentor anyone during this coming year that has any interest in becoming Commander. I would like to thank all those that contributed time and energy for post improvements this month. The Auxiliary building was repaired and painted. The front of the Post was painted and the list goes on. Thanks to all those that participated in these events and those providing their time and effort for our Friday Night Dinners.

Thanks to all those that assisted with Freedom Fest.

Incoming for May:

May 3, is our VFW Day of Service. We will have the blood mobile and a charity bingo starting at 10AM. Please see attached flyer.

On May 8, I will be going to the Palatka City Council meeting to honor the Policeman and Fireman of the year with plaques and certificates.

On May 13, I will be going to the Putnam County Board of Commissioners meeting to honor the Deputy Sherriff of the of the year with a plaque and certificate.

I am waiting on Palatka High School JROTC for their input for outstanding cadet of the year. Crescent City completed their awards on April 11.

Proudly Serving,
Gerald Donnelly





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FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Marian Chialastri

Happy Mother's Day!

Elections were held at our April meeting. Congratulations to all our officers for July 1, 2025 thru June 30, 2026. Pres—Marian Chialastri, Sr Vice-Joyce Donnelly, Jr Vice-Malinda Taylor, Treas-Lucie Barnette, Sec-Jan Stephens, Cond-Sherry Smith, Guard-Betty Burnham, 2nd yr Trustee-Valerie French, 3rd yr -Trustee-Robert Stephens, Patriotic Inst and Chap-Kathie Thompson.

May 3-Day of Service-Bingo 11-2, lunch will be sold, and bloodmobile will be here.

May 7-House Comm has been moved from May8th @6PM. Aux lunch @Magnolia Café at Noon.

May 12-Sewing @10am

May 14-Post Meeting@7PM

May 16@6PM Aux Dinner, Sloppy Joes by special request

May 26-Open House@Noon, Chicken being provided from Post, please bring a side dish to share, Aux will provide dessert.

State Convention will be held in Orlando-June 13 and 14.

On behalf of the Aux, we want to thank Gene/Connie, Robert/Jan, Bill/Kathie, Larry Markel, Jerry Shuler, Commander Jerry, for the repairs and paint job on our Aux Building.

I will rep

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Chialastri

Auxiliary President



May Events

May 1-Loyalty Day is observed on May 1 and was proclaimed by President Eisenhower as a day for declaring loyalty to the United States of America and to acknowledge American history. Each year on Loyalty Day, the current president is requested to issue a proclamation that asks the American government officials to display the American flag on all government buildings. The proclamations also ask for the American people to observe Loyalty Day with ceremonies in suitable places.

May 3 VFW Day of Service - See attached flyer

May 5-Cinco de Mayo has become associated with the celebration of Mexican-American culture.

May 8-(VE Day) Victory in Europe Day is the day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of WWII of Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces. Tuesday, 8 May 1945; it marked the official surrender of all German military operations. **2025 will mark the 80th anniversaries of VE Day** (Victory in Europe Day) on 8 May and VJ Day (Victory over Japan Day) on 15 August.

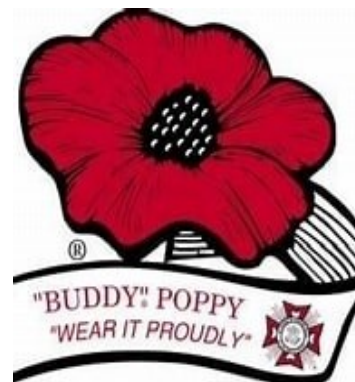
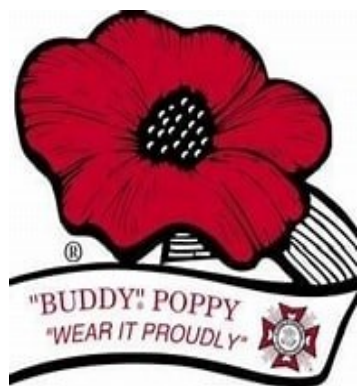
May 11 Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family or individual, and the influence of mothers in society.

May 15 Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week is an observance in the United States that pays tribute to the local, state, and federal peace officers who have died, or who have been disabled, in the line of duty.

May 17 Armed Forces Day signifies a profound recognition of the dedication and sacrifices made by military personnel in service to their nation. As a pivotal observance within the realm of military holidays, it fosters a deep appreciation for the bravery exhibited by service members and their families.

May 22-24 VFW Buddy Poppies Drive-Before Memorial Day in 1922, VFW conducted our first poppy distribution, becoming the first veterans' organization to organize a nationwide distribution. The poppy soon was adopted as the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, as it remains today.

May 26 Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day)^[1] is for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May. It is a day for visiting cemeteries and memorials to mourn the military personnel who died in the line of duty. Volunteers will place American flags on the graves of those military personnel in cemeteries.^[2] Others such as family and friends will also come to lay flowers and grieve on the graves of those who died in the US military. The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868.^[6] Then known as *Decoration Day* and was observed on May 30th.



VFW DAY OF SERVICE — LEADING THE CHARGE TO SERVE



3201 Reid Street



*Blood Drive
10 AM to 2 PM
VFW POST 3349
3201 Reid Street
Palatka Florida*

*1 free book of bingo
cards to anyone who
donates blood on this
day (A \$12 dollar
value)*




Saturday May 3rd

Blood Drive Bingo!

Bingo will be held starting at 11:00 AM. Doors will be open at 10:00 AM. This bingo will be just like our regular Tuesday Bingo with the same pots, cookie jars and prices. All of the Post profits will be donated to a local Food Supply source. Our \$5.00 Meal Deal menu will be available for lunch. Other drawings and raffles will be available. Come join us for a worthy local cause and have some fun!

May 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
<div></div>				1 Loyalty Day 7 PM Darts / Bowling	2 6PM Hamburgers May Birthday Celebration	3 DAY of SERVICE 10-2 Bloodmobile 11-2 Bingo Charity Benefit
4	5 <i>Cinco de Mayo</i> <i>Pizza & Bowling</i> <i>5:30 PM</i>	6 BINGO 6PM	7 7PM Queen of Hearts <i>6PM House Comm</i>	8 VE Day 80th Anniversary 7 PM Darts / Bowling	9 Steak Nite \$15.00	10 In House Bowling 1:00 PM
11 Mother's Day	14 <i>Pizza & Bowling</i> <i>5:30 PM</i>	13 BINGO 6PM	14 6:50PM Queen of Hearts 7 PM Post Meeting and	15 Peace Officer Memorial Day 7 PM Darts / Bowling	16 Aux Dinner Sloppy Joes \$6.00	17 Armed Forces Day
18	19 <i>Pizza & Bowling</i> <i>5:30 PM</i>	20 BINGO 6PM	21 7PM Queen of Hearts Buddy Poppy Dr	22 7 PM Darts / Bowling Buddy Poppy	23 Shuler Dinner TBD	24 8AM Place flags on graves In House Bowling 1:00 PM
<div></div>	26 Memorial Day 10AM Parade 12 Open House	27 BINGO 6PM	26 7PM Queen of Hearts	29 7 PM Darts / Bowling	30 Gene/Connie Dinner TBD	31
June 1	2	3	4	5 6PM House Cmty	6 D-Day 1944 6PM Hamburgers June Birthdays	<div></div>

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	TBD
3Yr. Trustee	Kathie Thompson
Patriotic Inst.	Kathie Thompson

DISTRICT 14 MEETING SCHEDULE

Qtr	Date	Post	Location	Time
TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	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 23rd of each month.

Thank you

Newsletter Editors — Bill and Kathie Thompson