



April 2025 Newsletter



VFW POST 3349
3201 REID ST., PALATKA, FL 32177
Phone: 386-328-2863
VFW3349.org

All American Post



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:

The 993rd Army Reserve donated foldable picnic table to the Post and we in turn donated them to the Veterans Village at Ft McCoy. Jack Gibbs, Bill Thompson and myself delivered them to the Village in time for their annual picnic on March 22nd. A big thanks to all that helped.

We provided a memorial service, flag folding and presentation on March 22nd for a local pilot that was killed in a plane crash. He was combat military pilot that had served in Vietnam. Thanks again to Gene Neiman, Jack Gibbs and Bill Thompson.

On March 29th the post had a membership drive and spring fling with an outdoor picnic and live music. All local area veterans were invited and fun time was had by all. We also honored and recognized our Vietnam Veterans.

On April 4th, during our Friday Night dinner, we will celebrate birthdays for all post and aux members that have a birthday in the month of April.

On April 11th the Post Commander and Quartermaster will be going to Crescent City High School to honor Army JROTC CPL Guadalupe Perez Susana Onofre-Bravo for Scholastic Excellence and Cadet MSG Guadalupe Perez for Military Excellence.

On April 26th there will be a District 14 meeting in Gainesville. Also on that day we will participate in Freedom Fest at the Fair Grounds.

Commander Gerald Donnelly





VFW POST 3349
P.O. BOX 218, PALATKA, FL 32178
PHONE: 386-328-2863
VFW3349.ORG



FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Marian Chialastri

HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE!

April 4 and 5 will be our Spring yard sale 8 to Noon both days.

April 9 monthly meeting at 7PM. Election of Officers for 2025-2026 will be held at the meeting.

April 16 will be sewing at 10, and lunch at Velchoff's at riverfront at Noon.

April 25 is Auxiliary dinner by Marian, Spaghetti Casserole, garlic bread, salad, dessert for \$7.00.

April 26 Freedom Fest at the Fairgrounds.. District Meeting at Gainesville at 10, election of District Officers for 2025-2026.

May 3rd will be a Day of Service, blood drive at 9:30, Bingo 11 to 2, Lunch will be sold, all profits will go to a local Non-Profit.

May 7th lunch at Magnolia Café at Noon.

On June 20th we will be going to the Yearling Restaurant. Reservations required, please respond if you plan to go by June 11th.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Chialastri

Auxiliary President



I will rep



Doolittle Raid on Japan, 18 April 1942

Conceived in January 1942 in the wake of the devastating Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, the “joint Army-Navy bombing project” was to bomb Japanese industrial centers, to inflict both “material and psychological” damage upon the enemy. Planners hoped that the former would include the destruction of specific targets “with ensuing confusion and retardation of production.” Those who planned the attacks on the Japanese homeland hoped to induce the enemy to recall “combat equipment from other theaters for home defense,” and incite a “fear complex in Japan.” Additionally, it was hoped that the prosecution of the raid would improve the United States’ relationships with its allies and receive a “favorable reaction [on the part] of the American people.”

Originally, the concept called for the use of U.S. Army Air Force bombers to be launched from, and recovered by, an aircraft carrier. Research disclosed the North American B-25 Mitchell to be “best suited to the purpose,” the Martin B-26 Marauder possessing unsuitable handling characteristics and the Douglas B-23 Dragon having too great a wingspan to be comfortably operated from a carrier deck. Tests off the aircraft carrier *Hornet* off Norfolk, and ashore at Norfolk soon proved that although a B-25 could take off with comparative ease, “landing back on again would be extremely difficult.”

The attack planners decided upon a carrier transporting the B-25s to a point east of Tokyo, whereupon it would launch one pathfinder to proceed ahead and drop incendiaries to blaze a trail for the other bombers that would follow. The planes would then proceed to either the east coast of China or to Vladivostok in the Soviet Union. However, Soviet reluctance to allow the use of Vladivostok as a terminus and the Stalin regime’s unwillingness to its neutrality with Japan compelled the selection of Chinese landing sites. At a secret conference at San Francisco, Lieutenant Colonel James H. Doolittle, USAAF, who would lead the attack personally, met with Vice Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., who would command the task force that would take Doolittle’s aircraft to the very gates of the Japanese empire. They agreed upon a launch point some 600 miles due east from Tokyo, but, if discovered, Task Force 16 (TF-16) would launch planes at the respective point and retire.

Twenty-four planes drawn from the USAAF’s 17th Bombardment Group were prepared for the mission, with additional fuel tanks installed and “certain unnecessary equipment” removed. Intensive training began in early March 1942 with crews who had volunteered for a mission that would be “extremely hazardous, would require a high degree of skill and would be of great value to our defense effort.” Crews practiced intensive cross-country flying, night flying, and navigation, as well as “low altitude approaches to bombing targets, rapid bombing and evasive action.”

Lieutenant Henry L. Miller, USN, oversaw the carrier take-off practice at Eglin Field, Florida, work that elicited praise from Doolittle for Miller’s “tact, skill and devotion to duty.” With everything not deemed essential stripped from the planes, *Hornet* loaded 16 B-25s (all that could be shipped) on board at Alameda (31 March–1 April 1942) and sailed to rendezvous with the carrier *Enterprise* to form part of Halsey’s TF-16.

April 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
		1st April Fools Day BINGO 6PM	2nd Queen of Hearts 7:00PM	3rd House Comm 6PM Darts 7PM	4th 6PM Hamburgers April Birthday Celebration 8-12 Aux Yard Sale	5th Aux Yard Sale 8-12
6	7 <i>Pizza & Bowling</i> 5:30 PM	8 BINGO 6PM	9 Queen of Hearts 6:50 PM <i>POST Meeting</i> 7:00 PM	10 7 PM Darts / Bowling	11 Steak Nite \$15.00	12 <i>In House</i> <i>Bowling</i> <i>1:00 PM</i>
13	14 <i>Pizza & Bowling</i> 5:30 PM	15 BINGO 6PM	16 Queen of Hearts 7:00PM Aux Sewing 10 Lunch Noon Velchoff's	17 7 PM Darts / Bowling	18 GOOD FRIDAY FISH DINNER \$8.00	19
20	21 <i>Pizza & Bowling</i> 5:30 PM	22 BINGO 6PM	23 Queen of Hearts 7:00PM	24 7 PM Darts / Bowling	25 Aux Dinner Spaghetti Casserole \$7.00	26 <i>District Meeting</i> <i>Gainesville</i> <i>10:00 AM</i> <i>In House Bowling</i> <i>Freedom Fest</i>
27	28 <i>Pizza & Bowling</i> 5:30 PM	29 BINGO 6PM	30 Queen of Hearts 7:00PM	May 1st 7 PM Darts / Bowling	May 2nd Hamburgers 6:00 PM	May 3 DAY of SERVICE <i>Bloodmobile 9:30</i> <i>Bingo 11-2</i> <i>Charity Benefit</i>

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