



# July 2025 Newsletter



## All American Post

VFW POST 3349

3201 REID ST., PALATKA, FL 32177

Phone: 386-328-2863

[VFW3349.org](http://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 2025



Greetings Comrades:

From Commander Gerald Donnelly

I'm asking for help with the bingo on Tuesday night. The post needs callers and other help. The bingo is one of our biggest moneymakers. It helps to pay the bills at the end of the month.

The post received the All State award on June 13 at the State Convention in Orlando. The post is waiting to see if the post made All American for the 5th time. That will be announced in July at National Convention.

The post will be open July 4th from 1200 to 1700 hours. The post will have hot dogs in the afternoon. There will be no hamburgers that night.

I would like to see more members at the meeting that are held on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is on July 9 at 1900 hours. Come to the meeting and you will be able to see first hand what the post is doing in the community. The post and auxiliary are planning to give six hundred dollars to Epic-Cure and God's Kitchen which was raised on May 3rd at The Day of Service.

I have applied for a grant to provide lunch for the 993rd for next fall. I hope to hear from National on this in the next couple of months. The paper work is complete and was received at National Headquarter.

Hope everyone has a great 4th of July.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Gerald Donnelly  
Commander VFW Post 3349





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**FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT**

**Marian Chialastri**

- Happy Fourth of July Everyone!
- July starts a new fiscal year and I am looking forward to another great year for our auxiliary.
- July 8th—Sewing at 10 am in Aux room. You don't have to know how to sew to come, we have lots of things for us all to do.
- July 9th—Lunch at noon at Sumi ( Winn Dixie Plaza on Hwy 19)
- July 9th—Monthly Meeting at 7PM, we will be reporting on what we learned at convention for the new year
- July 18th—Auxiliary Dinner—Cold Salad Plate \$7
- If you have any suggestions for the Auxiliary Dinner or would like to help with a dinner please let me know.
- August 1 and 2 is School of Instruction at Florida Mall Orlando, Lucie, Jan, Robert, Valerie and I will be attending and will report back at next meeting.
- Our yard sale will be in September, October 4 is Cancer Bingo, Dec 6th is Children's Christmas Party
- 

I will rep

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Marian Chialastri*

*Auxiliary President*







VFW Post 3349 received the All State Award for Florida in a ceremony June 13th in Orlando. The group was recognized for its community programs, including Voice of Democracy Essay Contest for students. Pictured from left are Dan West, representative of the VFW National Headquarters; CMDR Gerald Donnelly VFW Post 3349; Glenn Wright, VFW State CMDR; Gerald Shuler, Post 3349 Quartermaster; and John Coleman, VFW state Quartermaster.

# Independence Day

**Independence Day**, commonly known as the **Fourth of July**, is a federal holiday in the United States which commemorates the ratification of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America.

The Founding Father delegates of the Second Continental Congress declared that the Thirteen Colonies were no longer subject (and subordinate) to the monarch of British, King George III and were now united, free, and independent states. The Congress voted to approve independence by passing the Lee Resolution on July 2 and adopted the Declaration of Independence two days later, on July 4.<sup>[</sup>



# **The VFW has Launched its Annual Scholarship Contests**

VFW is now accepting entries for the 2025-2026 Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Patriot's Pen (PP) Essay contest. It allows middle school and high school students to compete for a share of awards totaling nearly \$2.4 million.

The theme for 2025-2026 asks students **“How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?”**

The VOD audio essay competition is open to high school students in ninth through 12th grades and comes with a \$35,000 national first place prized scholarship. More than 26,000 high school students compete in the VOD competition each year for a share of more than \$170,000 in awards.

First place VOD Department, or state, winners also will receive an all expense paid trip to attend a Founding Forward Spirit of America Youth Leadership Program at Valley Forge, PA.

The VFW Patriots Pen Essay contest is open to eligible sixth, seventh and eighth grade students sharing in over \$1 million in local, state and national awards and prizes. The National first place winner receives a \$5,000 award. More than 60,000 students participate annually in the competition.

Students can submit their entries (along with a completed entry form) to their local VFW Post. **The deadline for both contest is October 31, 2025.**

To learn more about the contests, visit  
“<https://www.vfw.org/youthscholarships>.”

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

# July 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
		<i>July 1</i> <i>BINGO</i> 6PM	<i>July 2</i> <i>Queen of Hearts</i> 7:00 PM	<i>July 3</i> 1 7 PM Darts / Bowling House Comm	<i>July 4</i> <b>Hot Dogs</b> <b>12-5</b> <b>Post close</b> <b>5PM</b>	
6	7 <i>Pizza &amp; Bowling</i> 5:30 PM	8 <i>BINGO</i> 6PM	9 <i>Queen of Hearts</i> 6:50PM <b>Post Meeting</b> <b>7:00PM</b>	10 7 PM Darts / Bowling	11 <b>Steak Nite</b> <b>\$15.00</b>	12 <i>In House Bowling</i> 1:00 PM
13	14 <i>Pizza &amp; Bowling</i> 5:30 PM	15 <i>BINGO</i> 6PM	16 <i>Queen of Hearts</i> 7:00 PM	17 7 PM Darts / Bowling	18 <b>Aux Dinner</b> <b>Cold Salad</b> <b>Plate \$7</b>	19
20	21 <i>Pizza &amp; Bowling</i> 5:30 PM	22 <i>BINGO</i> 6PM	23 <i>Queen of Hearts</i> 7:00PM	24 7 PM Darts / Bowling	25 <b>Fish &amp; Chips</b> <b>\$8</b>	26 <i>In House Bowling</i> 1:00 PM
27 <i>National Korean-WarVets Armistice Day</i>	28 <i>Pizza &amp; Bowling</i> 5:30 PM	29 <i>BINGO</i> 6PM	30 <i>Queen of Hearts</i> 7:00PM	31 7 PM Darts / 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	Lucie Barnette
Secretary	Jan Stephens
Chaplain	Kathie Thompson
Conductress	Sherry Smith
Guard	Betty Burnham
1Yr. Trustee	Joyce Donnelly
2Yr. Trustee	Valerie French
3Yr. Trustee	Robert Stephens
Patriotic Inst.	Kathie Thompson

### DISTRICT 14 MEETING SCHEDULE

Qtr	Date	Post	Location	Time
1st	TBD			

### 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