



August 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
August 2025



Greetings Comrades:

From Commander Gerald Donnelly

The post was recognized once again by the National VFW as an All American Post for the 2024-2025 year. The post will receive the following awards. 2024-2025 All American Streamer, 125th Anniversary All American Banner, Post Home Citation, and Recognition in VFW Magazine. A big thanks to our members for their help with all of our programs in achieving this award.

Should anyone want to help with the Voice of Democracy And Patriot Pen for the coming year please let me know. I plan to contact Palatka High School and their JROTC commander to talk to them about these programs. I will also ask them for a Teacher of the Year for Grades 9 to 12. I will also be contacting Crest City High School and JROTC for help with these programs.

I will be working on Policeman of the Year, EMT and Fireman of the Year for Palatka City. The new year will be busy with these programs. Any help with these programs will be greatly appreciated.

It is officially hurricane season! Please be and stay prepared.

Yours in Comradeship,
Gerald Donnelly
Commander VFW Post 3349





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FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Marian Chialastri

Hello Members,

August 1-2 will be School of Instruction in Orlando. Lucie, Robert, Jan, Valerie and I will be attending and will report on the changes happening this year at our meeting October 13th.

August 6– Lunch at Corky Bells, at Noon.

August 12-Sewing at 10AM

August 13-Monthly Meeting at 7PM

August 15-Aux dinner, Sloppy Joes, chips \$7

August 16-District Meeting at Our Post, Breakfast at 9, Meeting 10, please plan on attending

Aux yard sale will be held on Sept 19-20, 8-12 both days, please bring all donations to post by Sept 16th so it can be priced and set up.

Cancer Bingo will be October 4th from 11-5. Lunch will be available, raffles, 50/50 and door prizes. All monies raised stays in Palatka. I will rep

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Chialastri

Auxiliary President



Hurricane Preparedness

“[Disaster Supply Kit Checklist | Florida Disaster](#) “

Know Your Hurricane Risk—Hurricanes are not just a coastal problem. Find out how rain, wind, water and even tornadoes could happen far inland from where a hurricane or tropical storm makes landfall.

Make an Emergency Plan—Make sure everyone in your household knows and understands [your hurricane plans](#). Include [anywhere else you frequent](#) in your hurricane plans. Ensure your business (VFW) has a [continuity plan](#) to continue operating when disaster strikes.

Know your Evacuation Zone—You may have to evacuate quickly due to a hurricane if you live in an evacuation zone. [Learn your evacuation routes](#), practice with your household and pets, and identify where you will stay. Follow the instructions from local emergency managers, who work closely with state, local, tribal, and territorial agencies and partners. They will provide the latest recommendations based on the threat to your community and appropriate safety measures.

Recognize Warnings and Alerts—Have several ways to receive alerts. [Download the FEMA app](#) and receive real-time alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five locations nationwide. [Sign up for community alerts](#) in your area and be aware of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA), which require no sign up.

Review Important Documents—Make sure your [insurance policies and personal documents](#), such as ID, are up to date. Make copies and keep them in a secure password-protected digital space.

Strengthen your Home—De-clutter drains and gutters, bring in outside furniture, and consider hurricane shutters.

Get Tech Ready—[Keep your cell phone charged](#) when you know a hurricane is in the forecast and purchase backup charging devices to power electronics.

Help your Neighborhood—Check with neighbors, [senior adults](#), or those [who may need additional help](#) securing hurricane plans to see how you can be of assistance to others

Gather Supplies—[Have enough supplies](#) for your household, include medication, disinfectant supplies and [pet supplies](#) in your go bag or car trunk. You may not have access to these supplies for days or even weeks after a hurricane.

Hurricane Kits—CASH (no power = no bank or atm), AM/FM battery powered radio (Stay informed), Batteries, Flash lights/lanterns, Water, Water, Water, Non perishable food (5 to 7 days), Pet Food, First Aid Kit, Duct Tape, Tarps of various sizes. See link above for more details.

Significance of V-J Day

V-J Day, or Victory over Japan Day, signifies the surrender of Imperial Japan during World War II, which brought an end to the conflict. The surrender was announced on **August 15, 1945**, following the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima (August 6) and Nagasaki (August 9), and the Soviet Union's declaration of war against Japan on August 9. The formal surrender took place on **September 2, 1945**, when Japanese officials signed the surrender documents aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

Atomic Bombings: The United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, leading to massive destruction and loss of life, which significantly influenced Japan's decision to surrender.

Potsdam Declaration: The Allies issued the Potsdam Declaration, demanding Japan's unconditional surrender. Japan's acceptance of these terms was announced by Emperor Hirohito on August 15, 1945.

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Global Reactions: The announcement of Japan's surrender led to widespread celebrations across the United States and Allied nations, with people taking to the streets to celebrate the end of the war.

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

August 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
					1 Hamburger Night \$6	2 <i>VFW Dept School of Instruction, Orlando</i>
3	4 <i>Pizza & Bowling</i> 5:30 PM <i>Vietnam Conflict begins 1964</i>	5 <i>BINGO</i> 6PM	6 <i>Queen of Hearts</i> 7:00 PM Aux Lunch Noon Corky Bell	7 7 PM <i>Darts / Bowling</i> House Comm	8 Steak Nite \$15.00 VFW National Convention	9 <i>In House Bowling</i> 1:00 PM Columbus, OH
10	11 <i>Pizza & Bowling</i> 5:30 PM	12 <i>BINGO</i> 6PM <i>Aux sewing</i> 10 AM	13 <i>Queen of Hearts</i> 6:50PM Post Meeting 7:00PM	14 7 PM <i>Darts / Bowling</i>	15 Aux Dinner Sloppy Joes \$7 <i>VJ Day 1945</i>	16 District Mtg Palatka 10:00 AM Bkfst 9:00 AM
17	18 <i>Pizza & Bowling</i> 5:30 PM	19 <i>BINGO</i> 6PM	20 <i>Queen of Hearts</i> 7:00PM	21 7 PM <i>Darts / Bowling</i>	22 Pork Cutlet & Sides \$8	23 <i>In House Bowling</i> 1:00 PM
24	25 <i>Pizza & Bowling</i> 5:30 PM	26 <i>BINGO</i> 6PM	27 <i>Queen of Hearts</i> 7:00PM	28 7 PM <i>Darts / Bowling</i>	29 Jambalaya Cuke Salad \$8	30
31	1 Labor Day <i>Pizza & Bowling</i> 5:30 PM	2 <i>BINGO</i> 6PM	3 <i>Queen of Hearts</i> 7:00PM	4 7 PM <i>Darts / Bowling</i>	5 Hamburger Night \$6 5	6

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	Valerie Johns
2 yr	William Thompson
3 yr	Weldon Taylor
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	08/16/25	3349	Palatka	10am
2nd	11/15/25	10164	Interlachen	10am
3rd	2/21/26	2206	Lake City	10am
4th	5/16/26	2811	Gainesville	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