



September 2025 Newsletter



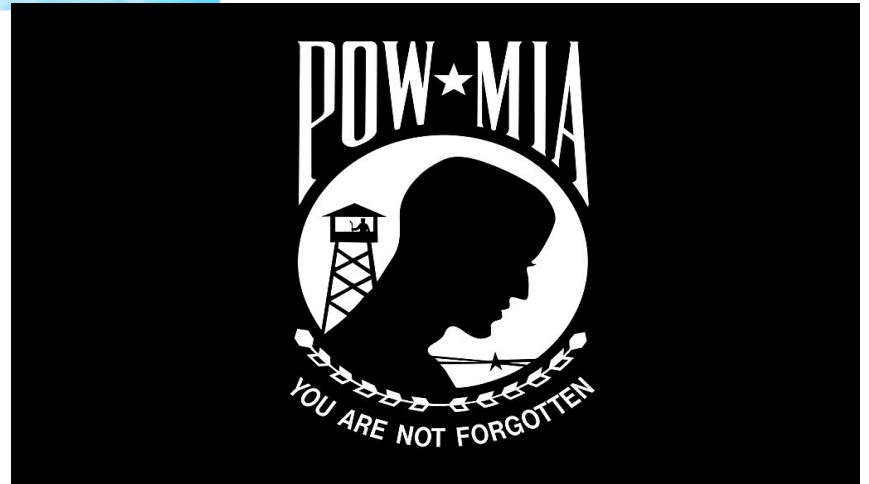
All American Post

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



From Commander Gerald Donnelly

Greetings Comrades:

We will be honoring and remembering Patriots Day on Sept 11th and POW/MIA day on Sept 19th.

On August 9th I contacted SGT. Hibbs at the 993rd to see what was going on with the unit. He told me they were having a change of command and he will set up a time for me to meet with the Commanding Officer.

I e-mailed Palatka, Crescent City, and Q I Robert High Schools to inform them of the theme and deadlines for the Voice of the Democracy contest. I heard back from Palatka High School and they are relaying the information to the JROTC commander to get the students to write the essays.

The District 14 meeting was held at Palatka post. The District Commander outlined program reporting requirements to the state. He also explained the different programs topics to look for when doing reports.

I am starting to plan the Veteran Day Parade. We are looking at having the parade on Saturday to have more people there. I think we have a Grand Marshall. More Information next month on the parade.

Yours in Comradeship,
Gerald Donnelly





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FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Marian Chialastri

Hello Members,

Our yard sale will be September 19 and 20 from 8 a.m. to noon both days.

September will be a little slower for the auxiliary.

September 10 meeting at 7p.m. This will be a joint meeting to start with. Humana will be there to talk to everyone then we will have our regular meeting.

September 17 we will set up and price for the yard sale at 10 a.m., Lunch will be at Pizza Boys following set up for the yard sale.

September 19 Auxiliary dinner. We are serving a new recipe from one of our newest member Poppyseed chicken rice and vegetable and dessert for \$8.00.

October 4 will be our annual Cancer Bingo from 11 to 5. We will have door prizes, raffles and 50 50. Lunch will be sold at a cost of \$6.00 each. Choice of sloppy joes and chips or pasta salad and crackers. Please plan on attending and invite your family and friends for a fun filled afternoon. All money raised stays in Putman County.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Chialastri

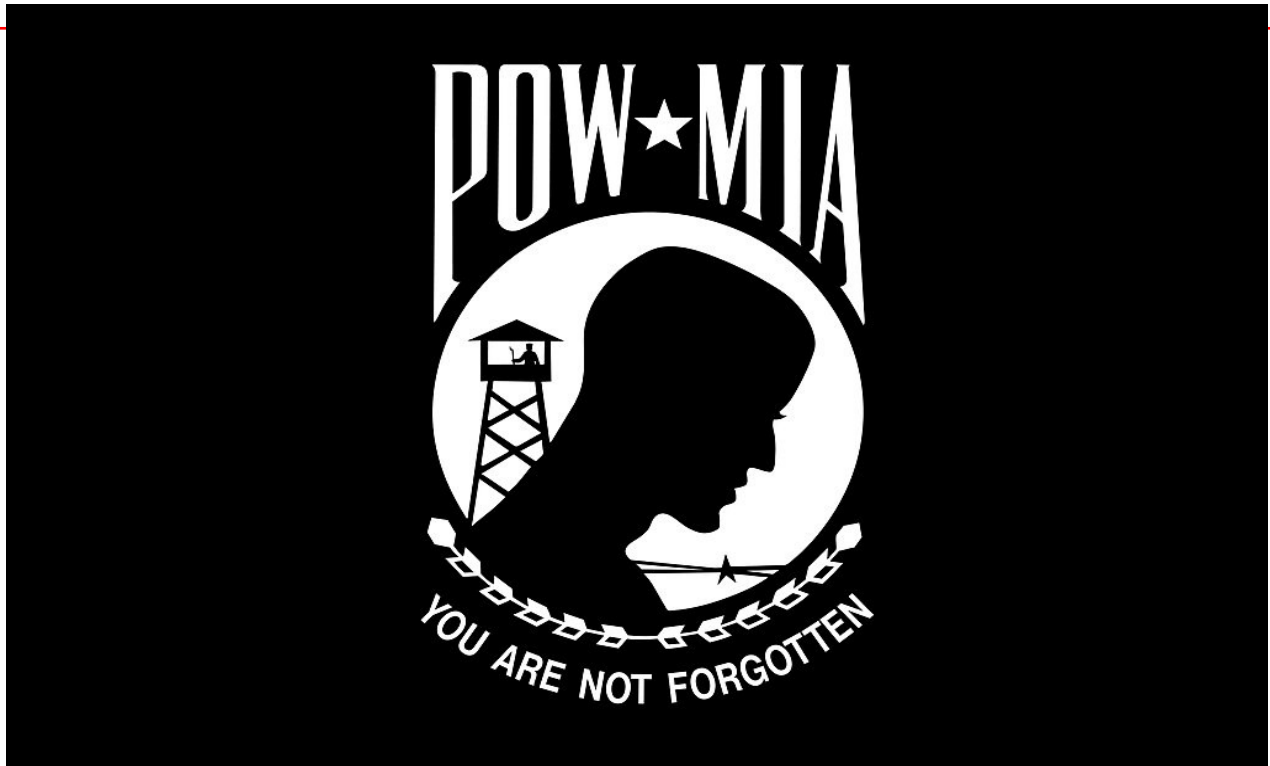
Auxiliary President



What is Patriot Day?

Patriot Day was established in the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, which remains one of the most significant events in American history. The attacks resulted in the deaths of 2,977 victims with attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, and United Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania. In the aftermath, the United States experienced a surge of patriotism, unity, and a commitment to defending freedom.

The day was officially designated as Patriot Day by Congress in 2001. Every year since, Americans have observed September 11th as a day of remembrance and reflection. It is a time to honor the victims, support those who continue to suffer from the effects of the attacks, and reaffirm the values of resilience and unity that define the nation.



In the United States, **National POW/MIA Recognition Day** is observed on the third Friday in September (Sept 19th). It honors those who were prisoners of war (POWs) and those who are still missing in action (MIA). The theme is to show commitment to full accountability to the families of captured service members and missing war heroes.

Many service members suffered as prisoners during the several wars that have happened throughout the history of the U.S. National POW/MIA Recognition Day was initiated as the day to commemorate with the family of many of the tens of thousands of service members who never made it home. The day was first observed in 1979 after Congress and the president passed a resolution to make it official following the demands of the families of 2,500 Vietnam War POW/MIAs who asked for accountability in finding their loved ones. Regardless of where they are held in the country, National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies share the common purpose of honoring those who were held captive and returned, as well as the memory of those who remain missing in service to the United States.

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

September 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 Labor Day Pizza & Bowling 5:30 PM	2nd BINGO 6PM	3rd Queen of Hearts 7:00 PM	4th House Comm 6PM	5th Hamburger Night \$6	6th
7	8 Pizza & Bowling 5:30 PM	9 BINGO 6PM	10 Queen of Hearts 6:50PM Post Meeting 7:00PM 3	11 7 PM Darts / Bowling Patriots Day	12 Steak Nite Price TBD	13 In House Bowling 1:00 PM
14 Ladies Aux Organized 1914	15 Pizza & Bowling 5:30 PM	16 BINGO 6PM	17 Queen of Hearts 7:00PM	18 7 PM Darts / Bowling USAF Est 1947	19 Aux Dinner Poppy Seed Chicken \$8 Yard Sale POW/MIA Day	20 Codes of Honor Bike Run Yard Sale
21	22 Pizza & Bowling 5:30 PM Autumn	23 BINGO 6PM	24 Queen of Hearts 7:00PM	25 7 PM Darts / Bowling	26 Bills Ribs Dinner \$15 Slabs to go \$20	27 In House Bowling 1:00 PM Combat Vets Poker Run
28 Gold Star Mothers Day	29 Pizza & Bowling 5:30 PM VFW Est 1899	30 BINGO 6PM	Oct 1st Queen of Hearts 7:00PM	2nd 7 PM Darts / Bowling	3rd Hamburger Night \$6	4th

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