



January 2026 Newsletter



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

January 2026

From Commander Gerald Donnelly

Greetings Comrades:

I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and a Happy New Year. I would like to thank everyone for a great 2025 year. I have a tremendous group of people to work with and the Post is in the best shape that it has ever been. We have completed all of our required programs and we will be honoring our Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen and Teacher of the Year winners on January 14th starting at 6PM.

Once again our children's breakfast with Santa was a huge success. The food was plentiful and tasty with lots of gifts for all the children. Thanks again to all the volunteers that assisted with the food prep and serving. Also, a special thanks to Santa for taking time out of a very busy schedule and to the Auxiliary for sponsoring this event.

We had a very good turnout for bartender appreciation night on December 19th. Some of the volunteer bartenders need some remedial training, but fun was had by all.

It is always time to be working on membership and everyone is a recruiter. So get out there and help find some new members for the Post and the Auxiliary.

Looking forward to a great 2026,
Gerald Donnelly
Commander VFW Post 3349





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VFW3349.ORG**



FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Marian Chialastri

Hello Members,

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERONE

January 7 Auxiliary Lunch at Bradleys at noon

January 14 Monthly meeting will be a joint meting starting at 6 p.m. we will be honoring the winners for the VOD and Patriotic Pen and teacher of the year. Please bring finger foods to share. The regular meeting will follow.

January 16 Auxiliary dinner - meatloaf \$7.00

January 21 sewing at 10a.m. You don't need to know how to sew to help.

February 13 and 14 Valerie, Joyce and myself will be attending Mid Winter conference in Orlando and will report on it at our March meeting.

Feb 21st District Meeting in Lake City at 10AM. Breakfast will be served at 9AM.

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Respectfully submitted,

Marian Chialastri

Auxiliary President



THE PERSIAN GULF WAR OCCURRED 35 YEARS AGO

This January marks the 35th anniversary of the beginning of the Persian Gulf War. The VFW offers its appreciation to the nearly 700,000 military men and women who served in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm,

The Gulf War was an armed conflict between Iraq and a 42-country coalition led by the United States. The coalition's efforts against Iraq were carried out in two key phases: Operation Desert Shield, which marked the military buildup from August 1990 to January 1991; and Operation Desert Storm, which began with the aerial bombing campaign against Iraq on 17 January and ended with the American-led liberation of Kuwait on 28 February.

On 2 August 1990, Iraq, governed by Saddam Hussein, invaded neighboring Kuwait and occupied the country within two days. The invasion was primarily over Kuwait's alleged slant drilling in Iraq's Rumaila oil field, and Iraq's large debt to Kuwait from the recently ended Iran–Iraq War.

The invasion of Kuwait was met with immediate international condemnation. The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 660, demanding Iraq's immediate withdrawal from Kuwait, and Resolution 661, imposing a total embargo on products from Iraq and Kuwait. British prime minister Margaret Thatcher and US president George H. W. Bush deployed troops and equipment into Saudi Arabia and the coalition became the largest military alliance since World War II. The bulk of military power was from the US, with Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, and Egypt as the largest following contributors.

Resolution 678, adopted on 29 November 1990, gave Iraq an ultimatum, expiring on 15 January 1991, to withdraw from Kuwait, with member-states empowered to use "all necessary means" to force Iraq's compliance. On 17 January, the coalition began aerial and naval bombardment of Iraq and Kuwait, which continued for five weeks. Iraqi missile barrages against coalition targets in Saudi Arabia were unsuccessful, and on 24 February 1991, the coalition launched a decisive ground assault liberating Kuwait and promptly advancing into Iraqi territory. The coalition halted its ground advance after one hundred hours, and declared a ceasefire.

January 2026

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
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				JAN 1ST 2026 New YearsDay Noon to 9 Bloody Mary Specials	January 2 <i>Burgers and Fries</i>	January 3rd
4th	5th <i>Pizza & Bowling 5:30 PM</i>	6th <i>BINGO 6PM</i>	7th <i>Queen of Hearts 7PM</i>	8th <i>House Comm 6PM</i> <i>7 PM Darts</i>	9th <i>Steak Night</i>	10th In House Bowling 1:00 PM
11	12 <i>Pizza & Bowling 5:30 PM</i>	13 <i>BINGO 6PM</i>	14 <i>Post Meeting 7PM</i> <i>Queen of Hearts 6:50 PM</i>	15 <i>7 PM Darts / Bowling</i>	16 <i>AUX Dinner Meatloaf</i>	17
18	19 <i>Pizza & Bowling 5:30 PM</i>	20 <i>BINGO 6PM</i>	21 <i>Queen of Hearts 7PM</i>	22 <i>7 PM Darts / Bowling</i>	23 <i>Roast Pork</i>	In House Bowling 1:00 PM 24
25	26 <i>Pizza & Bowling 5:30 PM</i>	27 <i>BINGO 6PM</i>	28 <i>Queen of Hearts 7PM</i>	29 <i>7 PM Darts / Bowling</i>	30 TBD	31

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	Valerie French
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
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 25th of each month.

Thank you

Newsletter Editors — Bill and Kathie Thompson