



March 2026 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
March 2026



From Commander Gerald Donnelly

Greetings Comrades:

On February 14, I attended the Mid Winter Conference in Orlando. I checked on the Fireman of the Year award. The chairman told me it may be awhile before the post receives it.

The post is going to provide lunch to the Army Reserve Unit 993 rd on April 11th at the post from 1100 to 1300 hours.

I am planning on holding a veteran benefit special on April 14th at the post. There will be veterans service officers available to answer questions about disability benefits. The event will be from 0900 to 1100 hours. We held this event last year and a lot of information was provided.

The post is planning a "Day of Service" event in May. We will have a bloodmobile on site with Life South. Further information will be out in next months calendar.

Gerald Donnelly
Veteran of Foreign War Post 3349
Commander





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FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Marian Chialastri

March 2026

Hello Members,

Happy ST Patricks Day Everyone!

Our spring yard sale will be held on Friday March 27 and Saturday March 28 from 8 to 12 both days. Please bring your donations to the post by Monday March23, so we can get everything priced.

March 11-Monthly Meeting at 7PM

March 20-Auxiliary Dinner-Spaghetti \$7

March 25 –Lunch at Darlene’s on St Johns Avenue at Noon

March 27 and 28 Yard Sale 8 to 12

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Chialastri

Auxiliary President



National Vietnam War Veterans Day

March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day in the United States. First observed in 2012, it honors the US military members who served during the Vietnam War (1955-1975). The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 establishes the day as a national observance. However, it is not an official holiday in any part of the United States. All across the United States, commemorative events like wreath-laying ceremonies, speeches, and luncheons are held to mark the occasion. Typical venues include the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC, war veteran medical facilities, and military cemeteries.

Vietnam War Veterans Day was first observed as a one-time occasion on March 29, 2012, by Presidential proclamation calling on “all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.”

The day was then introduced as an annual event in 2017 when the President signed the National Vietnam War Veteran War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017.

Lasting from 1955 to 1975, the Vietnam war engulfed the Southeast Asian country of Vietnam as well as its neighboring countries, Cambodia and Laos . It resulted in several million deaths.

The conflict began during the 1950s when the struggle between the country's communist northern part and the anti-communist south escalated. The United States began its military involvement in an effort to back the South's effort to quell the communist onslaught, which, at the height of the Cold War, was feared to promote the spread of communist ideology and influence worldwide. During the war, about 500,000 US troops were dispatched to Southeast Asia, about 58,000 of whom were killed.

The war conflict ended in 1975.

Feb. 17, 2026

New VA Rule Ties Disability Ratings to Medicated Symptoms, Drawing Fire From Veterans Groups

A new Department of Veterans Affairs rule that took effect Feb. 17 changes how the agency evaluates disability ratings for millions of veterans, tying compensation to how well a veteran functions while on medication rather than to the severity of the underlying condition.

Public comments are being accepted through April 20 at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) under docket RIN 2900-AS49. The department had received more than 1,900 comments by publication time.

The interim final rule, titled "Evaluative Rating: Impact of Medication," amends the core regulation governing how the VA assesses functional impairment. It adds two sentences directing medical examiners not to "estimate or discount improvements to the disability due to the effects of medication or treatment" and stating that if medication lowers the level of disability, "the rating will be based on that lowered disability level."

The rule applies across all body systems, including musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, digestive and mental health conditions. It affects new claims and any existing disability that comes up for reevaluation through a clinical exam.

February 26, 2026

VA files notice to immediately revoke disability rating rule after backlash from veterans

By LINDA F. HERSEY STARS AND STRIPES • February 26, 2026

Read more at: <https://www.stripes.com/veterans/2026-02-26/va-rescinding-rule-disability-ratings-20883658.html>

Source - Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A new rule that altered how the Department of Veterans Affairs determines disability compensation for millions of veterans will be revoked, according to a formal VA notice scheduled to be published Friday in the Federal Register. Titled "Rescission of Interim Final Rule, Evaluative Rating: Impact of Medication," the notice states that the VA is rescinding a final interim rule published Feb. 17 and restoring the prior standard for calculating veterans disability ratings and related compensation. "This rescission is effective immediately upon publication."

VA's move to officially rescind the rule follows VA Secretary Doug Collins' abrupt announcement on social media that he was halting enforcement of the interim final rule — just 48 hours after it took effect — following intense public backlash. The rule was sharply criticized for linking a veteran's disability rating to how well medication manages symptoms, instead of on the severity of a service-connected injury or illness, which had been the standard practice. Veterans and their advocates flooded a government website — [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) — collecting feedback on the new rule, which received more than 20,000 comments in little over a week.

March 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
<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i> Bowling 5:30PM	<i>3rd</i> BINGO 6:00PM	<i>4th</i> Queen of Hearts 7:00P	<i>5th</i> House Cmty 6:00PM Darts 7:00PM	<i>6th</i> Sloppy Joes 6:00PM	<i>7th</i>
<i>8th</i> Daylight Savings Begins	<i>9th</i> Bowling 5:30 PM	<i>10th</i> BINGO 6:00PM	<i>11th</i> Post Meeting 7PM Queen of Hearts 6:50PM	<i>12th</i> Darts Bowling 7:00PM	<i>13th</i> Grilled Pork Chops 6:00PM	<i>14th</i> In House Bowling 1:00 PM
<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> Bowling 5:30 PM	<i>17</i> BINGO 6:00PM St Pats Day	<i>18</i> Queen of Hearts 7:00 PM	<i>19</i> Darts / Bowling 7:00PM	<i>20</i> AUX Dinner Spaghetti 6:00PM Ist day of Spring	<i>21</i>
<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> Bowling 5:30 PM	<i>24</i> BINGO 6:00PM	<i>25</i> Queen of Hearts 7:00PM National Medal Of Honor Day	<i>26</i> Darts / Bowling 7:00PM	<i>27</i> Roast Beef 6:00PM AUX Yard Sale 8-12	<i>28</i> Aux Yard Sale 8-12 In House Bowling 1:00 PM
<i>29</i> Palm Sunday Vietnam War Veterans Day	<i>30</i> Bowling 5:30 PM	<i>31</i> BINGO 6:00PM	<i>1st</i> Queen of Hearts 7:00PM	<i>2nd</i> House Comm 6:00PM Darts 7:00PM	<i>3rd</i> Sloppy Joes 6:00PM	<i>4th</i>

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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
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