



October 2025 Newsletter

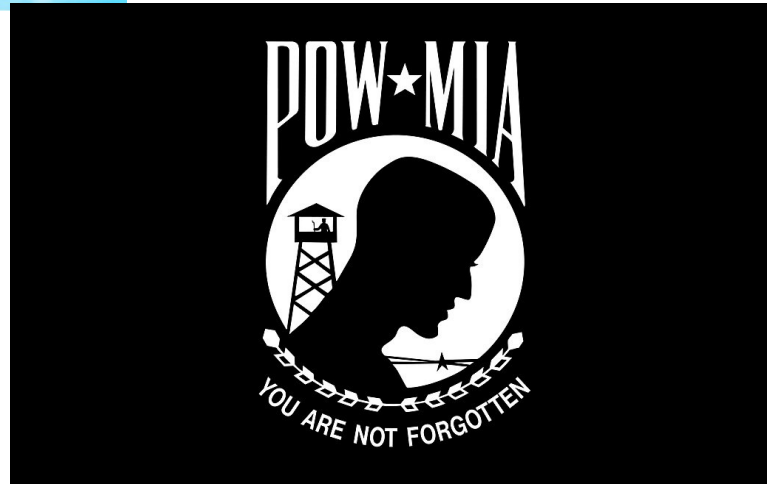


VFW POST 3349
3201 REID ST., PALATKA, FL 32177
Phone: 386-328-2863
VFW3349.org

All American Post



**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**



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
October 2025



From Commander Gerald Donnelly

Greetings Comrades:

Post 3349 has sponsored a Babe Ruth 10 and under travel team in Palatka. The Post donated 500 dollars to help pay for uniforms and a banner to be displayed at the games with the post on the banner.

VFW Fall conference is on October 17 and 18 in Orlando. The post is to receive their All American award at the conference.

Post Auxiliary will sponsor a Cancer Bingo on Saturday October 4 th from 11 AM to 5PM. All money raised will stay in Putnam County. Food will be on sale at the event.

The Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen essay must be turned in by October 27. Post 3349 will evaluate the essays to pick the first, second and third place winners on that date. The Voice of Democracy essay must be on a stick.

Post 3349 and the American Legion Post 45 is working on the Veteran Day Parade. We are going to move the parade to Saturday morning November 8th at 1000 hours with a ceremony to follow at the Riverfront. By moving the parade date we hope to get more people in attendance at the parade. Open house at the post after the ceremony.

Yours in Comradeship,
Gerald Donnelly
Commander VFW Post 3349





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FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Marian Chialastri

Hello Members,

Happy Halloween!!

October 4th will be our Cancer Bingo from 11 to 5, doors open at 11:00, bingo packs and lunch to start at 11:30 with bingo beginning at 1PM. Door prizes, raffles, 50-50, and lots of fun to be had by all. Lunch menu will be sloppy joes and chips or pasta salad and crackers, for \$5. Drinks will be purchased at the bar. All monies raised stay in Putnam County. Please invite family and friends to come join us on this special day.

October 7—Lunch at Nikos Pizza Noon

October 8 —Monthly Meeting at 7PM

October 17-18—Fall Roundup in Orlando, Lucie, Joyce, Lisa and myself will attend, and will report in November Meeting

October 24—Auxiliary dinner will be chili, \$7.

November 15—District Meeting in Interlachen, breakfast at 9, meeting at 10, please plan to attend.

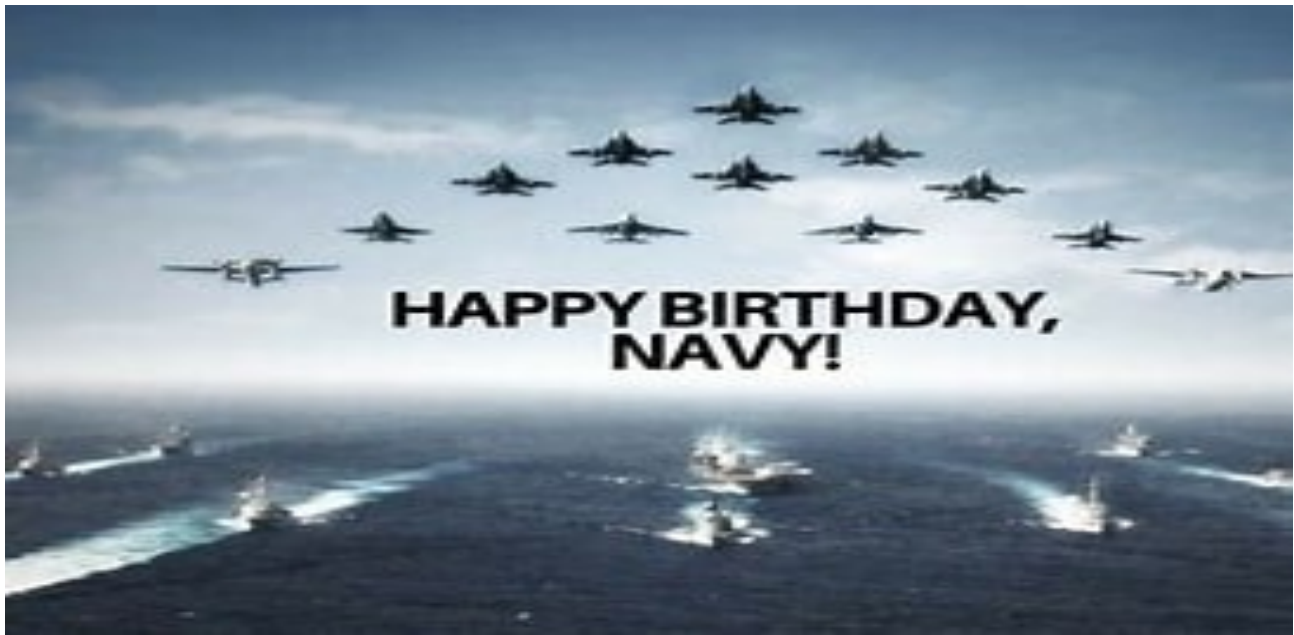
December 6—Breakfast with Santa, more details next month.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Chialastri

Auxiliary President





The **U.S. Navy's 250th birthday** will be celebrated on **October 13, 2025**

On October 13, 1775, the United States Navy was established. The day is celebrated as the birthdate of the American Navy.

Naval Celebration

The day is mainly celebrated by personnel, veterans, or other people related to the Navy. Usually, it is marked with a Navy Birthday Ball with a formal dinner, birthday cake, and entertainment. ***Join us in the canteen at 6PM for a birthday toast!!!***

Pirate Problem

The United States Navy originated over 240 years ago as the Continental Navy. The then Continental Congress authorized 2 armed vessels to search for ships supplying the British army with weapons and ammunition during the American Revolutionary War (1775–1783).

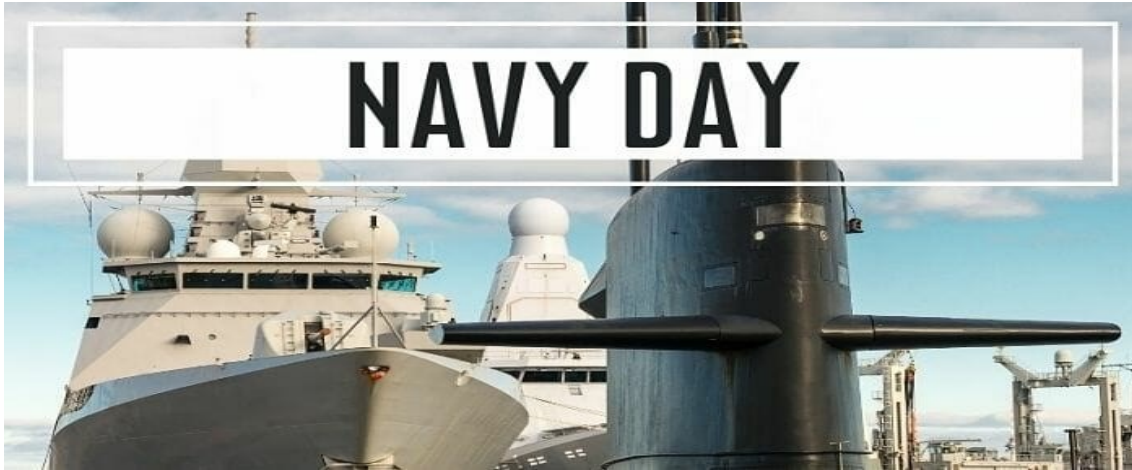
When the war ended, the Continental Navy was dismantled, but pirate threats to American merchant shipping led President George Washington to establish the Naval Act of 1794, creating a permanent standing US Navy.

US Navy Today

The United States Navy is the naval warfare branch of the US Armed Forces. It has more than 300,000 personnel on active duty and around 100,000 personnel in the Navy Reserve.

Navy Day

What is the difference between Navy Day and the [Navy Birthday](#)? Both occur in the month of October, and both celebrate the men and women of the United States Navy, past and present. The Navy celebrates its birthday officially on Oct. 13, and Navy Day was established to be observed on Oct. 27.



This year Navy Day will be on Monday, Oct. 27, 2025.

There are plenty of differences between the two, starting with the fact that the Navy Birthday is recognized on the anniversary of the historical formation of the Continental Navy during the American Revolution. Navy Day was originally chosen to coincide with the birthday of President Theodore Roosevelt.

Which Came First?

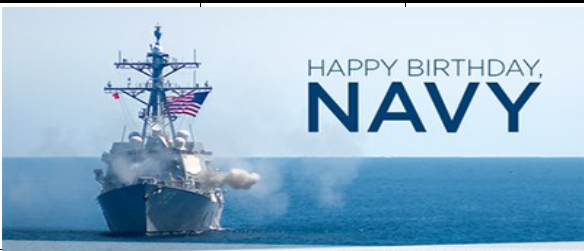
Navy Day is actually the older observance, in terms of when it was created and officially recognized as it is today. The “official” observation of the Navy birthday was initiated by Admiral Elmo Zumwalt in 1972, but Navy Day was sponsored by the Navy League of New York in 1922.

While both [holidays](#) recognize the service and sacrifices of those in uniform, Navy Day is specifically about military service, where the Navy birthday celebrates the origins and history of the U.S. Navy.

Navy Day isn't unique to the American military. Many countries worldwide celebrate their own versions on different dates and with different traditions. Russia, Turkey, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, India, Croatia, Mexico, and many other nations all hold their own observations.

October 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
 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, NAVY			1st <i>Queen of Hearts</i> 7:00 PM	2nd House Comm 6PM 7 PM Darts /	3rd Hamburger Night \$6	4th Cancer Bingo Doors Open 11:00 AM
5	6 <i>Pizza & Bowling</i> 5:30 PM	7 BINGO 6PM	8 <i>Queen of Hearts</i> 6:50PM Post Meeting 7:00PM 3	9 7 PM Darts / Bowling	10 Steak Nite \$18.00	11 <i>In House Bowling</i> 1:00 PM
12	13 <i>Pizza & Bowling</i> 5:30 PM <i>US Navy Est (1775)</i>	14 BINGO 6PM	15 <i>Queen of Hearts</i> 7:00PM	16 7 PM Darts / Bowling <i>Natl Boss Day</i>	17 Waffles & Chicken By Tammy & Connie \$8	18
19	20 <i>Pizza & Bowling</i> 5:30 PM	21 BINGO 6PM	22 <i>Queen of Hearts</i> 7:00PM	23 7 PM Darts / Bowling	24 Aux Dinner Chili \$7 <i>United Nations Day</i>	25 <i>In House Bowling</i> 1:00 PM
26	27 <i>Pizza & Bowling</i> 5:30 PM <i>Navy Day</i>	28 BINGO 6PM	29 <i>Queen of Hearts</i> 7:00PM	30 7 PM Darts / Bowling	31 Halloween October Fest Dinner \$9.99	
						

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
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