



March 2024 Newsletter



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

Women's History Month



Navy Lt. Amanda Lee prepares to take off for a training flight over Naval Air Facility El Centro, Calif., Jan. 18, 2023. Lee is the first female jet pilot for the Blue Angels, the Navy's flight demonstration squadron. The Blue Angels are conducting winter training in preparation for the upcoming air show season.

Photo By: Navy Chief Petty Officer Michael Russell



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



All American Post

March 2024

**VFW POST 3349
P.O. BOX 218, PALATKA, FL 32178
PHONE: 386-328-2863**



FROM THE COMMANDER March 2024

I would like to thank the post members who helped with breakfast for the district meeting. I would like to thank Gerald Shuler for getting the food. The district meeting was well attended by our post members.

February was a slow month. Thank you Bill Thompson for a great Rib dinner. I would like to thank everyone for the dinners you help prepare on Fridays.

The post gave God's Kitchen 750 dollars for food to be delivered to the elderly. The post gave 750 dollars to St. Monica Food Pantry for food to be given to the public.

On March 2nd the post will hold a lunch for the 993rd Army Reserve. The state Auxiliary Chaplain will be at the event. I have other people coming to talk about benefits.

On March 4 the post is going to Island Doctors for their open house. The post will use this as a membership drive. The open house is from 10 to 2.

Respectfully,

Commander Gerald Donnelly

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT March 2024

HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY EVERYONE

February 20 Joyce, Kathie, Valerie and myself presented GOD'S KITCHEN with a check for \$1000.00 from the auxiliary. GOD'S KITCHEN delivers home cooked meals to shut ins and those having difficulty with cooking three times a week.

March 2 lunch at the post for the Adopt A Unit. Lunch will be catered by Cowarts and the auxiliary will be serving the food. Lunch at noon.

March 4 will be open house at Island Doctors from 10 to 2. Both Aetna and Humana will be there to answer questions about insurance. The post and the auxiliary will have a table set up with information about the VFW and also will be looking for new members to join this wonderful organization.

March 12 sewing at 10 in the auxiliary room.

March 13 monthly meeting at 7 p.m.

March 15 monthly lunch at MeMa's at noon. The post will be serving corn beef and cabbage for dinner.

March 22 Auxiliary dinner by Sherry Smith. Meatball subs for \$7.00

April 6 will be our spring yard sale from 8 to noon. We will be setting up on the 4th so please bring any donations to the auxiliary room no later than April 3rd.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marian Chialastri, Auxiliary President



Women's History Month

In 1980, President [Jimmy Carter](#) issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration. Six years later, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March.¹

Here at VFW Post 3349 we would like to highlight our Women of the Military. We have four active members that we are proud to call our comrades; Valerie Johns, Julie Moyer, Tammy Spaulding, and Melinda Holmes. These ladies represent the Air Force, Army, Marines, and Navy. They have served in Korea, Iraq, and the Persian Gulf protecting our national interests in conflicts on foreign lands. Thank you ladies for your service.

On the front cover is Navy Lt. Amanda Lee, the first female Jet Fighter Pilot in the Blue Angels. "Now Lieutenant Commander Amanda Lee, is a native of Mounds View, Minnesota. She graduated from Irondale High School in 2004, where she competed in soccer, ice hockey and swimming. While attending the University of Minnesota Duluth, Amanda enlisted in the U.S. Navy as an Aviation Electronics Technician (AT) and reported to her first command, VFA-136 "Knighthawks." She was selected to commission as a Pilot through the Seaman-to-Admiral (STA-21) commissioning program in 2009. The following year, Lee attended the Naval Science Institute (NSI) for officer training in Newport, Rhode Island, and simultaneously began her studies at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, where she received a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry. Amanda earned her commission in the U.S. Navy in August 2013, and reported to Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida, to begin training as a Naval Pilot. She completed Aviation Preflight Indoctrination (API) in April 2014 and completed Primary flight training in November 2014 in the T-6B Texan II at NAS Whiting Field while attached to VT-2 "Doerbirds." Next, she reported to NAS Kingsville, Texas, where she completed intermediate and advanced flight training in the T-45C Goshawk while attached to VT-22 "Golden Eagles." Lee was designated a Naval Aviator in April 2016. After earning her wings of gold, Amanda received orders to the "Gladiators" of VFA-106 at NAS Oceana in Virginia Beach, Virginia, for training in the F/A-18 Super Hornet. Her first fleet assignment was with the "SUNLINERS" of VFA-81 at NAS Oceana, Virginia, where she completed two combat deployments aboard USS Harry S Truman (CVN-75) supporting Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR), Operation Freedom Sentinel (OFS), and NATO Exercise Trident Juncture. In conjunction with flying, she served as the Schedules Officer, Coffee Mess Officer, Line Division Officer, and Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization (NATOPS) Officer. Upon completing her 2019-2020 deployment, Amanda reported back to VFA-106 as an F/A-18 E/F Instructor Pilot (IP) to train newly winged naval aviators and naval flight officers in the tactical employment of the Super Hornet. Throughout her time at VFA-106, Amanda served as a Schedules Officer, Head Operations Representative, Detachment Planning Officer, Senior Watch Officer, and Rhino Demo Team Lead. Amanda joined the Blue Angels in September 2022. She has accumulated more than 1,800 flight hours and over 225 carrier-arrested landings. Her decorations include four Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and various personal and unit awards."²

Today there are over 230,000 women in the military, representing approximately 18% of the total active duty force. Since 2017, the percentage of women in active duty service has continued to increase.

In 1991, women were permitted to fly military aircraft. Since 1994, women can serve on U.S. combat ships. In 2010, the ban on women serving on submarines was lifted. On 3 December 2015, U.S. defense secretary Ashton Carter announced that all military combat positions would become available to women. This gave women access to the roughly 10% of military jobs which were previously closed off due to their combat nature.

Hats off to all our female comrades in the military and may each of you apply for membership in the Veteran's of Foreign Wars. Thank You All!

Your Quartermaster, *Gerald W. Shuler*

¹<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/womens-history-month>

²<https://www.blueangels.navy.mil/assets/docs/bio/04-Lee.pdf>



March 2024

Canteen Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - 3:00 to 9:00 PM Thursday, Friday, Saturday - Noon to 9:00 PM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Pizza & Bowling 1:00 pm	Bingo 6 pm	Queen of Hearts 7:00 PM	<i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm	<i>1</i> 6PM Friday Dinner- Grilled Hamburgers	<i>2</i> <i>Reserve Unit Luncheon at Noon</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm <i>Island Doctor Open House 10 to 2</i>	<i>5</i> Bingo 6 pm	<i>6</i> Queen of Hearts 7:00PM	<i>7</i> House Committee at 6 pm <i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm	<i>8</i> 6PM Friday Steak Night \$15.00 Please Pre-order	<i>9</i> <i>In House Bowl- ing at 1:00 PM</i>
<i>10</i> <i>Daylight Savings begins</i>	<i>11</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm	<i>12</i> Bingo 6 pm <i>Aux Sewing 10:00 AM</i>	<i>13</i> Queen of Hearts 7:00 PM <i>Post meeting at 7:00 PM</i>	<i>14</i> <i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm	<i>15</i> 6PM Friday Dinner St. Paddys Day Special <i>Aux Lunch at</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>17</i> <i>St. Patricks Day</i>	<i>18</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm	<i>19</i> Bingo 6 pm	<i>20</i> Queen of Hearts 7 pm	<i>21</i> <i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm	<i>22</i> 6PM Friday Night Dinner— <i>Meatball Subs by the Auxiliary (Sherry Smith)</i>	<i>23</i> <i>In House Bowl- ing at 1:00 PM</i>
<i>24</i> <i>Palm Sunday</i>	<i>25</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm  <i>National Medal of Honor Day</i>	<i>26</i> Bingo 6 pm	<i>27</i> Queen of Hearts 7 pm	<i>28</i> <i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm	<i>29</i> 6PM Good Friday Dinner—Fried Fish by Gene & Connie	<i>30</i>
<i>31</i> <i>Easter</i>	<i>Apr 01</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm	<i>Apr 02</i> Bingo 6 pm	<i>Apr 03</i> Queen of Hearts 7:00 PM	<i>Apr 04</i> House Committee at 6 pm	<i>Apr 05</i> 6PM Friday Dinner Grilled Hamburgers	<i>Apr 06</i>

Community Food Assistance Award Pictures



OUR LOCAL DIRECT VA NUMBERS TO USE FOR ASSISTANCE

Malcolm Randall VAMC Telephone Numbers

Main Number: **352-376-1611**

Audiology extension: 106171

Optometry extension: 235967

Podiatry extension: 106856

Chamvpa extension: 105057

Patient Advocate extension: 106019

TRANSPORTATION from Palatka to Malcom Randall

Transportation 103696

Travel 104078

DAV 104148

Home Loan # 18778273702

Direct Scheduling Phone Numbers

Community Hospital Notification: 1-844-724-7842

Pharmacy: 386-329-8800, Option 1 for refills or Option 2 for Pharmacy Representative. Alternate REFILL Line: 1-800-349-9457

DENTAL: 1-800-324-8387 EXT 104040

PODIATRY

Gainesville: 352-376-1611 EXT 106856

Ocala: 352-547-1583

The Villages: 352-674-5000 X301331

St. Augustine: 904-823-2895

JOPC: 904-475-6319

AUDIOLOGY (Hearing)

Gainesville 352-548-6171 or 1-800-324-8387 x106171

Jacksonville 904-475-6126

Ocala 352-861-3940

Tallahassee 850-521-5772 or 850-878-0191 x1222

The Villages 352-674-5000 x301620

OPTOMETRY (Eye)

Gainesville 1-800-324-8387 x234908

Jacksonville 904-475-6310

Tallahassee 800-324-8387 x6355 or 850-878-0191

The Villages 352-674-5130

Lake City 386-755-3016 or 800-308-8387 x3148 or x2857

Ocala 352-861-3940

WHEELCHAIR CLINIC

Gainesville: 352-548-6000 EXT 105481

Lake City: 386-755-3016 EXT 392117

JOPC (Southpoint): 904-470-6900 EXT 531221

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Jacksonville (Southpoint): 904-470-6900 Option 2, then Option 4

Jacksonville (Jefferson): 904-475-5800, ext. 506127

The Villages: 352-674-5000 x301208

SLEEP CLINIC 800-324-8387 X 105616

Mission ACT Communication Plan

Billing /Claims issues: 1-866-606-8198

In collections/Adverse Credit Report line:

1-877-881-7618

Appointments, Referrals and Authorization Assistance:
1-888-493-3260

General Questions or basic eligibility:

1-844-698-2311

Foreign Medical Program: 1-877-345-8179

Traveling abroad- svc connected, aggravated conditions only.

TELECARE afterhours: 1-877-741-3400

Scheduling Call Center: 1-800-324-8387 EXT 106355

1-352-548-6355

VA Video Connect (VVC) Help Line: 1-866-651-3180

Customer Service for traveling Veterans with questions regarding Appointments, referrals and authorizations NOT coordinated at

North Florida/So Georgia:

Bay Pines: 1-727-398-3252

Miami: 1-305-575-7666

Orlando: 1-407-646-4100

San Juan: 1-787-641-7582

Tampa: 1-866-972-8201

West Palm: 1-561-422-6470

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	Valerie Johns
Service Officer	Bruce Howe
Trustees 1 yr	William Thompson
2 yr	Weldon Taylor
3 yr	Ron Sliter
Membership Chairman	Commander
Employment Officer	Weldon Taylor
Legislative Officer	John Dillingham
Disaster Preparedness/Relief	
Historian	John Dillingham
House Committee Chairman	Gene Nieman
National Home for Children	Quartermaster
Communications/Media Relations	Commander

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairman	Bruce Howe
Members	Commander and ALL Members

COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA RELATIONS

Chairman	Commander
Members	Adjutant and Quartermaster

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Gene Nieman
Members	Gerald Donnelly Jack Gibbs
	Gerald Shuler Rubin Myers
	Kevin Donnelly Bruce Howe
Canteen Manager	Vickie Dixon

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President	Marian Chialastri
Sr. Vice	Joyce Donnelly
Jr. Vice	Malinda Taylor
Treasurer	Valerie French
Secretary	Minnie Stephens
Chaplain	Dorothy Donovan
Conductress	Linda Sliter
Guard	Robert Stephens
1Yr. Trustee	Kathy Thompson
2Yr. Trustee	Rebecca Burnham
3Yr. Trustee	Dorothy Donovan
Patriotic Inst.	Dorothy Donovan

DISTRICT 14 MEETING SCHEDULE

Qtr	Date	Post	Location	Time
4th	Apr 20	10164	Interlachen	10:00

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 Editor