



April 2024 Newsletter

VFW POST 3349

3201 REID ST., PALATKA, FL 32177

Phone: 386-328-2863

VFW3349.org



Celebrating
and
Remembering
Military Kids
Monday
April 15th

VFW Post 3349
PO Box 218
Palatka FL 32178



All American Post



Purple Up Day!

April 15th

April is designated as the “Month of the Military Child” by the Department of Defense. In 1986 then Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger established April as a DoD wide commemoration in order to insure awareness of issues faced by military children. It is estimated that over two million children have at least one parent serving in the military. They typically have to move frequently due to their parent(s) duty station assignments which is disruptive to their educational and social life. They are also aware that their parents are required to perform actions in high risk situations that force them to be absent from their families for extended periods. We at VFW Palatka Post 3349 will wear Purple on April 15th in support of all DOD Military Children throughout the world.



*Respectfully Submitted by
Gerald W. Shuler, USN ret.
Quartermaster VFW Post 3349*



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FROM THE POST ADJUTANT for COMMANDER **Gerald Donnelly**

April 2024

Greetings Everyone,

I am standing in for the Commander this month because as most of you know, he had a mishap by falling off a ladder and breaking his right leg. He is currently in rehab and doing well. Best wishes to him from all of us, his Comrades. I'm sure we will see him back soon.

We had a number of successful programs and presentations this past month of March. The adopt-a-unit bar-be-que luncheon was a success with Veterans Administration Rep Chuck Foster giving an excellent overview of all the VA programs available to the Army Reserve Members. We also had a visit to the Post from David Harris, the Director of "Because We Care" Program from the VFW Department of Florida. David is a past State Commander and a great friend of the Post whom we always are glad to have visit us. On the 4th of March we set up a booth with our health partner, Island Doctors, where they had an open house. We used this as an opportunity to recruit new members and give out information on our community involvement. At our monthly Post meeting, the director of Epic-Cure gave an informative presentation to both the Post and Auxiliary on the assistance they give in food disbursement to the residents of Putnam County and other local food banks. The director was asking primarily for volunteer help in providing foodstuffs to our needy citizens. As always, our Friday Night supper volunteers provided excellent meals at an affordable cost. Please come join us every Friday at 6:00 PM for food and camaraderie.

This month is our April Post Meeting on the 10th where we will be electing our officers for the upcoming year. Please try to attend so that each member can stay informed and participate in the Post management. The district meeting will be held at the Interlachen Post on Saturday April 20th. Breakfast will be available at 9:00 AM and the meeting will start at 10:00 AM. Freedom Fest will be the following Saturday on the 27th at the Putnam County Fairgrounds. We will set up a table to recruit members. We need 16 new members by June 1st to make All American this year. We have met all the other qualifications. If you know anyone that has served in an area of hostility and they have not applied for membership to the VFW, please invite them to the Post for a visit. Last for this month, try to wear purple on Monday, the 15th to show support for all of the "Military Kids". Let's "Purple Up" for them!

Coming up in the first week of May is our VFW "Day of Service". On Saturday May 4th from 10-2 the Life South bloodmobile will be available to donate blood. We will also have bingo that morning with the proceeds to go to a charity yet to be determined. That will be one of the items to discuss at the upcoming Post meeting. We will also have our Memorial Day open house and will assist in the Riverfront Presentation and Parade. We will also have a short presentation that day at our own Memorial War Plaza.

One additional note: A **BIG THANK YOU** to one of our Post Members, local attorney Ron Sholes, for the donation of Beef products to the Post that we will put to excellent use on our Friday night suppers and further donations to needy individuals. Also thanks to Ron for all the local sponsorships he has given to our local County Fair and Festivals.

Lastly, Get Well Soon Commander!

Sincerely,

Adjutant Gerald Shuler

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FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Marian Chialastri



A big shout out to our commander for a smooth recovery with his broken leg.

We will No Longer be doing auxiliary dinners. We are only selling 7 dinners and it costs more for the ingredients than what we are making on the dinners.

Our spring yard sale will be on April 6 from 8 to noon. If you have any donations for the yard sale please have them to the auxiliary room by April 3.

District meeting will be April 20 at the Interlachen post at 10. Breakfast will be served at 9. We will be electing new officers for 2024 2025 term. I am running for District President and would appreciate it if you could attend and vote for me.

April 6 yard sale 8 to noon

April 10 monthly meeting 7 p.m.

April 15 Lunch at Shrimp R Us at noon

April 20 District meeting at Interlachen at 10

April 27 Freedom Fest at the fair grounds

Respectfully,

President Marion Chialastri





Palatka Post 3349

VFW DAY OF SERVICE — LEADING THE CHARGE TO SERVE

America's veterans are #StillServing in communities across the country. The third annual VFW Day of Service is May 4, 2024 — marking the start of veteran-led community service projects throughout the month.



*Blood Drive
10 AM to 2 PM
VFW POST 3349
3201 Reid Street
Palatka Florida*

Saturday May 4th Blood Drive Bingo!

Bingo will be held from 11:00 to 1:00. Two sessions will be held. Five games each session. Each packet will cost \$5.00. All proceeds will go to a local Food Supply source. Two free bingo packets will be given to anyone who donates to the blood drive before bingo. Free hotdogs for lunch. Other drawings and raffles will be available. Come join us for a worthy local cause.

April 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
	<i>1</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm	<i>2</i> Bingo 6 pm	<i>3</i> Queen of Hearts 7 pm	<i>4</i> 6 pm House Committee Darts 7 pm	<i>5</i>  Friday Night Dinner Grilled Hamburgers Gold Star Spouse Day	<i>6</i> <i>In House Bowl- ing at 1:00 PM</i> Army Day
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm	<i>9</i> Bingo 6 pm	<i>10</i> Post meetings at 7:00 PM Elections night Queen of Hearts 7PM	<i>11</i> Darts 7 pm	<i>12</i> Friday Night Dinner Steak Night \$15.00	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm	<i>16</i> Bingo 6 pm	<i>17</i> Queen of Hearts 7 pm	<i>18</i> <i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm	<i>19</i> Friday Night Dinner - <i>Spiral Ham with Potato Salad, Veg.</i> \$7.00	<i>20</i> <i>In House Bowl- ing at 1:00 PM</i>
<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm	<i>23</i> Bingo 6 pm	<i>24</i> Queen of Hearts 7 pm	<i>25</i> <i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm	<i>26</i> Friday Night Dinner - TBA	<i>27</i> <i>Freedom Fest st the Fairgrounds 10 to 4</i>
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm	<i>30</i> Bingo 6 pm	<i>May01</i> Queen of Hearts 7 pm	<i>May02</i> <i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm	<i>May03</i> Friday Night Dinner Grilled Hamburgers \$6 donation	<i>May04</i> <i>Day of Ser- vice Blood Drive & Bingo</i>
<i>May05</i>	<i>May 06</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm	<i>May 07</i> Bingo 6 pm	<i>May 08</i> 7 PM Queen of Hearts	<i>May 09</i> <i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm	<i>May 10</i> Friday Night Dinner Steak Night \$15.00	<i>May 11</i> <i>In House Bowl- ing at 1:00 PM</i>

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 Neiman
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 Neiman	
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