



JUNE 2026 Newsletter



All American Post

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



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



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P.O. BOX 218, PALATKA, FL 32178
PHONE: 386-328-2863



FROM THE POST COMMANDER
Gerald Donnelly
June 2026



Greetings Comrades:

From Commander Gerald Donnelly

The VFW 2025-2026 year of service went by fast. Our Post had another great year. The post had the Fireman of the Year for state of Florida. The Post made All State and All American for the 6th straight year.

I would like thank Gerald Shuler, the post Quartermaster, for all he does to keep the Post in tip top condition. The Post is in the best financial shape that it has ever been before. Gerald not only takes care of all Post finances; he also runs the bingo on Tuesday night and helps to do the required maintenance at the post.

I would also like to thank our house committee chairman, Gene Nieman. Gene does a lot of the maintenance at the post. Gene engineered the cleanup of the property we purchase next door and did a lot of the work himself.

Vickie Dixon has been the canteen manager for many years. Vickie takes care of the canteen, orders the supplies for the post and makes the food for the bingo on Tuesday night.

These are some of the standout people that keep the post running. Thank You and thank all the people that make this a great organization. I want to thank everybody who made the meals on Friday night dinners.

On May 2nd , we conducted our Day of Service with the Life South blood drive. We had 8 people donate blood. The Post paid for a band for the event and had free picnic food. We were a little disappointed that the turnout was not what we expected.

On May 12, the post gave out the Fireman of the Year and Policeman of the Year Awards at the Putnam Board of County Commissioners meeting.

On May 14, the post gave the Firefighter of the Year for Veteran of Foreign War for the state of Florida to Ben Stevens. I want to thank Mike Cline, State Surgeon, and Chester Lundy, District Fourteen Commander, for presenting the state award.

(Continued Next Page)

On May 16, the post did a memorial for Gerald Boyd. I want to thank my line officers for a fine job for the ceremony and folding and presenting the flag.

On May 25, the parade in Palatka was very nice. I want to thank the people who did the Honor Guard at the Riverfront Ceremony. The post had open house from 1200 to 1400 for food and stayed open till 1600 hours. At 1500 hours the post did a moment of silence for the fallen.

On June 12th, the post will receive their All State award at the state convention In Orlando. The post has made All American for 6 straight years. I want to thank all members for their help for these awards.

Sincerely,
Commander Gerald Donnelly





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FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Marian Chialastri

Happy Fathers Day to all the Fathers

June 10—Monthly Meeting at 7PM

June 11-14 —State Convention in Orlando. Joyce, Lucie, Jan, Valerie, Lisa and myself will be attending .

June 17—Lunch at Darlene's on St Johns Avenue at Noon.

.July 4th —Open House

I will rep

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Chialastri

Auxiliary President



HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS JUNE 1ST

The 2026 Atlantic hurricane season is expected to be near to slightly below average, with 11–16 named storms, 4–7 hurricanes, and 2-4 major hurricanes, influenced largely by a developing El Niño.

Overall Forecast

The 2026 Atlantic hurricane season officially begins on June 1, with the first named storm (Arthur) around June 20th and the first hurricane likely by mid August.

Key Influences

El Niño: A developing El Niño in the Pacific is expected to increase wind shear across the Atlantic suppressing storm formation and reducing hurricane intensity. There is a 15% chance of a super El Niño, which could further limit late season activity.

Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs): Warmer-than-average SSTs provide more energy for storm formation and intensification. Current data indicates that SST anomalies—particularly in the Gulf of America and Caribbean Sea—are expected to be very warm, enhancing the likelihood of active rapid intensification (RI) should a storm traverse the Gulf this year. The Main Development Region MDR which includes the Atlantic, Caribbean Sea and Gulf is normal overall. Because The Gulf is again warmer than normal, when storms RI near a coastline, they can go through RI strike with devastating impacts that leave little time to fully prepare.

Checklists for disaster planning

Though most older adults think they're prepared for an emergency, fewer than 3 in 10 have a plan in place for when disaster strikes, For more information on preparing for an emergency, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a list of resources specifically for older Americans. Among the items the agency recommends you have on hand:

- A minimum three-day supply of medications along with a cooler and ice packs if your medications require refrigeration. Also, if needed, medical supplies such as syringes.
- Contact lens solution, glasses and/or hearing aids and extra batteries for people who need them.
- An identification band with your full name, a list of any allergies and a family member's contact number.
- Information about your medical devices, including oxygen, walkers and wheelchairs. The information should include model numbers and the vendor of the products.
- Documents in a waterproof bag. They should include a personal care plan; contact information for family members; a medication list including the dosage, exact name, pharmacy information and the prescribing doctor for each medication; a list of food or medical allergies; copies of photo IDs and medical insurance cards; and durable power of attorney and/or medical power of attorney documents.
- Cash to be used if automatic teller and credit card machines are not working.

The CDC recommends people include additional supplies based on individual needs, such as soap, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer and over-the-counter medicine as well as food and extra water for your pet.

June 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
	1st 5:30PM Bowling	2nd 6PM BINGO	3rd 7PM Queen of Hearts	4th 6PM House Committee 7 PM Darts / Bowling	5th 6PM Dinner Sandwiches Cook's Choice \$6.00	6th D-day 1944
7	8 5:30PM Bowling	9 6PM BINGO	10 6:50 Queen of Hearts 7PM Post Meeting	11 7 PM Darts / Bowling	12 6PM Grilled Pork Chops VFW State Convention	13 1PM In House Bowling VFW State Convention
14 FLAG Day US Army B-Day	15 5:30PM Bowling	16 6PM BINGO	17 7PM Queen of Hearts AUX lunch Noon Darlene's	18 7 PM Darts / Bowling	19 6PM Pot Luck Dinner Juneteenth	20
21 Fathers Day First Day of Summer	22 5:30PM Bowling	23 6PM BINGO	24 7PM Queen of Hearts	25 7 PM Darts / Bowling	26 6PM Connie's Turkey Dinner	27 1PM In House Bowling
28	29 5:30PM Bowling	30 6PM BINGO	July 1st 7PM Queen of Hearts	2 6PM House Committee 7 PM Darts / Bowling	3 6PM Hamburgers Hot Dogs Apple Pie	July 4 Independence Day Open House 250th Celebration

POST OFFICERS

Commander	Gerald Donnelly
Sr Vice Commander	Tammy Spaulding
Jr Vice Commander	John Zuchowsky
Judge Advocate	Weldon Taylor
Adjutant	Gerald Shuler
Quartermaster	Gerald Shuler
Chaplin	Gerry Cromer
Surgeon	Charles Romer
Benefits Advisor	Gerald Shuler
Trustees 1 yr	William Thompson
2 yr	Weldon Taylor
3 yr	Valerie Johns
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	Jack Gibbs
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	Valerie French
2Yr. Trustee	Robert Stephens
3Yr. Trustee	Teresa Cromer
Patriotic Inst.	Kathie Thompson

DISTRICT 14 MEETING SCHEDULE

Qtr	Date	Post	Location	Time
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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