



July 2024 Newsletter



All American Post

VFW POST 3349

3201 REID ST., PALATKA, FL 32177

Phone: 386-328-2863

VFW3349.org



INDEPENDENCE DAY



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



VFW Post 3349
PO Box 218
Palatka FL 32178-0218

July 2024

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FROM THE POST COMMANDER

Gerald Donnelly

July 2024



Greetings Comrades,

I am now walking with a walker. The leg is getting better. Hope to be without the walker in another month.

I would like to thank Gerald Shuler for getting the chicken for Memorial Day Open house. Also the Auxiliary for the food that they brought in for the Open House. The post held a ceremony at their park with Col. Hineman saying a few words. Our Quartermaster Gerald Shuler also said a few words about the fallen soldiers. The Commander closed the Ceremony with a prayer.

I would like to thank Connie Nieman for taking care of steak night and the turkey dinner. The turkey dinner was outstanding. We would like to have more people volunteer to help make meals on Friday night .

The VFW new year starts this month. I plan on starting the year with the Voice of Democracy and the Patriot pen contests. I will also address the teacher of the year with the schools.

I will be busy with other programs for the year; Fireman and Policeman of the year.

Membership will be our top subject for the year. I would like to have some help with these projects.

I would like to thank everybody for their help last year. The year was very successful in all the programs.

Sincerely,

Commander Gerald Donnelly





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FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Marian Chialastri

July 2024

Greetings Everyone,

A big shout out to Auxiliary 3349 Palatka. Our auxiliary was the only auxiliary in District 14 to receive the CIRCLE OF CHAMPIONS. We also received a trophy for volunteer hours. Thanks to all our members for their hard work so we can receive these awards and help our community.

The post will be hosting an open house on July 4 from noon to 2. Hot dogs, beans and coleslaw will be served.

July 10 monthly meeting at 7p.m.

July 24 lunch at JoJos at noon (old Lori's restaurant)

July 26 sewing at 10 a.m.

Respectfully,
President Marion Chialastri





VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

July 4th



Independence Day

On July 4th, 1776 the United States laid down its claim to be a free and independent nation by adopting the Declaration of Independence. Today, Independence Day is celebrated and honored in many forms such as fireworks, BBQs and parades. It is an opportunity for Americans to express patriotism and love of country including reflecting on the sacrifices from those in the military.

Independence Day will be officially observed on Thursday, July 4, 2024, our nation's 247th birthday. On June 11th, 1776 the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to formally sever ties with Great Britain. Thomas Jefferson, who was considered an esteemed writer, was selected to draft the document. After 86 revisions and on July 4th, 1776 the Continental Congress signed the final version.

The first readings of the document included ringing of bells and band music. The following Fourth of July Congress was adjourned in Philadelphia and everybody celebrated with bells, bonfires and fireworks. Soon these customs spread to other areas within the 13 colonies and new customs began to develop such as picnics, speeches, games, military displays and of course fireworks. These traditions continued for almost a century before Congress finally established Independence Day as a holiday.

Independence Day Facts

*The original copy of the Declaration is housed in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and July 4 has been designated a national holiday to commemorate the day the United States declared Freedom.

*56 People signed the Declaration of Independence.

*John Hancock was the first signer and famously had the largest signature.

*The oldest signer, at age 70, was Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania.

*The youngest signer, at age 26, was Edward Rutledge of South Carolina.

[Above information taken from: Fourth of July 2024 \(veteran.com\)](#)

July 2024

Canteen Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - 3:00 to 9:00 PM Thursday, Friday - 1:00 to 9:00 PM Sat - noon to 5:00 PM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>July 1</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm	<i>July 2</i> Bingo 6 pm	<i>July 3</i> Queen of Hearts 7 pm	<i>July 4</i>  Independence Day 12 to 2 Open House Free Picnic Lunch House Committee at 3 PM	<i>July 5</i> Grilled Ham- burgers for Din- ner 6PM \$6.00	<i>July 6</i>
<i>July 7</i>	<i>July 8</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm	<i>July 9</i> Bingo 6 pm	<i>July 10</i> Queen of Hearts 7 pm Post meeting at 7:00 PM	<i>July 11</i> <i>Darts / Bowling</i>	<i>July 12</i> 6PM Dinner Dinner Steak Night \$15.00 <i>Post 89th Anniversary -</i>	<i>July 13</i> <i>Supply Veteran Village Meal at Noon</i> <i>In House Bowl- ing at 1:00 PM</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm	<i>16</i> Bingo 6 pm	<i>17</i> Queen of Hearts 7:00 PM Aux Lunch at Beef O'Bradys at noon.	<i>18</i> <i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm	<i>19</i> 6PM Dinner Bill's Ribs- Slab or Meal: Please preorder. Market cost.TBA	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> <i>Annual Malta Meeting- 2:00 PM</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> 6PM Auxiliary Meal by Kathi	<i>27</i> <i>In House Bowl- ing at 1:00 PM</i>
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm	<i>30</i> Bingo 6 pm	<i>31</i> Queen of Hearts 7 pm	<i>Aug 01</i> <i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm	<i>Aug 02</i> Grilled Ham- burgers for Din- ner 6PM \$6.00	<i>Aug 03</i>
VFW National Convention						
<i>Aug 04</i>	<i>Aug 05</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm	<i>Aug 06</i> Bingo 6 pm	<i>Aug 07</i> Queen of Hearts 7 pm Post meeting at 7:00 PM	<i>Aug 08</i> <i>Darts / Bowling at 7PM</i>	<i>Aug 09</i> 6PM Dinner Dinner Steak Night \$15.00	<i>Aug 10</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	Rubin Myers
Service Officer	Bruce Howe
Trustees 1 yr	Weldon Taylor
2 yr	Valerie Johns
3 yr	William Thompson
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	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	Valerie French
Secretary	Jan Stephens
Chaplain	Kathie Thompson
Conductress	Sherry Smith
Guard	Robert Stevens
1Yr. Trustee	Sherry Smith
2Yr. Trustee	Joyce Donnelly
3Yr. Trustee	Kathie Thompson
Patriotic Inst.	Kathie Thompson

DISTRICT 14 MEETING SCHEDULE

Qtr	Date	Post	Location	Time
1st	09/21/2024	3349	Palatka	1000

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