



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



***March 3rd***  
***1931***  
***became our***  
***National***  
***Athem***

**March 2021**  
**Newsletter**



**VFW**  
**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.**



**VFW Post 3349**  
**PO Box 218**  
**Palatka FL 32178-0218**

## March 2021

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



FROM THE COMMANDER March 2021

I could not wait for 2020 to go away. I was looking forward to 2021. Well it sure is not shaping up to be a better year. On Saturday February 6 I lost my Quartermaster to cancer. Robert was a great guy. I would ask Robert to do something, it would be done. Robert and I worked together for 1 ½ years. Robert took over as Adjutant when the previous Adjutant resigned. Yes he sure will be missed.

I had knee surgery on February 2 at the VA hospital in Gainesville. I am getting better. Hope to get back to work at the post soon.

March is going to be a busy month. I have to find an Adjutant to take Roberts place. I would like to thank Jerry Shuler for taking over the Quartermaster job. Jerry helped to train Robert so the Post will not lose a beat.

I need people to step up to take offices for 2021 and 2022. The meeting for nominations will be on March 10 at 7:00 PM. Voting will be on April 14 at 7:00 PM. Please come out and help the post with our special Projects like Fireman, Policeman and EMT of the year awards to be given in May. Next the Post will start our student and teacher programs. The post is very active in the community with these programs .

The Post is active with the state with different projects. The post has donated to different projects to help veterans in need. Check the calendar for dinners in March. There will be an Oyster Roast on March 26 at 6 PM. Prepay will be required for the Oyster Roast.

Mark your calendar for April 17. This will be Freedom Fest at the Fairground. This is a free dinner for Veterans and their Families. The Post will set up a table and have a membership drive that day. The event is from 10 AM to 4 PM. General public can purchase a meal for \$8 for adults; children age 12 to 18 for \$4 and children 12 and under for free.

Our children's Easter egg hunt will be held on April 3 at 1 pm. Please bring your children and grandchildren.

*Commander Gerald Donnelly*

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT March 2021

Hard to believe March is here already. Hope everyone is staying healthy.

Our yard sale has been changed from March 20,2021 to March 27,2021 from 8a.m to noon in the auxiliary room. Please bring by any donations you may have before March 23, 2021. We will be setting up for the yard sale on March 24 at 10:00 a.m. if you would like to help please just show up everyone is welcome to participate.

March will be a busy one for the auxiliary; March 5th is a chicken dinner by Valerie and Marian. Boneless skinless chicken breast, stuffing, green beans, gravy salad and dessert for \$6.00 please come and join us for dinner and remember all Friday night dinners are open to the public. March 15 is sewing at 10:00a.m. in the auxiliary room. You don't have to know how to sew to join us in this project. Lots of other things need to be done so the lap quilts can be sewn by the people who do know how to sew. March 18 will be lunch at Shrimp R Us in Welaka. We will car pool from the post leaving at noon. If you would like to join us, just come by the post and we can travel together or meet at the restaurant and join us there. March 24 we will be setting up for the yard sale and the yard sale will be held on March 27,2021, 8 to noon.

Our kitchen and bath gift basket will be raffled off on March 30,2021. You do not have to be present to win. You can purchase tickets from Marian or Valerie or at the post starting March 1,2021. \$1.00 a chance or 3 for \$2.00. Funds raised help us to do more in our community and assist our veterans.

The annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 3,2021 at 1:00p.m. at the post. This event is open to children ages toddler to twelve.

*Marian Chialastri, Auxiliary President*



**March 3rd  
1931**



## FRANCIS SCOTT KEY AND “THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER”

Key, a lawyer, wrote the lyrics on September 14, 1814, after watching the British attack [Fort McHenry, Maryland](#). Key’s words were first published in a broadside in 1814 under the title “Defence of Fort McHenry.” It was then printed in [Baltimore](#)-area newspapers with an indication that the words were to be sung to the tune of “[To Anacreon in Heaven](#).” The title was changed to “The Star-Spangled Banner” when it appeared in sheet music form later the same year. Key’s song became especially popular and a powerful expression of patriotism during the Civil War, with its emotional description of the enduring national flag, which had become the symbol of the still-new nation. In 1861, devastated by the split of the nation, poet [Oliver Wendell Holmes](#) wrote a fifth verse to Key’s song. The verse was included in many of the song’s printings throughout the war. The song was recognized in 1889 by the [U.S. Navy](#), who sang it when raising and lowering the flag, and then it was proclaimed in 1916 by President [Woodrow Wilson](#) to be the national anthem of all the armed forces. However, it did not become the nation’s official anthem until March 3, 1931.

*(Excerpted from [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com))*

# A Message from the National Commander

## VFW National Commander Echoes VA Secretary Sentiment of Commitment, Solidarity

*The following is a message from VFW National Commander Hal Roesch*

I want to sincerely thank all of our members for the hard work and commitment to service you have exhibited over the past year. In the face of 12 months of extreme adversity marked by a devastating pandemic and civil unrest across the country, you have risen above and remained focused on ensuring the needs of our veterans, service members and our communities are met.

We must continue to press forward, together. We must not let up.

[In his first message as Secretary of Veterans Affairs](#), the Honorable Denis McDonough spoke directly to our veterans saying, “This administration will work with other federal departments and agencies, with veterans service organizations ... who have the best interests of veterans and their families at heart. We must work together to serve all veterans.” I believe his sincerity and stand in solidarity with this statement.

While we have all worked differently to navigate the challenges of the past year, our collective successes throughout this ever-trying time in our history are attributed directly to our ability to remain united by what we have in common, and as I recently stated in my State of the VFW address, I have never been more proud to be a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Across America and around the world, your service has continued at every echelon and many of you have become leaders, not only within our organization, but in your communities as well.

Please continue in this spirit and know you are making a positive impact in the lives of so many.

As Secretary McDonough stated so succinctly, “We can achieve our mission only by embracing the incredible diversity that defines our veteran population and all of America, leveraging everyone’s talents and passions.”

Continue to rise above the societal attempts at division. Continue to focus on the mission ahead. Continue to treat others with the dignity, respect and kindness they deserve.

Continue to unite as veterans.

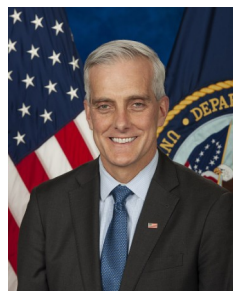
Read VA Secretary McDonough’s full message to veterans

here: <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/84509/message-va-secretary-denis-mcdonough/>.

**About the VFW:** The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation's largest and oldest major war veterans organization. Founded in 1899, the congressionally chartered VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With more than 1.5 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in over 6,000 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim “NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS” than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans’ service, legislative advocacy, a military and community service programs. For more information or to join, visit our website at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).



**National Commander  
Hal Roesch**



**VA Secretary  
Denis McDonough**

## VFW Post 3349



# March 2021

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

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> House Committee <i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm	<i>5</i> 6PM Friday Night Dinner is Chicken for \$6.00	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm	<i>9</i> Bingo 6 pm	<i>10</i> Queen of Hearts Post meeting at 7:00 PM	<i>11</i> Darts 7 pm	<i>12</i> 6PM Friday Night Dinner Steak Night \$10.00	<i>13</i> <i>In House Bowl- ing at 1:00 PM</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm  <i>Aux Sewing at 10 AM.</i>	<i>16</i> Bingo 6 pm	<i>17</i> Queen of Hearts 7:00 PM	<i>18</i> <i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm Noon: Auxiliary Lunch at Shrimp -R-Us	<i>19</i> 6PM Dinner Home-made Corned Beef and Cabbage \$7.00	<i>20</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>Last Day to sign up and pay for Oyster Roast</i>	<i>25</i> <i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm	<i>26</i> 6PM Friday Night Dinner— Oyster Roast \$10 must Pre- pay	<i>27</i> <i>Yard Sale 8 to noon.</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>Basket Raffle</i>	<i>31</i> Queen of Hearts 7 pm	<i>Apr 01</i> <i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm	<i>Apr 02</i>  Friday Dinner— TBA	<i>Apr 03</i>  <i>Easter Egg Hunt at 1 PM</i>

**POST OFFICERS**

Commander	Gerald Donnelly
Sr Vice Commander	Bruce Howe
Jr Vice Commander	Rubin Myers
Judge Advocate	Ray Dixon
Adjutant	Vacant
Quartermaster	Gerald Shuler
Chaplin	Vacant
Surgeon	Frank Caisineau
Service Officer	Bruce Howe
Trustees 1 yr	William Thompson
2 yr	Ron Sliter
3 yr	Weldon Taylor
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 Gerald Shuler     Rubin Myers John Dillingham     Bruce Howe
Canteen Manager	Vickie Dixon

**AUXILIARY OFFICERS**

President	Marian Chialastri
Sr. Vice	Joyce Donnelly
Jr. Vice	Matthew French
Treasurer	Valerie French
Secretary	Valerie French
Chaplain	Dorothy Donovan
Conductress	Linda Sliter
Guard	Gerald French
1Yr. Trustee	Joyce Donnelly
2Yr. Trustee	Kathie Thompson
3Yr. Trustee	Dorothy Donovan
Patriotic Inst.	Dorothy Donovan

**DISTRICT 14 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Qtr	Date	Post	Location	Time
4th	May 8, 2021	3349	Palatka	10 am

**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](http://www.vfw.org)

VFW Magazine: <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/vfw-magazine>

VFW Store Online: [www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org)

VFW Department of Florida Web Site: <https://vfwfl.org>

National Do Not Call Registry [www.donotcall.gov](http://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