



The Légionnaire

Tidewater Post 327

705 Lesner Avenue

Norfolk, VA 23518

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FEBUARY 2025

POST OFFICERS

Commander: (DJ) Derrick Johnson
1st VCDR: Byron Pianalto
2nd VCDR: Linda Blaker
3rd VCDR: Rob Sullinger
Adjutant: Gary Flaskegaard
Finance: David Seate
Service Officer: Bob DeChamplain
Chaplain: Evan Glendinning
Sgt-at-Arms: Sean McDonnell
Historian: Paulmichael Youngmills

Exec Board

Tim Gonyea
Janet Sullinger
Brian Blaker

LEGION RIDERS

Director: Keith Palmer
Asst Dir: (DJ) Derrick Johnson
Secretary: Philissa Marable
Treasurer: David Seate
Safety Officer: Keith McCauley
Chaplain: Mike Moranha
Sgt-at-Arms: Kenneth Parker
Road Captain: TBD

Exec Board

Al R. Gnome

SAL SQUADRON

CDR: David Vernon (Benski)
1st VCDR: Evan Glendinning
2nd VCDR David Twitty
Adjutant: James Doty Jr
Treasurer: Jeff Evans
Chaplain: Rocky English / Frank White
1st Sgt-at-Arms: Gary Stull
Historian: TBD

Exec Board

Steve Gower
Milo Cross
Kenneth O'Bryan

AUXILIARY

President: Philissa Marable
Vice President: Carla Sherrill
Secretary: Charlotte Cole
Treasurer: Martha Martin
Chaplain: Marcia Brothers
Sgt-at-Arms: Sally Newman
Historian: Suzanne Fields

Exec Board

Crystal Cross
Helen Lynum
Jeanne Hartman

COMMANDER: Greetings Post 327 Family!! As I write this newsletter, it is 17 degrees outside!! I hope everyone is staying as warm as they can! There have been loads of good things happening around the post. Some seen some unseen. The Adjutant has been working really hard with the staff and Officers to ensure we are compliant with IRS and gaming regulations; The Second Vice has been taking some of the round table ideas, along with my midnight crazy ideas, to bring fun and excitement to the post! The Third Vice has been very busy with his team of volunteers ensuring our Post home and grounds are top notch and bringing my vision of the Post to life. I thank all of you!!

We understand that everyone does not agree with what we are doing, but you can rest assured that we are performing for the good of the Legion. If you don't like the way things are going, there are several proper ways to let your voice be heard. The primary one is at the Post meeting, not sitting at the bar.

I have challenged the team to come up with incentives for members who have renewed their membership for 2026 early (including multi-year and PUFL). Although we have many new

members, we have just missed our membership goals each checkpoint. Being the second largest Post in the state, our renewal numbers are significant. We came very close, but have not hit the finish line. I challenge you to renew now for 2026!! Let's blow the roof off!! For God and Country, Derrick "DJ" Johnson

FIRST VICE COMMANDER: We still have over 250 Members that have not renewed for 2025. If your Membership card still has 2024, it will expire on Dec 31st and your key fob will no longer allow access after midnight on the 31st. The Post has added a new method of paying your dues, if you have Zelle thru your bank or the app on your phone, you can come to the office and pay, or you may go to our website: legion327.com and select **PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES**. Once I receive notification of your payment I will mail your Membership card to the address on file. You can also renew online at legion.org/renew for 1 year or 3 years with a credit card. **Remember anytime you are at the Post you are required to have your Membership card in your possession or a digital image of your Membership card on your phone.** For God and Country, Byron Pianalto

SECOND VICE COMMANDER Hello everyone! We have a very exciting month coming up. Starting 1 February with the first ever Ground Hog Eve Bash! Prizes for best animal costume & best 10 second impression of an animal!! 7 February will be a checkers tournament! Double elimination with cash prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place. Sign up starts at 6:30 and will cut off at 16 players. The cost is \$5.00. Wills from All Occasion Entertainment will be here for DJ & Karaoke on Saturday 8 Feb. On Valentine's Day we are having Fletcher and Friends perform during our dinner. Monday 17 February is Bar Bingo again! A totally free and fun event brought to by Powerhouse! 10 lucky winners will receive a \$25.00 gift card. Friday 21 Feb is another Jenga tournament, again double elimination and max participation of 16 players. The cost is \$5.00 and cash prizes are given to the top 2 or 3 players depending on number of players. Friday 28 Feb is Trivia! The topics will include Black history, Myths and legends, GOAT, Math and Oceanography. The winning team wins a cash prize! For God and Country, Linda P. Blaker

THIRD VICE COMMANDER: Greetings members of Post 327! Welcome 2025! First and foremost, I want to extend my upmost gratitude to all the volunteers this past month! Without you, we wouldn't have been able to accomplish what we did. Our shutdown wasn't as long as initially anticipated. We had a new panel with new outlets installed, the ticket room was cleared out to prep for repairs, the dry storage had all the old wooden shelving removed and new metal shelving carts put in and organized. The clubroom has got a good and much needed cleaning as well! The new stove got installed in the kitchen and is working fantastically. Our new digital LED sign was also installed and looks great! Again, the number of volunteers that helped is so appreciated and we couldn't have gotten all of this work done without you. Over the next month, we hope to have 6 additional gaming stations in the clubroom, as well as starting a Queen of Hearts game and multiple raffle events throughout the year. For God and Country, Rob Sullinger

ADJUTANT: Be the One ... Be pro-active and checkup on Vets your friends and neighbors you have not heard from. The time is coming up fast for the current post officer May is when we Vote on new officers if you have an interest in any of the Post officers position talk to the Current officer hold to find out more on the Job. For God and Country Gary Flaskegaard.

SERVICE OFFICER: The Department of Veterans Affairs expanded the Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) — the nation's largest digital platform dedicated to the memory of Veterans and service members — to allow Veterans to tell their own story before they pass away. The new "Your Story, Your Legacy" feature will allow Veterans who have been approved for VA's pre-need eligibility determination for burial in a VA national cemetery to log in to a secure website where they can privately submit images, autobiographies, military and life milestones, and historical documents. VLM already

offers family, friends, and others a way to chronicle the life of a Veteran by uploading written tributes, photos, biographies, documents, and other information. It contains nearly 10 million interactive VLM pages for those interred in VA national cemeteries, Department of Defense-managed cemeteries, VA grant-funded state/tribal cemeteries, National Park Service cemeteries, and private cemeteries around the world. VA will keep a Veteran's content secure until they pass away and VA approves a request for a burial or memorial benefit. Following approval, the content the Veteran submitted will become public and appear on their VLM page on the public-facing website. "The legacies we leave behind come in many forms," said Acting Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Ronald Walters. "Providing Veterans with resources to document their stories while they are still with us ensures their voices are heard and allows family members, friends, and others to appreciate the experiences of those who served." Veterans who have provided their email address and been approved for pre-need eligibility will receive an email directing them to the "Your Story, Your Legacy" landing page. Here's where to apply online. For more information about the feature visit the Your Story, Your Legacy landing page.

Since the VLM website launched in 2019, more than 165,000 submissions have been made to Veteran profile pages. NCA moderators review all content submissions before being posted to a Veteran's page to ensure it conforms to the VLM User Policy.

I want to thank all the service officers for the hard work they do. Post Service Officers are available Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 1000-1500. Closed holidays. For God and Country, Bob DeChamplain

CHAPLAIN: 4 Chaplains Memorial Service

The Four Chaplains were US Army chaplains who gave their lives to save others during the sinking of the troop ship Dorchester during WW II. On the night of February 3, 1943, the USAT Dorchester, travelling in convoy, was torpedoed by the German submarine U-223 off Newfoundland. The torpedo knocked out the Dorchester's electrical system, leaving the ship dark. Panic set in among the men on board, many of them trapped below decks. The chaplains sought to calm the men and organize an orderly evacuation of the ship and helped guide wounded men to safety. As life jackets were passed out to the men, the supply ran out before each man had one. The chaplains removed their own life jackets and gave them to others. They helped as many men as they could into lifeboats, and then linked arms and, saying prayers and singing hymns, went down with the ship. This years' service will be held at Location: Post 310 Sunday, February 2, 2025 @ 1:00 PM For God and Country, Evan Glendinning

LEGION RIDERS Chapter 327 would like Tidewater Post 327 to welcome our four new American Legion Riders Robert Jennings, Dexter Cuffee, Jack Menendez, and Ron Reissig.

The Riders Chapters 25, 75, 190, 280 and 327 had an awesome Valentines ride to deliver the Valentines Day Cards on Saturday, Feb 1, 2025, to the Post Office in Valentines, VA.

The 8th Annual Virginia Legacy Run is a Natural Bridge to the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation. Which Provides support for Service Officers, Disable Veterans and Families in Crisis – Support your local American Legion Riders in their efforts, while riding for the Kids!

Upcoming events: Chapter 2, 8TH Annual Winter Biker BBQ Saturday, February 24, 2025, Noon – 5 pm at American Legion Post 2, 820 Winfield Rd. Petersburg, VA 23803.

Norfolk St Patrick's Day Parade will be held Saturday, March 15, 2025. Riders' uniform dark pants, white shirt and riders Vest, Kick Stands Up 8:15 am. (Note: Active members only).

Caroline CAV 221, 2025 Bike Blessing Saturday, April 5, 2025, location Caroline Moose Lodge 24385 Rogers Clark Blvd. Ruther Glen, VA. The 8th Annual Virginia Legacy Run is scheduled 19–21 June 2025. Lodging: Natural Bridge Historic Hotel 15 Appledore Ln, Natural Bridge, VA. \$110 per night, please reserve your room before they are gone! Call Deborah 540-817-4783 / email: dhansford@naturalbridgeva.com.

Chapter 327 American Legion Riders are always looking for new riders to join. We meet the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Keep both wheels on the ground and be safe, For God and Country. Keith Palmer, Riders Director.

ATHLETIC OFFICER: Greetings to all, NFL playoffs are coming soon. As the NFL is chasing \$, not all games are free to watch. However one can come to our post and enjoy the games with friends. Be safe as you travel about. Till next month...For God and country, Jeff Evans, A. O

SQUADRON COMMANDER:

Greetings to the American Legion Family & Friends. The month of January flew by and the month of love is upon us. The Sons will be having a special dinner on the 28th of February at 6pm it will be an all you can eat Spaghetti Dinner with Salad and Garlic Bread and Dessert for \$15 to benefit the NEF (National Emergency Fund) and to help donate toward the wildfires in California victims. We hope you come to support this event we will also be accepting donations towards the cause. We also thank everyone for their donations to the homeless' winter care packages over the past two months. January kids cooking class we had 8 children show up. Next month, we will be having the kids cooking class on Sunday February 16 th from 1pm to 3pm. We will be making Build your own Nachos we will also have snack drinks and dessert provided. We hope you bring your kids out and have fun with us! When we have these events please be sure your children are on time for the event. We don't want anyone to be left out for being late!

As always, please remember those that are ill or going through rough times. Please keep them in your thoughts. In these times we also remember our troops deployed and their families. I hope we can continue to grow our Legion Family to

new heights. As we strive to come closer together in support of one another through camaraderie and consideration. For God and Country, Squadron Commander David "Benski" Vernon

ALA PRESIDENT: February is upon us which means it is Chili Cook Off time. All are invited to submit your favorite chili entry whether mild, spicy, chunky, vegan. We also need tasters. Come vote for your favorite chili. It will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 1:00 pm. Cook-off participants please bring your chili to the post no later than 12 noon on February 8th. The American Legion Spring Conference will be held February 28, 2025 through March 2, 2025 at the Renaissance Hotel in Portsmouth, VA. All are welcome to attend. Come see how the Auxiliary operates beyond the Unit level. For God and Country, Philissa Marable

HONOR GUARDS CORNER: Happy February to everyone. The 2nd District Honor Guard would like to thank the members of 327 and those from around the district for showing up and showing out by supporting our dance. Everyone truly enjoyed themselves. January concluded with supporting the district's Law and Order nights. Along with providing our services at the recent district meeting. February begins with the assisting at the oratorical competitor's District 4 Chaplains Ceremony. In closing, Happy Valentine's Day from us to you. For God and Country Mary Taggart

CLUBROOM: Good afternoon, everyone. Boy! Has January flown by. I can't believe this month is almost over. I hope everyone enjoyed the snow. February and March are going to be exciting months. We added Live Cover Bands to our Saturday night events. Our February Line-ups are as follow:

February 1- AJ the DJ/KJ will have a Groundhog Eve Bash
February 7- Checkers Tournament
February 8- JJ Compos DJ/KJ

February 14- Post Valentines Dinner 6-10PM (menu to be determined)
February 15- Live Music with Barricade
February 17- Bar Bingo
February 21- Janga Tournament
February 22 – Live music with 22. Fletcher and Friends
February 28- Trivia Night
March 1- Live Music with Suspect WOW!! What a line up. So much is happening. Come on out and enjoy these fun events. God and Country, Clubroom manager, Angie Hernandez

February 2025



TO VIEW OUR CALENDAR
ON-LINE SCAN QR CODE
WITH YOUR CAMERA OR
GO TO
TIDEWATERPOST327.ORG



JAN 2025
S M T W T F S
20 30 31 1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30 31 1
2 3 4 5

MAR 2025
S M T W T F S
23 24 25 26 27 28 1
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30 31 1 2 3 4 5

Sun 26 9:00 AM BreakFast 1:00 PM Legion Bowling 4:00 PM KITCHEN OPENS	Mon 27	Tue 28 8:00 PM LAW & ORDER	Wed 29 Today 6:00 PM Post Budget Meeting 7:30 PM Legion Darts	Thu 30	Fri 31	Sat 1
2 9:00 AM BreakFast 1:00 PM FILLING OF THE HOMLESS BAGS 1:00 PM Legion Bowling 4:00 PM KITCHEN OPENS	3 7:30 PM Post 5 Legion Meeting	4 7:00 PM ALA Regular Mtg	5 7:00 PM 40/8 Promenade @ Post 327 7:30 PM Legion Darts	6	7 2:00 PM YOGA Donation 5:30 PM KITCHEN MENU/ SPECIAL 7:30 PM Variety Trivia	8 1:00 PM CHILLI Cook off 7:30 PM J.J. CAMPOS DJ/KJ
9 9:00 AM BreakFast 1:00 PM Legion Bowling 4:00 PM KITCHEN OPENS	10 7:30 PM SONS REGULAR MEETING	11 6:30 PM POST 327 EXECUTIVE MEETING 7:30 PM POST REGULAR MTG	12 7:30 PM Legion Darts	13 6:30 PM CROSSROAD CIVIC LEAGUE	14 2:00 PM YOGA Donation 6:00 PM VALENTINES DAY DINNER 6:00 PM LIVE MUSIC MICHAEL DURIG & FRIENDS	15 11:15 AM USSVI MEETING 7:30 PM LIVE MUSIC BARRICADE BAND
16 9:00 AM BreakFast 1:00 PM Legion Bowling 4:00 PM KITCHEN OPENS	17 7:00 PM Honor Guard Meeting 7:00 PM BAR BINGO	18	19 6:30 PM VVA CHAPTER 48 Reg Board Meeting 7:30 PM Legion Darts	20 6:30 PM LEGION RIDERS MTG	21 2:00 PM YOGA Donation 5:30 PM KITCHEN MENU/ SPECIAL 7:30 PM JENGA TOURNEMENT	22 7:30 PM BAND 22 (JOE GILTNER)
23 9:00 AM BreakFast 1:00 PM Legion Bowling 4:00 PM KITCHEN OPENS	24	25	26 7:30 PM Legion Darts	27	28 2025 Department Spring Conference 2:00 PM YOGA Donation 5:30 PM KITCHEN MENU/ SPECIAL 7:30 PM TRIVIA NIGHT	1 2025 Department Spring Conference 8:00 PM LIVE MUSIC SUSPECT BAND