



The Légionnaire

Tidewater Post 327

705 Lesner Avenue
Norfolk, VA 23518

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JANUARY 2026

POST OFFICERS

Commander: (DJ) Derrick Johnson
1st VCDR: Byron Pianalto
2nd VCDR: Linda Blaker
3rd VCDR: Rob Sullinger
Adjutant: David Seate
Finance: Janet Sullinger
Service Officer: Bob DeChamplain
Chaplain: Desh Nendze
Sgt-at-Arms: Mike Encalade
Historian: Paulmichael Youngmills

Exec Board

Sean McDonnell
Keith "Klutch" Palmer
Joseph DeCosta

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: OPEN

Exec Board

ALR Gnome

SAL SQUADRON

CDR: Alan J. "AJ" Cole, Sr
1st VCDR David Vernon (Benski)
2nd VCDR David Laws
Adjutant: James Doty Jr
Treasurer: Jeff Evans
Chaplain: Rocky English
1st Sgt-at-Arms: Gary Stull
Historian: Robinson 'Rob' Douglas

Exec Board

Steve Gower
Cliff Carney
Kenneth O'Bryan

AUXILIARY

President: Crystal Cross
Vice President: Carla Sherrill
Secretary: Charlotte Cole
Treasurer: Leslie Laws
Chaplain: Irene Mabry Moses
Sgt-at-Arms: Sally Newman
Historian: Suzanne Fields

Exec Board

Mary Taggart
Helen Lynum
LaQuetta Joe

COMMANDER: As we close out another year, I want to take a moment to say thank you to each and every Legionnaire, Auxiliary member, SAL member, volunteer, and supporter of American Legion Tidewater Post 327. This year was a successful one because of your time, your dedication, and your continued commitment to our veterans and our community. We are deeply grateful for the generous donations from our community throughout the year. Your support allows Post 327 to directly assist veterans in need, support military families, sponsor youth programs, and remain a strong presence in the Tidewater area. Every dollar donated truly makes a difference, and we are honored by the trust you place in us. We also wrapped up the year with a fantastic Post Christmas Party filled with fellowship, laughter, and holiday cheer. It was especially heartwarming to see the smiles on the children's faces during the visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus. In true Legion fashion, the season became even more meaningful when Mrs. Claus—herself a veteran—decided

to officially join our Post as a new member. That moment perfectly captured the spirit of service and family that defines the American Legion.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I extend my best wishes to you and your families for a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. Together, we will continue to serve those who served, strengthen our Post, and give back to the community that supports us so well. Thank you for an outstanding year—and here's to an even better one ahead. For God and Country, DJ Derrick Johnson Commander, American Legion Post 327

FIRST VICE COMMANDER: We are currently just at 80% of our goal for this year. The Post has added a new method of paying your dues, if you have Zelle through your bank or the app on your phone, you can also come to the office and pay, or you can 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.** God and Country, Byron Pianalto

SECOND VICE COMMANDER: Happy New Year Everybody!! WOW 2026! It's going to be an exciting year! Our first Grover event is Scheduled for 29 January @7:30 in the Clubroom!! Marci Hyman, our Grover Guru, has guaranteed fun and prizes! This event is totally free from Grover! This year we are bringing back live music from bands we know and some new ones that have not played yet! Some of the bands are The Blue Lords, The Tumbleweed brothers and many more! For more information be sure to check our Facebook page, the website and as always, the texts!! Some other exciting events this year are the Military birthdays, the big three summer picnics, Bobby Henline and Friends are coming back and of course the parades!! After the Queen of Hearts runs out, Friday nights are bringing Music Video Bingo, Clubroom Bingo, and Trivia! All free on Friday nights starting at 7:00 PM in the clubroom. Yes, totally free to play and prizes for winning. For example, the winning team playing trivia will win \$40 cash! For God and country, Linda P. Blaker

THIRD VICE COMMANDER: Greetings Post 327 Family! With the holidays behind us, it's time to start a fantastic New Year. With that said, I would like to thank each and every volunteer who assisted with the Employee and Post Christmas parties and the New Years Eve party. Because of you they were all a huge success and fun was had by all. Our first Field Day will be held 10 January from 9am to Noon. We will be passing on the dates and times for volunteer opportunities at a later date. For God and Country, Rob Sullinger, Third Vice Commander

SERVICE OFFICER: I want to thank all the service officers for their tireless efforts. Post Service Officers are available Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 1000-1500. Closed holidays. For God & Country, Bob DeChamplain

CHAPLAIN: Happy New Year Legion Family! As always, just sending a reminder for Buddy Checks! If you know of someone who needs someone to talk to, please encourage them to call 988 and press 1 to speak with a trained Military Crisis responder or have them contact me, chaplain327@gmail.com. It is my goal to make our Post a resource center for mental health so those who

serve and have served know they are not alone. I have some great things planned for this year for the mental health lane and look forward to hearing any ideas or suggestions you would like me to look into. Please keep a lookout for flyers and posts for these lifesaving opportunities. Have a great January and be safe out there. For God and Country, Desh Nendze

LEGION RIDERS: From Chapter 327 American Legion Riders and Supporters, Happy New Year! As we begin the new year with resolutions, let's not forget about Peace, Love and Kindness towards one another. The Chapter 327 Riders, received the Department of Virginia American Legion Riders High Mileage and Safety Award. In all weather, in hours of darkness and light; all without MISHAP or INCURRING a CITATION in 2025. When you see a rider congratulate them for another successful year without a mishap or incurring citation. Event: The riders will be riding the last week of January or the first weekend in February to deliver the Valentines Day Cards to the Post Office in Valentines Virginia. Valentine's Day drop box will be set out in the social quarters. To mail the Valentines Day cards, envelopes \$1 and large cards \$2. Chapter 327 American Legion Riders are always looking for new riders to join. We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Keep both wheels on the ground and safe. For God and Country. Keith "Klutch" Palmer

ATHLETIC OFFICER: No input. ...For God and country, Jeff Evans

SQUADRON COMMANDER: Start your year out right by getting tuned in to existing volunteer situations that support the S.A.L. Ten Ideals; Patriotism, Health, Training, Knowledge, Honor, Faith, Helpfulness, Courtesy, Reverence, and Comradeship. Or create your own opportunities to excel. Details are in the Squadron Handbook. It is available online and I have hard copies available in the office. For God and Country, Alan J. "AJ" Cole, Squadron 327 Commander.

ALA PRESIDENT: Welcome to 2026! I hope everyone had a great holiday season and found some time to reflect and look ahead to the great things coming in 2026. Once again, Unit 327 had a very busy month! I would like to thank all our ALA volunteers and our Legion 327 family volunteers for all your generous support this last month! The ALA participated with Wreaths Across America on the 13th at Forest Lawn Cemetery here in Norfolk for the veterans laid to rest at this local cemetery that is part of the Wreaths Across America network. Unfortunately, they were 1200 wreaths short and unable to place wreaths for all the veterans. The ALA was able to donate

25 wreaths for 2025. Be on the lookout in the coming year for fundraisers to support this effort for 2026. On the 14th we sorted out all 114 of the Angel Tree gifts and all were accounted for. A huge round of applause to the 327 Family for your wonderful generosity in making this happen! All tags and gifts were returned on time and were picked up by the VAMC Hampton Representatives on the 17th. We also had a very successful Brunch with Santa on the 21st with 40 children in attendance, and a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Clause. The kids and their families all had a great time! Again, thanks to all the ALA that helped and once again, our Legion 327 family and especially the Breakfast Crew for offering to cook and Benski for offering to shop for the food for this event! There was a lot of work between the brunch portion and gift shopping, wrapping, etc. We could not have had this great success without all the wonderful volunteers from the ALA, Sons, and Post!

We are starting to focus on January and beyond with some great things that will be happening this month and beyond. Our regular meeting will be at 7pm on January 6th (Exec board meets at 6:30pm) and I look forward to seeing you there. We will be working to plan the events coming up between January and June. We've got a lot going on this year and look forward to working with our members and your ideas to make all the events a success to support our military, veterans, community and our children and youth.

The first event will be the ALA dinner on January 16th which will be homemade Brunswick Stew and the fixings. Look for the flying on the screen in the clubroom and on Facebook soon.

Looking even further ahead into February, the ALA will be having the Annual Chili Cook-off and bake sale on Saturday February 7th. Time to start thinking about your entry and working on those chili recipes to be the winner this year. We will have a sign-up sheet at the Post by January 6th to get your place reserved for this annual event! Next, on February 8th we will have our first Junior's meeting of the year in the meeting hall at 12 noon. We have a new Juniors Chair, Christina, who will be working with our Juniors. We will have a sign-up sheet posted on January 6th for that too! They will be working some crafts for our veterans, and we encourage our Juniors to attend and there will be more in the months to come! Do you have a daughter or granddaughter under 18? Please consider signing them up to participate and learn about the Junior's program and the opportunities to our Juniors as they move into high school

and beyond. If you are an ALA member and have not renewed your dues for the calendar year 2026, please renew as soon as possible to keep your membership valid. To renew, you can go on-line to our ALA national website and renew there and print your membership card, you can stop in the Post and pay, or you can mail in your dues with the reminder that was sent out by the ALA National Membership team.

ALA Dates to Remember:

January 6th - Regular ALA meeting at 7pm, executive board meeting at 6:30.

January 16th – ALA Dinner – Brunswick Stew

February 7th – Annual ALA Chili Cook-off

February 8th – Juniors meeting at noon

For God and Country, Crystal Cross

HONOR GUARDS CORNER: Happy New Year, everyone! The Honor Guard had a super busy 2025. We spent a lot of time and traveled many miles to help our American Legion family and community. We wrapped up the year by supporting the Post with its final Post Everlasting of 2025. We also took part in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at St. Mary's Cemetery. As we step into 2026, remember to stay connected with your friends and family. If you have any requests or questions, reach out to Otha Newton! For God and Country, Mary Taggart

CLUBROOM MANAGER: Hello everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful and prosperous year. Can you believe the New Year 2026 is upon us? I want to wish all of you the Best year ever. Now to business. Just a friendly reminder, locker payments are due by January 31st.

February 1st we will begin going through the list to see who has paid and who haven't paid their dues and begin emptying them. So.... Please be sure to see our bartenders and they'll be glad to assist you. Also, make sure you have your membership cards with you. There is a 100% membership check beginning in January. We are enforcing the house rules for each member to always have an up-to-date membership card with them while in the post. Check your bottles to make sure they are within the 90-day period to be left behind the bar. If not, please update them as soon as possible to avoid them being removed from behind the bar. There is a 14-day grace period after your bottles have been removed from the bar for you to update your bottle. Your bottle then will get emptied and disposed of. For God and Country, Clubroom Manager, Angie Hernandez

JANUARY 2026

AMERICAN LEGION CALANDARIODays in United States



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

Jan 2026 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	TO VIEW OUR CALENDAR ON-LINE SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR CAMERA OR GO TO TIDEWATERPOST327.ORG			New Year's Day	5:15pm - Q of H @	9am - Un-Decorating 7:45pm - Shake N Bake
3					2	
4	9am - Breakfast 1pm - AJ the KJ 1pm - Bowling @ JEB 1pm - Flag Disposal	7:30pm - Post 5 Mtg @ 6:30pm - ALA Exec M 7pm - ALA Reg M			8	5:15pm - Q of H @ 6:30pm - CIVIC 7pm - 40/8 Mtg @ 7:30pm - Darts @ Club
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