



The Légionnaire

Tidewater Post 327

705 Lesner Avenue

Norfolk, VA 23518

Club Room Phone (757) 587-2641

Post Office: (757) 937-3146 FAX: (757) 961-5537

WEBSITE: www.legion327.com

E-Mail: amlg327@yahoo.com

JUNE 2026

POST OFFICERS

Commander: (DJ) Derrick Johnson
1st VCDR: Byron Pianalto
2nd VCDR: Keith Shanesy
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: Legion Family, As I am preparing to conclude my time serving as Commander of Post 327, I want to take a moment to reflect on what an incredible journey these past 2 years have been. Serving this Post has been one of the greatest honors of my life, and I could not be more proud of what we have accomplished together. Over the last two years, Post 327 has experienced tremendous growth and momentum. Together, we welcomed a record number of new members into our Legion family, strengthening our organization and ensuring that our mission continues for generations to come. We expanded membership engagement, increased participation at meetings and events, and built an atmosphere where veterans, families, and supporters felt connected, valued, and involved. Most importantly, we made a real impact in our community. From supporting veterans and military families in times of need, to hosting community events, ceremonies, and outreach programs, Post 327 demonstrated what it truly means to serve. Whether it was assisting Sailors in transition, supporting youth initiatives, honoring our fallen heroes, or partnering with local organizations, this Post consistently answered the call. None of these successes belong to one person. They belong to every member who volunteered their time, attended meetings, supported events,

shared ideas, and believed in the vision of what Post 327 could become. The strength of this Post has always been its people. As I turn over leadership to Bob DeChamplain, I do so with complete confidence that the Post is in excellent hands. Bob brings dedication, leadership, and a deep commitment to our mission, and I know he will continue moving Post 327 forward with pride and purpose. While my role as Commander is coming to an end, this is certainly not goodbye. I will still be around, supporting the Post and continuing my service as District Adjutant. I remain fully committed to supporting our veterans, our programs, and the continued success of this great organization. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for the trust, encouragement, and unwavering support you have given me throughout these years. Your friendship and dedication have meant more to me than words can fully express. Together, we accomplished amazing things, and I will always cherish the memories and experiences we shared. It has truly been an honor to serve as your Commander. For God and Country,
Derrick "DJ" Johnson, Commander

FIRST VICE COMMANDER: Our Post membership has officially reached its goal for this year. I want to thank everyone who renewed their membership and all those who recruited new members to help us achieve this milestone. However, we still have just under 200 members who have not yet paid their 2026 dues.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported me during my time as 1st Vice Commander over the past several years. I ask that all members provide that same support to our new 1st Vice Commander, A.J. Cole, as he transitions into the role. I will continue to work closely with him to ensure he is up to speed.

Post 327 will begin renewals for 2027 on July 1, 2026. We have added a new payment method via Zelle (through your bank or the app). You can also pay in person at the office or visit our website at 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. Additionally, you can renew online at legion.org/renew for one or three years, or purchase a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) membership with a credit card.

As a reminder, you are required to have your membership card (either the physical card or a digital image on your phone) in your possession whenever you are at the Post. For God and Country, 1st Vice Commander Byron Pianalto

SECOND VICE COMMANDER: Greetings All!!!

Wow! What a month of May we had at the Post. We started off with 2 of our favorite bands in Whiskey Tide and the Blue Lords. Rolled right into the Commanders Ball, followed by a very funny and wonderful comedy show with Bobby Henline and Friends, followed by our Memorial Day Picnic. Thank you to all of the Volunteers that made the Memorial Day picnic a resounding success! Thanks to our outstanding 3rd Vice Commander, Rob Sullinger, the pulled pork was on point! If you have not taken the opportunity to check out the great things that the Bobby Henline Foundation and Forging Forward do for our Veterans, I urge you to do so. June is upon us and while it is a slower month for us overall, it will continue to be busy preparing for the 250th Birthday of America and the picnic. The annual 4th of July picnic is going to be filled with many fun things! Keep your eyes on the Facebook page and the texts to see what is in store for our Post members. June will see Whiskey Tide on the 6th in the clubroom, June 14th is Flag Day as well as the US Army Birthday, June 27th will see Cam Head and the Noisemakers in the Clubroom. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Post!

For God and Country Keith Shanesy, 2nd Vice Commander

THIRD VICE COMMANDER: With this being my last newsletter as 3rd Vice, I would personally like to thank all the volunteers that have assisted in making positive changes to our Post, Clubroom and grounds the past 2 years. Our new 3rd Vice Commander, Colleen Lemond and I are currently turning over. Please give her the same, if not more, support so that she can continue with the constant changes and upgrades to our Post. The next Post field day will be held June 27th at 9 AM. For God and Country, Rob Sullinger, 3rd Vice Commander .

ADJUTANT: Be the One ... Be pro-active and checkup on Vets, your friends and neighbors you have not heard from.

Congratulations to all the new members who were elected to the Post Officer positions. The following is the results of the election:

Commander – Robert (Bob) DeChamplain

1st Vice Commander – Alan J. (AJ) Cole Sr.

2nd Vice Commander – Keith Shanesy

3rd Vice Commander--Colleen Lemond

Adjutant--Tracy Cortez

Finance Officer-- TBD

Service Officer-- TBD

Chaplain--Desh Nendze

Sergeant of Arms--Inocencio Gaitan

Executive Board –Robert Sullinger, Joe Decosta, & Keith Palmer.

For God and Country David Seate, Adjutant.

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, Service Officer

CHAPLAIN: June Greetings Legion Family!

Summer is a perfect time to strengthen the bonds that make our Legion family so special. As we continue our BE THE ONE mission, I encourage everyone to take a moment for a Buddy Check. Invite a fellow veteran out for lunch or coffee, attend one of our amazing Post events together, or simply make a phone call to someone you haven't seen in a while. Those small acts of connection can make a tremendous difference and remind our fellow veterans that they are never alone.

I also want to remind everyone about our Veterans Engagement Program (VEP). We have recently updated and expanded the services available through this program. Whether you simply need resources, guidance, or connections to community services, we are here to help. Through the School of Social Work at Norfolk State University, this free program can offer two online mental health sessions and one in-person group session at the Post each month. Our mission is to support veterans and their families by helping address life stressors that may impact mental health and overall well-being. If you are interested, please access the link: https://nsugradstudies.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_elp6PXgskLp6ALA. When asked where you heard about the program, please select "American Legion" or type my name under "Other" so your request will come directly to me. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out (Chaplain327@gmail.com).

As part of my continued mission to help make our Post a trusted mental health resource center for all who have served, I welcome your ideas, suggestions, and feedback. Together, we can continue to support one another, strengthen our community, and truly live out the meaning of BE THE ONE.

For God and Country, Desh Nendze, Chaplain

LEGION RIDERS: Riders, It is my pleasure to serve as your Rider Director. Let us congratulate the newly elected American Legion Riders and Supporters, Chapter 327 Officers: Director: Keith "Klutch"

Palmer; Asst Director: Derrick "DJ" Johnson; Treasurer: David Seate; Adjutant/Secretary: Phillisa Marable; Sgt at Arms: Kenneth Parker; Chaplain: Open. Chapter 327 Riders'

A huge thank you to the American Legion Riders and Supporters for volunteering their time to participate and support the Memorial Day Picnic (riders served food, cooked, and parked vehicles) and the Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade.

Upcoming Events: **The 9th Annual Virginia Legacy Run, Colonial Beach, VA 18-20 June 2026.

**Combat Vets Ride to Remember On-Site Poker Run, location Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center 2641 Nimmo PKWY Va Beach, VA23456, 29 August 2026, time 1000-1300.

**Department of Virginia ALR 16th Annual State Rally Post 79South Boston, VA 25-26 September 2026. The award for High Mileage/Safety Award and the Department of Virginia, Rider of the Year Award.

NOTE: June 18, 2026, the riders meeting is cancelled due to the Virginia Legacy Run scheduled for 18-20 June 2026. Our next meeting will be Thursday, July 16, 2026, also the installation will take place during the meeting. Keep both wheels on the ground and be safe, For God and Country, Keith Palmer *Riders Director*.

ATHLETIC OFFICER: Greetings to all. The schedule for our co-ed softball team is posted in the hallway. I'd like to thank our travel softball team for their help directing traffic during the Memorial Day picnic. They also brought desserts. Lastly, I want to thank Commanders Moore, Kelly and Johnson for the opportunity to serve as athletic officer. I will assist the next person as needed. For God and Country, Jeff Evans, Athletic Officer

SQUADRON COMMANDER: Congratulations to the newly elected Squadron 327 2026-27 Officers. Installation of officers will take place at the June meeting. Please plan to attend and take this opportunity to provide your input on the future direction of the squadron. Anyone interested in serving as 2nd VCDR (Event Activities and Entertainment) should contact me directly. For God and Country, Alan J. "AJ" Cole, Sr. Squadron 327 Commander

HONOR GUARDS CORNER: Congrats to everyone stepping into new or returning roles as Legion Family officers. May you have a successful year. A big thanks also goes to officers finishing their terms; we appreciate the time you put into keeping the mission on track and moving forward. Thanks to the Auxiliary for having us back at the annual French Sailor ceremony. It was a packed May for the Honor Guard, including the Memorial Day tribute from Our Virginia Veterans Cemeteries. You can catch the video on YouTube; it is usually available on Memorial Day. Now that June is here, and school is letting out, keep an eye out for kids playing in the streets while you're driving through the neighborhood. On June 2, many Legion Baseball teams observe a moment of silence before their games to help bring attention to ALS. National Women Veterans Recognition Day is June 12. It is not a separate Veterans Day for women, but a day to celebrate, recognize, honor, and remember the signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, which allowed the right to serve permanently in the regular armed forces. June 14 is both Flag

Day and the U.S. Army's 251st birthday. Then on June 19, we observe Juneteenth. It's been a federal holiday since 2021. It honors the end of slavery in the U.S. June is National PTSD Awareness Month. The 27th is PTSD Awareness Day, observed annually to raise public awareness, lessen the stigma, and encourage treatment for PTSD. Remember, PTSD is a natural response to trauma, not a weakness, and effective treatments are available for both veterans and civilians. Have you done a buddy check on a family member or friend lately? Please contact Otha Newton with any questions or requests. For God and Country, Mary Taggart

ALA PRESIDENT: Happy June to all! First, I would like to introduce our Unit 327 2026-2027 Unit Officers: President-Crystal Cross, Vice President-Kathy Morrison, Secretary-Charlotte Cole, Treasurer-Crystal Odle, Chaplain-Jakie Miller, Sgt. At Arms- Sally Newman, Historian- Maria Gaitan and our Executive Board- LaQuetta Joe, Mary Taggart, and Sheila Pyatt. Our Installation of Officers will take place at our ALA meeting on June 2nd. I'd like to thank all the ALA Officers and Executive Board of 2025-2026, everyone has performed their duties above and beyond. This year brought a lot of learning experiences, and our Officers stepped up and took on the challenges without any hesitation! I'd also like to thank every single Unit 327 member-your membership makes it all possible! Finally, I would like to thank all of those that volunteered to help the Unit—you make it all happen! Our volunteers include not only our Unit members, but they also include the entire 327 family: Post members, Son's, and Riders, and there are so many of you that have helped over the last year. I know you will all be there to continue to support the ALA this year and every year to come.

I would also like to congratulate the Post, Son's, and Legion Riders on their elections and Officers for the coming year! The new year promises to continue to build on the Legion Family relationship and will bring great things!

The ALA, along with the 2nd District Honor Guard, participated in the French Day of the Sailor Ceremony at St. Mary's Cemetery and held a reception at the Post on the 15th. This year's event was another success. French Commander DeChanet and his Officers were very appreciative and send their Thanks to the Post and Unit for the great event. We would also like to thank everyone that helped with the event at the Cemetery and in the hall, and Benski for the great food, and of course, Commander DJ, for explaining the POW/MIA table to the Officers, and the introduction in the Clubroom. For God and Country, Crystal Cross, Unit 327 President

CLUBROOM MANAGER: Good afternoon, everyone, warm weather is among us and children are about to enjoy their summer break. Please be careful when driving through your neighborhood. Thank you All for having your membership card with you and ready to present it when you're asked to show it and for labeling your bottles with full names and dates. We have been busy with many events. Your patience is appreciated during our busy hours. The employees are working their Best to offer you Great service. For God and Country, Angie Hernandez.

JUNE 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9am - Breakfast 7pm - Movies	1 7:30pm - Post 5 Mtg @	2 6:30pm - ALA Exec M 7pm - ALA Reg M	3 7pm - 40/8 Mtg @ 7:30pm - Summer Dart	4 5:15pm - Q of H @ 8pm - Disney	5 5:15pm - Q of H @ 8pm - TV Shows Trivia	6 1pm - LITTLE LEAGUE
7 9am - Breakfast 12pm - ALA JUNIORS 7pm - Movies	8 7pm - Honor Guard	9 6:30pm - AMLG Ex M 7:30pm - AMLG Reg M	10 7:30pm - Summer Dart	11 6:30pm - CIVIC 5:15pm - Q of H @ 8pm - TV Shows Trivia	12 5:15pm - Q of H @ 8pm - Music Trivia	13 1pm - LITTLE LEAGUE
14 NO Breakfast Today US ARMY BIRTHDAY* 6pm - Army Birthday 6pm - Flag Day 7pm - Movies	15 7pm - Honor Guard	16 7pm - SAL Exec M @ 7:30pm - SAL Reg M	17 6:30pm - VVA Ch 48 7:30pm - Summer Dart	18 6:30pm - ALR Mtg @ 5:15pm - Q of H @ 8pm - Music Trivia	19 5:15pm - Q of H @ 8pm - Knowledge Trivia	20 11:15am - USSVI MTG 6pm - Great Gatsby
21 9am - Breakfast 7pm - Movies	22 6pm - RASON Mtg @	23 7:30pm - Summer Dart	24 7:30pm - Summer Dart	25 5:15pm - Q of H @ 8pm - Knowledge Trivia	26 5:15pm - Q of H @ 8pm - Knowledge Trivia	27 8am - RASON 7:30pm - Cam Head &
28 NO Breakfast Today RASON EMERGENCY 7pm - Movies	29	30	31	1	2	3

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 text **AL327** to
78859

TO VIEW OUR CALENDAR
 ON-LINE SCAN QR CODE
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