



**ALL AMERICAN POST 7909
FEBRUARY MARCH 2025
"NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS"**

COMMANDERS CORNER

Well, it has been a chilly couple of weeks. I hope everyone is staying warm and healthy.

We have gone through a few events in the past couple of months; bartender appreciation, Christmas and New Year. These events were all wonderful; the organizers, decorators, and those that participated made these events a success. I thank all of you for your support and engagement.

The post needs about 40 new members to meet department requirements so if you know a vet who is not part of our organization, please introduce them to our post and get them signed up.

The Youth banquet was a great success. Those are some very talented young speakers! There is next year if you want to join in...

We have a little tractor or bobcat work remaining and that will finish up our parking lot efforts for the year. If someone has one and the availability is good, I would appreciate the help.

*Happy New Year
JD Steichen, Commander*

Quartermaster

Hello everyone, just like I've said in previous newsletters, we are still moving in the right direction, but we have spent a tremendous amount of money on much needed upgrades to the building. There's still a lot more work that needs to be done like A/C work, lights in the parking lot and eventually getting the parking lot paved, just to name a few. Have a wonderful day and as always, we are always in need of volunteer help. So, if you have a skill, please call or come buy. Thanks in advance.

Kemp Harris, Quartermaster

Service Officer

Several Cancers Presumptive for Service-Connection

On January 8, 2025, the VA announced it is making acute chronic leukemias, multiple myelomas, myelodysplastic syndromes, myelofibrosis, urinary bladder, ureter, and related genitourinary cancers presumptive for service-connection. This step lowers the burden of proof for veterans who served for:

Gulf War Veterans- Veterans who served in Somalia or the Southwest Asia theater which includes, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, Oman, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea and the airspace above these locations on or after Aug. 2, 1990.

Post 9-11 Veterans- Veterans who served in Afghanistan, Iraq, Djibouti, Egypt, Jorda, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, or Uzbekistan, including the Karshi-Khanabad (k2) base and the airspace above these locations on or after Sept 11, 2001, during the Gulf War.

The VA lowers life insurance premiums

On Dec 12, 2024, the VA announced that more than 3 million veterans, service members, and spouses who receive life insurance with VA's programs will receive a discount on the premiums starting in the spring of 2025.

Veterans- Members could see their rates discounted between 2%-17% depending on age.

Service Members- Includes active duty, Reserve and National Guard members.

Spouses- Spouses covered under FSGLI will see a decrease between 11%-22% depending on age.

Expansion of Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM)

On Jan. 16, 2025, the VA expanded VLM- the nation's largest digital platform dedicated to the memory of Veterans and service members-to allow their own stories 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 cemetery, to log into the secure website where they can submit images, autobiographies, military and life milestones and historical documents.

For information about burial benefits, visit one of the VA's National Cemetery locations in person, visit online at <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/>, or call 800-827-1000. To plan for you and your family visit NCA's website at <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility/>.

Carol Markham, Service Officer

EMPLOYMENT INFO

Jobs for Veterans

The following websites are provided:

Federal Jobs (USAJOBS) <https://my.usajobs.gov>

State Jobs (People First) <https://peoplefirst.myflorida.com/peoplefirst> for help (877)562-7287

Local Jobs (Career Source) <http://www.careersourcenortheastflorida.com> for help (904) 356-5627

VA jobs <http://www.va.gov/jobs>

Employ FL Vets <http://veterans.employflorida.com/portals/veteran/>for more info 1 (866) 352-2345

Transition & Employment Services <http://www.vfw.org> go to Assistance then Trans & Emp Svcs

Dear Comrades,

This year, we bid farewell to President Jimmy Carter, a man of deep faith and unwavering dedication to service. As a Navy veteran, he shared the values we hold dear: duty, honor, and sacrifice. His compassion for humanity reflected the scripture that calls us to love and serve one another. Let us take inspiration from his legacy, using our time and talents to make a difference in the lives of others, just as he did.

This Valentine's Day, let us reflect on the greatest gift we've been given, love. Whether it's love for a spouse, or family, or the unique brotherhood and sisterhood we share as comrades, these relationships are a blessing. As John 15:12 says, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." Take this opportunity to express gratitude and reach out to someone who might need a reminder that they are cared for, valued, and ensuring no one feels forgotten or alone.

St. Patrick's Day reminds us of the "luck of the Irish," but we know that our blessings go far beyond mere luck. We are truly fortunate to have each other—our comrades, our family within this Post, and the shared purpose that binds us. Psalm 133:1 beautifully captures this sentiment: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Let us continue to strengthen our unity and uplift one another. No matter what challenges lie ahead, we are never alone. Together, we can draw on our faith and our comradeship to face anything that comes our way. The Post is more than just a meeting place—it is a sanctuary of understanding, fellowship, and resilience. Let us continue to nurture this bond, honoring those who have come before us and uplifting those who stand beside us.

As your Chaplain, I encourage you to reach out if you need prayer, guidance, or just someone to listen to. Together, we can find comfort, hope, and strength.

In comradeship and faith, Ty Strong, Chaplain

AUXILIARY NEWS

I hope everyone has had a great start to their new year. I want to thank everyone for all your hard work in making sure that our membership matters. We are at 101.32% in membership so if you haven't paid your dues, please do so now. I am proud to be a part of such an amazing Auxiliary. Let's keep up the great work.

***February 2nd** is Auxiliary Appreciation Day!!! Come in and get your breakfast.*

*Our next district meeting is on **February 8th** at 10am at post 7909.*

The district meetings are a time to meet the Auxiliary members in our district and learn how we can make our department, district and post be more successful.

***February 23rd** will be our annual Voice of Democracy Golf Tournament at Bent Creek Golf Course. This is always a wonderful day of fun spent with amazing people. Start getting your teams together now. Awards banquet will follow at Post 7909.*

*Veteran's Village in Ft, McCoy will be having the annual picnic on **March 22nd**. This is always a fantastic day of food, friendship and fun.*

*Do you know an aspiring artist? The deadlines for the young patriotic art contest are fast approaching. All entries must be turned into the post by **March 31st**. Visit www.vfwauxfl.org for more information.*

Loyally, Leilani Jones

vfwleilani@outlook.com

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND AUXILIARY

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Jr. Vice
Quartermaster
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Judge Advocate
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1st Year Trustee
2nd Year Trustee
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