



An All-State & All-American Post

**VFW POST 7909
6204 BLANDING BLVD
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32244-2814
(904) 778-7909**

**January/February 2026
"NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS"**

COMMANDERS' CORNER

Hello Post 7909 and Auxiliary,

Thanksgiving was a wonderful experience. We had a lot of support in preparation, setup and cleanup. Our members donated funds that covered the cost of the meal and helped add a little appreciation to our bartenders for working on the holiday. Thank you all for your time and effort through the week of preparation.

It is a great thing to know that this post is more than just involved internally. Our members are active in the community, from attending funeral services, ice cream socials, student involvement and just helping a neighbor or friend in need. It is more than any one individual can do or account for, but know that the thank you's have come in and the motivation is infectious.

I see and hear more of our members doing more and asking more - what can we do? Outstanding job people, keep going.

This post has a lot of history, this post does write a lot of checks, but checks alone do not reach people's hearts. Checks alone are not even sustainable. Financially it is a very small piece, needed, sure in many cases. To do this we need the involvement, good stewardship of our nest egg, and fundraising to keep the post going.

The greater activities that keep people involved, builds ownership in the organization, builds relationships with our members and builds a long-lasting impactful post.

We have a lot of upcoming events, come get involved, get on the planning committees and share your stories and experiences.

I do hope that all have had a wonderful holiday and the most blessed Christmas.

District 6 Motto: "First we work, then we play". Let's generate our own reasons to celebrate and play!

Ongoing efforts at the post with opportunities to get involved.

- 1. We are still working through the repairs and construction permitting process on the back of the building. We should have more information at the next house committee meeting.**
- 2. This year is our post 80th anniversary. Planning efforts have started.**
- 3. There are a lot of openings in our kitchen help schedule.**
- 4. Bartender Appreciation Night on December 20th was a resounding success and all had fun.**

JD Steichen, Commander

CHAPLAIN

As we begin a new year, January calls us to reflection and readiness. It is a time familiar to every veteran—a reset of mission, a check of equipment, and a recommitment to those on our left and right. We remember that our service did not end with the uniform; it continues through our actions within this Post and our community.

February reminds us of sacrifice and commitment. As we observe Four Chaplains Day and Presidents' Day, we are reminded that leadership, courage, and faith have always walked alongside service. The story of the Four Chaplains teaches us that unity and selflessness are not ideals spoken in comfort, but actions lived in crisis.

A young soldier once asked a senior NCO how to change the world.

The NCO handed him a single sandbag and said,

"You don't stop the flood alone. You place your bag where it's needed—and trust others to do the same."

In time, the line held.

So it is with us. Every call made, every veteran checked on, every family supported—no matter how small it seems—strengthens the line.

Prayer for the Year Ahead

Almighty God,

As we step into this new year, guide this Post in unity and purpose.

Bind us together as veterans who continue to serve—

Not for recognition, but for one another.

Give us eyes to see the needs around us,

Willing hands to help veterans and their families,

And hearts that understand that even the smallest act of kindness

Can change a life.

May our actions speak louder than our words,

Our service reflects our values,

And our Post remains a place of strength, compassion, and hope.

We ask for Your blessing on our mission in the year ahead.

Amen

In comradeship and faith, Ty Strong, Chaplain

R E M I N D E R S:

Only authorized personal are to adjust the thermostats at the Post! All others please leave them alone.

Use of foul language will not be tolerated at the Post!

Outside beverages are not allowed inside the Post!

The Post Happenings can be found here: <https://vfw7909.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=155305>

The Post Calendar can be found here: <https://vfw7909.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=73416>

The Post Newsletter can be found here: <https://vfw7909.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=74178>

Adobe Reader can be found here: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions>

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Post Officers

Commander

J.D. Steichen

Auxiliary Officers

President

Kathleen Danahoo

Sr. Vice
Jr. Vice
Quartermaster
Chaplain
Surgeon
Judge Advocate
Adjutant
House Committee
1st Year Trustee
2nd Year Trustee
3rd Year Trustee

Joe Casey
Avalier (Hamm) Fowlkes
Kemp (Lotto) Harris
Ty Strong
Hayden Faucett
John Cornish
Scott Sutherland
Curtis Grady
John Daniels
Terrica Gilliam
Katrina Smalis

Sr. Vice
Jr. Vice
Treasurer
Chaplain
Conductor
Guard
Secretary
Patriotic Instructor
1st Year Trustee
2nd Year Trustee
3rd Year Trustee

Donna Garrett
Machelle Leverock
Debbie Tilley
Kathy Wright
Antoinette Heise
Leilani Jones
Debbie Tillis
Debbie Jolley
Margaret Latimer
Debbie Jolley
Leilani Jones