

# LEGION NEWS

Arlington American Legion Post 283

9459 Ft. Caroline Rd., Jacksonville, Florida 32225

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## Commander's Report

I hope everyone is in good health and has had a good holiday season with friends and family. We did a lot of great things this past month. Thanksgiving went very well, from the turkeys that were fried to the dinners we served. With the donations from our members and help from the Auxiliary, we were able to provide 13 family's dinner for the holiday. We had a visit from the State of Florida Legion Commander. He was very impressed with all of the things the family comes together and achieves for both the community and our veterans. He said we had one of the best pots in the state. The Pearl Harbor reading and flag retirement on the 7<sup>th</sup> had support from our Terry Parker High School NJROTC and Cub Scout pack 181. It was a very enlightening presentation to what happened on "A Date Which Will Live in INFAMY" and why we give homage to those who lost their lives.

In case you missed the kids Christmas party, there were lots of presents and fun had by the kids. They had a rider escort from the far north to bring SANTA and Mrs. Clause to the post. We also had lots of support for the Wreaths Across America program that was able to lay wreaths out at the Jacksonville National Cemetery. The collection box at the legion for Christmas food supplies for our local community was a great success. The people who received holiday baskets were very grateful.

With the end of the year approaching quickly, we have to be mindful of making sure you have your 2015 dues card. As of opening on January 1, you will have to have a current dues card. As per legion rules, we have to insure that all members are in possession of their dues card at all times. There are signs posted at various locations in the lounge that serve as a reminder. Please be courteous to our staff if they request you to show your current card. They are responsible to follow our lounge rules to make sure we are with state required laws to only serve to current members. As per the bylaws, no one can sign in a member who is delinquent in their dues. If you get a letter from National Head Quarters saying your due are delinquent and you have a 2015 dues card please disregard.

Don't forget that the post will be open New Year's Eve with the band playing until 1am followed by the traditional New Year's Day Bloody Mary breakfast. It will be from 830 until 1100. No bingo or dinner due to the holiday. There is also a blood drive on the 31st of January. The blood drive is the Statewide American Legion Blood Drive and is challenging all the post from across the state to collect blood that Friday and Saturday. If you cannot donate on Saturday and can on Friday, just let them know you are donating for the post. We will have the blood mobile here for extended hours on Saturday so please sign up or bring a friend by to donate.

Hope to see you at the post.

For God & Country  
Troy Horsley- Post 283 Commander

## 1st Vice Report

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. The Christmas Dinner was outstanding.

We have not met our membership goal for January of 85%, if you have not renewed your 2015 membership card by the first of January, your membership has expired.

Any member who allows their membership to expire may not be the escorted guest of a member of the post, or any post, nor may they purchase or have anyone purchase anything from the post. Extenuating circumstances for financial hardship, illness, or deployment will be evaluated by the Board of Directors on an individual basis. Please note, that when the Legion bartenders ask to see your membership card please don't get upset, they are only doing their job in accordance with the Post By-Laws and Lounge rules. Showing your membership card should be an honor because you and/or your family members earned the right to be a member of the world's largest Veteran's organization.

I would like to welcome our newest members to the post; Alan Parker, Michael Cox, Jared Battain, Darrin Rosenau, Helen Lesko, Richard Ward and transfers Matthew Montemurno, Georg Lindy, and Thomas Clark.

As always you can renew on-line by visiting [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew). You can also register for the Automatic Annual Renewal Program. The Legion will maintain a record of those participating, and about July 15<sup>th</sup> each year, will automatically process the renewal, charging the credit or debit card of the members choice. Once dues are successfully renewed, an email confirmation will be sent to the member. Also the post cannot process credit card payments we send them to Department to be processed. You must include your **card number, expiration date and 3-digit code from the back of the card**. I am at the post most afternoons and can have your new card in a few minutes while you wait, have a beverage and visit with friends.

God bless our Veterans and Troops at home and abroad.

For God and Country,

Jim Welch

[jameswelch88@comcast.net](mailto:jameswelch88@comcast.net)

904-710-3568

## 2nd Vice Report

Wow! Where did 2014 go! They say time flies when you're having fun. Boy did we have fun in 2014.

I'd like to start by thanking all of the people who continue to help on the first Friday of each month for the Legion Steak Night. It takes a lot of bodies to do it. We didn't serve as many in December as we had been, but that's expected during the Holiday Season. We are discontinuing the shrimp skewers, as interest was declining. We will now offer sautéed onions and mushrooms for a \$1:00 donation. Numerous people have been requesting this.

As of the time of this writing, I can't report on how many we served for the Christmas Open House, but I know it went well, as always. I want to thank Harry for stepping up (and all who helped him). Ken did all of the prep, and Harry put on the dinner.

I would also like to thank the Ladies Auxiliary for all they do, particularly during the holidays - starting with re-

decorating the Post for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, etc. Also thanks for the collecting of toys for kids, putting on the Kids and Adult Parties, collecting food for baskets for those in need, etc. The meals as well of course. They are always delicious. The list goes on. Thanks ladies!

I want to thank all of the MANY people who step up and help for all of our Post Family meals and functions. Our Post is known for how well the Family works together. I do want to comment on one thing. I had mentioned to a few that I would like to see a few more Legionaries help on Legion events. At the same time, I had a few people say they had offered, but either were not followed up with, or even told they were not needed. I don't think this was very recently, at least I hope not. With that said, if anyone EVER hears that, please let me know, and who said it so I can address it. That's not how we work. I will NEVER turn down help, as we all volunteer to help make all of our events work. It takes more than just a handful of the same people all of the time. That's when people get burned out and can't continue.

Last, come on out on New Year's Morning and have a Bloody Mary and let Ken and Harry serve you up some breakfast. Let's start 2015 with our Legion Family right off the bat.

Please keep our military and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

For God and Country  
Jeff Lafferty  
Post 283 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice  
Squadron 283 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice



### **3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Report**

Happy New Year American Legion Post 283! I would like to wish each of you all the best throughout the New Year. It is hard to believe we are in 2015 already. Time flies when you are having fun.

Our blood drive held on 23 November 2014 had the best results since I have been the blood drive chairman. Our goal was set for 15 units to be collected. We were able to collect 19 units of whole blood and 10 units of double red blood cells. Our total for the year is 54 units of whole blood and 18 units of double red blood cells donated by the post this year. Each unit can save the lives of three people in the local community. Great job 283! Our next blood drive will be held on Saturday 31 January 2015 from 0800-1300. Our goal for the day is set at 20 units. This drive is in conjunction with the state blood drive. If you are unable to give on the day please go to any of the local collection sites and tell them you would like to give it to the American Legion 283 account number 1045. Special thanks to Janice Dixon, Sally King, the SAL, and Auxiliary.

Thanks to all that participated in the Pearl Harbor day remembrance ceremony and the flag retirement that we conducted on 07 December at sunset. We were joined by Terry Parker High School NJROTC, First Coast High School NJROTC and Cub Scout Pack 181. We were successful in retiring 250 flags. Our next flag retirement ceremony will be tentatively scheduled for February in observance of Americanism month. Information on specific dates will be in next newsletter.

It is not too late. The post is still looking for contestants to represent the post in the Oratorical contest to be held in January throughout the 5<sup>th</sup> District. Our post deadline to have our contest complete is 18 January 2015 with the winner representing us at the District level on 24 January 2015. For more information go to [www.legion.org/oratorical/rules](http://www.legion.org/oratorical/rules).

The applications for the 72nd Boys State session held from 14 -20 June 2015 are slowly coming in to the post. We are still looking for delegates so if you know of any young lads that you would like to nominate please don't hesitate to get their information to me. Details can be found at [www.legion.org/boysnation/stateeligibility](http://www.legion.org/boysnation/stateeligibility).

The post is still looking for volunteers to be chairpersons of numerous programs and various responsibilities at the post. We had no response as of yet to taking over the flag duties at the post so the job is still open should anyone be interested.

Your post Disaster Preparedness Team has been working hard to raise money for the National Emergency Fund. The fund has provided more than \$8 million in direct financial assistance to Legion family members and posts. The donations are used to provide grants to Legion family members affected by natural disasters. In November the amounts of the grants available were increased to \$3000 to Legion family members and \$10,000 to posts impacted by natural disasters. Thanks to Teri and Ron Howard for conducting the Disaster Preparedness dinner on 23 December 2014 on trivia night. Our next dinner will be held on the 31st of January 2015. We hope to see many of you there.

Flag facts for the month are back. Myth: There has been a change to the Flag Code that no longer requires the flag to be properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. The answer is there has been NO change. The Flag Code section 6(a) states, "It is a universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness."

For God and Country  
Scott Pageau

### **S.A.L. Commander's Report**

I'm going to keep it short. No pun to myself intended. I want to take this opportunity to thank all those from the SAL and family members from the Legion, Auxiliary and Riders who have supported the SAL this past year. I appreciate the team spirit from those who step up and do what's GOOD FOR THE LEGION. And what's good for the Legion is what's good for our ability to support and provide for Veteran's Organizations, Children & Youth, Charities, etc., etc. THANK YOU ALL!

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Now that we are in the month of January you must provide your 2015 membership card. The bartenders will be asking for it and as the shift changes they may ask for it again. They're just doing their job. If you have not renewed for 2015 just keep in mind you cannot be signed in. I will continue to bring the membership cards into the Post until the end of January. Afterwards, the cards will be turned over to Bob Bertram who will handle membership until the end of the fiscal year.

Congratulations go to Bob Bertram, First Vice & Jonny Quinn, Chaplin for stepping up and filling these two important positions.

For God and Country  
Tom Harris, Commander

### **Historian Report**

Let me start out by saying THANK YOU to everyone that helped get the Post slideshow up and running. The feedback has been wonderful. Please continue to send pictures you would like to see on the slide show to [arlingtonamericanlegionpost283@yahoo.com](mailto:arlingtonamericanlegionpost283@yahoo.com). Please make sure the pictures are sent in original/large resolution so they fit the TV screen.

The National American Legion started a centennial Historian webpage. All Posts are required to post on it. However, it has been a little difficult for our post to find pictures and information. A lot of the pictures and documents have been misplaced. If anyone has any pictures or historical information, please get me a copy for national's website.

We are going to start preserving the past Historian book. In order to identify some of the past member in these books YOUR HELP will be needed. Please take a few minutes and look through the books. One will be displayed each month next to

the Trophy case. If you know the event or the people in the picture, please use a post note provided next to the book and provide the information.

In closing I would like to say THANK YOU for helping me preserve the wonderful family we have at Post283.

For God and Country  
Teri Howard



## **Auxiliary President's Report**

Happy New Year. Welcome 2015.

The auxiliary wishes you a safe and prosperous New Year.

The first half of the year has been absolutely wonderful. Unit 283 auxiliary members have outdone themselves. These ladies volunteer numerous hours, spend their PTO time from work, donate items, donate their gas, their time and give their hearts and souls to help our veterans, community and

children. Please when you see them, thank them. We are making a difference in the lives of others.

We would like to thank our post home for their generous donations of bicycles, helmets, toys, and money for the Children's Christmas Party. The children had a wonderful time. We gave away 16 bikes. It was amazing to find out that for some of our children, that was their first bike ever.

The auxiliary visited Claire White in December and provided a Christmas party for veterans and their children. We visited Clyde E. Larsen Veterans Nursing home in St. Augustine along with both the District and Department President to decorate for Christmas. We helped sponsor a favorite project of the late Teresa Gilleo, at McClanney State Hospital. Also last month we had the pleasure of hosting Operation Homefront's Christmas party for active duty military children 400 in fact. The general membership made a donation of \$1000.00 which will stay in the Jacksonville area to benefit local active duty military and their children. We sent boxes overseas to the nephew of one of our members. Thank you Mark Cameron for your donation of St. Jude bears and puppies--these were provided to Claire White families.

We will be featuring our fundraising Valentine's Day Basket of cheer beginning New Year's Eve. Tickets are on sale now. The drawing will be held, Friday, February 13th at our annual Valentine's Day dinner featuring Cornish Hens. You can purchase a ticket from any auxiliary member or the bartenders, \$1.00 per ticket or \$5.00 for 6.

Announcement--The next fifth district meeting will be on Sunday, January 11th at post 250, 2 p.m. all are welcome to attend.

Our auxiliary meeting will be Wednesday, January 14th at 7 p.m. The district president, Annie Anderson, will be making her official visit to our unit meeting. It would be nice to have a packed house for meeting night and show our appreciation for all she does at the district level to help each unit. We can't wait to show her how we light the way for our veterans.

Friday, January 16th at 6 p.m. the auxiliary will be hosting a fabulous Salisbury Steak Dinner with fluffy mashed potatoes and gravy, fresh vegetable, garden salad, dinner roll and dessert, \$8.00 donation. Hope to see all of you there.

Congratulations, Elizabeth (Beth) Fullwood, Membership Chairman Unit 283 on the Silver Brigade award. This award is based on signing up 25 new members.

Welcome new members: Legionnaires, Teri Howard, Martha Nelson. Susan Montemurno, Connie Cameron, Donna Collins, Patricia Elkins, Allison Fullwood, Lynda Hunter, and Lora Radiches.

A gentle reminder, according to the auxiliary bylaws, any member failing to pay membership dues by 01/01 shall be delinquent and suspended from membership privileges. We will begin our membership drive this month. We will be contacting members who have not paid their 2015 dues to see how we can assist them. Thank you to all members who have paid their 2015 dues and continuing to support the auxiliary programs.

Please pray for the safe return of our troops and continue to support them and their families. Thank you to all who volunteer at our post home and in the community.

For God and Country,

Robbin Walker, Auxiliary President

**Mark your calendars now! The annual Mardi Gras Party will be on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015!**

## **Legion Rider Director's Report**

Happy New Year, Riders!

As we start a new year, let's reflect on this past one. Our chapter continues to grow. We've had great success with our 7th annual poker run when we donated \$20,050.00 to the Five Star Veterans Center.

We have begun to plan the 8th annual poker run for September 2015. We joined together with 158 bikes, and placed over 6400 wreaths at the national cemetery for the Wreaths across America on the 13th of December. It was a 100% success. Riders attended the MIAP services and provided an escort and support for that program.

The Legacy fund has reached its million dollar mark this year has riders from 283 rode for support. Visits to the VFW Village at FT. McCoy, the battle museum at Green Cove, feeding the Veterans at Five Star Veterans Center, just to name a few. Then there is Convention, Conference and State Rally. Fun Rides, ALR dinners and more.

The Santa escort for the children's party was well received. We ride in support of our veterans and we work to support our post and our fellow chapters. The Legion Riders go to great expense, in time and money to maintain and operate a motorcycle. A few riders attended a rider improvement class in December. I recommend all riders take advanced classes to increase their personal skills. I placed a flyer on the board with more information.

Looking forward to 2015, at the last meeting the riders voted to continue to support the Five Star Veterans Center on our 8th annual poker ride. At the January 3rd meeting, we will start to plan the camping trip. January brings cold weather, slick roads, and leather chaps. I urge all riders to come and support your post meetings and dinners - even if you have to cage it.

The next ALR RED Shirt Friday dinner is January 23rd. The Menu is Sloppy Joes and potato salad. Coming up in February is the chili cook off, Mardi-Gras and camping in March. There is also State rally in May, convention in June and everything in-between. We will be electing new Officers before the June convention. Make a resolution to be more involved and others will follow.

Membership goes up to \$25 after Jan 1st. You will be considered a guest if you have not renewed by Jan 1st. Membership cards should be presented at the Jan 6th Meeting. As of December 15th. 141 Members have renewed. 72 Bikes/12 passengers/14 cages, 43 unspecified. 4 members have moved out of area.

Thank You, to all the riders who have made 2014 a great year. Let's do it again.

Visit our Facebook page at: [American Legion Riders chapter 283, Arlington FL](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionRiderschapter283), or the web at

[www.alrpost283.com](http://www.alrpost283.com). Members that would like to have their picture on the web site can email them to

[webmasteralr283@gmail.com](mailto:webmasteralr283@gmail.com). The Dept. web site is [FloridaLegion.org](http://FloridaLegion.org) if you want to download the phone app.

Rodney Fullwood Jr.

Director ALR Chapter 283

[Alr5thfl.org/](http://Alr5thfl.org/) [director\\_alr283@gmail.com](mailto:director_alr283@gmail.com)

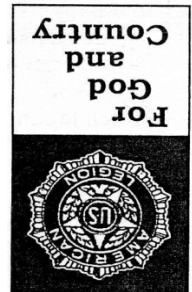
Face Book: American Legion Riders Chapter 283, Arlington FL



# American Legion Post 283 January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!		<b>ALL DINNERS ARE FROM 6 – 7:30 PM</b>	Traditional Bloody Mary Breakfast on Jan. 1 from 8:30 - 11	<b>1 NEW YEARS DAY</b> NO BINGO OR DINNER	<b>2</b> LEGION STEAK DINNER  <b>MIDLIFE CRISIS</b>	<b>3</b> ALR MTG 9AM  <b>JAMMIN' JIM KARAOKE</b>
<b>4</b> SAL BREAKFAST 8:30 - 11	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> SAL PIZZA 6 – 7:30 PM <b>HARRY'S TRIVIA 7-9 PM</b>	<b>7</b> HUMP DAY SNACKS SAL MEETING 7PM	<b>8</b> SOFTBALL CHRUNCHY CHIX CASSEROLE <b>BINGO BEGINS AT 6:30PM</b>	<b>9</b> SAL – HARRY'S FAMOUS PHILLY CHEESESTEAK  <b>GHOST RADIO</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>JIMBO &amp; DIBBI KARAOKE</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> LEGION MEETINGS EXEC 6PM GENERAL 7PM	<b>13</b> SAL – KING RANCH CHIX MAC & CHEESE <b>HARRY'S TRIVIA 7-9 PM</b>	<b>14</b> HUMP DAY SNACKS AUX MEETINGS EXEC – 6:30PM GENERAL – 7PM	<b>15</b> AUX ROAST BEEF & CHEESE SANDWICHES <b>BINGO BEGINS AT 6:30PM</b>	<b>16</b> AUX SALISBURY STEAK DINNER  <b>BACK TRACK</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>JAMMIN' JIM KARAOKE</b>
<b>18</b> SAL BREAKFAST 8:30 - 11	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> SAL PIZZA 6 – 7:30 PM <b>HARRY'S TRIVIA 7-9 PM</b>	<b>21</b> HUMP DAY SNACKS	<b>22</b> SOFTBALL CHICKEN PARM  <b>BINGO BEGINS AT 6:30PM</b>	<b>23</b> ALR SLOPPY JOES W/TATER SALAD & FIXIN'S  <b>DOUBLE DOWN</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>KAREN KARAOKE</b>
<b>25</b> NAVY DAY	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> CHICKEN ALFREDO BY CRAIG <b>HARRY'S TRIVIA 7-9 PM</b>	<b>28</b> HUMP DAY SNACKS	<b>29</b> AUX BAKED ITALIAN DISH  <b>BINGO BEGINS AT 6:30PM</b>	<b>30</b> DISASTER PREP SPAGHETTI  <b>BAND ON THE RUN</b>	<b>31</b>  <b>LINDA PONCE KARAOKE</b>

BE SURE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP – BARTENDERS ARE CHECKING ID'S



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