



The Légionnaire

Tidewater Post 327

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AUGUST 2026

POST OFFICERS

Commander: Bob DeChamplain
1st VCDR: Alan Cole Sr (AJ)
2nd VCDR: Keith Shanesy
3rd VCDR: Colleen Lemond
Adjutant: Tracy Cortez
Finance: Janet Sullinger
Service Officer: Lee Goldman
Chaplain: Desh Nendze
Sgt-at-Arms: Inocencio Gaitan
Historian: Paulmichael Youngmills

Exec Board

Robert Sullinger
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: OPEN
Sgt-at-Arms: Kenneth Parker
Road Captain: OPEN

Exec Board

ALR Gnome

SAL SQUADRON

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

Exec Board

Steve Gower
Cliff Carney
Kenneth O'Bryan

AUXILIARY

President: Crystal Cross
Vice President: Kathy Morrison
Secretary: Charlotte Cole
Treasurer: Chrystal Odle
Chaplain: Jackie Miller
Sgt-at-Arms: Sally Newman
Historian: Maria Gaitan

Exec Board

Mary Taggart
Sheila Pyatt
Laquetta Joe

COMMANDER: Our July 4th celebration was a tremendous success, and that is entirely due to the dedication of our volunteers. To every member who showed up early, stayed late, hauled equipment, coordinated activities, greeted guests, and represented Post 327 with pride—thank you. Your commitment to service reflects the very best of the American Legion. Because of your hard work, our community enjoyed a safe, welcoming, and meaningful Independence Day. I am deeply grateful for all you do for this Post and for the veterans, families, and neighbors we serve. By now, you should have received your renewal notice for the 2025–2026 membership year. Thank you to the First Vice for his efforts at the membership table during the picnic. If you haven't sent it in yet, I encourage you to renew today. Staying active keeps your voice strong and supports the programs that serve our veterans, youth, and community. Plus, early renewals make you eligible for a special drawing later in the year. The 107th American Legion National Convention will take place in Louisville, Kentucky, from August 28 to September 3, 2026. Thank you for your continued support, service, and commitment to our mission. For God and Country, Robert "Bob" DeChamplain, Commander, American Legion Post 327

FIRST VICE COMMANDER: Membership has its perks. 2027 membership renewals are in full swing. Renew now through Labor Day and you will automatically be entered for a PUFL membership. You can renew in person (10 am - 2 pm weekdays, or email me to schedule a better time for you). Better yet, take advantage of our on line renew (Zelle pay) option at legion327.com. Select "PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES." After I receive notification of your payment, I will mail your membership card to the address on file. Finally, 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, Alan J. "AJ" Cole, Sr., 1st Vice Commander

SECOND VICE COMMANDER: Greetings Post 327 Members! Here we are already at August! We do have a full month of activities planned at the Post.
August 2nd - Movies With Maegan: Supertroopers and Supertroopers 2
August 3rd - Clubroom Bingo

August 4th - US Coast Guard Birthday with cake and ice cream
7pm in the clubroom

August 8th - Whiskey Tide

August 9th - Movies with Maegan: The Breakfast Club

August 15th - Red Stapler Duo

August 16th - Movies with Maegan: ELVIS!!!! Showing Girls,
Girls, Girls and Blue Hawaii

August 17th - Clubroom Bingo

August 22nd - Our very own Vinny Conte and Bad Habit

August 23rd - Movies with Maegan: Red and Red 2

August 29th - The Tumbleweed Brothers

As we get closer to September, in addition to the Labor Day picnic, I am working on a few different entertainment ideas along with our 3rd Vice Commander and Clubroom manager. I think that everyone will enjoy the upcoming surprise entertainment options. All I will tell you is.....get your boogie shoes ready.

For God and Country, Keith Shanesy, 2nd Vice Commander

THIRD VICE COMMANDER: Greetings Post 327 members! On Saturday August 24th we will have the Navy Chief Selectees from VAW-126 here to do Community Relations at the post from 9 am to noon. They are requesting any Legion retired or veteran chief to come and interact with them. There will also be volunteer opportunities for the Labor Day picnic on Sunday September 6th and hope some of our new members come and help out. We started a free drink lottery currently on Wednesdays in July from 12 pm to 5 pm. Stop in and see if the last 2 numbers on your membership card match the numbers drawn for the day. We will rotate which day of the week this will be done each month. We are currently working on a new menu for the kitchen and hope to have it out soon! The Post is now selling merchandise (t-shirts, zip up hoodies and ball caps) which are available in the case at the far end of the bar. See the bartender to purchase. There are also American Legion coffee cups, beer mugs and tumblers which can all be personalized with your name. The order sheets for these are on the 2nd Vice Commander's door in the lobby. For God and Country, Colleen Lemond, 3rd Vice Commander

ADJUTANT: Please be sure to log your volunteer hours at legion327.com or on the volunteer log sheet by the restrooms. Thank you. For God and Country, Tracy Cortez, Adjutant

SERVICE OFFICER: Greetings. I hope everyone had an great 4th of July. I wish to thank all of our Service Officers for all of the amazing work that they do. Please reach out to any of us if you have any questions concerning your VA benefits.

We have an over abundance of durable medical equipment in the Service Officer Shed. If you or anyone you know is in need of a walker, wheelchair, cane, or crutches please let us know.

Our Service Officers are available Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 1000-1500. We are closed on holidays. For God and Country, Lee Goldman, Service Officer

CHAPLAIN: August Greetings Legion Family! I hope everyone is having a great summer and is staying cool. I wanted to start with a reminder about our first "Be the One" Committee meeting which

will be held in the Post Hall Saturday, August 15th at 2:30pm. I have some ideas and would love to hear your thoughts on how this committee can be a strong asset for our American Legion Family.

The VEP (Veterans Engagement Program) through the School of Social Work at Norfolk State University is in the home stretch over the next few months, I highly encourage anyone who is interested to access our

link https://nsugradstudies.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_elp6PXgskLp6ALA. The Virginia Department of Veterans Services will be conducting their site visit soon and we are honored to have been a part of this mission. We have modified our services for the program so if resources or connections to community services are needed or if two free online mental health sessions per month are needed, please feel free to contact me. Our continued goal is to assist with any stressors that are impacting Veteran mental health and to be able to have this resource in our Post is outstanding. And last, always feel free to contact me if you know of anyone that I should be reaching out and connecting with. Buddy checks save lives and I appreciate all that everyone does for their brothers and sisters in arms. For God and Country, Desh Nendze, Chaplain

LEGION RIDERS: Post 327, Let's Congratulate our new Officers: Director: Keith "Klutch" Palmer; Asst Director: Derrick "DJ" Johnson; Treasurer: David Seate; Secretary: Phillisa Marable Sgt at Arms: Kenneth Parker; Chaplain: Open. Chapter 327 Riders and Supporters, Thank you for your continued support. Chapter 327 riders would like to thank you, Bob DeChamplain Commander, Post 327 for conducting our Chapters 327 Installation.

Upcoming Events: *23-27 August 2026, the National American Legion Rider, ride will depart Lincoln, Neb, on Aug. 23 and finish up at Fort Knox, raising funds for the Veterans & Children Foundation along the way. Registration is easy: <https://register.legion.org/riders/registration>.

**25-26 September, VA ALR 16 th Annual State Rally Chapter 79 South Hill, VA (High Mileage/Safety Award and the Department of Virginia, Rider of the Year Award. For additional information contact Rick Millard, ALR 79 email address: spectrumtel.millard@gmail.com.

Chapter 327 American Legion Riders are always looking for new riders to join. We meet the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Keep both wheels on the ground and be safe, For God and Country. Keith "Klutch" Palmer, Riders Director.

ATHLETIC OFFICER: Senior Softball Team Our Senior Softball Team continues to perform at an exceptional level. Most recently, the team earned an outstanding 1st-place finish at the WBSC Senior World Cup in Salem, VA. This victory reflects the dedication, teamwork, and competitive spirit our players bring to every tournament.

The team also competed in the Eastern National Championship in Loudoun County, securing a 5th-place finish in a highly competitive field. We are proud of their continued commitment and strong

representation of American Legion Post 327.

UP COMING TOURNAMENTS

- ISSA World Championship – Richmond, Virginia
- Senior World Championships – Las Vegas, September

We look forward to continued success as the team prepares for these major events.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Your support makes our athletic programs possible. We extend our sincere appreciation to the following sponsors:

- **Platinum Sponsor:** BAFO Services
- **Gold Sponsor:** Flat Dumb & Happy
- **Silver Sponsor:** Stretch Lab of Ghent
- **Bronze Sponsors:** Distinctive Enterprises, AJ the DJ, Forward March

Thank you for standing behind our athletes and helping us represent Post 327 with pride.

Get Involved in Post Athletics

We're always looking for members to join our athletic programs. Recruitment is currently open for:

- **Kickball**
- **Men's Softball**

To sign up or learn more, contact the **Athletic Officer** or visit the sign-up sheets located at the Post. **For God and Country, Mike Encalade** Athletic Officer

SQUADRON COMMANDER: Squadron 327 voted to accept credit cards for dues, just in time for a joint American Legion Families Membership Information and Registration outreach program starting in August. Anyone interested in participating, contact me. The Squadron also voted to send a SON to the National Convention this year. There will be a supporting fundraiser dinner Friday, August 14th, and a garden bench raffle. Tune in to the on line calendar and watch for text messages for more info.

Want it done, call a Son. Be that Son.

For God and Country, Alan J. "AJ" Cole, Sr. Squadron 327 Commander

HONOR GUARDS CORNER: Hello from the Honor Guard! This July, we assisted our Post family at two events: the annual July 4th picnic and the Post Everlasting Ceremony during our Legion meeting. The Post Everlasting Ceremony is a solemn tribute that honors those we've lost, celebrates their legacy, recognizes their eternal place in the Legion, and acknowledges the lasting mark they've left on all of us and our community.

August brings us two important observances. First, we celebrate the United States Coast Guard's 236th birthday on August 4th. Then, on August 7th, we pause to observe Purple Heart Day, a solemn occasion dedicated to the estimated 1.9 million courageous men and women who have been wounded or made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our Armed Forces. This day reminds us to reflect on their profound courage, unwavering dedication, and the strength of their families.

As summer winds down and school starts up again, we're asking everyone to stay alert: for children playing, walking to school, or

waiting at bus stops in your neighborhood. It's a simple way we can all look out for one another.

The Honor Guard is always ready to answer the call, whether that means supporting Post events, serving our 2nd District Legion Family, or strengthening the bonds within the community.

Interested in joining us? We meet on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 p.m., and we welcome Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and SAL members. Contact Colonel of the Honor Guard Otha Newton with any questions, requests, or to learn more about becoming part of the Honor Guard. For God and Country, Mary Taggart

ALA PRESIDENT: Thanks to all the ALA members who showed up to help with the 4th of July picnic.

Membership cards for the 2026-2027 membership year are finally here. If you renewed at the 4th of July picnic your cards are in the mail if you didn't pick them up at the post. If you want to renew before the end of the year, you can put your renewal in the black mailbox by the ALA office.

We have officially started our back -to -school drive for our local schools. There is a box in the social quarters for donations. We need the donations by August 16,2026 so we can get them ready to give to the schools on August 21,2026. We will be putting the backpacks together on Thursday August 20th from 4-6 p.m. and could use volunteers to help stuff the backpacks. There is a list of supplies needed on the Facebook page and on the TV in the social quarters.

Our dinner for August will be Taco Salad, chips and salsa with white sauce, refried beans and Mexican rice and a dessert. As always, we welcome volunteers to help with the dinner. On a side note, to help with the dinner you will need a food- handlers card which can be obtained online after taking the course.

Upcoming events the first Friday in October will be our semi-annual fish fry for the veterans from the VA Hospital. If you can spare some time to help our hospitalized veterans and put a smile on their faces it would be greatly appreciated.

Please keep our President Crystal Cross in your prayers as she is recovering from surgery.

CLUBROOM MANAGER: Hello everyone, I wish you and your families well. I hope you are staying cool during these hot summer months. There have been a few issues of not labeling your bottles correctly. I have mentioned this issue numerous times. Please be mindful. This problem has caused the bartenders to remove bottles from behind the bar and store them elsewhere. This is the correct way to label bottles. Example: Name: Jane Doe, Date: 07/16/2026. Also; I have come to work several mornings and have found Busch Light beer cans in the parking lot. Leaving the building with alcohol is not permitted. Leaving trash and cigarette butts in the parking lot is not respectful to our establishment or other Veterans who follow the rules. There is a trash can and somewhere to place your cigarette butts. Please Stop littering our grounds. For God and Country, Clubroom Manager, Angie Hernandez

AUGUST 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	To receive text alerts, text AL327 to 78859 TO VIEW OUR CALENDAR ON-LINE SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR CAMERA 			30	31	1
			7pm - 40/8		5:15pm - Q of H @	7:30pm - Whiskey Tide
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
NO Breakfast Today 7pm - Movies	7pm - Clubroom Game 7:30pm - Post 5 Mtg @	COAST GUARD 6:30pm - ALA Exec M 7pm - ALA Reg M 7pm - US COAST				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9am - Breakfast 7pm - Movies		6:30pm - AMLG Ex M 7:30pm - AMLG Reg M		6:30pm - CIVIC	5:15pm - Q of H @ 5:30pm - SONS	11:15am - USSVI MTG 7:30pm - Red Stapler
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
NO Breakfast Today 6pm - Movies	7pm - Clubroom 7pm - Honor Guard	7pm - SAL Exec M @ 7:30pm - SAL Reg M	6:30pm - V V A 6:30pm - VVA Ch 48	6:30pm - ALR Mtg @	5:15pm - Q of H @	7:30pm - Bad Habit -
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9am - Breakfast 7pm - Movies	6pm - RASON Mtg @	6:30pm - 757NSAG			5:15pm - Q of H @	7:30pm - Tumbleweed
30	31	To receive text alerts, text AL327 to 78859 TO VIEW OUR CALENDAR ON-LINE SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR CAMERA 			4	5