



# The Légionnaire

## Tidewater Post 327

705 Lesner Avenue

Norfolk, VA 23518

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APRIL 2026

### POST OFFICERS

Commander: (DJ) Derrick Johnson  
1<sup>st</sup> VCDR: Byron Pianalto  
2<sup>nd</sup> VCDR: Keith Shanesy  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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  
1<sup>st</sup> VCDR David Vernon (Benski)  
2<sup>nd</sup> VCDR David Laws  
Adjutant: James Doty Jr  
Treasurer: Jeff Evans  
Chaplain: Rocky English  
1<sup>st</sup> 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

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**COMMANDER:** Fellow Legionnaires and Friends,

### **SECOND NOTICE: Election of Post Officers**

Attention all Legionnaires: Elections for the 2026–2027 fiscal year will be held at the May Post meeting. Members interested in serving as a Post Officer must submit a Letter of Intent specifying the position they wish to run for. Letters may be emailed to [amlg327@yahoo.com](mailto:amlg327@yahoo.com) or submitted directly to the Post Adjutant.

Please remember, serving as a Post Officer is a year-long commitment. We encourage all candidates to carefully consider the responsibilities associated with these leadership roles before submitting their intent. Your leadership and dedication are vital to the continued strength and success of our Post—step up and make a difference.

I am incredibly proud of all that American Legion Post 327 has accomplished. The commitment, teamwork, and service displayed by our members continue to make a meaningful impact in our community and for our fellow veterans.

A sincere thank you to everyone who represented Post 327 in this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade. We had a record turnout, and our presence was felt throughout the community. Special

appreciation goes to our Second Vice for organizing an outstanding After Parade event at the Post—your efforts made it a memorable celebration for all.

As we recognize the Month of the Military Child, let us take a moment to honor the resilience and strength of children in our military families. These young heroes face unique challenges, demonstrating courage through frequent moves, school transitions, and time apart from deployed parents. Let us continue to foster a supportive community where military families—especially their children—feel valued, respected, and appreciated.

Thank you for your continued service and dedication. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

For God and Country, Derrick "DJ" Johnson, Post Commander

**FIRST VICE COMMANDER:** Our Post Membership count is just over 1000 Members, currently just over 96% of our goal for this year. BUT we still have over 200 Members that have not paid their 2026 dues. The Post has added a new method of paying your dues, if you have Zelle through your bank or the app on your phone, you can also come to the office and pay, or you can go to our website: [legion327.com](http://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. You can also renew online at [legion.org/renew](http://legion.org/renew) for 1 year or 3 years or purchase a PUFL (Paid Up For Life) with a credit card. Remember anytime you are at the Post you are required to have your Membership card in your possession or a digital image of your Membership card on your phone. For God and Country, Byron Pianalto

**SECOND VICE COMMANDER:** Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! Post 327 has showed and has shown out to assist our displaced Sailors from Bahrain. It has been such a pleasure meeting and having these young service members at the Post. We are continuing to collect much needed items, as all of the personnel have not been sent Stateside yet.

Thank you to all of you that came out to the Saint Patrick's Day Parade to show Norfolk that we are the best Service Organization and Post in the City of Norfolk!

March has definitely been a busy month here at the Post as we continue to explore more events to appeal to our diverse membership. Movies With Maegan on Sunday evenings has been a fun and exciting time. I am also looking to schedule another UFC Fight Night in the clubroom.

April will have many events to keep things exciting.

April 4th Whiskey Tide playing the Clubroom

April 5th Movies with Maegan

April 10th Christopher D playing after Queen of Hearts

April 11th JJ the KJ Karaoke

April 12th Movies with Maegan

April 16th is our first Clubroom Bingo

April 18th is Cam Head and the Noisemakers in the Clubroom

April 19th Movies with Maegan

April 25th Barricade plays the Clubroom

April 26th Movies with Maegan

April 30th Grover Game Night with Marcie

I hope to see you all at the Post!

For God and country, Keith Shanesy, 2nd Vice Commander.

**THIRD VICE COMMANDER:** Happy Spring Post 327! March was a fantastic but busy month for the Post. Thank you to all the volunteers and parade participants in the Oceaview St. Paddy day parade. Our float was beautiful and we had an excellent time. New chairs and pool tables have both been delivered and installed and look great. I would like to remind everyone that our volunteers are here on their own time and are doing what they can to improve all the things we do at the Post. Please be mindful of how we treat them and show respect to each other. We have a lot of fun things planned in the future and want to continue to do so. On that note, if you have a moment, familiarize yourself with our House Rules. We have had an uptick with issues in the Social Quarters by members and guests not knowing or understanding the House Rules. Our social quarters are a privilege and shouldn't be abused. Field day for the month of April will be announced at a later date. God and County, Rob Sullinger Third Vice

Commander.

**ADJUTANT: Second Notice: Elections are fast approaching. The elections will be held in May.** If you would like to run for office, please submit a letter of intent by either dropping it off at the Post or you may email it to [amlg327@yahoo.com](mailto:amlg327@yahoo.com) or [adjutant327@gmail.com](mailto:adjutant327@gmail.com) by 5 PM on May 1st. The following positions are open: Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, 3rd Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Service Officer, Chaplain, Sergeant of Arms, Executive Board (3 members). If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, feel free to reach out and we will do our very best to help you out! We need your Letter of Intent by May 1st, so we can make enough ballots. If you would like to read a description of the duties and responsibilities of each elected position, a copy is in the mail office. Nominations can also be made off the floor on election night. Also, please be mindful, being elected to a position is a yearlong commitment (Service Officer and Finance Officer is a two-year commitment). For God and Country David Seate, Adjutant.

**SERVICE OFFICER:** I want to thank all the service officers for their tireless efforts.

We have Service Officers available to help Veterans submit claims on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 AM to 3 PM. Except Holidays.

Please come to the side door with sign "VA Claims Entrance". First Come, First Served. For God and Country, Bob DeChamplain

**CHAPLAIN:** As the weather continues to get nicer, this is a great time to check in on your brothers and sisters in arms. Quick buddy checks or an invite to breakfast or lunch at the Post is a great way to be there for each other. We also have our VEP (Veterans Engagement Program) up and running! Through the School of Social Work at Norfolk State University, this free program offers two online mental health sessions and one in-person group session (at the Post) per month. If interested, feel free to access the link [https://nsugradstudies.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_elp6PXqskLp6ALA](https://nsugradstudies.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_elp6PXqskLp6ALA) or if you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

And last, we have been invited to support those impacted from the tragic recent event at ODU. We will have a table n Thursdays (26MAR-30APR) from 12-2pm in the MCC spaces on campus in Monarch Hall to serve as a figure of community support. Please let me know if you are interested in attending with me on any of the dates. In my quest to make our Post a mental health resource center for those who have served and always promote BE THE ONE, please let me know how I can help everyone and always let me know if you have any ideas you would like me to investigate.

For God and Country, Desh Nendze, Chaplain

**LEGION RIDERS:** Holiday Greetings & Awareness Chapter 327 wishes a very Happy Easter to all our Legionnaires, Sons,

and Auxiliary members. Additionally, please join us in observing Autism Awareness Day on April 2nd as we support those in our community on the spectrum.

#### Recent Missions & Rides

- St. Patrick's Day Parade: A huge thank you to everyone who participated and represented the Riders!
- Yorktown Group Ride: Shout out to the 8 Riders and supporters who cruised to the Yorktown Car Show and enjoyed lunch at Hoss's this past Saturday, April 20th. It was a great day for a ride.

#### Upcoming Events

- April Group Ride: Details are being finalized—stay tuned for the "To Be Announced" (TBA) route and time.
- Post 280 4th Annual Golf Tournament: \* Date: May 8, 2026
  - Purpose: Fun-Raising for our programs.
  - POCs: Art Koch (757-650-2372) or Will Wright (757-323-3874) Join the Ride

We are always looking for new members to join the Chapter 327 family! We meet on the third Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Come see what we're all about.

Keep both wheels on the ground and stay safe.

For God and Country, Keith Palmer *Riders Director*

**ATHLETIC OFFICER:** No Input. For God and Country, Jeff Evans

**SQUADRON COMMANDER: Second Notice! 2026-27 Elections** are coming up fast. Don't wait to make your intentions known. Submit a "Letter of Intention" to any member of the Executive Board; OR drop it off at the Squadron Office at Tidewater Post 327; OR send an email to [salsq327@gmail.com](mailto:salsq327@gmail.com); OR add your name to one of the posted lists outside the S.A.L./A.L.R Office and the Post 2ndVCDR's Locker (the old Armory). Our next meeting is on Tuesday, April 21st. Please join us at our information and registration table at The Virginia Tattoo Hullabaloo on Saturday, April 18th and represent. For God and Country, Alan J, "AJ" Cole, Sr.

**HONOR GUARDS CORNER:** The Honor Guard has been actively supporting both the Legion Family and our community. In March, we proudly presented the colors at the Challenger League's season opener and participated in the 59th St. Patrick's Day Parade.

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, celebrating this year's theme, "Military Children and Youth: Strength in Every Story." This theme highlights the everyday courage of military children, whose stories reflect resilience, adaptability, and quiet strength demonstrate the powerful character they build while growing up in a world defined by service and sacrifice.

Don't forget: American Legion Family Day is celebrated on the

last Saturday in April. For any questions or requests, please reach out to Otha Newton. For God and Country, Mary Taggart

**ALA PRESIDENT: 2nd Notice for TALA Unit Officer Elections for the 2026-2027 year** to be held at the May regular meeting. We will be selecting the nominating committee at the April Meeting so you can see one of them with your intention to run of Office or email the Unit at [talaunit327@yahoo.com](mailto:talaunit327@yahoo.com). We encourage everyone interested in running for office to do so, all positions are open for election. If you have questions, please reach out and check out our Unit Facebook page as we will be posting the roles of the positions the first week of April. This is your Unit, and we hope you will consider stepping up and making our Unit even better with new ideas! March was another exciting month for our ALA, and we couldn't do it without our volunteers from the ALA and our Legion family! Our fundraiser dinner to help support the Bahrain Sailors was a huge success and a GIGANTIC thank you to our volunteers that helped with the dinner and cleanup, it was a lot of work but so rewarding to be able to assist the Sailors, which supports the ALA National Security Program, one of the 4 pillars of the ALA. I also want to THANK ALL the volunteers that came out to stuff eggs for the kids Easter Party-We appreciate you so much! The kids Easter Egg Hunt and Party has not yet happened as of this writing, but I'm sure it will be a huge success as well! April 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be hosting our Veterans from the VA hospital for the Fish Fry Dinner, VA Hospital Veterans will arrive around 5pm, and dinner for the clubroom will start at 6pm. We will need volunteers to help both in the hall and the clubroom and to help with serving and cleanup, and to with bingo for the vets after they have their meal. We will be busy the first half of April completing our Year-End reports so if you have any hours to turn in, please do so the first few days of the month. We hope to see you at our ALA meeting at 7pm on April 7th! For God and Country, Crystal Cross, Unit 327 President

**CLUBROOM MANAGER:** Hello everyone! Spring is here and flowers are blooming. Just a couple of things to mention. First, I want to Thank everyone for having their membership card with you. It helps when you are asked to present it. Anyone who appears under 21 will be asked to present their ID and if the members/non-members are under 21, their hand will get stamped from this time forward. This will help the bartenders to recognize who is underage to consume alcohol. We have a lot of exciting events coming up. Anyone who is interested to volunteer, ask around or look for sign-up sheets that are usually hanging up in the foyer on the pegboard as you come in. Wishing all of you a very Happy Easter. Stay safe and watch out for the kiddos during spring break. For God and Country, Angie Hernandez, Clubroom Manger.

# APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9am - Breakfast 10am - ALA Easter Egg 1pm - Bowling @ JEB 7:30pm - Movies w/Th	7pm - Vietnam Veis		7pm - 40/8 Mtg @ HALL		5:15pm - Q of H @ 6pm - ALA VA FISH FRY @	7:30pm - Whiskey Tide -
NO Breakfast Today 1pm - Bowling @ JEB	7pm - Music Bingo /John 7:30pm - Post 5 Mtg @	6:30pm - ALA Exec M @ 7pm - ALA Reg M		6:30pm - CIVIC LEAGUE @	5:15pm - Q of H @ 8pm - Christopher D. LIVE	7:30pm - Karaoke with JJ
NO Breakfast Today 1pm - Bowling @ JEB	7pm - Clubroom Bingo	6:30pm - AMLG Ex M @ 7:30pm - AMLG Reg M @	6:30pm - VVA Ch 48 Mtg	6:30pm - ALR Mtg @	5:15pm - Q of H @	11:15am - USSVI MTG @ 1pm - Hullybaloo 7:30pm - Cam Head & The
9am - Breakfast 1pm - Bowling @ JEB	7pm - Honor Guard	7pm - SAL Exec M @ 7:30pm - SAL Reg M	6:30pm - 757NSAG		5:15pm - Q of H @	7:30pm - Barricade - LIVE!
9am - Breakfast 1pm - Bowling @ JEB 7:30pm - Movies With	6pm - RASON Mtg @			7:30pm - Grover Game	5:15pm - Q of H @	7:30pm - Whiskey Tide -