



The Légionnaire

Tidewater Post 327

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DECEMBER 2025

POST OFFICERS

Commander: (DJ) Derrick Johnson
1st VCDR: Byron Pianalto
2nd VCDR: Linda Blaker
3rd 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
1st VCDR David Vernon (Benski)
2nd VCDR David Laws
Adjutant: James Doty Jr
Treasurer: Jeff Evans
Chaplain: Rocky English
1st 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

COMMANDER: Dear Legionnaires and Friends,
As we move deeper into the holiday season, I want to take a moment to share my heartfelt gratitude with each of you. Thanks to your energy, generosity, and dedication, our Veterans Day and Thanksgiving celebrations were truly outstanding.

A Special Thank You

To our Second and Third Vice Commander, our bar tenders, incredible kitchen crew, and every volunteer who stepped forward—you made these events shine. From preparing those amazing meals to fostering an atmosphere filled with camaraderie, gratitude, and community pride, your hard work made a real difference. On behalf of the entire Post, thank you for all you do for our Legion family and the people we serve. I can't forget the office team doing the hard work in the background!

Membership Renewal

As we look forward to the new year, I encourage all members to renew their membership before December 31. Your continued commitment keeps our Post strong, active, and united in our mission to support veterans, their families, and

our community. Every renewal helps us maintain the programs, traditions, and fellowship that make the American Legion such an important force for good.

Upcoming Holiday Events

The holiday season is always a special time at the Post, and we have several opportunities to come together in the spirit of giving and celebration:

Angel Tree: Help brighten someone's holiday by choosing an angel and fulfilling the wish of someone in need.

Post Holiday Party: Don't miss our festive gathering filled with food, fun, and fellowship! Check the calendar for the date and time—and get ready to DANCE, because I'll be the DJ that night!

Your participation—whether you volunteer, attend, or support behind the scenes—strengthens the bonds that make our Post such a remarkable place to belong.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to the values and mission of the American Legion. I look forward to celebrating this season with all of you.

For God and Country, DJ Derrick Johnson Commander,
American Legion Post 327

FIRST VICE COMMANDER: REMINDER THAT IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED BY DEC 31st YOUR KEY FOB WILL STOP WORKING AT MIDNIGHT ON THE 31st. We are

currently just at 70% of our goal for this year. 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 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 for 1 year or 3 years 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: Here you go!

Hello Post Family!! Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays & Happy New Year!! I hope this season allows you to get rest and take care of yourself. We have so many things going on this last month of 2025. As many of you have noticed, the Christmas stockings are up for all our employees and helpers! Please add to them, they are not just decorations! Every Friday Queen of hearts will be run and it seems to be a big hit. We have the annual Post Christmas party on Saturday 13 December with your very own commander acting as the DJ and Master of ceremonies!! DJ has suggested that this year we try a pajama party. I think that is a great idea, but I must insist that we keep all outfits G rated and anyone wearing excessive or Risque pajamas will be asked nicely to go home. There will be cash awards given out to the best jimmied couple, best jimmied male & female! The Post employee party will be held on 13 December (2 - 5) with the clubroom closed until 6 PM for the Employee Party! Please be patient and respect the opening at 6, so our employees are able to relax and party! The next huge event is the New Years Eve party on 31 December! Cactus Creek will be there with us to ring in the New Year with a champagne toast! We will have cash prizes given out for best dressed couple, best dressed male & female!!

5 December Queen of Hearts

6 December JJ the KJ

12 December Queen of Hearts

13 December (2 - 5) Employee only Christmas party

13 December 6 PM Post Christmas Party

19 December Queen of Hearts

20 December Space Force 6th Birthday

20 December Barricade

26 December Queen of Hearts

27 December AJ the KJ

31 December New Years Eve Party with Cactus Creek For and country, Linda P. Blaker

THIRD VICE COMMANDER: No input. For God and Country, Rob Sullinger, Third Vice Commander

SERVICE OFFICER: Happy Holidays. The Service Officers will be taking off for the holidays. Office hours will be suspended from the close of business on Thursday, December 18, and will reopen on January 5, 2026.

I wish everyone a merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. For any emergency actions, I can be reached at 757-506-2326.

I want to thank all the service officers for their tireless efforts. Post Service Officers are available Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 1000-1500. Closed holidays. For God & Country, Bob DeChamplain

CHAPLAIN: Holiday Season Greetings Legion Family! As we continue our celebrations through this joyous time, let's also remember our Buddy Checks at a time of the year when holidays may be very difficult for some. Call, text, or visit your brothers and sisters during your downtime. This small act could save someone's life. If they need someone to talk to, please encourage them to call 988 and press 1 to speak with a trained Military Crisis responder or have them contact me, chaplain327@gmail.com. It is my goal to make our Post a resource center for mental health so those who serve and have served know they are not alone. For God and Country, Desh Nendze

LEGION RIDERS:

From Chapter 327 American Legion Riders and Supporters, Merry Christmas!

Let's give a huge thank you to the Riders and Supporters, DJ-Derrick Johnson, Pat Carney, Jason "Gravel" Cooper, Keith "Cowboy" Delucenay, Keith "Ditch" McCauley, Rico, David "Sticks" Seate, Philissa Marable, Jackie "Yellow Girl" Wilson, and Keith "Klutch" Palmer Who delivered 9 turkeys, 6 hams along with 4 turkey baskets kits, which included all the fixings to feed over 50 people.

The Veterans Day Parade this year was another success. Events: Riders Christmas Party is on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 6 pm.

The riders will be riding the last week of January or the first weekend in February to deliver the Valentines Day Cards to the Post Office in Valentines Virginia.

Valentine's Day drop box will be set out in the social quarters. To mail the Valentines Day cards and envelopes \$1 and large cards \$2.

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

ATHLETIC OFFICER: No input. ...For God and country, Jeff Evans

SQUADRON COMMANDER: Volunteerism is a core strength and defining value for Squadron 327, and those who want to be taken seriously are encouraged to get seriously involved. There is never a shortage of ways to plug in at the 327. November offered several standout opportunities, beginning

with the Fall Conference in Williamsburg—an event worth attending at least once for the inspiration it provides. For those who prefer to roll up their sleeves, there were the Grand Illumination Parade float work parties and the Clubroom's holiday decorating and redecorating. Members who thrive on connecting with others supported the Ballentine Vets Lunch and helped serve at the Thanksgiving Dinner. With that kind of momentum behind us, the real question is: How will you show up and get involved in December? For God and Country, Alan J. "AJ" Cole, Squadron 327 Commander.

ALA PRESIDENT: We are well into the Holiday Season, and the ALA is very busy! I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving!

First, the ALA would like to thank our Clubroom Manager and ALA member Angie for her wonderful lasagna, all the volunteers that helped with the meal, serving, cleanup, and all that ordered this wonderful dinner! It was another great sell out success!

Next, we would like to thank all who donated items for our Post 327 members that is deployed. We have sent off 6 USPS Large Flat rate boxes filled with all the wonderful goodies donated by our members along with Christmas cards signed by ALA members. Thanks go to all that helped the ALA support one of 327's own, with goodies for him to share with his shipmates. Now another big Thank you goes out to all that helped set up the Christmas tree in the Clubroom and hang the Angel gift cards! It was great to see all the Legion Family helping with this event!

Speaking of the Angel Tree, this year we are once again working with the VA Hospital in Hampton and there is a total of 112 Angel tags for the children of the veterans in the homeless veteran's program. With 112 tags, we need all the legion family to help us fill those requests on the tags. When you take a tag (or two), please be sure to sign out the tag on the list on the podium next to the tree. The gifts with the tags are due back to the Post no later than December 13th.

December 13th at 10am The ALA will be out at Forest Lawn Cemetery on Granby Street for Wreaths Across America to attend the ceremony at 10am and will be volunteering to place wreaths after the ceremony. The ALA was able to sponsor 25 wreaths for this event. If you're able, please come out and support this important event. If you have ALA or Post 327 branded apparel, please wear it out and let's show our community we are there with them!

December 17th the VAMC Hampton Representatives will be picking up all the Angel Tree Gifts from 10-12. Volunteers would appreciate at 9am to get the gifts sorted by each representative to make a smooth pickup for them.

December 21st at 10am to 12 noon we are having "Brunch with Santa" with a special gift from Santa and pictures with Santa will be taken. You must sign up your child/grandchild for

this event and the last day to sign up is December 13th. This is open to children 12 and younger and an adult must stay with the child for this event. There will be pancakes and sausage (thanks to our great breakfast crew!) and juice/water. This promises to be a great event this year. The sign-up sheet is on the meeting hall door in the vestibule. This is open to the first 40 children, and we will be opening this up to our local community children as well, so please be sure to sign up for your little ones as soon as possible. We will need the child's name, age, boy/girl, parent/guardian name and phone/email. We will need volunteers to help make this a success!

Dates to Remember:

December 2nd - Regular ALA meeting at 7pm, executive board meeting at 6:30.

December 13th - 10am – Wreaths Across America - the ALA will be out at Forest Lawn Cemetery

December 13th – All Angel Tree gifts are due to be returned to the Post

December 13th – Last day to sign up for Brunch with Santa

December 14th - Sort Angel Tree Gifts – 10am to 1pm in the meeting hall

December 17th – 10am-12 noon – VAMC Hampton Angel Tree Gift pickup.

December 21st at 10am to 12 noon – Brunch with Santa – Volunteers needed!

For God and Country, Crystal Cross

HONOR GUARDS CORNER: In November, we celebrated Veterans Day with the Honor Guard participating in events to honor both living and deceased veterans. We supported our community and fellow veterans at several other events.

Congratulations to Ashley on her retirement. Thank you for your service — from the members of the Honor Guard. On December 13, various veteran and community groups will come together for Wreaths Across America at local cemeteries. The U.S. Space Force, which was established on December 20, 2019, is celebrating its sixth birthday. Its motto is "Semper Supra," which means "Always Above." The Honor Guard wishes you a holiday season full of love, laughter, and lasting memories! For God and Country, Mary Taggart

CLUBROOM MANAGER: Due to Metronet going offline December 5 from 1am - 7am. This will interfere with the ATM and Credit Card Machine. Suggestion is: members close all credit card transactions by 12:30am so there are no interruptions when closing out tabs and make withdrawals from the ATM Machine by 12:45am Friday morning. Credit card machines are the only thing hooked up to the internet. The server will operate the POS System and the E-Machines. A reminder for ALL Members, if you haven't already, please pay the 2026 membership dues by December 31, 2025. For God and Country Clubroom manager, Angie Hernandez

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