



# The Légionnaire

Tidewater Post 327

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FEBRUARY 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

**COMMANDER:** Fellow Legionnaires and Friends,  
As we step into February, I want to thank each of you for the energy and commitment you continue to bring to American Legion Post 327. The colder months haven't slowed us down one bit, and there's a lot happening around the Post. We hope you like the format of our new newsletter. The old way has fallen victim to technology and obsolescence. Bear with us as we refine it for a better experience. We have many social events coming up, providing great opportunities to connect, relax, and enjoy the camaraderie that makes our Post special. Be sure to check the calendar and join us—whether it's a gathering with friends or celebrating Valentine's Day with your special someone, there will be plenty of chances to enjoy good company and good times.

You'll also notice ongoing upgrades and upkeep around the Post. These improvements don't happen by accident. They are the direct result of dedicated members and volunteers who generously give their time and talents. To all of our volunteers—thank you. Your hard work keeps Post 327

moving forward and makes it a place we're proud to call home.

Finally, a reminder that Post elections are right around the corner. If you've ever thought about stepping up and making a difference, now is the time. Serving in a leadership position is a rewarding way to give back to the Post, support our veterans, and help shape our future. I encourage anyone interested to consider running for a position. Thank you for all you do for Post 327. I look forward to seeing you at the Post and at our upcoming events. For God and Country, Derrick "DJ" Johnson, Post Commander

**FIRST VICE COMMANDER:** We are currently near 85% of our goal for this year. BUT we still have over 250 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 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:** Greetings, Post 327 Family! As your newly appointed 2nd Vice Commander, I am honored to step into this role and keep the momentum going at our Post. My goal is to ensure our calendar stays packed with great food, better music, and the kind of camaraderie that makes Post 327 the best place to be. February is looking like a powerhouse month, and I hope to see every one of you through those doors. Here is what we have lined up:

 **ALA Chili Cook-Off | Feb 7**

Think your recipe has what it takes, or just want to be the judge? Join the American Legion Auxiliary for the annual Chili Cook-Off. It's the perfect way to warm up before the big weekend.

 **The Big Game (Super Bowl Sunday) | Feb 8**

Don't watch the game alone on your couch! Come down to the Post to catch every play of Super Bowl LX on our screens. Great company, cold drinks, and football—what more do you need?

 **Valentine's Day Dinner | Tentative**

We are currently finalizing the details for our Valentine's Day Dinner. Whether you're bringing a sweetheart or just looking for a fantastic meal, stay tuned for the menu.

 **February Live Music Lineup**

We're bringing the heat to the stage every Saturday night this month. Dust off your dancing shoes for:

Feb 21: Bad Habit

Feb 28: Foxglove

I'm looking forward to meeting more of you in the coming weeks. If you have suggestions for future events or entertainment, my door is always open. Let's make February a month to remember at Post 327!

For God and Country, Keith Shanesy

**THIRD VICE COMMANDER:** Greetings Post family! The holidays are behind us now and we are gearing up to some positive changes to our clubroom. We will be getting new furniture in the near future to upgrade the aesthetic of our social quarters. We will also hold a field day Feb 28th from 9am to noon for some needed repairs and clean up. Any volunteers are much appreciated.  
For God and Country, Rob Sullinger

**SERVICE OFFICER:** 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:** Greetings Legion Family! As always, I want to start with a reminder for our Buddy Checks. I can't stress the importance of these quick contacts to show our brothers and sisters that we see them, we are thinking of them, and we are there for them. The small act of a call, text, or visit could save someone's life.

I also want to remind you of the opportunities are open to all of our American Legion family members in my quest to make our Post a mental health resource center:

NSU Research Study on the Impact of military service on African American intimate relationships - \$25 gift card for Focus Group participation

NSU Grant with Department of Veterans Services Veteran Engagement Program – 2 free monthly online individual therapy sessions, 1 free monthly in person group therapy session to assist with anxiety, depression, relapse prevention of Veterans and Military Family Members

Bulletproof Marriage Workshop – 2/8, 2/15, 2/22 at OV Church from 12-1:30pm to assist with relationship stressors and strengthen marriages

For more information about any of these events, please feel free to contact me [chaplain327@gmail.com](mailto:chaplain327@gmail.com) or visit the website for my nonprofit, Forward March: [www.forward-march-inc.org](http://www.forward-march-inc.org).

And last, if you have any ideas or recommendations of how I can best help our Post, please let me know. For God and Country Desh Nendze

**LEGION RIDERS:** Chapter 327 Riders and Supporters would like to say Happy Valentines Day to all the Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion. On Saturday, Feb 7, 2025, Chapter 327 riders Valentines Day ride to deliver Valentines Day Cards to the Post Office in Valentines, VA. It was another successful ride and fellowship with several other riders' chapters from across Virginia.

Upcoming events:

\*\*Norfolk St Patrick's Day Parade will be held Saturday, March 14, 2026. Riders' uniform dark pants, white shirt and riders Vest, Kick Stands Up 8:15 am.

\*\*American Legion Riders Post 280 4th Annual Fund-Raising Golf tournament date May 8, 2026 (8 AM registration, 9 AM start) location: Sewells Point Golf Course 660 Ruthven Rd. Norfolk, VA, 23505.

**\*\*The 9th Annual Virginia Legacy Run** will be held in Colonial Beach, Virginia from 18–20 June 2026. In support of the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation. Which provides support for Service Officers, Disable Veterans and Families in Crisis – Support your local American Legion Riders in their efforts, while riding for the Kids!

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 Palmer, Riders Director.

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

**SQUADRON COMMANDER:** New Year, New You? Turn intent into action! Step up and support Squadron 327 this year - attend the monthly meetings, volunteer to support Tidewater Post 327/Squadron/ALA/ Riders events. "“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” - Aesop For God and Country, Alan J. “AJ” Cole, Sr.

**ALA PRESIDENT:** Thank you to our amazing volunteers from the ALA and Post, and to all our Post family who supported the ALA Brunswick Stew fundraiser dinner. Your help and attendance made it a great success!

We hope you'll join us again on February 20 for our next fundraiser dinner featuring spaghetti, Caesar salad, garlic bread, and dessert.

Before that, don't miss the ALA Annual Chili Cookoff and Bake Sale on February 7. Chili entries and baked goods must be dropped off by 11 a.m., with tasting from noon–4 p.m. Winners will be announced shortly after, with ribbons awarded for 1st–3rd place, and the first-place winner's name added to the Chili Cookoff plaque. Enjoy all-you-can-taste chili for \$5, baked goods sold individually, and a raffle during the event. We also welcome donations of baked goods—bring your best chili or just come enjoy the fun! On February 8, from 12–2 p.m., we'll hold our first ALA Juniors meeting of the year. The younger Sons of the American Legion are welcome to participate. The Juniors will be making Valentine's cards for Veterans at VAMC Hampton (to be delivered by our American Legion Riders) and decorating cookies as a treat.

Sign-up sheets for the Chili Cookoff, Bake Sale, and Juniors meeting are available in the Post vestibule. If you're unable to visit the Post, please email [talaunit327@yahoo.com](mailto:talaunit327@yahoo.com) to sign up.

We also hope to see our ALA members at our monthly meeting on February 3 at 7 p.m., featuring a visit from the Post 327 Chaplain and a research student presentation. For God and Country, Crystal Cross

**HONOR GUARDS CORNER:** Hello Legion Family—February is Americanism Month, a time when The American Legion celebrates American values. Every year, posts across the country hold special memorials to remember four brave chaplains and young soldiers who tragically lost their lives on February 3, 1943, when their ship, the Dorchester, sank in the freezing waters of the North Atlantic. Imagine being on a ship in icy seas during World War II, facing danger at every turn. The four chaplains on board did something extraordinary: they gave up their own life jackets to save others. Their selfless acts of bravery have made them legends, and their story reminds us of the incredible courage people can show even in the toughest times. This day is a chance to remember and honor those heroes who showed what true bravery and sacrifice look like.

The Honor Guard would like to wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day! Please contact Otha Newton with any questions, interest in joining, or requests for our services.

The Second District Honor Guard is currently in need of dedicated volunteers to help carry out one of our most important missions—honoring our fallen veterans. The Honor Guard plays a vital role in providing funeral honors, ceremonial details, and a dignified final salute for those who served our nation. As requests continue to grow, additional volunteers are essential to ensure every veteran receives the respect they have earned. If you are able to assist, your time and service will make a meaningful difference to our veterans' families and our community. For God and Country, Mary Taggart

**CLUBROOM MANAGER:** Happy Valentine's Day everyone, we made it through a cold January.

A friendly reminder, all locker dues should've been paid by January 31, 2026. Starting February 1, 2026, we will check to see who has and haven't paid their locker dues. Those who haven't paid, their items will be removed, and stored for two weeks, and disposed of afterwards.

Please make sure you always have your membership card with you when entering the post.

For anyone who is interested, we have a lot happening here at the post this month and always need volunteers to help.

We have three bands for your entertainment. We have our very own Vinnie Conti's band Bad Habit, and Foxglove.

Come on and enjoy family and friends here at Post 327.

See you soon.

For God and Country, Clubroom Manager, Angie Hernandez

# FEBRUARY 2026

AMERICAN LEGION CALANDAR Holidays in United States

Feb 2026 (Eastern Time - New York

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1pm - Bowling @ JEB 1pm - Four Chaplain	2 7:30pm - Post 5 Mtg @	3 6:30pm - ALA Exec M 7pm - ALA Reg M	4 7pm - 40/8 Mtg @ 7:30pm - Darts @ Club	5	6 5:15pm - Q of H @ 6pm - SONS DINNER	7 11am - ALA Chili 7:30pm - AJ the KJ
8 9am - Breakfast 12pm - ALA JUNIORS 1pm - Bowling @ JEB 6pm - Big Game Party	9	10 6:30pm - AMLG Ex M 7:30pm - AMLG Reg M	11 7:30pm - Darts @ Club	12 6:30pm - CIVIC	13 5:15pm - Q of H @	14 Valentine's Day 8am - RASON WFD @
15 9am - Breakfast 1pm - Bowling @ JEB	16 Presidents' Day 7pm - Honor Guard	17 7pm - SAL Exec M @ 7:30pm - SAL Reg M	18 6:30pm - VVA Ch 48 7:30pm - Darts @ Club	19 6:30pm - ALR Mtg @	20 5:15pm - Q of H @ 5:30pm - ALA DINNER	21 11:15am - USSVI MTG 7:30pm - VINNIE
22 VINNIE CONTE'S BAD 9am - Breakfast 1pm - Bowling @ JEB	23 6pm - RASON Mtg @	24	25 6:30pm - 757NSAG 7:30pm - Darts @ Club	26	27 Dept Spring Conf @ Renaissance Portsmouth- 5:15pm - Q of H @	28 7:30pm - FOXGLOVE @



TO VIEW OUR CALENDAR  
ON-LINE SCAN QR CODE  
WITH YOUR CAMERA OR  
GO TO  
**TIDEWATERPOST327.ORG**

