



The Légionnaire

Tidewater Post 327

705 Lesner Avenue

Norfolk, VA 23518

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JANUARY 2025

POST OFFICERS

Commander: (DJ) Derrick Johnson
1st VCDR: Byron Pianalto
2nd VCDR: Linda Blaker
3rd VCDR: Rob Sullinger
Adjutant: Gary Flaskegaard
Finance: David Seate
Service Officer: Bob DeChamplain
Chaplain: Evan Glendinning
Sgt-at-Arms: Sean McDonnell
Historian: Paulmichael Youngmills

Exec Board

Tim Gonyea
Janet Sullinger
Brian Blaker

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: TBD

Exec Board

Al R. Gnome

SAL SQUADRON

CDR: David Vernon (Benski)
1st VCDR: Evan Glendinning
2nd VCDR David Twitty
Adjutant: James Doty Jr
Treasurer: Jeff Evans
Chaplain: Rocky English / Frank White
1st Sgt-at-Arms: Gary Stull
Historian: TBD

Exec Board

Steve Gower
Milo Cross
Kenneth O'Bryan

AUXILIARY

President: Philissa Marable
Vice President: Carla Sherrill
Secretary: Charlotte Cole
Treasurer: Martha Martin
Chaplain: Marcia Brothers
Sgt-at-Arms: Sally Newman
Historian: Suzanne Fields

Exec Board

Crystal Cross
Helen Lynum
Jeanne Hartman

COMMANDER: Happy New Year, American Legion Family and friends of Post 327! As we step into 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible year we had in 2024 and look ahead to the bright opportunities awaiting us in the coming months. First, let me thank each of you for your unwavering dedication to our Post, our veterans, and our community. This past year was nothing short of remarkable. From the super fun City of Norfolk's St Patrick's Day Parade, our heartfelt Memorial Day ceremony and picnic to the lively Fourth of July event and from hosting Sunday breakfasts to our first ever Disaster Preparedness Carnival, your support and participation have made all the difference. Together, we made sure that no veteran felt forgotten, and no cause went unheard.

2024 also brought growth to our Post. We welcomed new members, strengthened partnerships with local organizations, and expanded our outreach programs. We even made record charitable contributions to our local community and First Responders at the tune of over \$250,000. But as proud as I am of what we've accomplished, I'm even more excited for what's ahead in 2025. This year, we'll be launching new initiatives to support mental health and career transitions for veterans, expanding our youth mentorship programs, and increasing

opportunities for camaraderie within our Post. We'll also be making some much needed upgrades and additions. Mark your calendars now for our January meeting and upcoming events. Your ideas, energy, and commitment are what keep this Post thriving. Let's make 2025 a year to remember, one where we continue to honor the past, serve the present, and inspire the future. Thank you for all you do to make Post 327 a beacon of hope and community. Here's to another outstanding year! For God and Country, Derrick "DJ" Johnson

FIRST VICE COMMANDER: We still have over 350 Members that have not renewed for 2025. If your Membership card still has 2024, it will expire on Dec 31st and your key fob will no longer allow access after midnight on the 31st. The Post has added a new method of paying your dues, if you have Zelle thru your bank or the app on your phone, you can come to the office and pay, or you may 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: Happy New Year 2025!! We have a few new events we are trying out this year. CHKD Thrift Store Fashion Show! Saturday 25 January at 7:30 in the clubroom. 2 Categories: Serious Fashion & Funny Fashion! All outer garments must be purchased at a CHKD thrift store. Your shoes and undergarments can be your own personally owned items! Prizes are awarded for winners of each category. On 17 January @ 7:30 Magnetic Chess tournament is back!! \$5.00 entry fee with cash prizes given for the top 3 winners! Variety Trivia is on 31 January @ 7:30 in the clubroom. The topics are 70's Music, 80's TV, 90's Sports and World Events in the 2000's Cash prize for first place team. Another new this year is Bar Bingo! Free for all who wish to play on 6 January starting at 7:30! Gift card prizes will be awarded to all round winners! There will be a Jenga tournament on Friday 24 January starting at 7:30 in the clubroom. \$5.00 entry fee and cash prizes given away to the top 3 winners! For God and Country, Linda P. Blaker

THIRD VICE COMMANDER: Now that the Holiday season is behind us, there's a lot of work happening at our Post. First off, the initial 4 days shut down has been changed. The scope of work needed wasn't as extensive after going through another contractor. We will now be shut down on January 13th and 14th. During that time, we will also be conducting some general house cleaning and completing some other projects inside the Post in order to take full advantage of being shut down. These changes are for the betterment and continued operations of our facility. The electrical work for the sign out front has been completed, and we are hopeful the installation of the new sign will be completed in the month of January. If you have come into the Post recently, you may have noticed our new welcome sign in the foyer. A big "THANK YOU" to Ed Lemond for making such a wonderful entry focal point for our Post. For God and Country, Rob Sullinger 3rd Vice

ADJUTANT: Be the One ... Be pro-active and checkup on Vets your friends and neighbors you have not heard from. I hope all of you had a Wonderful Christmas. We want to send out an update of the closing dates in January for the electrical work for the post. We will close January 13th and the 14th 2025. If anyone would like to volunteer to help with field day on January 14th? Please reach out to the 2nd Vice Linda Blaker, 3rd Vice Rob Sullinger, or members of the post committee for any questions you may have. All help is really appreciated. For God and Country Gary Flaskegaard.

SERVICE OFFICER: VA Statement, More service members eligible for benefits after VA amends character of discharge barriers, VA is implementing a new regulation regarding character of discharge determinations, allowing more former service members to become eligible for VA benefits, regardless of their military discharge. Generally, to receive VA benefits and services, the Veteran's character of discharge or service must be

under other than dishonorable conditions (e.g., honorable, under honorable conditions, general). However, individuals receiving undesirable, bad conduct, and other than honorable discharges may qualify for VA benefits depending on a determination made by the VA. We issued a final rule amending our regulations regarding character of discharge determinations, expanding access to VA care and benefits for some former service members discharged under other than honorable conditions or by special court-martial. The final rule is effective as of June 25, 2024. The new regulation expands access to care and benefits for certain former service members by: Eliminating the regulatory bar for "homosexual acts involving aggravating circumstances or other factors affecting the performance of duty" as a bar to benefits. Creating a "compelling circumstances exception" for certain former service members. Opening the door for previously denied service members to reapply for benefits. Our character of discharge determination does not change the Armed Forces' characterization of service and has no effect on the former Service member's military discharge status. Our determination is for VA benefits and services eligibility purposes only. We encourage former service members with other than honorable and bad conduct discharges to apply for VA care and benefits today. We will carefully consider the circumstances of your discharge and determine if you are eligible.

Winter is around the corner, prepare for higher heating bills now. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally- and state-funded energy assistance program that helps income-eligible families pay their energy bills. Enrollment for those needing assistance with heating expenses is open now through Friday, Nov. 8. 2-1-1 Virginia 2-1-1 Virginia connects individuals or families in need to important community resources like emergency shelter, food, clothing, or financial assistance. Connect by dialing 2-1-1 or visiting 211virginia.org. Our Energy Share Program, funded by our employees and customers and administered by The Salvation Army, offers bill payment assistance to income-eligible customers, including seniors and veterans. Call your local Salvation Army to make an appointment (no walks-in, please) to check your eligibility for financial assistance. South Hampton Roads – 757.543.8100 Suffolk – 757.539.5201 Peninsula – 757.838.4875 Williamsburg – 757.229.6651 Crisis Assistance is intended for emergencies only and helps eligible households when fuel assistance or other resources don't meet their needs. To apply for Crisis Assistance or for more information, visit the Virginia Department of Social Services website. Please note, that you may need to be interviewed by a social services eligibility worker, depending on the type of assistance requested. Contact your Department of Social Services for more information. I want to thank all the service officers for the hard work they do. Post Service Officers are available Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 1000-1500. Closed holidays. For God and Country, Bob DeChamplain

CHAPLAIN: Help Us Support Our Sick and Shut-Ins We now have an easy way to notify the Post about members who are sick or shut-in and may need a visit or support. Simply send the

complete information to CHAPLAIN@LEGION327.COM or you can call (757) 585-4139 and leave a detailed voicemail for the team. If you'd like to be part of this important mission—volunteering to make visits, gather information, or provide assistance—please see the Chaplain or the Adjutant. Together, we can ensure that our Legion family knows they are never alone. For God and Country, Evan Glendinning

LEGION RIDERS: Happy New Year's from Chapter 327 American Legion Riders and Supporters!!! We hope everyone had a blessed holiday season with family and friends. Thank you, the Riders for your support and safe delivery of \$1,500 dollars gift cards food vouchers that blessed two veteran's families and four local community less fortunate families during the holiday season. The Riders enjoyed their annual Christmas Party and the White Elephant gift exchange as we close out another successful and safe year. The Valentines Day Box is behind the bar in the Social Room. Upcoming Event: Saturday, February 1, 2024 (February 7TH (rain date) Our Annual ride to Post Office in Valentines, Virginia. 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: Greetings to all, NFL playoffs are coming soon. As the NFL is chasing \$, not all games are free to watch. However one can come to our post and enjoy the games with friends. Be safe as you travel about. Till next month...For God and country, Jeff Evans, A. O

SQUADRON COMMANDER: Greetings to the American Legion Family & Friends. I hope everyone enjoyed a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year's. The holidays are over and as we start a new year, we are bringing back the kids cooking class monthly. This month the kids cooking class will be on the 18th of January from 1pm to 3pm. We will be making brownies, and we will also have hot dogs, chips, and drinks for a snack for the kids. We hope you bring your children for this fun time of learning and fellowship at your family post 327!

We still have a box in the clubroom by the Christmas tree, that will be moved to the foyer when tree is taken down, available for donation of scarves, winter gloves, beanies or wool hats, and handwarmers and any other essential items like toothbrushes or toiletries. February 2nd Sunday at 1pm, they will be put into bags with MRE's and other necessities to be given out to the homeless and veterans that might need them for the cold winter months. We thank you for your support and donations to these activities and helping out others in need in our community.

As always, please remember those that are ill or going through rough times. Please keep them in your thoughts. In these times we also remember our troops deployed and their families. I hope we can continue to grow our Legion Family to new heights. As we strive to come closer together in support of one another through camaraderie and consideration.

For God and Country, Squadron Commander David "Benski" Vernon

VAVS/CDCE: No entry

ALA PRESIDENT: Happy New Year to everyone.

A heartfelt thank you and a huge hug goes out to all the individuals who donated to the Angel Tree. Your generosity and kindness made this event a huge success by providing 76 children of veterans with a joyous holiday experience. A big thank you to the volunteers who filled stockings and separated the gifts by families for pick up. We have much work to do as we start the new year. I hope to see you at the meeting on the 7th. For God and Country, Philissa Marable

HONOR GUARDS CORNER: The Honor Guard has been busy helping the American Legion, our community, veterans, and their families this year. In 2024, we took part in parades for Veterans Day, Driver Day, St. Patrick's Day, and Memorial Day. We also presented the colors at many community events, like the Breast Cancer Walk at Mt. Trashmore and Wreaths Across America at St. Mary's Cemetery. We participated in the Second District meetings and the annual prayer breakfast. Moreover, we honored many veterans during burials and helped two churches recognize their veterans. This year, we kept our tradition of supporting the 327 Angel Tree. To start the new year, the Honor Guard will have a dance on January 18th. If you want to buy tickets, please reach out to any Honor Guard member. Thank you for your continued support! Happy New Year! For God and Country Mary Taggart

CLUBROOM: Good afternoon, everyone! For HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!!!! I hope everyone had a VERY JOYOUS AND SPECIAL HOLIDAYS with Great Friends and Family. May 2025 bring all of you a Fun & Prosperous New Year!! We look forward to bringing in 2025 with all of you Wonderful People. Just a Friendly Reminder, ALL LOCKER FEES are to be paid by January 31, 2025. Locker fees are \$10.00. God and Country, Clubroom manager, Angie Hernandez

January 2025



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



DEC-2024
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31 1 2 3 4

FEB-2025
S M T W T F S
26 27 28 29 30 31 1
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 1

Sun 29	Mon 30	Tue 31	Wed 1	Thu 2	Fri 3	Sat 4
9:00 AM BreakFast 1:00 PM Legion Bowling 4:00 PM KITCHEN OPENS	7:00 PM ALA Regular Mtg 7:00 PM Post 5 Legion Meeting	J.J COMPOS KJ/JJ 7:00 PM New Year's Eve	7:00 PM 40/8 Promenade @ Post 327 Canded		2:00 PM YOGA Donation 5:30 PM KITCHEN MENU/ SPECIAL	7:30 PM AJ DJ/KJ
5 9:00 AM BreakFast 1:00 PM Legion Bowling 4:00 PM KITCHEN OPENS	6 7:30 PM Bar Bingo! 7:30 PM Post 5 Legion Meeting	7 7:00 PM ALA Regular Mtg	8	9 6:30 PM CROSSROAD CIVIC LEAGUE	10 5:30 PM KITCHEN MENU/ SPECIAL	11 7:30 PM J.J. CAMPOS DJ/KJ
12 9:00 AM BreakFast 1:00 PM Legion Bowling 4:00 PM KITCHEN OPENS	13 7:30 PM SONS REGULAR MEETING	14 6:30 PM POST 327 EXECUTIVE MEETING 7:30 PM POST REGULAR MTG	15 6:30 PM VVA CHAPTER 48 Reg Board Meeting 7:30 PM Legion Darts	16 6:30 PM LEGION RIDERS MTG	17 2:00 PM YOGA Donation 5:30 PM KITCHEN MENU/ SPECIAL 7:30 PM Magnetic Chess tournament	18 7:30 PM AJ DJ/KJ 8:00 PM HONOR GUARD FUNDRAISER DANCE
19 9:00 AM BreakFast 1:00 PM Legion Bowling 4:00 PM KITCHEN OPENS	20 7:00 PM Honor Guard Meeting	21	22 7:30 PM Legion Darts	23	24 2:00 PM YOGA Donation 5:30 PM KITCHEN MENU/ SPECIAL 7:30 PM Jenga tournament	25 9:00 AM 40/8 MEETING & BANQUET 7:30 PM J.J COMPOS DJ/KJ 7:30 PM CHKD Thrift Store Fashion Show!
26 9:00 AM BreakFast 1:00 PM Legion Bowling 4:00 PM KITCHEN OPENS	27	28 8:00 PM LAW & ORDER	29 7:30 PM Legion Darts	30	31 2:00 PM YOGA Donation 5:30 PM KITCHEN MENU/ SPECIAL 7:30 PM Variety Trivia	1 8:00 AM ORATORICAL COMPETITION POST 280 7:30 PM AJ DJ/KJ