



# The Legionnaire

## Tidewater Post 327

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Norfolk, VA 23518

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JUNE 2024

### POST OFFICERS

Commander: Roger Kelly  
1<sup>st</sup> VCDR: Byron Pianalto  
2<sup>nd</sup> VCDR: Linda P. Blaker  
3<sup>rd</sup> VCDR: (DJ) Derrick Johnson  
Adjutant: Evan Glendinning  
Finance: David Seate  
Service Officer: Bob DeChamplain  
Chaplain: Keith Palmer  
Sgt-at-Arms: Michael Encalade  
Historian: Paulmichael Youngmills

### Exec Board

Tim Gonyea  
Michael McCann  
Bryan Blaker

### LEGION RIDERS

Director: Keith Palmer  
Asst Dir: (DJ) Derrick Johnson  
Secretary: Jackie Wilson  
Treasurer: David Seate  
Safety Officer: Keith McCauley  
Chaplain: Mike Moranha  
Sgt-at-Arms: Dennis Rosario  
Road Captain: TBD

### Exec Board

Al R. Gnome

### SAL SQUADRON

CDR: Fred Vaccarella  
1<sup>st</sup> VCDR: Wayne Turner  
2<sup>nd</sup> VCDR David "Benski" Vernon  
Adjutant: James Doty Jr  
Treasurer: Jeff Evans  
Chaplain: Rocky English / Frank White  
1<sup>st</sup> Sgt-at-Arms: Gary Stull  
Historian: Evan Glendinning

### Exec Board

Steve Gower  
Milo Cross  
Kenneth O'Bryan

### AUXILIARY

President: Kathy Morrison  
Vice President: Helen Lynum  
Secretary: Angie Hernandez  
Treasurer: Martha Martin  
Chaplain: Marcia Brothers  
Sgt-at-Arms: Patty Hibner  
Historian: Teresa Clay

### Exec Board

Mary Taggart  
Laquetta Joe  
Jeanne Hartman

**COMMANDER:** Greetings one last time Legion Family! First off I want to Congratulate all the newly elected board members! I would like to personally congratulate our new Commander Derrick "DJ" Johnson! I know he will do an outstanding job representing the Post and leading us into the future. My deepest Congratulations also goes to the new Sons Commander David "Benski" Vernon, the new Auxiliary President Philissa Marable and Riders Director Keith "Clutch" Palmer! It's very encouraging to see so many new faces stepping up across the Legion, Sons' Squadron, and Auxiliary Unit. I'm looking forward to a very eventful '24-'25 Legion year at Tidewater Post 327. I'm reminding the entire Legion Family, but challenging the Legionnaires in particular, to get out and volunteer to support those that have stepped up to lead this year! It is very bittersweet knowing this is my las month as Commander. It has been a very fun, eventful, and challenging at times three years. I wish I could give a shout out to everyone, but there are way too many people to thank by name. But know, that you all have my thanks and admiration, for donating your time and making the legion programs and events for our Post such a success. Thank you to all the Past Commanders from our post, as well as those I've met at the District and Department level that have been

mentors to me. I can't forget those, you know who you are, that stepped up and helped me on a personal level through a very hard time. I want to thank all the Vice Commanders and Executive Board members from the last three years. Thank you to 327s Auxiliary Unit, Sons Squadron, and the ALR for all of their support. Without those strong groups, we are not the successful post we are today. And finally thank you to every member of Post 327's Legion Family. I can't say it enough, Thank you all! It was truly an honor and privilege to represent all of you as your Commander! For God and Country Roger Kelly  
**FIRST VICE COMMANDER:** With new and renewed Members for we have reached our goal of 1042 Members for 2024, We still have many Members who have not renewed. You are now able to renew online for 3 years, if you renew before 1 July you can renew at the current rate of \$40 before the dues go up to \$50.00 on 1 July 2024 for the 2025 Membership year. If you don't want to do the 3 year renewal online you may come into the Post Office and pay for the 3 years I will do the renewal for you. Remember this needs to be done **before** July 1st. This is for Post Members only. **Remember anytime you are at the Post you are required to have your Membership card in your possession.** Post, Auxiliary and SAL Members can also use

[legion.org/renew](https://legion.org/renew) to renew your Membership online, there are links for the Auxiliary and Sons on this website. For God and Country, Byron Pianalto

**SECOND VICE COMMANDER:** No input this month. For God and Country, Linda P. Blaker

**THIRD VICE COMMANDER:** I would like to thank everyone who has made my time serving you as Third Vice a success. We still have a lot to do but have made significant strides to bring the vision of the Post Commander to life. As I transition to Post Commander, I am confident that the incoming Third Vice will continue to make Post 327 the Best American Legion Post in Virginia. For God and Country, Derrick Johnson (DJ)

**ADJUTANT:** Hello everyone! This is my final input as adjutant! I will be the Post's Chaplain for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. I am also the 1st Vice Commander for Squadron 327. I'm looking to get a lot of stuff done with my new positions. Even though, I can get a lot of stuff done myself, I will definitely need help throughout the year. You can't win a football game with just one player. So, if you want you be part of my all American, all star team, please let me know! I'm looking forward to be making large strides in making large and meaningful impact within the Post, community and for our veterans! If you have any questions, comments, questions or concerns, feel free to reach out! I do hope all is well! Stay safe! Live long and prosper! Dream big and soar high, For God and Country, Evan Glendinning, Post Adjutant

**SERVICE OFFICER:** During April service officers spoke with 183 veterans, spent 203 hours, and logged 374 miles. 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 & Country, Bob DeChamplain

**CHAPLAIN:** Thank you Post 327, Legionaries, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders for all your continued support over the past couple of years as your Post Chaplain. It has been a great pleasure serving you. May God continue to richly bless you all. Psalm 34: 1-22, For God and Country Keith Palmer.. For God and Country, Keith "Klutch" Palmer

**LEGION RIDERS:** Please welcome John Weiss Chapter 327 newest American Legion Rider and the Riders Supporters Helen Lynum, Philissa Mable, Carla Sherrill and Meesha Billings all joined May 18, 2024, during our monthly meeting.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the new Officers of Chapter 327 American Legion Riders: Director: Keith "Klutch" Palmer, Asst Director: Derrick "DJ" Johnson, Secretary: "Open" Treasurer: David Seate, Sgt at Arms: "Open", Chaplin: Mike "Sailboat" Moranha

Thank all Chapter 327, 280 and 190 riders who participated in the Jake Hardison Challenger Jamboree opening ceremony for over 400 special needs baseball players held at Azalea Ocean League and for allowing the players to take pictures with your motorcycles.

Thank you for your support of Chapter 280, 2nd Annual Poker Run on Saturday, 11 May 2024.

Thank all the Chapter 327, 280 and 190 riders who participated in the Memorial Day Parade, on Monday, Portsmouth Virginia  
Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, 1 June 2024 (Rain Day June 22, 2024) the American Legion Riders Chapter 75, 1st Annual Poker Run. Riders - \$20/passenger \$10 dollars, Registration 09:30am (Free coffee/Breakfast on a Biscuit for each participant!) @ 5849 American Legion Way, Gloucester Virginia 23061.

Chapter 327 ALR Kick Stands Up (KSU) @ 08:50 pm departing Post 327.

- 13 through 15 June 2024 the Virginia Legacy Run for the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation 2024. Thursday June 13th doors open at 3:00 PM to pick up packets, the group Safety Briefing will be at 6:00 PM and Post will have dinner. Friday June 14th line ups will begin at 7:00 am with a briefing at 7:45 and KSU at 8:00 AM. The Post will have a pay as you go breakfast for all to enjoy Friday morning so make sure you take advantage of that. 8:00 am we will take off with Police Escort through town heading up to the Jamestown Ferry via the Colonial Parkway thru historic Williamsburg and the First Settlers Park.

- 22 June, 2024 Poker Run Two Rivers Chapter ALR Post 146, 217 E. City Point Rd., Hopewell, VA, Riders - \$20/passenger \$5 dollars, Registration 09:00am, to benefit the American Legion Legacy Fund. (Buffet breakfast \$10).

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, Our travel men's softball team is rounding into shape. They were recently in Raleigh and came home Atlantic coast champions. Bravo. Our Friday night co-ed team is playing every Friday at northside park. Go cheer them on. I am wrapping up registration for our American legion baseball team. They will start play in early June. We have purchased two ring light attachments for our dart boards. If the big screen is showing a game at night, the ring lights are easy to clip on, plug in and play. Lastly let's talk about yoga. I wouldn't classify this as a sport, but I want this information to get space. Warriors at ease organization trains veterans, service members in yoga, meditation to alleviate military stressors. Classes are Friday at the post from 2-3. It is coordinated by Gary Flaskegaard. Please speak with him at the post. He is your new post Adjutant elect. Till next month...For God and country, Jeff Evans, A. O.

**SQUADRON COMMANDER:** Greetings to the American Legion Family and Friends. Wow, half the year of 2024 is upon us. Summer starts June 20th; kids are out of school.

It is the end of the TAL fiscal year and July is the beginning of the fiscal year. 2025 Membership will be ready for renewals traditionally at the 4th of July picnic.

If you have not renewed your 2024 Membership, please do. Remember that online renewal is available at [legion.org/renew](https://legion.org/renew) which is a very convenient way to handle your membership. The Squadron held elections at the May meeting and here are the results: Commander David "Benski" Vernon, 1st Vice Commander Evan Glendinning, 2nd Vice Commander David Twitty, Adjutant James Doty, Finance Officer Jeff Evans, Historian David Wayne Turner, Sgt-at-Arms Gary Stull, Chaplain

Rocky English, and C0-Chaplain Frank White. Executive Officers will remain the same. The installation of Officers will be at our June meeting, June 10th. Past National Vice Commander Steve Gower will install the officers for 2024-2025.

Congratulations to all the Squadron officers. Congratulations to the Legion, Riders, and Auxiliary Officers as well. I wish each and all nothing but the best success and I feel Post 327 and its surrogate entities will continue all the great accomplishments and programs of that the American Legion espouses.

Gentlemen, we need your help. As of the last membership report we are short only 21 members to attain our goal of 216 members for 2024.

Kenny Parker knocked it out of the park with his Spaghetti Dinner night that we had May 17th. Thank You Kenny Parker and all that helped in the serving and the cleanup to make it a very successful dinner night.

We are very fortunate to have so much culinary experience in our Squadron. We have Chef Benski, Dave Twitty and Kenny Parker and each deliver lip smacking delectable meals.

I am not sure if our incoming Squadron Commander or incoming 2nd Vice will be preparing and serving our next SAL dinner. Our dinner night will be June 21st. The dinner will be a real tummy rewarding repast. It will be Hamburger Steak Dinner, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Veggie, Roll and Dessert.

The Post and Squadron travelled to the OBX on Armed Forces Day to attend the 7th annual ShredFest event. Post Commander Roger Kelly and SAL PNVC Steve Gower presented a combined Post and Squadron check totally \$2500.00 to this community event. The money supports care and treatment for our Veterans suffering from lost limbs and/or PTSD. Also traveling to OBX were PDC John Schenck, and SAL Chaplain Rocky English. Sal members from the Post in Currituck presented colors. This is how 327 rolls!



Remember all our members and families in our communities suffering from medical and/or financial trials. Remember that we lose an average of 22 Veterans per day to suicide. Contact and reach out to those who you have not heard from or seen in a while. It means a lot. I personally know how it feels. May 13th SAL members and others had a food package delivered to me. It was a sanguine moment and quite humbling. I had enough food delivered to feed two fat boys for a week or more. It was an uplifting moment and I had to fight back tears of appreciation. Thank you SALs and all that put this surprise together. Keep Tim Gonyea in your prayers while he is overcoming his battle. Tim is a top shelf guy who came to visit me while starting his own battle with his insidious disease.

Pray for our troops that are deployed and for their families. Our troops are in harm's way.

I have been a member for 17 years. 12 of these years I have had the honor of being your SAL Squadron Commander. This is my last newsletter. I want to thank all of you for your support, love, and encouragement throughout the years. Our Squadron would never have achieved National and State recognition without your support. I feel comfortable and confident that all of you will keep supporting the SAL of 327 in the years to come. WE are Family and we are winners and God Bless the USA!

**VAVS/CDCE:** Support the Hampton VA Needs List. See Evan Glendinning to review the list.

**VE&E:** Support the Hampton VA Needs List. See Evan Glendinning to review the list. For God and Country, Fred Vaccarella

**ALA PRESIDENT:** Congratulations to the newly elected incoming officers. President Philissa Marable, Vice President Carla Sherrill, Treasurer Martha Martin, Secretary Charlotte Cole, Chaplain Marsha Brothers, Sgt. At Arms Sally Newman. Executive Board Crystal Cross, Jean Hartman, and Helen Lynum. There is a volunteer for Historian that will be voted on at the 4 June meeting. Installation of officers will be conducted at the June meeting. Best of luck to all the new officers as you go forward. I would like to thank this year's officers for all their hard work. A special thank you to Jane Evans, Debby Norton and Cathy Conte for always showing up to prepare our Friday night dinners. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers throughout this past year. Our dinner for June will be Bobby Flay BBQ, Keith's famous baked beans, Angie's Potato Salad, coleslaw a roll and dessert.

For God and Country, ALA President Kathy Morrison

**HONOR GUARDS CORNER:** Congratulations go out to the 24-25 Legion family officers! Thank you in advance for all you do this year. Burial honors and assistance with a memorial ceremony to honor their decrease shipmates during a ship's reunion were some of the services we had the honor to provide in May. As we approach June 14th, let us take a moment to celebrate the U.S. Army's 249th birthday, Flag Day, and Pause for the pledge. You may be wondering, what that is? It is the companion day to Flag Day, first observed in 1980 at the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House and Museum by Baltimore businessman Louis V. Koerber, along with a group of fellow businessmen. Later signed into law by President Reagan in 1985 and observed at 7 p.m. Eastern time by saying the Pledge of Allegiance. As school comes to an end, please be mindful of children playing outside. May we all continue to be a positive impact on our community. If you have any requests or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Otha Newton. For God and Country, Mary Taggart

**CLUBROOM MANAGER:** Hello Everyone! Well summer is here even though not officially until June 20th. While we are enjoying our summer fun remember those who are deployed and cannot be with their family and friends. Please remember if you bring a bottle to the Legion it is your responsibility to update it EVERY 90 days. Due to new procedures at shift change there are no sales transactions allowed during this time. Your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated. Have a safe and enjoyable June.

For God and Country, Sandra Wright, Clubroom Manager

# June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<i>1</i> 7:30 PM Dancin' with D.J. the DJ
<i>2</i> 9:00 AM Breakfast	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 7:00 PM ALA Regular Mtg	<i>5</i> 7:00 PM 40/8 Promenade @ Post 327	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">                         6:00 PM 80th                          Anniversary of                          D-Day                     </div> 6:00 PM ALA Dinner - Bobby Flay BBQ	<i>8</i> 7:30 PM Karaoke - Ricky Still
<i>9</i> 9:00 AM Breakfast	<i>10</i> 7:30 PM Son's Regular Mtg	<i>11</i> 6:30 PM Post Executive Mtg 7:30 PM Post Reg Mtg	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> 6:00 PM Dinner - Chicken Teriyaki Pineapple Bowls <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">                         6:00 PM Flag                          Day Ceremony                     </div>	<i>15</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">                         12:00 AM-4:00                          AM CPO                          Carwash /                          Bizarre Bazaar                          &amp; Hot Dog Sale                     </div> 7:30 PM Karaoke - AJ the KJ
<i>16</i> 9:00 AM Breakfast <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">                         HAPPY                          FATHER'S DAY                     </div>	<i>17</i> 7:00 PM Honor Guard Mtg	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> 6:30 PM VVA Chapter 48 Reg Board Mtg	<i>20</i> 6:30 PM Legion Riders Mtg	<i>21</i> 6:00 PM SAL Dinner - Hamburger Steak	<i>22</i> 7:30 PM Karaoke - Ricky Still
<i>23</i> 9:00 AM Breakfast	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">                         7:30 PM                          Installation of                          Post Officers                     </div>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> 6:00 PM Dinner - Angie's Fish Fry <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">                         7:30 PM                          Summer Time                          Trivia                     </div>	<i>29</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">                         11:00 AM                          -5:00 PM Adult                          Travling Soft                          Ball Team --                          Friends &amp;                          Family                          Cookout                     </div> 7:30 PM Karaoke - TBD
<i>30</i> 9:00 AM Breakfast						