



The Légionnaire

Tidewater Post 327

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MARCH 2026

POST OFFICERS

Commander: (DJ) Derrick Johnson
1st VCDR: Byron Pianalto
2nd VCDR: Keith Shanesy
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: Spring 2026 Is Here at Post 327!

Can you believe we're already rolling into March? The calendar may be moving fast, but Post 327 is moving even faster. Here's what's happening this month:

Post Officer Elections – Leadership Starts With You

It's time to look ahead to our 2026–2027 leadership team! Post Officer Elections will take place during our May Post Meeting, and this is your official first notice.

If you've ever thought about serving, now's the time to step forward. Our Post thrives because members like you are willing to lead, support, and serve. Let's build the next chapter of Post 327 together.

Department Conference Highlights

Thank you to everyone who represented us at the Department Conference earlier this season. Your participation keeps Post 327 strong and connected across the state. If you've never attended before, consider making it a goal for next year—any member in good standing can take part, and it's a great way to learn, network, and bring new ideas back home.

St. Patrick's Day Parade – Let's Make Some Noise!

Mark your calendar for March 14th! We're stepping off in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, and this year we're aiming

higher than ever.

Can we get 75 members marching with Post 327? Let's show the community who we are and what we stand for. Bring your energy, your pride, and maybe even a little extra green!

New Events, New Energy

Our leadership team is keeping the momentum going with fresh entertainment and activities throughout the spring. Expect:

- New games and themed nights
- Live bands and local talent
- Raffles and special events
- Member-focused gatherings

There's always something happening at the Post—so stop by and be part of it.

Help Us Keep the Momentum Going

We love hosting great events, but Post 327 runs on member involvement. Here's how you can help:

- Renew your membership early (quick and easy!)
- Volunteer for events and committees
- Show up, participate, and bring a friend

Your engagement makes all the difference.

Let's make March 2026 one to remember. See you at the Post!
For God and Country, Derrick "DJ" Johnson, Commander.

FIRST VICE COMMANDER: Our Post Membership count is just over 950 Members, currently just over 90% 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 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 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: February was definitely a busy month here at the Post. March is shaping up nicely to be just as busy, with many events coming to the Post. The sign-up list is now on the 2nd Vice Commander door for the Oceanview Saint Patrick's Day Parade on March the 14th. There are two lists, one for walkers in the parade and one for those that wish to ride in the float. Please sign up so that we can have a good idea of how many members to have breakfast for that morning. Let's show Oceanview that we are the "Club of Choice" in OV and all of Norfolk! Match the 7th the ever-popular Blue Lords will be live in the Clubroom. On March 13th, Brian Bleakley (previously of the Rhondels) will be live in the Clubroom following the Queen of Hearts. March 14th is the Saint Patrick's Day Parade. We are also having our first UFC Fight Night on the Big screen the evening of 14 March. We will celebrate the 107th Birthday of the American Legion on March 15th. The 21st of March will see the Family Jules live in the Clubroom. March the 27th, following the Queen of Hearts, Borderline Crazy will be playing in the Clubroom. The 28th of March is the return of AJ the KJ for karaoke. As you can see, I am working hard to keep things exciting as the new 2nd Vice Commander. I will also be putting a suggestion box outside of the 2nd Vice door as soon as I can. I welcome and look forward to hearing your suggestions!! For God and country, Keith Shanesy, 2nd Vice Commander.

THIRD VICE COMMANDER: Another month has come and gone, but we have some exciting things happening at Post 327!. Our new bar stools have been ordered and should be in mid April. We will also be updating the table and chairs in the clubroom in the near future. I want to thank all of the volunteers we had in the month of February. You all are what helps keep the clubroom we all enjoy, as well as the Post home, functioning. I would like to remind everyone to be respectful to our volunteers. They are giving up their valuable time to ensure each and every one of our Post 327 members are taken care of and that they care about our Legion. The St. Patrick's Day parade will be held March 14th. We are working on getting our float prepared and decorated, so come join us and ride in the parade! We will announce other volunteer opportunities throughout the month as we prepare for Spring and our yearly outdoor functions. For God and County, Rob Sullinger Third Vice Commander.

ADJUTANT: First 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 or 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: The IBM Skills Build program provides over 1,000 free online courses for beginners and advanced learners to start or boost their careers in fields like data analytics, cybersecurity, AI, cloud computing, and IT support—no prior experience needed. This is free for Veterans, along with their spouses, adult children, and caregivers. Learn more at <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/ibm-skills-build-program>. For God and Country, Bob DeChamplain

CHAPLAIN: Greetings Legion Family! As we near Spring, this is a great time to get out and have lunch or a coffee to connect with our brothers and sisters at arms. This small act can show them 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 that are open to all our American Legion family members in my quest to make our Post a mental health resource center: Last call for the NSU Research Study on the Impact of military service on African American intimate relationships. We are hoping to have the Focus Group toward the end of this month, and each participant will receive a \$25 gift card for participation. Please see me at the Post Meeting to RSVP.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. Please see me at the Post meeting if you have any questions. Heartfelt reminder that we're here for you - please let us know if you or a Legionnaire you know is in need of anything, a check-in, a visit in the hospital or in a rehab center, etc. Know that we lead by example in our "Be the One" mission to take care of those who serve and have served. And last, if you have any ideas or recommendations of how I can best help our Post, please let me know. For more information about anything or if you just need to talk to me, please feel free to contact me chaplain327@gmail.com. For God and Country, Desh Nendze, Chaplain.

LEGION RIDERS: Chapter 327 Riders and Supporters would like to say Happy Saint Patrick's Day to all the Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion. 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.

*On March 21, 2026, the York Town High School car show. Showtime is 10:00 AM and KSU 10:30, Kenny Parker is the road captain for this ride. American Legion Riders Post 280 4 the 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 6:30p.m. Keep both wheels on the ground and be safe, For God and Country. Keith Palmer, Riders Director.

ATHLETIC OFFICER: Greetings to all. It's time to get the ball rolling on spring. Opening day for Ocean View little league is March 21st @ 10 a.m. The honor guard will present colors to start the festivities. Come out and support our challenger baseball team. Lastly, our traveling softball team will play in a tournament March 27th- 29th @ Virginia Beach sports complex. See Facebook for game details. Till next month, For God and country, Jeff Evans, A.O.

SQUADRON COMMANDER: 1st Notice for SAL Officer Elections for the 2026-2027 year, to be held at the May regular meeting. Recommit to what makes Squadron 327 strong – The Ten Ideals. Your participation is essential to keeping our programs alive and meaningful. When each member volunteers their time and energy, we are able to plan, perform, and fund the activities that reflect who we are. We have several exciting opportunities coming up where your help can really make a difference: March with us in the Saint Patrick's Day Parade (3/14), Represent Squadron 327 at the Virginia Tattoo Hullabaloo registration table (4/19), and Support our Spring Car Show fundraiser (4/26). The success of these events shapes what we can achieve next — your involvement matters more than ever. Please watch your text messages or email me directly to sign up or learn more about where you can lend a hand. Together, let's keep the spirit of our Squadron active and visible in the community! For God and Country Alan J. "AJ" Cole, Sr.

HONOR GUARDS CORNER: Hello Legion Family, As we change the clocks on March 8th! February was a proud month for our Honor Guard, participating in the annual District 4 Chaplain remembrance and memorial service, honoring our departed Legionnaires.

In March, we celebrate Women's History Month with the theme "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future." reflecting on the powerful impact of women, including those in our

Legion Family, throughout history.

March 15th marks 107 years of The American Legion's unwavering support for the military community and their families, a legacy built on countless acts of service and dedication. Let's celebrate this incredible milestone together! Don't forget to mark your calendars for National Vietnam **Veterans Day on March 29th, a day to honor** the brave men and women who served during the Vietnam War.

As we honor our history, here's a fun Legion fact: On March 30, 1960, U.S. Highway 281 was officially dedicated as the national "American Legion Memorial Highway," stretching from Canada to Mexico through states like North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. This highway is a tribute to our enduring legacy. For any questions, requests to join, or to schedule our services, please contact Otha Newton. Stay engaged and connected! For God and Country Mary Taggart

ALA PRESIDENT: 1st Notice for ALA Unit Officer Elections for the 2026-2027 year, to be held at the May regular meeting. We will have our nominating committee to be decided at the March meeting. We encourage everyone interested to run for office, All offices are open: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Sgt. At Arms, Historian and 3 Executive Committee members. We have had a lot of wonderful volunteers this year and we hope to have a great participation in the elections this year and grow our ALA Unit with new faces and ideas to continue the momentum in the Unit. Our Facebook page will soon have information on each of the offices and what is involved. If you are interested, please reach out and we will be happy to answer questions and get you on the ballot. February was a busy month that started with our Annual Chili Cook-off. Congratulations to Jane Evans who is this year's winner and has bragging rights until next year. Our Spaghetti dinner was a great success and thanks to Jill Albright for the wonderful sauce! Thanks to everyone who supported the ALA in these fundraiser events! We have tickets for the large, framed Eagle diamond art print at \$5.00 per ticket. Check it out on our Facebook page and at the clubroom during our upcoming ALA events. The winner will be drawn at the Post Memorial Day picnic, and you do not need to be present to win. The ALA March dinner will be homemade Chicken and Dumplings on March 20th and we hope to see you there. For God and Country, Crystal Cross.

CLUBROOM MANAGER: Hello everyone. It sure has been one cold winter. We are almost in Spring. Just a couple of topics I would like to cover. There have been issues with members smoking in the foyer. It happens when members enter and leave the building. This area is a non-smoking area. Please be courteous to others that may be walking in either before you or behind you. Thank all of you for your patience and understanding with the lockers. We are aware of the issues that occurred. St. Paddy's Day Parade is upon us. Come in and enjoy your after party with us. We have St. Paddy's Day T-shirts for sale if anyone is interested. They are sold for \$30.00. Come see the bartender. We have a pre-order form to fill out. They will sell according to where your name is on the list. For God and Country, Angie Hernandez, Clubroom Manger.

MARCH 2026

AMERICAN LEGION CALANDAR Holidays in United States

Mar. 2026 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Dept Spring Conf @ NO Breakfast Today 1pm - Bowling @ JEB 7:30pm - Movie Night -	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 @	7 7pm - Blue Lords (Live)
8 Daylight Saving Time 9am - Breakfast 1pm - Bowling @ JEB 5pm - Flag Retirement 5pm - Karaoke? Yes!	9	10 6:30pm - AMLG Ex M 7:30pm - AMLG Reg M	11	12 6:30pm - CIVIC	13 5:15pm - Q of H @ 8pm - Brian Bleakley	14 Saint Patrick's Day 6pm - UFC Fights
15 AMERICAN LEGION NO Breakfast Today 1pm - Bowling @ JEB 6pm - AMLG Birthday	16 7pm - Honor Guard	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 6:30pm - VVA Ch 48	19 6:30pm - ALR Mtg @	20 5:15pm - Q of H @ 5:30pm - ALA DINNER	21 11:15am - USSVI MTG 7pm - Family Jules
22 9am - Breakfast 1pm - Bowling @ JEB 2pm - ALA JUNIORS @	23 6pm - RASON Mtg @	24	25 6:30pm - 757NSAG ?	26	27 5:15pm - Q of H @ 8pm - Borderline Crazy	28 7:30pm - Karaoke
29 9am - Breakfast 10am - ALA EASTER @ 1pm - Bowling @ JEB	30	31				



TO VIEW OUR CALENDAR
ON-LINE SCAN QR CODE
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TIDEWATERPOST327.ORG

