



# The Légionnaire

Tidewater Post 327

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OCTOBER 2025

## POST OFFICERS

Commander: (DJ) Derrick Johnson  
1<sup>st</sup> VCDR: Byron Pianalto  
2<sup>nd</sup> VCDR: Linda Blaker  
3<sup>rd</sup> VCDR: Rob Sullinger  
Adjutant: Gary Flasekegaard  
Finance: David Seate  
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: TBD

### 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:** Comrades, Family, and Friends,  
As we enter the fall season, I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for making Post 327 visible and viable in our community. Your participation, support, and dedication ensure that our Post continues to live up to the values of the American Legion. Whether it's volunteering, attending events, or simply spreading the word about what we do, you are the reason we continue to grow and thrive. October is always an exciting month, and this year is no different! Be sure to join us for our upcoming Halloween festivities—a great opportunity for fun, fellowship, and community spirit. We encourage everyone to bring family, friends, and especially the little ones to enjoy an evening of safe celebration here at the Post. I am also proud to share that Post 327 had a strong presence at the recent Habitat for Humanity project. Our members showed up, rolled up their sleeves, and made a real difference. This is exactly the kind of outreach that highlights the American Legion's commitment to service not only to veterans but also to our wider community. Looking ahead, I am excited about the many positive changes coming to your American Legion Post 327. These improvements are designed to make our Post stronger, more engaging, and more supportive of our veterans, families, and community

partners. Together, we are building a Post that is not only a place for fellowship but also a cornerstone of service and leadership in Norfolk. Thank you again for your dedication and support. Let's keep moving forward together. For God and Country, DJ Derrick Johnson Commander, American Legion Post 327

**FIRST VICE COMMANDER:** We have started our 2026 renewals at a good pace; we are currently just under 55% of our goal for this year. **We would like to congratulate Member Wayne Haylett (33 Yrs) on winning this year's PUFL drawing.** 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](http://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 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 spooky season Post family! I hope this newsletter finds all of you happy and healthy

and ready to be scared this month. I have made a change to the tournaments. There must be a minimum of 3 people to play in any of the tournaments. The cribbage tournament went so well that AJ is going to host another cribbage tournament on October 10, starting at 8 o'clock. This will be a single elimination cribbage tournament. David Laws will be hosting a Jenga tournament on 17 October, starting at 8 o'clock. I will be hosting a Halloween trivia on Friday 31 October starting at 8! The Post Halloween party is going to be held on Saturday 25 October with special guests Cactus Creek. There will be cash prizes for the best dressed male, female and couple! As always you can only enter one of the categories, so dress up and come on out to have a fun night.

Bar bingo is being moved to Thursday nights! 30 October at 7:30 PM. So come on out for a chance to win a \$25 gift card because of course as always it is free! For God and Country Linda P. Blaker

**THIRD VICE COMMANDER:** Thank you to all the volunteers that came out and helped for field day. I also want to extend a huge appreciation to the Chiefs and Chief Selectees from the USS Eisenhower for their assistance in the Post grounds clean up. We continue to make beautiful upgrades and improve our Post home. Thank you to the Riders and Kenny Parker for the improvements to the POW-MIA table in the foyer, you are all much appreciated. Queen of Hearts continues every Friday in the clubroom from 5:15 PM till 7:15 PM and the drawing promptly at 7:30 PM. We are also offering Sunday football specials in the kitchen starting at 3:00 PM as well as drink specials all day. For God and Country, Rob Sullinger 3rd Vice Commander

**ADJUTANT: Be the One ...** Only 8 more Months and it will be Election of officers. Think about becoming one of the Post Officers. All Positions come up for elections. And several officers have expressed their desire for others to step up. For God and Country Gary Flaskegaard.

**SERVICE OFFICER:** Effective September 30, 2025, and to the extent permitted by law, the Secretary of the Treasury shall cease issuing paper checks for all Federal disbursements, inclusive of intragovernmental payments, benefits payments, vendor payments, and tax refunds, except as specified in section 4 of this order. The Secretary of the Treasury shall support agencies' transition to digital payment methods, including by providing access through the Department of the Treasury's centralized payment systems to:

- (i) direct deposits.
- (ii) debit and credit card payments.
- (iii) digital wallets and real-time payment systems; and
- (iv) Other modern electronic payment options.

Veterans must Transition to electronic payments by September 30, 2025. I want to thank all the service officers for their hard work. **Post Service Officers are available Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 1000-1500. Closed holidays.** For God and Country, Bob DeChamplain

**CHAPLAIN:** Hello Friends! We are officially registered for the American Legion Be the One Training: Saving Lives of Veterans, their Families, and Communities with the Columbia Protocol! The online Zoom training will be held in the Post Hall on Wednesday

29OCT25 from 5:30-7pm. As you all know, as part of The American Legion Be the One mission to end veteran suicide, we have joined forces with Columbia University (Columbia Lighthouse Project) to develop training for those who want to learn more about interacting and responding with veterans who may be in crisis. After the training, participants will be able to use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to determine at-risk individuals, identify risk factors and warning signs, outline the types of suicidal ideation and four behaviors that indicate imminent risk, communicate effectively with an individual who may be at risk of hurting themselves. The American Legion has a goal to have 100,000 trained in suicide prevention by the end of 2025 - let's be a part of that goal! If you have any questions, or to let me know you will be part of this mission, please email me at chaplain327@gmail.com.

For God and Country, Desh Nendze

**LEGION RIDERS:** Let's welcome and congratulate our two newest riders, Jason Cooper and Kevin Williams.

POW/MIA stands for Prisoner of War/Missing in Action and refers to service members who were captured or whose whereabouts remain unknown following a conflict. The term and its associated flag serve as a symbol of the nation's commitment to finding and returning these individuals and to honoring their sacrifices.

Thank you, Patrick "Pat" Carney, for your persistence and being consistent pushing us riders to update the POW/MIA table. It has been over nineteen years

In your push to update the POW/MIA table. The riders thank the Post Commander DJ Derrick Johnson for his understanding and cooperation to allow us to update the POW/MIA table and relocate the leadership picture frame at the entrance on the right-side wall. Thank you, Kenneth Parker and the riders, for their ideas on the POW/MIA table. What an awesome accomplishment on the updated POW/MIA table.

The ALR 15th Annual State Rally Post 53, 22 West 8th Street Front Royal, Va held on 26 through 28 September was truly a success.

Upcoming Events:

On 10-13 October 2025, the rider's safety training while on the road in Luray Virginia. We now have 7 riders confirmed. Please contact the Riders Director or Assistant Riders Director. If you have considered attending by 3 October 2025.

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:** Greetings to all,

Big news first. Congratulations to American Legion post 280 for winning the world series in Shelby, NC. It is most impressive to be #1 out of 3000+ teams across our great nation. Our Friday night co-ed softball team starts play September 5th at Northside Park. The schedule will be posted once received. Till next month. For God and country, Jeff Evans, A. O

**SQUADRON COMMANDER:** Virginia has climbed to 25th place nationally in the latest S.A.L. Membership Report, with Squadron 327 adding four new members in September—great work, team! Let's keep the recruitment momentum going and make sure

renewals roll in strong. October is packed with opportunities to serve and connect: volunteer at the ALA Fish Fry for Hampton VA Hospital Vets on 10/3, attend the monthly meeting on 10/13 to vote on Bylaws changes (plus free pizza), bring the family to Pizza Night on 10/24, age 12 and up \$13 – age 6 to 11 \$7 – age 5 and under free, and join us for “Fish with a Vet” on 10/25 (volunteers get a free pizza lunch!). To top it off, all Squadron 327 members are invited to the next RASON meeting on 10/27—details on our Facebook group. Your participation strengthens our mission and lifts spirits. For God and Country, Alan J. “AJ” Cole, Sr., Squadron 327 Commander

**ALA PRESIDENT:** Welcome to October, we have a busy month ahead! First, I would like to thank all the Legion Family members and ALA members who helped with the beef stroganoff dinner who cooked, served, and bought the dinner which sold out very quickly! I'd also like to thank the 2nd District Honor Guard and the Post Commander for supporting the POW/MIA remembrance on the 19th. The ALA really appreciates all the volunteers who help with these events and love working together with our Legion 327 family!

Friday October 3 is the Fish Fry for both sides scheduled for our VAMC Hospital Veterans in the meeting hall and we will also be serving the same in the clubroom as our fundraiser supporting our Veterans, with the menu consisting of Fried Fish, coleslaw, hush puppies and green beans and dessert. Speaking of dessert, we need donations of desserts for the dinner on both sides. Sugar free desserts are also needed for our veterans, and we know, they like their sweets! Our Veterans from the hospital will be arriving approximately 5pm and we hope to have a large group to welcome them to the Post home to let them know we support them. We need Volunteers for this event and hope our full Legion 327 family will help. We need volunteers starting around 3:30 for set up, serving our veterans just after 5pm, and serving and helping on the clubroom side, and helping support the events for our veterans in the meeting hall with bingo and passing out goodies for those Veterans from the hospital. It's a big event with many volunteers needed for this program!

Tuesday October 7 at 7pm is our ALA meeting. Our focus this month will be our Committee's, ROAR citations, Veterans Day events, and planning our events coming up and before we know it will be December and our Angel Tree event and children's party. The year is moving very fast, and we've got more ahead of us and look forward to your support and participation to bring success to the programs the ALA supports for our veterans, children and community.

Tuesday October 21 will have the Sentara Mammogram Bus at the Post home from 12-6pm. If you haven't had your imaging done recently, please consider signing up and getting this done. This is for all our Legion Family as it's very important for our male family as well. This event is open to the public so please spread the word. Look for a flyer soon and information on our Facebook pages.

Sunday October 26 from 1 to 3pm will be the Trunk or Treat event. We encourage all the Post 327 family to come out and set up to pass our candy for this community event. This is an event that is also open to our community and flyers and Facebook

posts will be out soon to spread the word to our community.

Friday October 31 – Sunday November 2 – ALA Department of Virginia Fall Conference in Williamsburg. Our ALA Department Officers have a great program planned for this fall conference starting with a program put on by Department Leadership on Friday afternoon for all ALA members and continuing with the full ALA program for this year on Saturday and closing on Sunday. We hope to see many members attend the conference!

Food Handlers Card Information. As we have work in the kitchen, you can obtain your food handlers card online and at the Norfolk Public Health Center at 830 Southampton Ave. in Norfolk as they hold classes monthly. The October classes are October 1st and 15th at 2pm with registration beginning 30 minutes before the class and the fee is \$15.00.

Support our Legion 327 Family Fundraisers! As ALA members, let's make sure we support the Legion family with their fundraisers supporting our Legion Family programs. The calendar has all the events that we can support, as the Legion 327 Post Family has been supporting us! For God and Country, Crystal Cross, Unit 327 President

**HONOR GUARDS CORNER:** During September, the Honor Guard supported the Post by honoring our members who have passed away, celebrating the 78th birthday of the Air Force, and remembering our POW/MIA. We are always ready to support our community and Legion Family. We also wish the United States Navy a happy 250th Birthday on October 13th. October 26 is recognized as the National Day of the Deployed. This day began in 2006 thanks to Shelle Michaels Aberle from North Dakota. She was inspired by her cousin, Major David Hosna, who was serving in the military and had a birthday on that date. Aberle wanted to create a special day to honor all military personnel deployed away from home, ensuring they and their families felt appreciated and supported. With support from North Dakota's Governor John Hoeven, the first official proclamation for this day was made in 2006, making North Dakota the first state to recognize it. This grassroots effort helped spread the message of honoring deployed troops across the country. The holiday became nationally recognized when John Hoeven, who was the Governor of North Dakota and later a U.S. Senator, sponsored a resolution in 2011. This resolution was passed unanimously and officially designated October 26th as National Day of the Deployed. If you have any questions or requests, please contact Otha Newton. To close, we share a poem from fellow legionnaire George Cox.

Honor Guard

Thru rain or sleet or heat or snow,  
the American Legion Honor Guard will go.

To perform their duties on command  
in honor of all those who defended this land.

Their gesture of good deeds for the family bereaved  
will bring comfort and closure to what they have achieved.

For God and Country, Mary Taggart

**CLUBROOM:** no entry For God and Country, Clubroom manager, Angie Hernandez

# OCTOBER 2025

AMERICAN LEGION CALANDAR Holidays in United States

Oct 2025 (Eastern Time - New York

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Mon                                                                                                                          | Tue                                                                                                            | Wed                                            | Thu                                             | Fri                                                                                                                                                                             | Sat                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>28</div> <div>  <div>           TO VIEW OUR CALENDAR<br/>ON-LINE SCAN QR CODE<br/>WITH YOUR CAMERA OR<br/>GO TO<br/><b>TIDEWATERPOST327.ORG</b> </div> </div> | <div>29</div>                                                                                                                | <div>30</div> <div>  </div> | <div>1</div> <div>7pm - 40/8 Promenade @</div> | <div>2</div>                                    | <div>3</div> <div>           5:15pm - QUEEN OF<br/>6pm - ALA FISH FRY @         </div>                                                                                          | <div>4</div> <div>           2:30pm - AMERICAN<br/>7:30pm - AJ the KJ @         </div>   |
| <div>5</div> <div>           9am - BreakFast @<br/>1pm - District Fall<br/>1pm - Legion Bowling @         </div>                                                                                                                                      | <div>6</div> <div>7:30pm - Post 5 Legion</div>                                                                               | <div>7</div> <div>7pm - ALA Regular Mtg @</div>                                                                | <div>8</div>                                   | <div>9</div> <div>6:30pm - CROSSROAD</div>      | <div>10</div> <div>           2pm - YOGA Donation @<br/>5:15pm - QUEEN OF<br/>8pm - Cribbage         </div>                                                                     | <div>11</div> <div>           10am - Naval Station<br/>8pm - UP-N-THE-AIR         </div> |
| <div>12</div> <div>           9am - BreakFast @<br/>1pm - Legion Bowling @         </div>                                                                                                                                                             | <div>13</div> <div>           Columbus Day<br/>US NAVY BIRTHDAY's<br/>6pm - US NAVY<br/>7:30pm - SONS REGULAF         </div> | <div>14</div> <div>           6:30pm - POST 327<br/>7:30pm - POST REGULAF         </div>                       | <div>15</div> <div>6:30pm - VVA CHAPTER</div>  | <div>16</div> <div>6:30pm - LEGION RIDERS</div> | <div>17</div> <div>           2pm - YOGA Donation @<br/>5:15pm - QUEEN OF<br/>8pm - Jenga tournament         </div>                                                             | <div>18</div> <div>11:15am - USSVI MTG @</div>                                           |
| <div>19</div> <div>           9am - BreakFast @<br/>1pm - Legion Bowling @         </div>                                                                                                                                                             | <div>20</div> <div>7pm - Honor Guard</div>                                                                                   | <div>21</div> <div>12pm - Mammogram Bus</div>                                                                  | <div>22</div> <div>6:30pm - 757NSAG ?</div>    | <div>23</div>                                   | <div>24</div> <div>           2pm - YOGA Donation @<br/>5:15pm - QUEEN OF<br/>6pm - SAL PIZZA DINNER         </div>                                                             | <div>25</div> <div>7:30pm - POST</div>                                                   |
| <div>26</div> <div>           9am - BreakFast @<br/>1pm - ALA TRUNK A<br/>1pm - Legion Bowling @         </div>                                                                                                                                       | <div>27</div> <div>6pm - RASON RADIO</div>                                                                                   | <div>28</div>                                                                                                  | <div>29</div> <div>5:30pm - DESH</div>         | <div>30</div> <div>7:30pm - Bar Bingo @</div>   | <div>31</div> <div>           2025 Department Fall Conference @ Double Tree by<br/>Halloween<br/>2pm - YOGA Donation @<br/>5:15pm - QUEEN OF<br/>8pm - HALLOWEEN         </div> | <div>1</div>                                                                             |