



The Légionnaire

Tidewater Post 327

705 Lesner Avenue

Norfolk, VA 23518

Club Room Phone (757) 587-2641

Post Office: (757) 937-3146 FAX: (757) 961-5537

WEBSITE: www.legion327.com

E-Mail: amlg327@yahoo.com

September 2025

POST OFFICERS

Commander: (DJ) Derrick Johnson
1st VCDR: Byron Pianalto
2nd VCDR: Linda Blaker
3rd 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
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: 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: Fall is right around the corner, and with it comes the return of football season. College games kick off on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, while the NFL takes over on Thursdays, Sundays, and Mondays. I can remember when Friday nights were reserved for high school football—but that's a conversation for another day. September also brings with it a day none of us will ever forget—September 11th. That tragic morning in 2001, our nation was attacked: the Twin Towers in New York, the Pentagon in Washington D.C., and Flight 93, brought down in Pennsylvania by the bravery of its passengers. The loss and uncertainty of that day still weigh heavily on our country, and for many of us, it also marked a turning point in our service. In the aftermath, military recruiting increased, and like so many others, we stepped up to serve. Not all of us were on the front lines, but every role mattered. During our time in uniform, we built a bond with our brothers and sisters in arms—a bond of trust, sacrifice, and looking out for one another. That same bond is what led many of us to join The American Legion. While we may not have served in the same branch, job, or location, we understand each other's experiences and share stories that connect us, much like "sea stories" for us Navy folks. This sense of camaraderie is also at the heart of The Legion's "Be The One" campaign. We've all

heard the heartbreaking statistics: 22 veterans a day lost to suicide. That number is unacceptable—and together, we can make a difference. Sometimes, the simplest act of listening to a fellow veteran, checking in with a buddy, or making a quick call can remind someone they're not alone. That's why programs like Buddy Checks are so important—not only to prevent tragedy, but to let others know someone cares.

And remember, you don't need to have all the answers or fix every problem. Just being there, being present, can mean the world to someone going through a rough patch. And while you're caring for others, don't forget to take care of yourself too. If you or someone you know is struggling, please don't hesitate to call the Veterans Crisis Line at 988, then press 1.

As always, thank you for everything you do for veterans, for each other, and for our Post. Together, we keep the bonds of service alive. 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 also will be holding a drawing for a PUFL (Paid Up For Life) Membership if you renew before or during the Labor Day picnic. Drawing will be held during the meeting on

Sept 9th. 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 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:

Queen of Hearts (EVERY FRIDAY)

Scheduled: Sep 5, 2025 at 5:15 PM to 7:30 PM, EDT

Location: Clubroom

Jenga tournament Sep 5, 2025 at 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM, EDT

Location: Clubroom

Cactus Creek - Danny Lowton Sep 6, 2025 at 8:00 PM to Sep 6, 2025 at midnight, EDT Location: Clubroom

Checkers tournament Sep 12, 2025 at 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM, EDT

Location: Clubroom

AJ the KJ Scheduled: Sep 13, 2025 745 pm Location: Clubroom

Air Force birthday 75 years Sep 18, 2025 at 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM, EDT Location: Clubroom

National POW/MIA Recognition Sep 19, 2025 at 7:45 PM to 8:45 PM, EDT Location: Clubroom

Magnetic Chess Sep 19, 2025 at 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM, EDT Location: Clubroom

Barricade Scheduled: Sep 20, 2025 at 7:45 PM to 11:45 PM, EDT Location: Clubroom

Bar Bingo Sep 22, 2025 at 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM, EDT

Location: Clubroom

Cribbage tournament Sep 26, 2025 at 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM, EDT

Location: Clubroom

Field day

Scheduled: Sep 27, 2025 at 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, EDT

Location: parking lot

JJ the KJ

Scheduled: Sep 27, 2025 at 7:30 PM to 11:30 PM, EDT

Location: Clubroom

Flag Disposal/Karaoke 101

Scheduled: Sep 28, 2025 at 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM, EDT

Location: Hall

For God and Country Linda P. Blaker

THIRD VICE COMMANDER: Welcome to September Post 327 Members! It's football season and we once again have the NFL package. Come out to the Post and watch your favorite team play. We will have specials in the kitchen throughout the season for Sunday football. August saw more changes in the Clubroom and the lobby with changing around awards, Post Officers plaques, and the POW/MIA area. Thank you to the Post 327 Riders for leading up the project to make our POW/MIA table more honoring of the POW/MIA's. We prepped for the Labor Day picnic as well. We look forward to seeing all of you at the picnic August 31st from 1 PM till 4 PM. There will also be a live band outside, Suspect will be performing. Thank you to the volunteers

that participated. We will continue to make our Post the best one around. Activities continue in the Clubroom, so be sure to look out for texts, Facebook posts and the scroll in the Clubroom. And as always THANK YOU to all of our volunteers that continue to make US a success For God and Country, Rob Sullinger 3rd Vice Commander

ADJUTANT: **Be the One ...** Be pro-active and checkup on Vets your friends and neighbors you have not heard from. September is recognized as Suicide Prevention Month, with a specific focus on raising awareness about the significantly higher risk of suicide among military veterans. This awareness effort is a time to share information, provide resources, and encourage a supportive dialogue to reduce stigma and help those who are struggling **The American Legion's top priority is to reduce veteran suicides by encouraging veterans, caregivers and others to "Be the One" to save the life of one veteran. Instead of focusing on the staggering number of veteran lives lost each day, it is time to focus on saving one at a time. That starts with destigmatizing mental health issues and making it OK for veterans to ask for help** 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: Chaplain: Be the One..."We are Here for Each Other "Don't miss out! The American Legion's top priority is to reduce veteran suicides by encouraging veterans, caregivers and others to "Be the One" to save the life of one veteran. Instead of focusing on the staggering number of veteran lives lost each day, it is time to focus on saving one at a time. That starts with destigmatizing mental health issues and making it OK for veterans to ask for help if you haven't already, please complete the Chaplain Survey! This is a great way to let me know of any recommendations on military mental health or religious initiatives, programs, or events you would like to see held at the Post. If there is anything I can help with, or if you just need to talk, please feel free to contact me chaplain327@gmail.com.

For God and Country, Desh Nendze

LEGION RIDERS: A huge thank you to the American Legion Riders David, Jack, John, Rob, Keith "Ditch" and Kenny for their participation and continued support. The Riders finally has wall

space to hang their accomplishments, let's thank Kenny Parker, Sean Ropp and Keith "Klutch" for organizing, hanging plaques and pictures and Rob 3rd vice for the use of his tools. Check out the rider's new corner.

Upcoming Events:

-September 6, 2025, Post 284, 4th Annual Fish Fry 11:00am-4:00pm, cost: \$15 (includes 1 meal and 1 drink ticket) Menu: Fish, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Mac & Cheese, & Hushpuppies at 505 Springdale Ave. Colonial Heights, VA.

-On 26 through 28 September, VA ALR 15th Annual State Rally Post 53, 22 West 8th Street Front Royal, VA 22630 (High Mileage/Safety Award and the Department of Virginia, Rider of the Year Award.

The rider's safety training while on the road in Luray Virginia. We only have 5 riders currently confirm. Please contact the Riders Director or Assistant Riders Director. If you have considered attending.

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, Riders Director.

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: September already? Time flies—but we're just getting started. Don't miss our next Squadron 327 meeting on Monday, September 8th, where we'll explore ways to boost participation, including a possible change to our meeting schedule. 2nd VCDR David Laws is teaming up with the Radio Amateur Society of Norfolk (RASON) and the Post to strengthen our emergency communication capabilities—ready to assist during disasters and enjoy during calmer times. We're now accepting ideas for our next Squadron-hosted dinner: have a theme, recipe, or guest speaker in mind? Let's make it memorable. And it's not too early to finalize plans for our October Yard Sale & Food Truck Rodeo (10/11/2025), so start gathering items and spreading the word. We are all "Stronger Together," and there's so much more we can accomplish when we collaborate with our fellow Sons, Legionnaires, and Auxiliary members. Let's keep building momentum—side by side. For God and Country, 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 F-3family 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 out 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: The Honor Guard enjoyed a slow

summer. As we approach the final months of 2025, we are getting ready for different community and Legion events. The summer will end with a presentation of colors at the Labor Day picnic. September 11 is an important day when we remember those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks. September 16 marks American Legion Day, a celebration that has been recognized for over ten years. On September 18, we will celebrate the 78th birthday of the United States Air Force. Additionally, September 19 is known as POW/MIA Recognition Day. The Honor Guard would like to send our warmest wishes for a Happy Birthday to the Air Force. We also want to express our sincere gratitude to all past and present military members for their numerous sacrifices, both known and unknown, in service to our country. For God and Country, Mary Taggart

CLUBROOM: Hello everyone! I hope all of you had a fun summer. Can you believe fall is upon us? There have been many changes over the summer w/ new clubroom staff: Lana Collins, Amanda Francis, Izzy Hagaman, and Maegan Sullinger. Welcome all of you. Let's not forget our beautiful Kim Kerns who decided to work for us fulltime, Thank You so much. I also want to Thank Jim Flora for doing a great job as my Assistant Manager, you are Amazing! Judy Flora for keeping our Post tidy! Finally, I want to say, "Great Job to our kitchen staff". You have all worked hard with great ideas for specials. We've had many entertainers here at the post this summer alongside having fun games to play. If you have any suggestions, you would like for us to try, let me know and I'll pass them on to our Lovely Second Vice Linda Blaker. Thank you everyone for being patient and proactive with having your membership cards with you and being able to present them to our new staff. We appreciate it. For God and Country, Clubroom manager, Angie Hernandez

SEPTEMBER 2025

AMERICAN LEGION CALANDAR Holidays in United States

Sep 2025 (Eastern Time - New York

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 1pm - LABOR DAY PICNIC @ 7:30pm - Post 5 Legion	1 Labor Day 7:30pm - Post 5 Legion	2 7pm - ALA Regular Mtg @	3 7pm - 40/8 Promenade @	4 7:30pm - NAMI @ HALL	5 2pm - YOGA Donation @ 5:15pm - QUEEN OF 8pm - Jenga tournament	6 6pm - DART BANQUET @ 8pm - Cactus Creek -
7 9am - BreakFast @ 1pm - Legion Bowling @	8 7:30pm - SONS REGULAR	9 6:30pm - EXECUTIVE 327 7:30pm - POST REGULAR	10	11 6:30pm - CROSSROAD 7:30pm - NAMI @ HALL	12 CROSSROADS CIVIC 2pm - YOGA Donation @ 5:15pm - QUEEN OF 8pm - Checkers	13 7:30pm - AJ the KJ @
14 9am - BreakFast @ 1pm - Legion Bowling @	15 7pm - Honor Guard	16	17 6:30pm - VVA CHAPTER	18 AIR FORCE's birthday 6:30pm - LEGION RIDERS 7:30pm - Air Force	19 2pm - YOGA Donation @ 5:15pm - QUEEN OF 7:45pm - National 8pm - Magnetic Chess @	20 11:15am - USSVI MTG @ 7:45pm - Barricade @
21 9am - BreakFast @ 1pm - Legion Bowling @	22 8am - JIMMY CARTER 6pm - RASON RADIO 7:30pm - Bar Bingo @	23	24 12pm - BLOOD DRIVE @	25 7:30pm - NAMI @ HALL	26 5:15pm - QUEEN OF 6pm - Cribbage	27 9am - Field day 7:30pm - JJ the KJ
28 9am - BreakFast @ 1pm - Legion Bowling @ 2pm - Flag	29	30	1 7pm - 40/8 Promenade @	2 7:30pm - NAMI @ HALL	3 12pm - ALA FISH FRY @	4



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

