

BUGLER

American Legion
Lakeshore Post 137
5443 San Juan Avenue
Jacksonville, FL. 32210

Meetings: 2nd Saturday 10am

Editor: Nora Marcantel, FALPA, NALPA

Office: 387-3373
Lounge: 387-1581

WWW.americanlegion137.com
commander@americanlegion137.com



Commander
DENNIS
THOMPSON



Auxiliary President
JERI WEST



S.A.L. Commander
WM "BILL" KELLY



Chef de Gare
BARRY
CONGRESSI



COMMANDER'S REPORT



Congratulations are in order for Co'Relous Bryant who was originally sponsored by Post 137 in the competition for the annual Legion Oratorical Contest. This young man is a senior at Stanton College Prep here in Jacksonville. Not only did he win the 5th District title, he won the Northern Area and Department of Florida contest. The icing on the cake is that Co'Relous was successful in winning the National American Legion Oratorical Contest. We should all be very proud of this young man who in the year 2006 also was elected Governor of the State of Florida under the Legion Boys State Program.

May 2007 will be another busy month for all of us at Post 137. Besides the usual weekly programs, we have the Firemen/Policemen's Dinner on May 5th, between 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM. Also, the 1st Annual Veteran's Car show is scheduled for May 19th, between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM. These two events, together with Armed Forces Day are also on the 19th and our annual Memorial Day party is on May 28th. These events will require volunteers. The flag displays handled by our Flag Chairman Tony Romano will require some volunteers also. If you are interested in volunteering your services for any of these events, please see me as soon as possible.

Improvements to our Post Home are underway. I hope everyone can see and appreciate the amount of hard work done by the House Committee in their efforts to better the condition of Post 137. All of the House Committee members deserve a "pat on the back" for a job well done!

The Auxiliary Unit also has my thanks for the recent work done in improving the Spencer Meeting Room. A lot of hard work has been done and I feel sure all the Legion Organizations within Post 137 will be proud of the work done and all of them will help us keep the meeting room neat, clean and in order.

Our website is growing by "leaps and bounds" and everyone is encouraged to take a look at the recent additions. Thanks to our Webmaster Hal Helms who operates and maintains our site at: www.americanlegion137.com

Remember, "Enthusiasm is Contagious."

For GOD and Country
Dennis Thompson, Commander

Service Officer Report

The VA facility will double in size and is expected to open in the spring of 2010.

The Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Jacksonville will double in size with a new facility expected to open in 2010. The project is still on the drawing board, but the new clinic, like the current facility, will be near Shands Jacksonville and continue the partnership between the hospital and the government agency. The new, approximately 100,000-square-foot facility will be at 1640 Jefferson St.; on property now owned by Shands. The present clinic at 1833 Boulevard is just under 50,000 square feet and served more than 20,000 veterans in fiscal year 2006.

2007 edition of *Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents*

is available on-line in portable document format (PDF) and as a series of Web pages at http://www.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.asp.

The booklet provides the rates for certain federal payments and outlines many programs and services provided by VA and other federal agencies. It also includes toll-free phone numbers, Internet addresses and a directory of VA facilities throughout the country.

USAA Homeowners Insurance

The USAA has announced that Florida Politics have severely restricted the ability to charge adequate property insurance rates for the risk the association bears on behalf of its Florida members. Therefore USAA will only provide new homeowner or renter insurance policies for the primary residence of active military members required to move to the state pursuant to military orders. If your primary residence is in Florida and insured with USAA, USAA will continue to underwrite your existing homeowner or renter policy.

For the Members
Fred Bergman

SCHOOL MEDALS PROGRAM

The annual American School Medals Program has arrived. This program awards a medal to a male and female student at each school who best exemplifies the qualities of Courage, Honor, Leadership, Patriotism, Scholarship and Service.

Some 40 elementary, middle and high schools around our American Legion Post have been contacted to determine if they will participate in the program this year. Legionnaires are encouraged to present the awards at participating schools. Most award ceremonies will be in May at various times.

If you would like to be a medal presenter at a particular school, please call Carl or Myra Jowers at 553-1848 or email cjowers@comcast.net.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POPPY DRIVE POPPY DRIVE POPPY DRIVE

Once and only once a year the Auxiliary has a **POPPY DRIVE**. Letters are sent to everyone just before Memorial Day. The Auxiliary needs your help to make this a success. All money received from this drive goes for direct aid to our Veterans.



With the War in Iraq, we have many young men and Women who are now in V.A. Hospitals, proceeds from the **POPPY DRIVE** helps all Veterans young and old. So, when you receive the **POPPY LETTER, PLEASE** try and send a little something.

Thank you for your support.

The AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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May 19th First Annual Antique Car Show: Cars will be on display in the parking lot by the riverfront. Please note that due to the Car Show No Launching of Boats on Sat. May 19th. The Post regrets any inconvenience to anyone however; this event is to support Veterans Services. Bring the children and make a day of it. All for a very worthy cause.
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SOCK DRIVE for winter is coming along real well. Thanks so far to Capt. And Mrs Ken Butler, Jerry Lepore, Nola Marcantel, Carl and Myra Jowers, Ray Runyan, Donna Snook, First Coast Christian School Beta Club, Larry Briggs, and several others that had no name on the bags. PLEASE KEEP 'EM COMING. Come winter every Vet in need should have two pairs of socks. Legionnaires remember back and how it felt, cold and wet. Thank you for your help

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Congratulations to John and Joann Kelley for both receiving and award from the Lake City V.A. Hospital for having volunteered 500 hours each to the service of veterans.
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We need help with the Police and Firemen's Dinner on May 5th from 9 am-5 pm if you can bring a dessert. This is a worthy event.

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REMEMBER!!! MONDAY MAY 28th THERE WILL BE NO BINGO. PARTY DAY
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BUGLER CREW you are the best! Thank you all very, very much for helping get the Auxiliary POPPY letters out. Chairmen, Connie Manning and Joann Kelly are "Mucho Happy" for your assistance. I thank you each and everyone also. Editor

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY to all the April 21<sup>st</sup>- May21st Taurus the Bull folks. Take it easy.  
BIG GET WELL to everyone who is a bit down. We wish you a fast recovery and God's Blessings. As Always, Nora

### **1<sup>ST</sup> VICE REPORT:**

Greetings! At the April 14<sup>th</sup> General Meeting 31 members were read in, 24 new and 7 transfers. That brings Post 137 to 97.8% membership for 2007. However by the time you read the Bugler I feel we will be at 100%. Many thanks go to Sarah Mackesy, Myra Jowers, Fred Bergman and Dennis Thompson for their assistance in reaching 100%.

Just a reminder May 28<sup>th</sup> is Memorial Day and I will be outside checking membership cards. If you have not renewed just see me. Your Enthusiastic 1<sup>st</sup> Vice.  
For GOD and COUNTRY,  
John English

### **2<sup>ND</sup> VICE REPORT:**

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY to all our wonderful moms out there. You make the world go around. Big thank You to all you swell folks who support our dinners. As I hope you know this is one of our largest fun raisers for the Legion Programs. Every time you come out and have a meal you are helping a vet, the community and our state wide programs. Thank You again for your continued support.

For GOD and COUNTRY,  
Danny Grant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice

### **3<sup>RD</sup> VICE REPORT:**

We had our Easter Party On April 1. I want to thank my wife, Diane and all of her helpers for doing such a good job and, at the same time, apologize for not attending. As most of know, the 2 inch water main feeding the Legion from the street somehow broke. I, along with others spent four hours repairing it. Thanks to Bill Kelly for being the Easter Bunny and to J. J. O'Brien being our clown again. A million thanks to those of you brought you children.

Children and Youth will host Legion breakfast on the 20<sup>th</sup> and will serving hamburgers, hotdogs with all the fixings at the screen room on Memorial Day, the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Don't forget the First Annual Post 137 Car Show on the 19<sup>th</sup>. We are expecting a large turnout. Parking will be tight and the boat ramp and the R.V. Park will be closed.

For God and Country,  
Barry Congressi, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander

### **4<sup>th</sup> VICE REPORT:**

We departed Post 137 at 4:00pm, on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007, on our monthly V.A.V.S. trip to Lake City V.A. Hospital. The following dedicated members of Post 137 and Voiture 304 participated: Lewis & Ann Gray, Norman & Sandy Gentry, Carl & Myra Jowers, Jack & Connie Manning, John & Joann Kelley and Dale Prewitt. We had a very good turn out for this months visit. Thanks to all who participated.

We arrived at Lake City around 5 pm and ate dinner at a local restaurant. We started BINGO on time at 7 pm. We had 25 patients present for the activities; attendance was low because of two wards being closed because of illness. The patients that were present for the games and

activities seemed to have a very good time. A special thanks to Norman Gentry for calling Bingo and keeping things on schedule.

Refreshments were served at the close of the Bingo games by the Auxiliary unit 137 and Cabane 304.

We gave out \$100.00 in coupon books to the Bingo game winners.

The following is a breakdown of money spent and credits given to us for miscellaneous items.

**Refreshments:** \$67.00 -- \$34.00 Aux. unit 137 and \$33.00 to Cabane 304.

**Books /Magazines:** \$1000.00 and Games and Puzzles \$50.00, Coupon Books \$100.00 for a total credit of \$1217.00.

**Total hours:** 55 and total miles \$1,331 and gas allowance for 3 vehicles \$48.00

Our next scheduled visit to Lake City V.A. Hospital will be May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007. We will depart Post 137 at 4pm. If you would like to donate books, magazines or other items drop them off at Post 137 and mark them for V.A.V.S. We look forward to seeing you at our next visit.

Yours in Service,  
Lewis Gray, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice

## AMERICAN LEGION POST 137 VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

### **American Legion: John Kelley**

John has for many years dedicated his time and services to Post 137, particularly with respect to the Monday Night Bingo Program. In addition, John has been a member of our Post Executive Committee, with responsibility for many aspects in the governing of Post 137. On April 11, 2007 John (and wife JoAnn) was recognized at the Annual VAVS Volunteer Ceremony in Lake City, FL with a "500 Hour Award" for his volunteer work in the Post 137 VAVS Program. Congratulations to John for representing Post 137 so well. We are all proud of you! Thanks.

### **American Legion Auxiliary Unit: Vera Stevens**

Vera has demonstrated a devotion to Post 137 in her efforts to make the Past Commander/President's and the Firemen/Policemen Dinners a success. Her attitude and organizational skills for these events are big plus to all of us at Post 137. Vera, you have my personal thanks for all your help.

### **Sons of the Legion: Ray Runyan**

Ray is another of our valued "Dual Members" (Legionnaire and SAL) and has become well known for his volunteer skills, particularly as "Head Chef" on many Sunday Breakfast Mornings. Ray's "Can Do" attitude and dedication to the Children and Youth Program, Darts Program and immense help to the Post as President of the Rod and Pole Club, makes all of us very proud! Thanks.

-- Dennis Thompson, Commander

### **HISTORIAN'S REPORT:**

The seconds tick off the clock, the breath passes from our nostrils and with each day a segment of history passes. Now, even as we watch, an important era of American history is fast passing before our eyes. Members of "The Greatest Generation" are becoming a rare and valuable thing. To honor survivors of WW II Honor Air (sponsored by Rotary International) will transport veterans to Washington, D.C. to see the WW II Monument. One hundred First Coast veterans will be flown to Washington to attend. No moment in Post history can equal what these brave men and women faced. So let's show them the honor they deserve. -- Rick Wiggs



## **CABANE 304**

Rendezvous will start at 7 pm. Election of officers 1<sup>st</sup> round will be April 2<sup>nd</sup> Last election will be May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Dates to mark on your calendar **May 4-5, 2007** Grand Wreck and Joint Homecoming for Grande Chef de Gare, Don Murphy and La Grande Presidente, Faye Barkett. **June 7-10<sup>th</sup>, 2007**, Grande Promenade and Grande Rendezvous. Now the time to mail your money cut off date is May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Merci, Betty Lomax, La Presidente

## **VOITURE 304**

Our long awaited new roof is finished. We should not have any more problems for years to come, hopefully. I'm soliciting for donations to help restore some of the building fund. The roof was expensive.

Our Cheminot and Promenade will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Awards Banquet on the 26<sup>th</sup> featuring a rib dinner. Come and enjoy!

Yours in Service,

Barry Congressi, Chef de Gare

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

We had our regular Auxiliary meeting Thursday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007, we officially elected Joann Kelley to fulfill the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for the remainder of the year. She then read in our new members. Our membership is at 91.09% as of March 27, 2007, with 593 members out of 651.

We draped our Charter for two deceased members, Nadine T. Ellis and Hilda Joan Eagerton, both of which were longtime members. We had initiation of our new members. Only three of our new members were in attendance, but it was still a nice presentation. Thanks to the ladies who helped with the initiation. We elected our nomination committee per our By-Laws to come up with a recommendation of a slate of officers for our election to be held at the June meeting.

We need volunteers to make desserts for our annual Firemen and Policemen dinner on May 5<sup>th</sup>. We also need volunteers to make desserts for the 5<sup>th</sup> District meeting to be held at our Post on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

On April 11<sup>th</sup> 2007 two of our members attended the Volunteer Awards Ceremony in Lake City, FL. Joann Kelley received a 500 hour Award and Outstanding Service Award was received by Unit 137.

Our year end chairmen reports are due to the District Chairmen by April 15<sup>th</sup>. I am sure that all of the reports that were due have been mailed.

Sincerely, Jeri West

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## **EMPLOYMENT OFFICER**

### **New clinic to expand area's veteran outpatient services**

**The VA facility will double in size and is expected to open in the spring of 2010.**

**By JEFF BRUMLEY, The Times-Union**

The Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Jacksonville will double in size with a new facility expected to open in 2010, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs said Tuesday.

U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown announced the plans for the new facility during a news conference with Veterans Affairs Secretary James Nicholson at the Hyatt Regency downtown.

The project is still on the drawing board, but the new clinic, like the current facility, will be near Shands Jacksonville and continue the partnership between the hospital and the government agency, said Brown, D-Fla., who is a member of the House veterans' affairs committee.

Department spokeswoman Jan Northstar said the clinic will offer expanded outpatient services for Northeast Florida's growing veteran population of about 189,000.

Another spokeswoman, Mary Kay Hollingsworth, said the new, approximately 100,000-square-foot facility will be at 1640 Jefferson St. on property now owned by Shands. The department expects to choose a developer by December 2008 and open in the spring of 2010, she said.

The present clinic at 1833 Boulevard is just under 50,000 square feet and served more than 20,000 veterans in fiscal year 2006, she said.

Nicholson was in Jacksonville to address about 900 Veterans Affairs information technology employees and officials attending a conference.

He stressed the need to improve the quality and security of information kept on clients.

-- Submitted by: Frank Madigan

## **RUMORS**

Rumor has it that our Post is being run by a "Clique". Careful investigation by the Post Commander has shown that this is TRUE! Furthermore, we have found that the "Clique" is composed of some of our faithful members who are present at all of our meetings, who do all of the work, participate in the clean up programs, quietly go about aiding veterans, serve on committees, promote membership, willingly give of their time, energy and talents. They are the members who sincerely believe that the more you put into our Post and programs, the more you get out of it.

There is no question that the enthusiasm, responsibility and efforts of the "Clique" are of inestimable value to our Post. It is therefore suggested that YOU join this "Clique". It is very easy to do – begin by attending our meetings, dinners, activities and demonstrate that YOU can be counted on to be a TEAM PLAYER. Show a continued interest in all affairs pertaining to our Post. Never refuse a request for assistance, committee appointment or –how about serving as an Officer? Before you realize it – YOU will soon be surprised to learn how anxious the "Clique" will be to welcome you to its ranks.

# ✚ CHAPLAIN'S REPORT ✚

Hope everyone had a very happy Easter Sunday and to all of our Moms enjoy a Happy Mothers Day on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Memorial Day is coming and will be observed on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Last month we lost Micheal "Mac" McCaffery one of our Legionnaires who was a long time member. He will be missed by all of his many friends. He was a very private person and none of the Legion members knew of any close relatives to contact. All of our members should take the time to make sure our Legion office is given information of any friends or relatives we can contact in case of and emergency, especially if you live alone. Please make every effort to get your records up to date.

A reminder to all about the election for your Post officers for the coming year. Nominations will be held again on May 12<sup>th</sup> with the election to take place on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Come on out and VOTE.

Post improvements continue and our Legion is looking great. The men's restroom has been completely renovated. Thanks to the hours spent and effort put forth by Barry, Tom, Bob and others. We are very fortunate to have such, talented and dedicated, Legion members in our family. Many thanks also to all our members who are lending your support to our ongoing programs, which help provide the funds so these improvements to our Legion Post can be accomplished.

I am pleased to report as of this writing that I have not received notification of any passing of any of our Legionnaires.

For GOD and COUNTRY, Gene Odom, Chaplain

## **POLL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR JUNE 2, 2007**

Per Post By-Laws, I am sending out a request for volunteers to serve as Poll Watchers. If you are running for office, you are not qualified to serve.

If you would like to spend a few hours as a Poll Watcher, please let me know. I will have a sign up sheet in the lounge area. Please enter your name, contact phone number and the time you can help. The more folks we

have the less time each person will have to sit in the office.

I appreciate everyone that desires to help in this very vital role.

You can contact me at jaguarjerry@bellsouth.net if you have any questions or if you can't get to the Post to sign up on the sheet.

Thank you, Jerry Lepore,  
Judge Advocate

## **Children's Easter Party April 1, 2007**



## **Sons of the American Legion Lakeshore Squadron 137 [sonsoftheal137@aol.com](mailto:sonsoftheal137@aol.com)**

**Meeting Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 12 Noon**

Your sons are just about 100%. Please renew as soon as possible so we can reach 100% for the 5<sup>th</sup> straight year. Special Thanks to Barry, Dianne, Ray, Donna, Sue, Sandy and Terry for their help with our St. Patrick's Day Dinner. Job Well Done.

Your sons donated in April, \$250.00 to the Dock Fund, \$ 151.00 to the Children's Miracle Network Birdies for Charity, \$100.00 to the Auxiliary to help defer their cost of the Police and Fire Dinner and \$100.00 to aid a member of the Squadron. We hope he gets well soon, Best Wishes from All.

Nominations for Squadron Officers will be taken at the May Meeting with elections taking place at the June 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

Commander, Bill Kelly



## NOMINATIONS FOR POST OFFICERS

The first nominating date for Post Officers took place on Saturday, April 14. Those nominated are:

Commander: Dennis Thompson

1st Vice Commander: Eddie Dykes

2nd Vice Commander: Dan Grant

3rd Vice Commander: Barry Congressi

4th Vice Commander: Lewis Gray

Sgt At Arms (2 positions): Robert McVeigh

Chaplain: Gene Odom

Executive Committee (5 positions): Carl Jowers, Emory Austin, Bill Lomax, Tom Tersia, John Panko, Bob Schupe, B.J. Manley

Finance Officer: Myra Jowers

Historian: Rick Wiggs

The next and final date for nominations will be held during the regular Legion meeting on Saturday, May 12. Please attend the meeting and nominate who you believe will be the best representatives of the Post.

Also, we are looking for people to step up and serve as Poll Watchers on June 2nd, the date of the election. The election will run from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The more folks that can volunteer, the less time anyone will have to sit in the office on that day. Let us know what hours you would like to serve.

This is the time of year where you can help guide the future of the Post. Take advantage of your right and responsibility to name our next leadership group. You fought for the right to vote. Take advantage of it. -- Jerry Lepore, Judge Advocate

## CLUB MANAGER

Another month has gone by and the Operations has furnished the Building Fund with \$6000.00 to keep all the up grades we have going. Thanks to Barry, Bob, Tony, Joe, and Tom for all their hard work on the House. Job Well Done.

The Tiki Hut season is now in full swing. May's Hours of operation are Friday 5 pm-10 pm, Saturday 1 pm-8 pm and Sunday 1 pm-8 pm. By the way while you're enjoying our Tiki Hut take a look at the new ice machine for the Tiki. Thanks to Barry & Bob for installing it.

The new thermostats should be installed to help keep the Lounge temperature more consistent. Please don't adjust them or the new cleaned smoke eaters; they are pre-set to do the most good. Thanks to the S.A.L. for their donation to finish up the Dock.

Remember there is always something going on at your Club. Monday is Bingo, Tuesday is Darts, Wednesday is Karaoke, Thursday is Bowling with our new Silver Strike Bowling, Friday is Dinner, Friday and Saturday is Live Music and Sunday is Breakfast and NASCAR Racing, and now you can TIKI all week-end long.

Your Club Manager, Bill Kelly



### **MARRIAGES PERFORMED**

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jerrycroley.com

Loyal Order of Moose



American Legion Post 137  
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