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Jacksonville, Florida

LAKESHORE POST 137  
The American Legion  
5443 San Juan Avenue  
Jacksonville, Florida 32210

The BUGLER  
Volume 8  
Issue 89  
JANUARY 2010



# BUGLER



Monthly meeting: Exe. 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. 6 P M, GEN. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. 10 A M  
Off. (904) 387-3373 Lounge 387-1581 Hrs. Mon. Wed. Fri. 1:30-5 pm

Commander Fred Bergman

Editor Nora Marcantel

President Anita Lee

## COMMANDER'S REPORT

JANUARY 2010

### *Happy New Year*

While wishing everyone a happy 2010, I would like to take a moment to reflect on our 2009 experience at Post 137 and share with you those things I consider true blessings;

First, I feel I have been blessed to know and become good friends with the members of our Post. I truly believe in the family concept and I feel a strong bond with each of you. In some cases I have been fortunate enough to meet family members and be there for your weddings and sadly for final goodbyes. Lina and I have enjoyed these two years and will always consider each of you as our family. It has been my great honor that our members elected me to represent the Post.

It was a memorable day when we were notified The American Legion and the Son's of the Legion Squadron 137 was awarded "Best Post and Squadron in the State of Florida" for the second year and "Post of the Year" for the 5<sup>th</sup> District. The in prompt to party that was organized in literally hours rivaled the most elaborate occasions I have attended.

One of the most outstanding attributes of our members is the spirit of volunteering and donating. Your hearts are huge and an inspiration to me. I have witnessed the most gracious of volunteering for anything asked, whether it was the Bugler crew, or members that own their own businesses the Post is always a priority for keeping things running. Groups that meet in our Post have come to expect extra duties to be accomplished after their business has been completed and I can tell you it is heart warming to listen to the conversations of how we can work together to improve the Post.

For Our Legion Family, Fred Bergman



S.A.L.  
Commander  
Jonathan Cooke



A LR Director  
Tim Shelton



COLOR GUARD  
Cmdr. J.J.  
O'Brien



Director  
Raymond  
Runyan



\*\*USMCCA\*\*  
Director  
Dennis Glisson

January 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 – Surf Jobs 24 hours a day

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vj113009

## FRED'S NOTES

Your contributions and in many cases hard work has allowed us to support Legion sponsored programs such as National and State Children and Youth fund, Children's Miracle Network, and Special Olympics. The VAVS team made monthly trips to the VA Hospital in Lake City culminating in a massive holiday party consisting of 22 volunteers from our Post. Our Veteran's Holiday Program as you know provides assistance during the holidays to a multitude of Veterans and their families in our local area. Volunteers from our Post have provided nourishment for veterans at the Jacksonville outpatient clinic as well as clothing and toiletries. A new initiative our members have begun is the "shoebox" program allowing shoeboxes to be packed with necessary living items for those in need. And the list goes on.

Volunteers from our Post attended 3 departure ceremonies and picnics for soldiers and sailors deploying overseas from the Jacksonville area. Our members also support "Walk for recovery", Ronald McDonald House, and help line the Jacksonville beach travel route for the "RIDE" participants consisting of disabled veterans riding bikes across the state starting in Tampa and ending at Mayport. Our Historian rode his motorcycle thousands of miles to deliver our donations for the "Legacy Scholarship" program providing college scholarships to fallen soldiers children. We participated in the "Wreathes Across America" program assuring all veteran's grave sites have a wreath placed on it.

During Veteran's week Post 137 showed pride during the Veteran's Day Parade having 12 motorcycles 3 person marching, WWII float with WWII members and the Legion Riders trailer. Post members participated in the Chamber of Commerce luncheon where the Post Color Guard conducted the Flag Ceremony.

Our Post reached out to the JROTC units in the Jacksonville High Schools as well as Ridgeview NJROTC in Clay County. Each year 10 young men are afforded the opportunity to attend Boys State at the Florida State University. We also sponsor the Junior Shooting team that has held their own in competition. Recently a leader of the Shooters was the newly promoted to Cadet Chief in the Ridgeview NJROTC Nola Marcantel. I have had great pleasure watching one of Post 137's Junior Girls excel at every rung of the ladder ascending to the leadership role she now has earned in the NJROTC. Nola has been involved in our Post activities for most of her life.

We know the Holidays can be stress full for those that are on their own or need a little assistance. Thanks to the volunteers at our Post we were able to provide dinners during Thanksgiving and again on Christmas. The dinners were served in the Moon Building and were enjoyed by all especially myself. We continue to sponsor an Annual Luncheon/Dinner in honor of the Jacksonville Police and Fire Departments. During these occasions we serve nearly 350 free lunch/dinners to men and women of these organizations.

As you can see, whether it is Post, Local Community, National, or Overseas the Post 137 family has answered the call for leadership and assistance. I hope all of you are as proud of our accomplishments as I am.

Happy New Year!!

For Our Members Fred Bergman

## 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE COMMANDER REPORT

On Dec.12, 2009 our membership is at 73.7% or 1219 members. We are a little behind our Goal of 75. %, But we have turned enough that payed with credit card and we don't have credit for them yeat.

I was not able to get my report in on time last month But I must Thank All the people that Helped put on the Early Bird Dinner. I will start By thanking Debbie R. for staying with my wife Carol & Myself until 3:00 am Sunday morning and helping with Prep., Thanks to Myra & Carl J., Lynns. Michelle M. & Devon W., and O- My-God ! The ROTC CADETS & Commander From Robert E. Lee High School were a God send, From the Start Through the Clean Up, thay did the Best Job I have ever dealt with From any school For any Function that I was a Part of. The kitchen was cleaner when thay Finished. Then when I started the Day Before. Many Thanks to all & God Bless (unedited)  
For God & Country Eddie Dykes

## 2<sup>nd</sup> VICE COMMANDER REPORT

As a new year begins I hope that all our Legion Family's had a very Merry Christmas and safe and fun filled New Years Eve. December was a busy month here at your post. Christmas Party for the kids with Santa and gifts, Christmas Covered Dish Party for the Big Kid's, Christmas Eve Covered Dish get together and the Commanders Christmas Day Dinner and to finish out the year our New Year's Eve Party with fun, food and a great time.

*What a way to end the year!*

January is relax month. We have our Friday and Saturday night entertainment, Friday night dinners and lots of football so don't forget to support your post, "BECAUSE" in February it's Valentine Day Party and the next month is St Patrick's Day Party, this should give everyone a heads up on what the rest of the year will be like. Up coming entertainment, special events all will be posted in the Bugler and on the board at the club entrance.  
Come out SUPPORT YOUR POST and make new friends.  
For GOD and COUNTRY, Emory Austin

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## 3<sup>RD</sup> VICE COMMANDER REPORT

No report do to technical difficulties with computer programs compatibility

### **Lewis Gray 4<sup>th</sup> Vice Cmdr. Report**

#### **V.A.V.S. 2009-2010 Restricted Items Purchased for the Lake City V. A. Hospital**

**10 cases:** Baby Powder \$240.00, Shampoo \$120.00, mouthwash \$120.00

**6 cases:** Shaving Cream \$120.00

**5 cases:** Disposable Razors \$180.00, Deodrant \$144.00

**25 box:** Denture Cleaner : \$25.00

**TOTAL \$949.00**

## 4<sup>TH</sup> VICE COMMANDER REPORT

This Annual Christmas visit started out on Thursday , December 3<sup>rd</sup> , at which time We did all the loading of donated items , I would like to thank Jack & Connie Manning for the use of their trailer again, and for transporting the donated items to Lake City V.A. Hospital

On Friday, December the 4<sup>th</sup> , 2009 members of Post 137 , and Voiture 304, 40/8 made our Annual Christmas Visit to Lake City, V.A. Hospital.

We departed Post 137 at 4:00 P.M. and arrived at Lake City around 5:00 P.M.. Most of us ate dinner at Beef O; Brady's Restaurant prior to going to the Hospital.

The following members of Post 137 & Voiture 304, 40/8 were present: Lewis & Ann Gray, Jack & Connie Manning, Norman & Sandy Gentry, Charles & Debra Geisinger, Carl & Myra Jowers, Ray- Runyan, Jerry Lepore, John & JoAnn Kelley, Al & Josi Scarratta, Jeff Frazan, Lynn Swan, and Paul Gullbrant from Post 88.

My thanks go out to the above members for giving of their time in support of our V.A.V.S. Christmas Visit.

The Christmas activities started on time at 7:00 p.m. We gave out approximately 200 "Ditty Bags". Our primary concern was the Nursing Home. Santa Claus and his Elves visited most every room in the Nursing Home giving out "Ditty Bags", and cheering up our Veterans. We then moved on to the rest of the Hospital. We were very well received in this part of the Hospital. All-in-All this was a very successful visit.

I would like to give a personal thanks to my wife, Ann Gray, for her many ,many hours of hard work, and dedication to the V.A.V.S. Program. She spends all year on just the logistical part of this event.

A special thanks goes out to Carl Jowers, and Charles Geisinger for being our Santa Clauses again this year. You both did an outstanding job. And to Myra Jowers for being one of Santa's Elves. I know it had to be very hot in those costumes.

Remember, if you would like to participate in our V.A.V.S. program, let me know. We go every month except November and December on the fourth Friday of each month.

Our next V.A.V.S. visit to Lake City V.A. Hospital will be January the 22<sup>nd</sup> , 2010.

We had 19 volunteers present for this visit. Miles: 2,299 Hours: 95, Gas allowance: \$80.00.

The following is a list of items donated by Post 137, Auxiliary Unit 137, Voiture 304, and Cabane 304,40/8 for the Christmas visit to Lake City V.A. Hospital.

Hope you all had a Merry Christmas, and a happy New Year.

Yours In Service, Lewis E. Gray

#### **V.A.V.S. 2009-2010 Ditty Bags items Purchased for the Lake City V.A. Hospital**

**1000 EACH** Postage Stamps: \$440.00, Christmas Cards \$120.00

**200 EACH** Zip Lock Bags: \$40.00, Tooth Paste: \$200.00, Tooth Brushes \$100.00,

Kleenex Packets: \$25.00, Combs: \$50.00, Chap Sticks: \$160.00,

Packs Sugarless Gum: \$50.00, Socks: \$100.00, Pocket Calendars:

\$200.00, Emery Boards: \$77.00

**TOTAL \$1,562.00**

Other items donated 200 Sweat Shirts / 200 Sweat Pants, 60 Puzzle Books

**ALL Items Donated V.A.V.S. V.A. Hospital Lake City GRAND TOTAL \$4,574.00**

**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 137**

We were a little busy for the month of December. We volunteered to do the dinner on the 11<sup>th</sup> and had a pretty good turnout considering it was not advertised anywhere. On Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> we had a few of our members attend the escort ride for LCPL Taylor USMC who was killed on December 1 in Afghanistan.

We donated \$300 worth of toys to the Toys for Tots program via the Vietnam/Legacy Vets club. We are still selling our raffle tickets for the **26' Cabin Cruiser and trailer**. The boat can be seen up at the Pastime Bar at 5301 Lenox Ave Jacksonville FL 32205, and you can also purchase raffle tickets there. **Tickets are \$5.00 per entry**, and you do not have to be present to win. The drawing will be held on December 30, 2009 at 7 pm at Post 137. Good luck to all who have purchased a ticket and if you haven't please contact any of the riders or myself at **904-629-8434** to get one.

The riders hope that everyone had a wonderful Holiday and that the New Year brings each and every one of the legion members a time for celebration and enjoyment.

We are looking forward to the upcoming year and are getting ready to start planning our **Bike Event for the year our Annual Bike Show**, we are also looking forward to having more rides this year and getting more members to join our group, even if you don't own a bike we would like to see you join and take an active interest in the Legion Riders Programs.

Just a reminder of my email address [scramjet76@yahoo.com](mailto:scramjet76@yahoo.com), in case anyone needs to contact me. Take care and remember to keep all our Military men and women in your prayers, with their families, and our legion families.

Ride Proud, Ride Safe.

For God and Country, Tim Shelton,

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**DO YOUR HOMEWORK BEFORE DONATING MONEY**

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs receives calls from Floridians who have been contacted by various organizations requesting that they donate money or other assets to their causes. Requesting organizations have "Veteran" or other military and patriotic related words in their titles, which can be misleading. Although many of these groups are doing great things with their donated funds, some prey on innocent people to fatten their pocketbooks. Never give your Social Security number, date of birth, credit card Number or other personal information or financial information to someone whom you do not know. Although the Department cannot tell you what organizations to give to we can make some recommendations to help you make an informed decision.

The Florida Department of State's Division of Corporations post information on registered corporations online, including non-profit organizations, at [www.sunbiz.org/](http://www.sunbiz.org/). Another site is <http://app1.800helpfla.com/giftgiverguide/>. Just put in the name of the organization or group you are interested in and click on *SEARCH*

Contributing Reporter, Frank Madigan, Employment Chairman—Thanks Frank



**CHAPLAIN'S REPORT**

WHEN A FRIEND NEEDS COMFORT: "The LORD is with you" Judges 6:12 (NIV)  
There are so many times in our lifetime that an event occurs that brings us to visit someone who is very sick or perhaps dying. Just the fact of being there, even without hardly speaking can be very comforting. There isn't much you can say, but a warm hug and a quiet visit just to let them know you care. Just your presence can be a comfort far beyond the power of any words you may have spoken.

Don't be afraid to go to someone who is contending with deep sorrow even though you don't know what to say. Just be there. That's all.

Pray Dear GOD I ask you today to comfort\_\_\_\_\_. Give me the courage to offer him/her my presence even when it feels uncomfortable. Come and enjoy our Post--- Let's have a real great start for 2010. It is my sad duty to report to you the names of the following Legionnaires, who have transferred to **POST EVERLASTING**

**\*Donald PROHASKA** **\*WILLIE "Bill" Carl LOMAX Jr.**

**\*Charles "Charlie" Edward HUGHES Sr.**

Continue to remember our sick or incapacitated in your thoughts and prayers- visit, send a card, let someone know you care.

Our next American Flag display is Martin Luther King Jr. Day, 18 January 2010. Continue to bring in your worn and faded American Flags for proper retirement.

Have a real great new year. May GOD bless everyone.

For GOD and Country, Tony Romano

**POOL NEWS**

Well it sure is winter and swimming in the pool is for extremely daring members. I hope that everyone will help keep a watch over our pool during the cold weather so that we may all enjoy the wonderful fun it will provide this coming summer. I am looking forward to many new faces when we start up our water aerobics this summer.

However during the winter months we can enjoy a whole new hobby! Check out our **Book Rack** by the Pool Table. **You may borrow** a book to read at your leisure but please **bring it back** so others may enjoy also. If you have a few books you do not want why not put a few on the rack for another to use.

We are thinking of getting a reading group together to discuss exceptionally good books and would like to see you join us.

Happy New Year  
Kathy Brett  
Pool Operator

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**AUXILIARY REPORT**

Hello Ladies, The unit was not able to get a date over the holidays for the Ronald McDonald House for dinner but will try for sometime in January. More on that at January's meeting. Remember we need new stuffed toys for the Police/Fire dinner, pop tops for RMH and coupons for our soldiers.

Christmas wrapping for December will be the 13th & 20th. Come out and enjoy a wonderful breakfast while we wrap your gifts for a donation.

There was a Christmas party for Children and Youth on December 19 from 2pm – 4pm complete with a Santa, gifts and food.

For October and November 2015 0.89 in coupons was sent to 10 military bases. (unedited)

Anita Lee, President

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**A&D UPHOLSTERY**

**Club Managers Report**

[clubmanager@americanlegion137.com](mailto:clubmanager@americanlegion137.com)

The New Year is here and I hope everyone had safe and Happy Holidays. With the start of the Year in the Club we have football galore, starting with New Years Day Bowl Games and ending with the Super Bowl. Come on down and cheer on your favorite team and watch them on one of our four televisions.

The SAL & Walter Rasco will be getting the Wii Video games going on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. Come on down and join in it should be a lot of fun.

We are trying to keep our TIKI open but without your support we will not be able to continue, weather permitting. Come on down when the weather is nice on Saturday and Sunday 12 PM to 5 PM and enjoy your TIKI HUT.

Remember there is always something going on at you Post Home.

<b>Monday is</b>	<b>Woman's Darts League</b>
<b>Tuesday is</b>	<b>Open Darts</b>
<b>Wednesday is</b>	<b>Karaoke</b>
<b>Thursday is</b>	<b>Wii</b>
<b>Friday is</b>	<b>Dinner</b>
<b>Friday and Saturday is</b>	<b>Live Music</b>
<b>Sunday is</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>

Come on out and support the **Number One Post in Florida.**

Serving Veterans and Members Daily,  
Bill Kelly

**Cabane Report**

Tearfully, we said good bye to our friend, Bill Lomax in December. Now, we will do the same for another friend, John Shannon, who passed away on December 16<sup>th</sup>. They were wonderful people and will be forever missed. Our hearts go out to their families.

The Wreck on December 18 & 19<sup>th</sup>. went off without a hitch. A nice job was done by the Ritual Team.

The mid-year Petite Prom will be in Ocala, Fl. On January 7-8&9<sup>th</sup>.

We will host another St. Louis Style rib dinner on Friday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Really good food and a small price. Get there early as we usually sell out in less than an hour! (unedited)

Merci, Diane Congressi, La Presidente

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It was a wonderful day for a Party:  
Especially a Veterans Christmas Party!

**Folks in attendance for the Lake City Veterans Hospital Christmas Party.**

Lewis & Ann Gray, Jack & Connie Manning, Norman & Sandy Gentry,  
Charles & Debra Geisinger, Carl & Myra Jowers, Ray- Runyan,  
Jerry Lepore, John & JoAnn Kelley, Al & Josi Scarratta,  
Jeff Frazan, Lynn Swan, and Paul Gullbrant from Post 88.

We wish for all our Veterans a Happy New Year and Good Health, God Bless them all for their service to our Country.

We thank them all for their personal sacrifices and the sacrifices made by their families.

May we each, and everyone remember why our Country was settled and why many settlers came to an unknown land to form a new way of life. This, so that they and the future generations and families to come could enjoy the freedoms we so easily take for granted every day.

Thank you GOD, Please watch over our land and all of our citizens.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELL A BIG "OLE"**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOURS!**

**From: Legion Post, Auxiliary, S.A.L., Legion Riders, Rod & Pole and USMCCA all the Legion Family, we send to you our combined best wishes for a Prosperous, Healthy and Joyous 2010.**

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*WE INVITE YOU TO COME* into the Post and really see what goes on inside these walls. Come see the differences this Legion Post makes in so many ways. Our out reach goes deep into the neighborhoods right where you live. May be, to you or a friend next door.

If you are alive and breathing; I truly believe there is something at this Post that you can become involved in that will not only give you joy, but will have a profound effect on someone else.

***BE A SPORT and GIVE IT A TRY.***

If you are a Southerner we like to say "Lets get er done"

If you are a Northerner I don't have a clue! So write me!

If you come from the Western States send me a note, in care of Post 137 I would like to know what gets you going? What are you Passionate about?

***OUR COUNTRY NEEDS US TO STEP UP AND HELP OTHERS.***

Think about it as you put the pretty boxes and ribbons from Christmas on the curb to be hauled away. There are vets all alone, families without a home, children without clothes, young people that need guidance, senior citizens that need a faucet fixed or a ride once a month to an appointment, a widowed mom that would like to have a friend to talk to about things. I know you can help make some of the hurts go away.

***YOU and YOUR EXPERTISE is NEEDED RIGHT HERE at AMERICAN LEGION POST 137.***

Don't say you don't know anyone, you know me. I am in your home right now and have been every month for almost 8 years now. Leave a message at the office there are folks to guide you into a world of caring and compassion. ***"YOU ARE NEEDED DEAR ONE"***

Editor



