



American Legion Rood Williams Post 271
775 U.S. Highway 1
Tequesta, Florida

January 2018 Newsletter

70th Anniversary Party Post 271

As most of you know, we had our 70th anniversary party on December 9th, 2017. We were very lucky to have Congressman Brian Mast take time out of his busy schedule to visit our Post during this event and spend some time with us. Also, Project 425's Mike Carroll with his crew, Bill Arcuri and Chuck all Vietnam Veterans, were at the event with their Huey Helicopter. Mike was a Chinook crew chief in Vietnam with the 147 ASHC Hillclimbers, Bill was a B-52 pilot who was shot down and became a POW and Chuck I believe was a Huey Helicopter pilot. Our Town Mayor Abbey Brennen also stopped by the Post to show her support and I would to thank them all for attending.

This Anniversary Party was to support our American Legion Programs, the Sea Cadets, Boys State, Veterans Fishing Classic, the Boy Scouts, Children and Youth, to name a few. I would like to thank everyone who bought a ticket to this event and I especially would like to thank the Ladies Auxiliary. If you take into consideration the number of members the Legion and the S.A.L. have, as opposed to the Auxiliary, they actually had a better turnout. If you are an Officer in the Legion or S.A.L. or you're a member of the Honor Guard, I expect every one of you to buy a ticket to support our Charities. If you don't feel that way, then maybe you are in the wrong organization and should find a non-veteran organization to patronize. When members of our Post, who are active with our fund raisers go around the canteen and try to sell a ticket to benefit our programs or try to sell a wreath to place on a veteran's grave and they get rolling eyes and no support; I believe it's a disgrace. We have had to cut back on money we give to support our programs and had to kick out the AA because we can no longer afford the expense. When it gets back to our Officers that patrons in the canteen made a comment that they will wait until the event upstairs is over, so they can get the food for free, something is definitely wrong with your priorities. So, with that being said, I would like to see more support to Legion Programs. We are not trying to line anyone's pockets. We are trying to support the Mission of the American Legion as well as trying to make the canteen a nice place for our members to gather and socialize. I urge some of you members who have the means and time to get a little more involved with the Post. Things go on behind the scenes that you are not aware of and it is not easy being an Officer in an organization like this. Frankly it's a thankless job and sometimes I wonder why I donate my time and money to this Post. The answer is because of my fellow comrades who once served this great nation and I know most of you feel the same way. Remember, the Canteen is not the American Legion, we can survive without it, but the Canteen can't survive without us. This isn't what the Legion can do for you, your thoughts should be what can you do for the American Legion and its Veterans.

David Pietrafese
1st Vice Commander

Membership

As of December 10, 2017, we have 434 members (or 73.81 percent) who have paid their 2018 dues. Let's try to reach 90% by the end of December; please send in your dues in the amount of \$55.00 ASAP. Please be aware, the notices for your annual dues are sent out by National and sometimes the notices and payments cross in the mail. I have had to send at least a half dozen checks back to members who paid their 2018 dues twice and I have received a few nasty grams from others who already paid. So, if you get a notice and you already paid your dues, please disregard the notice; we know who has already paid. If you are not sure, check your membership card to make sure it shows 2018 at the top center of your card. If you are not getting a notice, magazine or newsletter there is an issue. You can call the post and ask for the First Vice; I will help correct the problem. I would like to thank everyone who have already paid, and I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

David Pietrafese
1st Vice Commander

Chaplains Corner **REPENTANCE**

Repentance is one of the most positive of all words.

To repent means to stop going one direction, to turn around completely, and go the opposite way.

Our problem is that we think of repentance as something negative.

Repentance indicates a decisive change, not merely a wishful resolution.

The evidence of repentance is not words of resolve but a changed life.

God bless you all, it has been my privilege to serve as your chaplain.

D.J. "Rick" Ricciardi
Past Chaplain

Rick moved to Tennessee last December and he left us sad to see him go, but happy that their starting a new adventure in their lives. He will be missed not only at the Post but in the Village as well. ~ Andy Heric

Service Officer Report

Taps: None.

Sick Call: None.

Al Landry
Service Officer

Auxiliary

Happy New Year Auxiliary Members. Wow. Welcome 2018. A year has gone by. So, let bygones be bygones. Be HUMBLE and KIND. Let's work together and make 2018 a Fun Year.

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I want to thank everyone for all their hard work during these holiday months. I would like to thank Keri Adams for all her hard work with the Wreaths Across America program. The ceremony went off without a glitch. Again, thank you Keri.

The Palm Beach Pipes and Drums were awesome as always. Thank you everyone that helped decorate the post and for Corey with the SAL's and Auxiliary members that donated a basket for the Christmas auction baskets. The Family Christmas party was a lot of fun with a lot of good food. We have many good cooks that made some amazing dishes for the potluck. It is something we should do more often. We are looking for some new ideas for fun things to do. Our meetings are the first Thursday of every month. Get involved!! To see more of what your Unit has been doing go to our website at <http://www.alaunit271.org>.

Membership: Your membership cards are NOW expired. Please send in your dues. You may drop them off in the canteen or you can pay them online @ <http://www.alaf.org> Dues are \$35.00 and \$10.00 for juniors. Thank you.

Show Me the Money is every Wednesday @ 6:30. Come join us! Who doesn't like to win money? The more that play the bigger the jackpot. We have had jackpots between \$200-\$360.

January 20th Bon Worth Fashion Show - Will be held upstairs. Invite your family and friends. 10% of all sales comes to the Auxiliary. There is a \$5.00 cover charge which also enters you into winning a nice door prize. Upstairs bar will be open and there will be snacks. Any questions please call Annette at 561-801-3047.

January 27th ABC School of Instruction - In Boynton Beach- Registration at 9am 97 North Blvd, Boynton Beach. Teachers will be Ms. Michele DeGennaro and Ms. Jane Hardcore. Two super nice, funny and informative ladies. If you interested in an office or committee chairman, this is a good School to go to. RSVP me by the 14th. 561-574-3596

January 28th Making Valentines card for Troop overseas- Come join us in making Valentine cards for our men and women overseas. 1pm to 3pm.

We have Girls Staters at our March meeting and 1st nominations of officers.

Thank you and God Bless,
President Sandra Swafford

Email- auxiliaryunit271@gmail.com Website: www.alaunit271.org

SAL

Fellow SAL Members,

Meeting attendance and volunteer turnout continues to grow. If you are a SAL member, please remember that we need your help to keep this squad going. Without active participation by its members, the SAL support for the post will not be sustainable. We have a lot of great ideas to support our community and its veterans, but without bodies, these ideas will never come to life. Please see me for volunteer opportunities and make a difference. corey1427@yahoo.com

Your efforts in securing our membership is outstanding to say the least. I can't thank you enough for what you have been doing these past few months. I'm confident that you will continue to push forward and surpass our next goal again. Congratulations to everyone as we could not have done it without the help of every Squadron and Legion member. Thank you so very much! We are still looking for 100% renewal of dues by the end of January. As of the writing of this newsletter, the SAL renewal is only 39%. The state and national renewal average is at 44%, lets strive to surpass this. Please get your dues in. Happy New Year!

Devoted to mutual helpfulness!
S.A.L Adjutant, Corey W. Pine

Legion Riders

The American Legion Riders (ALR) just held their second impromptu meeting. If you are in good standing as Legion member, Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion and enjoy motorcycling (must have your m/c endorsement) then come check us out or contact me via e-mail at sdnewell4@gmail.com. Our next meeting will be held January 18, 2018 (outside). We had honored guests from ALR post 68 help lead us and advise us on how to move forward to become our stand-alone chapter. Hope to meet new people at our next meeting.

Steve Newell
American Legion Rider Director

Wreaths Across American

I would like to thank Keri Adams for coordinating this year's Wreaths Across American Project for the Veterans in Riverside Memorial Park. Keri spent countless hours on this project with very little support. There are over 1,700 Veterans graves in this cemetery and although we fell short of this goal, with Keri's help, the number of Wreaths were up from last year. Kudos to Keri, she does not get enough credit for her efforts and this year's Wreath project would not have happened without her.

David Pietrafese
1st Vice Commander

Honor Guard

We had a very exciting and productive December with excellent participation by the Color Guard, Honor Guard, and all the Legion Family. We received many wonderful comments from the Jupiter and Tequesta communities on our participation in the Annual Holiday Parade. We had a great turnout and a very well drilled Color Guard near the front of the 93-unit parade. Over 1,200 marchers, twirlers, mini car drivers and other activities made for a wonderful experience on a beautiful, sunny and, for the Jupiter Inlet, chilly day.

We celebrated the 70th Anniversary of Post 271's Chartering with Congressman Brian Mast, and learned about the early days of the Post Home from Past Commander John Baker.

The Color Guard led the Presentation of Colors in the opening ceremony of the Wreaths Across America Project at Tequesta Riverside Ceremony. A super turnout by the Sea Cadets and their Color Guard was a highlight of the event. The ladies of the Auxiliary also marched in the Color Parade and looked very sharp in their red, white and blue uniforms. We also provided a resounding rifle salute and Harry Malecki served as our bugler at the conclusion of the ceremony, preceding the actual wreath laying of hundreds of wreaths in memory of our fellow veterans at the historic cemetery.

We will be holding Ceremonial Drill on the Second and Fourth Monday of each month at 1900 hours (7pm for the Air Force veterans). We may change that once we see about availability of the upstairs hall for our activities. Please come to the drills, and to the Sunday Brunch when we honor recently fallen Legionnaires and Honor Guard members. We hope to maintain and even improve our ability to provide sharp, honorable, traditional military services for our departed comrades.

WE NEED YOU! to join the HONOR GUARD.

Bob Jaegers
Sergeant at Arms
Drill Instructor

Blood Drive

A big thanks to all our donors for the last drive! Our next drive is January 7, from 9:30-2:00. Hope to see all our regulars as well as some new ones! Let's start the New Year off by helping save a life.

Al Landry
Chairman

November 2017 Financial Summary

Checks/Debits Paid:	59	@	\$31,199.18
Credits:	<u>15</u>	@	<u>\$31,140.68</u>

Balance: (\$58.50)

Checking Account Balances:

Legion Account:	\$6,106.13
Operating Account:	<u>\$5,259.70</u>
Building Fund:	<u>\$43,530.53</u>
Balance:	<u>\$54,896.36</u>

Harry Malecki
Finance Officer

For the Good of the Post

We are still looking for a few Chairpersons (see the list on page two). The one we need the most is the Entertainment Chair. This will be a Co-Chair along with an Auxiliary, SAL and hopefully soon a ALR. If you are interested in this, please contact me.

Andy Heric
Post Adjutant

For the Good of the Post

We have the following personalized red shirts ready for pick up:

- A red medium polo shirt with "Bill" embroidered on it.
 - A red medium tee shirt with "Chuck" embroidered on it.
 - A red large tee shirt with "Jackie" embroidered on it.
 - A red extra-large tee shirt with "Billy" embroidered on it.
- Please see a Bartender or a Post Officer to claim them.
Ladies long sleeve tees are here.

Andy Heric
Post Adjutant

Boosters

Diane Nolf	\$20.00
William Urbina	\$10.00