

# PALM VALLEY POST 233

## THE AMERICAN LEGION OF FLORIDA, INC.

12 North Wilderness Trail  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082  
Telephone (904) 285-2484  
www.palmvalleypost233.com



Hours:  
Mon ~ Fri 1100 hrs to 2300 hrs  
Sat 0900 hrs ~ at least 2100 hrs  
Sun ~ 0900 to 2100 hrs

### FEBRUARY 2007

#### Commander's Corner

We are now in the second half of our 06/07 fiscal year and the post is still solvent. We have had some heavy expenditures lately, to rebuild our kitchen floor, correct a serious plumbing problem and purchase a new washer/dryer unit. These were all handled in a timely fashion and are all paid for.

Our membership numbers are looking real good. As of year-end 2006 we have 333 paid up 06/07 members against a quotes of 351. A really good job done by our Adjutant and 1st Vice. There are still over 50 members who haven't paid their 06/07 dues since it is 2007 they can no longer use the Legion Facilities until they pay. If you are one of those people get your dues in NOW.

Unfortunately our rosy membership picture was darkened late in December when our Adjutant's car was burglarized in her driveway. She lost many personal items and we lost bank deposits totaling over \$1200. This will be hard to replace.

For the past two months our canteen has been doing well. Sunday breakfasts are averaging 40 or more meals served. Lunches and Friday Steak Nights are well attended. Wednesday dinners have been disappointing. The house committee is working on this.

The canteen manager and her staff have come up with good ideas making special entertainment on Saturday nights, Football parties during the Bowl, and NFL playoff seasons. The additional revenue generated has been most helpful. Besides being known for our friendly atmosphere we are becoming usually known as a fun place to be. Come on by and join in the fun.

Some other things you should be aware of – The Capital Improvement donations have dried up. WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Adjutant has taken a leave of absence. 1st Vice will assume Adjutant duties on a temporary basis, assisted by the Adjutant if and when needed. See the Adjutant column in this new letter.

The early bird dinner has been scheduled see 1st Vice Article.

Finally, our post will be hosting the District Meeting on Sunday February 11th at 12:00PM please attend and show our fellow Legionaries how proud we are of our post.

For God, Country and Post  
Jack Blessing  
Commander

#### From the Auxiliary

First thing on the agenda are some very special thank you.

Dear Santa,  
Thank you very much for coming to our children's Christmas Party. WE know that time is all the essence at this time of year and it's not easy squeezing in a stop over but thank you again for making our party such a special event. I don't know who enjoyed your entrance more the children under 10 or the child in all of us (over 10). I have it on very good authority that everyone was elated with their gifts. Please put Post 233 on your agenda for 2007.

Sylvia Bass- Who at a very busy time of year for everyone, took the time and effort to shop for and wrap all the Christmas gifts. Thank you

Cathy Corcoran- Over Christmas dinner at the post was a huge success thanks to Cathy and others about 50 people were served and they had a wonderful dinner. WE can be very proud.

We still have a few cookbooks left. We have done a fine job so far. Lets keep it up. Please remember to keep the coupons coming Lets make 2007 the best coupon year ever. We are thinking of a Valentines Dance. Nothing definite yet. Check the post for details. Our membership is at 86%. We sent books about the history of a flag to Cub Scout pack 653. They were very appreciative.

We need a few good volunteers for a trip to Lake City for a Bingo extravaganza. It will be a Saturday morning event. Think about joining us. It's a really nice way of saying " I remember" and "Thank You" to a great group of people. We can carpool from the Post.

Please mark your Calendar for 2/11/07. District meeting at Post 233 at 2PM. Looking forward to seeing you there.

God Bless Our Post,  
Trudy Cavanagh  
Auxiliary President

## 1st Vice

Our Early Bird Dinner is scheduled for Saturday – February 3rd from 4:00 to 7:00PM. It is free to those members, who paid their dues prior to Veteran's Day 2006 and have the E.B Insignia on their cards. Be sure to have your CARD in hand for this event. Dale Little-Banquet Chef at Sawgrass Country Club will be roasting a whole pig with all the fixings including Country Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Corn Bread and Cathy's Cherry, Apple, and Blueberry Pie. Additionally, all other Legion Members and their guests are invited with a donation of \$8.00. Please sign-up at the Legion, as volunteers are needed to help the kitchen, servers and all-important, clean-up. Hope to see everyone at the Post for this great event. I want to personally thank all, who have paid their dues to the Post for 2007 and thank you for the new members. Lets celebrate our achievements together on February 3rd, 2007 and 4PM.

All for Freedom,  
Jim Ross  
1st Vice Commander

## Canteen Manager

It is so disappointing to see so few cooks signed up. If you have ever cooked here before, you know how rewarding is it. If you haven't cooked you are missing an opportunity to get to know everyone and truly become a part of 233. If Wednesday Meal Night's disappear, due to lack of cooks it will be terribly sad for this post. Socially as well as financially, if you are interested please see Mike or myself to sign up.

People Frequently ask me what's going on at the Post. While a few surprise events pop-up, most things are planned in time to be in the Newsletter but everything is posted on the big board by the door. Make a point of checking it out- don't miss out on what's going on!

I've heard rumors that the Auxiliary is planning a special night Wed. Feb.14th. Come by the post for details.

My goal here is to continue to improve the marvelous strides Pat was making. What I mean by improve is to help this post reach a higher rate of membership, enjoyment, and participation. Please share you ideas and suggestions with me. Feb. Birthday Party is Sat the 10th come in for cake, Pizza and fun!

God Bless our Troops  
Joyce Wright  
Canteen Manager

S.A.L.

NO REPORT THIS MONTH

## 2nd Vice

The small group of volunteers for Wednesday night cooking has all but dried up. We also have need for 2 Friday night teams and Sunday breakfast cooks.

Post 223 have grown substantially within the last year. One of the reasons for this growth is the meals and comrade. Without one we lose the other. It's time to reevaluate your feelings and make a commitment to continue to help our needs. When you walk in for a meal you expect it to be there- when was the last time you cooked? Whether you "used" to cook all the time or are new and afraid to jump in, remember, this is a group event where others do step in and help. It just takes one to get the ball rolling. It could be you.

God Bless our Troops,  
Mike Wright  
2nd Vice

## Adjutant

On behalf of "The (O) Callahan Family" I would like to once again thank everyone at Post 233 for Michael's phenomenal "Celebration of Life" fundraiser, as well as the beautiful Memorial Service. Our family is extremely grateful for the emotional & financial support that we received from all of you. Michael truly loved Post 233 and he always gave so much of himself to further the cause of our Veterans. When "Iron Mike " was cooking, the turnout was always tremendous! Our family will never forget your kindness. The overwhelming response to these two events in December, made our members all realize how much we do care about our fellow members. I would like to apologize for not specifically naming everyone involved with these events it would nearly be impossible. Rest assured, we deeply appreciate the labor of love that the Legionnaires, Sons of the American Legion, Auxiliary, the G-Men & the bartenders achieved, in memory of Michael. However Ron & Lorraine Joy and Van Martin, your commitment towards organizing the fundraiser, combined with "Chef" Paul Zito's talents, resulted in an outstanding tribute for Michael and is forever memorialized with our family.

Regarding the Memorial Service, we are grateful to everyone for your condolences. We also thank 5th District Chaplain, Bill Reno; Past Adjutant, Ric Smith; Chaplain, Clen Ward; and our uncle, Reverend Eugene Byron for an exceptional eulogy to my brother. And to "JJ" – your rendition of "Taps" nearly brought us to our knees.

Last, but not least, as the Commander mentioned in his column, I was the victim of a crime in December: wherein, my car was burglarized. The thieves took both my American Legion & personal briefcases. They threw the contents out of their vehicle and (miraculously) most of the Legion documents were retrieved within Dolphin Cove and along A1A & 210 the next morning. Unfortunately, the cash & checks that were stolen will never be found. The checks were ready for deposit so no one else will be able to cash them. Therefore if your check has not cleared the bank as you read this you may certainly void it. I am currently on leave of absence. I will be assisting our 1st Vice & acting Adjutant, Jim Ross as he deems necessary. I do apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

For God and Country  
Patty O'Callahan  
Assisting Adjutant

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### February Birthdays

1. Sylvia Bass
- Stephanie Holland
3. Trudy Cavanagh
4. Catherine Leblanc
6. Cherie Lee
11. Chuck Kees
- Joe Bing
- Lori Pilgrim
- Edith Butner
12. Johnny Jones, Jr.
- Barbara Nielson
14. Lorraine Joy
17. Clen Ward
18. Cindy Martin
21. Georgia Barnes
22. Joey Holland
24. Wilford Lyon
26. Mark Stewart

## Palm Valley American Legion Post 233

**Johnny Jones**  
Past Commander

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# OFFICERS

## Legionnaire Officers

Commander – Jack Blessing  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander – Jim Ross  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander – Mike Wright  
Adjutant – Patti O’Callahan  
Finance Officer – Mike Holland  
Chaplin – Clen Ward  
Sergeant –at –Arms –Don Rainey

## Executive Board

John Wagener      Chuck Kees  
Bill Furr            Steve Hutchinson  
Steve Stevers      Wilber Burnette

## Committee Chairmen:

Executive Board - Dick Salzarulo  
House - Bill Lee  
Landscape - Ned Mullen  
New Building - Johnny Jones

## Auxiliary Officers

President – Trudy Cavanaugh  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Ann Cook  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Juddy Mills  
Treasurer – Barbara Milazo  
Secretary – Cathy Corcoran  
Chaplin – Arlene Jones  
Sergeant – at- Arms – Georgia Barnes

## Auxiliary Executive Committee

Sylvia Bass  
Lillian Burnette  
Maggie Furr

## S. A. L.

Commander – John paparelli  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander - Fred Henderson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Commander – Van Martin  
Adjutant – Steve Willis  
Sergeant –at –Arms –Jeff “Tex” Ward  
Chaplin - Gerry Murray

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