



# Sauls-Bridges American Legion Post 13 News



Volume 74, Issue 8

August 2024

## History of Agent Orange

Many of you are very aware of Agent Orange and its side effects. Many of you endured the after effects of exposure to this deadly agent, but do you know the history of it and its use?

“Agent Orange was a tactical herbicide used by the U.S. military for control of vegetation. It was named for the orange band around the 55-gallon storage barrel. The military sprayed Agent Orange and other tactical herbicides during the Vietnam War. Veterans who may have been exposed to Agent Orange include Veterans who served in different locations, including Vietnam, the Korean Demilitarized Zone, on Thai Air Force bases, at other locations, and who flew on or worked on C-123 Aircraft.”



Throughout history our Armed Forces have fought in dense jungles and heavy foliated areas. Vietnam was different. The land was covered in a “triple-canopied” jungle that concealed the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces.

To combat this problem, the U.S. employed a program, codenamed Operation Ranch Hand, to spray “more than 20 million gallons of various herbicides over Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos from 1961 to 1971.” The spraying covered 4.5 million acres including “roads, rivers, canals, rice paddies and farmland.” The dangerous herbicide Agent Orange contained was the deadly chemical agent dioxin. It has been known to cause cancer, birth defects, rashes and severe psychological and neurological problems.

“The first U.S. combat troops didn’t arrive in Vietnam until March 1965, but by then the effort to defoliate the jungle was well under way. Agent Orange, part of a larger program known as Trail Dust, was first sprayed in August 1961. President Kennedy had authorized the use of herbicides in December 1961, and the U.S. Air Force began flying Operation Ranch Hand missions the following month.”

Two-thirds of the herbicide used during the Vietnam War was Agent Orange. The U.S. government, under the program Operation Ranch Hand, sprayed more than 13 million gallons of Agent Orange. It was developed by the companies Monsanto and Dow Chemical. They also developed the additional chemicals known as the Rainbow Agents: Agent Pink, Agent Green, Agent Purple, Agent White and Agent Blue.

“In 1979, President Jimmy Carter authorized the first Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) study of Agent Orange, to evaluate the effects of the chemical compound on the pilots who sprayed it. The Agent Orange Act was established in 1991.”

<https://www.history.com/topics/vietnam-war/agent-orange-1>

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/#:~:text=Agent%20Orange%20was%20a%20tactical,herbicides%20during%20the%20Vietnam%20War>

[https://www.vvmf.org/topics/Agent-Orange/?gad\\_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI2Z-sxaCnhwMVoET\\_AR3IdgGGEAYASAAEgKln\\_D\\_BwE](https://www.vvmf.org/topics/Agent-Orange/?gad_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI2Z-sxaCnhwMVoET_AR3IdgGGEAYASAAEgKln_D_BwE)

**EVERY DAY IS MEMORIAL DAY—AND EVERY DAY IS VETERANS DAY!!**

## *TVLC and Its Mission*

*Contributed by Susie Caplowe, MSW*

The Tallahassee Veterans Legal Collaborative has been offering veterans access to a wide variety of legal services that protects their rights and interests.

TVLC offers free legal consultations or referrals to all veterans in the Big Bend area, regardless of income, every Thursday from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Post 13. Veterans need to bring their DD214 or VA ID card, Florida driver license, and any relevant documentation.

“The TVLC is a network of hundreds of volunteer lawyers, paralegals, organizers and community service providers who are passionate about serving the men and women who have served our country in military service.”



The volunteers with TVLC have helped hundreds of veterans with old court debts, paying fines and fees, reinstating driver licenses, and working community service hours with a weekly Farm-share food distribution and legal clinics. The picture shown left is the TVLC volunteers celebrating the drivers license reinstatement of all three male veterans pictured here.

The TVLC is always looking for volunteers who are willing to help, pro bono, to assist veterans with legal services. Please consider volunteering to provide free consultations and other services. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated!

The TVLC is 300 hundred volunteers strong, but more are needed as our veteran population continues to grow. We exist because of donations provided by YOU! Please consider volunteering and donating to our cause. Over the years we have helped thousands of veterans with the services they need. YOU have made this possible.

We would like to thank the American Legion Post 13 for providing the venue that makes our mission possible. The Post is located at 229 Lake Ella Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32303.

TVLC contact information is shown below.

(850) 815-7686

<https://www.tvlc.legal>

TVLC.LEGAL@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/tallahasseevets/>

Tallahassee Veterans Legal Collaborative (TVLC)

P.O Box 11091

Tallahassee, Florida 32302

The Tallahassee Veterans Legal Collaborative is a registered 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization. Registration #CH54318 All donations are tax deductible. A copy of the official Registration & Financial information may be obtained from the Fl Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services (FLDACS) by calling toll free (800) 435-7352 within the State. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.

“We need men who can dream of things that never were.” ~ John F. Kennedy

## Great Marianas Turkey Shoot

The Battle of the Philippine Sea, was a major battle of WWII. This was the largest carrier-to-carrier battle in history. Fought on June 19-20, 1944, it crippled the Japanese Navy to where it no longer was able to conduct carrier operations. Let's see what was on the playing field for each side:

### Americans

7 fleet carriers  
 8 light carriers  
 7 battle ships  
 8 heavy cruisers  
 13 light cruisers  
 68 destroyers  
 28 submarines  
 900 carrier aircraft *Robert Caldwell*

### Japanese

3 fleet carriers  
 6 light carriers  
 5 battle ships  
 7 heavy cruisers  
 2 light cruisers  
 31 destroyers  
 24 submarines  
 6 oilers  
 400 carrier aircraft  
 300 land base aircraft

If you took the time to read the above list then you would have noticed the name of Robert Caldwell. Robert is a 103 year old Navy Veteran whom myself and Ed Rodriguez had the chance to meet and interview a few weeks back. Robert was a Navy Pilot who flew night missions looking for submarines.

On one unique night there was a large “blip” on his radar. Robert made the decision to fly in and take a closer look. About five miles out this “carrier” turned on its lights, Robert deduced that they thought he was a Japanese plane coming in for a landing. However, it was not Robert’s intention to land for two reasons: first, he wasn't Japanese and second his aircraft was not a carrier aircraft. Instead, Robert made a u-turn or whatever they do in plans, and returned to the powers that be so he could report the location of the Japanese Fleet.

Robert Caldwell is a member of Sauls-Bridges American Legion Post 13. Robert may be only one of two left in our post. The other being Bryce Thornton.

Pictured are Robert T Caldwell and his daughter Janet Caldwell Clark.

Yours in Service,

John Folsom  
 Florida Veterans Hall of Fame  
 Chaplain/2nd District  
 American Legion  
 Department of Florida  
 Chaplain VFW Post 3308



“Progress is not possible without deviation.” ~ Frank Zappa

## Tallahassee High School Students Attend Florida Girls State

Submitted by Marjorie McNeill

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida Unit 13 and District 2 Girls State Chair

Four rising senior girls from Tallahassee area high schools attended the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Florida Girls State program held June 20-28, 2024, in Tallahassee on the campus of Florida State University. Participants were chosen by the ALA Sauls-Bridges Unit 13 in Tallahassee. During ALA Girls State, delegates participate in a mock legislature and gain insight into how the three branches of government work. They are responsible for drafting bills, participating in legislative sessions, and electing officials, such as governor, cabinet, and supreme court justices.

While in Tallahassee, the girls meet with prominent women in leadership and government positions, providing each girl an opportunity to discuss trending issues and share bills they have written as part of Florida Girls State. These distinguished leaders also spoke with the delegates about their journey in politics and government service.

Participants leave Florida Girls State with leadership lessons for life and an understanding of the fundamentals of city, county, and state government, along with the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of citizens. This nine-day experience has laid the foundation of thousands of bright futures in not only public service, but other careers as well. Some notable industries include government, military, law, education, and media.

Florida Girls State connects participants with their peers from across the state, allowing the young women a unique opportunity to spend time with others who share common interests and those who have different perspectives from their own. The girls leave Tallahassee with a deeper understanding of government, a renewed sense of patriotism, and an appreciation for veterans.

Mayor John Dailey was the keynote speaker at the opening session of Florida Girls State. Mayor Dailey discussed his experiences at Florida Boys State and Boys Nation and how these events continue to shape his personal and professional life. He presented a proclamation recognizing the Florida Girls State program.

Girls State delegates representing Tallahassee high schools included: Olivia Collins (Maclay School), Caroline Cox (Home Educated), Lenna Gayhart (Leon High School), and Nishi Nandineni (Rickards High School). While there, Lenna Gayhart was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives and Nishi Nandineni was elected Chair of the Nationalist Party. Lenna Gayhart was selected as one of two Senators to represent Florida at Girls Nation to be held July 20-27, 2024 in Washington, DC.

Tallahassee Girls State delegates and staff with Mayor Dailey taken at the 2024 Florida Girls State session.



“Always remember: Silence and smile are two very powerful tools.” ~ Paulo Coelho

## Legionnaire of the Month Submitted by Dennis Hall

In case you missed the email dated July 5, from [floridalegionpost13@substack.com](mailto:floridalegionpost13@substack.com), Post 13 has launched an exciting new recognition program for our members!

Here's how it works:

Each month, one exceptional Legionnaire will be honored as the Legionnaire of the Month. Quarterly, these monthly award winners will compete for the prestigious title of Legionnaire of the Quarter. At the end of the year, the four quarterly winners will vie for the ultimate accolade: Legionnaire of the Year for Post 13.

The Legionnaire of the Year will then advance to the state level, competing against other top Legionnaires for the state award. If our champion wins at the state level, they will proceed to compete on the national stage.

We have some outstanding volunteers at our post, and we are committed to ensuring that your valuable contributions are recognized and celebrated. Let's make sure your dedication and hard work get the acknowledgment they deserve!

Criteria for the Legionnaire of the month will be emailed to our membership soon.

### The Legionnaire of the Month for June 2024 is Chuck Howell

Legionnaire Chuck Howell was selected LOM for June because of his unselfish giving of his time to the Veteran community. He is an unseen person who ensures the Post facility is prepared for our Monthly General Meeting and Post Social Meeting by setting up chairs, tables, and whatever else needs to be done; he is the Leader of the Big Bend Honor Guard and prepares the Honor Guard for the Tallahassee National Cemetery and Post 13 Memorial Day Services; he helps transport, setup, and return items needed by the Post for the Post Memorial Day Service; he is, for many years, the leader of the Big Bend Honor Guard for interments at the Tallahassee National Cemetery; he is a member of the TNC Support Committee; and he is a long time Post member in good standing and is present for all AL Post meetings.

Legionnaire Chuck Howell (L), Post 13  
Adjutant Ed Hood



Mr. Chris Wilson, owner and publisher of the tabloid, *MAJOR MORALE*, was presented a Letter of Commendation from Post 13. Mr. Wilson was recognized for providing Post 13 complimentary advertising of two or three pages in the monthly publication. The Post's articles are always in the center each month. Mr. Wilson is very supportive of the Veterans community by sharing Veterans organizations' information and upcoming events in each issue. Thank you, Mr. Wilson for demonstrating your care and support to our Veterans. Post Adjutant Ed Hood made the presentation during the June 5, Commanders Coalition Meeting.



Mr. Chris Wilson (L) and Post 13  
Adjutant Ed Hood



## “In the Spirit of Service, Not Self”

Dear Members,

As of July 1, the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Florida came under new leadership; President Charlotte Bass will be "Securing our House" and "REBUILDING" our Foundation to build a "Stronger Future" to ensure our future leaders have a firm foundation. The color President Bass chose to represent her year is Teal.

Unit 13's Officers present were installed at the July General Membership meeting on July 11 by our newly elected District 2 President, Debra Mann. Remember to pledge your support and cooperation to our incoming officers as they continue serving our Military Families.

Unit 13 is approaching the electronic world whether we like it or not. The Auxiliary can accept Cash App and VENMO payments. Today, most of us DO NOT CARRY CASH. The Auxiliary has been asked several times about different ways to accept cash donations. A good example is Poppy Collections; if a person wants to donate and has Cash App or Venmo, it's a win-win for the Auxiliary. If you have questions, please send them via email, and one of our EC members will get back to you.

Mark your calendar: The Auxiliary EC meeting will be held on August 8 at 5:30 pm, and the GM meets at 6:00 pm. Please join us at the Hootch to learn more about the Auxiliary sponsors' projects.

The District's School Of Instructions (SOI) will be held in Sneads, Unit 241, on August 11, 2024—unit address: 2102 Legion Road, Sneads. Registration begins at 9:00 am, and the meeting starts at 9:30 am CENTRAL TIME.

We pray for the leadership of the Legion and Auxiliary as we continue,  
"In the Spirit of Service – Not Self"



For God & Country,

Nell Hewitt, President  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Sauls-Bridges Unit 13

### American Legion Auxiliary Sauls-Bridges Unit 13 Junior Member Lenna Gayhart

**DID YOU KNOW?** Only 4 out of 67 county school boards in the Sunshine State include a student as a contributing member of its board.

Junior ALA member of Sauls-Bridges Unit 13, Lenna Gayhart, represented our state's students as a Keynote Student Panelist at the Florida Association of School Administrators Annual Conference in Orlando earlier this month.

She addressed the crowd of approximately 700 school and district administrators from around the state to speak about the importance of including a student voice in our local school boards. After delivering her remarks, she answered questions and met with many administrators individually to advocate for including a student board representative in all counties within our state.

As Lenna said, "The superintendent and school board members are making many decisions daily affecting thousands of students. The reason for the student representatives is to add a student perspective to their conversations."

“We must turn to each other and not on each other.” – Jesse Jackson



**Sharon L. Courey, Chaplain**  
**American Legion Auxiliary, Post 13**



GRACIOUS FATHER, WE THANK YOU FOR THE PAST YEAR COMPLETED; ITS PROJECTS, LEADERSHIP, COOPERATION AND SUCCESSES. WE PRAY FOR CONTINUED ASSISTANCE IN OUR PURPOSE AND FOR WISDOM WITH DECISIONS AS WE WORK TOGETHER WITH THE AMERICAN LEGION UNIT 13.

WE EXPRESS SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THEIR CONSISTENT, GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY. WE WOULD SO APPRECIATE OUR MEMBERS TO COME FORWARD, REALIZE THEIR TALENTS AND THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT EACH ONE CAN MAKE IN SOME SMALL WAY TO ASSIST IN KEEPING OUR UNITS GROWING STRONG. THE REWARDS OF WORKING TOGETHER, ESTABLISHING FRIENDSHIPS, AND FULFILLING THE PURPOSE OF OUR ORGANIZATION ARE PRICELESS. WE PRAY FOR GUIDANCE OF OUR OFFICERS AS THEY ASSUME THEIR POSITIONS WITH DETERMINED AND LOYAL HEARTS FULFILLING THEIR OBLIGATIONS. HELP US TO PERSEVERE AT ALL TIMES WORKING TOGETHER AND ASSISTING OUR VETERANS AND MILITARY, AS WE SERVE GOD AND COUNTRY. LET US NEVER SURRENDER SPEAKING UP IF WE SEE OUR INDEPENDENCE, OUR U.S. CONSTITUTION AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM THREATENED. LORD, HELP US TO UPHOLD "THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY" THAT SO MANY OF OUR LEADERS AND OUR SOLDIERS HAVE FOUGHT AND DIED FOR. GOD BLESS AMERICA AND MAY YOUR PRESENCE ALWAYS BE WITH US IN MAINTAINING OUR FREEDOM. WE PRAY IN YOU HOLY NAME. AMEN.

SHARON L. COUREY  
 CHAPLAIN  
 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 13

### 2024 TRICARE CATASTROPHIC CAPS

Group A includes beneficiaries whose sponsor entered military service prior to Jan. 1, 2018 — except for those using TRICARE Young Adult. Group B includes beneficiaries whose sponsor entered military service on or after Jan. 1, 2018, plus all TRICARE Young Adult members.

#### **Group A**

Active Duty Family Members: \$1,000/family  
 Retirees/Families/Others: \$3,000/family (TRICARE Prime); \$4,157/family (TRICARE Select)  
 TRICARE Reserve Select Members: \$1,256/family  
 TRICARE Retired Reserve Members: \$4,399/family

#### **Group B**

Active Duty Family Members: \$1,256/family  
 Retirees/Families/Others: \$4,399/family  
 TRICARE Reserve Select Members: \$1,256/family  
 TRICARE Retired Reserve Members: \$4,399/family

For more information, please see [https://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/moaas-tricare-toolkit/tricare-toolkit-the-catastrophic-cap-could-be-an-opportunity-for-you-to-save/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_](https://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/moaas-tricare-toolkit/tricare-toolkit-the-catastrophic-cap-could-be-an-opportunity-for-you-to-save/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_)



Muriel Kweyama, outgoing American Legion Auxiliary District 2 President, pins Debra Jones-Mann as the incoming District President at the Department Convention.

District 2 President Debra Mann performing the Installation of Unit 13 2024-2025 Officers.

Change of Command of Officers for Post 13 with Former Commander Vic Hanna presiding.



Change of Command of Officers for Post 13.



President Mann presented Unit 13 with a Certificate of Communication from the Department for our Public Relations in spreading the word, "Newsletter/EBlast 2023-2024." Missing is member Paula Wilkins, which we could not do this without her. Thank you Paula and CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

“Perhaps one did not want to be loved so much as to be understood.” ~ George Orwell

## Chaplain Eric Smith Receives State of Florida AMVET of the Year Award Submitted by Dennis Hall



Post 1776 AMVETS Commander Gordon Lightfoot presented Chaplain Eric Smith (R) Florida AMVET of the Year Award at an AMVETS dinner with the Big Bend Honor Guard and other guests in attend-

American Legion Post 13 Chaplain Eric Smith is also the chaplain for the Tallahassee Chapter of the DAV and Tallahassee AMVETS Post 1776. In addition, he is the Chaplain for the Big Bend Honor Guard at the Tallahassee National Cemetery.

AMVETS Post 1776 Commander Gordon Lightfoot nominated Chaplain Smith for the State of Florida AMVET of the Year Award. His nomination was centered upon Chaplain Smith's dedication to our veterans and his other community service involvements.

**Congratulations!** Chaplain Smith was recognized Florida AMVET of the Year at the Annual Florida AMVETS Convention in Orlando, Florida on June 8. Post 13 is very proud of Chaplain Smith. Thank you for your faithful service to Post 13 and the other organizations that you so generously serve.



### NOTES FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Members:

The Orange Ribbon shown above is near and dear to my heart. My late husband, Donald Leslie Wilkins, a Retired Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force, contracted prostate cancer and leukemia from exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. This is about all those veterans who have suffered from Agent Orange exposure and have been fighting for the disability benefits they so much deserve. Thanks to the VA and the attention focused on this issue, many veterans have found relief through research for new medications, access to better healthcare and more options for treatment. While Don died in December 2012, this is a whole new era for our afflicted veterans. Please keep these veterans in your prayers, and all those suffering from toxic exposure. Without their sacrifice, I don't even want to think where this country would be.

I also would like to thank each and every member who is contributing to the newsletter every month. We have great officers and members for the 2023-2024 year and your articles are always welcome! If you would like to contribute, please do not hesitate to send it to me.

Thanks so much to our members who support us. ~ Paula Wilkins

“When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful.” ~ Malala Yousafzai

**PRESENTED IN MEMORY OF ISAAC ELI HOLLAND**



I'd like to recognize a special gift from very special people. I was given a World War I flag by Mike Stephenson from Datamaxx Applied Technologies, Inc. Isaac Holland was Mike's grandfather. I've had the honor and privilege to work over 22 years for the Stephenson's. The company is dedicated to law enforcement and public safety through the development of mission critical software. To say our company is extremely patriotic would be an understatement.

His name was Corporal Isaac Eli Holland and he was born September 13, 1892. Corporal Holland died August 17, 1939 from complications of Mustard Gas Poisoning while serving in France with the 167<sup>th</sup> Infantry division during World War I. It was a tremendous loss to Mike's mother, Emily C. (Holland) Stephenson, who was only 17 years of age when her father passed away. Mr. Holland was sent stateside where he succumbed to his injuries.

I gave the flag in it's original sealed container with Corporal Holland's dog tag (as received by the family at his funeral), to then Commander Vic Hanna and Dennis Hall, Post 13 Historian at the June Social. Dennis has just recently assured me that a display case is being readied where the flag will be placed for public viewing.

Submitted by Paula Wilkins, Editor

**Department of Florida Conventions June 13 -16, 2024**

All three conventions: American Legion, Sons of American Legion, and American Legion Auxiliary were held at the Hilton Orlando Convention Center at 1751 Hotel Plaza Boulevard, Lake Buena Vista, Florida.



“Stop making excuses; you're the only one stopping you.” ~ Issa Rae

The 105<sup>th</sup> American Legion Department of Florida Convention began on Thursday morning at 8:30 am with convention/delegate registration followed by “breakout” training sessions throughout the day ending at 3:30 pm.

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Legion Family Kick-Off Party

Friday, 8 am - 1:00 pm, General Session Part I

2:30 pm - 5:30 pm, “breakout” training sessions

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm, Commander’s and President’s Banquet

Saturday, 8 am - 1:00 pm, General Session Part II including election of department officers

2:00 pm – department officers election results

3:00 pm - 5:15 pm, various Post officer’s training sessions

6:30 pm - 7:15 pm, installation of department officers

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, installation of department officer’s reception

Sunday, 8:30 am - 9:00 am religious service

9:30 am -10:30 am – Department Executive Committee Meeting



L – R Dennis Hall AL Post 13 Historian-Elect, Ed Hood AL Post 13 Adjutant, Dottie Hall ALA Unit 13 At Large, Mike Mann SAL Squadron 13 and District 2 Commander, Debbie Mann ALA District 2 President, Muriel Kweyama ALA previous District 2 President and previous Unit 13 Auxiliary Chaplain, Cindy Laskowski AL Post 13 Commander-Elect

American Legion Post 13 2024 Convention Delegates:



Dennis Hall Cindy Laskowski Ed Hood

Post Historian-Elect Dennis Hall attended Membership Training Class, Historian’s Training Class and Convention General Sessions Part I and II.

Post Commander-Elect Cindy Laskowski attended Membership Training Class, Post Commander’s Training Class, and Convention General Sessions Part I and II.

Post Adjutant Ed Hood attended Membership Training Class, Adjutant’s Training Class, and Convention General Sessions Part I and II.

“A good friend is a connection to life - a tie to the past, a road to the future.” ~ Lois Wyse

### Post 13 July 11, 2024 General Business Meeting Highlights

**New Business:** Installation of 2024- 2025 Post 13 Officers

Submitted by Dennis Hall, Historian



A partial slate of Officers serving Post 13 were in-stalled for the 2024-2025 year. The Oath of Office was administered by District Two Commander Doyle Combs (red shirt) and accompanied by District Two First Vice Commander Roxanne Dressler (far left)

Left to right: Third Vice Commander Larry Clayton, Second Vice Commander Redmond Gautier, First Vice Commander Rodney Keener, Post Commander Cindy Laskowski, Historian Dennis Hall, and Chaplain Eric Smith (Not present Post Finance Officer Jay Lindsey, Sergeant-at-Arms Dwayne Myer)



### Change of Command Ceremony



Post Commander Vic Hanna salutes new Post Commander Cindy Laskowski



Post Commander Hanna indicating Post Commander's Brass on his cover



Post Commander Hanna presents the Post Commander's Brass to new Post Commander Laskowski

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- AUG 1 AIR FORCE DAY
- AUG 4 COAST GUARD DAY
- AUG 7 PURPLE HEART DAY
- AUG 10 U.S. DEPT. OF DEFENSE BIRTHDAY
- AUG 10 AGENT ORANGE AWARENESS DAY
- AUG 14 NAVAJO CODE TALKERS DAY
- AUG 16 NATIONAL AIRBORN DAY
- AUG 25 POST 13 SOCIAL 6:00 PM  
PROGRAM 6:30 PM
- AUG 29 MARINE CORPS RESERVE BIRTHDAY

### MILITARY HUMOR

**What form is required for all members of the military?** A uniform.

**Why was the sergeant mad when his son brought home a 100 on a math test?**  
The kid spent more time dividing than conquering.

**Why are there no knock-knock jokes about the American military?**  
Because freedom rings!



Accepting the new brass



Pinning the new brass



Wearing the new brass



“Change of Command”



Former Post 13 Commander Vic Hanna presents 2024-2025 Post 13 Commander Cindy Laskowski



Post 13 Commander Cindy Laskowski presides over first General Membership Meeting as Post 13 Commander

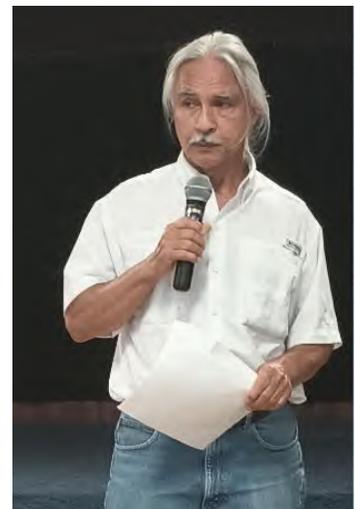
First Vice Commander Rodney Keener made the recommendation for two new Post 13 members be added to the Post. He indicated the necessary “paperwork” was complete and their dues were paid.

The two members voted into the Post were:

- Eric Snyder, U S Army
- Dove McClain, U S Army

Welcome to Post 13. We look forward to getting to know you.

Second Vice Commander Redmond Gautier, introduced SAL member Andy Welch. Mr. Welch provided a very comprehensive and detailed report concerning the roof replacement that occurred a few months ago. Unfortunately, the roof has experienced leaks and damaged ceiling tiles. The ceiling tiles were replaced. There are “on going” conversations with the Contractor as to what necessary actions will be needed to remedy the situation.



Andy Welch addressed the General Membership Meeting

## FHP Trooper John “Brad” Peters awarded 2024 National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year at the Department of Florida Convention

Submitted by Dennis Hall

Trooper Peters was nominated 2024 National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year from Post 13 by Adjutant Ed Hood. Trooper Peters was selected the Department of Florida National Law Enforcement Officer. As the recipient of the Department of Florida 2024 National Law Enforcement Officer, Trooper Peters will be in competition for the national level 2024 National Law Enforcement Officer awarded at the national convention. Congratulations and Good luck, Trooper Peters!



Trooper John Peters received the Department of Florida 2024 National Law Enforcement Officer award from Daryl Bass, Sr.

FHP John “Brad” Peters Photo® Edward Lewis

In his nominating letter for Trooper Peters, Adjutant Ed Hood wrote:

Throughout his four-year tenure with the Florida Highway Patrol, Trooper Peters has exhibited exceptional leadership and commitment in various capacities, including as a Field Training Officer, General Instructor, and FHP Academy Counselor. His roles as an Acting District Sergeant and member of the FHP Quick Reaction Force underscore his ability to effectively manage critical situations and ensure public safety during civil unrest and large-scale events.

Prior to his esteemed career with the Florida Highway Patrol, Trooper Peters served with distinction in the United States Army for 21 years, attaining the rank of First/Master Sergeant (E8).



His 25 years of selfless dedication to law enforcement and public safety make him an outstanding candidate for the American Legion National *Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award*.

## Ben Bradwell nominated for 2024 Department of Florida Tracy Taylor Service Officer Award

Submitted by Dennis Hall



Ben Bradwell,  
Post 13 Service Officer

Adjutant Ed Hood wrote the nomination letter for Service Officer Ben Bradwell. The Adjutant wrote:

As the Post Service Officer for Sauls-Bridges Post 13 for the past four years, Ben Bradwell has been a beacon of support for Veterans and their families. Additionally, serving as the Service Officer for several other Veterans' Service Organizations, his impact extends far beyond the boundaries of a single post. In role as the Leon County Veterans Services Officer for the past 15 years, Ben's dedication has been unwavering. Between 2023 and 2024, his office has completed over 5,100 benefits counseling appointments for Veterans and their dependents, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to ensuring that no Veteran is left behind. Furthermore, in collaboration with the City of Tallahassee, Ben provided over 120 Star-Metro Bus passes for low-income and disabled veterans, easing the burden of transportation and enhancing their quality of life.

Although Service Officer Ben Bradwell was not selected for the Department of Florida Tracy Taylor Award, Ben can be proud of his accomplishments in serving the Veteran community of Leon County.

Thank you, for your efforts in supporting veterans and your years of service do not go unnoticed. You represent yourself and Post 13 in the highest standards. You are an asset not only to our Post, but to the Veterans of Leon County. Congratulations on your nomination. Thank you for being a member of Post 13.

Beyond his professional achievements, Ben's commitment to community engagement is superlative. He has conducted Veteran benefits presentations for "Senior Day" at all senior centers throughout Leon County, ensuring that Veterans are informed and empowered to access the benefits available to them. Additionally, through the Veterans Emergency Assistance Program, Ben has provided vital emergency financial assistance to Veterans facing crises, ensuring that they have the resources they need to overcome adversity.

Ben's devotion to serving Veterans extends beyond the confines of his office, as he maintains strong relationships with community partners by actively participating in monthly Veteran coordination meetings. His collaborative approach and strong commitment to service have made him a respected and admired figure within the Veteran community and beyond.

In summary, Ben Bradwell's exemplary service, diligence, and outstanding achievements make him an exceptionally deserving candidate for the 2024 Tracy Taylor Award. His tireless efforts have made a profound and lasting impact on the lives of countless Veterans and their families, embodying the spirit of service and selflessness that defines the American Legion's mission.

"The best thing one can do when it is raining is to let it rain." ~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

## Legionnaire COL(R) Charles “Chuck” Mohr awarded Post 13 “Legionnaire of the Year” for 2023-2024

Submitted by Dennis Hall

American Legion District 2 Chaplain and former Post 13 Commander John Folsom presented the Post 13 Legionnaire of the Year Award to Colonel Chuck Mohr (R) during the June 11, Second Tuesday luncheon at the Henry McMillan Armory in Tallahassee.



January 17, 1949, Charles "Chuck" Mohr, at the age of sixteen, enlisted into the Florida Army National Guard. To commemorate the occasion, the Post of Tallahassee hosted a congratulatory event on January 9, 2024. January 17, 2024 was his 75th year of combined active and inactive service in the Florida Guard. Col (Ret) Mohr served 37 active years in the Florida Army National Guard. Following his retirement from active service, Col Mohr continues to provide countless hours each month to the Florida Guard. Each month he organizes a lunch for prior military personnel with their spouses and friends at the Tallahassee armory. This luncheon serves 90 or more guests each month. He is the senior retired FLARNG officer who coordinates securing FLARNG personnel for the high school JROTC Camps that are held each year at Camp Shands and Camp Rudder in north Florida. He "recruits", for the most part, retired Florida Army National Guard members who provide instruction to the high school JROTC Cadets at these camps. He arranges the instructors' travel expenses, secures their uniforms, and completes many other necessary tasks to ensure the camps operate smoothly, effectively, and brings honor to the Florida Army National Guard.

During past deployments of Tallahassee National Guard units, he was instrumental as the liaison between the deployed troops and their families left behind. He is on the Tallahassee Board of Trustees for Tallahassee Honor Flight. He is a member of several community civic clubs and military service organizations. Col Mohr is known by those in Tallahassee as Mr. Florida Army National Guardsman.

Without a doubt, Col Mohr exhibits the “never quit” serving attitude of many of our veterans. Can you name anyone else who has served 75 years in any organization? Legionnaire Mohr is a Post 13 member with over 30 years of membership. **Congratulations**, Col Mohr, for being awarded the 2023-2024 Post 13 Legionnaire of the Year!

“Do not fear mistakes, there are none.” ~ Miles Davis



# AUGUST 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967	29 7:00 - 9:00 pm DANCE PARTY \$10 ALL AGES OPEN TO PUBLIC	30 6:30 - 10:00 pm TALLAHASSEE SWING BAND \$10 Open to Public \$7 Students	31 6:30 pm SUE BOYD DANCE AND LESSONS OPEN TO PUBLIC	1 AUGUST 3:00 - 5:00 pm Legal Collaborative  <b>AIR FORCE DAY</b> 	2 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967	3  The Rockitz! 6:30 Doors Open 7:30 Show Tickets available at: eventbrite.com \$15 online/\$20 door
4 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967  <b>COAST GUARD DAY</b> 	5 7:00 - 9:00 pm DANCE PARTY \$10 ALL AGES OPEN TO PUBLIC	6 6:30 - 10:00 pm TALLAHASSEE SWING BAND \$10 Open to Public \$7 Students	7 6:30 pm SUE BOYD DANCE AND LESSONS OPEN TO PUBLIC <b>PURPLE HEART DAY</b> 	8 3:00 - 5:00 pm Legal Collaborative 5:30 pm Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm General Meeting	9 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967	10  Peaches and Sunshine Music Festival 5:30 pm \$30 Gen Adm <b>DOD BIRTHDAY AGENT ORANGE DAY</b> 
11 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967	12 7:00 - 9:00 pm DANCE PARTY \$10 ALL AGES OPEN TO PUBLIC	13 6:30 - 10:00 pm TALLAHASSEE SWING BAND \$10 Open to Public \$7 Students	14  6:30 pm SUE BOYD DANCE AND LESSONS OPEN TO PUBLIC <b>NAVAJO CODE TALKERS DAY</b>	15 3:00 - 5:00 pm Legal Collaborative 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Marine Corps League 5:00 - 10:00 pm Women Veterans Unite	16  7:00 pm Doors Open Highway 59 Band \$10 Cover OPEN TO PUBLIC <b>NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY</b>	17 12:00 - 5:00 pm Grand Peruvian Celebration \$35 Cover
18 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967	19 7:00 - 9:00 pm DANCE PARTY \$10 ALL AGES OPEN TO PUBLIC	20 <b>NO SWING DANCE</b>  <b>ELECTION POLLING LOCATION</b>	21 6:30 pm SUE BOYD DANCE AND LESSONS OPEN TO PUBLIC	22 3:00 - 5:00 pm Legal Collaborative  6:30 pm <b>POST SOCIAL</b> 	23 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967	24 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967
25 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967	26 7:00 - 9:00 pm DANCE PARTY \$10 ALL AGES OPEN TO PUBLIC	27 6:30 - 10:00 pm TALLAHASSEE SWING BAND \$10 Open to Public \$7 Students	28 6:30 pm SUE BOYD DANCE AND LESSONS OPEN TO PUBLIC	29 3:00 - 5:00 pm Legal Collaborative  <b>MARINE CORPS RESERVE BIRTHDAY</b>	30 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967	31 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967

To Book your Event at the Post, please call 850-284-6967. We do not maintain regular office hours. All services performed here are volunteer hours. Generally, the office is open from Noon until late afternoon. If you must leave a message, please make certain to leave your area code as part of your telephone number.

# Post News

Located at:  
229 Lake Ella Drive  
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

Mailing Address:  
American Legion,  
Sauls-Bridges Post #13  
PO Box 38028  
Tallahassee, FL 32315-8028

Phone: 850-222-3382  
Web: FloridaLegionPost13.org  
Email: amlegp13@gmail.com

**For God  
and Country**

## AUGUST 2024

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization

US Postage PAID

Tallahassee, Florida

Permit No. 21

### Editing/Layout:

Paula Wilkins

### Photos: Email:

[aml13newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:aml13newsletter@gmail.com)

### Webpage (Face book): Google:

“American Legion Sauls-Bridges”

### EVENTS BOOKING:

(850) 284-6967



### Deadline for the SEPTEMBER 2024

Newsletter will be  
AUGUST 10th at 5:00pm

Newsletter items can be submitted three ways: (1) Place in the Newsletter Box in the Post 13 office (2) Mail to the return address above, or (3) Submit (with a subject line) to the Post's Newsletter Email Address: **(Please Note this is a NEW email address and should be used for NEWSLETTER communication only.)**

[AML13NEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AML13NEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM)

All Articles published require the Commander's approval.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Post General Membership Business Meetings are held on the 2ND Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm.

POST SOCIALS are held on the 4TH Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. [Except for Nov. & Dec.]

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE AN ITEM FOR THE NEWSLETTER  
PLEASE EMAIL [AMLNEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AMLNEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM)