



# Sauls-Bridges American Legion



## Post 13 News



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## Remembering The Battle of the Bulge

In 1944, from December 16, 1944, to January 25, 1945 to be exact, Adolph Hitler was facing a declining German defense and decided on a plan for one last offensive strike which led to the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes, but it would prove costly to both sides.

### German Perspective:

September 1944, German forces were in a bad situation. Bitter cold, lack of supplies, and the number of soldiers had dwindled badly. Allied forces were conducting bombing raids and it was severely impairing the German offensive. Hitler's thought was that if they were having a hard time with the winter conditions, planning a strike in a very cold environment like the Ardennes could and would lead to a victory.

The Allied efforts had dwindled during the cold winter also and Hitler believed that taking advantage of the fighting lull in rough conditions and with the element of surprise, the Allied Forces would surely lose. The region was also unfavorable for Allied flying bombers due to mountainous terrain and fog.

“The Allies, reliant on the port of Antwerp for resupplies, faced the risk of being cut in two if the Germans could seize the bridges over the Meuse River and retake Antwerp. Hitler envisioned encircling the Allied forces, disrupting their supply lines, and forcing them to regroup from a considerable distance, buying valuable time for the German war machine.”

### American Perspective:

Early December 1944, U.S. Army soldiers numbered 80,000 along the western border. On December 16th, Hitler launched his attack. Supreme Commander Dwight Eisenhower ordered the 18th Airborne Corps, including the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions, to depart for the Ardennes on December 18th.

The 99th and 106th Infantry Divisions were hit hard, as the fierce battle ensued in the Ardennes area known as Bastogne. The temperature felt like -20 degrees below zero. With Allied troops surrounded and facing harsh conditions, they persevered under the worst the Germans and Mother Nature could offer.



Photo by: The National WWII Museum

The Ardennes campaign, though a desperate gamble for Hitler, ultimately became a turning point in favor of the Allies in the final months of World War II.

<https://bestdefensefoundation.org/the-battle-of-the-bulge-a-desperate-gamble-in-the-ardennes/>

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

## Panera Bread Distribution—Mission Accomplished!

### Submitted by Edward Hood

I've only been off active duty for a few years, but last night's food distribution made it seem like I was back in uniform. Dennis Baker from the Florida Veterans Foundation sent out a request from Panera that their discontinued food items be sent to local Veterans. The message was sent to a few members of the coalition. Since I knew one of the members had their hands full with an upcoming annual event, I decided to just take it upon myself to see this through. Bear in mind, as you all know, I'm new to the Tallahassee Veterans community. I haven't fully got my bearings regarding all of the communities of veterans that need assistance and/or the logistical resources available.



Nonetheless, I did have experience working in such scenarios. Within a few hours of being notified, word started to spread through the coalition about the food. The first challenge I had to overcome was transport. How were we going to get this food to the Veterans? I would need a truck and trailer. Susie Caplowe messaged me and stated Ginni Stalker is a Marine and could help me since she is already involved in food distribution in Tallahassee. I was excited because now we could move the food. The next hurdle was where we were going to put the food. The American Legion Hall was booked the evening of the distribution. Since most of the food was frozen or needed refrigeration, we would need a drive-through location. I called Joe West at the Vietnam Veterans of America to see if we could use their parking lot to distribute the food. Joe checked their schedule and had no bookings. We could use their parking lot.

**Transport** ✓

**Drop Zone (Literally a helicopter right beside the parking lot) LOL** ✓



#### **The Mission was a GO!**

Our first pickup was made by Stevi Stalker, Ginni's sister, at FSU Panera at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday. The 2nd and 3rd pickups were at the Thomasville Road and Apalachee Parkway stores around 2000HRS (8PM) last night. I asked Ginni if we would have enough room for both stores in the back of her truck; she said she brought her trailer. I said, "You're a logistician!" (not actually realizing that was her actual Military Occupational Specialty (MOS)).

*Sgt. Ginni Stalker inspecting cargo at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, April 14, 2012.*

**SPOILER ALERT-** I wanted to see if I could find out more information on Ginni Stalker since she is an incredibly talented Logistician. Let's just say she knows how to move some cargo.

When Ginni showed up with the truck and trailer, I thought it was just going to be the two of us. Thankfully, Jon Pantoja from Veteran Events Tallahassee and Daniel Paasch from Senator Marco Rubio's Office were also there to assist with the distribution. Ginni was also able to provide some additional food from an earlier unallocated distribution. We fed a lot of Veterans thanks to you all sharing the email and calling people!

Thank you to all Panera Stores in Tallahassee!

Pictures on next page L2R: Jon Pantoja, Edward Hood, Daniel Paasch, and Ginni Stalker

“However vast the darkness, we must supply our own light.” ~ Stanley Kubrick

# Panera Bread Distribution—Mission Accomplished!

Pictures Submitted by Edward Hood



“Success is sometimes the outcome of a whole string of failures.” ~ Vincent van Gogh

## Pyramid Palooza



For more information, please reference the PYRAMIDPALOOZA 2024 Facebook page.

Or you may contact Pyramid Studios Tallahassee at 850-513-1733 or via email at [smiles@pyramidinc.org](mailto:smiles@pyramidinc.org).

Thanks so much to Edward Hood (shown below) and Commander Vic Hanna (right) for the Letter of Commendation. and you know I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve!



### GOOGLE AS A VERB

“On October 15, 2002, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* did something no U.S. TV show had ever done before: use the word “Google” as a verb.

The moment came in “Help,” the fourth episode of the show’s seventh and final season, when Willow (Alyson Hannigan) and Buffy (Sarah Michelle Gellar) discussed a student with psychic powers and Willow asked, “Have you Googled her yet?”

In typical *Buffy* fashion, that query was met with humorous misunderstanding from Xander (Nicholas Brendon): “Willow, she’s 17.” Willow then informed him that Google was a search engine — a clarification that isn’t exactly necessary anymore.”

[www.interestingfacts.com](http://www.interestingfacts.com)



Louise Pitts Williams, beloved aunt of Commander Vic Hanna, passed away March 27th. She was born June 21, 1925 in Salem, Taylor County, Florida. Louise was the sixth of eight children. She grew up in Bonifay, Holmes County, Florida.

Louise graduated from Holmes County High School in 1943 and immediately relocated to Columbus, Georgia, where she worked as a civilian secretary for the Army at Fort Benning for the duration of World War II. After the war, she relocated to Tallahassee and began a 36-year career with Western Union Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Louise married William Norman Williams in Tallahassee in 1950. They resided in Tallahassee until their companies transferred them to Orlando in 1951. Louise and Norman were married 55 years, until Norman passed away at age 86. Louise moved back to Tallahassee in 2007 to be near her extended family. She was an avid gardener and loved the outdoors.

Louise is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, and her beloved grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She is also survived by one sister, and many cherished nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

To read more about Ms. Williams, logon to: <https://everloved.com/life-of/louise-pitts-williams/obituary/>.

“You are what you love, not what loves you.” ~ Charlie Kaufman

## MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

Every year, Post 13 honors our soldiers who have passed on. This is a somber time; a time for reflection on their sacrifices, a time of honor for those who have served so selflessly, and a time for gratitude, for without their sacrifice and service we would not enjoy the freedoms of this great country.

“Memorial Day is meant for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle, or as a result of a wound sustained in battle.”<sup>1</sup>

The traditional Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at Oakland Cemetery, May 27th, at 11:00 am.

The Post will have tents, tables, chairs, and water available and we encourage families to attend. A guest speaker will be providing the honorary tribute.

Flags will be placed at each gravesite along with patriotic music for all to enjoy. We want to honor fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, sisters, aunts, uncles, brothers, husbands, wives, friends, and others who have paid the ultimate price.

This ceremony provides an opportunity to say “Thank you”, once again for the sacrifices made.

The ceremony will conclude at 12:00 noon with Echo Taps.

<sup>1</sup> <https://veteran.com/memorial-day/>

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL



### NOTES FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Members:

Most of you know, I lost my dear mother last July and it has been a tremendous loss. Not just for me, but also for our entire family. We miss her, as many of you have experienced the same feelings. It takes time to move forward and this Mother's Day, I'm eternally grateful to my mom who was a wonderful mother, wife, grandmother, great-grandmother and best friend. I don't have to tell you to cherish and respect your mothers who are living, and hold dear to the memories of those who have passed.

Memorial Day is upon us and it's time to honor those who sacrificed for our freedom. My late husband is just one of millions who have given the ultimate sacrifice in battle or from sickness. It is a time of reflection and prayer for the families of our fallen heroes.

As always, we at Post 13 thank you for your support. ~ Paula Wilkins

“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

## Auxiliary Members



A trunk full of Easter Baskets for the Baptist Children's Home; made with loving hands from the American Legion Auxiliary.



Our Auxiliary members had a very strong presence at the Springtime Tallahassee festival, held downtown April 5-6. It's always a great turnout with people attending from near and far.

Here are our members with "Adopt a Duck" for a veteran.

L2R: Nance, Dottie, Nell, Peggy, Stacy and Lenna.

Always Working for Membership!

### American Legion Auxiliary Officers For Fiscal Year 2024-2025

President.....Ive "Nell" Hewitt,  
 Secretary .....Stacy Gayhart  
 Chaplin..... Sharon Courey  
 Sgt.-at-Arms .....Terry Little  
 Members-at-Large.....Jennifer Boswell, Peggy Lane, and Emily Phelps

Vice President.....Donna Winsloe  
 Treasure .....Marjorie McNeill  
 Historian .....Jennifer Ringvelski



Please join me as I pledge encouragement, guidance, support, and prayers for our elected officers of 2024-2025.  
 Nell Hewitt, President

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- May 1 Silver Star Service Banner Day
- May 1 Loyalty Day
- May 2 National Day of Prayer
- May 8 VE Day
- May 10 Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- May 12 Mother's Day
- May 13 Children of Fallen Patriots Day
- May 18 Armed Forces Day
- May 23 Post 13 Social 6:00 PM  
Program 6:30 PM
- May 24 National Poppy Day
- May 27 Memorial Day

### NATIONAL POPPY DAY



May 24, 2024 is National Poppy Day and it's celebrated in countries around the world. The American Legion Family brought National Poppy Day® to the United States by asking Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day, as National Poppy Day. On the Friday before Memorial Day, wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform.

<https://www.legion-aux.org/national-poppy-day#:~:text=May%2026%2C%202023,Day%2C%20as%20Nati onal%20Poppy%20Day>

**"WE SALUTE OUR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES"**



# MAY 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	1 MAY  6:30 pm SUE BOYD DANCE AND LESSONS OPEN TO PUBLIC	2 <b>NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER</b>  3:00 - 5:00 pm Tallahassee Veterans Legal Collaborative	3 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967	4 9:00 am 1st District Girls State Orientation 8:00-11:00 pm 4 Sticks Band \$10 Open to Public
5 <b>Military Spouse Appreciation Day</b> 	6 7:00 - 9:00 pm DANCE PARTY \$10 ALL AGES OPEN TO PUBLIC	7 6:30 - 10:00 pm TALLAHASSEE SWING BAND \$10 Open to Public \$7 Students	8 6:30 PM SUE BOYD DANCE AND LESSONS OPEN TO PUBLIC <b>Victory in Europe</b>	9 3:00 - 5:00 pm Legal Collaborative 5:30 pm Executive Board Meeting 6:30 pm General Meeting	10 7:00-11:00 pm Dustin Hatcher Band \$10 Open to Public	11 PYRAMIDPALOOZA 5:30-6:30 pm Lil Grizzly Boogie Band 7:00-8:00 pm The Electric People
12 	13 7:00 - 9:00 pm DANCE PARTY \$10 ALL AGES OPEN TO PUBLIC <b>Children of Fallen Patriots Day</b>	14 6:30 - 10:00 pm TALLAHASSEE SWING BAND \$10 Open to Public \$7 Students	15 6:30 pm SUE BOYD DANCE AND LESSONS OPEN TO PUBLIC	16 3:00 - 5:00 pm Legal Collaborative 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Marine Corps League 5:00 - 10:00 pm Women Veterans Unite	17 7:00-11:00 pm DJ Rehab Dance with Food Trucks \$25 Open to Public	18 ALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967 
19 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967	20 7:00 - 9:00 pm DANCE PARTY \$10 ALL AGES OPEN TO PUBLIC	21 6:30 - 10:00 pm TALLAHASSEE SWING BAND \$10 Open to Public \$7 Students	22 6:30 pm SUE BOYD DANCE AND LESSONS OPEN TO PUBLIC	23 3:00 - 5:00 pm Tallahassee Veterans Legal Collaborative <b>6:30 pm POST SOCIAL</b> 	24 8:00-11:00 pm Crooked Shooz Band \$10 Open to Public <b>NATIONAL POPPY DAY</b> 	25 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967
26 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967	27 7:00 - 9:00 pm DANCE PARTY \$10 ALL AGES OPEN TO PUBLIC <b>MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY</b> 2:00 - 5:00 PM 	28 6:30 - 10:00 pm TALLAHASSEE SWING BAND \$10 Open to Public \$7 Students	29 6:30 pm SUE BOYD DANCE AND LESSONS OPEN TO PUBLIC	30 3:00 - 5:00 pm Tallahassee Veterans Legal Collaborative 5:00 - 8:30 pm Rocky Hanna Fundraiser	31 7:30-11:00 pm Rhythm Remedy \$10 Open to Public	1 JUNE 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:  
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**For God  
and Country**

## MAY 2024

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization

US Postage PAID

Tallahassee, Florida

Permit No. 21

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

Webpage (Face book): Google:  
"American Legion Sauls-Bridges"

### EVENTS BOOKING:

(850) 284-6967



### **Deadline for the JUNE 2024**

**Newsletter will be  
MAY 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**

**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.**

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