



Flagler American Legion  
Auxiliary Unit 115



Flagler American Legion Post 115  
*Serving Flagler's Veterans since 1937*



Flagler Sons of the  
American Legion Squadron 115

# Legion Krier

Dec 2019 – Jan 2020

Editor: Gary M Owens

## Commander's Column

Greetings fellow Legionnaires!

The holidays will be soon upon us and we are fast approaching the end of another year!

We have two important activities this month. The first is the District 17 Christmas Party on December 7th at Post 361 S Daytona 2pm. Our own Post 115 Christmas dinner at the VFW on December 9th. If you have not already done so, please make your reservations with the Adjutant. I'm sure, like every year, this will be a fine affair.

In January, the Post will conduct our second annual breakfast at the VFW. You can help by either volunteering to help set up/clean up or by coming with friends and family to have a great way to start your Saturday.

Last month we celebrated Veterans Day! This day is not only to honor past veterans but also present Veterans and those to come. Thanks to all the members that volunteered their time to participate in the numerous ceremonies.

For the second year in a row your Post sponsored a steak dinner at the Emery L. Bennett Nursing Home residents on the Saturday prior to Veterans Day. This year the newly formed Post 115 American Legion Riders helped as we cooked the steaks and then had a great time talking with some of the residents. We will be doing this every year so please put in on your calendar for next year.

May this Krier find you and yours happy, healthy and having a great holiday season!  
**FOR GOD & COUNTRY**  
David S Hammond

**Thinking about Post 115:**  
**“There is one only thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is NOT being talked about”.**

Please share with all you know what The American Legion and Post 115 does in the community. Boys State and the Aux. Girls State, support of the VA Clinics and Nursing home, schools, etc. We Are Veterans Still Serving!

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

**“We All Must Go!”**

As I write this I must admit as I have gotten older more of the people I know are dying. This is because when we are given life, by our loving God, we know we all must die. All of us will die, someday. Most people consider this a ‘bad’ circumstance. Some of the spouses I have ministered to consider it the worst thing in the world. Often it takes up to

five or six years to laugh or even smile again. However, the living continue to live and ultimately the smiles and laughter come back to their lives.

Many of us have bought into the ‘cultural’ perspective which believes ‘death’ is the worst thing which can happen. If we look to the Bible for an answer, we see God knew us before we were born and ‘knit us together in our mother’s womb’. Psalm 139:13 “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.”

You see scripture teaches us our bodies were not made to live forever – here on earth. There is

a joke I have heard from other pastors – “We all want to go to heaven; however, no one wants to die to get there!” You see most of us see dying is a final choice. Many of us have adopted the ‘worlds’ perspective on dying. Even Jesus wept when He heard His friend Lazarus had died and later raised him from the dead. John 11:33-36 “When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34 “Where have you laid him?” he asked.” “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. 35 Jesus wept. 36 Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

As Christians we are taught to cry with those who cry and laugh with those who laugh. Now I am not encouraging suicide or euthanasia. You see I believe each of us has work to do here and it is wrong to shorten a life. We cannot choose when we are born and therefore, we should not choose when we die. But I do believe we need to accept death as part of God’s plan for us. Perhaps it would not be our plan, but we are not God and cannot understand His ways. Christians should enter each day with excitement looking for what good God will do today. Look for it and you will find it!

We also need to accept ‘death’ as an end to life here as we know it; and entry into a new place with our Lord forever. Many have returned to us from near death experiences. They have wonderful stories to tell about life

on the other side. I heard a story once that explained death this way. A doctor’s dog was in the waiting room. The doctor was with a patient in an exam room. The patient said to the doctor, “What is heaven like?” The doctor thought a moment and said, “My dog is on the other side of the door. He does not know what is in here. He only knows his master is here. So this is where he wants to be.” It would be easier to live the Christian life - with this as our perspective on death.

I would love to learn what you believe about death. It is something we need to think about and even discuss. If you would like to talk – please let me know I would love to discuss this with you.

For God and Country -  
 Frank  
 Rev William F Boone  
 Chaplain

**POST EVERLASTING**

Joe Sepe  
 Michael Goodyear

**SICK CALL**

Sandy Ausbrooks  
 Dino Perez  
 Joe Licata  
 John Clark  
 Dick Ackerman  
 George Price  
 Randy Morris  
 Eileen Piekarski

Please keep these members in your prayers.



**AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar**

There is a group of Airmen in the U.S. Air Forces Central Command who lead double lives. These Airmen are part of the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve. When they’re not defending their country, they’re working at their civilian jobs as teachers, truck drivers and police officers. These Airmen make up one-third of the deployed Air Force personnel within the AFCENT’s area of responsibility.

During a recent 25-day battlefield rotation, the Air Force Reserve Component leadership team saw first-hand how the two separate worlds of a guard or reserve member can collide when least expected.

Col. Justin Wagner, senior advisor, and Lt. Col. David Lydon Jr., both ARC Advisor-Forward to AFCENT based at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, go where ARC members are serving and listen, identify, mitigate and resolve ARC concerns in the AOR.

“Quite frankly, we anticipated hearing about long hours, austere locations and juxtaposing concerns from ARC members,” said Wagner. “However, what we’ve seen is great Americans working with coalition patriots to

neutralize bad actors through the air and on the ground infused with a pride in state and country that you can feel.”

Upon arriving at the Baghdad Diplomatic Support Center, Wagner and Lydon were greeted by Staff Sgt. Jose Hernandez, a traditional guardsman from Stewart ANG’s 105th Security Forces Squadron, New York, N.Y.

Sgt. Hernandez introduced himself to the pair and started up a conversation. Wagner and Lydon quickly discovered that when he is not serving in the U.S. Air Force, Hernandez is a New York City police officer from the 44th Precinct in the Bronx.

Lt. Col. Lydon, a retired New York State Trooper, hit it off immediately with Sgt. Hernandez. Hernandez described his duties as a member of a well-trained Ground Movement Team that provides security for high value targets in and out of this particular area of operation.



“The ARC is like a big family,” said Lydon. “I discovered that Hernandez and I had a common connection from the New York guard. That individual was Staff Sgt. Jerome Dominguez, who served with the 105th Security Forces Squadron as well.”

Staff Sgt. Dominguez made the ultimate sacrifice on Sept. 11,

2001 while performing duties as a NYPD officer responding to the terrorist attack on the twin towers.

When asked about Dominguez, Hernandez mentioned that he and other members of the 105th SFS keep a NYPD patch tucked in the visor of their vehicles to honor him and the others who lost their lives in the “War on Terror”.

Whether the ARC member is from New York or California, they all bring a unique approach throughout the AOR to continue to fuel the fight against the violent extremist groups in the region. Having a clear and purposeful mission enables the ARC members and their active duty counterparts to look past personal judgement and to focus on what makes America so special, the enduring spirit of inclusion and cooperation.

"ARC members we've seen in this AOR have displayed an industrial spirit through the beauty of diversity while exuding a strength of will that each of their communities and states back home represent," said Wagner. "These are the kinds of deep patriotic state and community infused efforts ARC members bring to the fight."

### **WHITE TABLE CEREMONY**



1-r AL Post 115 Sgt. @ Arms Edward Beier, Flagler County Commissioner Joe Mullins, Flagler County Library Supv. Holly Albanese, AL Post 115 1<sup>st</sup> VC Joseph Pepin

Post 115 was represented Sat. Nov. 9 at the Flagler County Library Palm Coast Branch for the annual White Table Ceremony honoring all POW / MIA by 1<sup>st</sup> VC Joe Pepin and Sgt. @ Arms Ed Beier. Approximately 50 people were in attendance for the ceremony. The ceremony was performed by the Guard Detachment of 157 Air Force JROTC @ Embry-Riddle University.

Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Santa Claus (1<sup>st</sup> VC Joe Pepin) and Mrs. Claus (Di Pepin) appeared @ the Flagler County Library Palm Coast branch for the Annual Festival of Trees.

### **DEPT. IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE**

My fellow Legionnaires, perhaps the Committee title creates concern with many of you. Why do we have immigration in the first place? Some experts suggest a “push pull” theory creates migration of people from one geographic location to another. Many countries experience high poverty amongst its citizenry or disaster strikes or civil/government unrest and other economic or life threatening incidents that invokes an emigration by many of their native country. Thus,

you have the “PUSH” effect. The United States and other developed countries offer more stable governments, abundance of food, medicine and the dream of a better economic lifestyle. Thus, you have the “PULL” effect. Some believe immigration is a modern day creation. According to documented anthropological finds, humans have migrated from land mass to land mass since man first appeared on earth.

Wikipedia states, “The term immigration was coined in the 17th century, referring to the non-warlike population movements between the emerging nation states. When people cross national borders during their migration, they are migrants or immigrants from the perspective of the country which they enter.”

Wikipedia further states, “Illegal immigration refers to the migration of people into a country in violation of the immigration laws of that country, or the continued residence of people without legal right to live in that country.”

The Department’s Immigration Committee is here to provide resolution and hope for any foreign born United States Military Service Member who for whatever reason is not a Naturalized U.S. Citizen. Many joined the U.S. military as enlisted with the promise of an accelerated path to citizenship. Many were later prematurely discharged from the service

before the naturalization process took place. Consequently, some that had legal residency status prior to their enlistment now find themselves in limbo without the status and subject to deportation. Others who enlisted to fast track citizenship and experienced an early discharge are back to square one and classified illegal immigration status.

According to an “Opinion Memo from the National Judge Advocate Kevin J. Bartlett dated May 16, 2018, Subject: American Legion Membership and Citizenship. The National Judge Advocate’s opinion reads in part, “Under The American Legion’s (TAL) Charter [36 USC Section 21703] and Article IV of TAL Constitution there are two different types of individuals eligible for membership in TAL. The first membership type requires that this individual has served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Congressional prescribed dates of service and was honorably discharged from that service or continues to serve honorably during or after that time period...”

“The first membership type of individual, the one with US Armed Forces service, does not have this citizenship requirement for membership. Therefore, non-citizens of the United States, who have honorable service, or continue to serve honorably, during the prescribed time frames are eligible for membership in The American Legion regardless of their citizenship status during or after

their time of Armed Forces service.”

With that, I ask each of you to assist me in identifying and providing legal services to these individuals who have served their adopted country and for whatever reason have not naturalized as U. S. Citizens. You may contact me or have them contact me through the Department and I will get them immediate legal service to assist with their status and possible pathway to citizenship. While you are speaking with them, sign them up as Legionnaires. They raised their right hand and took the same oath as you and I did so many years ago—to protect and serve this Nation in the U.S. Armed Forces. It is the right thing to do to help them achieve the promise made and not fulfilled by our military services. You may contact me by E-mail at [Immigration@legionmail.org](mailto:Immigration@legionmail.org).

Omer “Gene” Smith  
Department Chairman

### **BIG CHANGES IN THE FLAGLER AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY**

The Legion Act of 2019, officially labeled the “Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National” Service Act, has brought a major change that honors the 1,600 casualties of the Cold War from periods that previously were not designated as “War Eras.” The number of eras that now qualify for membership in The American Legion have been reduced to 2;

WWI and from December 7, 1941 until it is determined that the United States is no longer in a state of war. It is estimated that this opens up membership to over 4 million veterans. The Department of Florida and National were ready with resolutions already passed to accept newly eligible members.

The American Legion Auxiliary

A resolution was approved in committee and subsequently approved by a majority vote on the floor of the General Session of TALC19 to change the verbiage in Article XIII of the Constitution and Bylaws to read “spouses” instead of “wives”.

This means that a male spouse of a female veteran is now eligible for membership in the Auxiliary. Although this was not received universally without some controversy, it was finally determined that the Auxiliary was created by Article XIII and the Legion has the authority to change the eligibility described therein.

Sat. Dec 7<sup>th</sup> is the 17<sup>th</sup> District Christmas Party Dinner to be held @ Post 361 S Daytona – 2pm. See Commander Hammond or Finance Officer Mangels for tickets - \$25/couple. This is a fundraiser for 2020 Boys State.

### **Monday Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> Post 115 Annual Christmas Dinner!!**

@ VFW Post 8696

FREE to Legion / Aux. / SAL members and \$15 for guests.

Turkey / ham / and all the fixins!

Call 386-585-5302 or email [adjutant@flaglerpost115.org](mailto:adjutant@flaglerpost115.org).

Saturday Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA event @ Craig Flagler Palms Cemetery 11:30am.

### **AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 115**



Creation of ALR Chapter 115 is now a reality!!

Our Charter was granted by Dept. of FL and we are now official. We have already had a few rides as a group and with other chapters from Palatka and Jacksonville.

Veterans Day Nov



11, 2019 ALR Chapter 115 rode in force displaying the US Flag and our ALR Flag. We attended the Flagler County Ceremony, City of Palm Coast Luncheon, and finally the City of Flagler Beach ceremony.



ALR Chapter 115 membership is currently @ 15 and growing. We will be riding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month to a

different location for lunch – usually just a fun ride which is open to all – starting Sat. Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **DO YOU NEED A RIDE TO MEETINGS?**

### **ARE YOU WILLING TO OFFER A LIFT TO A MEMBER IN NEED?**

*There's a motto basically saying never leave a comrade behind.*

**We have many members that would attend a meeting if they could – and feel left behind. Can you help by offering a ride?**

We are creating a list of those members that need a ride to/from meetings as well as those members willing offer transport. If you are in one of these groups please contact Adjutant Gary Owens @ 386-585-5302 or [adjutant@flaglerpost115.org](mailto:adjutant@flaglerpost115.org). We need as many members as possible in various areas of Flagler County/ Flagler Beach/ and Palm Coast willing to offer transport to/from meetings to meet the needs of our fellow veterans, please consider making the effort to help a fellow vet.

### **BLUE WATER NAVY ACT**

H.R 299 was signed into law on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

For more info and help with a claim contact Flagler County veterans Services @ 386-313-4014 or [www.flaglercounty.org](http://www.flaglercounty.org)

## AUXILIARY UNIT 115

Happy Holidays to all Unit 115 Auxiliary members and friends:

Just a short message to let you know we sent in our \$800.00 Girls State registration fee for the June 2020 session. Our Unit sends two Flagler County girls to Girls State each year. The session is held at Florida State University in Tallahassee. Girls are selected from both County high schools in February. If you would like to sit on the selection committee, please contact Karen Smith, (386) 445-5346.

The Unit has put the annual Poppy Drive "on hold" until after January 1st. Post 115 Legionnaires have offered to help when the Poppy Drive is a go. I hope some of you will assist in the Poppy Drive. Date to be determined. Once the planning is complete, information will be sent out.

Several of our Unit members attended Fall Conference early in November. There is a change in membership for the Auxiliary. We are now able to accept for membership male spouses of female military and Legion members. They will be a welcome addition to our organization.

We also discussed scholarships available to children and grandchildren of our members. Information is available on the Department Auxiliary web site.

The Boggy Creek web site has instructions and pattern to make Teddy Bears for the children who attend the Camp.

Auxiliary Unit 115 will supply the refreshments for the Chapel of Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony at the VFW in February. Information forthcoming.

For God and Country  
Karen Smith  
Auxiliary Unit 115 President

## Many thanks to our KRIER

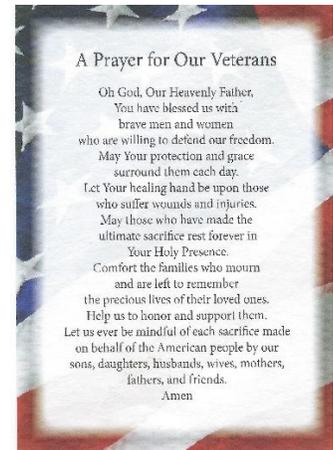
### Boosters

10/18	11/19	Mary Beck
12/17	11/19	Jim Bradley & Beverly McGowan
1/17	12/19	Charles & Claire Saarela
2/17	1/20	Nancy R Stacey
6/17	5/20	James Canfield
8/15	7/20	Gregory & Linda Hansen
10/17	9/20	Leonard & Jeanette Sampson
1/16	12/20	David & Catherine Hammond
2/19	2/21	Ruby Saffell
6/19	6/21	Bryant & Brenda Thorpe
6/17	5/22	John & Chris Mendez
8/19	8/20	Ken & Dorothy Wall
8/19	8/20	Lois M Andrs
8/19	8/21	Gary & Kathy Owens
1/16	12/22	Deidre Jean Wright
1/18	1/23	Phyllis M Wright
8/18	7/23	John & Margaret Russell
10/18	9/23	Joe & Di Pepin

<b>Krier Booster Donation Form</b>	
Name	_____
Address	_____ _____
Start Date of Donation	_____
Period Covered (1 or more years)	_____
Amount Contributed (min \$10/yr)	\$ _____

## FOR YOU TO KNOW 2

Episode 5 of the American Legion Centennial documentary series "To Strengthen a Nation: American Legion Baseball" is now available @ [www.legion.org/legiontv](http://www.legion.org/legiontv) under "To Strengthen a Nation" playlist.



## ADJUTANT'S NOTES

Auxiliary Unit 115 can use **NEW MEMBERS**. Our Post 115 members can easily have their spouses join the Auxiliary Unit 115 for \$30 annual dues. Any and all input and help would be appreciated! We have applications available at our meetings and on-line.

SAL Squadron 115 is also in need of help. Those members that are local please reach out to us – contact Squadron Adjutant Gary Owens @ 386-585-5302 or [adjutant@FlaglerPost115.org](mailto:adjutant@FlaglerPost115.org). We are not asking for a lot, but some help or input would be appreciated.

Are you a member with sons and grandsons? Sign them up with the SAL Squadron 115 for \$10 annual dues. Contact Adjutant Owens at above info.

So many Posts in Florida have a very active and successful AUX. Unit and SAL Squadron that supports the Posts' efforts in the Posts' 4 Pillars Programs and we need ours to grow and participate. Please think about giving an few hours a year.



Post 115 @ FreedomFest 2019

Please continue with remitting your 2019/2020 membership dues. Without your membership we cannot maintain the many programs that we sponsor. The Post Officers strive to keep organizational expenses to a bare minimum in order to meet the Post's continued commitment to the American Legion's 4 Pillars. Are you interested in a certain topic for discussion at a meeting? Know of a program that benefits or serves the Post and can recommend a speaker? Please pass along to 2<sup>nd</sup> VC Bryant Thorpe.

The same goes for the radio broadcast Veterans on Point – contact Eric Flores-Febles @ 386-313-4014 or [efebles@flaglercounty.org](mailto:efebles@flaglercounty.org)

Eric needs speakers for topics pertaining to veterans – the program airs every Sunday morning on WNZF 1550AM and 94.9FM

Again, please reach out to friends, neighbors, family for potential membership in the American Legion Family. The more members we have the stronger we are in the eyes of Congress.

Membership applications are available on our Post's website – [www.FlaglerPost115.org](http://www.FlaglerPost115.org). and at all meetings.

### **WELCOME NEW AND TRANSFER MEMBERS**

Daniel Tannen  
Robert B Beimel  
Ralph E Davies  
Joseph E Tully Jr  
Harry L Thorpe  
Matthew L Underwood  
Barbara J Hankerson  
Russel J Apgar  
Patrick A Arena  
Barry L Marzolf  
Ophelia Beier  
Michelle Robbins

Brenda Thorpe – AUX

Richard “RJ Card – SAL  
**2019-2020 Post 115 Officers**

### **For Your Review**

Download “A Brief History of The American Legion” @ [www.legion.org/publications](http://www.legion.org/publications)

### **DO NOT MISS**

Legion Basic Training  
[www.legion.org/alei](http://www.legion.org/alei)

### **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**

Please join us Sat. Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> 11:00am @ Craig Flagler Palms Cemetery to help with the placement of Christmas wreaths for the interred veterans. Program starts 11:30am.

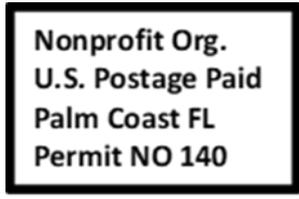
### **PROJECT: VETRELIEF UPDATE**

Post 115 was recently successful in helping a veteran in need with a \$1600 grant paid to both the veteran and the vendor. This grant was possible through PROJECT: VETRELIEF – a Dept. of FL.- sponsored program where the needs of those veterans that qualify are met. This particular grant was with the help of our own Hank Mangels' efforts in support of this veteran.

As Post Adjutant I recently attended the basic training for the program and have been able to meet with and try to help three veterans in need in just the last few weeks.

I encourage all members to donate to PROJECT: VETRELIEF and can do so @ [www.FloridaLegion.org](http://www.FloridaLegion.org).

Legion Krier  
Flagler Post 115, Inc.  
PO Box 1731  
Bunnell, FL 32110



#### Upcoming Meetings

- Dec. 9, 2019 Christmas Dinner
  - Jan. 13, 2020 George Urban & Jeff Faulkner – senior finances
  - Feb. 10, 2020 Team RWB Arlow Triplett
  - Mar. 11, 2020 Mike Gaskell – Flagler County C.O.P.
  - Apr. 13, 2020 Linda Provencher  
Flagler Beach Mayor
  - May 11, 2020 Elaine Studnicki –  
Palm Coast Historical Society
  - Jun. 8, 2020 Suzanne Johnston  
Flagler County Tax Collector
  - Jul. 13, 2020 Matt Morton  
Palm Coast City Manager
- Thanks to 2nd VC Thorpe for his efforts in obtaining our speakers.

#### FALL CONFERENCE

The Dept. of FL. Fall Conference was held Nov. 1-3 at the Orlando Marriott SeaWorld Resort. Post 115 was represented by Commander Hammond, JA Smith and AUX Pres. Smith, ALR Dir. Dean, Fin. Off. Mangels, Adj. Owens, and Chap. Boone. A very busy time with meetings starting at 8am and running through 5pm on Friday then 8am through 6pm Saturday, and Dept. Exec. business on Sunday. The training classes were exceptional, informative, well-attended, and very rejuvenating! I encourage ALL Post 115 members to attend a Conference of State Convention and really see how the American Legion works.

#### TELL YOUR STORY

The American red Cross Wants You!

The American red Cross wants to video your military experience and feel free to bring along any memorabilia. The session runs from 30 to 120 minutes in length depending on you. Ms. Adrien Bolton is the Specialist for Service to the Armed Forces in the Central Florida Region. A team of 2 or 3 people from her office will bring registration packets and video veterans at their appointed time – at their home or VFW Post 8696. Upon completion the video will be forwarded to the Library of Congress with a copy to the veteran and/or family. Contact Tom Piekarski @ 631-521-5330 or VFW Post 8696