



**The American Legion Department of Florida
KEYSTONE-MELROSE POST 202, INC.
7441 State Road 21, Keystone Heights, FL 32656**

352-473-2503 email: alpost202adjutant@outlook.com

Executive Board meets 5:00 pm first Monday

General Membership meets monthly, 6:00 PM the second Tuesday

There will be a District Training at Post 137 on March 25, 2023 from 11:00 am – 1:30pm.

We have a full calendar for March. Be sure to come out for the corn beef and cabbage on St Patrick's Day.



**Commander
Andrea Crews**

Welcome to March

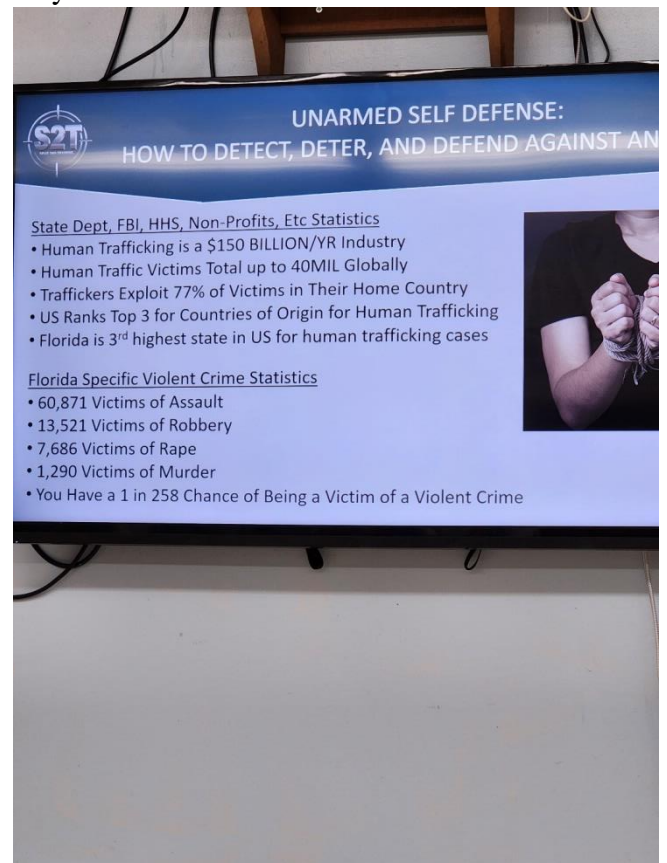
February was another successful month at the Legion.

We had 102 people attend our Saturday AYCE Breakfast, which was a record number. Our Friday night meals are severing 90 – 100 meals as well. Our bingo is going well and our Wednesday night are getting busier, with our kitchen serving some great food.

I would like to thank everyone from the Legion Officers to our Legions families and all our volunteer. We would not be able to accommodate the people we do if not for them.

We had an unarmed self-defense class on February 25. It was very well-informed class. It really opened your eyes to what is going on around you. Below is just some of the statistics from the class.

The First Vice and I went to the monthly district meeting held in Middleburg this month. There will be a district Picnic on April 8 at Post 137 which is at 5443 San Juan Ave, Jacksonville Fl. from 12-5 pm



**For God and Country
Commander
Andrea Crews**

**1st Vice
Debra Owen**



Membership is going well. We are at about 93%. If you haven't renewed yet please pay your dues. If you want to renew but are struggling financially call me and maybe we can help.

We have elections coming up in May so be thinking about who you want to vote for and whether or not you might like to run yourself. If you have questions talk to myself, George Owen or Jim Harland. We are the nominating committee.

Convention is June 15-18 in Orlando. If you think you might want to attend talk to any post officer for more information.

We have District training coming up on March 25th. Our district leadership strongly recommends that you attend this training if you want to be in a leadership position in the post. If you have questions or are interested in attending the training see me or Andrea Crews.

The Family Committee is going to start planning for a float for the 4th of July parade. If you would like to help please let me know.

For God and Country
Debra Owen

**Adjutant
George Owen**



You asked for it, you got it! We will start accepting orders for Post 202 shirts by the end of this week (First week in March).

We will have men and women sizes. I have also asked for long sleeves and will finalize the costs this week. The first run will be red t-shirts to support

Freedom Fridays. Afterwards, we will have other colors to order.

Freedom Fridays. For those that wear RED (Remember Everyone Deployed) on Fridays, we are giving away 1 complementary meal. You have to be present to win and it is for our Post family members. Tickets are handed out from 4pm to 6:45pm on Friday. The winner is selected prior to Queen of Hearts.

When we have our Queen of Hearts drawing on Friday nights, you must show your membership card if your ticket is pulled for the card selection. Since the game is for American Legion Members, Sons & Auxiliary, you have to be paid up and active to play.

The annual Vietnam War Veterans Day ceremony will be held Saturday, March 25, 10 a.m., at the TAPS Monument, 915 Walnut St. Walnut St, Green Cove Springs, FL.

More than 250 are expected to attend the ceremony to commemorate the National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The ceremony is open to the public. The ceremony is being held in partnership with Vietnam Veterans of America Col. William G. Byrns Chapter 1059 and the Clay County Board of Commissioners.

It is the only Vietnam War Veterans Day recognition event being held in Northeast Florida with Vietnam Veterans of America chapters from Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties being represented at the ceremony. All Vietnam Veterans are encouraged to attend as the 50th Commemorate lapel pins and certificates will be available.

The TAPS monument in Green Cove Springs has the names of 66 Clay County Veterans that were killed in action, 22 during Vietnam. The names of the KIA will be called followed by a bell tone ring.

George Owen
904-616-4197

**Chaplain
Mike Plummer**



Hello fellow members. For any of you that don't know me I'm Mike Plummer your new Chaplain. I grew up in a Christian family and totally believe the good lord is the only reason I'm here today. I have battled two types of cancer and survived 23.5 years in the Navy. I felt God calling on me to take this position in our post and want all of you to know you can call on me anytime. If you need prayers or just an ear to listen. I'm here for you. Have a blessed day.

**Sons Squadron
Commander
John Lee**



No Report

**JROTC
Brian Rutowski**



No Report

**The Kitchen Squad
Pat Farnsworth**



As most of you know, food prices have skyrocketed in the past year affecting pricing in restaurants, grocery stores, and homes. We have tried to absorb the cost increases but now find that we can no longer do so. Starting this month (March) we will be raising the donation price of our dinners by \$2.00 (\$1.00 for our AUCE breakfast).

Friday Dinners for March are:

- 3rd - Meatloaf
- 10th - Country Fried Steak
- 17th - Corned Beef & Cabbage
- 24th - Fish Fry
- 31st - Rider's Ribs

Shrimp available at all dinners except Rider's Ribs

Don't forget our AUCE Breakfast on the 11th

**Canteen
352-473-2503**



We are still working on the small kegerator's temperature issue before we bring in another draft. Hopefully this will be resolved over the next 2 weeks.

Check out our drink specials of the month. These are posted in the canteen.

**Riders Director
Chip Nilsen**



**Auxiliary President
Betty Dickens**

Hello Riders,

Riders Rib night was the best we ever had! Thanks to Pat, John, Fred, and all others who helped make it possible. Our profits will be going towards K-9 Line and we are well on our way for a great year.

I am looking at October 21st or the 28th for our annual K-9 Line ride for 2023. I should find out within a month if we can plan it for those dates.

There will be a meeting for this month (March 21st). I will let all of you know by email or text you just before the meeting.

The 5th District Unity Ride is coming up in April. I will let you all know about it at our meeting. The District is also raffling off a brand new 2023 HARLEY-DAVIDSON STREET GLIDE® after the Unity Ride. The winning ticket will be pulled on April 22, 2023, 5:30 PM, at the OCC Road House & Museum in Clearwater, FL during the 2023 State Rally. The winner does not need to be present. Net proceeds will go to support of the PROJECT: VetRelief Suicide Prevention Initiative.

To get Tickets: See me or the bar tender on duty. \$20 per Ticket \$100 for 6 tickets. There are only a total of 25 tickets. Get them while they last.

See you all at the post, ride safe,

Chip Nilsen
Riders Director

Hello Auxiliary Members,

Thank you to those that have renewed your membership. We are over 100 percent. If you haven't renewed please do so NOW.

Thanks to all that helped and participated at the Valentine Dance -Variety Show..It was a huge success. Our Valentine's basket made \$306.00 and was won by Auxiliary member Jackie.

Our Rummage sale in January made over \$900.00 thanks to all that donated items and helped at the sale. Thanks also to the Sons and Legionnaires and volunteers that helped move the items into the big hall and carry off the leftovers that we donated to local charities.

We still have a vacancy in our Historian position, if you're interested in the position please contact me at 904-239-1505.

Our Auxiliary meetings are the third Thursday of each month at 4 pm. Would love to have you attend. The Auxiliary is here to support our post. At our last meeting we voted to start providing Friday dinners to our Post family members that may have a temporary need due to recent hospitalizations or illnesses.

If you know of a veteran in need (whether they are members of our post or not) we would like to help them in some way if we can. Please contact me.

Service Not Self,
For God and Country
Betty Dickens
President
