



American Legion Post 219

194 W. Fountain Street

Fruitland Park, FL 34731

August 2025 Newsletter

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Past Department Commander Warren Post, of Lady Lake, Florida, who passed away at the age of 86 on July 12, 2025. Warren was preceded in death by his beloved wife, DeLoris Post, who passed away in 2024, and their son, Michael Post. He is survived by two stepchildren: Dedra DiNicola and William Dyer. Warren Post leaves behind a legacy of honor, leadership, and service. His enduring contributions to The American Legion and to his fellow veterans will be long remembered. He will be deeply missed by his Legion Family and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Warren Post's funeral will be held on August 12, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL

Welcome new officers for 2025-2026.

The officers were installed on July 3, 2025.

Officers sworn in for Post 219 are: Commander: Larry Miller, 1st Vice Commander: Jim Maynard, 2nd Vice Commander: Tom Cruce, Adjutant: John DeAngelo, Chaplin: Bob Powers, Finance Officer: Katy Powers, Historian: Phil Manley, and Sgt-At-Arms: Marty Myers. The Executive Committee: Marjorie DeCardenas, Chuck Farren, George Goodridge, Terry Hawn, and Rob Robbins.

Officers sworn in for Squadron 219 are: Commander: Robert Westgate, 1st Vice Commander: George Chaffee, 2nd Vice Commander: Mike Christensen, Adjutant: John DeAngelo, Finance Officer: John DeAngelo, Chaplin: Tom Jeffery who was not in attendance, and Sgt. of Arms: Mike Brunea.

Officers sworn in for Auxiliary Unit 219 are: President: Clay Norman, Vice Pres: Dara Oliver who was not in attendance, Treasurer: Jean Mayer, Secretary: Diane Rousseau who was not in attendance, Chaplin: Debra Riggs, Sgt-at-Arms: Rane Kelly, Historian: Sheryle Hackman, Members At Large: Reta Hoernis, and Sonya Wilcock. Past President: Toni Stainbrook, Membership Chair: Becky Eberly.

Officers sworn in for Riders Chapter 219 are: Director: Robert Robbins, Assistant Director: Ronald Kessler, Treasurer: Michael Christensen, Sergeant-at-Arms: Robert Prevatt, Historian: Sheryle Hackman, Chaplin: Debra Riggs, Road Captain: Robert Robbins, Assistant Road Captain: Michael Christensen, Secretary: Leslie Robbins, Membership: Jay Burke.

Post 219 Membership,

Renew today for 2026! Dues are \$45.

Don't miss our regular happenings.

For the full schedule, check the Post calendar on Facebook.

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/johngellapost219fl>

Website: <https://www.johngellapost219fl.org>

August is Purple Heart Month and August 7th is Purple Heart Day

This month is dedicated to paying our respects to all the brave men and women wounded or killed in combat. The official Purple Heart Day is observed on the 7th day of August each year, commemorating the historic day in 1782 that General George Washington, Commander-In-Chief of the Continental Army, commissioned the first Purple Heart Medal, originally called the Badge of Military Merit.

More information: <https://purpleheartfoundation.org/honoring-purple-heart-month/>

August is Make-A-Will Month

August is "Make a Will" Month. Having a will is an important part of estate planning that allows you to control the distribution of your assets, protect your loved ones, and ensure your wishes are carried out after your death. Surprisingly, approximately 68% of adults do not have a will or estate plan.

Chaplains Corner

Hello everyone and welcome to a great year. I am the new Post 219 Chaplain, and my name is Robert Powers. The first vice and I are here to help you spiritually and with your benefits. We are here to help in any way we can. My phone number is 407-756-9615. Call and leave me a message. We look forward to starting Buddy Checks on a regular basis. I ask you to do the same. Crickets are interesting animals. They're only an inch long, yet they can be heard throughout the forest by rubbing their wings together. You can tell the temperature by listening to crickets. On warm nights, they chirp faster than on cool nights. If you count the number of chirps in 15 seconds and add 40 to it, you'll get the temperature. I like to think about why crickets chirp. It's their way of saying "Here I Am". Like crickets, each one of us has ways of saying "Here I Am". Some say it through sports, some in music, some in reading, some in art. One way we all say "Here I Am" is through buddy checks. Reach out to your fellow veterans and check on them not only during the holidays but all year long.

R. Powers

Auxiliary News

Hippie Fest was held on July 12, 2025, and was a huge success, raising money and school supplies for Fruitland Park Elementary. Rane Kelly planned the event and was assisted by fellow Auxiliary members, Legionnaires, and friends.

In July, the Auxiliary welcomed 7 new members, bringing their membership to 263

Join us for Lite Bites and Shoots on August 15, 2025

Please contact Unit President Clay Norman or Membership Chairman Becky Eberly for more information on the Auxiliary.

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556476829611>

SAL News

Members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion Membership. Squadron 219 has 110 members.

Please contact Squadron Commander Bob Westgate if you would like more information on the Sons of the American Legion.

Riders News

The Riders continue to serve breakfast on the 4th Sunday of the month. It's a delicious breakfast served from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for only \$8.00.

In July, the Riders visited 9 American Legions and covered 3,500 miles. We have 50 members and great participation at our monthly meetings and after-meeting ride.

One of our members, and current Sergeant-at-Arms Robert "Dozer" Prevatt, is going to be riding in the American Legion Riders National Legacy Ride. The 2025 Legacy Run will depart American Legion Post 8 in South Boston, Va., on Aug. 17 and arrive on Aug. 21 just outside of Tampa, Fla. – the site of the 2025 American Legion National Convention. Over the course of approximately 1,100 miles, the ride will also travel through North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

Please contact Riders Director Rob Robbins or Membership Chairman Jay Burke if you would like more information on the Riders.

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ALRP219FL/>

Honor Guard News

By Honor Guard Commander Marty Myers

We have Auxiliary, SAL, and Rider members in the Honor Guard. We are a complete volunteer organization, and we understand that some Honor Guard members have commitments and obligations outside the American Legion and Honor Guard and therefore can't perform in all Honor Guard events. However, we will train them, provide them with uniforms, and in most cases, provide transportation. The Honor Guard's mission is to support our veterans, their families, and our post. Bushnell National Cemetery performs up to 60 funerals each day. There are not enough U.S. Military Honor Guards to support the number of funerals being performed. This is where the American Legion, VFW, and AMVET Honor Guard are stepping up and helping the active military services with funerals. We just completed 2024-2025, and the Honor Guard performed 17 funerals and 4 flag presentations. The new fiscal year began on July 1; already, the Honor Guard has performed two funerals.

Please contact me at (443) 752-5375 if you are interested in joining.

Lounge News

Please visit the lounge and meet our newest bartender, Anna.

Reminder, please bring your \$1 bills to Ship, Captain, Crew.

Please check the calendar for dates and times as well as all the other fun activities in the lounge.

NEW Lounge Summer Hours:

Sun 12-8 p.m.

Mon 12-9 p.m.

Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri 1-9 p.m.

Sat 12-9 p.m.

For God and Country,

Larry Miller, Commander Post 219
John DeAngelo, Adjutant/Finance
Jim Maynard, Service Officer Post 219
Katie Powers, Finance Officer Post 219

