

***** *Welcome to the* *****

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

The World's Largest Veterans Organization



**Michael J. Cicero
American Legion Post 173**



The Bicentennial Post



**SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**

**AMERICAN
LEGION
RIDERS**

**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**

MEETING NIGHTS

Post 173
2nd Thursday
6:30 pm

Auxiliary
3rd Thursday
7:00 pm

S.A.L.
Last Saturday
10:00 am

Legion Riders
2nd Sunday
11 am

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2026

Post Commander

Happy New Year!

We survived another year! As most of you know, for me personally, 2025 was a tough year, so I pray that 2026 is better for all of us! My hope for 2026 is that we are spared of hurricanes again, and it is a healthy and prosperous New Year for all of the Post 173 Family!

Since we are now into 2026, if you have not renewed your membership, you need to do so quickly. At the end of December your 2025 membership card expired, and you need to have a 2026 card to participate in Post activities. We appreciate all of our members and don't want to lose any members of

the Legion Family. If, by chance, you are reading this letter and you are not a member of the Post, ask someone how you can join. The American Legion needs your support.

For Post 173, 2025 and 2026 are special years. We are celebrating our 50th Anniversary! April of 1975 Michael J. Cicero, and others, were successful in getting Post 173 chartered as an American Legion Post. Named the Holiday Bicentennial Post at the time of charter, with Cicero being the Post's first Commander. Unfortunately, Michael Cicero would take ill and pass away in April of 1976. The Post Members voted to rename the Post in his honor, so April



2026 is the 50th Anniversary of Michael J. Cicero Post 173. We plan to celebrate this anniversary in April, so look for the flyers. We also have T-shirts on sale to commemorate 50 great years of Veterans strengthen America!

As we start the year off, several improvements are coming to our Post home. We will still be supporting our Veterans and our community, but our home needs some TLC! We will be adding a new LED programmable outside sign. Construction should start second week of January. It will go in the middle flower bed behind the motorcycle parking. We are having the flat roof over the back of the Post and kitchen replaced and some soffit repaired. As we finish the painting of the inside, we will start installing new ceiling tiles and we are looking at all new flooring throughout the Post. We are also going to get the outside of the building painted and look at a mural to celebrate our Veterans across the front and side of the building. Sorry for any inconvenience these projects may cause, just be patient with us as we are making these improvements.

With the New Year in full swing, the Post will be back out helping our community. We will continue our support of children and youth programs through several small, but important community projects. We will continue our support of the Holiday Recreation Center by again sponsoring youth volleyball and basketball programs through the Winter months. The Post continues its support of Steps to Recovery program with a monthly dinner for one of their meetings. Steps to Recovery has VA sponsorship to support Veterans, but the program will not turn away a member of our community who is trying to improve their life. At the Post, we are always looking for Veteran projects to support and will continue our support of the One Community Now Stand Down in the spring. Stand Down is a community wide push to help Veterans, and homeless Vets, in need of medical, dental and legal issues, along with



counseling and spiritual guidance.

As we move into the New Year, the Post will start recruiting and interviewing potential candidates for the American Legion Boys State program in Tallahassee for the Summer 2026 session. Our plan is to send three qualified candidates. The America Legion Boys State is a selective educational program of government instructions for U.S. High School students. It is a participatory program where the students become part of a local, county and state government to better understand how our country works. Boys State is a Nation Wide American Legion Program, conducted by each State American Legion Department. Boys State was founded in 1935. The Auxiliary has a similar program called Girl's State. It is always great to see these youth take an interest in America and how our government works.

There are numerous other programs the Post Legion Family does throughout the year. The Riders will work Project Vet Relief- Suicide Prevention, the SAL annually donates to Special Olympics, and the Auxiliary does their Red Poppy Drive in the Spring. Last, but not least will be our continued support of Dogs Inc service dogs and all the great work they do for Veterans in need.

Our Social Quarters is our biggest source of funds to support the programs mentioned above. We will have our entertainment and games, as always, but there will be special events throughout the year that we will have a flyer in the Post, or it will be on our social media feeds. Not trying to wish the year away already, but you know we will have something special for the Super Bowl, Valentine's Day Dinner, and of course ST Patty's Day, so plan on being part of the fun and support the Post.

In closing, I hope everybody is ready to make 2026 another great year at Post 173. Your continued support of the American Legion and our Post allow us to help our community and Veterans.

May God Bless the American Legion and all the good that we bring to our Veterans and our Community!

Jim Posey
Commander, Post 173

Sons of the Legion Commander



Hello from squadron 173.
I would like to start off by letting everyone know the cornhole tournament

was a great success. The feedback was everyone had a good time and said they would play again. Our plan is to make this an annual event. I would like to thank Keith Gray for organizing the cornhole tournament. Due to the holidays our squadron meetings were canceled for November and December. We will resume in

January 2026. I would like to thank all officers of squadron 173 as well as our members for your diligence in getting your dues paid on time. Just to let everyone know our percentage is well above where we are supposed to be at this time. If you have not renewed, now is the time to do so. 2025 cards are expired as of December 31st. Please check your card to make sure you are in good standing. In

closing I would like to thank the officers of squadron 173 as well as the members for all you do.

Scott Waters
Commander, Post 173

Post Officers

Commander	James Posey
1st Vice	William Leischner
2nd Vice	Jason Burns
Finance Officer	Eddie Rodriguez
Chaplain	Mike Baty
Adjutant	Don Moreillon
Sergeant of Arms	Chris Eakin
Historian	George Ward

Executive Committee

1 Year	Joe Lampkin
2 Year	Mac McLaughlin
3 Year	Frank Nicolas

S.A.L. Officers

Commander	Scott Waters
1st Vice	Robert Huddle
2nd Vice	Keith Gray
Finance Officer	Robert Huddle
Chaplain	Mike Baty
Sergeant of Arms	Bob Holmes
Historian	Jerry Mellon

Auxiliary Officers

President	Marlene Ungeleider
1st Vice	Doris Clark
2nd Vice	Maria Shueger
Secretary/Treasurer	Trina Bousquet
Chaplain	Carol Chapman
Sergeant of Arms	Pearl Sandahl
Historian	Sandy Rosenthal

Members at Large

Stella Dixon Ward • Beverly Kaufholder
Kimberly Ray

Rider Officers

Director	Jason Burns
Assistant Director	Jim Posey
Secretary	Sandy Rosenthal
Treasurer	Paulette Hooper
Chaplain	Scott Hendrickson
Sargent of Arms	Bob Holmes
Historian	Tina Posey
Road Captain	Jason Burns
Road Captain	Ronald Schallhorn

Activities

Bowling

Mon 7 pm
Wed 2 pm

Stick Bingo

Tue 1 pm
Fri 1 pm
Sun 1 pm

Bar Poker

Mon 1 pm
Sat 1 pm

Left - Right - Center

Mon 6 pm
Thurs 6 pm

Entertainment

TJ Brinson

Thurs 3 pm
Fri 6 pm

TBA

Tues 6 pm

Karaoke

Wed 6 pm
Sat 6 pm

Adjutant News

2025 Legion Membership cards will expire December 31.
1st nominations for 2026-2027 Post Officers will be March 12th

Don Moreillon Adjutant

January 2026

Kitchen is open for breakfast - 8:00 am to Noon - 7 days a week

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00 Bar Poker 1 pm
4 Lunch & Dinner 1:00 - 5:00 Stick Bingo - 1 pm	5 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 5:00 Bar Poker 1 pm Weekly Drawing 7 pm	6 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00 Stick Bingo - 1 pm	7 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00	8 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 5:00	9 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00 Stick Bingo - 1 pm	10 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00 Bar Poker 1 pm
11 Lunch & Dinner 1:00 - 5:00 Stick Bingo - 1 pm Legion Riders - 11 am	12 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 5:00 Bar Poker 1 pm Weekly Drawing 7 pm	13 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00 Stick Bingo - 1 pm	14 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00	15 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 5:00 Members Meeting 6:30 pm	16 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00 Stick Bingo - 1 pm	17 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00 Bar Poker 1 pm
18 Lunch & Dinner 1:00 - 5:00 Stick Bingo - 1 pm	19 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 5:00 Bar Poker 1 pm Weekly Drawing 7 pm	20 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00 Stick Bingo - 1 pm	21 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00	22 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 5:00 Auxiliary - 7 pm	23 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00 Stick Bingo - 1 pm	24 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00 Bar Poker 1 pm
25 Lunch & Dinner 1:00 - 5:00 Stick Bingo - 1 pm	26 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 5:00 Bar Poker 1 pm Weekly Drawing 7 pm	27 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00 Stick Bingo - 1 pm	28 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00	29 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 5:00	30 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00 Stick Bingo - 1 pm	31 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00 Bar Poker 1 pm S.A.L. - 10 am

**Kitchen is open
8 am to 7 pm
Sundays, Mondays,
& Thursdays**

February 2026

Kitchen is open for breakfast - 8:00 am to Noon - 7 days a week

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 5:00 Bar Poker 1 pm Weekly Drawing 7 pm	3 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00 Stick Bingo - 1 pm	4 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00	5 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 5:00	6 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00 Stick Bingo - 1 pm	7 Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00 Bar Poker 1 pm
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**Kitchen is open
8 am to 8 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday,
Friday & Saturday**

Auxiliary President



Welcome to 2026!! Hope everyone had a Christmas full of love, family and memories.

December found us working like little Elves collecting toys for John Hopkins/All Childrens Outpatient Center, sports equipment and art supplies for Behavioral Health SIPP

Residential Treatment Center and filling Christmas stockings for the Steps To Recovery Homeless Veterans Program. Thank you for helping put smiles on the faces of children from 0-18 years old as well as our HomeLess Veterans. Without your support and open hearts, we could not have made it happen!!

On December 14, 2025 the Auxiliary Charter being signed in 1977 - 48 years!! We are so proud of all our accomplishments in supporting the Legion Family all along. We are now 366 members strong and will always con-

tinue to support the Aims and Purposes of the American Legion.

Remember your 2025 membership card and benefits expire 12/31/2025 and be sure to pay 2026 now.

The scooter and lift we raffled off during the month of November went to a deserving women suffering from Progressive Brain Disease. We are so happy for her and her family.

Looking forward to our Craft Fair in February (contact Linda Bacon with your donations) and to the Department Presidents Dinner, held jointly with Dunedin Unit 275. Watch forz more information.

Many families and hearts have been broken with the loss of loved ones and caring for ill family members during 2025. We send them prayers for strength and peace during these difficult times.

Looking forward to the New Year.

Marlene Ungerleider, President

1st Vice President

Greetings for a New Year 2026!!

Thank you to everyone who has paid their 2026 dues. This will give your Auxiliary the necessary funds to carry out its obligationz to our Veterans, Children and Youth and Community. (plus support for our fund raisers)

Now we start the new year after all the Christmas activities. Kick out 2025 - alot of work is left to be done.

Girls State registration interviews and paperwork process has begun, Valentines for hospitalized Veterans project at Bay Pines, Craft Fair, to mention a few. Your dues do not fully support these endeavors.

This is why it is important to get 2026 dues in now as your 2025 dues and benefits will expire on 12/31/2025. We are currently at 82%.

Try to pay online if possible and print your receipt and card. We will then send you your hard copy card when we are notified of your payment.

Reminder: Please tell your friends that are applying to complete the application form fully, sign and attach payment with supporting documentation.

In closing, 2025 has given some members illnesses, deaths and hard times. Lets remember them all when we pray for our Veterans, Active Military and our beloved Country.

May God Bless America,

Doris Clark

May God Bless America,

Doris Clark, First Vice President

Legion Riders Director



Heads Up, Florida Riders—The Gang Law is Too Broad

Listen up, folks. As your Director, I need to talk to you about something serious that affects every sin-

gle rider in Florida—especially us in the American Legion Riders. There's this state law, and some proposed changes, that are way too broad when they define "criminal gang members" and "associates."

The intent of laws like Florida Statute Section 874.03 and the proposed changes in Florida House Bill 429 (HB 429) is to help law enforcement take down

actual criminal gangs. We get that. But the problem is, the language is so vague and messy that it could inadvertently sweep up any of us law-abiding motorcycle enthusiasts.

Right now, to be considered a "criminal gang member," you only have to meet two or more criteria from a list. HB 429 is looking to expand that list and, in some cases, make the threshold even lower. **What's the Big Deal for Regular Riders?**

The real danger is in the subjective criteria that basically just describe normal biker culture:

★ How We Dress: This is the biggest headache. Our "uniform"—leather jackets, vests (cuts), and patches like our American Legion Post patches, U.S. flags, or POW/MIA symbols—is a part of our shared



culture. It's not a criminal uniform! The law makes it tough for a cop on the street to tell the difference between the specific "colors" of a genuine outlaw club and the patches of non-criminal groups like ours, other veterans' associations, or touring clubs.

★ Who We Associate

With: The current law says you have to be seen with known gang members four or more times. HB 429 wants to cut that down to just two times. Think about it: at a big public event like Bike Week, or even at a popular biker bar or restaurant, it is ridiculously easy to be in the same room as someone who later gets identified as a gang member. You won't know their business, but you could still be counted as an "associate."



A Call to Action

These laws are used to dramatically increase penalties if a person commits an offense—they're sentencing enhancements. Being a part of the American Legion Riders is not a crime, but the risk is that



law-abiding folks, including our own chapter members, could be unfairly targeted, profiled, or placed into a gang database based on a broad interpretation of what we wear

or where we hang out.

We have to stay informed about how these laws are written. We need to advocate for clear language that separates real criminal activity from our shared, non-criminal passion for riding.

Stay vigilant, know your rights, and let's protect the integrity and image of our organization.



For the latest on Florida legislation, keep an eye on bills like HB 429 on the Florida House of Representatives website. And be sure to check out our new website at ALR173.org for more info about the Riders and what we're doing every day to serve the community and our Legion Family.

— Your Director, "Nagasaki", ALR 173



FUTURE HOME REALTY

I have lived in the New Port Richey area since 1972. I have experienced a lot of growth in Pasco County and in our Post through the years.

I have been a member of the Post since 1998. My Father was in the Air Force and instilled a strong work ethic in us. We came to Florida from Buffalo, N. Y.

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MICHAEL J. CICERO

Unit 173



FOR GOD & COUNTRY

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