



Blanton-Thompson
American
Legion Post
Post 155
6585 W. Gulf to Lake
Highway
Crystal River, FL
34429

June 2026 Scuttlebutt

Blanton-Thompson American Legion Post 155
Crystal River, Florida

Post Commander: John Marler
Auxiliary Unit President: Eileen Harrison
SAL Squadron Commander: Robert Pizzillo
ALR Chapter Director: Scott Herndon
Honor Guard Captain: Mike Sisto

NON-PROFIT
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Crystal River, FL
34429
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Disclaimer
Opinions expressed herein are the opinion of the author and not
necessarily the opinion of
Blanton-Thompson American Legion Post 155
or the
American Legion National Organization

To:



On-Going Events

- **Bingo** Monday & Thursday 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM in the Main Hall. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**
- **Golf League** Thursdays w/Shotgun start 8:00 AM.
Call Walt Menage at (910-800-0046) or Buddy Reed at (352-228-4200)
- **Sunday Breakfast** 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**
- **Steak Night** Second Friday of each month 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**
- **Fish Night** Third Friday of each month 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**
- **"Show Me" 3 Card Bingo** Wednesday 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**
- **Queen of Hearts** Thursday, Drawing at 6:30 PM.
- **Lounge Hours** Sunday 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM
Monday - Thursday 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM
Friday & Saturday 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM

Important Phone Numbers
Vet Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 Press #1
Project Vet Relief Advocate (Patie Pule) 570-369-3321
National Suicide Hotline 988





FROM THE COMMANDER

Hello Legion Family,

What a couple of months we have had at the Post.

Back on April 23rd, we once again had the privilege of hosting the Florida In-State Unity Ride as those traveling on the Northern Route stopped by for the evening and had a nice well-deserved meal. This one-of-a-kind ride by the American Legion Riders raises awareness and funds for PROJECT: VetRelief/ Suicide Prevention Initiative. The best part, all proceeds stay right here in the State to help those in need.

The next day we were honored to present our annual Law and Order Banquet. In honoring our Citrus County First Responders we highlight the dedication, professionalism, and teamwork these great folks demonstrate daily to make sure we are safe across Citrus County.

We are proud to support our community and those who serve to make it a great place to live. A heartfelt thank you!

Our Post elections were on the 28th and I hope you came out to support your Post and elect your leadership for next year.

Moving into May we hosted the Boys State Orientation here at the Post. This is to prepare these young men, the future leaders of our local, city, and state government for their trip to Tallahassee for a week long intense learning opportunity in government, legislative, and judicial affairs to include campaigning and running for various governmental positions for over 500 candidates from the entire state.

Hopefully you have seen our Facebook post or flyer on our bulletin board here at the Post announcing a new benefit for our Veterans and community. We kicked this off on May 18th and will continue each 3rd Monday of the month from 1300 -1500 here at the Post. Services provided include free professional VA claims assistance to Veterans and their families in obtaining benefits earned. VA survivor benefits, VA appeals, VA dependency forms, VA letter and forms review, PTSD/MST and more.

We are excited to continue to provide you with the service you expect and the service you deserve from your Family here at Post 155.

Honor. Legacy. Remembrance.

As of this writing we are planning to attend the Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony on May 23rd at Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery as we did last year. This cemetery is quite special. Established in 1884, this hallowed ground predates Citrus County by 3 years, and many Civil War heroes rest there. In the program it says, "Beneath these sacred grounds rest a legacy of service - quiet, enduring, and worthy of remembrance". That we will do!

The largest in the district by more than half, your Post is home to 915 Legionnaires, 438 American Legion Auxiliary, 223 Sons of the American Legion, and 60 American Legion Riders. We are Honored to call all of you Family.

Having said that, by now I'm sure you have noticed the recent changes made to the canteen.

Ceiling looks great, and with the absence of bar-top divider and pool table, we have created much more usable space. The feedback is positive, so we think we are headed in the right direction.

(continued on next page)



FROM THE COMMANDER - continued

Growth.

Without continual growth and progress, words like improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning. Not everyone likes change, initially anyway, but change is necessary for our survival, and for our future.

On June 10th we are headed off to the 107th Department of Florida Convention in Orlando. This very informative few days consist of training, news about current events and programs, voting for the following Legion year leadership, as well as Post awards and acknowledgement for the past year.

I will tell you that this Post and or members are in the running for big things this year.

Finally, our Post officer installation is on June 20th. Please come out to support your new leadership team and have a nice meal with us.

In closing, I leave you with this... Many of us feel stressed and overwhelmed not because were taking on too much, but too little of what strengthens us.

“For God and Country”
 John Marler, Commander
 American Legion Post 155



Post 155 Chaplain

Dear American Legion 155 Family,

This will be my last article as your Chaplain, at least for now. It has been my honor to serve as your Chaplain for the last 41/2 years. I thank you for all your support and many kind words.

I a not going anywhere, you will still see me around! Just doing a different job. I am running for the high office of Department Chaplain for Legion Year 2026-2027 with voting taking place in June at convention. I want you to know how much I appreciate all the support I have received from the 155 Family!

I wish each of you all of life’s blessings for peace and happiness. I hope you have a great June.

God Bless you all!

Eric Linthicum, Chaplain
 American Legion Post 155

WE WANT YOU
 JOIN US TODAY

Are you an honorably discharged Veteran or currently serving in the U.S. Military?

If so, the American Legion wants you to join the nation's largest Veterans' organization.

- ✓ Veterans Legislation and Benefits
- ✓ National Security and Flag Protection
- ✓ Children and Youth Programs
- ✓ Scholarships and Financial Aid
- ✓ Community Engagement

For more information about The American Legion, please contact your local Post or visit our website at www.AmericanLegion.org

LOCK IN MULTI-YEAR MEMBERSHIP RENEW TODAY

and select the **three-year** membership option.

VISIT LEGION.ORG/RENEW

WE WANT YOU
 JOIN US TODAY

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- ✓ Community Engagement

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Auxiliary Unit 155

Greetings,

Congratulations to all our newly elected officers. Thank you to all who stepped up to take a position. I look forward to another productive year. Under the leadership of Michelle Cavaliere I am sure we will continue our "Mission of Service not Self".

Don't forget Officer Installations are scheduled for 20 June 2026.

Our Girls State delegates will be leaving on 4 June 2026. Please join me at 9:00 AM at the Post on the 4th to see them off and wish them well.

We will be hosting a Female Veterans luncheon on June 6th, if you are able to help with that let me know.

June 12th is our day to do Steak Night, please let me know if you can help out.

Our next meeting is June 23rd, this will be Michelle's first meeting as President, so come out and show her your support.

For God and Country
Eileen Harrison
President, Unit 155 American Legion Auxiliary

Squadron 155 Commander



Hello Squadron 155 Family.

Membership cards are available at our meetings on the first Tuesday of every month, starting at 7:00 PM. If you are not able to make the meeting, please call me so we can make arrangements to meet.

We host Friday Fish Fry the 3rd Friday of every month and Breakfast the 4th Sunday of every month. These two monthly events are major fund raisers for the charities we support. We could certainly use your assistance, just a few hours each month goes a long way, and I would be very grateful for your assistance.

Any questions, please call or text me at 484-368-6227. We are here for all of you - SONS Helping Veterans.

Robert "Humpty" Pizzillo,
Commander, Squadron 155, Sons of the American Legion



Did You Know?

The American Legion, Department of Florida proudly stands at over 120,000 members with more than 270 Legion Posts across the state. Members rally to support our military and their families in a variety of ways through promoting strong national security, advocating patriotism and honor, mentoring youth, and sponsoring wholesome programs within our communities.

At the National level members of [The American Legion](#), [American Legion Auxiliary](#), [Sons of The American Legion](#), and [American Legion Riders](#) comprise the Legion Family, which has a combined membership of nearly 4.2 million.



Chapter 155 American Legion Riders

American Legion Post 155 Family,

This past month was Officer Elections for the American Legion Riders for the 2026-2027 American Legion Year. As such, congratulations to the following members who will serve as the Chapter Officers: Director, Scott Herndon; Assistant Director, Richard Fabsits; Adjutant, Wendy Fabsits; Finance Officer, Kathy Hockenberry; Chaplain, James Brown; Road Captain, Doug Hockenberry; and Sergeant-at-Arms, Rick Wright.

May was our fund-raising month, congratulation goes out to Dan Crotsley for winning the Lotto Board. I also want to thank everyone who joined me in supporting the Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery Veterans Remembrance Ceremony on 23 May 2026.

I wish each of you a meaningful Memorial Day as we pay tribute to our fellow brothers and sisters who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our great nation. Be safe and watch out for bikers.

“For the Cause, Not the Applause”

Scott Herndon

Director, Chapter 155, American Legion Riders

Post Service Officer

ATTENTION VETERANS....

If you are receiving VA healthcare and/or benefits. Please go to [VA.GOV](https://www.va.gov) and go thru the verification process to sign in. This site helps you communicate with your doctors, order refills, and so much more. This is a much more user-friendly site than MYHEALTHVET and it's full of helpful information. It will show your disability rating, your amount of payment, etc. Should you need assistance navigating the site or have a question, please contact me at 352-257-0541.

If you have an appointment scheduled with a VA Facility serviced with the Gainesville or Tampa VA Hospital and do not have transportation please let your Primary Physician know you need transportation. They will refer you to the Social Worker for your Pact Team where they can arrange this service via Uber or other medically needed transport.

The Social Worker will contact you to evaluate your needs as there are certain criteria that must be met. Please let them know at least 48 hours ahead or more of your scheduled appointment. If you need more information regarding this program feel free to contact me at 352-257-0541.

Wanda Thomas
Post Service Officer

**CHECK OUT THE POST
WEBSITE:**
www.flPost155.org

**American Legion Auxiliary
Unit 155 email address:**
alaf155sec@gmail.com

BE THE ONE

Thank you for choosing American Legion Post 155!
If you are happy with our service, please like us on our
FACEBOOK PAGE at AMERICAN LEGION POST 155 CRYSTAL RIVER
Thank You...



the next generation



of Young Veterans

AFGHANISTAN



GULF WAR / IRAQ

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LEGION
POST 155
CRYSTAL RIVER
352-795-6526

“FAMILY”
“FRIENDS”
“FOREVER”
Join Us Today!

Organization & Club Meetings

Submarine Veterans - Meet on the 1st Saturday of the month at 11:00 AM.

NARLEO (National Association of Retired Law Enforcement Officers) Meet on the 4th Wednesday in Main Hall. E-Board Meeting 6:00 PM; Membership Meeting at 7:30 PM. Point of contact is Marcy Sigurdson at 352-697-1937. PO Box 955, Lecanto, FL 34460-0955. **No meetings June, July, or August.**


Marine Corps League Citrus Detachment #819, PO Box 640383, Beverly Hills, FL 34464-0383
 Monthly meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Auxiliary Room at 7:00 PM. Point of contact is Norman Brewer at 352-601-2090 or by email at nbrewer2@tampabay.rr.com.

BNI (Business Network International) - Meets every Thursday at 7:00 AM in the Main Hall.

**American Legion Post 155
Offers Rental Space**

Are you planning a wedding, special birthday, anniversary or group gathering?

Check out our Main Hall rental space.
Discounted rate for Legion Family Members
Call answering machine @ 352-794-6360 for a call-back



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jessicamariekern@primerica.com

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299 Coon Rapids Blvd NW
Suite 211
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

June 2026 - Golf League Information

Thursday with a **shotgun start @ 8:00 AM** unless otherwise noted.
 Sign up with Buddy Reed at (352-228-4200) if you want to golf.
 If you can't make it, call the golf course or Buddy. Thanks!



- Thursday:**
- 4 - Plantation (Bar Lunch & Drinks)
 - 11 - Inverness
 - 18 - Royal Oaks
 - 25 - Plantation

Key Staff Officer List 2025-2026**American Legion Post 155**

Position	Name	Phone
Commander	John Marler	954-325-6521
1 st Vice Commander	Doug Hockenberry	727-514-3742
2 nd Vice Commander	LJ Hirnikel	352-736-0411
3 rd Vice Commander	Ervin "JR" Bailey	619-729-4598
Adjutant	Kathy Hockenberry	813-716-5699
Finance Officer	Kathy Hockenberry	813-716-5699
Post Service Officer	Wanda Thomas	352-257-0541
Historian	David Hoffman	920-284-7937
Chaplain	Eric Linthicum	301-213-8989
Sergeant at Arms	Mike Sisto	518-651-7848
Judge Advocate	Jay Conti	352-287-1400
PIO / PR	Dave Hoffman	920-284-7937

Executive Committee Members - Alan Arnold,
Scott, Herndon, Rick Krauzowicz, Jeff Post, Janet Richards,
Bill Shreve, Wanda Thomas, Mike Vaughan,
& Kelly Worthington

Unit 155, American Legion Auxiliary

Position	Name	Phone
President	Eileen Harrison	305-304-7881
Vice-President	Barb Logan	727-383-2668
Secretary	Michelle Cavaliere	352-220-4211
Treasurer	Joyce Centrella	352-601-0136
Chaplain	Sallie Haley	256-505-7976
Sgt at Arms	Michael Hippauf	610-301-4395
Asst. Sgt at Arms	Donna Sisto	407-415-3903
Historian	Carol Herndon	305-807-1440

Executive Committee - Paula Kier, Dottie Laird,
Natalie Reeves and Michele Shreve

Squadron 155, Sons of the American Legion

Position	Name	Phone
Commander	Robert Pizzillo	484-368-6227
1st Vice Commander	Vacant	
2nd Vice Commander	Mike Crowder	352-422-8949
Finance Officer	Vacant	
Chaplain	John Seasholtz	352-382-4285
Adjutant	Harrison Forbes	570-983-6612
Sgt at Arms	JR Jesse Caley	352-220-0130
Historian	Mike Paradis	727-366-9611

Chapter 155, American Legion Riders

Position	Name	Phone
Director	Scott Herndon	305-322-7187
Assistant Director	Richard Fabsits	708-743-6123
Adjutant	Wendy Fabsits	815-592-1371
Chaplain	Jimmy Brown	352-422-7910
Finance Officer	Kathy Hockenberry	813-716-5699
Sgt-at-Arms	Rick Wright	352-601-7142
Road Captain	Doug Hockenberry	727-514-3742
Historian	Vacant	
Past Director	Dan Pule-RIP Brother	

Honor Guard

Position	Name	Phone
Captain	Mike Sisto	518-651-7848
Lieutenant	Eric Linthicum	301-213-8989
Sgt at Arms	Fred Whitehurst	352-480-7204
Chaplain	Eric Linthicum	301-213-8989

ON SALE

American Legion Post 155 T-Shirts ~ \$15 each.
Sizes range from Small to 4XL.

SAL T-shirts ~ \$15 each
"We're more than just a program ~ Get 'er Done, be a Son"

AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER ITEMS

Auxiliary V-Neck T-Shirts \$20.00

Auxiliary Tumblers \$20.00

There going fast, hurry and get yours.

**Blood Drive!**

Next Blood Drive
22 June 2026/Monday
3:00 PM—6:30 PM

ASK

A VETERAN IN YOUR LIFE
HOW THEY ARE DOING

LISTEN

WHEN A VETERAN
NEEDS TO TALK

REACH OUT

WHEN A VETERAN
IS STRUGGLING

BE THE ONE

AL Auxiliary Unit 155	07/28	~In Loving memory of~	
AL Riders Chapter 155	12/26	Arthur J. Cody	12/28
Baker, Bob & Elfie	10/26	Linda Granger	12/29
Belkin, Michael	01/27	Jay Berry	03/30
Boucher, Roger	10/27	Frank & Cindy Heather	03/35
Cieslewicz, Steven & Gloryann	03/28	Ron & Irene Kornatowski	04/29
Froehlich, George & Susan	06/26	Rick Logan	03/28
Fuchs, Edward & Delrose	06/26	Steve Mikulas	06/26
Granger, Bill	08/30	Dan Pule	03/27
Grieme, Judy	03/30	Alexander Telfer	03/27
Hockenberry, Doug & Kathy	06/27		
Jenkins, Kerry	12/26		
Kawonczyk, Peter	08/27		
Kornatowski, Ron	04/29		
Legros, Henry	04/27		
Logan, Barbara	03/28		
McCallister, Chuck	12/26		
McMechan, Samuel	10/28		
Ricca, Raymond	12/26		
Shreve, Michele & Bill	08/26		
Snead, John & Virginia	05/28		
Sosnicki, Alex	09/26		
Spahr, Margie & Bill	10/26		
Telfer, Connie	03/27		
Voelz, Sig & Tom	09/26		
Weston, Tom & Jan	12/26		
Wilson, Judith L.	09/26		

A Donation of \$10.00 a year can be made to be a member of the Scuttlebutt Booster Club. Mail check payable to **Scuttlebutt Booster Post 155** and mail to address below. If your name is not in this month's edition and you are a Booster, please advise the Post immediately.

~ NOTE ~

If you have submitted an e-mail address to us, you will be receiving your newsletter via e-mail. If you change your e-mail address, please let us know. This is a cost savings to the Post not only by not printing more copies, but by not mailing them out.

Thank you for your cooperation!

As space permits, we have an Advertisement Page for our members to provide information of any particular business or fundraising.

Prices are \$10 per month **OR** \$100 per year [paid in advance]; size is based on business card dimensions only and space is limited. Submit to "Scuttlebutt Post 155" no later than 15th of the month with your contact information.

CHECK OUT THE POST WEBSITE:
www.flPost155.org



**American Legion Auxiliary
Unit 155 email address:**
alaf155sec@gmail.com

BE THE ONE

Blanton-Thompson American Legion Post 155
6585 W. Gulf to Lake Highway
Crystal River, Florida 34429-9355

Phone: 352-795-6526 **Hall Rentals:** 352-795-6526 extension 5

E-mail: btpost155@gmail.com - **WEBSITE:** www.flPost155.org

Send any change of address or e-mail address to:
American Legion Post 155, 6585 W. Gulf to Lake Highway, Crystal River, Florida 34429

PIO/PR: Dave Hoffman djameshoffman@gmail.com or 920-284-7937 (cell)

AMERICAN LEGION POST 155 JUNE 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Bingo 1-4pm	2 Veteran Community Outreach Mtg 2pm SAL Mtg 7pm	3 Show Me 3-5pm	4 Bingo 1-4pm <i>Queen of Hearts 6:30pm</i> Girl's State Delegates Depart	5 Scott Fish 6-9pm	6 SubVets - 11am Female Veterans Luncheon Noon - 2pm Open Jukebox
7 Breakfast - Legion 8:30 - 11am	8 Bingo 1-4pm	9 E-Board Mtg 6pm	10 Show Me 3-5pm Riders Mtg 6pm	11 Bingo 1-4 pm <i>NO Queen of Hearts</i>	12 <i>Women Veterans Day</i> Steak Night 4-6:30pm Sandra Hart 6-9pm Girl's State Delegates Return	13 Open Jukebox
14 <i>Flag Day / Army Birthday</i> Breakfast - Riders 8:30 - 11am	15 Bingo 1-4pm	16	17 Show Me 3-5pm Marine Corps 7pm	18 Bingo 1-4pm <i>Queen of Hearts 6:30pm</i>	19 Fish Fry 4 - 6:30pm Freddie King 6-9pm	20 Post 155 Officers Installation 1-3pm Dinner to follow Karaoke 6-9pm
21 <i>Father's Day</i> Breakfast - Auxiliary 8:30 - 11am Boy's State Delegates Depart	22 Bingo 1-4pm	23 Legion/Auxiliary Mtgs 6pm	24 Show Me 3-5pm NARLEO 6-9pm	25 Bingo 1-4pm <i>Queen of Hearts 6:30pm</i>	26 Shawn Manley 6-9pm	27 Boy's State Delegates Return Open Jukebox
28 Breakfast -SAL 8:30 - 11am	29 Bingo 1-4pm	30				