



The Sunset

“PASS IT ON”

Issue 22, FEB/MARCH/APRIL, 2017 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 273 Madeira Beach, Florida 33708



Message from the President

I want to thank all of you who continue to support Unit 273. Do not let your resolve dwindle, keep it up. We are doing just what our mission statement states, the American Legion Auxiliary is to support the

American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Janice B Hill
president@alaf1273.com, 727-580-5930

EVENTS

APRIL

Sunday, April 16th, Easter Dinner.

Sunday, April 23rd Riders Pancake Breakfast, 9am.

MAY

Tuesday, May 2nd, “Service for Unattended Veterans” at Bay Pines Cemetery at 3pm.

Wednesday, May 3rd, Disabled Vets Dinner at 4:45pm.

Friday, May 5th, Cinco de Mayo.

Sunday, May 7th, Fundraiser for Nick Knowlton, 4:30pm, \$25 per person, reserved.

Sunday, May 14th, Mother’s Day, Dinner Specials

Mon/Tues/Mon, May 15/16 & 22 Madeira Beach Fund. Sch. Breakfasts, 8:30am.

Saturday, May 27th, Blood Drive.

Monday, May 29th, Memorial Day Ceremony.

JUNE

Tuesday, June 6th, “Service for Unattended Veterans” at Bay Pines Cemetery at 3pm.

Wednesday, June 7th, Disabled Vets Dinner at 4:45pm.

Wednesday, June 14th, Flay Day.

Sunday, June 18th, Father’s Day, Dinner Specials.

Thurs.-Sun., June 29, 30 July 1, 2 State Convention at Marriott Orlando.

GUEST SPEAKER FROM GULFCOAST LEGAL SERVICES



Cherilyn Hansen, of Gulfcoast Legal Services speaks at the Unit 273 February 6 meeting informing members of all the legal services Gulfcoast is now voluntarily providing for veterans and their families at Bay Pines. For more information go to: www.gulfcoastlegal.org

NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting will be held on Monday, May 1, at 7pm. **Election of 2017-18 Unit 273 Officers** will take place at the meeting.

THE SUNSET NEWSLETTER: If you would like to publish an event, article, photo, etc. in the newsletter the deadline is the **10th** of every month. Please send what you would like to have published to Pat Thoman at moimaid2@aol.com. All photos and editorial material by Pat Thoman unless otherwise noted.

VALENTINE FASHION SHOW A HUGE SUCCESS



The models start coming down the stairs with Mary Lou Kohler first as Anthony Torregrossa does the announcing.



L to R, Looks Boutique owner Evelyn Casey, Linda Newkirk, Linda McIlroy, Marilyn Blouin, Carol Dayton, Elaine from Looks and Josephine Campisi.



Fashion show attendees waiting for the next model to come down the stairs to show off another outfit.



Lots of Raffle Baskets to win.



Craig Thoman and Hank did a great job selling Raffle tickets.



Zoe Roseman showing off her outfit

The Valentine Fashion Show held on February 11th at the Salt Rock Grill, Indian Shores was a great success with 153 people attending and Fashions provided by Looks Boutique. The food was great; there was live music, raffle baskets, and door prizes. The total profit that was made for our veterans, active military and their families was \$2,289.91

Photos by: Catherine Torregrossa and Pat Thoman

UNIT 273 NEW MEMBER INITIATION CEREMONY HELD AT THE APRIL 3RD MEETING



New members from left to right are: Sonia Delormier, Christa Medford, Barbara Overstreet, Susan Kohler, Brenda Faust, Jeanne Stone, Kathie Slawiak, Carol Dolt, Judy Janus, Carol Rael, Debra Fisk and Mary Cariello.



New members watching the Initiation Ceremony.

Twelve new members were initiated at the April 3rd Unit 273 meeting. President Janice Hill, 2nd Vice, Mary Lou Kohler; Treasurer, Linda Newkirk and 1st Vice Katie Gabehart performed the ceremony with the help of Assistant Sgt-at-Arms Thersesa Penrod and Secretary Pat Thoman. Each of the new members will receive a copy of the Constitution, an American flag and an Auxiliary pin.

BLUE STAR MOTHER RECEIVES BANNER AT APRIL 3RD MEETING



Blue Star mother Sally Johnson receives her Blue Star Banner from National Security Chairman Ronda Brailey-Maurer (L) and Unit 273 President Janice Hill (R).

NEWS ON THE USS OHIO

USS Ohio returns home to the Pacific Northwest/Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet From Submarine Group 9 Public Affairs Posted March 27, 2017



USS Ohio (SSGN 726) arrives at Naval Magazine Indian Island, Wash., March 23. (U.S. Navy/MC1 Amanda R. Gray)

INDIAN ISLAND, Wash. - The guided-missile submarine USS Ohio (SSGN 726) returned home to the Pacific Northwest March 23, after being deployed for 20 months in the Pacific.

Since its departure in December 2014, Ohio was forward-deployed to Guam, where it conducted

surveillance, training and other critical missions in the 7th Fleet area of operations.

Highlights from the deployment included exercises involving special operations forces; port visits in Malaysia, South Korea, and Japan; and coordination of the largest Tomahawk missile onload in program history.

“I thought that this was a successful deployment,” said Fire Control Technician 3rd Class Christopher Goetz, from Havertown, Pennsylvania, assigned to Ohio’s Gold Crew. “We worked really hard while deployed and trained just as much when we were the off-crew and it paid off. We achieved what we came to do.”

Ohio class guided-missile submarines (SSGN) provide the Navy with an unprecedented combination of strike and special operation mission capability within a stealthy, clandestine platform. Armed with tactical missiles and equipped with superior communications capabilities, SSGNs are capable of directly supporting dozens of special operations forces (SOF).

“I have been lucky enough to serve on the USS Ohio for a very long time, 11 years to be exact, and this is by far the best crew that I have ever worked with,” said Chief Fire Control Technician Shane Adkins, from Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio, assigned to Ohio’s Gold Crew. “During our two separate deployments, crew morale was the highest I have ever seen it. That helped the crew come together and work hard to successfully complete both missions on an aging boat.”

The ship is scheduled to begin a Major Maintenance Period at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility. Major Maintenance Periods are part of a ship’s normal operating cycle and occur after the submarine has been forward deployed for over 12 months.

“There are much needed repairs that need to be done to allow Ohio to continue fulfilling its mission,” said Gold Crew’s Chief of the Boat Master Chief Aaron Lee, from Long Beach, California.

Ohio and its sister ship, USS Michigan (SSGN 727), are both homeported at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor.

This information was retrieved from:
www.cpf.navy.mil/news.aspx/110242

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KELLI BECRAFT’S HOMECOMING DINNER SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH



Department President Kelli Becraft (center) receiving her \$1,000 check from Unit 273 President Janice Hill (Right) to go towards her special project Final Salute.



Department President Kelli Becraft (center) showing off her “Nurture Our Veterans” shirt given to her by Unit 273 President Janice Hill (Right).

Photos by: Katie Gabehart.

Unit 273 President Janice Hill and 1st Vice Katie Gabehart attended Department President Kelli Becraft’s Homecoming dinner Saturday, April 8th held at American Legion Post 7 between 5-10 p.m.

AUXILIARY INFORMATION LINKS

CHECKOUT THE ALA UNIT 273 WEB SITE
www.alaf273.com/ Updates made weekly.

American Legion Auxiliary web site:
www.alaforveterans.org/default.aspx

American Legion Post 273 web site:
www.amleg273.com/

STAND DOWN AT BAY PINES HELD SATURDAY APRIL 8TH



L to R: Post 273 Anthony Torregrossa; Unit 273 1st Vice Katie Gabehart; 16th Dist. President, Sharon Damsgard; American Legion State Commander, Joe McGee; Unit 273 VA&R Chairman, Anna Reynolds; and Unit 273 President, Janice Hill.



Unit 273 volunteers waiting for the veterans to arrive.



American Legion Post 273 Chaplain Dave Posey; the man who volunteers for EVERYTHING!!!



In just a matter of a few hours all the piles on these tables will be gone.



VA&R Chairman Anna Reynolds standing in front of a pile of sanitary wipes to be given out to the homeless veterans.

There was a great turnout by both the American Auxiliary Legion Unit 273 and American Legion Post 273 Family to help our homeless veterans on Saturday, April 8th at Bay Pines. Our Unit 273 gave out stacks of towels, foot/body power, wipes, razors, shaving cream, flashlights, toothpaste/brushes, soap, food items, envelopes stamps, socks, and many, many other items to over 300 homeless male and 24 female veterans. There was also legal help, dental care assistance, breakfast and lunch provided, new clothing provided, trucks available to provide showers and others that provided offered free haircuts and shaves, etc. In all, it was a beautiful day to take a couple of steps forward to help our homeless veterans to a better future. Let's hope that this one day was able to change quite a few lives. Thanks to all who volunteered, donated, and maybe just gave a much needed HUG and a smile to a homeless veteran... you don't know how much your efforts are appreciated... Thank you. For God and Country

Photos by: Anthony Torregrossa except for the one he was in.