



# The Sunset "PASS IT ON"

Issue 18, DEC./JAN. Issue, January 28, 2016 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 273 Madeira Beach, Florida 33708



## Message from the President

As we begin a new year, let us resolve to keep a promise, seek out a forgotten friend, listen laugh, brighten the heart of a child, encourage the young, appreciate our elders, express our gratitude for our service men and women,

take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of life, and speak your love to others.

Let's grow closer together in our American Legion Family, in our Units and in our world. We have done wonderful work throughout the holidays supporting our veterans and families. I thank all of you who participated in the beautiful Christmas events for the women veterans, children, veterans from C.W. Young Healthcare center on Christmas day, and all the families we cared for by providing gifts and food donations.

For many of us, volunteering isn't just what we do, it's who we are. We give our time and money because we care about people and want to make a difference in their lives, especially our veterans and the men and women who are active duty and their families.

Above all, I am thankful for the officers and members who have made important decisions for our organization. On January 8th, 2016, joined by our Commander Jim White, we were honored and pleased that our state President Pearl McIntyre, escorted by our District 16 President Dee Bell, visited our unit. Secretary Pat Thoman and her Tee Shirt team gifted President Pearl a denim shirt detailed with our logo. I am sure she has worn that shirt these past couple of cold days. Several members attended an evening of Celebration with Sixteenth District honoring President Pearl McIntyre. We want to personally thank American Legion Auxiliary Unit 79 and Unit 335 for the lovely event, and all those that helped make this night such a success.

Please continue to volunteer for our fund raising events, Sharon Abbott and her team had a very successful bake sale and basket raffle sale. Looking forward we are

planning a fashion show on February 27 and a St. Patrick's Day bake sale March 11 and 12.

February 2, 2016 call to meeting - come on out and enjoy our special guest speaker Sue Selbin. She enjoys speaking and doing comedy for organizations in the Midwest and Florida.

Janice B Hill

From The Service of One Comes the Support of Many

We are the largest American Legion Family Membership in the world!

[president@alaf1273.com](mailto:president@alaf1273.com),  
727-580-5930

## AUXILIARY STATE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT PEARL MCINTYRE VISITS POST 273



Unit 273 Secretary Pat Thoman; with Department President Pearl McIntyre; Unit 273 President Janice Hill; District 16 President, Dee Bell; and Unit 273 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Mary Lou during President McIntyre's recent visit to Post 273.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, **February 2, 2016** at 11 am.

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## HUGS FROM MOM QUILT RAFFLE TO SUPPORT CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR FEMALE VETERANS



Above Legion members trying to decide on which quilt they would like to take a chance on. Below Wendy Donnelly helps members with their decision as to which quilt to pick.



Just one of the many quilts that were available to raffle at the Hugs from Mom Quilt Raffle held November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds went towards the Female Veterans Christmas Party to be held on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

## UNIT 273 PACKED AND DELIVERED THANKSGIVING DINNERS TO VETERAN FAMILIES



Unit 273 volunteers pack bags full of items for Thanksgiving dinners for five veteran families to enjoy this Thanksgiving. Unit 273 did the same for families for Christmas Dinners as well in addition to Christmas gifts to Angels and other Vets.

# FEMALE VETERANS CHRISTMAS PARTY HELD DECEMBER 1st



This proves a photo is worth a thousand words.



Guest speaker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Petty Officer, USN, Stephen P Matthews speaking to the veterans.



Three of our guest veterans showing off their beautiful hats.



District 16<sup>th</sup> President Dee Bell holding one of the handmade door prizes and Wendy Donnelly showing off her festive hat.



Veteran Ms. Gordan posing with Stephen Matthews.

A great afternoon of Christmas Cheer and fun was had by all at the Female Veterans Christmas Party which included "High Tea" served with a beautiful collection of tea pots, cups and saucers; along with a variety of sandwiches, fresh fruit, pasta salad and dessert. 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Petty Officer, USN, Stephen P. Matthews (son of Unit 273, Secretary, Pat Thoman) was the guest speaker and spoke about his deployments to Afghanistan and aboard the hospital ship the "Mercy."

# DECEMBER 19<sup>th</sup> CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH VISIT FROM MR. & MRS. SANTA



1<sup>st</sup> Baby Christmas gets celebrated!



Grandpop helping his granddaughter with crafts.



Just some of the crafts made by the children at the party.



Mrs. Santa waiting outside with the children for Mr. Santa.



Santa arrives by a big red fire truck!



The main prizes under the tree.

Wow! What a fantastic Christmas Party that was attended by many of our Family Legion Children with Santa and Mrs. Santa in attendance as well with loads of gifts, crafts to make, treats, lunch and dessert.

**A CHRISTMAS DAY FOR ALL TO REMEMBER SERVING OUR VETERANS CHRISTMAS DINNER AND THANKING THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE.**



This might be a small photo, but it just shows some of the 93 volunteers that helped serve Christmas dinner to our Bay Pine Veterans on Christmas Day.



Just one of the hundreds of placemats created for the Vets by hundreds of children just for this Christmas dinner.

93 Legion Family members showed up on Christmas morning to cook, set-up, welcome and serve our veterans from Bay Pines C. W. Young VA a full Christmas Dinner of Turkey with all the trimmings including dessert. It was a day of fun and good cheer had by all. It's what Christmas is really all about! A huge thank you to all of those who volunteered.

**BAKE SALE/RAFFLE HELD JANUARY 15 & 16 HUGE SUCCESS**



This says it all... "Proud to Honor All Who Served."



Some of the winners of the raffle baskets shown above.



Unit 273 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Katie Gabehart helping to make sure everyone gets a piece of pie.



Table of baked goods that were on sale for all to buy.

The Bake Sale/Raffle brought in a total of \$1,700 for a successful weekend to the cause of helping our veterans.

## MEMBERS ATTEND DINNER TO HONOR STATE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT PEARL MCINTYRE



Unit 273 members Linda McIlroy, Denise Dodson; Unit 273 President, Janice Hill; District 16 President, Dee Bell; Anna Reynolds; Unit 273 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Mary Lou Kohler; State Department President, Pearl McIntyre; and Sharon Abbotts are shown attending the dinner held at Unit 79 on Saturday, January 9, 2016.

### Blood Donor HONOR ROLL

Thank you for participating in the blood drive at  
American Legion 273 on Saturday, January 23, 2016

RONALD BAUMSTEIGER	RHONDA BRAILEY-MAURER
GARY CREHAN	SHERRELL EDWARDS
KATHERINE GABEHART	RICHARD KERN
NANCY NEWMAN	GERALD SAMPSON
CAROL SCALERA	DANA STEVENS

**oneblood** Share your power.

[facebook.com/legion273blood](https://www.facebook.com/legion273blood)
[youtube.com/watch?v=8cbl00d7d00](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cbl00d7d00)
[twitter.com/legion273blood](https://twitter.com/legion273blood)
[oneblood.org](http://oneblood.org)

**T-Shirt Sales:** Chairman, Pat Thoman reported November Sales were \$2,536 with a total of 120 volunteer hours and for December Sales \$2,872 with a total of 104 volunteer hours and that is with a total of six days off for the holidays... The new merchandise is here, so come and take a look at the new bottle koozies, tumblers, zip-up sweatshirts, men's polo shirts, hats and of course our NEW Bling women's jackets.

## NATIONAL SECURITY:

### Coupon Cutters Monthly Totals:

**November:** \$85,008.04 Hours: 921

**December:** \$46,551.92 Hours: 506

We have an open invitation for anyone interested in joining this fabulous group of devoted cutters, every Saturday 11am-1pm, in the main post hall.

### MEMBERSHIP

The winner of the EARLY BIRD membership for a \$25.00 gift card was Linda McCabe

### EVENTS

#### FEBRUARY

**Sunday, February 14th,** Breakfast Buffet, 8:30 to 11:15am.

**Sunday, February 14th,** Valentine's Day Dinner Specials.

**Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>,** Riders Pancake Breakfast, 9am.

**Saturday, February 27th,** Auxiliary Fashion Show & Basket Raffle Noon – 4:30p, \$25 per ticket.

**Tickets go on sale after 2/2 Aux. Mtg.**

#### MARCH

**Wednesday,** March 2, "Frank and Dean" Show, 5pm, \$20 per person.

**Saturday,** March 5, "Blessing of the Bikes" 11 am to 2pm, lunch tickets provided.

**Sat/Sun, March 11&12,** Auxiliary St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale.

**Thursday, March 17th,** St. Patrick's Day: Open to Public.

**Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>,** Riders Pancake Breakfast, 9am.

**Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>,** Easter Sunday: Dinner Special.

**Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>,** National Legion Commander Dale Barnett visits Post 273.

#### APRIL

**Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>,** Bay Pines C. W. Young V.A. STAND DOWN

**Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>,** Craft Fair

**CHECKOUT THE NEW ALA UNIT 273 WEB SITE**  
[www.alaf1273.com/](http://www.alaf1273.com/) Updates made weekly.

**THE SUNSET NEWSLETTER:** If you would like to publish an event, article, photo, etc. in the newsletter the deadline is the **10<sup>th</sup>** of every month. Please send what you would like to have published to Pat Thoman at [moimaid2@aol.com](mailto:moimaid2@aol.com).