

# The Source

Monthly Newsletter for the Detachment of Florida  
December 2011 - Volume 19 Issue 04



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov 30 - Hurricane Season Ends
- Dec 7 - Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec 10 - Detachment 60% Membership Target
- Dec 25 - Christmas Day
- Jan 1 - New Year's Day
- Jan 10 - Detachment 65% Membership Target
- Jan 21 - Southwestern Area Ball - Post 103 Punta Gorda

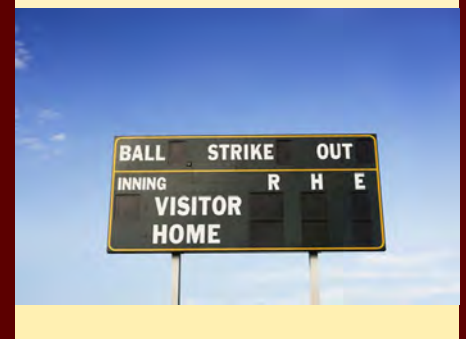
## Commander's Column

Bill Kelly, Detachment Commander ([detcommander@floridalegion.org](mailto:detcommander@floridalegion.org))



The last week before this report was an exciting and monumental time for our Sons in the Detachment of Florida. Our Detachment rolled out for implantation the Florida Sons of the American Legion College at the Fall Conference in Orlando on November 19. These courses will allow the Detachment to educate selected members of our Florida Legion Family in all aspects of the Legion, S.A.L. and build leadership from within the Detachment and Legion Family for the future of the Detachment of Florida.

The Detachment also passed at Fall Conference the Committee on Commissions, which will assist the Commanders Advisory Committee in the search for qualified candidates for all S.A.L. Detachment of Florida Offices. These administrated changes will allow our Detachment to educate, train and elect prospected leaders for the future in the Detachment of Florida.



Our Detachment Conference excepted for distribution, the New SAL District Commanders Guide and under the VA&R Commission we unveiled the Commanders VAVS Project to have a SAL Veterans Administration Representative in every V.A. Hospital thru out the State of Florida.

I would like to take a moment to thank all our Detachment Officers and Members and a specially Ed, Jim, Herb, JJ, Stan, and all our Vice Commanders for their help and support in making our Detachment Fall Conference such a overwhelming success. A Job Well Done!

Another Big Thanks to Commander Williams, his Officers, and Staff, President Rousseau her Officers and Staff, A.L. Riders Coordinator Yarber and his staff, and all the members of our Florida Legion Family who welcomed our Sons at their meetings and contributed to a successful Fall Conference. Thank You.

MEMBERSHIP is hitting the Ball. We are rounding the Bases and Scoring the Runs. 51% at Fall Conference is Fantastic! Our Membership Team said it has been a long time since we were over 50% at Fall Conference, so let's keep up the hard work. Everyone is doing a great job but remember we are only at 2nd Base, just past half way to 100% and Home Plate. Thank You to all the Florida Legion Family Members who have helped contribute to our Success. Keep Hitting That Ball!

My travels since my last report have taken me to Post 129 to greet the Auxiliary National President Kris Nelson and announce the Detachments \$500.00 contribution for the Florida Ride 2 Recovery. On Veterans Day weekend I rode in the Jacksonville Parade on Friday, the Orlando Parade on

Saturday before attending the Memorial Service at Post / Squadron 38 for Past Detachment Sgt. at Arms Clark that evening in Fort Myers. The next day we attended the 13th District Meeting at Squadron #110 and conducted a SAL Institute and addressed the Auxiliary before returning to Post 137 in Jacksonville and addressing the USMC Birthday Celebration there. Thanksgiving was spent with the Department Legion Family at Post/Squadron 252. Pearl Harbor Day was spent with the Department Legion Family laying wreaths of Mayport Naval Station and touring the 5th District. Thank you to all the Legion Family Members who welcomed us on our travels.

We hope every member of our FL Legion Family had a Happy Thanksgiving, and on Behalf of the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Florida, Barbara and Myself we wish y'all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. God Bless Our Troops, God Bless the Legion, and God Bless the USA.



## Adjutant's Corner

Ed Sheubrooks, Detachment Adjutant ([detadjutant@floridalegion.org](mailto:detadjutant@floridalegion.org))



As we turn our sights and sounds to the holiday season, let us re-

member those who are less fortunate than us. Let us not forget our families, friends, and neighbors that still have a loved one serving in the Middle East or elsewhere protecting the American way of life. Keep them in your prayers. Get a few members together and make a visit to the local Veterans Home or Nursing Home. Have a Gift Drive prior to going and take them with you on your visits. For some, this may be their only Christmas.

I know of several Squadrons that are hosting Children's Christmas Parties, and are involved with gifts for the veterans in the VA Centers. This is what we are about. Christmas should be a time of joy for all, but for some it is a burden, especially if the parents are out of work or on deployment. Contact the local Salvation Army or Red Cross to see if there are any Families that need any special assistance. Let's try to make this the best possible Christmas for all!

The Fall Conference is behind us and was well attended. We are moving forward on a number of new projects that will change the way that we operate. The District Commanders Guide is completed and will be going to the District Commanders after the holidays. We are restructuring our Committee's and Commissions and looking at if they are a viable asset to the Detachment or if we have redundancy. The Florida SAL College is ready for its first class at next

year's Fall Conference. My personal thanks to Jim Roberts, who put together the information for the SAL College. The Workshop went very well and from the comments that I heard, we defiantly hit our marks. The questions and answers were well received and the information will go back to the Squadrons. I want to personally thank each and everyone that attended for their time and input. It was very worthwhile. A SPECIAL THANKS to all of the Committee and Commission Chairmen for their reports. We went into the Conference with a renewed attitude and it paid off!

We had several donations presented at the Fall Conference for our various programs. They are as follows, NEF - \$1,200.00, Child Welfare Foundation - \$2,400.00, Florida Children & Youth Fund - \$750.00, Children's Miracle Network - \$1,250.00, and Florida Special Olympics - \$2,250.00. I thank you on behalf of our Programs.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from my family to yours. Here's to a safe and happy holiday season for ALL!



### New Detachment Officer Email Addresses

The new addresses are as follows:

Detachment Commander Bill Kelly  
[detcommander@floridalegion.org](mailto:detcommander@floridalegion.org)

Det Vice Commander West Johnnie Wilson - [detvcwest@floridalegion.org](mailto:detvcwest@floridalegion.org)

Det Vice Commander North Joe Eckenrode - [detvcnorth@floridalegion.org](mailto:detvcnorth@floridalegion.org)

Det Vice Commander East Gary Scott - [detvceast@floridalegion.org](mailto:detvceast@floridalegion.org)

Det Vice Commander Central Kirk Miller - [detvccentral@floridalegion.org](mailto:detvccentral@floridalegion.org)

Det Vice Commander SW Ron Lechner - [detvcsw@floridalegion.org](mailto:detvcsw@floridalegion.org)

Det Vice Commander South Larry Smith - [detvcsouth@floridalegion.org](mailto:detvcsouth@floridalegion.org)

National Executive Committeeman John Jennings - [detnec@floridalegion.org](mailto:detnec@floridalegion.org)

NECA Allen Holley  
[detneca@floridalegion.org](mailto:detneca@floridalegion.org)

Detachment Adjutant Ed Sheubrooks - [detadjutant@floridalegion.org](mailto:detadjutant@floridalegion.org)

Detachment Assistant Adjutant Jim Roberts - [detasstadj1@floridalegion.org](mailto:detasstadj1@floridalegion.org)

Detachment Assistant Adjutant Tim Bell - [detasstadj2@floridalegion.org](mailto:detasstadj2@floridalegion.org)

Detachment Historian Paul Micieli - [dethistorian@floridalegion.org](mailto:dethistorian@floridalegion.org)

Detachment Chaplain Herb Swoope - [detchaplain@floridalegion.org](mailto:detchaplain@floridalegion.org)

Detachment Sgt-At-Arms Mike Bowen - [detsaa@floridalegion.org](mailto:detsaa@floridalegion.org)



## Endorsements

The following endorsements for District and Detachment office have been submitted. Any member wishing to run for a District or Detachment Office must send a letter of endorsement to the Detachment Adjutant. This letter must be signed by the Squadron Commander and Adjutant or the Post Commander and Adjutant.

### DETACHMENT OFFICERS

#### Detachment Commander

- Jim Love - Squadron 136 Pine Island

#### National Executive Committeeman

- Bill Kelly - Squadron 137 Jacksonville

#### National Executive Committeeman Alternate

- Steve Gordon - Squadron 103 Punta Gorda

#### Detachment Vice Commanders

##### Southwestern Area

- Ron Lechner - Squadron 103 Punta Gorda

### DISTRICT COMMANDERS & VICE COMMANDERS

#### 13th District Commander

- Steve Gordon - Squadron 103 Punta Gorda

#### 13th District Vice Commander

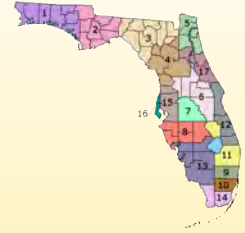
- Jeff Dececchis - Squadron 103 Punta Gorda





### Area Conferences

If any Area Commander is scheduling an Area Conference, please let us know. This would be the perfect time to conduct that TRAINING SEMINAR.



### District Happenings

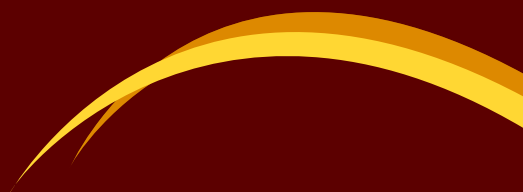
Please let us know what is happening within your Districts do that we can share it with everyone!

## Jim Roberts National Commander Campaign Committee

Ed Sheubrooks, Campaign Committee Chairman ([detadjutant@floridalegion.org](mailto:detadjutant@floridalegion.org))



The Campaign Committee would like to announce that the National Commanders Homecoming for Jim Roberts will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2012. The dinner will be held at the Imperial Swan Hotel in Lakeland, Florida. There are other activities during the weekend. Please see our website for more information. Please note that the dinner is limited to the first 300 people. Additional information is included in this issue of The Source.



# The Source

The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion created in 1932. The Florida Sons of The American Legion with over 13,000 members this year has donated over \$408,000 & over 147,000 hours to the many programs of The American Legion Family.

For More Information about the Florida Sons of The American Legion, visit us on the Internet at:

[www.floridalegion.org/sons](http://www.floridalegion.org/sons)

Or e-mail us at [floridasons@gmail.com](mailto:floridasons@gmail.com)

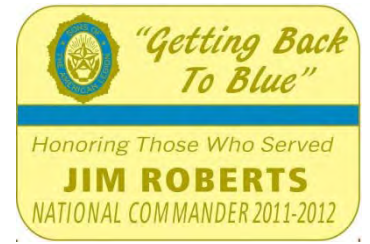




# **James Roberts III**

## **National Commander's Homecoming**

**When: March 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
**Where: Lakeland, Florida**



**"Come join us in a wonderful weekend of fun and great food"**

"Make your reservation now and lets all recognize Jim for a job well done"

The event will be hosted by the Detachment of Florida. The event will be two (2) days Friday and Saturday. There will be lots to do to keep you entertained. Please refer to the attached pages for all your reservation information. Contact John Jennings with questions (Cell-863-581-2018) or email (jjennings22@tampabay.rr.com).

### **\*\*Event Agenda\*\***

#### **Friday – March 16<sup>th</sup>**

- Italian Dinner being held at American Legion Post 8 in Winter Haven on Friday evening March 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Saturday – March 17<sup>th</sup>**

- Trip to the Hard Rock Casino
- We will be showing off Florida:
  - Air Boat Tour
  - Swamp Buggy Tour
  - Horse Trail Ride
- Shopping Trip
- Post Visits
  - James's Home Post – Post 4 Lakeland
  - Post 72 Mulberry
- Dinner and Program
  - Social 6:00 PM
  - Dinner 7:00 PM
    - Entertainment Downstairs after Dinner and Program

**HOTEL INFORMATION:**



*The Imperial Swan Hotel & Suites Conference Center is proud to welcome Detachment of Florida Son of the American Legion James Roberts National Commander Homecoming.-Room Rates \$89.00 standard- \$99.00 Junior Suite- \$109.00 King Suite Includes Hot Breakfast Buffet.*

*~Our Services Include~*

- *Standard Oversized Rooms*



- *Jr. 2 room Queen Suite*



- *Junior & King 3 room suites*
- *Wi-Fi Internet Access Available*
- *Complimentary use of Business Center*
- *Banquet & Meeting Rooms*
- *Complimentary use of Lifestyle Family Fitness Center*
- *Imperial Swan Restaurant & lounge*
- *Outdoor Screened in Pool*
- *In-Room Movies & Games on Demand*
- *20% off at Denny's located 1 block south*
- *Covered Parking Garage*
- *Valet Laundry Service*

- *Each room includes refrigerator, full size iron and ironing board, hairdryer, & spacious work desk with dual line speaker phone*
- *Located on interior corridors*
- *Smoking, Handicap, & Adjoining rooms available*
- *Proud Partner of*



**HOTEL INFORMATION:**

- Where: Imperial Swan Hotel & Suites
- Contact: (863) 647-3000
- Reference: American Legion Roberts Homecoming
- Address: 4141 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, Florida 33813
- Rates:
- Standard Room----\$89.00 + Tax-(Includes Hot Breakfast Buffet)
- Junior Suite----- \$99.00 + Tax-(Includes Hot Breakfast Buffet)
- King Suite-----\$109.00 + Tax-(Includes Hot Breakfast Buffet)
  - **Please make your own room reservations**

Arriving When: Friday\_\_\_\_\_ or Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide the below information with your RSVP:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Make all event selection Checks (except room/rooms) payable to:

***Detachment of Florida***

&

Mail to: Ed Sheubrooks

800 South Brocksmith Road

Fort Pierce, FL 34945

- **Saturday Evening Dinner: (Limited to first 300 People)**
  - Dinner Chooses (Please Check Dinner Selection/Selection)
    - Prime Rib----- \_\_\_\_\_
    - Chicken Marsala----- \_\_\_\_\_
    - Stuffed Flounder----- \_\_\_\_\_
      - Including Salad and Desert
      - Appetizers'
    - Cash Bar
  - Cost: \$40.00 ea      Number Ticket: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

## Friday Events:

- **Friday Night Dinner-Italian Special-Prepared by Post Family**
  - Where: American Legion Post 8  
Winter Haven, Florida
  - Transportation to Post 8 will leave Hotel 5:00 PM
  - Cash Bar and Entertainment
  - **Cost:** \$15.00 each    Number Ticket: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

## Saturday Events:

- *Trip to Hard Rock Casino (With \$30.00-Free Play Money) including transportation*
  - Bus schedule will be available at check in
  - **Cost:** \$25.00 each    Number Ticket: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_
- *Trip to River Ranch including transportation and lunch*
  - *Please Check (ONE) for each person*
  - Airboat Tour----- \_\_\_\_\_
  - Swamp Buggy Tour----- \_\_\_\_\_
  - Trail Ride----- \_\_\_\_\_
    - Bus schedule will be available at check in
  - **Cost:** \$45.00 each    Number Ticket: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_
- *Travel Options:*
  - Post 4
  - Post 72
  - Lakeside Village Mall – Nice Out Door
    - Bus schedule will be available at check in
  - **Cost:** \$15.00 each    Number Ticket: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Please RSVP all selections so your tickets will be available at the Imperial Swan during room registration.

If you are not planning on staying at the Imperial Swan and you are going to be driving locally we will still have your tickets in the hospitality room unless other arrangements are made.– Friday Until 4:00 PM and Saturday Until 3:30 PM