

Good morning Legion Family:

As I write this, we have members in ICU with COVID-19. I ask for prayers for their speedy recovery. I am also saddened by passing of a Post 283 friend to our post from residual effects of the disease. It's easy to look at these things and simply throw up our hands and give up. Why even try to imagine a life back to normal? Or we can be thankful that it has spared most of us. Whatever your feelings about this disease, one thing is for sure, all of us have been affected in some way or another.

So....what should our Legion Family do? Simple. What we always do; identify the problem or those hurting from the problem and try to help. Reach out to all our Legion Family members by doing a buddy check. Ask if they are alright. Ask what the Legion Family can do for them. Offer support and encouragement. We ARE the American Legion. Our mission remains to come to the aid of our Veterans, their children, and our communities.

Let our Veterans know that the VA offers vaccination against the virus that will likely keep them out of the hospital. I know some among us are concerned because we're not sure of the effects of the vaccinations. Quite frankly, so am I. One thing for sure; we do know the effects of COVID-19. A high percentage of us that contract the disease will have severe symptoms, and possibly be hospitalized and die. Most of us know people that have proven this. Please think about this carefully and make the right decision for yourself and your family.

Okay, enough of that. Let's talk about some fun and exciting things on the horizon for our Legion Family. All those that renew their membership in the Legion, Sons, and Auxiliary by September 30<sup>th</sup> will be invited to a complimentary Early Bird dinner on October 29<sup>th</sup>. This will be a true Post 372 Legion Family event at the Mandarin Garden Club. We will have dinner, libations, and entertainment. I look forward to seeing ALL of you there. Those that do not renew in time are welcome to attend as well.

As is customary for our Legion Family, we will honor one of our veterans, Army Tech Sgt Martin T. Shredick. Tomorrow, our American Legion Riders and the Riders of our 5<sup>th</sup> District, will join with JFRD to stage a parade in front of his house to celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Sgt. Shredick is a WWII/Korean War Veterans.

On Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, Jacksonville will host a state-wide celebration honoring National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Jacksonville has a National POW/MIA Memorial at the former Cecil Field, now know as the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass Grounds. American Legion Riders from all over Florida will be riding into the ceremony from our nation's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Veterans Memorial Wall in downtown Jacksonville. We are expecting hundreds of motorcycles. There will be many things for our Legion Family members to do to help out. The event at the Grounds will include a Car and Bike show, Run/Walk Challenge, Silent Auction, and Live Entertainment, food, and more!

As always, there is a lot going on in our Post 372 Family. Contact any officer to see how you can be more involved. You will have fun and we will appreciate your involvement. Share our story with all you meet. Invite people you meet to join us or support us. Remember, if we're not growing, we're shrinking.

My wish is for us all to continue on with our mission and remain happy and healthy.

For God and Country,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe".

Joe