



**American Legion  
Fallen Heroes Mandarin Post #372  
(904) 297-8344  
www.MandarinPost372.org**



Joseph Maltese  
Commander  
(904)434-2901



Barry Litsky  
Adjutant  
(904)635-2693

26 June 2021

Greetings Legion Family Members:

As the “Dog Days of Summer” draw nearer, our 372 Legion Family continues to accomplish the important work of The American Legion.

Starting with our active Auxiliary Unit who has had another successful packing session to package necessities for our deployed canines. Throughout the year, our Auxiliary works tirelessly to support the mission of The American Legion with various fundraising and service initiatives. This year they successfully accomplished a session to send comfort packages to our deployed woman and another to support all of our deployed canines.

Our Riders held their annual PROJECT: VetRelief ride in June with a creative new twist. Instead of the traditional poker run rides common among Riders events, our group visited a local veterans' home and the Green Cove Springs War Museum. The veterans home visit was greatly appreciated by the residents, some of whom were WWII veterans. The home asked us to perform a flag retirement ceremony. Upon completion of the ceremony, the retired flag was ceremoniously folded and presented to a WWII veteran that was part of “Operation Overlord” in Normandy on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1944...D-Day. The gentleman had recently celebrated his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday and was pleasantly surprised by the flag presentation. The ride committee did a wonderful job soliciting gifts from individuals and merchants throughout the city to raffle off at the end of the ride. Those proceeds, combined with cash gifts from various participating 5<sup>th</sup> District Chapters, resulted in a significant sum to support PROJECT: VetRelief.

Our Sons squadron is busy as usual. In addition to building their membership and creating a Junior Shooters team, they are volunteering to assist our Elks Lodge by installing a new roof on the summer kitchen on a weekend in July.

Our little Post is active in the 5<sup>th</sup> District. Beginning in the 2021-2022 fiscal year, three of our members will serve the District in important capacities as the District Historian, (Vice-Commander Patrick), District Law and Order Chair (Vice-Commander Litsky), and 5<sup>th</sup> District Riders Chair, (yours truly).

Our post gets together on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday evening of each month for our ALR sponsored “Fireside Chat” to enjoy comradery, games, discussions around the fire and even toasted hot dogs and marshmallows. I invite all to come out and meet your fellow Legion Family members. Open to all ages.

We continue on our quest to find a Post home for 372 as we continue to grow. Ideally, we would like our post home to be located in the southern, central area of Mandarin where we can serve our Mandarin and northeastern St. Johns County Veterans. If you hear of or identify a location you think may be suitable for lease or purchase, please notify one of your Post officers immediately.

We finished our fiscal year at more than 200 Legion members plus members of our Auxiliary and Sons Squadron. We need all Family members to help us to continue to grow. Please share our Post 372 story with as many people as possible. The Veterans and their children need us.

For God and Country

*Joe*

Post #372 Legionnaire's General Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 1900 hours, with a social hour held at 1800. Meetings are held at the Elks Lodge at 4280 Oldfield Crossing Drive, Jacksonville, FL.