



# Douglas A. Munro Post 356 – Lynn Haven, Florida

Mailing Address: 400 Aberdeen Parkway, Panama City FL 32405

Post Email: ALPost356LH@gmail.com

Newsletter: July 2021

## Next Monthly Meeting – Saturday 10 July 2021

- 0900 hours **Executive Board** - Auxiliary and Legion Board
- 1000 hours **General Membership** – active Auxiliary and Legion members are encouraged to attend and participate!

## Post 356 Officer Installation for Auxiliary, Legion, Riders, SAL – Sunday 11 July @ 1000 hours (lunch to follow)

### Post 356 Commander Corner

As the incoming 2021-2022 Post 356 Commander, it's an honor to have been elected to serve our Post. "Thank you" for your support, confidence, and trust that I can -- and will -- provide the guidance and leadership to continue to build on our tradition of excellence. I am proud to be a USAF Vietnam-era Veteran and to have been given the right to serve our Nation...yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

*I would also like to thank the 2020-2021 Officers who have worked tirelessly during the past challenging year. Your efforts have been greatly appreciated!*

If you have any questions, issues, or suggestions, please either put a signed and dated note in the Suggestion Box, reach out to a Board member, or contact me personally at any time. We are here to serve you!

### 2021-2022 Top TAL Goals

1. **100% Renewal by 1 November 2021**
  - Please make every effort to renew your membership early this year.
  - It's important that we have your up-to-date phone number, email, and mailing address. Veterans: Send an email to the Post (Subject line = Attention: Adjutant) with changes or questions or contact Adjutant Atkinson.
2. **Increase Post 356 Veteran Membership to 525 members**
  - We're asking every member to enlist 1-2 "new" members this coming year. Please ask a qualified members to join our Post in order to serve our Veterans, our community, and our Post.
3. **Increase Veteran Volunteering and Participation to 10%**
  - We have many worthwhile and valuable activities and know that only with your participation can we be a "stellar" Florida Post.
  - By having 52 Veterans consistently participate on a monthly basis — even one or two hours each month — makes a BIG difference in successfully accomplishing our programs and providing support to the membership. Call, stop at the Post, send an email, or wait till we personally ask you.
  - Also, all Post Members are encouraged to attend the General Meetings where we announce events and needs, and get your feedback.
4. **Better Meet The Efforts Of Post 356 and ALL Our Members**
  - **NEW!** If you need "short-term" or "one-time" help: Either sign up on the **Members Helping Members** bulletin board outside the Post front door or call the Post, Commander, or Adjutant to share your need. If at all possible, we'll locate a member to assist you.
  - **Upcoming! Over the next few months** you'll see more (and some new) activities scheduled to meet Veterans, Legion families, and our community this coming year. We welcome your help at all events.

### 2021-2022 Legion Officers

**Commander** Charlotte Lechene  
**1st Vice** Don Colbert  
**2nd Vice** Tom Martin  
**3rd Vice** Ron Hill  
**Adjutant** Nancy Atkinson  
**Chaplain** Marvin Strickland  
**Finance Officer** Ed Woody  
**Historian** Margaret Paul  
**Judge Advocate** Curtis McNeil  
**Service Officer** John Savelli  
**Sgt-at-Arms** Gena Loguidice

<u>Executive Board</u>	<u>House Committee</u>
Doug Skaggs	Rich Clampitt
Les Schiek	Ronnie McCall
Butch Shumaker	Chuck Rexroad

**Auxiliary President** Chris Stanford  
**Riders Director** Don Colbert  
**SAL Commander** Johnnie Wilson

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Together, We Make a Difference!

The American Legion provides life-changing assistance and guidance for veterans, military personnel, their families and communities in thousands of ways every day around the world. Our 3.5 million members represent more than 26 million Veterans.



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## Chaplain

**Marvin Strickland (850-832-1746) will be the 2021-2022 Chaplain.** Please contact Chaplain Strickland personally to report any Post member or their spouse (Auxiliary, Rider, SAL, or Veteran) who aren't well or have passed. With up-to-date information, Marvin and Bobbi Strickland are committed to making every effort to provide encouragement, prayer, a wellness check, and either a Sympathy or Get-Well card.

- **Sick Call:** Please continue to keep **John Colosetti** in your prayers for a speedy and full recovery.

## Four Pillars

### 1. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Thank you for your continued donations to our local Veterans.  
Watch for upcoming General meetings featuring Veteran speakers.

### 2. National Security

We are proud to announce that Post 356 identified one Lynn Haven Firefighter and one Lynn Haven Law Enforcement Officer to receive the 2020 Certificate of Commendation. Thank you, gentlemen, for your outstanding dedication and service to our community!



### 3. Americanism

As the year progresses, we'll provide more news about our programs, including Flags, Jr ROTC, Riders Legacy Run, and Scouting.

### Scouts

- On 14 June, the Scouts held an emotional Flag retirement ceremony at 1800 hours. Their preparation and devotion to the observance was clearly demonstrated.
- Thank you for your continued support at our monthly Scout burger night on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

It's an honor that Post 356 **Comrade Chuck Rexroad** is one of the Lynn Haven Scout Leaders. Chuck's years of dedication to the Troop and commitment to provide untold hours to these young children is the definition of "self-sacrifice, passion, and inspiration!"  
*Thanks for your service to the Scouts and our community, Chuck.*

### Hours and Contact Information

*Hours*

- Monday to Saturday 1100 to 2300
- Sunday 1300 to 2300

*Contact Information*

- **Post:** 850-271-3558
- **Website:** <http://www.lhamleg.com>
- **Email:** [ALPost356LH@gmail.com](mailto:ALPost356LH@gmail.com)
- **\*Adjutant:** Nancy Atkinson 850-866-2130
- **\*Chaplain:** Marvin Strickland 850-832-1746
- **\*Commander:** Charlotte Lechene 678-617-9372

*\* 2021-2022 Officers*

**NEW! Post Facebook Page**

**ALPost356LH@gmail.com**





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## 4. Children & Youth

As proud sponsors of the Lynn Haven Raiders Football and Mosely High School teams, we'll continue to keep you up to date on events Post 356 is invited to attend.

As well, we're planning a number of Children activities in 2021-2022...lots of opportunities for your young family members to enjoy! Watch your calendar for events and opportunities for you to participate.

### MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

**Members:** If you need "short-term" or "one-time" help, either sign up on the **Members Helping Members** bulletin board at the Post front door or call the Post, Commander, or Adjutant to share your need.  
If at all possible, we'll locate a member to assist you.

**Volunteers:** Please complete the form after you assist the member and place it in the Membership Box so that we can track and report your hours to the Florida Department at the end of the year. Thank you.

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*The August Newsletter will have reports from the Auxiliary, Riders, and SAL.*

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## Legion Auxiliary

**2021-2022 President: Chris Stanford**

### **Eligibility requirements**

Membership in The American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, Male or Female Spouse, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of [The American Legion](#), and to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, Male or Female Spouse, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941; or who, being citizens of the United States at the time of their entry therein, served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of said periods, and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

A woman who is eligible for American Legion membership is eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary regardless of whether or not she is a member of The American Legion. However, eligibility of her female relatives (sister, mother, direct decedents) depends upon her membership in The American Legion.

### Military Welcome Center Volunteers

Shifts: 0930 -1330 or 1330-1730 daily

Location: ECP airport

Contact: Carol @ 850-265-1270



Dispose of a flag properly: <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Features/Story/article/2206946/how-to-properly-dispose-of-worn-out-us-flags/>



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## Legion Riders

2021-2022 Director: Don Colbert

### **Eligibility requirements**

- Members must hold membership in and be in good standing with The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion.
- Members must be legally registered motorcycle owners or be the legally registered owner's spouse within the state of registration. All operators must be properly licensed and insured per state laws. All members must obey motor-vehicle laws in the state in which they are operating a motorcycle or riding as a passenger.



## S.A.L.

2021-2022 Commander: Johnnie Wilson

### **Eligibility Requirements**

- All male descendants adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during the period of April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918, or any time from December 7, 1941, to date, who served honorably, as set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

## Upcoming Events

- **1-4 July Florida Department Convention**
  - The 2021-2022 Convention will be held in Orlando FL from 1 – 4 July. At that time our new Department Commander will be elected. More details in the August Newsletter.
- **3 July BBQ at the Post – 1200 hours (noon)** - hamburgers & hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a dessert or fruit.
- **10 July Auxiliary / Legion Meetings – rescheduled due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday**
- **7 August TAL – 1000 hours – Legion General Membership Meeting @ 1000 hours**
  - Our Guest Speaker will be John Deegins, CVSO, **Bay County Veterans Affairs**. John will present a short presentation on Veterans Benefits and will be available for detailed questions and answers afterwards. Please join us!
- **21 August- 1100 hours - District 1 Meeting**
  - The next District 1 meeting will be held at the Crestview Post on 21 August from 1100-1230 hours. Contact Commander Lechene for more details or let us know if you'd like to carpool.



## Volunteer Opportunities

*Together we can successfully build a "home" Post for Veterans and their families AND make a difference in our community.*

Date	Event	From - To	Assistance Needed	Contact Information
3 July	Post BBQ	1200 hours (noon)	Bring a side dish or dessert, if you'd like to.	
Ongoing	Members Helping Members		Please check the outside bulletin board to the right of the front door.	
When you're available	Volunteer "Chefs"	Check out the Calendar for <b>Dinner TBD</b>	We're always looking for volunteers to cook! Please let incoming 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Tom Martin know if you'd like to prepare a dinner at the Post one evening. He'll gladly recommend a simple yet appropriate menu if you need some ideas.	



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## Mark Your Calendar — July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <b>Meals and entertainment subject to change without notice.</b> <u>1:00pm</u> Poker	2 <u>6:00pm</u> Aux Fried Chicken <u>7:00pm</u> Karaoke with Gary	3 <u>12:00pm</u> Hamburgers/Hot Dogs <i>Please bring dessert/fruit</i> <u>1:00pm</u> Poker <u>6:00pm</u> No food tonight <u>7:00pm</u> Jukebox Night
4	5 <u>6:00pm</u> Poker	<b>Happy Hour</b> 6 <u>6:30pm</u> SAL Meeting	7 <u>6:00pm</u> Auxiliary Burgers <u>6:30pm</u> Bingo	8 <u>1:00pm</u> Poker <u>1:00pm</u> Veterans Council <u>6:00pm</u> NALC Meeting	9 <u>6:00pm</u> Dinner TBD <u>7:00pm</u> Juke Box Night	10 <u>9:00am</u> Legion/Aux Exec Board <u>10:00am</u> Legion and Auxiliary General Session <u>1:00pm</u> Poker <u>6:00pm</u> Legion Steak Night <u>7:00pm</u> Karaoke with Gary
11 <u>10:00am</u> Installation of all Officers (lunch to follow)	12 <u>6:00pm</u> Poker	<b>Happy Hour</b> 13 <u>6:00pm</u> Bunco <u>6:00pm</u> Entertainment Meeting	14 <u>6:00pm</u> Shrimp Po'boy <u>6:30pm</u> Bingo	15 <u>1:00pm</u> Poker <u>7:00pm</u> Defenders Meeting	16 <u>6:00pm</u> Riders Wing Night <u>7:00pm</u> Karaoke with Brian	17 <u>1:00pm</u> Poker <u>6:00pm</u> Auxiliary Dinner Country Fried Steak <u>7:00pm</u> Karaoke with Gary
18	19 <u>6:00pm</u> Poker	<b>Happy Hour</b> 20 <u>7:00pm</u> Riders Meeting	21 <u>6:00pm</u> Cub Scouts Burgers <u>6:30pm</u> Bingo	22 <u>1:00pm</u> Poker	23 <u>6:00pm</u> Italian Night <u>7:00pm</u> Karaoke with Gary	24 <u>1:00pm</u> Poker <u>6:00pm</u> SAL Seafood Night <u>7:00pm</u> Karaoke with Brian
25	26 <u>6:00pm</u> Poker	<b>Happy Hour</b> 27	28 <u>6:30pm</u> Bingo	29 <u>1:00pm</u> Poker	30 <u>6:00pm</u> Dinner TBD	31 <u>1:00pm</u> Poker <u>6:00pm</u> Dinner TBD <u>7:00pm</u> Karaoke with Gary





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## Post 356 History

Founded in 1992, Post 356 exists to serve the country's war veterans. It is home to a memorial that pays tribute to U.S. veterans, family and friends who served in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard.

### The Story of Douglas A. Munro

During World War II, the six months of bloody fighting at Guadalcanal cost more than 6,000 Americans their lives. One of them was Signalman First Class Douglas A. Munro, the Coast Guards only Congressional Medal of Honor winner. On August 7, 1942, in order to counter Japanese advances in the Solomon Islands, the Marines landed at Guadalcanal. Toward the end of September in an attempt to secure more of the island, the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines was sent on a patrol toward enemy positions.

Approximately 200 Marines were landed west of the Matanikau River to establish a patrol base. On September 27, they were isolated from the rest of their battalion and pinned down on the beach by an overwhelming Japanese force. About one dozen landing craft were sent to rescue the surrounded Marines. Munro served as a coxswain and machine gunner of one of the 36- foot Higgins' boats. As the craft headed inshore the Japanese attempted to foil the rescue by firing on the exposed boats. Japanese gunfire hit some and caused casualties. The lightly armed Higgins' boats kept going and reached the shore in waves. Directed by Munro, the boats came to the beach two or three at a time while Munro and Petty Officer Raymond Evans fired at the enemy. All of the Marines including 23 wounded were evacuated. Only minutes after placing the last man on board, Munro was killed while providing covering fire from his exposed position. Due to Munro's bravery the U.S. Navy later named one of its new destroyer escorts after the Coast Guard's only Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, and more recently, a Coast Guard high endurance cutter was named for Munro.

### Barracks 650 Banner History

*Many visitors aren't aware that Post 356 proudly displays a "historical" WWII banner on our front wall.*

As our Post is named after a World War II soldier, it's only fitting that we are honored to display a WWII banner that was flown at the St. Andrews barracks and was later donated to our Post.

The building pictured on the right housed a U.S. Army artillery unit during WWII and was later used for administrative offices by Park staff.



### Do you know someone or a descendant of someone who has served our country?

Have them come to American Legion Post 356 in Lynn Haven and step into a by-gone era flanked with true Americana to celebrate the heritage that allows us the freedoms we experience each and every day.

**Remember that freedom is never free.**

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