



# Mandarin Post 372

WE ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR COMMUNITY

“Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.” George S. Patton



The attack commenced at 7:55am and lasted for 110 minutes until 9:45am.

Altogether, a total of 2,335 U.S. servicemen were killed and 1,143 were wounded.

Sixty-eight civilians were also killed and 35 were wounded.

## After 77 Years: Closure



On December 6, 1941, the rest of the world was engaged in a bitter battle for democracy with Italy, Japan, and Germany, but the United States was still in an uneasy peace. That would change on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> when Japan tried to bring us to our knees with a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. It's a

different world than it was back in 1941. The world was in turmoil. Sunday, December 7, 1941 changed the world forever.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt began his address to Congress the next day with, “Yesterday, December 7th, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.” The attack was a complete surprise because The United States was at peace with Japan and was in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Instead of honoring the peace talks, Japan's air assault killed 2,403 Americans, among them was Navy Fireman 2nd Class Carl D. Dorr. Petty Officer Dorr was most likely asleep at 7:55am when the planes attacked. He had just been assigned as the projectionist on the *USS Oklahoma* and would have been up late entertaining his fellow shipmates. He went to bed not knowing that it would be his last day alive. Carl was among 429 crewmen who died after the *USS Oklahoma* capsized after taking several hits from torpedoes.



USS Oklahoma, circa 1940

According to Petty Officer Dorr's nephew, Tom Dorr, a member of Post 372, Carl was a vivacious man who lived life to the fullest. He loved his family and wrote home often. Tom often tells a story about a time when Carl was driving down a street and saw a barefoot woman walking in the snow without a coat. He stopped her and discovered that she did not own shoes or a coat so he took her to a store and bought them. There are also tales of romance, days at the beach, and other adventures, but no matter what kind of fun he was having, Petty Officer Dorr always wrote home. Every letter, card, picture, and other items he sent home was saved and stored in a handmade trunk bearing his name.



Petty Officer Carl Dorr

If you visit Tom you will be mesmerized by Carl's trunk and a table filled with history. You'll see a snapshot of the 1940's with letters, postcards, pictures, newspapers, and more showing the kind of man the world lost when he was buried with the wreckage of the *USS Oklahoma*. He loved his family and it showed in every letter and card he sent home. That he loved life and was living it happy and carefree is in no doubt when you listen to tales of his escapades.



Petty Officer Dorr's Trunk



Tom Dorr sits with memories of his Uncle

was a fun-loving, dedicated, and philanthropic man that lost his life way too soon.

Petty Officer Dorr's parents never gave up hope that their son would be found and donated DNA to ensure he could hopefully come home one day. It is unfortunate that they did not live to see him come home, but because of their hope, DNA, and dental records, Petty Officer Dorr was identified and on December 5, 2018, Navy Fireman 2nd Class Carl D. Dorr finally came home.



Navy Fireman 2nd Class Carl D. Dorr Arrives Home

Exactly 77 years after Petty Officer Dorr died while serving his country, he was buried with full military honors in Greenville SC on December 7, 2018 with his parents.

Of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II, more than 400,000 died during the war.

Currently there are 72,781 still unaccounted for from World War II, with approximately 26,000 assessed as possibly-recoverable)

Petty Office Dorr's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at the Punchbowl, along with the others who are missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

## Sons of the American Legion

Joe Maltese, Commander



*"...to assist in carrying on for God and Country"*

We're number ONE! Our Squadron is the District leader in membership growth. We have exceeded our next benchmark of 45% due December 6<sup>th</sup>. We are currently at 116.67% of our annual growth objective according to the November Detachment report. Our next closest competitor is Hilliard at 107% of their annual goal. Our growth is due largely to the commitment of the Post to have a vital and sustainable Sons Squadron. Many Legionnaires have been referring sons and grandsons to our Squadron while others are signing up as dual members of the Squadron along with their Post membership.

We live in challenging times. Young men struggle with what it means to be a gentleman. Society pulls at them from all directions making it difficult for them to stay on course. As descendants of Legion eligible veterans, our Sons have a unique advantage by having access to a group that exemplifies the values we all want in our young men. The Sons learn about honor; honoring those that served their country selflessly so that we can enjoy our free and prosperous life style. They learn about duty. They work alongside legion members and are shown the duty to make our country better by working with our children, and our veterans. They learn respect; respect for one another, for veterans, and for their country.

Due to the Christmas holiday, our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 24, 2019.

In keeping with our Flag facts from our past newsletters, this month will focus on:

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Our flag is the symbol of our great country and all of its people. It is a symbol of the struggles that have been necessary to attain and maintain our freedom and our independence. It should therefore be treated with the utmost respect and reverence. There are traditions and protocols for our pledge to the flag and all it stands for:

The Pledge should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform, men should remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should **remain silent**, face the flag, and render the military salute. [Military salute is rendered while at the position of attention. While rendering a salute at attention, the member is generally silent.] Members of the Armed Forces not in uniform and veterans may render the military salute in the manner provided for persons in uniform. (U.S. Flag Code, 1923-2017)

*See Sons, page 3*

## Auxiliary

Kathy Helmly, President



**Yes! We are all in!!**

There will be no December meeting due to our next meeting falling on Christmas Day.

Some of the things we accomplished this month include:

- We continue to hold the 1<sup>st</sup> place position in the 5<sup>th</sup> district. We are currently 120%. That's something to brag about!!!
- The American Emergency Fund (AEF) program has provided financial support to those in need. In support of AEF, we've been collecting dimes for our dime bottle challenge. Let's keep those dimes rolling in so we can fill our first bottle!
- We continue to collect Box Tops for Education for our adopted elementary school, Mandarin Oaks Elementary. Each box top has a value of ten cents.

## Upcoming Dates:

- Post 372 "Meet and Greet" Social Hour, Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Come out and show Post members what Unit 372 is all about.
- Post 372 General Meeting, Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Please try to attend as they will be Draping the Post's Charter for Oscar and Sheri Rodriguez' son, John, to honor his death.
- 5th District meeting at Post 401, Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.
- Executive Board Meeting, Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:45pm.
- Unit 372 "Meet and Greet" Social Hour, Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Dinner will be available for \$5.
- Unit 372 General Meeting, Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

Eligible women wishing to join the Auxiliary are: Mothers, wives, sisters, daughters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters or grandmothers of a current member in good-standing of the American Legion, or a deceased veteran who would have been eligible to become a member. Female veterans who served during any of the conflicts listed below are also eligible for membership.

## Eligible Conflicts

- Desert Shield/Desert Storm - August 2, 1990 to present;
- Panama - December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990;
- Grenada & Lebanon - August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984;
- Vietnam - February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975;
- Korea - June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955; or
- WWII - December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946.

Email [Adjutant@MandarinPost372.org](mailto:Adjutant@MandarinPost372.org) or call (904) 903-6546 if you are interested in joining Unit 372 and help us support Veterans.

**We are ALL IN!**

## American Legion Riders

Joe Maltese, Director



**Riders lead the way!**

Will it ever feel like Fall?!? Record heat in November made for some hot riding days, but Chapter 372 rode on. Our riders participated in the Chapter 9 Air Force Sergeants Association run on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Veterans Day saw us at the Post's Annual Membership Rally at Hagan Ace Hardware, where our very own Road Captain June Crawford sold the most raffle tickets!

November was the Florida Department Fall conference. This year classes included fundraising, motorcycle events, and Legion rules and procedures. Our Chapter Treasurer Sheri and I attended, and Comrade Steve Sullivan and wife trailered our raffle bike down and set up in the hotel to sell quite a few tickets. All the proceeds from our Motorcycle raffle go to help fund the acquisition of our own post home. Please consider getting a book of tickets from a post officer to sell and help the cause.

Chapter 250's 2016-17 Riders Director, John "Railroad" Moore, was killed on his bike last month. Our riders attended a celebration of life event for him at Post 250 in Middleburg. He helped Chapter 372 into existence and always gave his time freely to me and Assistant Director Benham while we were learning how to build our Chapter. He will be missed.

We are preparing for the ALR Summit in Cocoa Beach from February 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>. We will be staying at the International Palms Resort & Conference Center. Our Chapter has made a donation for the hospitality suite and will be leaving from the Elks Lodge on the morning of February 6<sup>th</sup>. More details will follow as the event gets closer. I HIGHLY recommend that you attend this event. I assure you, you will not be disappointed. Registration for the hotel is open and already over 300 rooms have been booked. If you plan on attending, you should book your room as soon as possible. For reservations, call: 1-800-206-2747. The room block code is ALR19.



*One of the trucks filled with wreaths to honor our Veterans at the Jacksonville National Cemetery on December 15, 2018*

Our Chapter, along with other 5<sup>th</sup> District riders, participated in **Wreaths Across America** on December 15, 2018. Wreaths were simultaneously laid over 100,000 graves of veterans across the country. Check out the 5<sup>th</sup> District Facebook for more pictures.

*See Riders, page 5*

## Commander's Corner

*Alan Painter*

### *Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!*

Thanksgiving really brings to light what's important in our lives, even when we are already thankful for all the blessings that we have in our lives already. I was truly blessed to be able to get away this Thanksgiving and go see my Momma up in Water Valley, MS. She helps me to be thankful because she is a prime example of someone who can be thankful in the midst of chaos.

Growing up, she told me about the time when she was a little girl the family home burnt to the ground. All she and her brothers and sisters had left was the clothes on their backs, yet she was thankful to be alive.

It's hard to imagine something like that until you witness it yourself. Ironically, about 50 years later I went to visit my Momma at the home that she and my stepdad had recently purchased for their retirement. While I was there, they received a phone call that the house they were moving from had been struck by lightning and was on fire.

We all jumped in 3 different vehicles to drive the 70 miles to hopefully be able to watch the firemen save the house and all its belongings. Almost everything my Momma owned was still in that house and although several firetrucks were there when we got there, they did not have a consistent amount of water pressure to put the fire out and we stood there and watched the house burn for hours. It was one of the saddest things I have ever seen. An old wood frame home, over 5,000 square feet with over 20 years of family history inside, burnt to the ground.

My Mom and I were driving back to the home they had just purchased and she said, "Thank God none of us were in there. All that stuff can be replaced. I did it before and I can do it again." And that is exactly what she has done. I am so thankful to have such a loving mother and a great family surrounding me.

I am also extremely thankful for my extended family in The American Legion. I have not felt this sense of camaraderie in years. I want everyone know from the bottom of my heart how grateful I am to be a part of such a great group of people that serve here in our Post and I am also very thankful for everything you do for Post 372.

Alan W Painter  
Commander  
American Legion  
Mandarin "Fallen Heroes" Post 372

### Welcome to our Newest Members

The membership committee reviewed applications from the following individuals for new and transfer memberships and recommended accepting them as eligible members of American Legion Mandarin Post 372 at the November 8, 2018 General Assembly meeting. They were voted in unanimously by the membership attending the meeting. Please join us in welcoming our newest members.

#### New Members

There were no no members.

#### Transfers

Dallas Clapsaddle, U.S. Marines, Vietnam

William Cousins, U.S. Army, Vietnam

Carl Dorr, U.S. Navy, WWII

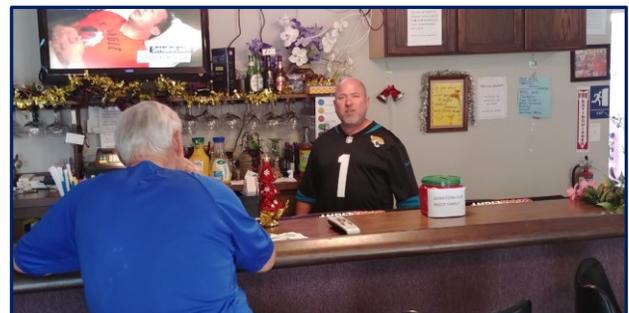
Peter Kam, U.S. Marines, War on Terror

William McGraw, U.S. Army, Vietnam

William Peterson, U.S. Army, War on Terror

Richard Sherman, U.S. Navy, Panama

Jimmy Stewart, U.S. Navy, Vietnam



*Post 372 Past Commander Dan Hemsall tends bar for the Poker Chip Run to benefit K9-Line on December 2, 2018*

## Recycling Program Update

*Steve Sullivan*

The Aluminum Recycling Program is alive and well. To date we have recycled \$340 worth of aluminum cans and bottles and I am almost ready to make another run to the recycle plant. Although the price per pound has gone down from \$0.55/lb to \$0.48/lb, it's still worth the effort so don't be discouraged. In fact, momentum is slowly picking up thanks to the help of the Auxiliary, the Son's, and the Riders. We even have a few members who save their aluminum between meetings and bring it with them each month. Every little bit helps gets us closer to our own Post Home and if more members participate it would make a big difference.

The process is simple. Rather than throwing your ALUMINUM cans and bottles in the trash, or even in your city recycle bin, set them aside and bring them to each General Assembly meeting. If the meeting nights don't work for you, bring them to the Elk's Lodge when they are open (Tuesday-Friday 1600-2100 and some Saturdays) and Nora the bartender will show you where to deposit them.

There are a few important points:

- The plant will only accept Aluminum beverage containers;
- Other aluminum items are in a different class and will not be accepted. This includes aluminum foil, chairs, food trays or any other "scrap aluminum" you find around the house.
- The cans or bottles can be crushed or uncrushed your choice. Crushing takes up less space in your garage but requires a little more effort.
- They watch every can as it's loaded on to the scale so don't try to "pad the weight". Plain old empty cans and bottles still make a difference!

The more people we have taking part the greater the reward. I would like nothing more than to have to make multiple trips to the recycle plant every month. Please consider making this small effort for the greater good.

*Sons, continued from Page 2*

The members of our Sons Squadron are dedicated to learning about and preserving our history and supporting the ideals of Americanism.

The Sons exist to honor the service of our veteran ancestors who were members of, or eligible to have been members of, The American Legion. Eligible veterans served during these conflicts:

Conflict	Eligible Service Dates
World War I .....	April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918
World War II .....	December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946
Korean War .....	June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955
Vietnam War .....	February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975
Grenada and Lebanon .....	August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984
Panama .....	December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990
Persian Gulf .....	August 2, 1990 closing date to be determined

Squadron 372 is part of the over 17,000 members and over 180 Squadrons across 16 Districts and 6 areas that make up the Florida Detachment.

Since 1988, the Florida Detachment of the Sons has raised more than \$16 million for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, volunteered over 320,000 hours at veteran's hospitals and raised over \$1,000,000 for VA hospitals and VA homes.

For more information about how you or your son, stepson, grandson, great-grandson, etc. can become a member of our Squadron 372, contact Commander Joe Maltese at: [sonsofthelegionsquadron372@gmail.com](mailto:sonsofthelegionsquadron372@gmail.com), call (904) 434-2901, or contact any officer of the Post or the Squadron.

*Sons of The American Legion  
We serve because They served.*

**POST 372 BOOSTERS**

- David Hague, US Navy
- Carl Jowers, USAF, Post 372 Past Adjutant
- Myra B. Jowers, USAF, Post 372 Past Commander
- Don Severns, USMC, Post Finance Officer
- Joeseph Rodriguez, US Army
- Oscar Rodriguez, US Marines
- Sheri Rodriguez, USMC & USA, Post 372 Adjutant

*In Honor of their Current Service*

- Daniel Honan, US Army
- Kenneth Lebel, US Army, US Air Force
- Jared Rodriguez, US Air Force

*In Memory of*

- John Rodriguez, US Marines

You can become a Post Booster, honor someone, or remember them with an "in memory of" listing for a \$20 donation per listing. Post Sponsorships are available for a minimum of a \$50 donation.

If you are interested, please contact the Adjutant by calling or texting (904) 297-8344 or by emailing [Adjutant@MandarinPost372.org](mailto:Adjutant@MandarinPost372.org).

Sponsorships last for one year.

**Vice Commander's Note**

*Sheri Rodriguez*

I have to apologize for the severe tardiness of December's newsletter. I have no excuse other than I had writer's block and could not get the front page together. It is a moving story and I just couldn't get the words right to do it justice. December 7, 2018 was a historical day for the Country and a day of closure for the Dorr family and the article needed to reflect this and more.

I'd love to say that my writer's block resolved itself, but it took an unimaginable tragedy for me to be able to write again. My husband and I are a blended family, and together we have six children. On Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, our son John took his own life. He became one of the 22 military and veterans that take their own lives every day. The pain is unreal. Indescribable. At times I feel like I'm going insane, but I am trying to stay busy by focusing on making sure we meet our membership goals. It may seem harsh, but life does go on and John was very detailed, motivated, and matter-of-fact. He graduated high school at 16 with a 4.0 GPA and almost enough college credits for an Associate Degree. He was an incredible student and even more amazing Marine. He was meritoriously promoted to Corporal in less than two years. He would never want us to remember the good times and not wallow in sorrow.

We will honor John at the January General Assembly Meeting when we drape the Post's Charter. It would mean the world to me if you would attend and help me honor my son.

Now for the numbers...

We continue to meet and exceed every membership goal this year!! We are currently at 93.158% with 177 members renewed and a total Post membership of 254. With *your* help, we've exceeded our December and January goals of 80% and 90% and need 12 new or renewing members to reach 100%. Will you be one of the 12?

**Post 372 by the Numbers**

As of December 14, 2018

Membership - National .....	254
Membership Department (Renewed) .....	177
Unrenewed Members - 2017 .....	16
Unrenewed Members - 2018 .....	62
Pending Transfers.....	2
Pending New Members .....	0
2018-19 Goal .....	190
% to 2018-19 Goal .....	93.158%
Paid-up-for-Life .....	14
Army .....	81
Air Force .....	54
Coast Guard .....	4
Marine Corps .....	23
Navy .....	90
Unknown.....	2
WWII.....	15
Korea.....	23
Vietnam .....	125
Grenada & Lebanon.....	27
Panama .....	15
Persian Gulf/War on Terror .....	48
Unknown.....	1

*Riders, continued from Page 2*

Our K9-Line Poker Chip Ride was held on Sunday December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Stay tuned next month for a recap, but here is a sneak peak of the 5<sup>th</sup> District coming out to support Chapter 372 and K9-Line.



Our Chapter 372 continues to grow! Please join us in welcoming our newest members:

Tim Bailey, Legionnaire  
 Reed Bailey, Auxiliary  
 Michael LaChiana, Legionnaire  
 Mark Hundemer, Legionnaire  
 Tammy Felix, Legionnaire

Our December General meeting will be at 10:00 on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Tim Bailey and his By-laws committee are working on updating our SOP's. Please plan to attend this important meeting. Your input is critical.

The Riders welcome all licensed motorcycle owners that want to have fun while helping Veterans and participating in the other Post activities and programs.

Our American Legion Riders Chapter 372 is a fun and active chapter. If you or someone you know should be a part of our chapter, please email: [joeroadgilde1@gmail.com](mailto:joeroadgilde1@gmail.com) or see any Post or Chapter officer.

It's easy to become a member:

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.

Ride with us!

***AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS***  
*FOR THE CAUSE, NOT THE APPLAUSE*

## POST 372 SPONSOR

### *Naugle*

Funeral Home and Cremation Services

The staff members of Naugle Funeral Home and Cremation Services will guide your family in creating a meaningful ceremony to honor the life and memory of a loved one.

[www.nauglefuneral.com](http://www.nauglefuneral.com)

San Marco (904) 396-1611 • Riverside (904) 683-9288

### Motorcycle Raffle Status

- We had a great time at the Mandarin Chili cook-off AND we sold 29 tickets!
- As of 11/19 we are at 19.2% of goal
- As of 11/19 there are 113 days until the drawing
- Drawing will be held on 12 March 2019 regardless of how many tickets are sold. There are no give backs!
- 26 comrades are selling 959 tickets (240 sold to date) with 251 tickets yet to be distributed.
- We need to be at 50% of goal by Jan 14, 2019

### NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

Danielle Fix, *March 2019*  
 Jim Hughes, *February 2020*  
 Barry Litsky, *February 2019*  
 Alan Painter, *February 2019*  
 Don Severns, *February 2019*  
 Steve Sullivan, *February 2019*  
 Oscar Rodriguez, *August 2019*  
 Sheri Rodriguez, *February 2019*

For more information about becoming a newsletter sponsor, please email [Adjutant@MandarinPost372.org](mailto:Adjutant@MandarinPost372.org) or call or text (904) 297-8344.

### Veterans Crisis Line

The Veterans Crisis Line is a confidential, toll-free, 24-hour-a-day hotline that serves Veterans and their loved ones year-round. Reach qualified, caring responders:

- By phone at 800-273-8255, or
- By chat: [www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/chat](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/chat), or
- By text message at 838255.

## Do Know Anyone Who Needs Yard Work?



If you, or anyone you know in your neighborhood is unable to take care of yardwork, please let us know. They do not need to be a Veteran. Members of Post 372 have volunteered to help.

Please forward their name and contact information to the Adjutant by emailing [Adjutant@MandarinPost372.org](mailto:Adjutant@MandarinPost372.org) or calling/texting (904) 903-6546.

## Major Veterans Legislation

### Winding Through Congress

Military.com - 13 Dec 2018

A bill working its way through Congress is packed with provisions for veterans, active-duty members and military dependents.

Among those is a measure that would block schools from penalizing student veterans for Department of Veteran Affairs delays. Other items include burial and memorial benefits, expansions of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) and changes to VA's debt collection practices.

Before becoming law, however, the bill must pass in the Senate and be signed by President Donald Trump.

### Education Benefits

After the public relations fiasco caused by VA's [late GI Bill payments](#) this fall, Congress set out to ensure that it protects veterans from repercussions against them due to VA's negligence. The new legislation would:

- Make schools ineligible for GI Bill tuition payments if they placed penalties or burdens on students as a result of the VA failing to pay GI Bill payments on time.
- Block schools from kicking veterans out of classes if their GI Bill payments are late.
- Require the VA to tell veterans exactly how much their monthly housing allowance rather than require more guessing.

### Burial and Memorial Benefits

Under the legislation:

- Spouses and children would be eligible for government provided headstones if they are buried in a VA cemetery.
- Spouses and children of veterans buried in tribal cemeteries would get all the same benefits as the veteran.

### Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act (SCRA)

The bill would move SCRA rules into the 21st century, with changes to legal and debt collection rights held by veterans and their spouses. Included in the bill is:

- The ability for a surviving spouse to terminate a lease under the SCRA if their partner dies on active duty.
- The right of a military member who is mobilized or gets PCS orders to terminate their video programming and internet bills without any late charges. Previously only telephone bills were covered.

*Continued in the next column*

- Give a military spouse the right to claim the same state of legal residence as their partner for state taxes. Previously, the spouse could only claim the state they were living in or go through the hassle of setting up residence in the military member's state of legal residence.
- The ability for the spouse to maintain their state of legal residence for voting even if they live out of state while accompanying the military member. Some states require you to actually live in the state for a certain amount of time in an election year to be able to vote.

### Transition

Aimed at giving veterans easier access to state and local programs, the bill would require VA to publish on their website a list of all non-federal transition programs.

To see a list of Florida's benefits, follow this link: [www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/florida-state-veterans-benefits.html](http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/florida-state-veterans-benefits.html)

### VA Debt Collection

Under the bill, VA would have to re-format all debt-related letters into "plain language" with a clear explanation, according to the proposed legislation. It also would allow VA to communicate with veterans via both mail and electronic means.

### Homeless Veteran Reintegration

Homeless veterans' programs would expand to veterans transitioning from incarceration to civilian life, and to those getting assistance under the Native American Housing Assistance Program.

### Expansion of VA Dental Program

The bill also would give VA one year to report to Congress on the costs, enrollment estimates and feasibility of expanding the dental program.

## Florida Veteran Recreation Benefits

### State Park Admission

- 25% discount for annual pass to all state parks for all honorably discharged veterans.
- Veterans with service-connected disabilities and their spouses or surviving spouses get a free lifetime pass.

### County and Municipal Parks

- County and municipal parks offer free or reduced entrance fees to current military members, honorably discharged or disabled veterans and their spouses. Contact your local county or municipality for details.

### Hunting and Fishing License

- Active-duty and retired military Florida residents can get a Military Gold Sportsman's License for \$20. The license covers hunting, freshwater and saltwater fishing and a variety of associated permits at a greatly reduced cost.
- 100% permanently and totally disabled service-connected veterans are entitled to a free five-year hunting and fishing license.
- Visit the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs website at <http://floridavets.org> for more information on any of these programs.

## News from Your Service Officers

### Veterans Preference - Employment

*This is Part 2 of a two-part article - Part 1 can be found in the November 2018 Newsletter.*

#### EMPLOYMENT NUMERICALLY BASED APPOINTMENTS

Numerically based personnel systems utilize an examination or scored system as the sole criteria for selection. Employment preferences, where numerically based examinations are used as a tool for selection, consists of adding 10 points to the score of a disabled Veterans and spouses of disabled or missing Veterans and 5 points to the score of other preference eligible applicants. Where the highest possible examination score is other than 100, then 10 percent or 5 percent shall be added to the applicants respective score to give the preference eligible applicant the equivalent of 10 points or 5 points on a scale of 100.

Persons eligible to receive a 10-point preference where service-connected disabilities have been rated by the DVA or the Department of Defense to be 30 percent or more shall be placed at the top of the appropriate register or employment list in the rank order of their augmented ratings. In a numerically based appointment scheme, placement at the top of the register or employment list requires that absolute preference be given to the Veteran and he or she therefore must be given the job. Absolute preference will not apply to positions when a numerically based selection process is not used. (Florida Statute 295.08)

Non-numerically based appointments: In all covered positions from which an examination is not used to determine the qualifications for employment, preference in appointment and employment shall be given to eligible applicants provided they possess the minimum qualifications necessary for the discharge of the duties involved. Preference in appointment and employment in a non-numerically based system requires that a preferred applicant be given special consideration at each step of the employment selection process but does not require the employment of a preferred applicant over a non-preferred applicant who is the most qualified person for the position. For non-numerically based positions, military retirees are to be given special consideration at each step of the selection process, but also do not have to be hired over more qualified non-Veterans (Florida Statute 295.085).

A Veteran's preference claim must be indicated by the applicant on the employment application form.

### Florida Veteran Financial Benefits

#### Basic Property Tax Exemptions

Are you getting your full property deduction?

##### Homestead Deduction

Resident veterans with VA disability of at least 10 percent can get a \$5,000 deduction on their home's assessed value. The unmarried surviving spouse who had been married to the veteran for at least 5 years may also be entitled to this exemption.

##### Homestead Exemption

Florida resident veterans with an honorable discharge and are 100 percent permanently and totally disabled as well as quadriplegic veterans are exempt from paying property tax on their residence. Unmarried surviving spouses may also be eligible.

Florida resident veterans who are paraplegic, hemiplegic, or permanently and totally disabled who must use a wheelchair for mobility, or are legally blind, may be exempt from real estate taxation depending on income.

### Vet Benefits on the Chopping Block

A cost-saving proposal that sparked backlash from veterans in 2017 has resurfaced in a new Congressional Budget Office report as an option to help reduce the federal budget deficit.

The report suggests removing approximately 235,000 disabled veterans from a Department of Veterans Affairs program called Individual Unemployability in 2020, projecting it could save \$47.6 billion in the next 10 years. Veterans removed from the program would see their monthly incomes decrease by an average of \$1,300, according to CBO estimates.

The program applies to veterans who have disability ratings through the VA of between 60 percent and 100 percent and are unable to secure jobs because of their disabilities. It allows them to receive the highest compensation rate.

The CBO suggested removing veterans from Individual Unemployability once they reach age 67, claiming those veterans would be eligible for Social Security by that time.

The cut was one of 121 cost-saving proposals included in the CBO report, titled "Options for Reducing the Deficit: 2019 to 2028." The CBO periodically compiles the list of policy options to help inform lawmakers.

The CBO's inclusion of the cut to Individual Unemployability in its report doesn't mean the White House or Congress will consider the proposal. However, now that it's public, it's likely to trigger concern among veterans who would face substantial financial consequences if the idea ever became law.

Many veterans' groups said they heard from thousands of veterans in 2017 when the same cost-saving measure was included in President Donald Trump's 2018 budget. Then-VA Secretary David Shulkin quickly backed off the proposal, but concerns have lingered.

Back in 2017, hundreds of phone calls from veterans and emails and social media posts explaining how devastating those cuts would be and how much anxiety and worry it was causing were received. Now, a year later with the cuts back on the table many veterans' groups are worried the stress of facing a loss of benefits will be harmful to many veterans.

The CBO report comes as the White House prepares its budget recommendations for fiscal year 2020. The president's budget is sent to Congress every February.

In its report, the CBO offered an alternative option to allow veterans already enrolled in the Individual Unemployability program to keep their benefit while applying the age cutoff to veterans who enroll after December 2019. The CBO estimated that option would save \$6.7 billion in the next 10 years.

Cuts to other VA benefits also were included in the report. One option would stop disability compensation for seven medical conditions: arteriosclerotic heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Crohn's disease, hemorrhoids, multiple sclerosis, osteoarthritis and uterine fibroids.

Another option would reduce veterans' disability compensation by 30 percent once they reach age 67. The CBO also suggested ending VA payments to veterans with disability ratings of 30 percent or lower.

## Post 372 Sponsor

### Mandarin/St. Johns Elks Lodge #2866

4280 Oldfield Crossing Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32223  
Office - 904-268-4974

E-mail: [msj2866@outlook.com](mailto:msj2866@outlook.com)

Exalted Ruler - Steve Easton

[www.elks.org/lodges/ContactUs.cfm?LodgeNumber=2866](http://www.elks.org/lodges/ContactUs.cfm?LodgeNumber=2866)

## Meetings

### American Legion Mandarin Post 372

#### *Executive Board*

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:00pm  
12443 San Jose Blvd #104, Jacksonville, FL 32223

#### *General Assembly Meetings*

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month

- 6:00pm "Meet and Greet" with Light Refreshments
- 7:00pm General Meeting

### American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 372

#### *Executive Board (Except Nov/Dec 2018)*

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:45pm

#### *General Meetings (Except Nov/Dec 2018)*

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month

- 6:00pm Meet and Greet
- 7:00pm General Meeting

### Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 372

#### *General Meetings (Except Nov/Dec 2018)*

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month

- 6:30pm Meet and Greet
- 7:00pm Meeting

### American Legion Riders, Chapter 372

#### *General Meetings*

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month

- 10:00am Meeting

#### Office Hours

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, a Post Officer is available.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, Service Officer is available
- Hours are 4:30 - 6:00pm or by appointment.
- For more information call/text: (904) 297-8344 or email Adjutant@MandarinPost372.org

#### Mailing Address - For all Programs

American Legion Mandarin Post 372  
Attn: *Whichever program you are writing*  
11250-15 Old St. Augustine Rd, PMB #138  
Jacksonville, FL 32257

#### Meeting Location\*

All meetings except for the American Legion Executive Board are held at the Mandarin St. Johns Elks Lodge #2866 located at 4280 Oldfield Crossing Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32223\*.

\*For accurate directions and a map, go online to:

[www.mandarinpost372.org/directions-to-post-372](http://www.mandarinpost372.org/directions-to-post-372)

## Upcoming Events

Post 372 Executive Board Meeting, Thursday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6:00pm

Post 372 General Membership Meeting, Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

- "Meet & Greet" Social Hour - 6:00pm
- Meeting - 7:00pm

Oratorical Competition, Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> - 11:00am

- Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum  
101 W 1st St, Jacksonville, FL 32206

5<sup>th</sup> District Meeting, Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> - 2:00pm

- Post 401 • 7405 Henry Smith Rd, Hilliard, FL 32046

Legion Riders Meeting, Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> - 10:00am

Auxiliary, Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

- Executive Board Meeting - 6:45pm
- Meet and Greet Social Hour- 6:00pm
- General Meeting - 7:00pm
- Dinner for \$5.00 is open to everyone

Sons of the American Legion Meeting, Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

- Meet and Greet Social Hour- 6:00pm
- General Meeting - 7:00pm
- Dinner for \$5.00 is open to everyone

## How to Contact Post 372

Website: [www.MandarinPost372.org](http://www.MandarinPost372.org)

Phone: (904) 297-8344

Legion: [Adjutant@MandarinPost372.org](mailto:Adjutant@MandarinPost372.org)

Auxiliary: [Auxiliary@MandarinPost372.org](mailto:Auxiliary@MandarinPost372.org)

S.A.L.: [sonsofthelegionsquadron372@gmail.com](mailto:sonsofthelegionsquadron372@gmail.com)

Riders: [joeroadglide1@gmail.com](mailto:joeroadglide1@gmail.com)



Post 372 is on Facebook!

Legion: [www.facebook.com/Post372Mandarin](http://www.facebook.com/Post372Mandarin)

Auxiliary: [www.facebook.com/MandarinUnit372](http://www.facebook.com/MandarinUnit372)

Riders: [www.facebook.com/Chapter372Mandarin](http://www.facebook.com/Chapter372Mandarin)

If you haven't already followed our pages, please check us out and give us a "like"!

If you would like to submit a letter or an article for publication, please email it to [Adjutant@MandarinPost372.org](mailto:Adjutant@MandarinPost372.org) by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of each month. No political articles will be accepted, and Post 372 has the right to decide what will be published.