



Blanton-Thompson
American
Legion Post
Post 155
P.O. BOX 908
Crystal River, FL
34423-0908

March 2025 Scuttlebutt

Blanton-Thompson American Legion Post 155
Crystal River, Florida

Post Commander: John Marler
Auxiliary Unit President: Michele Shreve
SAL Squadron Commander: Robert Pizzillo
ALR Chapter Director: Vinnie Covino
Honor Guard Captain: Mike Sisto

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PAID
Crystal River,
FL
34423
Permit No.1

Published by Blanton - Thompson American Legion Post 155,
P.O. Box 908, Crystal River, Florida 34423-0908.
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Blanton-Thompson American Legion Post 155
or the

To:



On-Going Events

- **Bingo** Monday & Thursday 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM in the Main Hall. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**
- **Golf League** Thursdays w/Shotgun start 8:00 AM.
Call Walt Menage at (910-800-0046) or Buddy Reed at (352-228-4200)
- **Sunday Breakfast** 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**
- **Steak Night** Second Friday of each month 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**
- **"Show Me" 3 Card Bingo** Wednesday 3:00 PM. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**
- **Entertainment** Friday & Saturday (Music) 6:00 PM.
- **Queen of Hearts** Thursday, Drawing at 6:30 PM.
- **Free Pool** Everyday.
- **Lounge Hours** Sunday 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM
Monday - Saturday 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Important Phone Numbers
Vet Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 Press #1
Project Vet Relief Advocate (Patie Pule) 570-369-3321
National Suicide Hotline 988

"Happy Birthday American Legion - 106 Years Strong"



FROM THE COMMANDER

Hello Legion Family,

Once again it is my pleasure to write to you and share the great things happening at your Post. I'll start by once again praising and thanking you for all that you do. We simply can't do it without each of you!

On February 1st we were not only privileged to bring you the Four Chaplains Ceremony, but we also witnessed an event described to me as "I thought I was attending a play or theatrical performance". Our Chaplain, Eric Linthicum as always, orchestrated a magnificent ceremony. Please join me in congratulating Eric on his hard work, foresight, and dedication he continuously shows our great Post. Job well done Sir!

February 14th, Valentines Day, and our very own steak night happened to be on the same day. What a day it was. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our very own "Humpty" and his incredible team. For starters, I think the number was 100 steaks in the first 50 minutes served. What a great feat, thank you to all that made it happen!

Saturday, February 15th I had the honor of interviewing 15 young men as they compete for this year's Boys State. Our current Boys State Chair Richard Jordan guided the participants as they arrived. Joining me for the interviews was Larry White as we asked a series of questions in a one-on-one format to narrow our search to just 12 candidates. We had a very strong field to choose from which made it both exciting and tough! If you are not familiar with this now 90-year-old American Legion program, please let me share what this unique program is all about. American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for US high school students. It is a non-partisan participatory program where students become part of the local, county, and state operations. These participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. This training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county, and state governments operated by these students who are elected to various offices. Training also covers the law and court system, parliamentary procedure, as well as Florida political history. These candidates will run for office in a mythical city, county, and state where they choose their own officials adhering to regular election procedures. At this point they will learn the responsibilities of various city, county, and state officers, and introduce their own bills in legislature at our state capital, Tallahassee. Our great American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a similar program for young women called Girls State.

On February 17th our American Legion Post 155 celebrated our 70th anniversary. Marie Conti, as a generational member of our Post, gave a great walk down memory lane via scrap books, articles, and other memorabilia with accompanying narrative from the days gone by. From the humble beginnings at Legion Beach, now we know it as Hunter Springs, to where we are now. Did you know that the entire Post was once just the canteen area and the room where the pool table is, which included a kitchen? We have grown and will continue to grow thanks to each of you..

February 20th, Downtown Crystal River was the location of an event we have been planning since last August. Complete with the closing of the streets, live music by the fantastic Echo Sixx Band, car show, motorcycle show, food, beverages along with great supporters in our community, we raised money for Bridges 4 Veterans. Once again, we support our own backyard and our Veterans. Thank you for your support for this great cause.

March 15th, I ask that you please join us in the main hall as we recognize and celebrate the 106th Birthday of the American Legion. In my narrative I will lead you down the historic path from the very beginning to where we are now. This will include the many accomplishments our, the largest Veteran organization in the world, have pioneered. I'll bet you will be both surprised and proud of these efforts. I'll see you there.

Our membership continues to thrive as we, you, have met or exceeded our goals.

There is always work to be done so I encourage you to continue supporting our efforts by inviting your friends to join in with the fun we are having.

Lastly, we continue to make improvements around the Post, and I hope you like the new phase of lighting in the canteen. This will be followed by a new acoustically pleasing addition to the face of the bar. You asked, we will deliver.

Until next time, be kind, considerate, and respectful to each other, and smile.

"For God and Country"
John Marler, Post Commander
American Legion Post 155

BE THE ONE



Auxiliary Unit 155

Good morning ALA Members,

We hope all of you are doing well. We are entering the end of our 2024-2025 year. Our nomination committee is in place, and we are always looking for new members to step up and consider taking a position in our Unit. I am sure you all have some new and exciting ideas to share. We are always here to help mentor you in any position you might be interested in.

Our monthly breakfast will be on March 9th. If you help out please contact Natalie Reeves at 216-970-3698. It is only a couple of hours once a month, we also need help serving the New York Club on March 18th at 11:30. It really does take a village to accomplish all the events happening at our post.

The post will be celebrating the American Legion's 106th birthday on March 15th at 4:00pm with dinner to follow. More information to follow.

There will be a Celebration of Life for Dan Pule on March 17th. Please try to stop in and support Pattie in her time of need. I will send out the times for this.

We will once again work with our post to host a Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home celebration on March 29th at 11:00am. It is important to give these Veteran's the "Welcome Home" and thank you they so deserve.

Until Next time

"For God and Country"

Michelle Cavalieri

Secretary, Unit 155, American Legion Auxiliary



Squadron 155 Commander

Membership cards are available at our monthly meetings, the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm. SAL members may also see office personnel from 1-3pm Mondays and Fridays or 4-6pm on Wednesdays at the post or you can set up a time with Humpty to receive your card. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so, because you are currently suspended from the American Legion and come June you will dropped from the membership rolls. Per the National Bylaws, if you have not renewed by 1 June you will have to reapply for membership, so come on folks, just pay your dues.

It is election nomination time again. The nomination process is simple, you have to be a member in good standing. The available positions on the board are as follows: Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Finance Officer, Chaplain, Adjutant, Sgt at Arms, and the Historian. We had vacant positions last year and hopefully we can rectify that this year. Please submit your nomination(s) to the office or Commander Pizzillo, so we can get membership approval of the nominees.

As most of you know, Dan Pule passed away. Dan was loved by all for the good man he was, and there will be a Celebration of Life held on 17 March at 1:00 PM. All are welcome, please join us.

SAL is hosting Steak Night every 2nd Friday of every month (March 16th) and Breakfast every 4th Sunday of the month (March 23rd). The steak dinner is only \$14 dollars and includes a salad, 2 vegetables and a dessert, it is an inexpensive night out so come on over for a great meal and enjoy the live entertainment in the lounge afterwards.

We need volunteers to assist in the kitchen for both events – Steak night prep from 1-4 pm and dinner service is from 3:45 to 6:30 pm. Breakfast is from 7-11, but with breakfast we also offer split shift volunteers from 7-9 am or 9-11 am. Text or call Humpty at (484) 368-6227 to volunteer and get your 12 volunteer hours to receive a reduction on your membership for next year.

Last month's meeting attendance was small. We need suggestions on how to increase attendance. Decisions are being made on your behalf be the same group of members ever month, so come join us and be part of the decision-making process, because it is your Post also. We are also looking for ideas to help more Vet's, Vet's families and non-profits in the community, so please submit your ideas to the board.

Remember, SAL is always here to help you or your family. SAL helping Veterans.

Robert "Humpty" Pizzillo
Commander, Squadron 155
Sons of the American Legion

BE THE ONE



Dear Legion Family,

Post 155 Chaplain

Greetings! I want to thank every one who volunteered to help with the Four Chaplains, from setting up to participating to attending, your support was and is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Coming this month is an event that none of us want to happen. It is saying good bye and until we meet again of our 3rd Vice Commander, friend, rider, kidder-in-chief Dan Pule. Please keep Patie in your prayers as she walks this walk and beyond. Please watch all the typical lines of communication for details.

Let us pray, Heavenly Father thank you for the gift of the family that we call the American Legion Post 155. Help us to support Patie and all those who mourn. Guide and direct this post at this time and always.

In your name we pray, Amen.

Blessings to you all,

Eric Linthicum, Chaplain

Blanton-Thompson, American Legion Post 155



March 2025 **Golf League Information**



Thursday with a **shotgun start @ 8:00 AM** unless otherwise noted.
Sign up with Walt Menage at (910-800-0046) or Buddy Reed
at (352-228-4200) if you want to golf.
If you can't make it, call the golf course or Walt or Buddy. Thanks!

Thursday:

- 6 - Spruce Creek
- 13 - Inverness
- 20 - Brooksville (0830)
- 27 - Royal Oaks



Blood Drive!

Next Blood Drive
March 10, 2025/Monday
3:00 PM—6:30 PM

Thank you for choosing American Legion Post 155!
If you are happy with our service, please like us on our
FACEBOOK PAGE at AMERICAN LEGION POST 155 CRYSTAL RIVER
Thank You...

Organization & Club Meetings

Submarine Veterans - Meet on the 1st Saturday of the month at 11:00 AM.

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) - Meet Quarterly on the 2nd Tuesday at 8:30 AM.

NARLEO (National Association of Retired Law Enforcement Officers) Monthly meetings the 4th Thursday in Main Hall. E-Board Meeting 6:00 PM; Membership Meeting at 7:30 PM. Point of contact is Marcy Sigurdson at 352-697-1937. PO Box 955, Lecanto, FL 34460-0955. **No meetings June, July, or August.**

Marine Corps League Citrus Detachment #819, PO Box 640383, Beverly Hills, FL 34464-0383
Monthly meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Auxiliary Room at 7:00 PM. Point of contact is Norman Brewer at 352-601-2090 or by email at nbrewer2@tampabay.rr.com.

BNI (Business Network International) - Meets every Thursday at 7:00 AM in the Main Hall.

American Legion Post 155 Offers Rental Space

Are you planning a wedding, special birthday, anniversary
or group gathering?

Check out our Main Hall rental space.

Discounted rate for Legion Family Members

Call answering machine @ 352-794-6360 for a call-back

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Key Staff Officer List 2024-2025

American Legion Post 155		
Position	Name	Phone
Commander	John Marler	954-325-6521c
1 st Vice Commander	Doug Hockenberry	727-514-3742c
2 nd Vice Commander	Vinnie Covino	908-420-3810c
3 rd Vice Commander	Vacant	
Adjutant	Kathy Hockenberry	813-716-5699c
Finance Officer	Larry White	352-212-8750c
Post Service Officer	Wanda Thomas	352-257-0541c
Historian	David Hoffman	920-284-7937c
Chaplain	Eric Linthicum	301-213-8989c
Sergeant at Arms	Mike Sisto	518-651-7848c
Judge Advocate	Jeff Zambrana	239-834-1063c
PIO / PR	Dave Hoffman	920-284-7937c
Past Post Commander	Richard Jordan	941-704-0151c
Executive Committee Members - Ervin "JR" Bailey, Ken Cavalieri, Gary Cronau, Kathy Hockenberry, Jeff Post, Janet Richards, Bill Shreve, Mike Vaughan, & Kelly Worthington		
Unit 155, American Legion Auxiliary		
Position	Name	Phone
President	Michele Shreve	352-422-3593c
Vice-President	Barb Logan	352-795-4233
Secretary	Michelle Cavalieri	352-220-4211c
Treasurer	Joyce Centrella	352-601-0136c
Chaplain	Patti Pule	570-369-3321c
Sgt at Arms	Vacant	
Asst. Sgt at Arms	Donna Sisto	
Historian	Carol Herndon	305-807-1440c
Executive Committee - Elfi Baker, Eileen Harrison, Dottie Laird and Debbie Rumpf		
Squadron 155, Sons of the American Legion		
Position	Name	Phone
Commander	Robert Pizzillo	484-368-6227c
1st Vice Commander	Vacant	
2nd Vice Commander	Mike Crowder	352-422-8949c
Finance Officer	Vacant	
Chaplain	John Seasholtz	352-382-4285c
Adjutant	Harrison Forbes	570-983-6612c
Sgt at Arms	JR Jesse Caley	352-795-9512c
Historian	Vacant	
Chapter 155, American Legion Riders		
Position	Name	Phone
Director	Vinnie Covino	908-420-3810c
Assistant Director	Scott Herndon	305-322-7187c
Adjutant	Rick Royhem	608-220-6351c
Chaplain	Vacant	
Finance Officer	Kathy Whitley	352-422-5837c
Sgt-at-Arms	Rick Wright	352-601-7142c
Road Captain	Jerry Vantassel	973-903-9833c
Historian	Vacant	
Past Director	Dan Pule	

Honor Guard

Position	Name	Phone
Captain	Mike Sisto	518-651-7848c
Lieutenant	Eric Linthicum	301-213-8989c
Sgt at Arms	Fred Whitehurst	352-480-7204c
Chaplain	Eric Linthicum	301-213-8989c

ON SALE

American Legion Post 155 T-Shirts ~ \$15 each.
Sizes range from Small to 4XL.

SAL T-shirts ~ \$15 each
"We're more than just a program ~ Get 'er Done, be a Son"

Auxiliary "God Bless America" Vests ~ \$15 each
Size: S - M - L - XL

AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER

Auxiliary "Grab Bag" for a modest donation of \$1
per bag. Who knows what "prize" you'll get?

Auxiliary Koozies \$5.00 donation
There going fast, hurry and get yours.

**Blood Drive!**

Next Blood Drive
March 10, 2025/Monday
3:00 PM—6:30 PM

**LOCK IN
MULTI-YEAR
MEMBERSHIP
RENEW TODAY**
and select the
three-year
membership
option.

VISIT LEGION.ORG/RENEW

Scuttlebutt Booster Club

AL Auxiliary Unit 155	07/28	~In Loving memory of~	
AL Riders Chapter 155	12/25	Arthur J. Cody	12/28
Ambrose, Barbara	04/25	Linda Granger	12/29
Belkin, Michael	09/25	Frank & Cindy Heather	03/35
Blodgett, Floyd & Louise	03/26	Rick Logan	03/26
Boucher, Roger	10/27	Steve Mikulas	03/25
Cieslewicz, Steven & Gloryann	03/28	Pawelko, Richard	07/25
Clutter, Albert & Linda	05/25	Dan Pule	03/27
Granger, Bill	08/30	Big John Schneider	10/25
Grieme, Judith/Jay Berry	01/26	Alexander Telfer	03/26
Grier, Dick & Connie	04/26		
Hockenberry, Doug & Kathy	06/25		
Jenkins, Jeff & Pat	06/25		
Jenkins, Kerry	12/25		
Kawonczyk, Peter	08/27		
Kern, Jessica	03/26		
Koon, Hoyt	03/26		
Legros, Henry	04/25		
Logan, Barbara	03/26		
Malone, Perry & Theresa	05/25		
McCallister, Chuck	12/25		
McMechan, Samuek	10/26		
Ricca, Raymond	12/26		
Roby, Raymond & Rose Marie	03/25		
Shreve, Michele & Bill	08/25		
Snead, John & Virginia	05/28		
Sparh, Margie & Bill	10/25		
Telfer, Connie	03/26		
Voelz, Sig & Tom	09/25		
Weston, Tom & Jan	12/26		
Wilson, Judith L.	09/26		

A Donation of \$10.00 a year can be made to be a member of the Scuttlebutt Booster Club. Mail check payable to **Scuttlebutt Booster Post 155** and mail to address below. If your name is not in this month's edition and you are a Booster, please advise the Post immediately.

~ NOTE ~

Newsletters will be limited to Boosters, PUFL members, and those members who paid to have it mailed to them.

We will have extra copies in the Lounge area, plus extra calendars for those who want to stop by the Post and pick one up.

~ NOTE ~

If you have submitted an e-mail address to us, you will be receiving your newsletter via e-mail. If you change your e-mail address, please let us know. This is a cost savings to the Post not only by not printing more copies, but by not mailing them out.

Thank you for your cooperation!

As space permits, we have an Advertisement Page for our members to provide information of any particular business or fundraising.

Prices are \$10 per month **OR** \$100 per year [paid in advance]; size is based on business card dimensions only and space is limited. Submit to "Scuttlebutt Post 155" no later than 15th of the month with your contact information.

**CHECK OUT THE POST WEBSITE:
www.flPost155.org**



Blanton-Thompson American Legion Post 155

6585 W. Gulf to Lake Highway
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Phone: 352-795-6526 Fax: 352-795-6561 Hall Rentals: 352-794-6360

E-mail: financeofficeatpost155@gmail.com - WEBSITE: www.flPost155.org

Send any change of address or e-mail address to:

American Legion Post 155, PO Box 908, Crystal River, Florida 34423-0908

PIO/PR: Dave Hoffman djameshoffman@gmail.com or 920-284-7937 (cell)

Send Scuttlebutt Articles to: Scuttlebutt155@gmail.com

MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 SubVets 11am (Aux) Open Jukebox Post Fundraiser Cruise - Departs Open Jukebox
2 Breakfast - Legion 8:30 - 11 am	3 Bingo 1-4pm (MH)	4 Scout Troop 418 Pancake Dinner 5-7pm SAL Mitg 7pm (Aux)	5 Show Me 3-5pm (MH)	6 Bingo 1-4 pm (MH)	7 Kris Pierce 6-9pm	8 Post Fundraiser Cruise - Returns Rental 5-9pm (MH) Open Jukebox
9 Daylight Savings Time Begins Breakfast - Auxiliary 8:30 - 11 am	10 Bingo 1-4pm (MH) Blood Drive 3-6:30pm	11 E-Committee Mitg 6pm (MH)	12 Show Me 3-5pm (MH) Riders Mitg 6:00 pm (Aux)	13 Bingo 1-4 pm (MH)	14 Steak Night 4-6:30pm Mike Coultas 6-9pm	15 Open 'Mike' Paradis 6-9pm American Legion's 106th Birthday Celebration 4pm - Dinner to follow
16 Breakfast - Riders 8:30 - 11 am	17 St Patrick's Day NO Bingo Celebration of Life Dan Pule 1pm	18	19 Show Me 3-5pm (MH) Marine Corps 7pm (Aux)	20 Bingo 1-4 pm (MH)	21 Paul Tew 6-9pm	22 Poker Run 9am - 6pm (MH) Chapter 155 Open Jukebox
23 Breakfast - SAL 8:30 - 11 am	24 Bingo 1-4pm (MH)	25 Legion/Auxiliary Mitgs 6pm	26 Show Me 3-5pm (MH)	27 Bingo 1-4 pm (MH) NARLEO: 6pm (Aux) 7:30-9pm (MH)	28 Sawyer Country 6-9pm	29 Vietnam Recognition Day - 11am (MH) Open Jukebox
30 Breakfast - HG 8:30 - 11 am	31 Bingo 1-4pm (MH)					