

# Post 243 Newsletter

November 17, 2019 | Volume 1, Number 1

**Duty, Honor, Country. Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be.**

~MacArthur

## Upcoming Community Events

- 10/26** Veterans Stand Down
- 11/6** Vietnam Veterans Pinning Ceremony
- 11/7-12** Vietnam Traveling Wall Exhibit
- 11/9** Great Day in the Country
- 11/10** Veteran's Day Luncheon
- 12/14** Wreaths Across America

### LEADERSHIP

Commander - Bill Mitchem	904-655-8210
Adjutant – James Murray	407-542-3285
Chaplain - Berkley Moss	407-365-9087
Finance – Peter Gregory	407-951-4630
Vice Commander (Membership) Erich Erdman	407-625-7862
Vice Commander (Programs) Laurel Ross	407-227-5340
Vice Commander Kenny Rudock	215-499-1036
Quartermaster - Scott Curtis	407-350-0611
Sergeant at Arms Ralph Cain	407-366-6511
Historian - Tom Finnimore	407-366-4371

## From the Commander

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our post newsletter. We receive a lot of information from outside agencies that want to be added to our distribution list so all of you can see what is available in our area. We've decided to try to compile it in a one source document for you. This newsletter will only be as good as we make it so if you have ideas or suggestions, please let us know.

Our first quarter is drawing to a close and I'd like to thank all of the people who have helped make our post great – especially our members! Without you inviting people to our weekly Coffee & Chats and other events, we could not be doing as much as we are. We are continuing to expand our physical and social media presence in our community and are working on reaching different demographics within our neighborhoods.

Our post will continue to support the American Legion's four pillars: Veterans, Defense, Americanism and Youth. Please consider volunteering some of your time and talents with one of the many programs we have that support one or more of these pillars. A listing of Who's Who within our post is included in this newsletter for you to reach out and connect with them.

Thanks to all,  
For God and Country!  
Bill

## More Information on Community Events

Veterans Stand Down – Seminole County Health Department, 400 West Airport Blvd, Sanford. Assistance for homeless veterans (medical care, haircuts, VA benefits, dental screenings, showers, food, clothing, shelter info, vocational services, veterans court and more). For more information contact Ed Burford 407-665-2371. To volunteer: [seminolestanddown@gmail.com](mailto:seminolestanddown@gmail.com).

Vietnam Veterans Pinning Ceremony - Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5405, 420 North Edgemon Ave, Winter Springs. Congressperson Murphy will have a pinning ceremony commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at 11 a.m. Interested Vietnam Era Veterans and their families should RSVP at [www.murphy.house.gov/ThankAVeteran](http://www.murphy.house.gov/ThankAVeteran). For questions or concerns please contact Congresswoman Murphy's office at (202) 225-4035.

Vietnam Traveling Wall Exhibit - Fort Mellon Park, Sanford. Event begins at 1:00 pm on November 7<sup>th</sup> and runs continuously thru 8:00 am, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Please consider volunteering your time to help make this event possible. More information can be found: <https://www.sanfordfl.gov/residents/the-vietnam-traveling-memorial-wall>. To volunteer contact [Angela.Adkins@Sanford.gov](mailto:Angela.Adkins@Sanford.gov) or 407-688-5163.

Great Day in the Country – Oviedo on the Park. The Legion will have a tent set up with volunteers manning from 9:00am – 4:00pm. Be sure to stop by and say hello if you are at this event.

## Post Program Highlights

### Palm Valley Partnership

Post 243 is helping this 55+ community in Oviedo (just north of UCF) honor veterans with flag folding and flag retirement services.

### National Family Week

The American Legion established the Thanksgiving holiday week as National Family Week.

***The family is the foundation upon which our society is structured, and is one of our society's most important units. All life in our communities begins within the homes of our families. Within the family unit, each individual's character, happiness and future success are largely determined by the environment within the home...we recognize and support families during this week.***

Post 243 is recognizing National Family Week in the following manner: We will set up a table and a few chairs at the following times and locations. We will have some signage and information about National Family Week and the American Legion along with bottled water and pre-packaged snacks for families to take. Additionally, we may have flags and/or stickers available and possibly some crayons and coloring pages.

Two members (*thank you to those that have already volunteered!*) will sit at the table but will not approach any park attendee and will only engage with them if/when they came to the table.

11/24 Sam Smith Memorial Park, 9-11am  
11/25 Friendship Park, 9-11am  
11/26 Red Bug Lake Park, **4:30-6:30pm**  
11/27 Round Lake Park, 9-11am  
11/28 Torcaso Park, 9-11am  
11/29 Sweetwater Park, 9-11am  
11/30 Lake Mills Park, 9-11am

Contact Laurel to volunteer (407-227-5340)

## Community Events, continued

Veteran's Day Luncheon – First United Methodist Church, Oviedo. Come for the service before or just for lunch around 12:30 pm. To register contact Dianne Holland 615-584-8906. RSVP: <http://fumcoviedo.com/events/veterans/>

Wreaths Across America – This event happens word wide at 12:00 pm eastern time. Sponsor a wreath to honor a veteran, volunteer to help before or after the ceremony or help us identify your family members who are veterans interred in an Oviedo cemetery. Contact Michele Mingoia at 407-902-7426 or [oviedowreaths@gmail.com](mailto:oviedowreaths@gmail.com).



## Who's Who in Programs – How to Get Involved

Take a look at the programs below to see what you might enjoy supporting. POCs for each area are listed for you to contact for more information, offer assistance or simply for your information.

**Americanism** – Bill Thompson, 407-924-7148  
To inspire patriotism and good citizenship

**Boy Scouts** – Erich Erdman, 407-625-7862  
Program liaison and Eagle Scout of the Year Award contact

**Boy's State** – Ralph Cain, 407-366-6511  
Program liaison for High School juniors interested in government

**Civic Affairs** – Bill Hyde, 407-415-1707  
Liaison between government offices and entities

**JROTC/ROTC** – Peter Gregory/Laurel Ross, 407-951-4630/407-227-5340  
Liaisons with Oviedo, Winter Springs and Hagerty High Schools in addition to UCF's Army ROTC detachment

**Medical Scholarships** – Peter Gregory, 407-951-4630  
Program liaison for currently enrolled college students

**Oratorical** – Bill Thompson/Peter Gregory, 407-924-7148/407-951-4630  
Program liaisons for this constitutional speech contest, all High School aged students may apply

**Public Relations** – Del Burfitt, 407-415-1707  
Increasing awareness among the community at large of the Legion's advocacy of the four pillars

**Veterans Affairs** – Carl Barber, 407-415-5957  
Assisting veterans in obtaining needed services

**American Legion Post 243**

[www.OviedoLegion.org](http://www.OviedoLegion.org)

[almpost243@gmail.com](mailto:almpost243@gmail.com)

