

# THE RIVERVIEW MEMORIAL DEBRIEF

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Riverview Memorial – Post 8108  
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Nov 2023



## USN - Happy 248<sup>th</sup> Birthday!



On October 13, post members and Navy veterans John Lehman and Craig Stinson officiate the cake cutting ceremony and lead in celebrating the US Navy's 248<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## ***Commander's Message:***

Friends all,

We had quite a bit of 'traffic' last month, and it was all well worth the effort. Thanks to everyone who helped make it a successful month for the Post.

November is going to be busy too. Let me start off with a big salute to all US military veterans, past and present. On Nov 11 we celebrate Veterans Day, which has its roots going back all the way to 1918 and the end of WWI (**the war to end all wars**) and which recognizes all those who have honorably served – regardless of branch, rank, or

deployments. Thank you one and all for your service!

And I'd certainly be remiss if I didn't also wish my USMC brethren a Happy 248<sup>th</sup> Birthday (Nov10). I know that we're a longways from Tun's Tavern, but we'll definitely have a hearty toast at the Post canteen in your honor! HOORAH!!!

Our next Post meeting will be on November 9 starting at 1900HRS. Be part of the conversation. See you there.

In comradeship,  
Nelson Betancourt  
*Hooah!*

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## ***Auxiliary President's Message:***

Happy November!! I can't believe we are in the last two months of our year! October was a busy but fruitful Month for the Auxiliary! Oktoberfest served 50 dinners and received rave reviews. Thank you, Laura Schuler and team for all who helped.

Save the Ta Ta's is wrapping up with numbers exceeding last year. We will present a check to Hooked on Hope at the next Auxiliary meeting on Nov 14.

Yours in Service,  
Anita Webb VFW 8108  
Auxiliary President

Thank you to all members and guests who helped to benefit uninsured cancer patients in Hillsborough County.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the post throughout the month and into the end of the year. Don't forget we are always looking for volunteers.

***"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop." Mother Teresa***



**Welcome to Our  
Newest Members**

***Post:*** ***Edison Adams, USMC – Vietnam; Ryan Dively, USA – Afghanistan  
John Debatista, USA – Vietnam; Mark Humphrys, USA – Afghanistan  
Michael Small, USA – Afghanistan***

***Auxiliary:*** ***Belinda Flemion, spouse of Joseph Flemion; Showneen Delina Hall,  
granddaughter of Arthur Bartlette, Jr; Diane Meier, sister of Michael Wick***



# September's GI Party!



(l-r) Ed, Micha, Monty, Teresa, Russell, John L, Michelle, John R, Malia, Ryan. Nelson was behind the camera.



**A very special THANKS to all that came by to help!**



### Post Hours of Operation:

Monday – Saturday: 1100 ~ 2000 Hours

Sunday: 1100 ~ 1900 Hours

Sunday Breakfast: 0900 ~ 1200 Hours

Phone: 813. 671.9845

### RED Fridays

**R**ember **E**veryone **D**eported

In honor of all servicemembers that are deployed around the world, visit the Post any Friday wearing a **red** shirt and receive a discount on your drinks.

Is it that time of the year already??? Check your membership card expiration date. If you're an annual member, it might be time.



You can renew online, or just swing by the Post and do it there. Also consider becoming a Life Member, no more reminders from me...

Renew on time - - - *It's That Important!*

### Bring Your Membership Card

A friendly reminder that as per Florida ABC laws – all Post and Auxiliary members need to show their membership card to the on-duty bartender when entering the Post.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The post's Canteen and the Main Hall areas are smoking free zones and have been so for several years now.



Smoking is permitted in the backyard and on the lanai.

Are you or someone you know not receiving our emails or the newsletter? Send us a note and your updated email address to [Post8108@vfwfl.org](mailto:Post8108@vfwfl.org)

If you, or someone you know is experiencing a crisis,  
**THERE IS HELP.**

**Dial 988**

*The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline*

Or **844-MyFLVet** (844-693-5838)

*Florida Veterans Support Line*

Or **text to "NAMI"**

*The National Alliance on Mental Illness*



The Post recently upgraded its internet service, and thanks to a generous donation from the Auxiliary was able to purchase five Roku Streaming Stick. These will be connected to the TV monitors throughout the Post.

**Kudos to Anita Webb for taking the time and singlehandedly setting up all five units. THANKS!!!**





Post members Craig Stinson and John Lehman celebrating the Navy's 248<sup>th</sup> birthday!

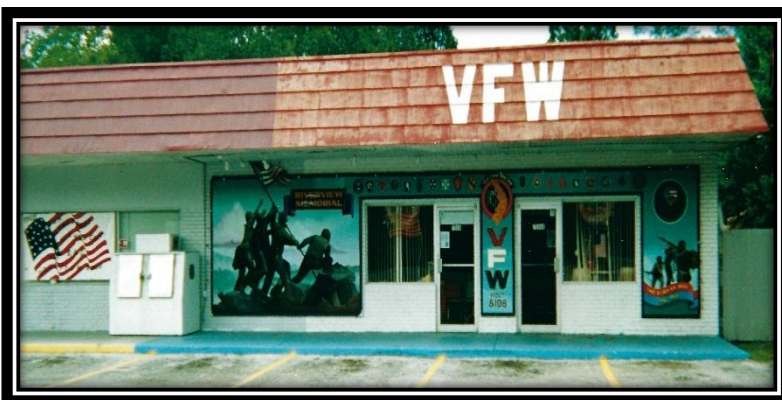


During the Navy Birthday celebration, Post Commander Nelson Betancourt sounds off 8 bells, symbolizing the end of the watch and the start of the Navy's new year.



## Second annual Auxiliary sponsored "Save the TaTas Pageant"

The Post Auxiliary raised over **\$500** in donations in just one night,  
and over **\$700** overall so far this year for cancer aid & research!



Circa 2000

The Post's front mural was originally painted some 20+ years ago. The constant beating from Florida's weather, plus the damaging UV rays have taken their toll. Today the mural is largely faded and much of the fine detail is nearly gone.

Several Post and Auxiliary members have started a "Save the Mural" donation-only project and are raising funds to have the mural professionally restored and thus preserve some of our Post history.

So far over \$400 have been collected. The goal is \$1,600. Your donation will make it happen.



**VFW POST 424 DISTRICT FUNCTION**



**DATE:** SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023  
**TIME:** 9:00AM - 11:30AM

**LOCATION:** PIN CHASERS- 4847 N. ARMENIA AVE. TAMPA

**COST:** \$13.99 PER PERSON

**INCLUDES:** 2 HRS. OF BOWLING, SHOE RENTAL, SOCKS (IF NEEDED) & BALL

**GAMES:** RED PIN BOWLER WILL BE AWARDED A TICKET TO BE REDEEMED AT POST 424 FOR A FREE DRINK

**LANE SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE FOR \$35.00 (PERSONAL OR BUSINESS)**

**HIGH SCORE:** FIRST AND SECOND HIGHEST SCORE AND LOWEST SCORE PRIZE WILL BE RECEIVED AT POST 424

**LUNCH TO FOLLOW AT POST 424**

FOLLOWING LUNCH THERE WILL BE GAMES AND A 50/50 RAFFLE



#### Membership Update:

Our current membership number stands at **306 (90.26%)**, our 100% goal is **339**.

For "**All State**" we need a grand total of **346** which is our 339 + 7 more.

Renewals are a crucial component...

You can help us get there. Renew in a timely manner. Invite qualifying veterans to join the Post!

***Any bowlers in the house? Join in, it'll be fun!***

#### The U.S.S Jack H. Lucas is officially commissioned into service at the Port Tampa Bay October 8, 2023

Jacklyn Harold "Jack" **Lucas** (February 14, 1928 – June 5, 2008) was an American Marine in World War II who was awarded the Medal of Honor at the age of 17 years as a Private First Class in the Marine Corps during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

During a close firefight in two trenches between Lucas and three Marines with 11 Japanese soldiers, Lucas saved the lives of the other three Marines from two enemy hand grenades that were thrown into their trench by unhesitatingly placing himself on one grenade, while in the next instant pulling the other grenade under him.

The grenade he covered with his body exploded and wounded him severely; the other grenade failed to explode.

He is the youngest Marine and the youngest serviceman in World War II to be awarded the United States' highest military decoration for valor. He later commissioned into the United States Army and reached the rank of captain.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia





## Women In Military Service Recognition October 18, 2023

Post and Auxiliary members share historical facts and information regarding the long and extraordinary journey of women in US military service and combat.



Post members Laura Swanson, USAF, and Caryll Crewe, USN



## VFW Riverview Post 8108

Follow us on Facebook to find out about the latest Post events.



Post member Greg Floyd along with daughter Erin and granddaughter Lyla (on left), plus Auxiliary member Sean Lamey, and Andre Robinson (not pictured), joined [Operation BBQ Relief](#) – Disaster Response Team in Oak, Florida to help provide free BBQ meals to Hurricane Idalia victims. In total, more than 306K meals were served over 20 days in the aftermath of the storm. Greg is also a Post 8108 Service Officer. **BRAVO ZULU!**

"Yeah, I know this  
isn't Burger King –  
but I still want it  
my way!"



Actually, it's Mike and Ryan on Grill duty during October's Steak Dinner night.



**NOV 5, 2023 @ 0200 HRS**  
End of Daylight Savings Time  
reset your clocks back 1 hour

# VFW Post 8108 - November 2023

SUNDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 * HC Mtg 1900 HRS * Liver & Onion Dinner 4-6pm	3	4 Steak Dinner 1700 HRS * District Mtg Post 8154 -1pm
5 Post Breakfast 0900-1200 HRS	6	7 Taco Tues	8	9 Post Mtg 1930 HRS	10 USMC 248 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Cake cutting at 1800H  * Veterans Day Holiday Observed
12 Post Breakfast 0900-1200 HRS	13	14 Aux Mtg 1900 HRS * Taco Tues	15	16	17
19 Post Breakfast 0900-1200 HRS	20	21 Taco Tues	22	23 ThanksG Day * Post Potluck 3 pm	24
26 Post Breakfast 0900-1200 HRS	27	28 Taco Tues	29	30	25