

American Legion Post 53 Service Officer Report

April 2025

Veterans and Families Helped: 19

Service Officer Hours: Present for all Tuesday Service Officer hours and attended all Coffee & Chat Fridays.

Veterans Treatment Court: Hearings sessions were on Thursdays 04/17/25 and 05/01/25.. Most of the veteran/clients were compliant with none being assigned community service hours at Post 53. The veteran previously scheduled for community service hours has been consistently non-compliant and may be returned to the criminal docket.

The Mission Continues: Represented Post 53 at an Earth Day event at a rural vegetable farm in Orlando. I assisted in constructing a portable green house and doing site maintenance. Verified with the Platoon Leader that manual help may be provided to Post 53 for renovation help upon verified notice. The Platoon Leader may be out of state for about a month, but should be able to be contacted via email messages.

Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs: On April 15th I was invited to a coffee/town hall meeting by Paul Brown, Military Aide to Congressman Corey Mills that host Doug Collins, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Secretary Collins entertained questions from those present as to the future operations of Veterans Affairs under the current administration. In addition I was able to interface with person from various veteran organizations to upgrade my references and contacts.

Veterans Advisory Council, Seminole County (VACSC): The Monthly Meeting was held on 04/15/25 at VFW Post 5405, Winter Springs. Post 53 was represented by Dave Keller. Presentations were given by Elizabeth Jackson, Orlando VA, on Veterans Suicide Prevention and Marissa O'Conner, Community Legal Services on veteran legal service and the Veterans Re-entry Program. The Guests included; Lorraine Holland, MOAA; Jennifer Hutchinson-Fernandez, Mission United (United Way); Drew Martin, Legion Post 183, Paul Brown, Aide to Congressman Mills; K.J. Boggs, Seminole County Veterans Service Office; Bridget Lake, Protecting Vets Foundation; Carl Barber, Legion Post 243; Scott Riddle, VFW Post 10139; Mike Ungerman, Legion Post 243; Harold Borrero-Almondar, Orlando VA; and Brian Sparhawk, Career Source. New business consisted of admitting the Protecting Vets Foundation as a member organization and election of officers for the 2025-2026 year. The next Membership Meeting will be on April 20th at the Fleet in Sanford.

Seminole County Veterans Appreciation Luncheon: April 21st I attended the luncheon with other officers and members of Post 53. I was able to interface with individual veterans on veteran services and with members of other veteran organizations.

Jr. ROTC Awards Ceremony for Seminole High School: April 17th attended the awards ceremony for the Air Force Jr. ROTC cadet at Seminole High School with the Commander, Adjutant and Sgt-a-Arms for Post 53.

Absence from Post: I will be leaving on a personal business trip and will be absent from Post business from June 9th through June 12. I will not be in communications but will answer all email and phone messages upon return.

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