

THE RIVERVIEW MEMORIAL DEBRIEF

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Riverview Memorial – Post 8108
7504 Riverview Dr,
Riverview FL 33578
813.671.9845
WWW.VFW8108.ORG
POST8108@VFWFL.ORG

March 2024



Department Commander's Challenge Coin

Post 8108 is once again recognized as a leader in the District. During the District quarterly meeting on February 3, the Florida Department Commander, William "Mac" McLucas, presented his personalized Challenge Coin to Post 8108 commander, Nelson Betancourt, for the exemplary work that Riverview Memorial has thus far accomplished with its membership stats this year.

As previously stated, renewals and new members are the lifeblood of every post throughout the VFW. During the past two years, Post 8108 and Auxiliary members have been conducting quarterly recruiting drives at the MacDill AFB Base Exchange. As part of that mission, our members provide information about the VFW, our Post activities, how we impact the veteran and local community, and our Service Officer program. Post membership is also offered.

The Post's next MacDill visit will be on Sunday March 3 from 0900 to 1300 HRS, then following our lead, the Ruskin Post will be there until 1600 HRS. If you would like to participate with our recruiting team, let one of the bartenders or a Post Officer know, or just send us an email.



FL Dept Cmdr. William McLucas and Post 8108 Cmdr. Nelson Betancourt (l-r)



Commander's Message:

Friends all,

The mere fact that it's a leap year should have told us that it was going to be a special year. And so far, no disappointing there.

On February 3, during the District's quarterly meeting, Post 8108 was publicly recognized for its achievement in membership retention and recruiting. In attendance was Department Cmdr. William McLucas and I was honored to receive his Commander's Challenge Coin on behalf of our Post.

Later this month we'll be having our "Mural Restoration Reveal". Thanks to the efforts of a few and the donations from many – our storefront mural is getting its first touch-up in the 20 years or so that it's been there. Pretty amazing what a group a people can accomplish when there's a common goal among

them. Upon completion of this "Phase I" we'll start work on "Phase II" which will add depictions from our recent past conflicts like OEF and OIF. I thank Tony for offering to run point on Phase II.

Another big event, one that will never occur again, is the celebration of the Post's 30th Birthday on April 7. For this magna occasion it has been agreed that we celebrate by having a "Post Dining Out".

A committee has been formed and they'll oversee the planning and execution. As information becomes available, we'll be sure to keep everyone in the loop. It's going to be grand! (If you are unfamiliar with Dining Ins and Dining Outs – go online and research it; not enough space here to adequately inform.)

Hope to see you all around the Post soon.

In comradeship,
Nelson Betancourt, Hooah!

Auxiliary President's Message:

Happy leap year 8108 family! We have a busy month ahead of us. This Saturday March 2 is our joint steak night followed with Sunday Breakfast. We will have a charity carwash Sunday March 3 after breakfast to help a local boy who recently lost his mother. Wednesday March 6 we will be delivering a meal to Fisher House. Saturday March 16 is Laura's delicious St Patty's dinner.

Just as the dust settles on March, we will be ready for our election of officers! Looking forward to seeing you all at the post!

Yours in Service,
Anita Webb
VFWA 8108 President



**Welcome to Our
Newest Post Members**

Victor Polo, USMC: GWOTE



(c) Bruce Johnson
February 25, 2024 1:18 PM

Comrade Bruce Johnson presents VFW achievement certificates during a recent award ceremony for three young men achieving Eagle Scout rank. (l-r) Quentin Johnson (no relation), Cooper Ramnarine, and Solomon Bristow.



*** Volunteers Needed ***
The Post can always use an extra hand or two, or three to help out around the post.

Did You Know?

The Department of Florida counts with some 155 posts distributed among 22 Districts statewide.

Post 8108 belongs to District 12, which runs from Dade City south to Ruskin, and from Tampa on the west to Riverview on the east.

In total, District 12 has seven posts, with Post 8108 as its 2nd largest in membership.

Check out other fun facts: [VFW Fast Sheet online.](#)

**Mar 16 – St Patrick’s Day Dinner
Corn Beef & Cabbage - \$12**



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



Post members Nelson, Tony, and Heather (l-r) recently went for a round of golf at the Diamond Hill GC. Reports indicate they each shot a “perfect” course 72... and then things really got ugly on the back nine!



On **April 7**, Post **8108** will be celebrating its **30th ANNIVERSARY!**

Stay tuned for upcoming announcements regarding our birthday events.



Membership Update:

Our current membership number stands at **333 (98%)**, our 100% goal is **339**.

Renewals are a crucial component...

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

You can help us get there. Renew in a timely manner. **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.

Are you or someone you know not receiving our emails or the newsletter? Send us a note and email address to Post8108@vfwfl.org

Military Jargon...

- * **Stand Fast** – Wait
- * **POL** – Petro, Oil, Lube
- * **100 MPH Tape** – Duct tape
- * **10-4** – OK, Acknowledged
- * **Roger** – similar to “10-4”
- * **GI Party** – Major cleanup event
- * **AWOL** – Absent Without Official Leave
- * **BOHICA** – Bend Over, Here It Comes Again
- * **P38** – Small can opener issued with C-Rations
- * **Dust Off** – patient evacuation from a combat zone via helicopter

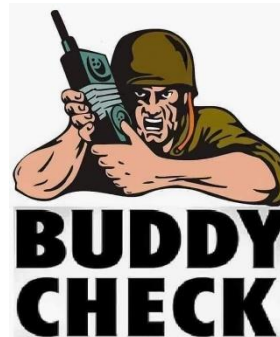
Post Hours of Operation:

Monday – Saturday: 1100 ~ 2000 Hours

Sunday: 1100 ~ 1900 Hours

Sunday Breakfast: 0900 ~ 1200 Hours

Phone: 813. 671.9845



If it's been a while since a Buddy, or someone you know, has checked in... then it just might be time for you to check in with them and see if they're alright.

They just might happen to be waiting for that call. You can make a difference,



VFW Riverview Post 8108

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

**VFW 8108
BREAKFAST**
NEW MENU EFFECTIVE 08/13/23



\$9
Eggs, Hashbrowns, Biscuit & Gravy,
Pancakes (reg & blueberry), French Toast,
Bacon, Sausage, Grits Toast,
Coffee, Orange Juice, Water

**SUNDAYS
9 AM - NOON** OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!

813-671-9845  7504 Riverview Dr
Riverview, FL
33578

Post 8108's Mural Restoration Grand Reveal



COME JOIN THE CELEBRATION: Saturday MARCH 9, 2024

The fun officially starts at **1330 HRS** with food and music,
but you can be here earlier!
Music by post member Master DJ Kerry.

Activities throughout the afternoon:
Raffles, Auctions: Silent and Live, 50/50s, Darts, and much more.

All funds raised will go towards the Mural's Phase Two, which
will add depictions of recent campaigns: Desert Storm, OEF, OIF,
others TBD.

Enjoy an afternoon of camaraderie and war stories,
share a while with old buddies,
make some new friendships,
see what your Post has been up to.

COME JOIN THE CELEBRATION: Saturday MARCH 9, 2024



VFW 8108 STEAK NIGHT

FIRST SATURDAY EVERY MONTH
5-7 PM
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!



\$23

**14OZ NEW YORK STRIP, BAKED
POTATO, GREEN BEANS, BREAD
DESSERT**

7504 RIVERVIEW DR RIVERVIEW FL 33578
813-671-9845



Happy Birthday!

Congratulations to comrades **Heather, Caryll, and Mike** who celebrated their respective birthdays in February. **Cheers!!!**



Saturday – March 23, 2024

FUN STARTS AT 0900 HRS

Come Join Us!



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
James A. Haley Veterans Hospital

Tampa VA First Friday Coffee Connection

10:00a.m. to 11:30a.m.

Veterans Memorial Park

3602 N. US-301 Tampa, Florida 33619

**First Friday of Every Month at
the Pavilion**

Meet with other Veterans and families from the Tampa Bay area and the surrounding communities!

Tampa VA Event Coordinators

Will Florez 813-372-0400 or
Colleen Danielson 813-997-3077



Don't forget to set your clocks forward
1 hour, Sunday March 10 @ 0200 HRS.



Donated elegant, imported coffee table, with a six piece coffee plate set to be raffled off during the Post's Restored Mural Gran Reveal! Proceeds to benefit the Post.

VA News & Information



When a Veteran you know needs help.

When a loved one returns from deployment, separates or retires from military service he or she may have difficulty transitioning to civilian life. This transition can be an adjustment for family members as well as the Veteran. In addition, combat stress is not always recognized and sometimes Veterans are reluctant to reach out for the assistance they are entitled to receive.

Coaching Into Care (CIC) is the VA's confidential national call center for family members and friends of Veterans. We operate Monday through Friday 8am to 8pm EST. If your call comes in after hours, our call responders will return your message the next business day. Our highly trained staff members are experts in bridging the worlds of mental health and military culture and can assist you with resources, navigating the VA, and finding appropriate treatment.



1-888-823-7458



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

When to Call Coaching Into Care

If you are observing some of the signs of distress listed below regarding the Veteran in your family or community, please call *Coaching into Care*. We will help you assess and understand the situation, work with the barriers to getting care and provide suitable resources and referrals.

- You may notice changes in the Veteran's behavior or personality.
- You recognize that the Veteran is anxious, irritable, agitated or moody. They may not be able to sleep or may be easily angered.
- You observe a decrease in personal care or hygiene. Changes in usual judgment such as abusing alcohol, drugs or risky behavior may be present.
- You notice increased isolation or withdrawal from others. If severe, the Veteran may stop attending work, school or functioning as a parent or spouse.
- You become aware that the Veteran seems hopeless, overwhelmed or suicidal.

How Coaching Into Care Helps

We offer families and loved ones encouragement and support along with the following services:

- Educational materials in print and online on topics such as readjustment, mental health concerns and substance abuse.
- Consultation with a coach to develop ideas for improving communication and understanding the problem.
- Referrals to services for Veterans, their families and loved ones.

We Value Your Privacy

Every aspect of your interactions with us, from the initial contact to any service provided will be kept in confidence, except for cases in which we act to protect the life of the Veteran, caller or others.


1-888-823-7458
Find us on Facebook 
www.va.gov/coachingintocare





TAMPA

VET CENTER

EST. 1979



**Connection.
Camaraderie.
Community.**

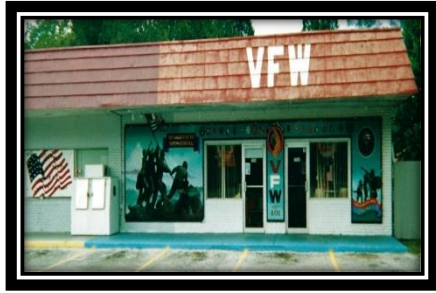


**9206 King Palm Drive
Tampa, FL 33619
(813) 372-0400**

www.vetcenter.va.gov
Call us 24/7
Vet Center Call Center:
877-WAR-VETS (927-8387)

Some local VA resources:

- * VET Center: 9206 King Palm Dr., Tampa 33616 (813) 372-0400
- * Veterans Resource Center: 3602 US 301 N, Tampa 33619
- * James A Haley Hospital: 13000 Bruce B Downs Blvd, Tampa 33612
- * Woman's Care Tampa VA: 13515 Lake Terrace Ln, Tampa 33637
- * Hidden River VA Clinic (Primary Care Annex) : 13515 Lake Terrace Ln, Tampa 33637
- * South Hillsborough VA Clinic: 12920 Summerfield Crossing Blvd, Riverview 33579
- * Zephyrhills VA Clinic: 6937 Medical View Ln, Zephyrhills 33542



The Post's Mural Restoration Grand Reveal is scheduled for March 9, starting at 1330 HRS with music and food. Proceeds from the events fundraisers will go towards the Mural's Phase 2 project! Everyone is invited to the Reveal!!!!

March 2024

February '24							April '24							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1	2	3			1	2	3	4	5	6
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
25	26	27	28	29			28	29	30					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	1	2 * Steak Dinner 1700 H only \$23 * MacDill Mbr Recruiting Drive - 0900-1300 HRS
3 Sunday Breakfast 0900 H only \$9	4	5 Taco Tuesday	6	7 HC MTG 1900 HRS	8	9 Post Mural Reveal 1330H
10 Sunday Breakfast 0900 H Daylight Savings Time Begins @ 0200 HRS	11	12 *AUX MTG 1900 HRS Taco Tuesday	13	14 Post MTG 1930 HRS	15 American Legion 105th Birthday	16 St Patrick's Day Dinner only \$12
17 Sunday Breakfast 0900 H	18	19 Taco Tuesday	20	21	22	23 GI Party - 0900 HRS
24 Sunday Breakfast 0900 H	25 Medal of Honor Day	26 Taco Tuesday	27	28	29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day	30
31 Sunday Breakfast 0900 H	1	Notes Riverview Memorial - VFW POST 8108				