



CONSTITUTION

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

VETERANS MEMORIAL SQUADRON 347

LADY LAKE, FLORIDA

DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA

EST. January 2007

Draft November 2013

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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION VETERANS MEMORIAL

SQUADRON 347

CONSTITUTION

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**CONSTITUTION
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION VETERANS MEMORIAL SQUADRON 347
LADY LAKE, FLORIDA**

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION PREAMBLE TO THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars. Associate ourselves together as "Sons of the American Legion" for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism; to preserve the memories of our former members and the association of our members and our forefathers in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State, and Nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy, to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

MEMBERSHIP ELGIBILITY

All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, World War II, Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf War, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of the American Legion. There shall be no forms or class of membership except an active membership.

ARTICLE I: NAME

1. This Squadron shall be named Sons of the American Legion Veterans Memorial Squadron 347, Detachment of Florida.
2. This Squadron is and shall always be sponsored by Veterans Memorial Post 347, The American Legion, Department of Florida.
3. This Squadron is and shall always be an affiliate member of the National and State Detachment of the Sons of the American Legion.

ARTICLE II: OBJECT

1. It shall be the object of this Squadron to follow the policies and purposes set forth in the Preamble, and the National and State Detachment Constitutions of the Sons of the American Legion.

ARTICLE III: NATURE

1. This Squadron will be a civilian organization and membership therein does not affect liability for military service or police service, or pertain to the status of such forefathers that qualifies membership to the Squadron.
2. This Squadron shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan politics of the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

- 1. Membership to this Squadron shall be prescribed by the National Constitution of the Sons of the American Legion.**
- 2. Any form of membership other than prescribed by the National Constitution of the Sons of the American Legion shall be prohibited.**
- 3. All membership applications shall be made in writing under such regulations as prescribed by the National Constitution of the Sons of the American Legion.**
- 4. All new membership applications shall be submitted with a copy of credentials as outlined in the Membership Eligibility section of the National Constitution of the Sons of the American Legion.**
- 5. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually.**
- 6. All applications for membership shall be referred to the Chairman of the Membership Committee, First Vice-Commander, or the person designated by the Squadron Commander; for investigation and certification. The application will then be presented to the Squadron Membership at the next Squadron Membership Meeting to be accepted or rejected. If rejected by a majority of members, then the application will be recorded as rejected and will not again be reconsidered until after the expiration of six months from the date of rejection. All reports of investigations, applications, and copies of credentials shall be maintained in a permanent file during the time the member remains in good standing within the Squadron.**
- 7. Any member of the Squadron may be expelled or suspended from membership for just cause. Charges must be based on disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty, conduct unbecoming a member of the Sons of the American Legion, or violation of the rules established by the National and State Detachment Constitutions of the Sons of the American Legion. The Squadron Commander shall call a meeting of the Executive Committee to hear, justify, and try such charge or charges. At least 14 days prior to the hearing, the accused member shall be furnished, in writing, the complaint stating the charge or charges against the accused member, including the facts upon which said charge or charges are based. All charges must be in writing, signed, and taken under oath. Notice of the hearing time and location shall be furnished to the accused member. This shall be done either by hand delivery by a Squadron officer, or by certified mail with a return receipt. If, after said hearing, the members of the Executive Committee, by a two-thirds vote of the members present, taken by secret ballot, find the member guilty of said charge or charges, the Executive Committee may expel, reprimand, or suspend the member. The action of the Executive Committee shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and a written order, either declaring the member not guilty, or finding the member guilty and stating the punishment shall be entered by the Squadron Commander and a copy provided to the accused member. If the accused member is found not guilty, or the charges are determined to be unfounded by the Executive Committee, the same charges and conditions under the same circumstances will not be levied again against the accused member.**
- 8. Reinstatement of a suspended or expelled member shall be in the manner described by the State Detachment and National Sons of the American Legion Constitution and By-Laws.**
- 9. Any persons expelled by another Squadron shall not be admitted to this Squadron without the consent of the expelling Squadron or the State Detachment Executive Committee. Until such consent is granted, they shall be ineligible for membership in this Squadron.**

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

- 1. Except as otherwise provided in the Squadron By-Laws, the Executive Committee shall consist of all elected and appointed Squadron Officers, immediate past Squadron Commander of Squadron 347 of good standing.**
- 2. The elected Squadron Officers shall consist of a Squadron Commander, a First Vice-Commander, a Second Vice-Commander, a Squadron Treasurer, a Squadron Historian, a Squadron Chaplain, Sergeant-At-Arms. and Members-at-Large.**
- 3. The Squadron Adjutant, Judge Advocate and any Assistant Officers shall be appointed by the Squadron Commander-Elect with the approval of a majority vote of the Executive Committee Elect immediately following the election.**
- 4. Squadron Officers shall be installed and entered upon their duties in accordance with the Detachment By-Laws. They shall hold office until their successors are duly elected and or appointed.**
- 5. Any member of the Executive Committee may be reprimanded, suspended, or removed from office by the Executive Committee as provided in Article X, Section 18, Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Florida.**

6. Every member in good standing of this Squadron shall be eligible to hold office.
7. The duties of the officer shall be those stated in the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment Squadron 347 By-Laws, and as outlined in the most recent copy of the Squadron Handbook of the Sons of the American Legion as distributed by National Headquarters.
8. The Squadron Commander shall appoint standing committees subject to approval by the Executive Committee at the first Executive Committee meeting following their appointment. Special and temporary committees shall be appointed by the Squadron Commander and shall not be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee or the Squadron membership.

ARTICLE VI: ELECTIONS

1. Elections are to be outlined in the Sons of the American Legion Veterans Memorial Squadron 347 By-Laws.
2. All elected or selected officers shall be certified to the Detachment Adjutant not less than ten (10) days prior to the Annual American Legion Detachment of Florida Convention or the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Florida Convention. Certification is to be made in accordance as prescribed by the Detachment Adjutant.
3. Squadron Officers shall be installed by the Detachment Commander or his designated representative in a manner agreed upon by the Detachment Commander or his designated representative in agreement with the Executive Committee to be installed. The Squadron Officers shall take office and enter into their duties immediately after installation. In the event of a vacancy caused by any reason, the name of the successor shall be reported to the Detachment Adjutant not more than thirty (30) days after the vacancy is filled.
4. Each officer shall be elected by ballot in the sequence of the rank of office starting with the Squadron Commander, then First Vice-Commander, Second Vice-Commander, Squadron Treasurer, Squadron Historian, Squadron Chaplain, and Sergeant-At-Arms. All nominees for Member-At-Large will be voted on the same ballot and will be listed on the ballot in alphabetical sequence using their given names, last name first. The number of Members-At-Large will be determined by the Executive Board meeting prior to the nomination meeting.
5. The First Vice-Commander, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Nominating Committee no less than sixty (60) days prior to the elections to present a list of candidates for Squadron Officers. The list will be presented at the Nomination Meeting. A Squadron member shall not be nominated for more than one office.
6. Nominations from the floor shall be made during the Nomination Meeting. No changes will be allowed to occur after the Nomination Meeting has been adjourned.

ARTICLE VII: FINANCE

1. The Executive Committee shall designate from what sources revenue shall originate. The Executive Committee shall designate membership dues with the approval of the membership and shall approve all other sources of revenue.
2. The Squadron shall pay to the Detachment of Florida the National and State Detachment membership dues for every member of the Squadron.
3. The Fiscal Year of the Squadron shall coincide with that of Veterans Memorial Post 347, The American Legion.
4. An audit of the financial records shall be made annually or upon the request of the Executive Committee at any time. The audit shall be made by an Audit Committee as outlined in the Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 347 By-Laws. The Squadron Treasurer shall have on file, at all times, receipted bills or vouchers covering expenditures of all Squadron funds. Such records shall be made available at all times for examination by the Squadron Commander, Executive Committee, or any Squadron member with justifiable cause as determined by the Executive Committee.
5. No member, officer, or committee of the Squadron shall have the authority to bind the Squadron by contract or incur an obligation upon its behalf, except by written authority of the Executive Committee or as specified in the Squadron By-Laws.
6. Funds or deposits will be established and maintained as the Sons of the American Legion, Veterans Memorial Squadron 347 By-Laws may provide and as the Executive Committee may establish. Investment and expenditure of such funds shall be as directed by the Executive Committee.
7. The Squadron Commander shall authorize and approve any emergency expenditure not in excess of two-hundred and fifty (\$250.00) dollars during recess between Squadron meetings. The Squadron Commander will provide receipts and a written explanation of the expense to the Legion Advisor Committee Chairman and the Executive Committee at the next Executive Committee meeting.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

- 1. This Constitution is adopted subject to the provisions of the National Sons of the American Legion Constitution and the Detachment of Florida Sons of the American Legion Constitution. Any amendment to the National Sons of the American Legion or Detachment of Florida Sons of the American Legion Constitution which would be in conflict with any provision of this document shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of this Constitution.**
- 2. This Constitution may be amended at any Squadron Membership Meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members attending the membership meeting. For re-approval said amendment shall be submitted in writing and shall be read at a preceding membership meeting for the vote. Notice will be provided to the members at least ten (10) days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon in a manner determined by the Executive Committee.**

ARTICLE IX: OMISSIONS

- 1. Robert's Rules of Order will govern any question of procedure not otherwise provided for in the Constitution or By-Laws.**
- 2. Any omission of organizational procedures, duties of officers, duties of commissions, duties of committees, and other sections of this organization shall be governed by the National Constitution of the Sons of the American Legion and the Detachment of Florida Constitution of the Sons of the American Legion.**

ARTICLE X: ADOPTION

- 1. This Constitution shall become effective immediately upon approval by the Squadron Executive Committee and Squadron membership, confirmed by the Detachment of Florida Sons of the American Legion, and a copy filed with the Detachment Adjutant's office with certification of approval issued to the Squadron.**
- 2. This Constitution shall be considered an interim document until certified by the Detachment of Florida Sons of the American Legion, and will be used as a basis of business as approved by the Executive Committee and Squadron membership until said certification.**
- 3. The day to day operation of Sons of the American Legion Veterans Memorial Squadron 347 will be in accordance with the National and State Detachment Constitutions of the Sons of the American Legion, until the adoption of this Constitution.**

Presented to Squadron Membership:

Readings: (1st reading 10/16/2013) (2nd reading 11/20/2013)

Squadron Membership Approval: (11/20/2013)

ARTICLE XI: SIGNING

Adopted by The Sons of The American Veterans Memorial Squadron 347 during their regular membership meeting on November 20, 2013

X _____
Phillip D. Stroud
Veterans Memorial Squadron 347 Commander

X _____
Richard L. Duncan
Veterans Memorial Squadron 347 Adjutant

Approval by the sponsoring Post of The American Legion

X _____
Timothy J. Tierney
Veterans Memorial 347 Commander

X _____
Micheal Seidel
Veterans Memorial 347 Adjutant

Final approval by The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Florida by the Detachment Judge Advocate and The American Legion, Department of Florida by the Department Judge Advocate.

X _____
Allen Holley
Detachment Judge Advocate

X _____
PDC Larry Sheets
Department Judge Advocate