

AMERICAN LEGION

AUXILIARY

Dept. of FL - 6th District

The REDDY 6th News

#PassionForVets

#HeartsAsOne

April, 2026

CAROL'S WORDS OF WISDOM



To the great District 6 members:
Hoping you all had a great St Patrick's day.

As we wind down our Year, we should now have finished our year end reports. All unit Presidents should have received a sample copy of an Impact Report that Unit President Maureen Caswell from Unit 347 shared. She put some effort into making this an easy task of putting in your numbers. I hope it helps with getting reports in. By the time this newsletter

is published all reports should have been sent to the District Chairperson. The District reports are due to Department by April 15th.

The 6th District has done an excellent job in reaching membership goals. As of 3/27/26 we have reached 97.62%. We have 8 units that have reached 100% out of 17. Our Challenge District 13 is at 101.29%. Great Job District 6.

We have a few events coming up soon. One of the most important is the District Constitutional Conference. This meeting will be held at Post 80 in St. Cloud on May 9th with registration at 9:30 and meeting starting at 10 am. This is meeting is where we will vote on a District President for the coming year. If there is more than one member running for District President then voting will take place by secret ballot and each unit will receive ballots based on voting strength of their unit., If only one person is running than they will be declared as next District President. We also will elect a Delegate and Alternate to go to the National Convention, It is essential we have a quorum for the meeting to be legal. Unit Presidents will give a report as well as District Chairs. So please plan on attending so you can have a say in the upcoming year,

I am so proud to be your 6th District President; all of you made my year the best.

For God and Country,
Carol Pirone-Udell

Important Dates

May 9th Constitutional Conference
St Cloud Post 80

June 4-12th Girls State, Tallahassee

June 11 – 14th, Department of Florida Convention
Orlando Hilton Lake Buena Visa

Inside this Issue:

- Page 2-3
 - Unit 19
- Page 4
 - Unit 35
- Page 5
 - Unit 112
- Page 6-7
 - Unit 286
- Page 8-11
 - Unit 347
- Page 12
 - Program Feature—AEF
- Page 13
 - Program Feature—Membership
- Page 14
 - The Chaplain's Prayer
- Page 15
 - Paint Party at Unit 286
- Page 16
 - Anita Hutchinson for District President
- Page 17
 - Penny Kanbara for Dept. 3rd Vice President
- Page 18
 - Who Gets What at Department
- Page 19
 - District Calendar of Events
- Page 20
 - District Officers & Chairman's List



Dept. of FL - 6th District *Page 2*

The REDDY 6th News

Stories From Our Units

ORLANDO UNIT 19



Christina Evans and Cathy Lindner created bows and designed T-Shirts for the Dream Athletics Cheerleading group of 24 girls. They also did gift bags and candy for Valentine's Day for the girls team.



Junior Lily Jessen and Senior Renee DeRouin volunteered as grocery assistants at United Against Poverty. They cleaned shelves and sorted produce, February 28, 2026.



Unit 19 Member Colette DeRouin and Post 19 Member Adam Bruha volunteered at the Seminole County Health



Department Standdown, February 28, 2026. Veterans received medical, dental, food, showers if needed, resources, and VA assistance.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

WHAT DID YOUR UNIT DO LAST MONTH?

Send your articles to necolbert@usa.net

BY the 20th of every month

To be included in next month's newsletter

Dept. of FL - 6th District

Page 3

The REDDY 6th News

ORLANDO UNIT 19—Cont'd from Page 2



Christina Evans sorting and labeling the team uniforms as Team Mom.
Dream Cheerleading Squad →



A Junior and Senior member volunteered at the Avian Reconditioning Center at the Birds of Prey for their Renaissance Fundraiser on March 28. Each member volunteered 6 hours under Community Service.



Members from Post 19 and Unit 19 volunteered on March 28 at the Veterans Resources at Post 183.



Ladies from Unit 19 have been clearing dead trees from their new Post home.



Two Junior members have been kitty sitting for an abandoned male kitten the vet said was about 2 weeks old.



Dept. of FL - 6th District

Page 4

The REDDY 6th News

MOUNT DORA UNIT 35

Unit 35 Auxiliary members in conjunction with Unit 55, (Mt. Dora and Clermont), interviewed 10 young ladies who were vying for positions to go to Girl's State this year. We were able to take all of these ladies in either a Delegate position or Alternate between the 2 Units. What a great working relationship with have together! Thanks to Donna Shneider from Unit 55 for all that she does to make this happen for all of us. And a shoutout to our New Girl's State Chairperson, Lynda Fleming! I am sure she will be a great chair for this great venture!



Dept. of FL - 6th District

Page 5

The REDDY 6th News

WINTER PARK UNIT 112



Our unit members joined our Legion family to celebrate the Legion's birthday on March 15th at our open house. The event was well received and had great attendance from our Legion family. We kicked off the morning with donuts provided by our Unit and coffee. After lunch, Unit members served up yummy apple and cherry pies. The Post added one new member and the Unit is working to add one of the Legionnaires to our ranks.

We continue to provide birthday cakes for our Post meetings in the months where one of the military branches has a "birthday". Our Legion members do like their chocolate! This one celebrated the 107th birthday of the American Legion.



The Unit 112 Nominating Committee has met and committee members are contacting Unit members to secure commitments to accept nominations for 2026-2027 leadership positions. Our final slate will be presented at our April meeting and elections are scheduled for our May meeting.

As we wind down the year, we are working on our Scholastic Achievement Awards honorees. We have asked five elementary schools to select one young lady and one young man from their 5th grade classes to receive the Auxiliary Scholastic Achievement medal and certificate at their graduation ceremonies in May. We will also present our Americanism Essay contest winner with the Auxiliary Essay medal and certificate during the awards ceremonies. We work with our Legion members to assist them with their school medals presentations as needed.



Dept. of FL - 6th District

Page 6

The REDDY 6th News

PINECASTLE UNIT 286

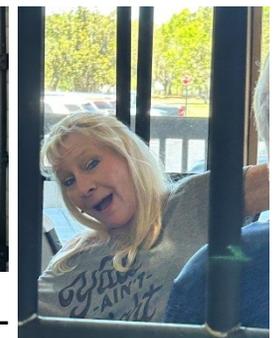
Unit 286 has been busy collecting Bears and Easter Basket donations. The unit collected a total of 166 bears for the Caring Hearts Bear project. Unit members were able to give out 120 on Valentines Day and are going to be handing out the remaining bears in the near future. Unit members will be assembling 25 Easter Baskets for the Ronald McDonald house on April 2nd and delivering them on April 3rd. Thank you to everyone that has donated to the Easter Basket project and the Caring Hearts Bear project.



Our 6th District ABC school was held at our Unit and everyone that was there learned a lot of new things. Thank you to our very own Penny Kanbara and to Mary Kelly Perkins for teaching everyone so much.



We also had members from the unit help at the 6th district picnic. Terri Berry helped arrest people and through them in jail along with SAL members and Legionnaires. Patsy and Penny were the first



ones arrested as they needed a time out for all their hard work. Unit member Brenda McClintock and Tara Harris were also arrested. No one was safe from the 286 jail not even Department Commander Jessica Moore. If you didn't attend the picnic you missed a great afternoon.



Unit member Tara Harris went on a trip to visit her daughter Jasmine Harris. While she was visiting, she got to go visit the Coast Guard base and see where her future son in law works. Jasmine makes baked goods and other treats and takes them to all the guys.

The unit will be presenting the Military Childs table on Friday, April 3rd during Friday night announcements at post 286. On April 18th we will be hosting Girls State orientation. On Saturday April 25th we will be hosting a paint and sip party with President Robin Burk.

If you plan on attending, please

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Dept. of FL - 6th District

Page 7

The REDDY 6th News

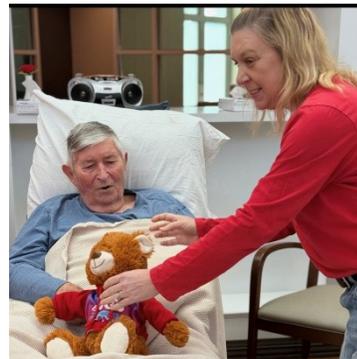
PINECASTLE UNIT 286—Continued from Page 6

RSVP by April 11th to: jandscreationsllc@gmail.com.

Please see the flyer on page 15 for more details. We will be having a dinner afterwards.

Please make sure that you have ordered your Poppy's for National Poppy Day and don't forget it's year end report time.

Hope everyone has a Happy Easter.



These pictures are from our Valentines Day visit to Alwyn C Cashe state nursing home at Lake Baldwin. We handed out 120 bears that day.

Does your Unit have a special event coming?

Please send your information to the 6th District Legion webmaster, Bob Colbert, so it can be posted on the Legion Family website.

Email - fald6org@gmail.com

Dept. of FL - 6th District

Page 8

The REDDY 6th News

LADY LAKE UNIT 347

Annual Luncheon Event Honors Women Veterans

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 347 celebrated Women's History Month and the role women veterans played in history by hosting its annual women veteran's luncheon on March 9th. The luncheon was led by Maureen Caswell as Chairman of Past President Parley Program. Auxiliary members volunteered the day of the event and assisted with food prep ahead of time. U.S. Navy veteran and the Department of Florida Commander of the American Legion, Jessica Moore, was the guest speaker. President Maureen Caswell presented a \$1500 check to Commander Moore's favorite charity, Special Olympics. LCDR Kathryn A. Wilgus also spoke on the progress of Ashley's House in Eustis, FL.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Dept. of FL - 6th District

The REDDY 6th News

LADY LAKE UNIT 347—continued from Page 8

Donations to Four Local Schools

Children and Youth Chair Denise Halisey had a busy month with donations going out to Beverly Shores Elementary, Villages Elementary, Leesburg Elementary, and Rimes Early Learning Center. Snacks were delivered to School Liaisons Larah Sheppare at the Villages Elementary and Wendy Shippee at Beverly Shores Elementary schools for their after-school programs. Diapers were delivered to School Liaison Heather Martin and Paige Simmons Literacy Coach at Rimes Early Learning Center. Clothing for the students was delivered to School Liaison Florence Katzenberger at Leesburg Elementary School. Denise has developed a strong relationship with the liaison of these schools and when there is a need to assist with the students, the schools share it with her.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Dept. of FL - 6th District

The REDDY 6th News

LADY LAKE UNIT 347—continued from Page 9

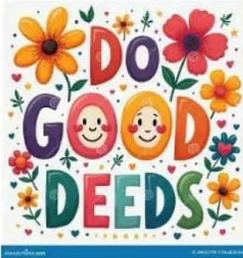
District 6 AL and ALA Meeting Hosted at Post 347

The American Legion Post 347 hosted the District 6 Quarterly meeting. Members of the Legion and Auxiliary received reports from their respective chairs. Since the Auxiliary has year-end reports due on April 1st, this was an opportunity to get additional information on completing reports and direct questions to District Chairs. President Caswell presented VA&R Chair Charlotte Bass and District 6 President Carol Pirone-Udell with four patriotic quilts to be auctioned off at the Family Picnic for Girls and Boys State.



Continued on Page 11

Veterans Memorial Unit 347
American Legion Auxiliary
Upcoming Events



Make sure you are filling out your “Good Deeds” form for any activity you have done outside of your family or donations that are done to charities or your favorite charity.



Leesburg Elementary school has made a very unique request for help. The school has organized a program for Mother's Day as so many of the kids want to give their Mom's a gift, but do not have the means to do so! They are asking us to donate any old costume jewelry that we no longer wear or are maybe tired of. You can bring your donations to the Post or to our April 1st General meeting.



Veterans Expo April 24, 2026 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at American Legion Post 347. For more information, contact American Legion 1st Vice Tina Burgess, tkrav78@gmail.com



The American Legion Family Community Shred Day will take place on April 25, 2026 from 9 – 11:30 am. This is a drive through event and you are allowed two banker boxes only. Post Family members will take your box or bag from your car.



Next Sip and Clip is on April 22, 2026 in the American Legion Post 347 Hall at 11:00 a.m. Keep those coupons coming!

Dept. of FL - 6th District *Page 12*

The REDDY 6th News

Program Feature of the Month

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is a national grant assistance program that provides temporary emergency help to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have suffered a significant financial setback as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis.

The AEF was established in 1969 with a bequest from the estate of Auxiliary member Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wisconsin. It continues today solely through generous donations from Auxiliary members.

There are 3 avenues of emergency funds, Unit, Department & National.

Many units raise fund to put into an emergency account. These funds are at the discretion of the unit as to how they will be used and the amount.

Department has 2 funds. One is the Florida AEF Grant up to \$1,200 and the other is the Florida Disaster Grant up to \$1,200.

National also has 2 funds. One is the National AEF Grant up to \$3,000 and the other is the National Disaster Grant up to \$3,000.

Who is Eligible?

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary whose dues are current and who have maintained membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years) are eligible to apply in the wake of a financial crisis. Temporary assistance may be considered when:

- A financial crisis hits, leaving a member without resources for shelter or utilities, and no other source of aid is readily available.
- A natural disaster or weather emergency leaves a member without shelter or food.
- In extreme circumstances, educational training is needed by a member lacking the necessary skills for employment.

Applications are available on ALAFFL.org

Page 13

Dept. of FL - 6th District

The REDDY 6th News

Program Feature of the Month

MEMBERSHIP

CONGRATULATIONS 6th DISTRICT!

Congratulations to our eight Units that have already surpassed 100% and many of our Units are very, very close – please keep working membership and if you haven't renewed for 2026 yet, please renew today.

March 27, 2026 Friday Report

	Goal	JR	SR	Total	%
0010 Kissimmee	202	4	207	211	104.46%
0018 Wildwood	23	0	19	19	82.61%
0019 Orlando	74	3	52	55	74.32%
0035 Mount Dora	153	1	162	163	106.54%
0055 Clermont	299	1	254	255	85.28%
0080 Saint Cloud	310	17	298	315	101.61%
0101 Bushnell	108	0	79	79	73.15%
0112 Winter Park	35	4	32	36	102.86%
0183 Fern Park	124	1	76	77	62.10%
0219 Fruitland Park	251	4	251	264	105.18%
0239 Groveland	22	0	16	16	72.73%
0242 Orlando	134	9	109	118	88.06%
0286 Orlando	191	8	183	191	100.00%
0330 Leesburg	45	2	42	44	97.78%
0331 Orlando	27	0	28	28	103.70%
0347 Lady Lake	2823	9	2829	2838	100.53%
0412 Orlando	11	2	6	8	72.73%
Total	4832	65	4652	4717	97.62%

Dept. of FL - 6th District Page 14

The REDDY 6th News

The Chaplain's Prayer—Nell Colbert



*Our 6th District
Units lost five mem-
bers this past
month.*



*Please keep these
Units and the fami-
lies of our departed*

sisters in your prayers as they deal with their loss:

Unit 55

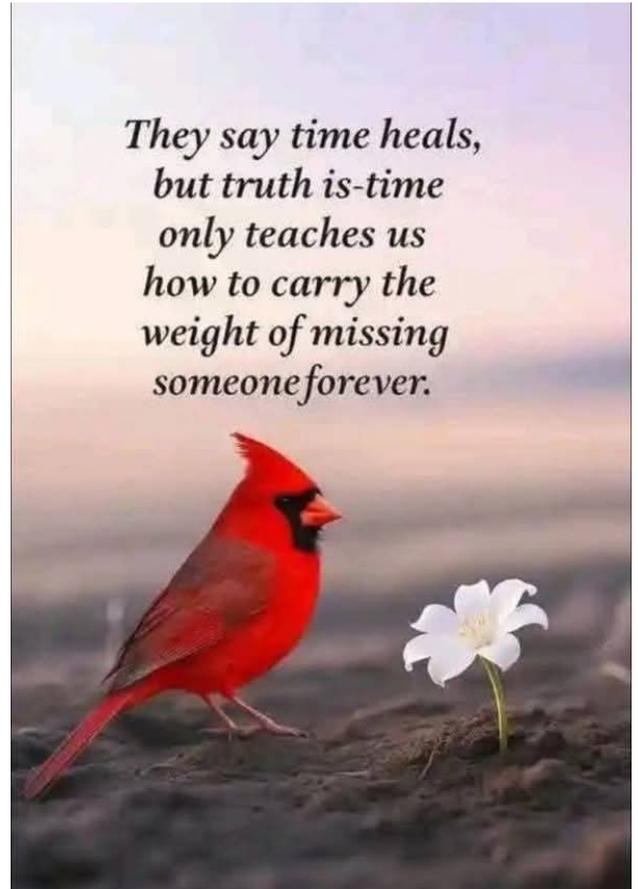
Susan Dyson
Antoinette Gray

Unit 286

Frances Link

Unit 347

Cecelia Hanley
Maragret Meyer



*They say time heals,
but truth is-time
only teaches us
how to carry the
weight of missing
someone forever.*



If your Unit has suffered the loss of one of your members, please remember to notify both our District Chaplain, Paula Fox, and Karen Marks, the Department Chaplain.

Email Karen at chaplain@al afl.org and Paula at foxnails1282@aol.com

The Deceased Member Form should be completed for each member who has passed and included with your emails to Paula and Karen.

The Member Data Form should be completed and emailed to Department Membership at membership@al afl.org so that National's records can be updated.

Paint Party

COME SIP, SOCIALIZE AND UNLEASH YOUR INNER ARTIST
WITH MADAM PRESIDENT ROBIN BURK.

CHOOSE FROM ONE OF THE 4 BELOW PATRIOTIC WOODEN
CRAFT DECOR ITEMS TO PAINT



\$30

USA GNOME

AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

LIMITED SPOTS! RSVP
BY APRIL 11TH USING
THE QR CODE BELOW

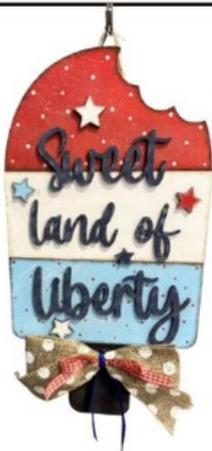


OR SEND AN EMAIL TO
JANDSCREATIONSLLC
@GMAIL.COM



\$30

UNCLE SAM



\$40

DOOR HANGER



\$50

INTERCHANGEABLE
GNOMES SET

WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH @ 3:30 PM

WHERE: AMERICAN LEGION POST 286, 529 FAIRLANE AVE, ORLANDO, FL 32809

PRICES ABOVE INCLUDE ALL SUPPLIES TO PAINT AND TAKE HOME ONE PROJECT.
\$20 - \$30 OF EACH PROJECT WILL BE DONATED TO THE AUXILIARY



Anita Truman Hutchinson

Candidate for District 6 President

2026-2027

The Truman Tradition of Service

A Message from Anita

I have always believed that service is not just something we do—it's who we are.

From my family's long tradition of military service to my own journey within the American Legion Auxiliary, I have been honored to serve alongside some of the most dedicated and inspiring members in our organization.

Whether working in our programs, leading as Unit President, or riding in support of our veterans, I have committed myself to one purpose—serving with heart, integrity, and dedication to something greater than myself.

I am asking for your support as District 6 President so that together, we can continue strengthening our mission, supporting our veterans, and uplifting every member of our Auxiliary family.



Leadership & Service

- **Current President, Unit 55 - Clermont**
- **Chair: Americanism, Leadership, Legislative & National Security**
- **Lead Road Captain, ALR Chapter 55 (4 years)**
- **District 6 Road Captain (2 years)**



A Legacy of Service

Service is part of who I am:

- Gold Star Wife of Thomas M. Weiss, Jr., USN (KIA)
- Spouse of David A. Hutchinson, USN (Ret.)
- Daughter of Allen C. Truman, USN (Ret.)
- Granddaughter of two WWII veterans

This legacy is not just history—it is my motivation every day.

Proudly endorsed by ALA Unit 55

Vote Anita Truman Hutchinson
District 6 President | 2026-2027





Penny Kanbara

Candidate for Department 3rd Vice President

Penny has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in the Department of Florida for over 10 years and is honored to be endorsed by Pine Castle Memorial Unit 286. Her Eligibility comes under her husband, Scott Kanbara, an Army Veteran who served in the 82nd Airborne Division during Just Cause and Desert Storm.

On the Unit Level, Penny has served as Unit President for a total of 5 years, Unit 1st Vice and Unit 2nd Vice, and Secretary Pro-Tem. In Penny's 1st Year as a unit member she was awarded the prestigious Unit Member of the Year Award with her work with K9's for Warriors. She has held many Unit Chairmanships including Public Relations, VA&R and Community Service.

At the District Level she served 2 years as District Secretary and 2 Years as District President. She has also held various District Chairmanships including Leadership, Community Service, VA &R and Legislative. During her term as District President she rallied troops to start the 6th District Newsletter.

On the Department Level she has served as the Personal Page to PDP Treva Kay Wildrick, Chairman of Pages, and a committee member for AEF. Currently she is serving as the Leadership Chairman while promoting Que's Quest for knowledge.

It is with Penny's Leadership, Vision, Passion, and Dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary we feel she will be an outstanding asset to the Department of Florida Leadership Team.

Dept. of FL - 6th District

Page 18

The REDDY 6th News

WHO GETS WHAT AT DEPARTMENT

Patsy Sewell, Membership Coordinator

membership@alaf1.org

- Patsy is your point of contact for membership (processing, ALAMIS access, etc.)
- Poppy orders and proceeds
- Officer Lists
- Store and Supply orders

Treva Kay (TK) Wildrick, Department Secretary

secretary@alaf1.org

- TK is your point of contact for units that are experiencing issues
- New units forming
- Branding approval

Brandi Seeber, Finance Director/Department Treasurer

treasurer@alaf1.org

- Brandi is your point of contact for finance—invoices and statements sent
- Reimbursements
- Donations, etc.

Office Headquarters

alaf1hq@alaf1.org

- This is your point of contact for all units to send their compliance reports (IRS form 990, FDACS aka Solicitors Permit, and SunBiz Annual Corporate Report, Tax Exemption Certificate.
 - District Presidents will send their Unit visits to this email.
-

Dept. of FL - 6th District

The REDDY 6th News

2025-2026 District Calendar

6th District Meeting
Saturday, May 9, 2026
Post 80, St. Cloud

Department of Florida Girls State
June 4- 12, 2026
Tallahassee, FL

Department of Florida Convention
June 11-14, 2026
Orlando Hilton Lake Buena Vista,
1751 Hotel Plaza Blvd,
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

#WeAreFamily



Dept. of FL - 6th District

The REDDY 6th News

2025—2026 District Officers and Chairmen

Position	Name	Email	Phone
President	Carol Pirone-Udell	district6president@alaf1.org	914-373-9947
Secretary	Patsy Sewell	patsysewell13@gmail.com	407-670-8905
Treasurer	Treva Kay Wildrick	tkwildrick612@gmail.com	407-462-0173
Chaplin	Paula Fox	foxinails1282@aol.com	407-747-0725
Historian	Dara Oliver	alamemberdoliver@gmail.com	321-543-1069
Sergeant-At-Arms	Paula Fox	foxinails1282@aol.com	407-747-0725
Parliamentarian	Treva Kay Wildrick	tkwildrick612@gmail.com	407-462-0173
Americanism	Wendy Lavery	w1avery23@Yahoo.com	321-662-5120
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Marilyn Hench	mwhench@Yahoo.com	407-810-7615
Children & Youth	Patsy Sewell	patsysewell13@gmail.com	407-670-8905
Community Service	Diane Rousseau	flfrogs@aol.com	352-430-4714
Constitution & Bylaws	Nell Colbert	necolbert@usa.net	321-303-7445
Education	Patricia Halliday	phalliday0602@icloud.com	863-513-7656
Girls State	Treva Kay Wildrick	tkwildrick612@gmail.com	407-462-0173
Junior Activities	Dara Oliver	alamemberdoliver@gmail.com	321-543-1069
Leadership	Carol Pirone-Udell	nycarol2u@aol.com	914-373-9947
Legislative	Penny Kanbara	gatorpenny@icloud.com	407-879-2528
Membership	Patsy Sewell	patsysewell13@gmail.com	407-670-8905
National Security	Laurie Mesa	bballmom94@gmail.com	407-375-0261
Past Presidents Parley	Dara Oliver	alamemberdoliver@gmail.com	321-543-1069
Poppy	Robin Shellhammer	rlshellhammer@gmail.com	407-247-7177
Public Relations	Penny Kanbara	gatorpenny@icloud.com	407-879-2528
V A & R	Charlotte Bass	cmariebass27@outlook.com	407-738-3356

#PassionForVets



#HeartsAsOne

