



# THE AMERICAN LEGION

*For God and Country*

AMERICAN LEGION POST 274  
Ft. Myers Beach, FL

Bruce Comer  
Adjutant  
Dept. of Florida  
P.O. Box 547859  
Orlando, FL 32854

November 1st, 2021

Subj: Dept. of Florida 1st Vice Commander endorsement letter

Dear Adjutant,

The General Membership of Ft. Myers Beach, Post 274 confidently recommend and endorse Michael "Gambler" Raymond to the high office of Dept. 1st Vice Commander for the year 2022-2023 at a regular scheduled meeting on November 1st, 2021. Michael excels in the areas of the American Legions 4 pillars and ethics. Michael has extensive experience for this position having served as Post 110 Sgt @ Arms for three years and Post 110 Commander for six years. Mike also served as District 13 Adjutant, Vice Commander and District Commander followed by Southwestern Area Commander for the year 2018-2019. Michael has served as Dept. third Vice Commander for two years and is currently serving the Dept. of Florida as the second Vice Commander. Michael is also an active member of the American Legion Riders and is a founding member of both Post 708 in Troy, Illinois and Post 110 in Port Charlotte.

Michael has shown his leadership ability on many occasions including being an integral part of the dramatic recovery of Post 110 in 2010. Under his command the Post grew strong and viable with strong growth potential for the future. For Michaels efforts he was awarded Post Commander of the Year for the 13th District in 2014. Michael has received many awards and accolades over the years including the coveted "Community Service Award" in 2020.

Michael is no stranger to extending American Legion ideology to his community by serving on the Board of Directors of the VietNam Wall of Southwest Florida since its inception in 2015. While Commander, Post 110 was the driving force and one of the leading fundraisers in the construction of the 50% VietNam Wall replica in Punta Gorda Florida. Post 110 was rewarded by having its name engraved on the donor plaque and at the base of the USAF flagpole. Michael also served as Vice President of the Charlotte County Veterans Council for 3 terms and served on the board of the VietNam Education Foundation, which educates 8th grade students on the history of the VietNam war. Michael also served on the board of the very successful Welcome Home VietNam Vets and is currently involved with fundraising for the future "William Gaines Memorial Park" which honors the Marines who lost their lives in Beirut, Lebanon.

During the many years working with Mike here at Post 110, District, Area and Dept. levels, we have found him to be extremely dedicated to the causes of the American Legion and Veterans in general. Mike's well known commitment to accountability in the American Legion will promote an atmosphere of openness in the Dept. of Florida. If you are looking for a dedicated, hard working and honest Legionnaire to lead us into our 2nd 100 years in the Dept. of Florida, please join us in supporting Michael "Gambler" Raymond for the high office of 1st Vice Commander for the Dept. of Florida 2022-2023.

Post 274 Commander

Post 274 Adjutant