



**AMERICAN LEGION HAROLD JOHNS POST 62**  
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March 17, 2024

TO: Bruce Comer, Adjutant  
American Legion Department of Florida

SUBJECT: Endorsement of Toni G. Sutherland as The American Legion, Department of Florida, 11<sup>th</sup> District Commander


At the regularly scheduled meeting of Harold Johns Post 62 held in Stuart, FL, March 16, 2024, the Membership unanimously passed a motion to endorse Toni G. Sutherland as the 11<sup>th</sup> District Commander of The American Legion Department of Florida for the year 2024-2025.


Adjutant Sutherland earned eligibility for membership in The American Legion by serving in the United States Army 1977 through 1987, during the Lebanon and Grenada conflicts. Trained as an Electronic Warfare/Signals Intelligence Voice Intercept Operator (98G) and Traffic Analyst (98C) (Russian language), she was instrumental in analytical work related to Soviet surface-to-surface missiles while serving in both strategic and tactical sites in Germany for five years. She was later tasked by the Training and Doctrination Command to develop training programs for other linguists throughout the U.S. Army. After the Army, Adjutant Sutherland chose to enter the social work field, earning a Master of Social Work Degree in Policy, Planning, and Administration. She continues to work in this field today, currently running Emerald V, a private 31-unit for Veterans in Stuart, FL, after retiring from the Missouri Department of Social Services/Children's Division in 2016 where she oversaw 60-70 state-wide programs annually.

Adjutant Sutherland joined The American Legion at Harold Johns Post 62 in Stuart, FL, in July 2018, after moving to Florida from Missouri. When the Post's Adjutant died unexpectedly, she volunteered for the position and has remained there since. She has worked diligently to upgrade and improve membership services to the Post's Legion members, transitioned the Post successfully to full implementation of Personify, implemented weekly email announcements to all +/- 2,000 members of the Legion Family, organized years of documents into useable files, assisted with the creation of Post policies, and was instrumental in the updating of the Post's Constitution and By-Laws, while maintaining an active presence in the Post. She also serves on the Martin County Veterans Council as a Trustee at Large as a representative of Post 62.

Commander Sutherland's broad policy, planning, and administration background has assisted Harold Johns Post 62 to improve the services offered to our Veterans and to the community we serve. It has also served her well as the current 11<sup>th</sup> District Commander providing support to 20 Posts and to the Southern Area Commander, fulfilling their requests and supporting their needs quickly and efficiently. Therefore, it is our pleasure for Harold Johns Post 62 to endorse the candidacy of Toni G. Sutherland for the Department of Florida's 11<sup>th</sup> District Commander.

For God and Country,

  
ROBERT F. SCHUMACHER  
Commander

  
MARK H. CROSBY  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander