



Blanton-Thompson
American Legion Post 155
6585 W. Gulf to Lake Highway
Crystal River, Florida 34429

April 29, 2026

American Legion, Department of Florida, ATTN: Bruce Comer, Adjutant, P.O. Box 547936, Orlando, FL 32854

To Whom It May Concern:

At the regular scheduled meeting of Crystal River Post #155 on 28 April 2026, the members unanimously voted to endorse their Post Chaplain, Rev. Eric R. Linthicum, for the high office of Department Chaplain.

Eric earned his eligibility in the American Legion by serving in the United States Navy from 1977 to 1981 and earning an Honorable Discharge. His awards include the Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (3 awards), Navy Meritorious Unit Ribbon, and the Navy Expeditionary Medal.

Eric graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, with a Master of Divinity degree. He is certified in Clinical Pastoral Education (Chaplain certification), and has served as a Pastor in congregations in Ohio, Maryland, and currently serving a congregation part-time in Inverness, FL. While in Lake County, Ohio, Eric served as Chaplain for the Lake County Firefighters Association and the Lake County Fire Chiefs' Association. While in Maryland, he served as Chaplain for the Hyattsville Police Department. Eric was ordained into the Office of Pastoral Ministry in 1996.

Eric joined the American Legion the day after the Legion Act of 2019 was passed and signed into law and he is a PUFL. Upon moving to Florida, Eric joined American Legion Post #155, Crystal River. He served as Chaplain of Post #155 from December 2022 to present and served as the District 4 Chaplain from 2023-2025 and currently serves as the Chaplain for Post #155's Honor Guard. As Post Chaplain, Eric won the Four Chaplains Runner-Up Award in 2024 and won the Four Chaplains Award in 2026. Eric has been honored to open the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners meeting with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance; during the meeting, the Chair acknowledged that Eric has "lived a life of service to others." Additionally, Eric has chaired the Post #155 Law & Order Committee since 2023.

In addition to his service with the American Legion, Eric is a Gold Legacy Life Member of The Veterans of Foreign Wars and served as Service Officer, Jr. Vice Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, and Commander. He is also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) He qualifies for the SAR through his 3rd great-grandfather who signed the Articles of Confederation (between July 1778 and March 1781). In addition, Eric is a member of the Naval Orders of the United States and previously served as Chaplain for the Washington, DC Chapter.

Eric's family has served this nation in every war and in most conflicts. He is a proud veteran from a family of veterans. Eric is devoted to his work with the American Legion and its' members. He possesses the skills sets needed for success to effectively serve as Department Chaplain and welcomes the challenge. His commitment to our Veterans spiritual well-being coupled with his caring demeanor will most certainly benefit the Department of Florida. We respectfully ask for your support by electing Eric Linthicum as your next Department Chaplain.

"For God and Country"


John Marler
Commander


Kathy Hockenberry
Adjutant