



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

September 1, 2026

Department of Florida American Legion, Attention: Mr. Kevin Mook, Adjutant, 1912 Lee Road,
Orlando, FL 32810

Endorsement for Rev. Eric R. Linthicum

At the regularly scheduled meeting of Blanton-Thompson Post 155 on 28 July 2026, the membership unanimously voted to endorse their fellow legionnaire, Reverend Eric R. Linthicum, to retain the high office of Department of Florida Chaplain for the 2027-2028 American Legion year.

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

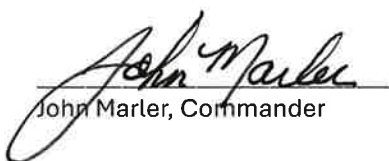
Eric joined the American Legion the day after the Legion Act of 2019 was passed and signed into law. Upon moving to Florida, Eric joined American Legion Post 155, Crystal River. He served as Chaplain from December 2022-June 2026. Additionally, he served as the 4th District Chaplain from 2023-2025 and currently serves as the Post Honor Guard Chaplain. As Post Chaplain, Eric won the Four Chaplains Runner-Up Award in 2024 and won the Four Chaplains Award in 2026. Eric also serves as the Post Law and Order Committee Chair and has done so since 2023 and currently serves as the Department of Florida Chaplain.

As Department Chaplain, Eric is making post visits, attending district visits with the Department Commander, sending out sympathy cards, fielding inquiries, answering questions, and providing guidance to post commanders and chaplains.

Eric graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, with a Master of Divinity degree in 1996. Following graduation, Eric was ordained into the Office of Pastoral Ministry. He is certified in Clinical Pastoral Education (chaplain certification), and has served as a Pastor in congregations in Ohio, Maryland, and continues to serve a congregation part-time in Inverness, FL.

In addition to the American Legion, Eric is also a Gold Legacy Life Member of The Veterans of Foreign Wars and held positions as Service Officer, Jr. Vice Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, and Commander. Eric is also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), he is currently the 1st Vice President of the Withlacoochee Chapter. He qualifies for the SAR through his 3rd great-grandfather who signed the Articles of Confederation (between July 1778 and March 1781). Additionally, Eric is also a member of the Naval Orders of the United States and served as Chaplain for the Washington, DC Chapter.

Eric's family has served this nation in every war and in almost every conflict and he is a proud veteran from a family of veterans. We respectfully ask for your support in electing Eric Linthicum as the Department Chaplain for 2027-2028.


John Marler, Commander


Kathy Hockenberry, Adjutant