

American Legion

Charles F. Thomas IV Post 117

January / February
2015
Issue No. 1



Monthly Events At A Glance . . .

JANUARY

- ◆ Karaoke - Every Friday 8 to 12 pm
- ◆ NFL Ticket - Every Sunday, Food Specials 1 to 5 pm
- ◆ Riders Dinner - Friday, 2 January, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ SAL Dinner - Friday, 9 January, 5 to 7 pm, See flyer inside
- ◆ Canteen Renovation - 12 thru 16 January - Tiki Bar Open
- ◆ Aux Dinner - Friday, 16 January, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Post Dinner - Friday, 23 January, 5 to 7 pm, See flyer inside
- ◆ John Knob Benefit - Saturday, 24 January, See flyer inside
- ◆ Honor Guard Dinner - Friday, 30 January, 5 to 7 pm

FEBRUARY

- ◆ Karaoke - Every Friday 8 to 12 pm and Sunday 4 to 8 pm
- ◆ NFL Super Bowl - Sunday, 1 February, See flyer inside
- ◆ Four Chaplains Ceremony - Sunday, 1 February, 4 pm
- ◆ Shrimp Sunday - Every Sunday 1 to 5 pm
- ◆ Riders Dinner - Friday, 6 February, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Boy Scout Dinner - Saturday, 7 February, Details TBA
- ◆ SAL Dinner - Friday, 13 February, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Valentines Day - Saturday, 14 February, 40&8 Dinner
- ◆ Aux Dinner - Friday, 20 February, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Post Dinner - Friday, 27 February, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Special Olympics - Saturday, 28 February, See flyer inside

Post Meetings:

- Legion Meeting – 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 pm
- SAL Meeting – 2nd Thursday, 6:30 pm
- Auxiliary Meeting – 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm
- Legion Riders Meeting – 1st Thursday, 6:30 pm
- 40 & 8 Voiture 1621 – 3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm
- La Femmes – 1st Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Post Website: www.al117.com

Legion Riders Website: www.alr117.com

American Legion, Charles F Thomas IV Post 117 Inc.
189 Veterans Drive, Palm Bay, FL 32909
Veterans Organization Certificate #15-00-064930-58C
Florida Department of Revenue

American Legion Officers

CommanderJim Fournier
1st Vice ComBruce Thurber
2nd Vice ComGene Baker
AdjutantDuane Podhola
Finance OfficerDuane Podhola
ChaplainBarry Roberts
Sgt. At ArmsMatt Zirwas
Asst. Sgt. At Arms ...Ray Yarnell
HistorianTim Morris
Judge AdvocateTom McCausland
Service Officers.James Stewart & Barry Roberts
Exec. Committee.....Mike Demarte & Tom Giampino

American Legion Auxiliary Officers

PresidentSharon McCausland
1st Vice Pres.....Kerry Baker
2nd Vice PresSheila Cline-Burns
Treasurer.....Kim Oaks
Secretary.....Sheila Cline-Burns
Sgt. At Arms.....Karen Humann
Asst. Sgt. At Arms....Open
Chaplain.....Barbara Simons
HistorianMaryann Spellman
Membership.....Janet Podhola
Executive Members at Large:
Boots Kimber, Linda Lanier, & Sheila Culnan

Sons of the American Legion Officers

Squadron Commander.Bruce Thurber
1st Vice S.C.....Ray Yarnell
2nd Vice S.C.....Tony Gannon
AdjutantKevin MacDonald
Finance Officer Ray Mohr
Chaplain.....Dick Kissinger
Sgt. At Arms.....Fred Hooley
Asst. Sgt. At Arms.....Russell Flieschman
Historian.....Ed Milnor

American Legion Riders Officers

DirectorDick Kissinger
Asst Director.....Jim Fournier
Secretary.....Sheila Cline-Burns
Treasurer.....James Stewart
Chaplain.....James Stewart
Sgt. At Arms.....Duane Podhola
Historian.....Dawn Hanner
Safety Officer.....Terry Doiel

Commander's Corner

Dear Legion, Aux, and SAL Members,

"Happy New Year" to everyone. I hope everybody had a wonderful Christmas and a great holiday season. A lot of accomplishments have happened to Post 117 this past year and we are going to continue doing great things in 2015. I would like to thank everyone that helped build the new Tiki deck recently and I would like to give a special thank you to Pat Keefe and his crew for their generous time and hard work. "Thank You"! again.

Our next big project will be the remodeling of the canteen starting the week of January 12th. If you can help with this project, please do so. The work will consist of tiling behind the bar as well as raising the drop ceiling, adding new ceiling fans, light fixtures and mounting the big screen TV and a new juke box on the south wall. The project will start at 9am on Jan 12th and end hopefully to re-open on Saturday. The canteen will be closed for business during this project. However, the Tiki bar will be open for business until the project is complete.

As always, please make sure to read the posters and flyers hanging in the canteen and the Tiki for the most current information on events happening here at the post, Thank you all for your support and I look forward to having a great 2015.

For God and Country,

Jim Fournier

Commander, American Legion Post 117



Ways and Means Committee

Chairman: *Jim Fournier*
Members: *Bruce Thurber*
Sharon McCausland
Sheila Cline-Burns
Gene Baker
Sheila Culnan
Dick Kissinger
Duane Podhola



Canteen Staff

Canteen Manager: *Sheila Cline-Burns*
Volunteer Bartenders: *Shirley Domonousky*
Sheila Culnan
Linda Abbott
Barbara Mohr
Haley Farris
Terry Rook



House Committee

Chairman: *Tom Giampino*
Members: *John Jones* *Ron Lawton*
Charlie Christy *Steve Goodman*
Brenda Miskow *Jim Kriegner*
Tina Bonifazi *Doyle Hughes*



Honor Guard

Commander: *Matt Zirwas*
Members: *Jim Fournier*
Bruce Thurber
Tom McCausland
Ray Yarnell
Bruce Walkowiak
Donna Walkowiak
Jesse Figueroa
Dave Hynes
Brandon Thurber



Dear Members,

Welcome 2015 and I would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year, I hope everyone enjoyed Christmas and Santa Claus filled all your Christmas wishes. December was a very active month and I would like to thank each and everyone for making our Auxiliary shine thru out the Holiday Season. This year our Auxiliary participated in wreaths across American, what a life humbling experience.

January is a month to get busy with Girls State so anyone wanting to help out please get in touch with myself or one of the Auxiliary Officers. Nominations for Auxiliary officers opens up in March, if you want to have a voice, please consider running for office, we are always looking for help.

Please attend a Auxiliary meeting, we would like to hear what you are thinking (not in canteen gossip).

Sincerely,

Sharon McCausland

American Legion Auxiliary President, Unit 117



**AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY**

SAL Members,

It is my hope that everyone in our Legion Family had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and are ready to get back to work. We have a lot to do getting ready for the Special Olympics Run. We also have the Sons of the American Legion College being held at our post and I hope that a lot of our members apply to attend. Our other fund raiser is the Guardian at Lietum dinner, please contact Tony and let him know what you can do to help.

We welcome Kevin MacDonald as our new adjutant. He is starting to build our Sons of the American Legion Squadron 117 Face Book Page as requested by Detachment, please like us and keep up with squadron events. It will soon be time to start the election process for 2015-2016 year if you are interested in holding a Squadron Office please let someone know so that they can nominate you.

Membership is going well and we have been meeting our goals but still haven't hit 100%. This month we should see a lot more renewals because those that haven't renewed yet will be unable to access the Post or Tiki. Late renewal creates an extra burden on Ray so be patient, he will get your new card to you in a timely manner.

Bruce Thurber

SAL Commander, Squadron 117



**SONS OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION**

The Four Chaplains

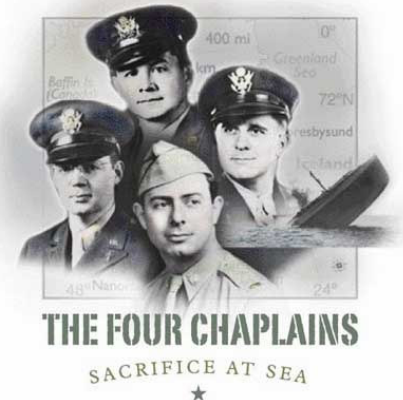
Rev. George Fox, a Methodist minister, Rabbi Alexander Goode, a Jewish rabbi, John Washington, a Roman Catholic priest, and Clark Poling, a Reformed Church in America minister served as chaplains in the Army during World War II and became close friends.

In January 1943 they sailed together on the USAT Dorchester with 900 soldiers and sailors. In the early morning hours of February 3rd, the ship was torpedoed by a German submarine.

The four chaplains calmed everyone in the darkness and helped them find their way on deck, handed out life jackets, and assisted men into lifeboats. When they ran out of life jackets, all four chaplains gave theirs to soldiers and sailors in line.

When no more room was available in the life boats, the four men stayed on board, held hands, and sang hymns as the ship went down. More than 600 men died that night in the frigid seas, but some 230 were rescued. And some of the survivors, in official accounts given to the Army, and in interviews after the war, reported what they saw as the ship went down: Those four chaplains, men of different faiths but believing in the same God, their arms linked, standing on the deck together in prayer.

They had willingly given up their futures, their lives, to try to help the men who had been placed by the Army in their care. **Please join in the Four Chaplain Ceremony on 1 February 2015 at 4:00pm.**



Fellow Legion Riders,

The last two months have been busy for the Riders in supporting different benefit rides. We started the month of November with the Special Olympic Run put on by American Legion Riders out of Post 189 and the Lions Club of Sebastian. The participation was great along with a great ride. We had a group of Riders that participated in the Veterans Day Parade in Melbourne and we also had Riders participating in the Marine Corp Toy Run in Sebastian.

We had a group of riders go on the poker run to Post 1 to support the Warm Full Safe holiday sponsored by the National Veterans Homeless Support Organization. We supported the ABATE Toy Run from Merritt Island to Wickham Park and the Riders also escorted the recipient of a house provided by the Home for Warriors Program in Palm Bay. Our Riders supported the Palm Bay Moose and Ellie's Ride to Life Care Center and provided stuffed animals and other items to the residents. On 19 December, we supported a flag line and memorial service for the homeless veterans who passed away this year. Finally, on 20 December the Riders escorted Santa to the American Legion Post 117 for the annual Children's Christmas Party.

It was nice to see all the organizations working together to build the new deck at the Tiki bar. Job well done. In ending, I hope everyone had a happy holiday. Here's hoping you have a prosperous New Year at our Post.

Richard Kissinger

Director, American Legion Riders Chapter 117



“Who can be interred in a National Cemetery?”

Burial in a national cemetery is open to all members of the armed forces and veterans who have met minimum active duty service requirements and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Their spouse, widow or widower, minor children, and, under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities, may also be eligible for burial. Eligible spouses and children may be buried even if they predecease the veteran. Members of the reserve components of the armed forces who die while on active duty or who die while on training duty, or were eligible for retired pay, may also be eligible for burial.

Burial in a VA national cemetery is a benefit. VA provides the gravesite, opening and closing of the grave, government headstone or marker, U.S. burial flag, Presidential Memorial Certificate, and perpetual care of the gravesite at no cost to the family. The Cape Canaveral National Cemetery is to start accepting burials and cremains in June of 2015. This cemetery will serve 163,000 veterans in a 75 mile radius of Scottsmeer, Florida just north of Titusville. For more information on the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, call [202-632-8035](tel:202-632-8035) or visit web site cem.va.gov



James H. Stewart Jr. (Jimmy)

Service Officer, American Legion Post 117

JStewart.ServiceOfficerPost117@gmail.com

Honor Guard

The Honor Guard had a very busy month in November. We donated the turkeys for the needy families for Thanksgiving. We are also donating everything needed for the Four Chaplains Ceremony in February. Four candles and holders, Brass Navy Bell and Boat-swain Whistle. Our Honor Guard is one of a few who never turns a Veteran down when we are needed. They are a great team to work with. I call them the few, the proud and the dedicated. We hope everyone has a great Christmas and Happy New Year.

Matt Zirwas

Honor Guard Commander, American Legion Post 117

Sergeant-At-Arms, American Legion Post 117



ABATE Merritt Island Toy Run

On 2 December 2014, the Chapter 117 American Legion Riders supported the annual ABATE toy run from Merritt Island Square Mall to Wickham Park. In addition to the individuals pictured below there were an additional 15 or more Legion Riders from our Post who supported the event. There were around 3,000 motorcycle riders who participated in this run which resulted in over 10,000 toys being donated for needy families in our community. Chapter 117 Legion Riders continue to support families and residents in our community in events such as this. Each year American Legion Post 117 Organizations and its programs provide thousands of dollars and items to the community, students, and veterans and their families. Please support them when you can.



Start planning for the Legacy Ride in March - Details will be provided at Riders Meetings

Chaplains Corner

Dear Legion, Aux and SAL Members,

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! I would like to invite everyone to our Rider Church services being held the first and third Sundays of the Month at 8:30am. Bring a friend as we fellowship together. I would also like to invite everyone to our Four Chaplains Ceremony on February 1st at 4:00pm.

We make history every day by our choices in life. Here are some interesting days in History.

January

- 7 [U.S. Hydrogen Bomb Revealed](#) (1953)
- 14 [Revolutionary War Ended](#) (1784)
- 16 [Operation Desert Storm Announced](#) (1991)
- 18 [World Religion Day](#)
- 28 [Challenger Shuttle Exploded](#) (1986)

February

- 1 [National Freedom Day](#)
- 2 [Groundhog Day](#)
- 7 [Love Your Robot Day](#)
- 22 [World Thinking Day](#)



Job 8:8-10 King James Version (KJV)

⁸ For enquire, I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of their fathers: ⁹ For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow.

Are you making the History in your life to prepare for your future? This is your life, are you who you want to be?

For God and Country,

Barry Roberts

Chaplain, American Legion Post 117

bwroberts@rocketmail.com Cell (863) 661-9999

Boosters

Bill Butler (5/15)
Elaine Griswold (7/16)
Duane & Janet Podhola (1/15)
Howard & Kathy Print (3/16)
Ruben & Asia Rodriguez (9/16)
Ernie & Shirley Winslow (1/15)
Barb & Ray Mohr (4/15)
Dianne Thibodeau (11/15)
Jimmy "D" & Millie (11/14)
John & Judy Greed (3/15)
Tom & Les Giampino (3/15)
Matt Zirwas (5/15)

~ FROM OUR CHAPLAIN ~

Our Chaplain can be contacted regarding deaths, illness or requests for help
Barry Roberts (863) 661-9999

Service Officer Support

James Stewart - (832) 315-7670
Barry Roberts - (863) 661-9999

Booster Information

Due to the rising cost of printing and postage for the newsletters, we are asking you to help defray the cost by participating as a booster every year. A \$15 donation will allow you two names for one year.

Note: The numbers after your name indicate what month & year you need to renew your booster check made out to the "American Legion Post 117".

Hall Rental Information

Our Post Hall is available for special functions, weddings, anniversary & birthday parties, etc.
Call the Legion at 321-729-8089 for prices & booking info.



Come join the American Legion Post 117 Honor Guard and Chapter 117 Legion Riders in the Flag Pole Dedication at Space Coast Harley Davidson on Saturday, January 10th at 12:00 noon. We will have KSU at Post 117 at 11:00am.



Karaoke Entertainment Schedule



| Date | Entertainer(s) |
|------------|-----------------|
| 02 January | Jimmy "D" |
| 09 January | Dan Haber |
| 16 January | Tropical Nights |
| 23 January | Chuck Body |
| 30 January | Tropical Nights |

| Date | Entertainer(s) |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 06 February | Jimmy "D" |
| 08 February | Jimmy "D" |
| 13 February | Dan Haber |
| 15 February | Dan Haber |
| 20 February | Tropical Nights |
| 22 February | Chuck Body |
| 27 February | Chuck Body |

During NFL Season there will be no Karaoke on Sunday. Karaoke will resume on Sunday in the Canteen after the Super Bowl in February.

A Special "Thank You" to "Doc" for providing entertainment on Saturdays

Thank You

Auxiliary Chaplain's Corner

Please call me or leave a message at the Post if you need assistance.



Barbara Simons
Chaplain, Auxiliary Unit 117
Phone: 321-544-9444
Post: 321-729-8089



Pet Services

Free Services for Member's Pets

- ◆ Nails Trimmed or Dremeled
- ◆ Ear Hair Removed
- ◆ Ears Cleaned
- ◆ Anal Glands Drained

When: Second Tuesday of the Month

Time: 9:00 am till 12:30 pm

Place: American Legion Post 117

Provided By: Sharon McCausland



"PETS MUST BE ON LEASH OR IN CRATE"

Legion Shirts For Sale

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| T-Shirts (Tan) | \$12 |
| Polo-Shirts (White) | \$25 |

Riders Items For Sale

| | |
|--|------|
| Men's Tank Tops (Black)..... | \$10 |
| Men's T-Shirts (Black)..... | \$10 |
| Men's Muscle Shirts (Small to XL)..... | \$10 |
| Men's Muscle Shirts (2XL to 3XL)..... | \$12 |
| Men's Muscles (Black, White, Red) | |
| T-Shirts (Maroon) (Small to XL)..... | \$16 |
| T-Shirts (Maroon) (2XL to 3XL)..... | \$18 |
| Denim (Lt Blue) (Small to XL)..... | \$25 |
| Denim (Lt Blue) (2XL)..... | \$25 |
| Long Sleeve (Black)..... | \$20 |

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Ladies Tank Top (Black)..... | \$15 |
| Ladies V-Neck (Black)..... | \$18 |

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Small Riders Patch..... | \$5 |
| Large Riders Patch..... | \$20 |
| Hat | \$15 |

SAL Items For Sale

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Flag Poles (20' Expandable) | \$50 |
| US Flag (3x5) | \$20 |
| POW/MIA Flag..... | \$30 |
| SAL Hats..... | \$10 |



Voiture 1621 Wreck 2015

*Help support the planned 40&8
Wreck being held in November 2015*



Raffle

LG 42 Inch LED TV

Tickets on sale @ \$10 each

Only 70 tickets sold per TV

See 40 & 8 Members for tickets

SHRIMP SUNDAY

February Only



Peel & Eat Shrimp

\$9 per pound \$5 per 1/2 lb

Every Sunday

1-5 pm or until sold out

*Prepared by Chef Gene and Crew
American Legion Post 117
189 Veterans Drive, Palm Bay, Florida!*



Guardian ad Litem

All You Can Eat Dinner

Goulash, Salad, and Rolls

When: *Saturday, March 7th*

Time: *4 to 7pm*

Cost: *\$ 8.00 per person*

Sponsored By:

Sons of the American Legion

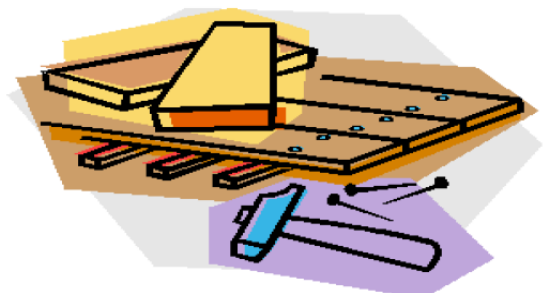
No sharing please, this is a fund raiser!!!

Canteen Renovation

Canteen Work Party

12 - 16 January 2015

*Come help with the tile floor
installation, painting, and
renovation of the Canteen
Bar area. Thanks*





SAL Dinner



9 January 2015

1/2 Oven Roasted Chicken

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Vegetable with Roll & Butter

All for \$6.00

By Chef Tony & Bruce



Legion Dinner



23 January 2015

Bacon Wrapped Stuffed

Pork Loin w/Gravy

Twice Baked Potato

Vegetable with Roll & Butter

All for \$6.00

By Chef Don

Benefit Run for the Family of MSgt John Knob

Iraq / Afghanistan Veteran

24 January 2015

Start / Ending Point: American Legion Post 117

Registration: 9:00am Riders \$10 - Passengers \$5

Cars Welcome - Same Price

First Bike Out: 10:00am Last Bike In: 3:00pm

Bring a canned good as a donation to BIN



Stops - TBA

High Hand - \$100

Worst Hand - \$50

Extra Card - \$1

Breakfast: 8 - 10am, \$3

Food @ End of Run

50/50's & Raffles

Jello Shots

Vendors

Entertainment &

Doc Holiday

**"Come Show your
support to this Veteran's
Family"**



Special Olympics



Special Olympics

Poker Run

Saturday, 28 February 2015

American Legion Post 117

189 Veterans Drive

Palm Bay, Florida

Registration: 9:00am

First Bike Out: 10:00am Last Bike In: 4:00pm

Riders \$10 - Passengers \$5

High Hand - \$75

Worst Hand - \$50

Food Platters \$6

Music by Doc-A-Billy from 2 - 6pm

Stops - TBA



Super Bowl



2015

1 February 2015

**Come to the Super Bowl
Party at American Legion
Post 117. Bring a side dish
and join in the fun and fes-
tivities. The game will be
displayed in the Canteen
and Tiki Bar. Kick-off is at
6:30pm ET.**

DON'T BE LATE....

American Legion Post 117
189 Veterans Way SE
Palm Bay, FL 32909

Membership Renewal

All 2014 memberships expire on the last day of December. On the 1st of January 2015 bartenders will refuse service to patrons that haven't paid their membership dues. Please, proudly show your cards when asked, the bartenders are just doing their job.

***Thank You ..Commander
Auxiliary President
SAL Commander***

Newsletter Mail Request

If you are requesting the newsletter be mailed to your residence please fill in the form below and mail to: American Legion Post 117

**189 Veterans Drive SE
Palm Bay, FL 32909**

Name: _____ **Membership Number:** _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____
Phone Number: _____