

# American Legion

## Charles F. Thomas IV Post 117

July / August  
2015  
Issue No. 4



### Monthly Events At A Glance . . .

#### JULY

- ◆ Karaoke - Every Friday 8 to 12 pm
- ◆ Shrimp/Wings Sunday - Every Sunday 1 to 5 pm
- ◆ Tacos - First and Third Tuesday, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Big-Azz-Burgers - First Wednesday, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Haley's Wings - Third Wednesday, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Riders Dinner - Friday, 3 July, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ SAL Dinner - Friday, 10 July, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ AUX Dinner - Friday, 17 July, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Post Dinner - Friday, 24 July, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Honor Guard Dinner - Friday, 31 July, 5 to 7 pm

#### AUGUST

- ◆ Karaoke - Every Friday 8 to 12 pm
- ◆ Shrimp/Wings Sunday - Every Sunday 1 to 5 pm
- ◆ Tacos - First and Third Tuesday, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Big-Azz-Burgers - First Wednesday, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Haley's Wings - Third Wednesday, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Riders Dinner - Friday, 7 August, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ SAL Dinner - Friday, 14 August, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ AUX Dinner - Friday, 21 August, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Post Dinner - Friday, 28 August, 5 to 7 pm

#### 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](http://www.al117.com)

Please Note: The Legion Riders Website is now combined with the Post Website

#### American Legion Officers

Commander.....Jim Fournier  
1st Vice Commander.....Bruce Thurber  
2nd Vice Commander.....Gene Baker  
Adjutant.....Duane Podhola  
Finance Officer.....Chris Hess  
Chaplain.....Barry Roberts  
Sergeant-at-Arms.....Matt Zirwas  
Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms.....Ray Yarnell  
Historian.....Position Open  
Judge Advocate.....Charlie Christy  
Service Officer.....Barry Roberts  
Executive Committee.....Mike Demarte  
Executive Committee.....Tom Giampino

#### American Legion Auxiliary Officers

President.....Dorothy Kiernan Walsh  
1st Vice President.....Kerry Baker  
2nd Vice President.....MaryAnn Spellman  
Treasurer.....Dawn Burgess  
Secretary.....Donna Walkowiak  
Sergeant-at-Arms.....Karen Humann  
Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms.....Donna Irving  
Chaplain.....Barbara Simons  
Historian.....Linda Shipley  
Membership.....Kerry Baker  
Executive Committee.....Linda Lanier  
Executive Committee.....Barbara Ward  
Executive Committee.....Kim Oaks

#### Sons of the American Legion Officers

Squadron Commander.....Tony Gannon  
1st Vice Squadron Cmdr...Ray Yarnell  
2nd Vice Squadron Cmdr..Randy Chilcott  
Adjutant.....Kevin MacDonald  
Finance Officer.....Ray Mohr  
Chaplain.....Phil Wright  
Sergeant-at-Arms.....Bob Humann  
Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms.....Position Vacant  
Historian.....Daniel Wood

#### American Legion Riders Officers

Director.....Bob Wiseman  
Assistant Director.....Bruce Walkowiak  
Secretary.....Sheila Cline-Burns  
Treasurer.....Ray Mohr  
Chaplain.....Donna Walkowiak  
Sergeant-at-Arms.....Duane Podhola  
Historian.....MaryAnn Spellman  
Safety Officer.....Terry Doiel  
Membership.....Karen Humann

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

# Commander's Corner

Dear Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members,

First I would like to give a big thank you to all those that helped on Memorial Day, Tattoo Marty's party and especially the stand down event on May 30th. I would also like to thank all of my Officers of the Legion and the Officers of the SAL and Auxiliary from last year for such a great year and I look forward to working with the new Officers for this coming year. By the time this newsletter is published we will be starting our membership drive for next year, so please pay early and get your free early bird dinner.

Our Post Officers' installation is going to be on Saturday, July the 18th, at 10 am and is open to those wanting to attend.

We have a lot of events that happen on a regular basis and it would be nice to get some new volunteers to help with the Steak Shoots, Friday night dinners and Sunday morning breakfast. It's not hard work and if everyone takes a turn or two it would make it a little easier on the ones doing it most of the time.

A new flagpole and floodlight have been installed by the bike pad and we are working on new security lighting to be installed soon out in the field.

As always, please make sure to read the posters and flyers hanging in the canteen, tiki bar and on the all17.com website for the most current information on events here at the Post. Thank you all for your help and support.

For God and Country,

*Jim Fournier*

Commander, American Legion Post 117



## Ways and Means Committee

Chairman: *Jim Fournier*  
Members: *Tony Gannon*  
*Dorothy Kiernan Walsh*  
*Sheila Cline-Burns*  
*Gene Baker*  
*Bob Wiseman*  
*Tim Durham*  
*Beverly Durham*  
*Duane Podhola*



**Meeting: 1st Monday of Month, 7:00PM**

## House Committee

Chairman: *Tom Giampino*  
Members: *John Jones*                      *Ron Lawton*  
*Don Jochum*                         *Brenda Miskow*  
*Sherry White*                         *Jeff Davis*



**Meeting: 2nd Monday of Month, 7:00PM**

## Canteen Staff

Canteen Manager: *Sheila Cline-Burns*



Volunteer Bartenders:

<i>Shirley Domanousky</i>	<i>Terry Rook</i>
<i>Barbara Mohr</i>	<i>Sheila Culnan</i>
<i>Linda Abbott</i>	<i>Haley Farris</i>
<i>Michelle "Mic" Riepe</i>	<i>Andrea Todd</i>

## Honor Guard

Commander: *Matt Zirwas*  
Members: *Jim Fournier*  
*Bruce Thurber*  
*Randy Chilcott*  
*Bruce Walkowiak*  
*Donna Walkowiak*  
*Jesse Figueroa*  
*Brandon Thurber*  
*Joann Wright*  
*Dan Wood*



Dear Members,

This is my first newsletter as the President of this great unit – I am so honored and proud.



## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

We are hitting the ground at a fast pace with lots of plans for the upcoming Auxiliary year. And in order to make all these plans happen we really need your help – *we need more volunteers*. If you're unsure of what program you would like to get involved in, check out the department website [www.alafl.org](http://www.alafl.org) and go to the resources and plans of action. Or you can always call me at 321-426-6736. I'll be glad to talk to you about it.

**I ♥ MEETINGS** AND you can always come to a meeting to learn more. Speaking of meetings ... when was the last time you've been to a meeting? J I've spoken to several people about why they've stopped coming to meetings and the reasons are understandable – and this new team of ours is working to make meetings even better, so come on out and see for yourself. The 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. We've put together a written meeting protocol, based on our standing rules and Robert's Rules of Order, which was distributed at our last meeting and will continue to be distributed and adhered to.



### Calling all Past Unit 117 Presidents and Charter members. We need your help!

Dawn Burgess, Donna Walkowiak and Brenda Miskow are our **Past Presidents Parley Team**, and are looking for all our past unit presidents. Please email Dawn at [dburgessfl@gmail.com](mailto:dburgessfl@gmail.com) to help us with this project.

We need committee members and volunteers to help us with our **Membership Committee**. This committee will be responsible for making phone calls to remind members about meetings, check with members who haven't renewed their dues and for good and welfare checks. So many people have told me they can't get out to a meeting – well here's a great way to help out. Please email Kerry Baker at [kbaker201476@gmail.com](mailto:kbaker201476@gmail.com) if you want to help out. Our theme this year is "We Want You Back" and we're going to work hard to do just that.

We need volunteers in the kitchen for Friday night dinner and Sunday breakfast. We will be doing things a little differently this year and will be having "themed" dinners on Friday night. So if you have a specialty specific to your heritage and want to cook it up on a Friday night, send MaryAnn Spellman an email at [mspellman309@gmail.com](mailto:mspellman309@gmail.com). We also need other volunteers to help serve and clean up.

Don't forget July 4th family fun day – see flier. We need volunteers. I'm looking forward to a fun, eventful and exciting year – I hope you'll join us and be a part of it !

For God & Country

*Dorothy Walsh*

**American Legion Auxiliary President, Unit 117**

SAL Members,

I want to thank everyone for electing me to the office of Squadron Commander. I am proud to serve you as Commander and will make you proud of electing me. Last year we raised \$4,159.00 in cash donations and \$3050.00 in in-kind donations for Special Olympics. We also made donations to many other youth and veterans' programs. This year I hope we can do even more for those charities you wish to support.



## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Last year, our membership grew from 142 to 172 for 121% of our goal. This being our 6th All Time High. Let's start targeting our membership for the coming year. We were the 2nd Squadron to hit 100% last year – let's be first this year! Renew early and get your early bird stamp as I hear this year's dinner will be special. We set a goal of 175 members this year, 3 more than last year so it's not that large a gap. We have to try to retain and sign up new members. Talk to the new and one year members and find their likes and interests and try to use that knowledge to go along with one of our projects. Help get them involved.

*Tony Gannon*

**SAL Commander, Squadron 117**

June was a quiet month for the Honor Guard. On July 12th we will be there to honor Jim Stewart with a Honor Guard ceremony. Also on July 12th we will be having an Honor Guard awards ceremony at 5:00 in the Post hall, please give a few minutes of your to time to support them.



The Honor Guard has the Steak Shoot on August 27th and Friday Dinner on August 28th. As always we are always ready for any requests from any veterans family. We have a dedicated honor guard to represent our Post. They are the best.

***Matt Zirwas***

**Honor Guard Commander, American Legion Post 117**

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Fellow Legion Riders,

First of all I would like to thank all of the 2014-2015 Officers for a job well done. I also want to thank all of the members that came out to vote for all of the new Officers and to congratulate all of the incoming 2015-2016 Officers. We have a lot of work ahead of us to make this coming year a better year than last. It is a new learning curve for me, but with the help of the new Officers we will make this happen. I'm planning on setting up some FUN RUNS, at least one a month, providing that we have time with all of the other events that are scheduled. So if you as members have a ride that you would like to go on, map it out and we will fit it into our schedule.



As most you know we lost one of our Riders on the 18th of June, James (Jimmy) Stewart was involved in a MC accident. Jimmy was very active in our Post and he will be deeply missed. I want to thank the members that went to the hospital to support the Stewart family, it was deeply appreciated. Everyone please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers to try to help them through the healing process.

Please continue to attend the meetings and also support our Steak Shoot, Friday Night Dinner, Sunday Breakfast and volunteer your time when you can.

Have a Happy & Safe 4th of July!

***Bob Wiseman***

**Director, Legion Riders Chapter 117**

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A Letter to the Membership,

I want to thank the American Legion Post 117 Family for all the support you have shown for me over the years. You believed in me from the beginning when I started my quest to become the American Legion Vice Commander. It has taken me several years but the Legionnaires at Post 117 stuck with me and endorsed me again this year. I am happy to say I was elected and installed as the Florida Department 3rd Vice Commander at the Department Convention held in Orlando on June 25 - 28, 2015.

You may not see me around the post much because I recently got married and moved to Lehigh Acres. I have not transferred. I am still a member of Post 117 and proudly wear the post number on my cap. I stay in touch with several members of the post and will stop by whenever possible.

The position of 3rd Vice Commander is in charge of programs. If I can ever be of help, feel free to contact me. My email is diannethib@bellsouth.net and my cell number has stayed the same. (561) 315-0679.

Once again, thank you for all your support. I look forward to working for you this year.

***Dianne (Thibodeau) Boland***



### **Voiture 1621**

The 40 & 8 is a fraternal organization not unlike the American Legion. It was initially envisioned as a new and different level of the elite membership and camaraderie for leaders of the American Legion and had its start in March of 1920 in Philadelphia, PA. by a group of prominent Legionnaires who were members of the newly formed American Legion. Like many fraternal organizations, it was a male only membership. That changed in 2006 when woman veterans were eligible for membership but still must be Legionnaires. Then in 2008 another change was made opening membership to any honorably discharged Military Veteran or Active Duty Personnel by invitation only.

Though no longer directly affiliated with the American Legion, most 40/8 members are Legionnaires from several Posts, the VFW and elsewhere from Port St John to Sebastian.

Again not unlike the American Legion, we support a number of charitable organizations nationally and locally. Community wise, we supply Food Baskets for some of the needy families during the holiday season as well as scholarships for Nurses Training.

We thank the members of Post 117 for its support in providing a place for us to meet and for hosting our activities. We look forward to our mutually beneficial relationship in the years ahead.



### **La Femmes Cabane 1621**

La Femmes is a national organization, chartered in 1963, celebrating our 52nd year. Our sole purpose is to support the programs and principals of the Forty and Eight, which has been chartered since 1919 by veterans returning from WWI.

Our La Femmes Cabane 1621 has been chartered since 2007 and our energies have focused on some of the 40/8 priorities, especially CHILD WELFARE to include:

- Providing continued support of Camp Boggy Creek, a medical camp for critically ill children
- Providing contributions to local children's charities
- Supporting timely special projects for families at holiday times

Our organization supports the 40/8 POW/MIA national program with monthly financial donations toward direct scholarships for validated veterans and direct descendants of POW/MIA. We educate and provide treatment for Hansen's Disease, (Leprosy, still a threat to Floridians) through the CARVILLE STAR, a national priority program for the 40/8 for 6 decades.

NURSE'S TRAINING has been a well-supported program, both locally and nationally, and Voiture 1621 has provided nursing scholarships to Eastern Florida State College students since inception of the local charter.

## **Membership Fees to Rise in 2016—Rejoin now and Save!**

Notice to the Membership:

Legion Membership fees will increase on 1 January 2016. At the last Department Convention a resolution to increase Department and National membership fees \$8 was passed. The impact to Legion Members has not been determined at this time, however, if your membership is paid prior to 31 December 2015 you dues will only be \$30. After that date they will be at the increased price. Renew early and take advantage of the savings. Your 2016 dues can be paid at this time, just drop a check in the Legion Mail Box in the Post entry.

# Boosters

Chester Jenkins (9/15)

Dianne Thibodeau (11/15)

Duane & Janet Podhola (1/16)

Howard & Kathy Print (3/16)

Robert & Sandra Mack (5/16)

In Memory of Clifford Wright (5/16)

Jim Fournier (6/16)

Dawn Burgess (6/16)

Todd & Sheila Burns (6/16)

Elaine Griswold (7/16)

Kevin & Karen (8/16)

Ruben & Asia Rodriguez (9/16)

Ernie & Shirley Winslow (6/17)

## 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.

Please contact Sheila Cline at 321-243-7396 or Duane Podhola at 321-698-7382 for hall rental availability and price information.

Be Sure to Check out the Updated Post Website at

**[www.AL117.com](http://www.AL117.com)**



### Menu:

Turkey with Dressing  
Mashed Potato  
Gravy  
Vegetable  
Rolls & Butter

**\$8**

~ All Homemade ~

Don will even try to put lumps in the gravy!

**Come on Out  
and Celebrate**

**Chef Don's**

**Thanksgiving in July**

**Friday, 24 July 2015**



**American Legion Unit 117  
4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic & Family Fun Day**

**Join us for a BBQ and day of family fun!  
Water Balloon Toss, Watermelon Eating  
Contest, Raffles & 50/50s to benefit our  
Veterans Programs**

Grilled Steak, Baked Potato, Corn on the Cob & Apple Pie \$10

Kids Meal: Hamburger or Hot Dog, Chips & Drink \$5

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

See an Auxiliary Officer or Bartender



## Karaoke Entertainment Schedule



<u>Date</u>	<u>Entertainer(s)</u>
03 July	Jimmy "D"
10 July	Dan Haber
17 July	Tropical Nights
24 July	Chuck Body
31 July	Tropical Nights

<u>Date</u>	<u>Entertainer(s)</u>
07 August	Jimmy "D"
14 August	Dan Haber
21 August	Tropical Nights
28 August	Chuck Body

**Special Note: "Doc" will be providing entertainment on all Saturdays unless posted.**

# TELL ME ABOUT IT!

**Do you have comments or items for submission to the newsletter?**

**Email to: [newsletter@al117.com](mailto:newsletter@al117.com)**

## 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 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



**AND  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 117**

*Present...*

**HANDS FOR HEROS  
POKER RUN**

*Saturday July 25th 2015*

Come out and support local veterans in the Homes for Warriors program. Meeting at American Legion Post 117.

189 Veterans Dr SE  
Palm Bay, FL 32909

Also:

- Food
- Silent auction
- Live Band

Registration from 830am-10am  
Kickstands up at 10am  
Last bike in at 2pm



*Carol "Tess" Tessier*

**Saturday, July 11th**  
from Noon til 5

**American Legion Post 117**

189 Veterans Drive, Palm Bay

*Food, Fun, Music*

*Raffles & More*



Tess needs our help, she is currently in need of a liver transplant and the surgeries alone amount to over \$200,000. To read more about Tess's story you can visit <http://www.gofundme.com/un6324> or stop by and hear her story



***Voiture 1621  
Wreck 2015***

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



**Raffle**

**42 Inch LED TV**

**Tickets on sale @ \$10 each**

**Only 70 tickets sold per TV**

**See 40 & 8 Members for tickets**

**Space Coast Wreck 2015**

Hosted By Voiture 1621

at

American Legion Post 117

189 Veterans Drive SE

Palm Bay, FL 32909-3806

November 5 - 7, 2015

Lodging: Comfort Suites - (321) 369-1234

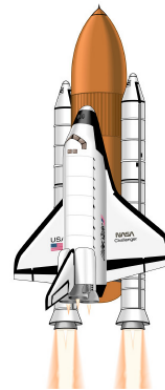
1175 Malabar Road NE

Palm Bay, FL 32907

@ I-95 and Malabar Road

\$89 Night / 3pm Check-In

Hospitality Room @ Comfort Suites



Wreck Registration - Voitures - \$40, Dames - \$35

Includes Hospitality Room and Banquet Dining

5 Nov 2015 Comfort Suites Hospitality Room - Open 2pm to 10pm

6 Nov 2015 Comfort Suites Hospitality Room - Open 10am to 3pm & 9 to 11pm  
Dinner Available @ Post 117, 5 to 7pm, not included in registration fee  
Kangaroo Court @ Post 117, 7:30pm

7 Nov 2015 Coffee & Donuts @ Post 117, 7:30 - 8:30am

First & Second Degree, 9am

Lunch - (PGs & Voitures) Bean Soup & Bologna Sandwiches, 12pm

Lunch - (Dames) Lunch at local restaurants

Third Degree, 2pm

Post Banquet, 6pm - Dinner Choice:

Stuffed Pork Chops w/Sides,

Pot Roast w/Sides, or

Vegetarian Plate

8 Nov 2015 Breakfast @ Post 117, 8:30am, \$6

Not included in registration fee

POCs: Gene Baker, (321) 693-5178

Gene Pilot, (321) 676-6430

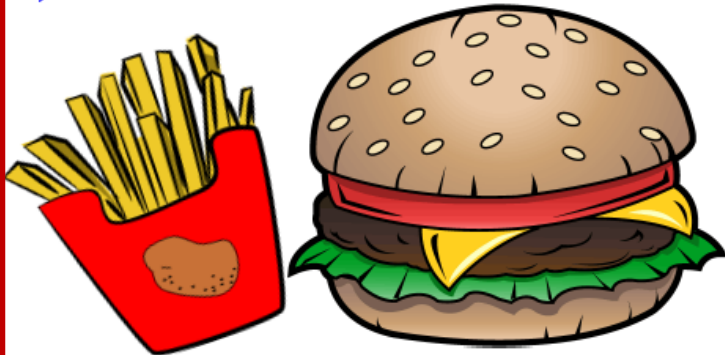






# BIG-AZZ-BURGERS

*Wednesday  
1 July and 5 Aug 2015  
5 to 7 pm*



# Haley's Awesome



*Wings - 50 Cents each*



*Third Wednesdays  
4 - 7 PM*



# TACO TUESDAY

*Tacos - \$2.00  
5 to 7 pm*



*1st & 3rd  
Tuesdays  
Only*



# SHRIMP SUNDAY



**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!*

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

### ***Friday Dinners***

*July 3 (Riders) - Meatloaf, Mashed Potato & Gravy, Vegetable*

*July 10 (SAL) - Roast Pork, Mashed Potato & Gravy, Vegetable, \$7*

*July 17 (AUX) - Sausage, peppers and onions on a hero with French Fries*

*July 24 (Post) - Turkey with Dressing, Mashed Potato & Gravy, Vegetable, Rolls*

*July 31 (Honor Guard) - tbd*

=====  
*Aug 7 (Riders) - Tamale, Tostada, Beans, and Rice w/ pico de gallo*

*Aug 14 (SAL) - Fried Chicken, Mashed Potato & Gravy, Cole Slaw, Roll , \$8*

*Aug 21 (AUX) - Meatloaf, Mashed Potato & Gravy, and Peas with Roll and Butter*

*Aug 28 (Post) - BBQ Chicken Breast, Corn on the Cob, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, \$6*

#### *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: \_\_\_\_\_