

American Legion

Charles F. Thomas IV Post 117

May / June
2015
Issue No. 3



Monthly Events At A Glance . . .

MAY

- ◆ Karaoke - Every Friday 8 to 12 pm and Sunday 4 to 8 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
- ◆ Honor Guard Dinner - Friday, 1 May, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Riders Dinner - Friday, 8 May, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ SAL Dinner - Friday, 15 May, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ AUX Dinner - Friday, 22 May, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Memorial Day Celebration - Monday, 25 May, 2 pm
- ◆ Post Dinner - Friday, 29 May, 5 to 7 pm

JUNE

- ◆ Karaoke - Every Friday 8 to 12 pm and Sunday 4 to 8 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, 5 June, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ SAL Dinner - Friday, 12 June, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ AUX Dinner - Friday, 19 June, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Department Convention - 26, 27, 28 June
- ◆ Post Dinner - Friday, 26 June, Cancelled
- ◆ Post Breakfast - Sunday, 28 June, Cancelled

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,

Spring is here and hurricane season is just around the corner. This brings us to the time for Post elections (May 23rd from 10:00am until 2:00pm) and the Florida American Legion Annual Department convention (June 25th-27th). Where has this past year gone? Speaking of that..... being your elected Commander for this past year and without your support, I would have never enjoyed such a wonderful and exciting experience. I am grateful to have been nominated to be your Commander again for this coming year 2015-2016. A BIG "Thank You" to all of the Post, S.A.L., Auxiliary and Legion riders officers for all of your support. It takes the whole Legion Family to make this post what it is today. Thank you all again to all who have stepped up and volunteered your time. We have had a lot of great things happen around the post this past year and I hope it all continues to be one of the best post's in the state. Another Legion 100% + membership year. Keep up the great work and Thank You! Again.

I would like to wish all of you mothers a Happy Mothers day and to the fathers, a Happy Fathers day as well. We will be holding a grave site ceremony on Memorial Day (May 25th) for Charles F. Thomas IV at Fountainhead Cemetery and another ceremony here at the post in the afternoon.

As always, please make sure to read the posters and flyers hanging in the Canteen, Tiki and on the AL117.com website for the most current information on events here at the post. Thank you all for your support and I look forward to continue on as your Commander.

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 Brenda Miskow
Doyle Hughes Jeff Davis



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,

I would like to thank the Auxiliary Officers and members for making this a memorable year as your Auxiliary President. I really appreciate all the support everyone has given me and all the work and activities our Auxiliary has accomplished this year. I would like to thank the Auxiliary Officers and members who assisted in the end of year reporting while I was recovering from my surgery. Thanks again for making this year a great success for our Post and Auxiliary.

Please try to attend our meeting on May 12, 2015 at 7:00pm and participate in the election of next year's Auxiliary Officers. You must have your 2015 Auxiliary Membership Card to vote. If you need a replacement card or still need to renew your membership please arrive at the meeting by at least 6:00pm to get your new card.

Sharon McCausland

American Legion Auxiliary President, Unit 117



**AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY**

SAL Members,

What a great year we have had. This is definitely the best Sons of the American Legion Squadron. The reasons many of us joined may vary but our final goal is the same. Whether you are the son or grandson of a Marine, Sailor, Solder of Airman we are all proud of the service that our family member gave to this great nation. During this past year you have shown your support of the Four Pillars of the Legion. This year Squadron 117 had 4 members receive the National Commanders recruitment award.

The Five-Star Award, which can be presented to those SAL members who show dedication and knowledge in the Five Point Program of Service, is a gold plated medal bearing the SAL Emblem and the symbolism of the five points. One of our members received this award while two others received a badge for one of the points. Only a few have received this award Nationwide. As I leave office I hope that the future of Squadron 117 will bring many more Five Point Awards, I am extremely glad to see the great choices you have made in selecting the Officers for the 2015-2016 year. I would also like to thank all of you who served with me for your tireless efforts.

Bruce Thurber

SAL Commander, Squadron 117



**SONS OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION**

Newsletter and Website Changes

For most of the last five years I have been the editor of our newsletter and webmaster of the Post and Riders web sites. I have decided to turn those jobs over to other individuals who have the skills and desire to do these tasks. One of the changes I am proposing is to have one web site for our Post which will include the Legion Riders information as well. This will reduce the amount of time it takes to keep two websites current. The website will still have the same web address as in the past but will look new and fresh. The newsletter as well will be taken over as I train and transfer that task to another individual. I will assist each of these individuals as needed. I appreciate the support current and past officers and members of this Post have provided me in keeping the news flowing.



Duane Podhola

Past Commander, American Legion Post 117

The Post Honor Guard had a busy month in April. We did 3 memorial services and 1 funeral. As for Memorial Day, we will be doing 4 ceremonies: 9:00am at Fountainhead for Captain Charles F. Thomas, an hour ceremony at Assisted Living Centers, Century Oaks in Melbourne, Viera Manor in Viera and then a Post ceremony at 2:00pm. On May 30th we will be doing the opening ceremony for Stand Down at Post 117. As you can see our Honor Guard is really dedicated and proud. We won't turn any veteran down. We try to practice twice a month to even better our skills. The team is a great group to work with.



Matt Zirwas

Honor Guard Commander, American Legion Post 117

Fellow Legion Riders,

This is the last article for the news letter that I will be writing as Director. It has been a pleasure working with the Riders and Officers on charity benefits and other activities. We have supported other posts and their charities. I want to thank all the Riders who have helped with Thursday Steak Shoot, Friday night dinner and Sunday breakfast.

At our meeting in May we will be electing new Officers. I wish them luck because it becomes a real adventure trying to get volunteers and people that want to help. I will support them and help when needed. The Riders have worked on many projects at the post over the past two years and deserve a "Job Well Done".

Richard Kissinger

Director, American Legion Riders Chapter 117



Veterans Administration Claims

There is a process that takes place when you file a claim with the VA. It can and does take time. The best tool is myhealth account and eBenefits account. If you would like a class how to enroll and get authenticated. Bring it up at our general meeting also if you think our veterans could use a computer work station at our post? Please bring up at our general meeting. The VA has gone paperless so you must use ebenefits to start your developed claim or you must see authenticated Service Officer with FDVA at the Viera Clinic or at the County Veterans Office. The FDVA will assign the American Legion as your service Organization to represent you with the VA.

Compensation and Pension Claim

The exact path that each claim follows depends on many factors and isn't always the same. The diagram below provides an overview of the path that most claims follow. For more information about how this process applies to your claims, contact VA at 1-800-827-1000. You can also use our Inquiry Routing & Information System (IRIS); to ask a question about your claim. You will receive a response within five days.

Claims Status Process

Claim Received --> Under Review --> Gathering of Evidence --> Review of Evidence -->

Preparation for Decision --> Pending Decision Approval --> Preparation for Notification --> Complete

There are eight distinct steps that most claims for disability compensation follow. These phases may vary in time depending on the complexity of the claim, the amount of evidence that must be gathered to support the claims, and the type of evidence. You are strongly encouraged to submit as much evidence as possible with your claim to help minimize processing time. The eight steps of claims processing are as follows:

James H. Stewart Jr. (Jimmy)

Service Officer, American Legion Post 117

JStewart.ServiceOfficerPost117@gmail.com

American Legion Boys State

Each year, Post 117 and other posts sponsor delegates to the Florida American Legion Boys State held in Tallahassee for one week in the summer. Bill Craig and Les Lanier head this effort and can answer questions or use your help. These boys are high school juniors with superior grades and good citizenship. This year's attendees are Reed Dunham and Gio Ramirez from Heritage High in Palm Bay, and Dylan Pletcher from Cocoa. They all have 4.0 grade point averages and have distinguished themselves in school. These outstanding young men are a great credit to their generation and our community, and well deserve our support. Congratulations, Reed, Gio and Dylan!

Bill Craig & Les Lanier

Boys State Chairmen

American Legion Post 117



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 117



Baja Warrior Raffle

Homelite 196cc Gas Engine



Enter to Win! 8 tickets \$5

All proceeds benefit breast cancer research!

Drawing to be held *21 June 2015*

Memorial Day Services

25 May 2015

9:00am Graveside Services

for

Captain Charles F. Thomas, IV



HQ & SVC BTRY, 3RD BN
319TH ARTILLERY
173RD ABN BDE, USARV
Army of the United States
June 13, 1946 to April 08, 1971

2:00pm Post Memorial Services

Presenters:

Jim Fournier, Post Commander

Barry Roberts, Post Chaplain

Matt Zirwas, Honor Guard Commander



Free Hamburgers & Hot Dogs



Bring your favorite side dish to share with Post members

Election Dates & Times

9 May 2015

Auxiliary & SAL

Constitutional Convention

@ American Legion Post 117

Register 9:00am - Meeting 10:00am

16 May 2015

Legion Constitutional Convention

@ American Legion Post 81

Register 1:00pm - Meeting 2:00pm

23 May 2015

Legion Post Officer Elections

@ American Legion Post 117

10:00am to 2:00pm



Offering Veterans
a hand up, not a hand-out.

South Central
FLORIDA
**STAND
DOWN**

FOR ALL VETERANS

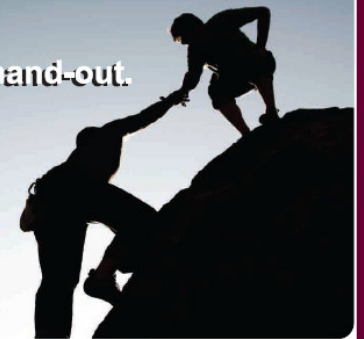
Brevard, Osceola, Indian River Counties

Saturday May 30, 2015
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

American Legion Post 117
189 Veterans Drive
Palm Bay, Florida

*Pick-up and return
transportation provided.*

SERVICES PROVIDED:
Medical, Dental, Legal, Chiro,
PTSD/TBI/MST Screening &
Counseling, Addiction Counseling,
Food Stamp Assistance, Housing
Assistance, Veteran Service
Officers, Dog Grooming, Hair Cuts,
Mani/Pedis, Clothing, Job Search,
Florida ID - License Renewals,
Breakfast, Lunch, Music,
a peaceful environment,
& child care on site!



*For more information, to
volunteer or donate,
please contact Dorothy Walsh:
STANDDOWN2015@AOL.COM
(321) 426-6736*

Boosters

Bill Butler (5/15)
Elaine Griswold (7/16)
Duane & Janet Podhola (1/16)
Howard & Kathy Print (3/16)
Ruben & Asia Rodriguez (9/16)
Dianne Thibodeau (11/15)
Matt Zirwas (5/15)
Chester Jenkins (9/15)
Robert & Sandra Mack (5/16)
In Memory of Clifford Wright (5/16)
Jim Fournier (6/16)
Dawn Burgess (6/16)
Ernie & Shirley Winslow (6/17)
Todd & Sheila Burns (6/16)

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

Florida Legion Riders Rally

This year the Florida Legion Riders Rally will be held in Bradenton, Florida which is south of Tampa. The main events and activities will take place on Friday after lunch and throughout the day on Saturday. There will be live music and DJs along with games and plenty of food. There are currently four hotels in the local area that have rooms blocked for the event. The event flyer, hotel information and schedule of events was sent to the Riders several months ago and just recently to some of the new members. If you did not get the material and are interested in making this event please send me an e-mail and I will provide everything to you. Several of us are leaving early Friday morning on the 8th. Hope you can make it.



FLORIDA LEGION RIDERS RALLY

May 8th - 10th, 2015

Hosted by American Legion Kirby-Stewart Post 24

2000 75th Street W.

Bradenton, Florida 34209

Duane Podhola

321-698-7382 (Cell)

dpodhola@earthlink.net



Karaoke Entertainment Schedule



<u>Date</u>	<u>Entertainer(s)</u>
01 May	Jimmy "D"
03 May	Tropical Nights
08 May	Dan Haber
10 May	Jimmy "D"
15 May	Tropical Nights
17 May	Dan Haber
22 May	Chuck Body
24 May	Chuck Body
29 May	Jimmy "D"
31 May	Dan Haber

<u>Date</u>	<u>Entertainer(s)</u>
05 June	Jimmy "D"
07 June	Tropical Nights
12 June	Dan Haber
14 June	Jimmy "D"
19 June	Tropical Nights
21 June	Dan Haber
26 June	Chuck Body
28 June	Chuck Body

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

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

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!



**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



**3rd Annual
KENTUCKY DERBY
Parade of Hats**

May 2, 2015 - 1:00pm

Prizes / Fun

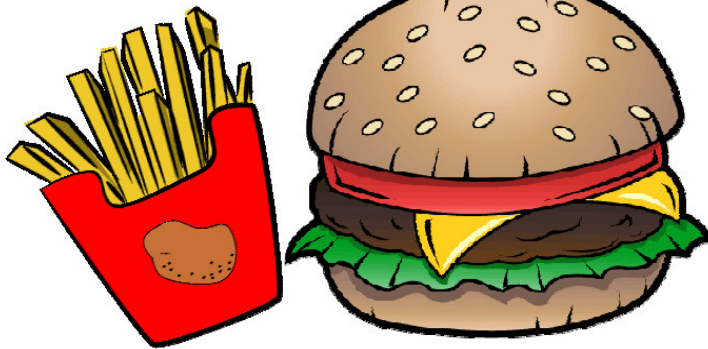
Bring a Dish to Share

Wear Your Favorite Hat!!!



BIG-AZZ-BURGERS

Wednesday
6 May & 3 June 2015
5 to 7 pm



Haley's Awesome



Wings - 50 Cents each



Third Wednesdays
4 - 7 PM



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



Valiant Air Command Open House

23 - 24 May 2015

The Valiant Air Command will host an Open House on Memorial Day Weekend. Free admission to the Warbird Museum will be provided for all active duty and veteran military. I.D. card is required and all Florida residents must have a Florida Drivers License.

The hours of the open house are:

9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Saturday and Sunday
23 and 24 May 2015

Space Coast Regional Airport
6600 Tico Road
Titusville, FL 32780-8009
(321) 268-1941



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

Friday Dinners

- May 1 (Honor Guard) - Meat Lasagna, Salad, Roll & Butter*
- May 8 (Riders) - Fried Fish, French Fries, Slaw*
- May 15 (SAL) - Half Roasted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Vegetable*
- May 22 (AUX) - Beef Tips w/Noodles, Vegetable, Roll & Butter*
- May 29 (Post) - Meatball Stroganoff, Vegetable, Roll & Butter*
-
- Jun 5 (Riders) - Fried Fish, French Fries, Slaw*
- Jun 12 (SAL) - Baked Pork Chop, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Vegetable*
- Jun 19 (Aux) - TBA*
- Jun 26 (Post) - Department Convention
Dinner Cancelled*

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: _____