# American Legion Charles F. Thomas IV Post 117 189 Veterans Drive · Palm Bay, Florida 32909



# The Thomas Times



Visit us at www.AL117.com

ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015

#### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 5-7 Nov Voiture 1621 Space Coast Wreck
- 8 Nov Kids without Christmas Poker Run
- 11 Nov Veterans Day
- 13-14 Nov Fall Conference
- 14 Nov Run for St. Jude
- 14 Nov VRC Bass Challenge
- 15 Nov Special Olympics Poker Run
- 26 Nov Happy Thanksgiving!
- 27 Nov Black Friday Work Party
- 6 Dec Harley Davidson ABATE Christmas Bike Fest
- 18 Dec Last Day to Pay 2016 Dues at 2015 Rate!
- 19 Dec Children's Christmas Party
- 25 Dec Merry Christmas!
- 31 Dec New Year's Eve

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# Celebrate the Holidays with your Post 117

American Legion Family







Post 117 will celebrate all veterans on Veterans Day, 11 November 2015. Join in the festivities from 2 to 5 pm.



### Monthly Events at a Glance . . .

- Karaoke Every Friday 8 to 12 pm
- Doc's Karaoke & Open Mic Night Every Saturday 8 to 12 pm
- Shrimp/Wings Sunday Every Sunday 1 to 5 pm
- Tacos First and Third Tuesday, 5 to 7 pm
- Sandwich Tuesdays Second, Fourth and Fifth Tuesday, 5 to 7 pm
- Big-Azz-Burgers Second Wednesday, 5 to 7 pm
- Haley's Wings First and Third Wednesday, 5 to 7 pm
- Wurst Wednesday Fourth Wednesday, 5 to 7 pm
- Riders Dinners Friday, 6 November and Friday, 4 December, 5 to 7 pm
- SAL Dinners Friday, 13 November and Friday, 11 December, 5 to 7 pm
- AUX Dinners Friday, 20 November and Friday, 18 December, 5 to 7 pm
- Post Dinner Friday, 27 November, 5 to 7 pm

### Post 117 Directory

### **American Legion Officers**

### Commander.....Jim Fournier 1st Vice Commander.....Bruce Thurber 2nd Vice Commander ......Gene Baker Adjutant .......Duane Podhola Chaplain ......Barry Roberts Sergeant-at-Arms ......Matt Zirwas Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms......Gene Pilot Historian ......Tim Durham Judge Advocate .......Charlie Christy Service Officer.....Barry Roberts Executive Committee......Mike Demarte Executive Committee......Tom Giampino

### **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 Commander    | Bruce Walkowiak |
| 2nd Vice Squadron Commander    | Randy Chilcott  |
| Adjutant                       | Phil Wright     |
| Finance Officer                | Ray Mohr        |
| Chaplain                       | Phil Wright     |
| Sergeant-at-Arms               | Bob Humann      |
| 1st Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms | Kevin MacDonald |
| 2nd Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms | Keith Durham    |
| 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       |

### **Honor Guard**

#### **Ways and Means Committee** Chairman: Gene Baker

### **House Committee**

Tom Giampino

| Commander:     | Matt Zirwas     |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Members:       |                 |
| Randy Chilcott | Jim Fournier    |
| Dawn Hanner    | Bob Menard      |
| Ed Milner      | Bruce Walkowiak |
| Dan Wood       | Donna Walkowiak |
| Bugler:        | Joann Wright    |

| Members:           |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Sheila Cline-Burns | Randy Chilcott |
| Beverly Durham     | Tim Durham     |
| Jim Fournier       | Bruce Thurber  |
| Dorothy Walsh      | Bob Wiseman    |
|                    |                |

| Jeff Davis   |
|--------------|
| Ron Lawton   |
| Sherry White |
|              |

#### Canteen Staff

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

"Irish" Farris Barbara Mohr Michelle "Mic" Riepe Angie Todd

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The opinions expressed herein are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the American Legion, Post 117 or its affiliates.

Chairman:

Editor: Bev Durham <email: newsletter@AL117.com>

# Commander's Corner

Dear Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members,

First I would like to thank all of those that helped in the First Responder's Lunch in distribution. It was a huge success and hopefully we can continue that in the future. The holidays are upon us and the post has a lot of planned functions this year (as always.) Please, if you can lend a hand and volunteer some time, it would greatly be appreciated. The post will be having the Veterans Day Celebration, Thanksgiving and also Christmas Dinner followed by a fantastic New Year's Eve party.

With that being said, our next newsletter will be published for January / February so I want to wish everyone a safe holiday season and a prosperous New Year. I also want to thank all of you that have volunteered your time for your post events and also all of the post officers for your continued support, hard work and dedication.

Remember, due to the \$8.00 increase in 2016 dues levied by the Department and National, it will be necessary to start collecting \$38 for 2016 membership starting December 19th. This is because the last transmittal to Department before the Holiday shutdown will be on the 18th. After that date the post will be charged an extra \$8.00 per member. However, you can avoid the dues increase by paying before the deadline! Pay your 2016 membership dues now!

As always, please make sure to read the posters and flyers hanging in the canteen, tiki bar and on the AL117.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



### 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

Ways & Means Committee 1st Monday, 7:00 pm

House Committee 2nd Monday, 7:00 pm Visit the Post Website at www.AL117.com

Do you have comments or items to submit to the newsletter?

Email: newsletter@AL117.com

Items for the January/ February 2016 issue are due no later than

**21 December 2015** 

### 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.

### Visit the Post 117 Facebook Pages



American Legion Post 117 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 117 Legion Riders FL Chapter 117



Hello to my American Legion Auxiliary sisters. Hard to believe that we're looking at the holiday season already, but yep it is here. And we have lots going on. But first I want to thank everyone who has helped make the events over the past few months such great successes!!! We sure have been



### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

doing a lot of different events and there's no way we could have been so successful without all the great and wonderful volunteers. We've even seen some new faces which I think is wonderful!!! Thank you to all!!

Our Halloween parties (kids and adult) were fabulous. What a wonderful team effort to make them great!! Kids, both young and old had a blast!!!

We have lots going on for the Christmas holidays: The Angel Tree, gift boxes for our troops, veterans in the nursing home, veterans and their families who were previously homeless and are new to housing, food baskets for families in the community who are in need, Children's Christmas party. Yes we need lots of volunteers to make these happen.

Linda Shipley has agreed to head this huge project up and will be looking for help.

We will be scheduling a meeting in the very near future. These are great ways to give back.

Don't forget Sunday BINGO!!! Every Sunday in the post hall. Doors open at 12:00 bingo starts at 1:00.

Also, our Quarter Auction day has changed. We will now be holding our Quarter Auction on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 5:30, auction starts at 6:30. Quarter Auctions are a lot of fun and with the holidays coming up it's a great opportunity to win some awesome presents. Proceeds go to our Auxiliary programs; a different program each month. We will also have some new and cool vendors.

Don't forget coupon clipping on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM. We always need coupons and volunteers to help clip 'em. Which brings me to my next issue: If you're upset or concerned about something you don't feel is right with our unit – please contact me. Extra-curricular discussions about unit-sensitive issues just makes for bad blood and more misconceptions. We have a lot of women who are working hard to make our unit a success and the gossiping and back biting is nothing more than destructive to our purpose. If there's an auxiliary issue, please feel free to contact me at any time or better yet – go up to the person who's doing the gossiping and back biting and say "stop hurting my unit – I belong here and I'm proud of it". Also, if you have an issue with someone, bring it to them and work it out like adults – don't drag others into your issue. Let's continue to build our unit into the best Unit in the Department of Florida – and we can do that together!!!!

Watch our boards for all the events coming up for November and December. We will be working hard to ensure that our active duty military, our veterans and our children have the best yet!!!

Don't forget our unit meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00. Our Auxiliary steak shoot, Friday night dinner, Sunday breakfast and NFL Sunday is the 3rd weekend of the month. We need volunteers to help out.

Again, thank you to everyone who has pitched in and helped make our unit great!! Let's continue working together to make it even better!!!

For God & Country **Dorothy Walsh** 

President, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 117



Sons of the American Legion,

As the year draws to a close, we look to all current SAL members to pay their dues for 2016 and we ask everyone this question - "Do you know someone who should join the Sons of The American Legion?" The eligibility rules are simple:



# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, World War II the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf War, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion. So I ask again - Do you know someone who should join the Sons of The American Legion? Why not invite them to join us? For more information on membership, contact Bruce Walkowiak at 321-501-1401.

Tony Gannon

Commander, Squadron 117, Sons of The American Legion

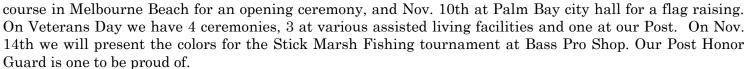


The Post 117 honor guard is always there for requests from families or businesses.

In September we hosted a picnic for the veterans at the Century Oaks Assisted living facility; the picnic was a huge success. We furnished lunches for almost a 100 people and DJ Jimmy D furnished the music and entertainment for them.

On Saturday Oct 15th we were at Space Coast Harley Davidson for a ceremony for the traveling wall.

November will be a busy month. We were requested for the Marine Corps birthday ceremony at VFW Post 4206 on Saturday Nov. 7th, Nov. 8th at the Spessard Holland golf





### Honor Guard Commander, American Legion Post 117

Fellow Legion Riders,

The last two months have been a very busy time. We have had several runs and one escort (The Traveling Wall) that we supported; also a few Fun Runs!

It's hard to believe that this is our last newsletter for 2015 and the Holiday season is upon us. I would like to thank everyone who has supported the Rides and Post functions over the past year.

November is going to be a busy, busy month for rides, there are 5 runs on the schedule now. A couple of the events we are going to need volunteers for registration and parking.

Also in November there is a post clean up day scheduled for black Friday, so come on out and work off that turkey dinner you had the day before. As most of you know that there will no longer be an ABATE Toy Run, it will be the Christmas Bike Fest, hosted by Space Coast Harley Davidson on Sunday December 6th, the entry fee will be the same as usual. In December we will have time to schedule a Fun Run, so give us some ideas.

The EC Meetings for Nov. & Dec. have been cancelled due to the fact that they both fall on a holiday. If anything comes up that needs our attention I will inform EC members of a time that we can meet @ the Post.

We have 118 Riders in our Chapter and we often have a hard time getting enough volunteers to do our Thursday Steak Shoot, Friday Dinners, Sunday Breakfast and NFL Sunday. Please volunteer a little of your time to help support the Riders and your Post.

Please continue to attend the meetings and also support our Rides/Escorts and this is very important that if you are out riding please keep track of your mileage and the number of riders that are with you, you can email me or just write the information down on a piece of paper and drop it in the Riders box in the foyer.

Have A Happy Thanksgiving & A Merry Christmas!

**Bob** Wiseman

Director, Legion Riders Chapter 117





Everyone is cordially invited to the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the

**Palm Bay Veterans Resource Center at Palm Bay City Hall** 

Tuesday, 10 November 2015, 5 to 7 pm

The opening ceremony will begin with the American Legion Post 117
Honor Guard raising the first flag purchased under
Governor Scott's newly authorized All-American Flag Act.



HONOR GUARD

### **Auxiliary Juniors Program Welcomes New Leader**

Submitted by Dorothy Walsh, Auxiliary Unit 117 President

There's been a lot of questions and discussion about our Juniors program. Several years ago, Dawn Burgess (who was unit president at the time) got together with Barb Mohr and other moms and grandmas and started a program that would



include all the children of the post, boys and girls. This was done to give them something to do and include them in the many functions going on, as well as educate them on flag etiquette, protocol, etc. Fabulous program and the kids love it!!!

We've been referring to and reporting this program as the Juniors program, under the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 117. The American Legion Auxiliary membership is broken into 2 categories; Senior members, and Junior members (birth to age 18). As this program has grown, department officers have encouraged us to become more compliant with the structure of the National and Department Juniors program; appointing officers, reports, participating in the patch program, etc. All this teaches our juniors as well as gives them recognition for their hard work. Similar to the Legion's SAL program.

The SAL program does not have different age groups and allows any SAL member, regardless of age, to be an officer. This would be a great learning experience for our Junior members. Of course the issue then becomes "what about the boys"? I am in the process of getting guidance from our department leadership on just that. Once I receive this, our Auxiliary EC will be discussing it and we will present it at the next general membership for discussion. If you feel you would like to give some input on this issue, please come to our meeting and discuss it there.

In the meantime, our beloved Juniors Leader, Barb, needs some time off and so a new member Brenda Wilborn (who by the way also goes by the name "Bubbles") will be taking the reins of our Juniors Program, with help and guidance from Barb.

### Chaplain's Corner

First I would like to wish everyone a Happy Veterans Day! I would like to thank you for your service and it is an Honor to be able to serve with you in the American Legion. With the holidays coming, it's easy to get stressed. Whether it be finding yourself to busy or missing a loved one that isn't here for the season, I've found in my own life, that when I'm praising God in the pain - or just thanking him during the mundane - it helps me become a person of gratitude in any circumstance. And that keeps me healthier and happier, over all. The Holiday season can bring many wonderful moments and feelings , but it can also be a sad memory of those whom me miss.

I'm sure God had our physical, as well as spiritual, health in mind when he inspired the Apostle Paul to write: "In everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). In everything give thanks. When we're thanking God, we're focused on our blessings, rather than the bitterness of whatever else might be going on.

Remember Gods Promise and our reason for the season. Isaiah 9:6

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

I pray for everyone's safety and blessings as we head in to the Holiday Season! Remember the reason for the Season! Let's remember to be a blessing to others in our community this season as we share our Love for God and Country.

For God and Country,

Chaplain Barry W. Roberts



# **Boosters**

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) Bill Butler (9/16) The Durham Family (9/16) Barb & Ray Mohr (9/16) Dianne & Dennis Boland (11/16) Ernie & Shirley Winslow (6/17) Tom & Les Giampino (9/17) Howard Print II (11/17)

#### **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.

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

### Membership Dues Rise in 2016

Don't forget to renew before 18 December if you are renewing through the Post. Legion Membership fees will increase on 1 January 2016. If your membership is paid prior to 31 December 2015 your dues will only be \$30. After that date they will be at the increased price of \$38. 18 December will be the last transmittal from the Post before the deadline. 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.



### Friday Night Karaoke Schedule

6 Nov Jimmy D 4 Dec Jimmy D

13 Nov Dan Haber 11 Dec Dan Haber

20 Nov Jimmy D 18 Dec Chuck Body

27 Nov Chuck Body

# Friday Night Karaoke Schedule

Come Join in the Fun!

| 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 Available in Black, White, or Red) |
| Men's Muscle Shirts (Small to XL)\$10                   |
| Men's Muscle Shirts (2XL to 3XL)\$12                    |
| 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  |

# **Saturday Nights**

SAL Hats ......\$10



Just what the **DOC** ordered...

7:00 PM til ???





The Sebastian Lions Club & American Legion Riders Post 189 Present

# SPECIAL RIDERS for SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Supported by ABATE of Florida, Inc., Treasure Coast Chapter

### **POKER RUN**

### SUNDAY NOV. 15th

\$15 per rider, \$5 per passenger

REGISTRATION (CARS ARE WELCOME) - 9-10AM @ Am Legion #189 807 Louisiana Avenue, Sebastian FL 32958

Breakfast \$6 from 9 - ? Am Legion #189

Stops: Tiki Bar and Grill, Malabar Moe's, American Legion Post 117(Palm

Bay), Marsh Landing, Italian American Club, Sandy's Grille

Maps will be provided on day of the event — Door prizes for riders Last Bike in 3:30 pm. Earl's Hideaway (Poker run is over)

PARTY at EARL'S HIDEAWAY



Entertainment by
Southern Rock's Finest

For more info. contact Jim Finochi at 772-581-0837 E-mail - jpf248@aol.com





















### **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!







Bring your quarters, bid on products and WIN!

# Second Tuesday **Every Month**

Doors Open at 5:30 pm Auction starts at 6:00 pm

1st Paddle is \$5, extra paddles are \$2



Presented by Unit 117 189 Veterans Dr SE, Palim Bay, FL 32909, 321-729-8089







2nd, 4th, and 5th Tuesdays from 5 to 7 pm Enjoy a Sandwich with Your Friends at Post 117! Different Specialty Sandwiches Every Week!

Just

\$5



**Bratwurst? Knackwurst?** Weisswurst? Curry Wurst? **Bockwurst?** 

### Which is Your Favorite?

The 4th Wednesday of the Month is

# Wurst Wednesdau

5 to 7 pm

Come Out and Enjoy!

Served with a roll and a side of French Fries





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

# Consider Going Paperless . . .

A full color PDF of this Newsletter is always available at the Post website; visit:

www.AL117.com

"The American Legion's duty
[is] to promote Americanism.
Whether it's teaching flag
etiquette to children or building
a memorial to fallen heroes,
veterans know that freedom is
not free and that patriotism
must be cultivated and
nourished if it is to last."

Legion Birthday Speech 2013

### Friday Dinners, 5 to 7 pm

Nov 6 (Riders) - Spiral Ham, Baked Potato, Corn,

Roll & Butter, and Dessert

Nov 13 (SAL) - Chicken Parmesan with all the fixin's

Nov 20 (AUX) &

Nov 27 (Post) - To be announced

\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 4 (Riders) - Chicken Casserole with Salad,

Roll & Butter

Dec 11 (SAL) - Fried Chicken, Mash Potatoes & Gravy

and a Vegetable

Dec 18 (AUX) - To be announced

