

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 5

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 3-5 Sept - Labor Day Weekend
- 11 Sept - First Responders Appreciation Dinner
- 6 Sept - POW/MIA Ceremony
- 17 Sept - Wild Dogs Poker Run
- 24 Sept - 12th District Picnic, Wickham Park
- 1 Oct - Oktoberfest
- 15 Oct - Early Bird Dinner
- 29 Oct - Children's Halloween Party (11-1)
- 29 Oct - Adult Halloween Party (8p - midnite)

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Celebrate Labor Day Weekend with Your Post 117 American Legion Family

On Saturday, 3 September Enjoy Live Music from 1 to 5 pm featuring



Also - Available from the Grill - Pulled Pork, served with Baked Beans and Cole Slaw.

On Monday, 5 September join us for Labor Day Hot Dogs in the Tiki!

Happy Labor Day! Enjoy A Safe and Happy Holiday!

Monthly Events at a Glance . . .

- ◆ Karaoke - Every Friday 8 to 12 pm
- ◆ Doc's Karaoke & Open Mic Night - Every Saturday 7 to 12 pm
- ◆ Auxiliary Bingo - Every Sunday (unless otherwise posted) 1 to 4 pm
- ◆ Tacos - First Tuesday, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Haley's Wings & Line Dancing - First and Third Wednesday, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Sandwich Tuesdays - Second & Fourth Tuesday, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Big-Azz-Burgers - Third Tuesday, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Fired Up Wednesday! - Second Wednesday, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Honor Guard Dinner - Friday, 30 September, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Riders Dinners - Friday, 2 September and Friday, 7 October, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ SAL Dinners - Friday, 9 September and Friday, 14 October, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ AUX Dinners - Friday, 16 September and Friday, 21 October, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Post Dinner - Friday, 23 September and Friday, 28 October, 5 to 7 pm

Post 117 Directory

American Legion Officers

Commander.....Jim Fournier
 1st Vice Commander.....Bruce Thurber
 2nd Vice CommanderGene Baker
 AdjutantDuane Podhola
 Finance Officer.....Chris Hess
 ChaplainBarry Roberts
 Sergeant-at-ArmsMatt Zirwas
 Asst. Sergeant-at-ArmsGene Pilot
 HistorianTim Durham
 Judge AdvocateCharlie Christy
 Service Officer.....Barry Roberts
 Executive Committee.....Tom Giampino
 Executive Committee.....Dave Fox

Auxiliary Officers

President.....Wanda McDermon
 1st Vice PresidentBeverly Hall
 2nd Vice PresidentMillicent Donovan
 TreasurerDiane Wood
 Secretary.....Haley Farris
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Joann Wright
 Asst. Sergeant-at-ArmsPhoebe Chilcott
 ChaplainBarbara Simons
 Historian.....Karen Humann
 Membership.....Beverly Hall
 Executive Committee.....Linda Lanier
 Executive Committee.....Millie Jochum
 Executive Committee.....Kim Oaks

Sons of the American Legion Officers

Squadron Commander.....Randy Chilcott
 1st Vice Squadron CommanderBruce Walkowiak
 2nd Vice Squadron CommanderTony Gannon
 AdjutantEd Milnor
 Finance Officer.....Ray Mohr
 ChaplainEd Milnor Jr.
 Sergeant-at-ArmsDylan Young
 1st Assistant Sergeant-at-ArmsKeith Durham
 HistorianBob Humann

American Legion Riders Officers

DirectorBob Wiseman
 Assistant DirectorBruce Walkowiak
 Secretary.....Sheila Cline-Burns
 TreasurerRay Mohr
 ChaplainDonna Walkowiak
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Duane Podhola
 Historian.....Michelle Bucher
 Safety Officer.....Ed Milnor
 Membership.....Neil Dagata

Honor Guard

Commander: Matt Zirwas
Members:
 Randy Chilcott Bob Menard
 Dawn Hanner Bruce Walkowiak
 Ed Milnor Donna Walkowiak
Color Guard: Phoebe Chilcott
 Ed Milnor Jr.

Ways and Means Committee

Chairman: Gene Baker
Members:
 Kerry Baker Sheila Cline-Burns
 Randy Chilcott Beverly Durham
 Tim Durham Jim Fournier
 Duane Podhola Bruce Thurber
 Bob Wiseman

House Committee

Chairman: Duane Podhola
Members:
 Randy Chilcott Jeff Davis
 Don Jochum Ron Lawton
 Brenda Misko

Visit the Post 117 Facebook Pages

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

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

*Contributors Please Submit Articles
 by the 21st of the Month Prior to Publication.*

Commander's Corner

Dear Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members,

Here we go again, another long hot summer and I'm sure everybody is ready for it to start cooling down. Football season is starting a lot of seasonal activities are approaching us quickly. I want to thank Pat for completing the one and a half year project of the Seawall. Great job, thank you. It looks great!

We do have a lot of activities in September starting with Labor Day weekend, our 12th District meeting on September 10th, our First Responders luncheon on the 11th, POW/Mia ceremony on Friday the 16th at 2 p.m., The wild dogs Poker Run on the 17th, 12th District picnic at Wickham Park on the 24th and the swing and Giggles inaugural golf tournament on the 25th. Please help if you can on ONE of the events.

As a final reminder, the cutoff date for the early bird stamp is also September 11th. Please pay your dues early and get it taken care of. The dinner will be on October 15th. Thank you! The Halloween party for the kids and adults will be on October the 29th.

Lastly, I want to thank Don and Jerry for all of their hard work and volunteerism around the post. It is greatly appreciated, thank you both! 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
The Monday before the
Legion EC meeting, 7:00 pm

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow servicemembers and veterans.

The American Legion is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization with great political influence perpetuated by its grass-roots involvement in the legislation process from local districts to Capitol Hill. Legionnaires' sense of obligation to community, state and nation drives an honest advocacy for veterans in Washington. The Legion stands behind the issues most important to the nation's veterans community, backed by resolutions passed by volunteer leadership.

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The organization belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives. (From www.legion.org/mission)

Hall Rental Information

Our Post Hall is available for special functions, weddings, anniversary & birthday parties, etc. Please contact Sheila Cline-Burns at 321-243-7396 for rental availability and price

Labor Day



We Want To Hear from YOU!

Do you have comments or items to submit to the newsletter?
Email: newsletter@AL117.com
 Items for the November/December 2016 issue are due no later than 21 October 2016.

Hello Ladies, well here we are in our third month of the 2016-2017 year, time seems to be going by quickly. Let me start off by saying Thank You for electing me your Unit 117 President, I will do my utmost best to make you proud to be a member of this very special unit. I am looking forward to a great year with all of your help.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

It is now that time of year for the annual renewal of dues, please consider paying those dues early, instead of waiting until December 31. Dues have remained the same; I believe it is quite a bargain at \$30.00, considering all the benefits you receive as a member. We are constantly trying to recruit new members, lets all try hard to get our friends and neighbors who are eligible to join and make them a part of the Legion family.

We need some new smiling faces and fresh ideas in order to continue to make our Unit grow and prosper.

The calendar for September and October is steadily filling up; please check it often to see what events and happenings are going on. We are always looking for volunteers to help with these functions. In looking over the calendar, if you see something you think you would like to be involved in, please feel free to contact an Officer or Chairman to volunteer your services, it would be greatly appreciated, not to mention how rewarding it feels to know you have helped a Veteran and his family, or your community.

Let us not forget the reason we joined the Legion, we are here to help and serve our veterans. When you see a veteran on the street or in a store, please thank them for their service and for keeping us safe in this great country we live in. Please remember to check your calendars for important happenings and join us for some fun and getting to know your Legion family. For those of you that don't know, we meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm, come join us and see what your Unit is doing and why we do it.

If at any time you have questions or need information, please feel free to contact myself or an officer, we are here to serve.

For God and Country,

Wanda L. McDermon

President, Unit 117 American Legion Auxiliary

Sons of the American Legion,

September is here all ready and it's that time of the year when things start getting busy starting with the First Responders Dinner on September 11th, this is a American Legion Family event at Post 117 so please try to show your support any way possible. September 10th is the District meeting at our post registration at 9am, meeting to start at 10am . Please try to attend.



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The new membership year for 2017 has started please pay your dues as soon as possible, the cutoff date for the early bird dinner is the 11th of September. If we don't get membership dues early in the year we don't have the ability to make as many donations.

Tony Gannon is heading up the Special Olympics Committee this year and is in the early planning stages for the run. He is also planning other events this year to help raise money for the Special Olympics. Look for fliers to be posted in the near future.

As always we need volunteers for Steak shoot, Friday night dinner, Breakfast, NFL lunch and Big AZZ Burgers. Please try and help out all our SAL activities.

Please feel free to talk to me about any ideas you may have.

See ya'll around the post!

Randy Chilcott

**Commander,
Squadron 117, Sons of The American Legion**



**SAL Squadron 117 Luncheon/Dinner to
Benefit the Special Olympics**

**Thursday, 22 September
12 to 7 PM**

**Fried Chicken Sandwich
& French Fries**

**Proceeds go to
Benefit the Special Olympics**

Fellow Legion Riders,

We have some poker run coming up in the next couple of months, the main thing that is coming up is the 1st Responders dinner that we will be delivering to all of them are on duty. Plus we have a fun run that has been scheduled we will keep all of you posted on all of these events. When I say we you may be getting E-Mails from Duane, Ed or myself and just maybe from all three of us so keep checking your E-Mails.

I want to thank everyone that has stepped up to volunteer for Friday Dinners and Sunday Breakfast. 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 (don't need names) that are with you, you can e-mail me or just write the information down on a piece of paper and drop it in the Riders box in the foyer.

Bob Wiseman

Director, Legion Riders Chapter 117



**STAY HIGH ON LIFE
AND KEEP RIDING**

The Honor Guard is doing all it can at the best of its ability. Several other Post Honor Guards are disbanding - this leaves us alone to help the veterans' families which we will always strive to do.

In September the Honor Guard has a ceremony at a financial advisers picnic on Sept. 10th, the 9/11 ceremony at the Post on Sept. 11th, a POW/MIA memorial service at the Post on Sept 17th and a funeral at a time to be announced.

At the end of September, the Honor Guard will host the Thursday Steak Shoot, Friday dinner and Sunday breakfast. Please support our honor guard. Even though we are a small group we still always get the job done.

Matt Zirwas

Honor Guard Commander, American Legion Post 117



Legion Family Future Leaders Unit 117

Mission: To encourage and educate our junior members in the purpose of the American Legion Family and to instill confidence and a desire to serve their community, state and nation while promoting independent thinking and leadership training.

First Meeting is Sunday, September 18, Noon - 2pm

The Legion Family Future Leaders program is the new "Juniors" program at Post 117. The program is open to all 12th District Juniors Auxiliary and SAL members 18 and younger! Please join us as we take our Junior program to the next level! See our Facebook page for more information: facebook.com/groups/LFFL117/

Help us grow the best program in Florida!

Dawn Burgess

**Children & Youth Chairman,
Unit 117 American Legion Auxiliary
dburgessFL@gmail.com**

**Children's Halloween
Party & Costume
Contest**

**Saturday, 29 October
11a - 1p**



Boosters

- Ruben & Asia Rodriguez (9/16)
- Bill Butler (9/16)
- The Durham Family (9/16)
- Barb & Ray Mohr (9/16)
- Dianne & Dennis Boland (11/16)
- Duane & Janet Podhola (3/17)
- Bonnie DeCaro (3/17)
- Joe & Linda Shipley (3/17)
- Gene & Suzie Pilot (5/17)
- Dawn Burgess (6/17)
- Jim Fournier (6/17)
- Elaine Griswold (7/17)
- Kevin & Karen McGarry (8/17)
- Tom & Les Giampino (9/17)
- Howard Print II (11/17)
- Ernie & Shirley Winslow (6/18)

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".

MERCHANDISE SALES

Legion Shirts For Sale

- T-Shirts (Tan) \$12
- Polo Shirts (White, Red, Black or Maroon) \$20

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

SAL Items For Sale

- US Flag (3x5) \$20
- POW/MIA Flag \$30
- SAL T-Shirts (Red or Blue) \$10

AUX Items For Sale

- Black Half Staff Ribbon \$12

Haircuts

by Cathy

3rd Sunday
of the Month

10 am to
12 noon



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"

2017 Membership Year Has begun

Submitted by Bruce Thurber, 1st Vice & Membership

The 2017 membership year has begun for the American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion. The theme for the Department of Florida Commander Joe McGee is Lil Leprechaun Fighting for Vets and the Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander Steve Gordon's theme is Hitting Home Runs for Veterans. Both programs have many interesting award incentives.

Anyone renewing their membership before September 11th will receive an early bird stamp making them eligible for the special Early Bird Roast Beef Dinner on 15 October.

Remember that you must have a current Membership Card to participate in legion programs. It would really be great if 117 could have 100% renewals before the 1st of the year.

As of Dec 31st if you have not payed your 2017 dues all rights and privileges will end. If you have signed up for LIT the free life insurance program it will expire and you will need to reapply.

We had a tremendous 2016 but I know we can do even better in 2017! Please renew as soon as possible!

Friday Dinners, 5 to 7 pm & Karaoke , 8 pm to 12

<i>Date</i>	<i>Host</i>	<i>Menu</i>	<i>Karaoke DJ</i>
<i>Sept 2</i>	<i>Riders</i>	<i>Sausage & Pepper Heroes w/ Crinkle Fries</i>	<i>Jimmy D</i>
<i>Sept 9</i>	<i>SAL</i>	<i>Broiled Seafood Platter (Fish, Bay Scallops, Shrimp & Crab Cakes), Yellow Rice, Veg</i>	<i>Chuck Body</i>
<i>Sept 16</i>	<i>AUX</i>	<i>Open Faced Roast Beef Au Jus</i>	<i>Jimmy D</i>
<i>Sept 23</i>	<i>Post</i>	<i>Stuffed Pork Loin, Rice Pilaf, Mixed Vegetables, Roll</i>	<i>Chuck Body</i>
<i>Sept 30</i>	<i>Honor Guard</i>	<i>To be announced</i>	<i>Jimmy D</i>
<i>Oct 7</i>	<i>Riders</i>	<i>Bourbon Chicken, Rice</i>	<i>Chuck Body</i>
<i>Oct 14</i>	<i>SAL</i>	<i>All-You-Can-Eat Fried Fish, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, French Fries & Hush Puppies</i>	<i>Jimmy D</i>
<i>Oct 21</i>	<i>AUX</i>	<i>Meatloaf Special</i>	<i>Chuck Body</i>
<i>Oct 28</i>	<i>Post</i>	<i>Roladen, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Green Beans, and Bread</i>	<i>Jimmy D</i>

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!

TACO TUESDAY



Tacos - \$2.00
5 to 7 pm



1st
Tuesday
of the
Month



Presents
BIG AZZ BURGERS
3rd Tuesday of the Month
5 - 7 pm



SANDWICH TUESDAYS

2nd & 4th
Tuesdays
5 to 7 pm

Haley's Awesome



Wings 70 Cents each



1st & 3rd Wednesdays
4 - 7 PM



**AUXILIARY UNIT 117
HAS BROUGHT BINGO BACK**



EVERY SUNDAY
DOORS OPEN AT 12:00 NOON
BINGO STARTS AT 1:00PM
NON-SMOKING / PERIODIC BREAKS
BRING YOUR FRIENDS !!!



Fired Up Wednesday!

4th Wednesday of Every Month
Kitchen will be open from 5 to 7 pm
Serving an assortment of favorites
Including a featured
Wednesday Night Special
September Special - Reubens



EARLYBIRD Dinner 2016
Any Post 117
Family Member
Paying their
2017 Dues
Prior to 9-11
Is invited to a
Roast Beef Dinner
October 15th 2017
ALL OTHERS \$10



40 & 8 Voiture 1621
& La Society de Femme
Oktoberfest 2016

Meal: Schnitzel
Jaeger Gravy
Zigeoner Gravy (w/mild peppers)
Lemon for Wiener Schnitzel
Spaetzel
Green Beans w/ Bacon and Spaetzel Bits
Broetchen
Cabbage
Date: 1 October 2016
Dinner: 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Price: \$10.00/person
Place: American Legion Post 117



Advanced Ticket Sales