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 I

#### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 9 Jan Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) Ride-In
- 15-17 Jan ALR Bike Days
- 16 Jan 2nd Annual PAWS Run
- 18 Jan Martin Luther King Day
- 6 Feb Special Olympics Poker Run
- I4 Feb Valentine's Day
- 15 Feb President's Day
- 20 Feb Walk for Veterans
- 27 Feb AUX Mardi Gras Murder Mystery Dinner
- 27 Feb Eastern Area Ball

#### Save the Date

- 19 Mar District Picnic
- 26 Mar Children's Easter Party
- 2 Apr Children and Youth Day
- 9 Apr Legacy Run Begins
- 15 Apr Legacy Run Dinner
- I6 Apr BIN Run
- 17 Apr Wall Escort
- 21-24 Apr Vietnam and All Vets Reunion, Wickham Park

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#### Monthly Events at a Glance . . .

- Karaoke Every Friday 8 to 12 pm
- Doc's Karaoke & Open Mic Night Every Saturday 8 to 12 pm
- Auxiliary Bingo Every Sunday 1 to 4 pm
- Tacos First and Third Tuesday, 5 to 7 pm
- Quarter Auction—Second Tuesday, Doors Open 5:30 pm, Starts at 6 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, 8 January and Friday, 5 February, 5 to 7 pm
- SAL Dinners Friday, 15 January and Friday, 12 February, 5 to 7 pm
- AUX Dinners Friday, 22 January and Friday, 19 February, 5 to 7 pm
- Post Dinner Friday, 29 January and Friday, 26 February, 5 to 7 pm

#### JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

#### WALK FOR VETS

Join American Legion Post 117, the Space Coast Paratroopers, and the City of Palm Bay in the First Inaugural Veterans Walk. Let's Walk for Those that Marched For Us!

The walk will cover a 1.5 mile route starting and ending at American Legion Post 117. The walk begins at 10:00 AM.

Advance registration (prior to 12 February) is \$15; forms are available at Post 117.

Registration on the day of the event; starting at 9:00 AM at Post 117 is \$20. Registration Fees include a Walk T-shirt for each participant.

All registration fees will be donated to American Legion Children and Youth programs. Join Us and Walk in Support of Those Who Marched for Us!

#### Post 117 Directory

#### **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	Gene Pilot
Historian	Tim Durham
Judge Advocate	Charlie Christy
Service Officer	Barry Roberts
Executive Committee	Tom Giampino

#### **Auxiliary Officers**

Kerry Baker
MaryAnn Spellman
Dawn Burgess
Donna Walkowiak
Karen Humann
Donna Irving
Barbara Simons
Linda Shipley
Kerry Baker
Linda Lanier
Barbara Ward
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**

Bob Wiseman
Bruce Walkowiak
Sheila Cline-Burns
Ray Mohr
Donna Walkowiak
Duane Podhola
MaryAnn Spellman
Terry Doiel
Karen Humann

#### **Honor Guard**

<b>Commander:</b>	Matt Zirwas
Members:	
Randy Chilcott	Jim Fournier
Dawn Hanner	Bob Menard
Ed Milner	Bruce Walkowiak
Dan Wood	Donna Walkowiak
Bugler:	Joann Wright

#### Ways and Means Committee

**Chairman: Members:** Kerry Baker Randy Chilcott Tim Durham Duane Podhola Bob Wiseman

Gene Baker Sheila Cline-Burns **Beverly Durham** Jim Fournier Bruce Thurber

#### **House Committee**

**Chairman: Members**: Randy Chilcott Don Jochum Brenda Misko

Tom Giampino

Jeff Davis Ron Lawton Sherry White

#### **Canteen Staff**

**Canteen Manager:** Volunteer Bartenders: Linda Abbott Shirley Domonousky "Irish" Farris Michelle "Mic" Riepe

Sheila Cline-Burns

Sheila Culnan Haley Farris Barbara Mohr Angie Todd

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### **Commander's Corner**

Dear Legion, Auxiliary, 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 2016. I want to thank everyone that helped on the work party on Black Friday. Great job by all - thank you again.

Don't forget, if you have some spare time to volunteer and help with Steak Shoot, Friday Night dinner and Sunday breakfast your help would be greatly appreciated. (It would be nice to see some different faces volunteering.)

We will be having the National Commander's walk on February 20th so everybody mark that on your calendars and also on April 2nd we will be hosting the Department of Florida Children and Youth family picnic. We should have a great turn out with our members and support this great activity. All proceeds raised will be given to the children and youth program at the 2016 convention in June.

I want to thank all of the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL Officers and canteen staff for all of their hard work during the 2015 year and look forward to working with you all again this year.

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	Winner-Take-All Door Raffle
Legion Meeting 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 pm	Need another reason to come to the monthly meeting? Beginning in January, at the monthly Post 117 Legion Meeting (3rd Wednesday of
SAL Meeting 2nd Thursday, 6:30 pm	the Month at 7pm), there will be a Winner-Take-All Door Raffle. Get your tickets for a \$1 donation per ticket or \$5 donation for 6
Auxiliary Meeting 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm	tickets at the door when you arrive. After the meeting is adjourned, one lucky winner will take all the money home!
Legion Riders Meeting 1st Thursday, 6:30 pm	You must be present to participate.
40 & 8 Voiture 1621 3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm	Hall Rental Information
La Femmes 1st Wednesday, 7:00 pm	Our Post Hall is available for special functions, weddings, anniversary & birthday parties, etc. Please contact Sheila Cline at
Ways & Means Committee 1st Monday, 7:00 pm	321-243-7396 or Duane Podhola at 321-698-7382 for hall rental availability and price information.
House Committee 2nd Monday, 7:00 pm	We Want To Hear from YOU!
Happy New Year	Do you have comments or items to submit to the newsletter? Email: newsletter@AL117.com Items for the March/April 2016 issue are due no later than 21 February 2016

Greetings Auxiliary Members,

Happy New Year! I hope 2016 has found you all happy and healthy and that you had a great time over the holidays.



#### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

As most of you know, in late December Dorothy Walsh resigned her position

as President of Unit 117. Effective on that date, Kerry Baker has assumed the office of President and MaryAnn Spellman will serve as the Vice President.

We are looking forward to a great year in 2016; we have lots of activities and events planned. But first I need to look back to 2015 and thank everyone who worked so hard on the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets and on the Angel Tree. You all did a super job and your efforts are greatly appreciated! I also want to thank everyone for the fantastic job on the Children's Christmas Party. We had a great turnout; it was a huge success! A big "Thank-You!" to all of you who made it happen!

So on to 2016 - in January, we will start off with our first Juniors meeting on Sunday, 10 January. The Juniors will be making Valentine's Day cards for the troops overseas and we will also be going over our plan of action for the Juniors scrapbook. Please watch for the flyer in the canteen with all the details!

On 6 February, the Post is hosting the Annual Special Olympics Poker Run - we will be looking for Auxiliary volunteers to help with this event. Watch for the flyer and sign-ups sheets in the canteen - contact any Auxiliary officer for more information.

Also be sure and save the date! On Saturday, 27 February, the Auxiliary will host the Mardi Gras Murder Mystery Dinner - Advance tickets are required and will be available soon!

I encourage everyone to attend the monthly Auxiliary meetings on Tuesday, 19 January and Tuesday, 16 February - we value your ideas and input! I also encourage everyone to come out and support the Auxiliary Weekend (usually the third weekend of each month) which begins with Steak Shoot on Thursday, Friday Dinner, Sunday Breakfast and the Sunday NFL Ticket! We need both volunteers and attendees!

Finally, don't forget Auxiliary Bingo, every Sunday in the Hall from 1 to 4 pm and our monthly Quarter Auction on the second Tuesday of each month—doors open at 5:30 pm. I hope to see all of you soon! Best Wishes for 2016!

For God & Country

Kerry Baker President, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 117

Sons of the American Legion,

2016 has arrived—have you paid your dues yet? If not, I ask you to please do so as soon as possible!



"Do you know someone who should join the Sons of The American Legion?" The eligibility rules are simple:

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

## Visit the Post Website at www.AL117.com

The Honor Guard had a busy month in December serving at four funerals, one with less than a day's notice. We also served at three memorial services, including one for the deceased homeless veterans. We also participated in the "Wreaths Across America" ceremony at the Post.

I want to thank everyone that attended the Honor Guard Awards Dinner/ Ceremony, showing support for the members of the Honor Guard receiving the awards they deserved.

As always we never turn a veteran away and strive to provide whatever ceremony is requested. Post 117 has one of the best Honor Guard and recently added Color Guard units in Brevard County and District 12.

#### Matt Zirwas

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

Fellow Legion Riders,

First of all I hope that all of you had A Very Merry Christmas and hope all of you have Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

The last couple of months have been a very busy time. November we supported The Kids Without Christmas, St. Jude Poker Run, Special Riders for Special Olympics and the Treasure Coast Toy Run. December was also as busy The ABATE Space Coast H.D. Event, Shriners Toy Run, escorted a piece of the Twin Towers from Vero Beach to Melbourne, Santa Escort and The Life Care Center Run. Just to name a few.

The start of the New Year looks to be just as active, one very important one is on February 6th, The SAL Special Olympic Annual Poker Run which we really need to support, they (SAL) have done a great job organizing this event for our Post and the Special Olympics.

Our numbers in our Chapter membership is increasing but we still have a hard time getting enough volunteers to do our Thursday Steak Shoot, Friday Night Dinners, and Sunday Breakfast. Please volunteer a little of your time to help support the Riders and your Post.

We need only a few more members to pay their dues and we will again make our 100% membership quota for the year. One thing that I forgot to mention in our December meeting that we received our 100% membership banner from last year that was presented to us @ the fall conference which I attached to our Riders Flag.

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.

Happy Valentines Day to all the Lady Riders! Guys, its up to you to make this happen!

Bob Wiseman

**Director, Legion Riders Chapter 117** 

### Visit the Post 117 Facebook Pages

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



#### THE THOM







STAY HIGH ON LIFE

**AND KEEP RIDING** 

ISSUE I

#### **Chaplain's Corner**

While reflecting over the past year I couldn't help but think of something our American Legion Family can do better. We lost many Family members this past year and have held many ceremonies in their Honor. We never know when we will be called above and our time here will end. I would like to encourage everyone to consider some preparations in advance.

First, it would be in everyone's best interest to have a Will, and to make sure either an Attorney or your Next of Kin has access to it.

Second, it would also be very helpful if our Legion Family had Next of Kin contact information along with information about your military service and how we can Honor you. Yes, we care about you very much and want to pay tribute to your life, your service and your passions while you were here. We want to Honor you and pay tribute to you and your service the best we can. Please help us Honor you by providing us with some information that will help us help you and your loved ones in a time of need. Please fill out the form below and put it in an envelope addressed to me and drop it into the mailbox in the foyer of the post.

For God and Country,

Chaplain Barry W. Roberts

#### American Legion Emergency Contact Information Form

Name:	
Address:	
Next of Kin (NOK):	
NOK Address:	
	nail:
Branch of Service:	Fime of Service:
Service History:	
American Legion Service History:	
Religious Preference:	
Special Requests:	
Signature:	

## **Boosters**

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".

#### Friday Night Karaoke

1 Jan Jimmy D

- 8 Jan Dan Haber 15 Jan Chuck Body

22 Jan Jimmy D

29 Jan Dan Haber

5 Feb Chuck Body

12 Feb Jimmy D

19 Feb Dan Haber

26 Feb Chuck Body

**Come Join in the Fun!** 

### **MERCHANDISE SALES** 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 F	led)
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
SAL Hats\$	10



# **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"

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#### THE THOMAS TIMES



THE THOMAS TIMES



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."

#### Friday Dinners, 5 to 7 pm

	Jan 1 (Honor Guard)	Breaded Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Collard Greens, Black-Eyed Peas, Cornbread
	Jan 8 (Riders)	To be announced
	Jan 15 (SAL)	Meatballs and Gravy over Noodles with a Vegetable, Roll & Butter
]	Jan 22 (AUX)	Steak Kabob, BBQ Chicken with Yellow Rice
	Jan 29 (Post)	To be announced
	Feb 5 (Riders)	To be announced
	Feb 12 (SAL)	Pork Chops, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing with Gravy and a Vegetable.
	Feb 19 (AUX)	Country Fried Steak with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes and Green Beans
	Feb 26 (Post)	To be announced

Legion Birthday Speech 2013