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 2

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 8 Mar Auxiliary Quarter Auction
- 12 Mar 40/8 Lunch
- 17 Mar St. Patrick's Day
- 19 Mar District Picnic
- 26 Mar Kid's Easter Party
- 27 Mar Easter Sunday
- 2 Apr Children and Youth Day
- 9 Apr BACA Run
- 9 Apr Legacy Run Begins
- 12 Apr Auxiliary Quarter Auction
- 15 Apr Legacy Run Dinner
- I6 Apr BIN Run
- 17 Apr Wall Escort
- 21-24 Apr Vietnam and All Vets Reunion, Wickham Park

Save the Date

- 8 May Mother's Day
- 30 May Memorial Day
- 19 Jun Father's Day

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- 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
- Haley's Wings First and Third Wednesday, 5 to 7 pm
- Quarter Auction Second Tuesday, Doors Open 5:30pm, Starts 6:30 pm
- Sandwich Tuesdays Second Tuesday, 5 to 7 pm
- Big-Azz-Burgers Second Wednesday, 5 to 7 pm
- Fired Up Wednesday! Fourth Wednesday, 5 to 7 pm
- Riders Dinners Friday, 4 March and Friday, 8 April, 5 to 7 pm
- SAL Dinners Friday, 11 March and Friday, 15 April, 5 to 7 pm
- AUX Dinners Friday, 18 March and Friday, 22 April, 5 to 7 pm
- Post Dinner Friday, 25 March and Friday, 29 April, 5 to 7 pm
- Honor Guard Dinner Friday, 1 April, 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
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

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

Auxiliary Officers

President	. Kerry Baker
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
Historian Membership	
	. Kerry Baker
Membership	. Kerry Baker . Linda Lanier
Membership Executive Committee	. Kerry Baker . Linda Lanier . Barbara Ward

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

Gene Baker **Commander:** Matt Zirwas **Chairman: Members: Members**: Kerry Baker Sheila Cline-Burns Randy Chilcott Jim Fournier Randy Chilcott Beverly Durham Dawn Hanner **Bob Menard** Jim Fournier Tim Durham Ed Milner Bruce Walkowiak Bruce Thurber Duane Podhola Dan Wood Donna Walkowiak Bob Wiseman **Bugler:** Joann Wright **Color Guard:** Phoebe Chilcott Ed Milner Jr. **Canteen Staff** Sheila Cline-Burns **Canteen Manager: Volunteer Bartenders:**

Linda Abbott Shirley Domonousky "Irish" Farris Michelle "Mic" Riepe

Haley Farris Barbara Mohr Angie Todd

Ways and Means Committee

House Committee

Chairman:	Tom Giampino	
Members:		
Randy Chilcott	Jeff Davis	
Don Jochum	Ron Lawton	
Brenda Misko	Sherry White	

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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,

Where has the time gone? It's almost summertime already. I want to thank everybody that provided support and volunteered their time to help the SAL with the Special Olympics fundraiser and poker run. What a great success! I also want to thank everybody involved in the Walk for Veterans along with the City of Palm Bay and Space Coast Paratroopers Association. another fantastic job!

I also want to let everyone know that the 12th District will be raising money for the district by raffling off a 2017 Ford Mustang. There will be flyers posted and tickets available soon. The Auxiliary and the SAL have a lot of events coming up so please support them if you can.

Our next big event will be on April 2nd. We have been asked to host the Department of Florida Children and Youth family picnic. This will be a huge event and if you are available to volunteer some time to help with this, it would be greatly appreciated. I have seen some new faces helping with the steak shoots and dinners. (We can never have too many) I want to thank each and every one of you for stepping up and volunteering.

Reminder that nominations for Post Officers will be at the March and April monthly meeting and voting will be in May.

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.

Nobody can do everything, but

everyone can do something. - Gil Scott-Heron

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

We Want To Hear from YOU!

Do you have comments or items to submit to the newsletter? Email: newsletter@AL117.com

Items for the May/June 2016 issue are due no later than 21 April 2016

THE THOMAS TIMES

Hello Auxiliary Sisters,

I would like to first start off with saying "Congratulations!" to our awesome membership committee, and to all our members for doing a great job and meeting our 2016 membership goal. We are in the top 4 in our District with 81.19% '. WAY TO GO!!

I also want to thank everyone for their patience, help and support these past few weeks as we had some changes going on. We are all doing a amazing job with our programs and events. We have some really good stuff coming up in March and April and need volunteers.

We will be having girl state interviews on March 6th in the hall at 11am.

March 19th District Picnic at 117, please come out and join the fun.

March 26th @ 11am to 1pm am will be our kids Easter Party; candy donations would be greatly appreciated.

April 2nd Department Children & Youth Picnic / poker run, will be held at our post. Please sign up - there will be a signup sheet in the canteen. We really need volunteers for this HUGE event.

We will have our first round of nominations at our March meeting for 2016-2017 officers.

Don't forget our unit meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Our Auxiliary steak shoot, Friday night dinner, Sunday breakfast 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 as great as it is! Let's continue working together and doing what we do best, helping our Veterans, their families and people in need.

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 and the Auction starts at 6:30 pm. I hope to see all of you soon!

For God & Country *Kerry Baker* **President, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 117**

Sons of the American Legion,

The S.A.L.'s mission is to strengthen the four pillars of The American Legion: preserving American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.

What a great year we have had so far! I would like to thank Dan Wood and all the Legion family members that assisted him with the Special Olympics Poker Run and fundraiser - due to their efforts, the event was a great success and a great example of how our Squadron fulfills its mission.

The Squadron elections are coming soon. The first round of nominations will be made at the March meeting and the second round will be in April. The elections will be held in May before the General Meeting. The following positions are elected positions: Squadron Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Finance Officer, Chaplain and Sergeant-at-Arms. The position of Adjutant is an appointed position.

If you are interested in one of the officer positions, please ask someone to nominate you. We are always looking for motivated people to fill our officer positions.

As we head into a beautiful Florida springtime, please remember to support our SAL activities - volunteer when you can and participate whenever possible. The strength of our Squadron lies in its volunteers.

Tony Gannon Commander, Squadron 117, Sons of The American Legion





The honor guard has been busy with funerals and memorial services. We did the salute for the Veterans walk and we will be going to Merritt Island for the last sea battle on March 5th.

This Post has the best honor guard in District 12 and beyond! The Honor Guard will host the Thursday Night Steak Shoot on March 31st and the Friday dinner on April 1st. Please support the Honor Guard, they make Post 117 proud.

I can't say much more than they are a dedicated, faithful and proud team that wants to always better itself. I am proud to be their leader.

Matt Zirwas Honor Guard Commander, American Legion Post 117

Fellow Legion Riders,

The last couple of months have been somewhat busy. We escorted Scooter and Adam when they visited our Post in January and in February we participated in the annual Special Olympics Poker run and the Patriot Bike Fest 2016.

In March we have our Annual Merry-go-Round; there is also a Benefit Run for Mic on the 19th. Mic is one of our own and we do need to support this one 100%. Remember that Daylight Savings Time starts on Sunday, the 13th of March so remember to set your clocks forward 1 hour.

In April we have the Annual Children and Youth Picnic on the 2nd and another big event is the Vietnam Wall escort on the 17th. I'll be sending out E-mails with more information as these events get closer.

I don't want to sound like a broken record but even though our numbers in our Chapter membership are increasing we still have a hard time getting enough volunteers to work our Friday Night Dinners, and our Sunday Breakfast. Please volunteer a little of your time to help support the Riders and your Post.

We have met our 100% membership quota for the year. Thanks to all that renewed their membership and to all of the new members that have joined.

Please continue to attend the meetings and also support our Rides/Escorts and, this is very important, if you are out riding please keep track of your mileage and the number of riders (don't need names) that are with you. After the ride 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. These numbers are included in our annual report.

Visit the Post Website at www.AL117.com

Bob Wiseman Director, Legion Riders Chapter 117

Visit the Post 117 Facebook Pages

STAY HIGH ON LIFE

AND KEEP RIDING

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







Post 117 Juniors Program

Open to boys and girls under 18 who are members of the American Legion Family



Greetings all,

Yes, our Juniors are now a part of the newsletter, as they are growing and we really want to keep everyone up to date on what they have been doing and what's coming up in the future. We don't want anyone to miss out on the amazing things our Juniors are doing.

Last month for Valentine's Day our Juniors made cards; some were sent over to our troops, and on February 12th our Juniors, along with several Auxiliary officers and members, hand delivered cards with a flower to our Veterans at the Palms nursing home. The children really enjoyed visiting and speaking with our Veterans, and our Veterans were very happy to see them!

On March 21st at 11 am the Post 117 Honor Guard will be doing a Flag Retirement Ceremony for our Juniors to witness. Everyone is invited, we hope you all can attend.

The Juniors will be doing their own scrapbook this year, if anyone has pictures that we can add to the book, please email them to newsletter@AL117.com; they will be forwarded to Katie Durham, who will be taking the lead on the Juniors' scrapbook, as she has also been taking photos at various events for the juniors.

The Post 117 Juniors Program is a program sponsored by the Auxiliary - it is open to boys and girls up to age 18. The program focuses on Americanism; teaching patriotism, citizenship and loyalty to America along with respect for Veterans and the importance of service to our country.

We would love to grow this program, if you have a child / grandchild and would like them to be a part of our Juniors Program, please speak with an Auxiliary officer and we will get them signed up. The membership dues are \$5.00 per year for the girls as they will be members of the Auxiliary and \$8.00 per year for the boys as they will be members of the SAL.

aster

For God & Country,

MaryAnn Spellman

2nd Vice / Junior Chairman, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 117



11 am to 1 pm

Kid's Easter Party

Saturday 26 March

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 19 March 2016 Benefit Poker Run for Michelle "Mic" Riepe Currently Fighting Stage 3 Breast Cancer



Boosters

ISSUE 2

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) Duane & Janet Podhola (3/17) Bonnie DeCaro (3/17) Joe & Linda Shipley (3/17) 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

4 March Jimmy D

11 March Dan Haber

18 March Jimmy D

25 March Chuck Body

1 April Jimmy D

8 April Dan Haber

15 April Dan Haber

22 April Chuck Body

29 April 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 R	ed)
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
SAL T-Shirts (Red or Blue)	\$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

SHRIMP SUNDAL 60 **AMERICAN LEGION POST 117 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH** AMERICAN LEGION POST ILT BIG-ALL-BURGERS Tacos - \$2.00 5 to 7 pm **Peel & Eat Shrimp** \$9 per pound \$5 per 1/2 lb 1st & 3rd Every Sunday 1-5 pm or until sold out **Tuesdays** Prepared by Chef Gene and Crew Only American Legion Post 117 **2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH** 189 Veterans Drive, Palm Bay, Florida! Haley's Awesome CHICKEN Quarter Auction **BINGO IS BACK BABY!!!** Bring your quarters, bid on products and WIN! Wings 70 Cents each Second Tuesday **AUXILIARY UNIT 117** HAS BROUGHT BINGO BACK **Every Month TO POST 117** Doors Open at 5:30 pm Auction starts at 6:30 pm **EVERY SUNDAY** 1st Paddle is \$5, extra paddles are \$2 **DOORS OPEN AT 12:00 NOON BINGO STARTS AT 1:00PM** 1st & 3rd Wednesdays NON-SMOKING / PERIODIC BREAKS 4 - 7 PM Presented by Unit 117 **BRING YOUR FRIENDS !!!** 189 Veterans Dr SE, Palm Bay, FL 32909, 321-729-8089 **FREE POOL AMERICAN LEGION POST 117 EVERY MONDAY ALL DAY** BING HERE AT POST 117 EVERY Fired Up Wednesday! TUESDAY 4th Wednesday of Every Month Kitchen will be open from 5 to 7 pm AT Serving an assortment of favorites Including a featured 11:00 AM Wednesday Night Special American Legion Post 11

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

Conside	r 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

Mar 4 (Riders)	To be announced
Mar 11 (SAL)	Pork Chops, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing with Gravy and a Vegetable
Mar 18 (AUX)	Beef Tips with Noodles, Vegetable, and a Roll
Mar 25 (Post)	To be announced
Apr 1 (Honor Guard)	Baked Montreal Chicken Leg Quarters Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Seasoned Green Beans , Roll and Butter.
Apr 8 (Riders)	To be announced
Apr 15 (SAL)	Ham Dinner with all the Fixin's
Apr 22 (AUX)	Fish & Chips with Coleslaw and Roll
Apr 29 (Post)	To be announced

Legion Birthday Speech 2013