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 3

MAY/JUNE 2016

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 5 May Riders Elections
- 7 May Tim Morris Benefit Run
- 8 May Mother's Day
- 10 May Quarter Auction
- 12 May SAL Elections
- 17 May AUX Elections
- 21 May Motorcycle Swap Meet
- 22 May The Ride Home
- 30 May Memorial Day
- 4 June Nancy Bristol Benefit Run
- 11 June 3 Angel Balls for All Run
- 14 June Quarter Auction
- 15 19 June Department of Florida Convention
- 19 June Father's Day

Save the Date

- 4 July Independence Day
- 5 September Labor Day

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Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. It was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle. (from www.usmemorialday.org)

Elections

Thursday, 5 May

American Legion Riders Chapter 117 Meeting and Elections 6:30 pm

Thursday, 12 May

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 117 Meeting (6:30 pm) and Elections (6:00 - 6:45)

Tuesday, 17 May

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 117 Meeting and Elections 7:00 pm

No Elections Required for American Legion Post 117

All Current Officers were re-elected for 2016 -2017

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 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, 6 May and Friday, 3 June, 5 to 7 pm
- SAL Dinners Friday, 13 May and Friday, 10 June, 5 to 7 pm
- ♦ AUX Dinners Friday, 20 May and Friday, 17 June, 5 to 7 pm
- Post Dinner Friday, 27 May and Friday, 24 June, 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

Auxiliary Officers

President	Kerry Baker
Vice President	MaryAnn Spellman
Treasurer	Dawn Burgess
Secretary	Donna Walkowiak
Sergeant-at-Arms	Karen Humann
Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms	Joann Wright
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

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

Ways and Means Committee

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

Canteen Staff

Canteen Manager: Volunteer Bartenders: Sheila Cline-Burns

Chairman:

Volunteer Bartender

Linda Abbott

Shirley Domonousky Haley Farris
"Irish" Farris Barbara Mohr
Michelle "Mic" Riepe Angie Todd

Ed Milner Jr.

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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,

Another year is upon us and I am grateful to have been elected your Commander again for the coming 2016, 2017 year. 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 the post what it is. I look forward to working with each and every officer for the new coming year from our Post family.

Thank you all again to those who have stepped up and volunteered your time with events at the post. We have had lot of great things happen around the post this past year and we have hosted and raised alot of money for numorous charities. I am very proud of the Post 117 family and I hope you all will step up and volunteer when you can. It's your Post. Treat it as such and let's have fun doing what the American Legion is about. It takes the entire family to help keep 117 one of the best post in the state.

We will be greatly recognized for the outstanding job 117 did hosting the first ever, Children and Youth Family Picnic at the Department Convention June 16th thru 18th amongst other great events that we have accomplished. Thank you all who gave up your time and volunteered to help with all events this past year.

Happy Mother's day to all the Mother's and Happy Father's Day as well. Don't forget that we will be having a graveside Memorial Day ceremony at Fountain Head Cemetery at 9am and one at the Post at 2pm with the Post 117 Honor Guard.

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 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 July/August 2016 issue are due no later than 21 June 2016



Hello Auxiliary Sisters,

Let me start off by saying WOO HOO!

What a great job everyone did for the Department Children and Youth Picnic held at our Post, we really had an amazing day!



Our mini carnival was a huge success; I love how everyone pulled together and volunteered for such a great cause; there was so much going on and it all just fell into place. Thank you everyone for being there and showing your support - it really means the world to many that we care so much and put our heart and souls into doing our best for those in need.

We have a few important things coming up in the next few weeks.

Final nomination of our 2016-2017 unit officers will be held at our May 17th General meeting, please come out and vote. We will also be nominating our delegates that night for our annual Department Convention on June 16th – June 18th. Please be sure to attend this meeting as your vote is very important to the future of our unit.

I would just like to thank everyone for all their hard work and dedication to our unit, as our year is coming to a close, I would like to say I am very proud of our unit. All year-end reports have been submitted, everyone did an awesome job.

Reminder, Auxiliary Bingo is held every Sunday in the Hall from 1 to 4 pm and our monthly Quarter Auction is held on the second Tuesday of each month—doors open at 5:30 pm. I hope to see all of you soon!

For God & Country

Kerry Baker

President, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 117



Memorial Day Weekend Activities

Saturday, 28 May - 9:00 AM: Help needed to place flags at Fountainhead Memorial Park.

Monday, 30 May - 9:00 AM: Graveside Ceremony for Charles F. THOMAS IV.

Tuesday, 31 May - 8:30 AM: Help needed to retrieve flags at Fountainhead Memorial Park.



Sons of the American Legion,

I have enjoyed serving as Commander this past year and am looking forward to being the 2nd Vice for the coming year. We accomplished a lot with the great staff that I had. I hope those staying on will give Randy the support they gave me.



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Looking to the future we have the Convention and then Installation of Officers.

I am looking to see if we can work on the Children and Youth pillar of the American Legion by bringing in a couple more charities. The Palm Bay PAL, which has been revitalized, and Give Kids the World are both programs I would like to help.

Believe it or not - in July it will be time to start planning for the Special Olympics, 9-11, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. It is going to be an exciting year.

As this will be my last input for the newsletter, I would like to wish Randy Chilcott the best for the 2016-2017 year as Commander. Once again, Thank you all!

Tony Gannon

Commander,

Squadron 117, Sons of The American Legion

The Post Honor Guard has been doing an unbelievable job. In April we participated in Jack Cole's service, welcomed back the Legacy riders, went to the wall massing of colors with all 7 flags and 2 rifles, and presented a flag folding demonstration for the Pineapple Cove Charter school.

In May we will be out in front of the Palm Bay Road Walmart on May 14th and 15th. On Memorial Day we will be doing six ceremonies including the grave side ceremony for Captain Thomas, four ceremonies at Veteran assisted living facilities and, of course, our main ceremony at the Post. The Juniors will be helping us by putting poppies on the 100 flags we need for Memorial Day,



On June 23rd, Space Coast Harley Davidson will host an Honor Guard benefit for us and we will be putting on a demonstration. We also have the Thursday Steak Shoot on 30 June and Friday Night dinner on July 1st. And don't forget, we are always ready for any Veteran or family request. Please support our Honor Guard.

Matt Zirwas

Honor Guard Commander, American Legion Post 117

Fellow Legion Riders,

Coming up events in May, we have the Riders Officers Election on May 4th. On May 7th, we have a Benefit Poker Run for Tim Morris, Tim is in need of a liver transplant. Also on the same day we have Kentucky Derby Parade of Hats . I'd like to wish all the Mothers a Happy Mothers Day on May 8th, come out and enjoy a free breakfast. A.L. Riders Swap Meet (motorcycle related items only) is on May 21st . The Annual Fundraiser for The Ride Home-Ride In sponsored by Space Coast H.D. is on the 22nd.



Coming up events for June, Riders meeting on the 2nd, Nancy Bristol Poker Run on the 4th, 3 Angel Balls for All Poker Run and poker in the hall on the 11th. Wishing all the Fathers a Happy Fathers Day on June 19th, come out and enjoy a free breakfast.

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

We also need volunteers May 14th thru 21st to assist in building the new cage for the white pigeons that are released at the Post on special occasions, the foundation has to be poured, then all the side/roof will be prefabricated on the pad at the 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



Visit the Post 117 Facebook Pages

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,

I just want to start off by saying Unit 117 Juniors ROCK! They really went above and beyond at our Department Children and Youth picnic that was held at our post. Not only did our Juniors have a great time at this event they stepped up and helped with set up and clean up. Beverly Durham volunteered to make shirts for the Juniors with money they raised doing special fundraisers throughout the year. So not only did our Juniors have a great time they looked awesome doing it in their new shirts.

The juniors have had a very busy year and are still going strong. They have been asked by Matt for our Honor Guard to add poppies to flags that will be handed out on Memorial Day at several nursing homes to our Veterans. The Juniors have also been asked to attend with the Honor Guard to hand out the flags again this year at one of the nursing homes. I will be in touch with the details; we would love to see all our Juniors participate in this special day.

We will be adding the poppies to the Flags at our next Juniors meeting on May 21st at 1 pm.

I wrote our year-end report for Junior activates and I was really happy and pleased with all we have done this year. The Juniors really learned a great deal about our Veterans and the history of our GREAT country. Miss Barb started the year off great and did some really amazing things with the Juniors, and we have continued to our best to keep what she had in mind for them going.

We would love to grow this program, if you have a child / grandchild and would them to be a part of our juniors - boy or girl up to age 17, 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.

For God & Country,

MaryAnn Spellman

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

Post 117 Sending Two Young Men to 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. This intense experience exposes the boys to good citizenship, political workings, patriotism, traditional values and is held in contact with our government there. Bill Craig and Les Lanier head this effort and can answer questions or use your help next year. It's rewarding and enhances faith in this generation of young men.

The boys are high school juniors who have superior grades and have demonstrated good citizenship. Post 117 sponsors boys from Heritage High School on the west end of Malabar Road. Other posts cover other schools. This year's attendees are Cameron Cheek from Grant and Jake Kostner from Palm Bay. Jake's Dad, Rich, just joined our post (Welcome!). These outstanding young men are a great credit to their generation and our community, and well deserve our support. Congratulations Cameron and Jake and take with you our sincere wishes for a meaningful future.

Submitted by Bill Craig

Two Benefit Runs Scheduled

Saturday, 7 May

Poker Run/Benefit for

Tim Morris

Saturday, 4 June

Poker Run/Benefit for

Nancy Bristol

Boosters

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) Gene & Suzie Pilot (5/17) 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.

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".

Friday Night Karaoke

6 May Jimmy D

13 May Dan Haber

20 May Jimmy D

27 May Chuck Body

3 June Jimmy D

10 June Dan Haber

17 June Dan Haber

25 June Chuck Body

Come Join in the Fun!

MERCHANDISE SALES

Legion Shirts For Sale

\$12
\$25
\$10
\$10
ed)
\$10
\$12
\$16
\$18
\$25
\$20
\$15
\$18
\$5
\$20
\$15
\$20
\$30
\$10
\$12



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"



New Item Available from the Auxiliary

Now available through the Auxiliary is a Black Half Staff Ribbon. Attaching this 2.5" x 5' black nylon ribbon with grommet to the top of a flag is an acceptable alternative for flags that cannot be lowered to half-staff. Orders may be placed with bar staff for a receipt than dropped into Auxiliary mail box. Please leave both name and contact information with your payment.

Are you in need of flowers from a florist? Please try "Bloomers". The Auxiliary uses them for our arrangements and we have been very satisfied. Bloomers has announced that when anyone places an order with them and mentions the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 117, they will donate 10% of the sale back to the Unit.

Donna Walkowiak, Secretary, Unit 117 Auxiliary

Chaplain's Corner

Quick Reminder—it would 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 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:	
Next of Kin (NOK):	
	K Email:
Branch of Service:	Time of Service:
Service History:	
American Legion Service History:	
Special Requests:	
Signature:	Date:



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!





Presents BIG AZZ BURGERS

2nd Wednesday of the month 5 - 7 pm



Bring your quarters, bid on products and WIN!

Second Tuesday **Every Month**

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

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



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







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





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



Friday Dinners, 5 to 7 pm

May 6 (Riders)	2 Chicken Enchiladas, Refried Beans, Rice, and Pico-de-Gallo Salsa
May 13 (SAL)	Pork Chops, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing with Gravy and a Vegetable
May 20 (AUX)	Beef Stew over White Rice with Roll and Butter, Cobbler for Dessert
May 27 (Post)	To be announced
June 3 (Riders)	To be announced
June 10 (SAL)	Pork Chops, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing with Gravy and a Vegetable
June 17 (AUX)	Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, with Salad and Garlic Knots.
June 24 (Post)	To be announced