



AMERICAN LEGION CHARLES F. THOMAS IV POST 117  
189 VETERANS DRIVE • PALM BAY, FLORIDA 32909

# The Thomas Times



**Best Wishes to  
Everyone for  
the New Year!**

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## American Legion Post 117 Fundraising Begins for Special Olympics 2018

Every year Squadron 117 of the Sons of the American Legion heads up the Post 117 family's fundraising efforts for the Special Olympics.

This year's effort will once again be led by our Chairman Extraordinaire Tony Gannon who hopes to set a new record for funds raised in support of this worthy cause.

This year's efforts kick off with the **ANNUAL POKER RUN** on Saturday, 3 February which starts and ends at Post 117 with stops at Lou's Fillin' Station, Cabana Shores, Lou's Blues, and Post 81.

**REGISTRATION** starts at 9 am at Post 117; Breakfast Sandwiches will be available in the canteen from 8:30 to 10:00. First Bike will go out at 10 am and Last Bike is due in no later than 2 pm. All vehicles are welcome; riders are \$10, passengers are \$5.

After the ride, join us for a **\$5 COOKOUT** at Post 117 with your choice of hamburgers, hot dogs, or brats, along with slaw and beans. Music will be provided by Doc Holiday.

The Special Olympics Fundraising includes a **SPECIAL OLYMPICS RAFFLE** - prizes include an Amazon Fire HD10 - 32GB Tablet, a Thinkware Dashcam F50, and a 2nd Generation Amazon Echo. Raffle tickets are available from the bartenders at \$5 each or 3 for \$10. The drawing will be held on 3 Feb; you do not have to be present to win!

There will also be a **50/50 DRAWING** at the cookout on 3 February. For more information see the flyer on page 6 of this newsletter.

### Auxiliary Cookbooks

The American Legion Auxiliary units of the 12th District are raising funds to send the Girls State Delegates to Tallahassee this year by creating a cookbook made up of recipes collected from Legion Family Members all throughout the 12th District.

The cookbooks may be ordered for \$10 each by sending your check to ALA Unit 189 807 Louisiana Ave Sebastian, FL 32958

Please include your unit number (117) and your email on your check.

Books will be delivered to Unit 117 on 1 February 2018

### LIVE Entertainment At Post 117

**Saturday, 6 Jan, 7-11 pm**  
**Showtime Entertainment**

**Saturday, 20 Jan, 7-11 pm**  
**The Hit Men**

**Saturday, 27 Jan, 7-11 pm**  
**Showtime Entertainment**

## Post 117 Directory

### American Legion Officers

Commander ..... Gene Baker  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander..... Bruce Thurber  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander..... Ray Wright  
 Adjutant..... Duane Podhola  
 Finance Officer..... Chris Hess  
 Chaplain..... Barry Roberts  
 Sergeant-at-Arms ..... Tim Brooks  
 Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms..... Gene Pilot  
 Historian..... Tim Durham  
 Judge Advocate..... Charlie Christy  
 Service Officer ..... Don Overton  
 Service Officer ..... Chris Hamrick  
 Executive Committee ..... Jim Fournier  
 Executive Committee ..... Dave Fox  
 Executive Committee ..... Bob Wiseman

### Auxiliary Officers

President.....Wanda McDermon  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.....Beverly Hall  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President .....Linda Shipley  
 Treasurer .....Diane Wood  
 Secretary.....Karen Humann  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Deb Cellucci  
 Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms .....Sharon Schmidt  
 Chaplain .....Barbara Simons  
 Historian .....Kim Oaks  
 Membership .....Beverly Hall  
 Executive Committee.....Kerry Baker  
 Executive Committee.....Lauren Belbusti  
 Executive Committee.....Dawn Burgess

### Sons of the American Legion Officers

Squadron Commander..... Randy Chilcott  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Squadron Commander.. Bruce Walkowiak  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Squadron Commander. Tony Gannon  
 Adjutant..... Bruce Thurber  
 Finance Officer..... Ray Mohr  
 Chaplain..... Chris Richert.  
 Sergeant-at-Arms ..... Dylan Young  
 Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms ..... Bob Humann  
 Historian..... Position Vacant

### Legion Riders Officers

Director .....Dawn Burgess  
 Assistant Director .....Bruce Walkowiak  
 Secretary.....Sheila Cline-Burns  
 Treasurer.....Ray Mohr  
 Chaplain .....Donna Walkowiak  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Duane Podhola  
 Historian .....MaryAnn Spellman  
 Safety Officer .....Eric Spellman  
 Membership .....Karen Humann

### Honor Guard

Commander: Matt Zirwas  
 Members: Phoebe Chilcott  
 Randy Chilcott Dawn Hanner  
 Bob Menard Ed Milnor  
 Eddy Milnor Bruce Walkowiak  
 Donna Walkowiak

### Ways & Means Committee

Chairman:  
 Members:  
 Bev Durham  
 Randy Chilcott  
 Linda Shipley

### House Committee

Chairman: Duane Podhola  
 Members: Leo Bellanger  
 Randy Chilcott Chris Hamrick  
 Bud Fritz Don Jochum

*The Thomas Times is published 6 times a year by American Legion Charles F. Thomas IV Post 117 Inc. 189 Veterans Drive, Palm Bay, FL 32909 Veterans Organization Certificate #15-00-064930-58C Florida Department of Revenue*

*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.*

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

### 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

# Commander's Corner

The holidays are behind us and a new year is upon us. I hope everyone had happy and safe holidays. I like to think we as a family have accomplished a lot in the last six months.

We have made repairs and upgrades to the post; had Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for everyone, Halloween and Christmas parties for the kids and donated toys and food to the needy in the local area.

We pulled the community together to send greatly needed aid to Texas after Hurricane Harvey. We did this even knowing we would probably get hit with Hurricane Irma. After Irma we sent much needed aid to the Keys and the rest of the state.

This has been a very busy but also a time in my life when I have been very proud of all we have accomplished as a family. I look forward to the next six months to see what else we can accomplish as a family.

*Gene Baker*

Commander, American Legion Post 117



*Gene Baker  
Commander,  
American Legion  
Post 117*



## Post Meetings • • • Post Meetings • • • Post Meetings • • • Post Meetings

Legion Meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Legion EC Meeting, 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 pm

SAL Meeting, 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 pm

Auxiliary Meeting, 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm

Auxiliary EC Meeting, 1st Tuesday, 7:00 pm

Legion Riders Meeting, 1st Thursday, 6:30 pm

Legion Riders EC Meeting, Last Thursday, 6:30 pm

40 & 8 Voiture 1621, 4th Tuesday, 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





*Wanda McDermion  
President, Unit 117*

## Unit 117 American Legion Auxiliary

Happy New Year everyone, I trust you had a wonderful Christmas and received what you wanted from Santa and his elves. Hard to believe we are into another year already, time seems to fly by these days. Renewals have been coming in steady and we have many new members, we are standing close to 50% as I write this. Welcome to all the new members and thank you for joining the American Legion family.

The holidays were very busy for us starting with the Thanksgiving baskets, Children's Christmas party and baskets for those in need. Our Angel Tree was full of names that received gifts from our Legion family that would not have had Christmas without our help. Thank you to all that contributed to this worthy program and helped make some children have a joyous and Merry Christmas.

As we enter this New Year, let us strive to make this a better year than 2017, we are here to serve our Veterans

and our Legion, volunteer where you can, we always need help to bring our projects and programs to a realization. I wish you and yours a very joyous and prosperous New Year.

P.S from the 2nd Vice

Big shout out and thank you to my Auxiliary sisters for all your support this year. From dinners and breakfasts, and now, Sunday afternoon lunches. From the Girls State Mascot, to our famous baskets...and now our famous Jello shots...to ticket sales for our many fund raisers...not to mention the outpouring of support for our food baskets.

Halloween was a great success too! Thank you all for your many hours of volunteerism. This is why our 117 Aux rocks! Not to mention our awesome steak shoot group! Thank you all again!

Your humbled 2d vice

Linda Shipley



*Randy Chilcott  
Commander  
Squadron 117*

## Squadron 117, Sons of the American Legion

Welcome to 2018! I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! The Special Olympics Run is almost here and we need all the help we can get to surpass last year's goal. I need all the Legion Family to help out with this good cause. As of this newsletter we have (0) donations! If you can volunteer in any way, please contact me or our Chairman Tony Gannon.

Detachment of Florida  
Commander Bernie Wildrick will be at our post for dinner on Monday January 15, 2018 at 5pm. Please come and meet him and enjoy a good dinner put on by the post.

Membership is going well and we have been meeting all our goals but still haven't hit 100%. This month we should see a lot more renewals because those that haven't renewed yet will be unable to access the Post Canteen or the Tiki.

As always we need volunteers for Thursday steak shoot, Friday night dinner, Sunday breakfast-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!







*Dawn Burgess  
Director,  
Chapter 117*



## Chapter 117, American Legion Riders

Dear Riders and Legion Family,

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and are off to a great start for 2018. Continued thanks to all volunteers who step in and help with our fundraising, fun runs, dinners, steak shoots, breakfast and more-- special thanks to non-riders who also volunteer for us, truly the meaning of "family."

In January, we are going to plan a few fun runs and a fundraiser for Chris Hess on January 27th. Chris was injured in a motorcycle accident in November and will need our help to offset his many expenses. Watch your email and/or Facebook for details.

February events include the Special Olympics Poker Run on Feb 3rd; Paws for Veterans Run on Feb 11; and District 12 Ride In for Boys and Girls State on Feb 17.

Dinner for January will be Woodchuck's Pork Roast Tenderloin, sauerkraut, green beans, mashed potatoes, gravy and a roll. February Dinner is Sheila Cline's Beef Pot Roast with salad, dinner roll and dessert. Please support our Steak Shoots and Dinners, it's how we make our money so that we can continue to support those that need our help. Until next time, have fun and RIDE SAFE!

**For the Cause,  
Not the Applause !!**

### Friday Night Dinners and Karaoke

<i>Date</i>	<i>Host</i>	<i>Menu</i>	<i>Karaoke DJ</i>
5 Jan	Riders	Woodchuck's Pork Roast Tenderloin, Sauerkraut, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, and Roll & Butter	Jimmy D
12 Jan	S.A.L.	All You Can Eat Fried Fish, Coleslaw, Hush Puppies and French Fries	Chuck Body
19 Jan	Auxiliary	Beef Stroganoff Salad, Roll & Butter, and Dessert	Jimmy D
26 Jan	Post	District Commanders Dinner/Boys and Girls State Featuring Chicken Parmesan	Chuck Body
2 Feb	Riders	Sheila Cline's Beef Pot Roast with Salad, Dinner Roll & Butter, and Dessert	Jimmy D
9 Feb	S.A.L.	All You Can Eat Fried Fish, Coleslaw, Hush Puppies and French Fries	Chuck Body
16 Feb	Auxiliary	Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Vegetable, and Dessert	Jimmy D
23 Feb	Post	Peach and Herb Stuffed Pork Loin	Chuck Body

**BOOSTERS**

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".

Thank you for your support!  
 Joe & Linda Shipley (4/18)  
 Ernie & Shirley Winslow (6/18)  
 Elaine Griswold (7/18)

**Hall Rental**

Our Post Hall is available for special functions, weddings, anniversary & birthday parties, etc.

Please contact Chris Hess at (321) 729-8089 for rental availability and price information.

**Haircuts by Cathy**

3rd Sunday of the Month  
 10 am to 12 noon

**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 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 .....\$10  
 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**

Auxiliary Ladies V-Neck T-Shirts .....\$15  
 Black Half Staff Ribbon .....\$12

**Pet Services Provided By: Sharon McCausland**

**When:** 2nd Tuesday of the Month      Free Services for Members' Pets  
**Time:** 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM              Nails Trimmed or Dremeled  
**Place:** American Legion Post 117      Ears Cleaned and Hair Removed  
**Pets must be on leash or in crate**      Anal Glands Drained



**Special Olympics  
 Annual Poker Run  
 Saturday February 3rd**



Registration 9a.m. at American Legion Post 117 - 189 Veterans Dr. Plm Bay, FL 32909  
**First Bike Out 10:00a.m. Last Bike In 2:00p.m.**  
**All Vehicles Welcome/Riders \$10.00/ Passengers \$5.00**  
**Start and Finish Both at Post 117 189 Veterans Dr. Palm Bay FL 32909**

1. Lou's Fillin Station 411 E New Haven, Melbourne, FL (321) 952-5584
2. Cabana Shores 5240 N. U. S. 1 Palm Shores, FL (321) 254-2004
3. Lou's Blues 3191 Florida A1A Indialantic, FL (321) 779-2299
4. Post 81 2909 S. Harbor City Blvd. Melbourne, FL (321) 723-2939

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS RAFFLE**

**Amazon Fire HD10 - 32GB Tablet**  
**Thinkware Dashcam F50**  
**2nd Generation Amazon Echo**  
**Raffle Tickets Available from the Bartenders**  
**\$5 each or 3 for \$10. The drawing will be held on 3 Feb; you do not have to be present to win!**

High Hand..\$50    Low Hand..\$100  
 8:30a till 10:00a  
**Breakfast Sandwich & Coffee 2.00**  
 Music by **DOO HOLIDAY**  
**Hamburgers • Hotdogs • Brats \$5**  
 Complete with Slaw and Beans  
**For more info. and donations please call: Tony 321-693-9647 Vendors Welcome!**