

AMERICAN LEGION CHARLES F. THOMAS IV POST 117  
 189 VETERANS DRIVE • PALM BAY, FLORIDA 32909 (321)729-8089



# The Thomas Times

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## What's Going On

Life as we know it has changed dramatically since the World Pandemic of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has come to the United States. Starting in March the Federal Government and State Governments have implemented rules and regulations and suggestions that have affected everyone.

Certain business had to close, restaurants had to limit the number of customers that were allowed in their in the building and had to maintain a separation of 6 feet (social distancing). This was quickly changed to no inside customer seating. Drive thru food pick only. Supermarkets are open but a limited item purchase has been implemented due to panic buying.

Only "Essential" employees should go to work. Many companies allowed employee's to work from home. Do not travel, stay home. Wear mask to protect yourself and others and Wash Your Hands often. Schools and Colleges closed but implemented remote schooling (online). Thousands of employees were laid-off and caused mass unemployment.

At the time of this writing there are 3-phase plans for re-opening of the economy and we are in Phase-I but it is still unknown when the other Phases will be implemented.

We have not seen an event that has affected the economy and the people of the US as dramatically since WW II.

The Post has started "Curbside Food Pickup" services. During this time. Please see page 11 for days and times for Curbside Food. See the "Commander's Corner" on pages 3, 4 and 5 to see what has taken place at the Post in the last year and during this period of the Post being closed.



## Post 117 Directory Auxiliary Officers

### American Legion Officers

Commander .....Bruce Thurber  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander.....Gene Pilot  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander.....Terry Struven  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander.....Bob Swinski  
 Adjutant.....Jeff Colopy  
 Finance Officer .....Gene Baker  
 Chaplain.....Barry Roberts  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Ed Milnor  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Donna Swinski  
 Historian.....Bill Davidson  
 Judge Advocate.....Chris Hamrick  
 Service Officer .....Chris Hamrick  
 Service Officer .....Kevin McGarry  
 Executive Committee .....Leo Belanger  
 Executive Committee .....Ed Carbin  
 Immediate Passed Commander.....Gene Baker

President ..... Diane Tomlin Wood  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President..... Linda Shipley  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President..... MaryAnn Spellman  
 Treasurer ..... Wanda Colopy  
 Secretary ..... Barbara Ward  
 Sergeant-at-Arms ..... Nancy Richert  
 Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms..... Wanda McDermon  
 Chaplain..... Barbara Simons  
 Historian.....Janie Mithaler  
 Executive Committee..... Kathy Belanger  
 Executive Committee..... Pat Luckey  
 Executive Committee..... Linda Lanier

### 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 .Tom Wood  
 Adjutant .....Bruce Thurber  
 Finance Officer .....Don Bilger  
 Chaplain .....George Aichele  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Tony Gannon  
 Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms.....Terry Cox  
 Historian .....Andy Campbell  
 SAL Advisor.....Bruce Thurber

### Legion Riders Officers

Director..... Marty Spreadbury  
 Assistant Director..... Guy Savage  
 Secretary ..... Stacy Gioia  
 Finance Officer..... Patti Boatright  
 Chaplain..... Josh Spreadbury  
 Sergeant-at-Arms ..... Tony Boatright  
 Historian..... Open Position  
 Safety Officer..... Eric Spellman  
 Membership..... Guy Savage

### Honor Guard

Commander: Matt Zirwas  
 Members: Leo Belanger  
 Dawn Hanner Ed Milnor  
 Eddy Milnor Bruce Walkowiak  
 Donna Walkowiak Rowena Milnor

### Ways & Means Committee

Chairman: Bob Swinski  
 Members: Marty Spreadbury  
 Randy Chilcott Guy Savage  
 Tom Wood Bill Davidson  
 Diane Wood Terry Struven  
 MaryAnn Spellman Wanda Colopy

### House Committee

Chairman: Leo Belanger  
 Members: Tom Wood Jerry Pucel  
 Jeffrey Colopy Terry Doiel  
 Andy Campbell Chris Tepper

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*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: Bill Davidson <email: newsletter@al117.com>*

### Canteen Committee

**Chairmen:** Bob Swinski

**Members:**

Jeff Davis Kerry Baker  
 Les Leiner Randy Chilcott  
 Sheila Benard Tom Wood



## Commander's Corner

*Bruce Thurber  
Commander,  
American Legion  
Post 117*

commander@all117.com

In this time of uncertainty, I felt it important to publish some news that many may not be aware of. The National Executive Committee passed Resolution #3 which cancelled the National Convention and the purpose of continuity all officers, commission and committee persons stay in place until next year's National Convention. Commission and committee persons stay in place until the fall meetings. They further recommended that Departments do the same. The Department executive committee voted to follow National's lead and Cancelled the Department Convention and chose to keep all Officers in place, from District to Department Commander.

### Post 117 Family Accomplishments this Year

1. We hosted the Inaugural Veterans Day Parade followed by a community event at the post. Guests of Honor included US Congressman Posey, Space Wing Commander B/G Schiess.
2. Charter two (2) Scout Troops with meetings being held at the Post we further make donations to the troops averaging \$500 a quarter. The Post also sponsors two scouts from limited income families to attend summer camp. Our scouts are also a part of our Independence Day, Patriots Day, Veterans Day, and Memorial Day Celebrations.
3. Our Holiday Parade Entry took first place for our theme "Stars and Stripes in Lights", Honoring America, Our Military, and Veterans on this Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
  - a. The Ship from the Float is now mounted on the fence near the Light House
4. Sponsored two (2) Boys for Boys State and hosts a Picnic to raise money for transportation for the District Boys and Girls State attendees.
5. Had ten students compete in the post oratorical contest and the post winner was also selected for District and Eastern Area.
6. Provided school awards at the three (3) Schools in Palm Bay and further has the Post 117 citizenship certificate given at Elementary and Middle Schools to any student caught being a Good Citizen during the school year.
7. Members conducted Flag Education programs at 7 Elementary Schools in the City and pass out coloring books and Flags. Along with the Scouts we provide a Flag Drop box and ensure Flags are properly retired on a regular basis and hold special ceremonies close to Flag Day



## Commander's Corner cont'd

*Bruce Thurber*  
Commander,  
American Legion  
Post 117  
commander@all117.com

8. ROTC Medals Award program at Heritage and Bayside High Schools. Each recipient receives a Medal and a Scholarship Check. The Post also has the Jose Muniz Cadet of the Year Trophy for each school with scholarship presented.
9. Provided a Free Breakfast to 120 Children and their families chosen to participate in the Shop with a Cop program of the Palm Bay Police.
10. Honored First Responders on Patriots Day (9-11) by providing meals either delivering to their duty location, the Palm Bay Emergency Room and at the Post. Over 300 meals served.
11. Members provide 40 hours a week at St Vincent de Paul assisting with religious training and helping the homeless.
12. Approximately 50 hours a week for 25 weeks is spent on Cemetery Maintenance and restoration.
13. Post 117 is the sponsor for Hook Kids on Fishing Palm Bay with 100 children receiving a free rod, reel, and tackle box.
14. Family sponsors 3 Basketball teams for youth 7-17 years old, each team has 14 players.
15. The Post Honor Guard provided funeral honors for any Veteran in the area and at the National Cemetery. They also conduct ceremonies to retire and replace flags at local schools, businesses, and city buildings. When veteran's and service members are being returned to the local area, they responded to Congressman Posey's call for an Honor Guard to meet the plane with the families.
16. Auxiliary Members provide The Suds of Love for Veterans in Need laundry service
17. Post 117 Family placed flags at Fountainhead Cemetery each Memorial Day at the final resting place of all veterans.
18. We hosted (SALT) Palm Bay Seniors and Law Enforcement.
19. The SAL donated over \$34,000 donated to Special Olympics of Brevard
20. An active member of the Chamber of Commerce and was selected as the November Business of the Month.



## Commander's Corner cont'd

*Bruce Thurber  
Commander,  
American Legion  
Post 117*

commander@al117.com

21. Working with the National Veterans Homeless Support search and rescue. We held a fund raiser event donating \$2,257.00. We further supported Warm Full Safe over the holiday's where homeless Vets are placed in a local hotel and provide meals.
22. A donation of \$500 to The American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation was presented to the National Commander.
23. During the Pandemic and donated \$400 in food to the local soup kitchen.
24. In terms of volunteer hours, financial assistance, and donated items, post 117 Family injected nearly \$150,000 into the local community.
25. The outside beams over the entry way have been replaced.
26. The exterior of the Post Home and Tiki have been painted.
27. The Entry has been painted.
28. The Kitchen has been painted.
29. Funds were raised kicked off by the Riders and the SAL when we closed to assist the bartenders while out of work and the Auxiliary did a second event a parade to their homes with gifts.
30. The post hosted a Dinner for the National Commander.
31. We have been submitted for the Best Post Americanism Program and the Wilson Timmons Post of the Year.
32. Our membership grew over 100% for the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row.



*Diane Tomlin Wood  
President, Unit 117*

*auxiliary@al117.com*



## Unit 117 American Legion Auxiliary

As I sit here in quarantine you reflect on the great things that we have done and the many things that we will do. It's been a rough couple of months and hopefully we are in a positive up swing from the national epidemic that we have all had to face. There are no right and no wrong decision that can be made in this situation. Usually we are talking about out elections and our new upcoming year, but now we are trying to decide what is the safest and best approach for our members.

So many of our members have step up to the plate helping those that are house isolated or unable to get to the stores or sharing their bounty with others. Making house calls and just reaching out to say hi was a blessing for many. Thank you, Unit 117, we are a Post family and have proven that thru these difficult times. We have each other.

May is poppy month so let's make sure we display or wear our poppy to show our support for our military and their families.

We reached our goal for 100% for membership. Thanks to our membership chair Linda Shipley for thinking out of the box to drive membership and the kind offerings from our members that donated to keep our senior members' dues current for 2020.

We will be communicating thru all the sources we have to let our members know how our election will be held.

At the time of this letter we are now in Phase one. Some small businesses are opening and regular retail is opening. It is one's own choice as to how they handle this pandemic. Remember to be kind to one another.

Service not self..For God and Country



Randy Chilcott  
Commander  
Squadron 117

sal@al117.com



## Squadron 117, Sons of the American Legion

As we all know, with the current “stay at home” orders and social distancing guidelines all American Legion posts are effectively closed until further notice. Now, even with this obstacle we still must carry on the essential business of our organization.

**2020 Detachment Convention:** The Detachment Executive Committee met via conference call on Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup>. During this call, **Resolution 01-20 Cancellation of the Florida 2020 Detachment Convention** was unanimously passed. This is in accordance with the AL Department of Florida cancelling their 2020 Convention. All Detachment officers, Committee/Commission chairmen and District Commanders and Vice Commanders will remain in their current positions until they either resign or are reappointed until the close of the 2020-21 Detachment Convention July 1- 4.

**Nominations and Elections:** On May 1, 2020 the EC board of Squadron 117 unanimously voted that all current officers will stay in place for the upcoming year.

Thank you for all that you do and stay safe!

## Chapter 117, American Legion Riders



Marty Spreadbury  
Director,  
Chapter 117

ridersdirector  
@al117.com



As we've all been asked to Stay Home for the past weeks and we're about to miss another meeting We have been Authorized By Dept Judge Advocate & Post Commander To Do Our 2nd Round of Chapter 117 Rider Nomination for 2020 – 2021 Via Email

Please Email to ([drcnccs@me.com](mailto:drcnccs@me.com)) For Your Confirmed Nominations For Offices Listed

<p><b>Nominate Your ALR 117 Officers</b></p>	<p><b>Director Asst. Director Secretary Treasurer Chaplin Road Captain SGT at Arms</b></p>
<p>IT'S YOUR <b>VOICE</b> SO MAKE A <b>CHOICE</b> ALR Chapter 117 Officers 2020 - 2021</p>	



Safe Travels see You on the Road

Marty Spreadbury  
Director ALR Chapter 117 Palm Bay, FL  
[drcnccs@me.com](mailto:drcnccs@me.com)





Wanda Colopy  
Canteen Manager

canteen@all17.com

## Post 117, Canteen Manager

As everyone knows the Canteen and Tiki Bar has been closed since 5pm on Tuesday March 17, 2020.

I set up a group text on my cell phone, and I stay in contact with all my bar tenders. Making sure they are ok, and do not need anything while we are closed. I call Barb every week she does not have a cell phone. My bar tenders and I stay in contact with each other constantly by calling on the phone or group texting. As I get updates from the Commander Bruce I pass all the information on to my bar tenders.

I would like to thank the riders and members who gave money to help the bar tenders when they became unemployed on March 18, 2020. The bar tenders and I are unemployed until the post re-opens, and at this time we have no date.

On April 18 Maryann Spellman set up a surprise drive by to all the bar tenders homes. They were all very surprised when we got to each home. Maryann would call them to come out. We were honking our horns it was great seeing all the bar tenders. They got gifts and cards. There was a total of 15 that went on the drive by. At the end which was Barbs home it was storming she came out, and completely soaked but she didn't care. It was a wonderful day.

The bar tenders are volunteering one day a week. They are taking all the calls for the to go orders for lunches Monday-Friday from 12-4 and Friday night dinner from 4-7. They are working for tips only. Please come out order lunch or Friday night dinner and support our post and bar tenders while we are closed.

I had Bill Davidson put a great article that Shannon our bar tender put on face book. Please look at the Legion Facebook page. It was a amazing article when Shannon worked on Friday April 24 lunch shift. It was very touching about a legionnaire from out of state. The article is to long to put in the canteen report.

Everyone take care, and please be safe. Again at this time we do not know when we will reopen. Looking forward to see all the smiling faces at the canteen, and Tiki bar.

For God and Country

### 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".

### Hall Rental

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

Please contact the Canteen Manager at (321) 729-8089 (canteen@al117.com) for facility information, rental availability, and price information.

### MERCHANDISE SALES

#### Legion Shirts For Sale

- T-Shirts (Tan) .....\$12
- Polo Shirts (White, Red, Black or Maroon) .....\$25

#### 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) .....\$16
- 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

### 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

### Pet Services

Provided By: Sharon McCausland

**When:** 2nd Tuesday of the Month  
**Time:** 9:00 AM to 12 PM  
**Place:** American Legion Post 117

Free Services for Members' Pets  
 Nails Trimmed or Dremeled  
 Ears Cleaned and Hair Removed

### Haircuts

**by Cathy**  
 3rd Sunday  
 of the Month  
 10 am to 12p



# May 2020 Rev.1



## Charles F. Thomas IV American Legion Post 117

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Monday thru Friday "Curbside Pickup Food" 1pm-5pm ( Last order 5pm pickup by 6pm) (Call-in starts at 11:30am 321-729-8089) Wednesday's "Curbside Pickup" Wings Night 4pm-7pm Friday's "Curbside Pickup Dinners " 4pm-7pm Thursday's "Curbside Food Special" with Daily Menu 1pm-5pm ( Last order 5pm pickup by 6pm) Saturday's "Curbside Pickup Food Plus Special" 3pm-7pm Sunday's "Curbside Pickup Shrimp & Wings Only" 12pm-4pm					1	2
					Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food 12pm-4pm Curbside Pickup Dinner 4pm-7pm	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food And Food Special 3pm-7pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Post Closed Curbside Pickup Shrimp & Wings Only 12pm-4pm	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food 1pm-5pm (Last order 5pm pickup by 6pm)	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food 1pm-5pm (Last order 5pm pickup by 6pm)	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food 1pm-5pm Curbside Wings Night 4pm-7pm	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food And Special 1pm-5pm (Last order 5pm pickup by 6pm)	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food 1pm-5pm Curbside Pickup Dinner 4pm-7pm	Post Closed Post 2nd Round of Nomi- nations 10am to 1pm Curbside Pickup Food And Food Special 3pm-7pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mother's Day Post Closed Curbside Pickup Shrimp & Wings Only 12pm-4pm	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food 1pm-5pm (Last order 5pm pickup by 6pm)	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food 1pm-5pm (Last order 5pm pickup by 6pm)	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food 12pm-5pm Curbside Wings Night 4pm-7pm	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food And Special 1pm-5pm (Last order 5pm pickup by 6pm)	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food 1pm-5pm Curbside Pickup Dinner 4pm-7pm	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food And Food Special 3pm-7pm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Post Closed Curbside Pickup Shrimp & Wings Only 12pm-4pm	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food 1pm-5pm (Last order 5pm pickup by 6pm)	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food 1pm-5pm (Last order 5pm pickup by 6pm)	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food 12pm-5pm Curbside Wings Night 4pm-7pm	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food And Special 1pm-5pm (Last order 5pm pickup by 6pm)	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food 1pm-5pm Curbside Pickup Dinner 4pm-7pm	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food And Food Special 3pm-7pm
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Post Closed Curbside Pickup Shrimp & Wings Only 12pm-4pm	Memorial Day Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food 1pm-5pm (Last order 5pm pickup by 6pm)	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food 1pm-5pm (Last order 5pm pickup by 6pm)	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food 12pm-5pm Curbside Wings Night 4pm-7pm	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food And Special 1pm-5pm (Last order 5pm pickup by 6pm)	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food 1pm-5pm Curbside Pickup Dinner 4pm-7pm	Post Closed Curbside Pickup Food And Food Special 3pm-7pm

This calendar may change, so check the Legion Facebook pages and Post 117 Web page  
(www.al117.com)