

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



The Thomas Times

2020 Roundup

2020 was a crazy year with the COVID virus. The Post closed March 17 (Phase I). The Post facility was cleaned and sanitized. The kitchen was painted. The kitchen was re-opened for “Drive Thru” food pickup. A big thanks and well done to Commander Bruce Thurber, 2nd Vice Ray Wright and our fantastic bartenders for providing this service which was a huge success.

On June 5th the Post opened under Phase 2 which required limited seating and maintaining social distancing. Food services for eating in the Hall and Canteen were started. The Tiki Bar opened with normal days and hours. Games did not start.

Friday September 24th the Post transitioned to Phase 3 which allowed the Post to open with very few restrictions. Family meetings restarted. The building of the new Pavilion was completed and was used for the Kids Halloween Trunk and Treat, the Adult Halloween party and the Kids Christmas Party with Santa. SAL Squadron 117 2nd Vice Tom Wood presented a check in the amount of \$17,656 to Special Olympics Brevard.

We had the Veterans Day Parade and picnic. The Post Family Camp-out was held with a great turnout. Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners went well and to finish the year the New Years Eve party was held with Jimmy D. proving the music.

Thank goodness 2020 is over!!!!!!

2021

January and February are going to be busy months for events at the Post along with Poker Runs.

January 17th Cancer Poker Run

January 23rd Aging Matters/Meals on Wheels Poker Run

January 30th Car and Bike Show and Poker Run

February 6th Special Olympics and Poker Run

February 20th Eastern Area Hoedown

Post Directory	2
Commander's Corner	3
Auxiliary	4
SAL	5
Chaplain's Corner	6
Meetings	7
Merchandise & Services	8
Fliers & Events	9,10, 11



Post 117 Directory

American Legion Officers

Commander.....Bruce Thurber
 1st Vice Commander.....Gene Pilot
 2nd Vice Commander.....Ray Wright
 3rd Vice Commander.....Jimmy Donovan
 Adjutant.....Tony Kirby
 Finance Officer.....Gary Benard
 Chaplain.....Donna Walkowiak
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Donna Swinski
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Pamela James
 Historian.....Jennie Chavis
 Judge Advocate.....Charlie Christy
 Service Officer.....Kevin McGarry
 Executive Committee.....Leo Belanger
 Executive Committee.....Ed Carbin
 Executive Committee.....Dave Fox

Auxiliary Officers

President.....MaryAnn Spellman
 1st Vice President.....Sheila Benard
 2nd Vice President.....Sheila Cline Burns
 Treasurer.....Pat Luckey
 Secretary.....Donna Walkowiak
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Beverly Hall
 Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms.....Terry Struven
 Chaplain.....Barbara Simons
 Historian.....Mary Lindsey
 Executive Committee.....Millie Donovan
 Executive Committee.....Kerry Baker
 Executive Committee.....Brenda Miskow
 Past President.....Diane Wood

Sons of the American Legion Officers

Squadron Commander.....Randy Chilcott
 1st Vice Squadron Commander..Bruce Walkowiak
 2nd 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.....Chris Hess
 Assistant Director.....Jeff Cox
 Secretary.....Sheila Cline Burns
 Finance Officer.....Kim Oaks
 Chaplain.....Donna Walkowiak
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Brian Yancey
 Historian.....Open Position
 Road Captain.....Tim Morris
 Membership.....Shelby Kennedy
 Merchandise.....Shelby Kennedy

Honor Guard

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

Ways & Means Committee

Chairman: Jimmy Donovan
 Members: Chris Hess
 Randy Chilcott Jeff Cox
 Jennie Chavis Bill Davidson
 MaryAnn Spellman Sheila Cline Burns
 Ray Wright Steve Chavis

House Committee

Chairman: Leo Belanger
 Members: Tom Wood
 Terry Doiel
 Andy Campbell
 Jerry Pucel

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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: Dave Fox

Members:

Jeff Davis Kerry Baker
 Tom Giampino Randy Chilcott
 Sheila Benard Steve Chavis



Commander's Corner

*Bruce Thurber
Commander,
American Legion
Post 117*

commander@all17.com

Happy New Year everyone. First, I would like to thank everyone for making 2020 a successful year for our Post. Even with the COVID we accomplished a lot of things during the year, many thanks go out to all the volunteers who worked diligently at our events, dinners, and activities. My thanks to the Officers of the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and Legion Riders for their support throughout the year and accomplishments they have made. Some of the items we accomplished this year included building the pavilions, Best Americanism Post in Florida, several Eagle Scout projects, and many repairs around the Post. My thanks to the many volunteers who give their time and money to make these things happen. I would also like to thank the Committee Members for their support this past year as well as the Canteen Staff for their dedication and hard work. Our membership renewals in all the organizations are looking extremely good but we still need to push for that 100% plus 1. Bartenders will be asking to see

your current membership cards after the New Year so please

cooperate with them and show your card with pride. It is an honor to be a member of this great organization so let them know you are proud to be a member and thank them for asking. We have a lot of activities coming up in the next few months so please mark your calendar and participate in them. Nominations for Post Officer positions will begin in March and April and Post elections will occur in May. Election day will be posted. Thanks again for a wonderful year.

As we enter 2021 The American Legion is working for Veterans and asks that you contact your Congressional Leaders to support:

1. Making the Department of Veterans Affairs to authorize the engraving of military insignia for combat-related decorations on government-furnished headstones and such authorization will pertain to all combat-related decorations, including the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Coast Guard Cross, Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal with "V" device (for valor), Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Combat Action Ribbon and Combat Medical Badge.
2. And urge the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to ensure that the health-care needs of all current and future minority veterans are met; the VA increase the amount of outreach to minority veterans through awareness campaigns, benefits education and community organizations; That the VA continue efforts to focus on preventing, detecting and controlling clinical issues related to hypertension, cardiovascular care and diabetes care; and the VA continue to develop veteran-centered care initiatives for minority veterans, which can include delivery of culturally sensitive care in VA facilities; Finally, That the VA continue research that identifies causes of racial/ethnic disparities in veterans' health and health care and as evidence-based treatments develop provide interventions to reduce these disparities.



MaryAnn Spellman
President

auxiliary@al117.com



Unit 117 American Legion Auxiliary

Happy New Year,

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New year; we all know this year has for sure been a challenge.

I would like to thank everyone for all the help this past year, we really did do some great things and without all of you it would have not happened. The children's Christmas Party was a great hit, it was our 1st year having it out in the new pavilion, this really worked out well, a great time was had by all. Thank you to all that volunteered from shopping to wrapping the gifts and helping set up and make sure things ran smoothy, a special thanks to out Legion Riders, and Palm Bay Fire Department for getting Santa there safely, and of course Santa, as always, a great time.

Once again, Unit 117 with the help of our amazing members, we make Christmas wishes come true for 47 Children in the community with our Angel Tree. We also filled 36 Holiday Baskets for families in need. We have several events planned for the upcoming year, please watch our Facebook page, look for posted flyer in the canteen and on the TV's.

Remember our General Meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the post hall at 7PM.

If you have not paid your dues, please do so you can leave payment in the Auxiliary mailbox, give to one of our bartender or reach out to our 1st Vice / Membership Chair Sheila Benard. Hope to see you all soon, please stay well.

Warm Regards,
MaryAnn Spellman
Unit 117 President



Randy Chilcott
Commander
Squadron 117

sal@all17.com



Squadron 117, Sons of the American Legion

Squadron 117, Sons of the American Legion

Welcome to 2021. I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! The Special Olympics Poker Run is almost here and we need all the help we can get, if you can volunteer in anyway contact me or Tom Wood.

If you have not paid your 2021 dues you are late and will not be able to access the Canteen or the Tiki. Please pay your dues ASAP if we don't get membership dues we don't have the ability to make as many donations to support our programs and veterans.

Starting now thru February 6, 2021 we are seeking donations from businesses for our Special Olympic Poker Run on February 6th. We need volunteers to solicit local businesses for donations contact me or Tom Wood for tax except donation forms.

As always we need volunteers for Friday night dinner, Sunday breakfast and Sunday lunch, please try and help out all our SAL activities. Please feel free to talk to me about any ideas you may have. I would like to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

See ya'll around the Post!



*Donna Walkowiak
Chaplian*

Chaplain@all17.com

Chaplain's Corner

One year ago with Anticipation of a new decade and better times, we greeted 2020 and it was not kind to us. Covid-19 took our lives and turned them on their heads. Even with mask, social distancing, shut downs, and self isolating many became ill and too many died. I ask for prayers for our friends, neighbors, fellow countrymen who are suffering loss of their employment, companies closed forever, evictions and foreclosures. The long lasting effects of this pandemic will reshape our lives and how we live them. Pray for the families still unable to gather, the seniors alone. We pray that we can get our economy up and running so people can again go to work. So small businesses on the verge of collapse can stay afloat. As we move forward we pray that the lord will see us through this and restore health and well-being to us all. May he reveal the lessons we are to grasp from 2020. That we may be wiser, kinder, and more appreciative of what we have. I pray that the worst is behind us, that 2021 will bring improvement to us all.

Remember those we have lost in 2020 and pray for their families; certainly this has been a very rough holiday season for them, feeling the absence of their loved one. Keep our Post family in your prayers that the lord strengthen us to face what ever looms beyond the horizons, also with special mention for healing and strength for Todd Burns (in ICU at Melbourne Regional), Terry Doile in Melbourne Regional after a heat attack, the family of Tony Gannon with the passing of his father in law Harold Roger's (Pops) a regular at steak shoot. Duane Venable as he prepares to fight cancer once again. I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.



Post Meetings ••• Post Meetings ••• Post Meetings ••• Post Meetings

Legion Meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Legion EC Meeting, the Sunday before Legion Meeting 12 noon

SAL Meeting, 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 pm

SAL EC Meeting, 4th Monday, 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, 3rd Monday, 6:30 pm

40 & 8 Voiture 1621, 4th Tuesday, 7:00 pm

La Femmes, 1st Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Ways & Means Committee, 1st Monday, 6:00 pm



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".

September 2020
 Diane and Tom Wood
 Sheila and Gary Benard

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 (Red, Black or Maroon)\$35

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)\$25
- 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



Meals on Wheels & Aging Matters in Brevard INAUGURAL POKER RUN

Sponsored by American Legion Post 117

Saturday, January 23, 2021

Registration is on-site

\$15 per rider, \$10 per passenger.

Includes Lunch

Entertainment by Doc Holiday

\$500 CASH PRIZE FOR "BEST" HAND SPONSORED BY:



\$250 CASH PRIZE FOR "WORST" HAND SPONSORED BY:



Event Schedule:

South Registration 8:00 am-9:00 am at Post 117 189 Veterans Drive SE Palm Bay



Breakfast Sandwiches Available (\$3)

Kickstands up at 9:15 am; head north US-1 Post 359, Titusville/Port St John

North Registration 9:00 am-10:15 am Post 359 7260 US-1 Titusville

Everyone head south at 11:30 am

Stop at The Kitchen 455 Rosa L Jones, Rockledge, Tour

Stop at Post 81 2909 S Harbor City Blvd, Melbourne

Back to Post 117; First bike in at 1:00 pm, last bike in at 3:00 pm

Lunch, entertainment, raffles from 12:30 pm-4:00 pm

*Poker cards will be handed out at 117 after the ride



Aging Matters In Brevard is a private not-for-profit organization in service to the aging citizens of Brevard County, supporting independence, health, safety and quality of life.

For more information, including sponsorship opportunities, contact Marty Mercado at (321) 863-5608 mmercado@agingmattersbrevard.org

Poker Run 930 am kickstands up at 1030

\$15.00 a rider \$5.00 passenger

CAR AND BIKE SHOW

\$15.00 A CAR

30TH

JANUARY 2021

Car show starts at 1100

American Legion Post 117
189 Veterans Drive Se
Palm Bat, FL 32909

FEATURING
DOC HOLIDAY

Food and beverage
Vendors
Raffles
50/50
Best of show car and bike



HONORING SN BRANDON THURBER
SUPPORTING GOLD STAR MOTHERS

SATURDAY
February 6, 2021



Special
Olympics
Florida
Brevard County

POKER RUN

REGISTRATION 9AM AL Post 117
FIRST BIKE OUT 10:30 LAST BIKE IN 2:30

Broken Spoke

Post 189

The Old Fish House

Back to Post 117

ALL WELCOME
CAGES & BIKES
\$10 RIDERS
\$5 PASSENGERS

Best Hand \$100
Worst Hand \$50



VENDORS WELCOME OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

PLATTERS \$5
SIDES INCULDED



Entertainment by
Bervard's Favorite DJ

BREAKFAST
SANDWICHES @ 8:30
\$3.00



For more Info call: Tom 321-508-1629
Hosted by Sons of American Legion Squadron 117
American Legion Post 117, 189 Veterans Drive, Palm Bay, FL

Eastern Area

Country Hoedown
February 20th 2021
Post 117
noon till???

Country Vittles

Live Music



Tickets \$20
Couples \$30



Proceeds to benefit COTA

Local Hotels

Holiday Inn
Express & Suites Palm Bay
1206 MALABAR ROAD SE
PALM BAY, FLORIDA 32907
321-220-2003

\$ 99.00 plus tax
Per night
Mention: Eastern Area Ball
AL Post 117