



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

The Thomas Times

January/February

2021 started off well with 4 fundraising events and ceremony.

January 23rd we had the 1st annual Aging Matters/Meals on Wheels fundraiser for Brevard County.

January 30th was the Car & Bike Show and fundraiser/Poker Run in Honor of SN Brandon Thurber for Gold Star Mothers.

February 6th SAL Squadron 117 held their Special Olympic-Brevard fundraiser.

February 7th the ceremony remembering and honoring the 4 Chaplains was held.

February 20th the Eastern Area Commander held a fundraising event theme as a "Hoedown".

March/April

March 6th Auxiliary Unit 117 will be hosting a (invitation only) luncheon for Female Veterans.

March 7th-11th the Canteen will be moved to the Hall while new air-conditioning duct work is installed in the Canteen.

March 10th there will be a fun Casino Cruise out of Port Canaveral.

March 20th the 1st Medal of Honor Park fundraiser will be held.

April 3rd Auxiliary Unit 117 will be hosting the Kids Easter Party.

April 11th there will be a Riders escort for the Vietnam Traveling Wall to Wickham Park.

April 12th Will be "Presentations of Wreaths" at the Vietnam Traveling Wall at Wickham Park.

April 24th "Juniors" will have their "Spring Fling" fundraiser for new Post Playground.

April 30th-May 2nd Post 117 RV/Tent Family Campout weekend.

Check page 10 for more detail information for March and April events.

Lastly, we are in Election season so check when your Nominations and Election occur.

So, it looks like we are off to a good start for 2021. Come out and support the various events.

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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.....Bill Davidson
 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@all117.com

What a great passed few months for the Post. We were honored to host the Eastern Area Ball/Hoedown which raised over \$2000 for the Children's Organ Transplant Association. As of February 1st, 2020, post 117 has supported each of the Four Pillars, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children & Youth.

We are having another great membership year making our tenth all time high in membership.

We will be holding our 2nd Chamber of Commerce Event on Friday March 26th in the Pavilion, from 12-3 food and beverages available plus a chance to meet with local business's.

The Auxiliary will be honoring female Veterans on Saturday March 6th from 12-2. The American Legion Birthday is March 15th. The Auxiliary will be holding their Kids Easter Party on Saturday April 3rd and the Juniors Spring Fling on the 24th.

Reserve June 19th for the 3 Angels Balls for All Poker run.

It has now become that time of year to begin the selection process for the 2021-2022 Post Officers. The first round of nominations will be March 21st and the second round April 21st. Nominations will be for Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, 3rd Vice Commander, Finance Officer, Chaplin, Sgt at Arms, Asst Sgt at Arms, two Executive Committee at large, and Historian.

Election of Officers will be on Saturday May 15th from 10am until 1pm in the hall.



MaryAnn Spellman
President

auxiliary@al117.com



Unit 117 American Legion Auxiliary

Greetings AUX Family,

I want to start off by just taking a moment to thank all the awesome volunteers that stepped up during the holidays. We could have not done what we did without all of you. I am proud to report, Unit 117 provided 37 food baskets for Thanksgiving, 42 baskets for Christmas, we had 37 Children on the angel tree. Thank you all for helping these families in need. Our kids Christmas party was also a HUGE success, as always Santa, our elves, and Chapter 117 Legion Riders did an amazing job.

It's that time of year again, yep, it is election time! Our first-round nominations will be held at our March General Meeting, second round at our General Meeting in April. The final round of nominations and elections will be at our General Meeting in May. We have our Nominating committee in place, Kim Oaks, along with Diane Wood and Sherry Cox will be working to get our 2021-2022 nominations under way, with getting all names added to the ballot.

Post 117 Family will be having another campout; this will be a Post family event for all. April 30th May 1st and 2nd Cost \$20.00 for the weekend, sign up sheet will be posted in the canteen, RV and Tents welcome.

We will also be having the Meat Raffle hosted by Andy and Kim on Sunday May 2nd; ticket sales start at noon. All proceeds from Meat Raffle will go to Various Post 117 Family programs. If you have never joined us for the Meat Raffle, this is a MUST, we have so much fun.

Reminder: If you have not paid your dues yet, you can contact Unit 117 1st Vice / Membership Chairman, Sheila Benard, or simply place your payment in the AUX mailbox in the Canteen. Auxiliary General Meeting the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

Hoping you and yours are staying healthy, looking forward to seeing you all soon around the Post.

As always, BIG love to all

For God and Country

Warm Regards,

MaryAnn Spellman Unit 117 President



MaryAnn Spellman
Juniors Chairman
auxiliary@al117.com



Legion Family FUTURE LEADERS (Juniors)

Greetings all,
Hope this finds everyone well. I know the past few months have been very challenging for all of us, especially our Future Leader's as I know they miss the many events and meeting we always had a Post Family, we are slowly trying to get them back involved in what they love and do best, helping our Veterans and the community.

Spring is almost her, and we all know what that means, yep, the Easter Bunny will be visiting Post 117 on April 3rd Kids party 11 am – 1pm. This will take place outdoors in our pavilion, all children should wear comfortable shoes as they will be hunting for eggs in the field and on post grounds. Please sign up by March 27th, sign up sheet will be in the canteen.

Our Future leader will also be hosting a Spring Fling Fundraiser on April 24th 1pm 5pm. The Jr's will be raising funds to build a new Post Playground. There will be food, music, games and much more. The Jr's are requesting donations for raffle baskets, if you have any items you would like to donate, please contact me for drop off information. This is going to be a great family fun day, hope to see everyone there.

If you have a child or grandchild that is not signed up as a Jr' yet, we would love to grow this program, our children and Grandchildren are our Legion Family FUTURE LEADERS (Juniors) let's get them involved now, so they can grow and learn just what our Legion Family is all about and what we do for our Veterans and the community. If you have a child / grandchild and would like them to be a part of our junior's girl and boys are both welcome to join up to age 17. Please speak with Auxiliary 1st Vice / membership Chair Sheila Benard to enroll any girls, or SAL Squad Commander Randy Chilcott for the boys. The membership dues are \$8.00 for the year for all Junior

We hope to see everyone soon.
For God & Country, MaryAnn Spellman
Junior Chairman, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 117



Randy Chilcott
Commander
Squadron 117

sal@all17.com



Squadron 117, Sons of the American Legion

I want to thank Tom Wood and the entire legion families for making this year Special Olympics poker run a great success!

If you are interested in holding a squadron office let someone in the squadron know so they can nominate you. Offices up for election are Commander, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, Finance officer, Chaplin, Historian, Sergeant of Arms and Assistant Sergeant of Arms. All nominations are at our regular meetings.

First round nominations are March 9th second round nominations are April 13th election of officers is May 11th. Our next District meeting is March 20th at post 359 Port ST John registration is at 9 meeting starts at 10am.

As always we need volunteers for Friday night dinner 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.

See ya'll around the Post!



Tom Wood
S.A.L. 2nd Vice



Special Olympics Chairman

I want to thank the Legion families for their support that I received for this year's Special Olympic Fundraisers held during the 2020/2021 year. The turn out and support for the main event held February 6 was awesome. We had a good year despite the COVID epidemic.

I would like to thank each and every person that volunteered and donated to this great cause that is very close to my heart. This is my last year as chair but I will always be there to support. It has been my honor to serve for three years as the Sons of the American Legion Special Olympics Chairperson.

I am going nowhere.
Tom Wood



*Donna Walkowiak
Chaplain*

Chaplain@all17.com

Chaplain's Corner

It is time again to take a moment to reflect on our blessings. We can thank the Lord that we live in Florida, where we had a mild winter as the rest of the country suffered under severe winter storms, complicated by power failures and water shortages. We are fully into spring here as the coating of pollen tells us.

We thank God that Florida is not effected by the continuing lock downs across our nation. We are opened and as people are getting the vaccine and businesses are allowed to operate, we pray the Lord will strengthen those facing financial ruin so they can cope with their challenges. We ask God to comfort the families that have been effected by this illness and ask his intervention to bring us all through this.

Thank you to all who saw the 4 Chaplains ceremony. Many saw it for the first time and were touched by the story of these 4 men of God. There is a monument in Sebastian at river park, well worth the trip to see.

On a personal note. There was confusion last month with the Chaplains board and Corner due to false information. Gary Sedli we thank God that the news of your passing was false and you are still with us. So now If you want to inform the Post family of a request for prayer, I am allowing the bartenders to give out my phone number. I don't answer my phone so please leave a message or send me a reach me via messenger or messages. I promise to get back to you. I hope this will prevent what happened in the future.

May God bless America, our first responders, our Military, and place a guiding hand on those in power.

Editor's Note: You can also email the Chaplain at:
chaplain@all17.com



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 Thursday, 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 or Pavilion are 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

MERCHANDISE SALES

Legion Items For Sale

- Men's Tee (Gray/Black, Red/Gold, Black/White, Black/Red)...\$15
- Men's Polo with pocket (Black, Red and Burgundy).....\$35
- Women's Shirts (Red, Black, Teal, Burgundy and Purple).....\$20
- Legion License Plate.....\$5

Riders Items For Sale

(For special orders contact Riders Merchandise Person)

- Men's Tank Tops (Black)\$10
- Men's T-Shirts1 for \$20 or 2 for \$35
- Hoodies..... \$30
- Long Sleeve (Black)\$20
- Ladies V-Neck.....1 for \$15 or 2 for \$25
- Small Riders Patch\$10
- Medium Riders Patch\$20
- Large Riders Patch\$40

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
- Black Half Staff Ribbon\$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

Services currently provided at Sharon's home.

Contact Sharon at (321) 403-1216 for appointment and directions.

MEDAL OF HONOR PARK

1ST ANNUAL *SPRING FLING FUNDRAISER*

Saturday March 20, 2021
AMERICAN LEGION POST 117, PALM BAY
11 A.M. – UNTIL ?

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - FAMILIES WELCOME!!

DRIVE
IN
POKER
RUN
\$5 PER
HAND



BOUNCE HOUSE
FOR
KIDS

CORN
HOLE
TOURNAMENT

Festivities: Food, Drinks, and Raffles - Entertainment by: Doc Holiday

ALL DONATIONS AND PROCEEDS WILL BE USED TO BUILD & MAINTAIN THE MEDAL OF HONOR PARK, WHICH HONORS ALL RECIPIENTS OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR (OUR NATIONS HIGHEST AWARD) & HONORS ALL VETERANS.

Medal of Honor Park to be built at Veterans Memorial Center, Merritt Island, FL
Donations: Cash or Checks Payable to: Medal of Honor Park
501(C)(3) #59-3070304

On Behalf of the Medal of Honor Park,
We "Thank You" for your Generous Donations

For more information contact:
Flame @ (321)652-0000 or Santa @ (321)752-0631

This Fundraiser Event is Hosted by: USA River Rats & American Legion Post 117



Vietnam and all Veterans
of Brevard

Present:

**Florida's 33rd Annual
All Veterans Reunion**

The Nation's Largest Veterans Reunion
PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND

April 15th – 18th, 2021

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall on display April 11 – 18, 2021

LIVE MUSIC

FOOD & DRINKS

MILITARY VENDORS

MILITARY DISPLAYS

THE SOME GAVE ALL MOVING TRIBUTE



Wall Escort April 11th 2021 Leaves at 10am
Eastern Florida State College Cocoa Campus
Reunion Web Page at:

floridaveteransreunion.com

Wickham Park
321-265-4307 - 2500 Parkway Dr
Melbourne, FL
No Coolers, Glass or Pots allowed
in the Reunion Area
Per Wickham Park: Golf Carts Permitted
For the Handicapped Only And Must
Abide By FL Highway Laws
Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall
<http://travelingwall.us>



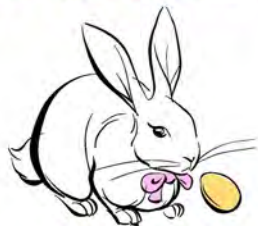
Call For Info

321-690-0805
321-652-4185

Vendors call 321-652-4185
RaRusso1982@gmail.com
VVBSecretary@gmail.com
Club Escort Lineup Info
vybreunionesort@gmail.com

Post 117 Kids Easter Party

April 3rd 2021 @ 11 am -1 pm



Join us for a day of fun!

Easter egg hunt
Pizza and drinks

Baskets for the kids and Games

Signup sheet is in the canteen, deadline for sign up
is March 27th 2021



RV / Tent Campout Party

Post 117



Family Campout

April 30th May 1st and 2nd

Friday 3-7
Music by
Doc Holiday

20 Sites Available
\$20.00 per Site

Signup sheet
in the
Canteen

Post Family Cookout

Campfire After Dark

Meat Raffle
Sunday 12-2
In the Tiki

Live on stage Saturday from 2-6



For more information Contact Andy or MaryAnn