



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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Auxiliary hosted a luncheon for Female Veterans. It was a very nice turn out and it was interesting to discover how many are Post 117 members. One of the attendees was Sandy Peterson who has been an American Legion member for 53 years. Sandy served in the Air Force and joined the American Legion when she was stationed in the Philippines.

The Canteen was moved to the Hall for one week while new air-conditioning duct work was installed. After the Canteen work was completed the Hall also had new air-conditioning duct installed. A **BIG THANK YOU** to all the volunteers that helped removing the old ceiling

tiles and installing the new ceiling tiles for both the Canteen and Hall!!! The "Medal of Honor Park" folks held their first fundraiser at the Post. It was good start. They have already booked another fundraiser for March 2022.

Auxiliary hosted the Children's Easter party/egg hunt. They had a great time. Our Riders participated in the escort for the Vietnam Traveling Wall to Wickham Park.

The Post Honor Guard participated in the Massing of the Colors during the Vietnam/All Veterans Reunion at Wickham Park. Well done!!

The "Juniors" had their "Spring Fling" fundraiser for new Post Playground and Special Olympics. Great job Juniors!!

The Post RV/Tent Campout weekend was a blast.

May/June

May 9th: Mother's Day brunch from 11am-1pm.

May 22nd: Chili Cookoff 1-4pm

May 29th: Flag placements at Veterans graves at Fountainhead Cemetery 8:30am rain or shine.

May 30th: Scouts Lunch 12pm-5pm

May 31st: Memorial Day Graveside Ceremony for Post 117 namesake Charles F. Thomas IV at 10am.

May 31st: Memorial Day Post Ceremony at 11:30am with lunch to follow.

June 5th: Post Volunteers Day.

June 13th: Veterans Fishing Trip.

June 19th: 3 Angels Ball For All fundraiser and Poker Run.

Check pages 11, 12 and 13 for more detail information for May/June events.



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.....Pam James
 Historian.....Jennie Chavis
 Judge Advocate.....Bill Davidson
 Service Officer.....Kevin McGarry
 Executive Committee.....Ed Carbin
 Executive Committee.....Leo Belanger
 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@al117.com

As our Membership year comes to an end, I would like to take the numerous volunteers who put in thousands of hours making Post 117 a great place. We as a Team of Veterans and their families have overcome the many bumps caused by the CORONA Virus. Completed our Pavilion, Painted the building, repaired the AC and Ceiling and much more. All of this while enjoying the benefits of being a member of the Post 117 FAMILY.

The National American Legion released a new myLegion.org program on April 1st. This is the basis of membership processing and communication for all Legionnaires and Sons of the American Legion. Anyone wanting to be an Officer next year needs to register as soon as possible so that you can be given access to those attached programs for your duties. All other members are encouraged to sign up as this will be a major means of communication between the Officers and Members.

It is time to get with the City to plan the Veteran's Parade for November. We need a chairperson who can go to meetings during the week early afternoons once a month. We also need a float team and someone to plan the picnic. You do not need to be a Legionnaire to fill these positions.

I would like to welcome the New Officers as they assume their positions in July and ask everyone to support them.

It has been an Honor serving as Commander of the Greatest group of Legion Family Members.



MaryAnn Spellman
President

auxiliary@al117.com



Unit 117 American Legion Auxiliary

Greetings Family,

I want to start by thanking everyone that has shown our unit so much support through these past several months. Unit 117 still through all that has happened this year, strived as we were able to make our end of the year donations to several non-profit charities as we do every year. This could not have been possible without out all you, Thank you so much!

We will be having our 3rd round of nominations and Voting for our 2021-2022 officers on May 20th, 2021 @ 7pm at our general meeting in the Hall. Please come out to vote, and make your voice heard. If you have not paid your dues please do so, you will not be able to vote without an up-to-date membership card.

Reminder: Unit 117 from now on moving forward will be having our general meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm.



MaryAnn Spellman
Juniors Chairman
auxiliary@al117.com



Legion Family FUTURE LEADERS (Juniors)

Hello Family,

Once again, our Kids Eater Party was a huge hit. There was Pizza, and egg hunt and of course the Eater Bunny showed up to take pictures and play with kids. All the children left with prizes from playing bingo and an Easter Basket filled with goodies.

Our future Leaders had one of the most successful fundraises. They had their Spring Fling on April 24th. They had a bake sale, raffle baskets and served lunch. With the help and generosity of all of you, **they raised \$2200.00** for their new swing set at the post home. Thank you to all who donated and came out to show the love to our Future Leaders. Stay tuned as they will be doing a few other things to raise the rest of the money and for dates of when the swing set will be set up. This will be a family event, even the 117 boy scouts will be working on this with u as well.

We would like all the Jr's to come out on May 15th @ 2pm to make poppy plates and collect donations to help the Unit 117 with the poppy fund, this will really help as the stores are still not allowing our Unit to distribute outside of their stores.

If you have a child or grandchild ages birth to 17 that is not a part of our Jr's, please get them signed up as they are our future. The Girls will be signed up as Auxiliary, you can contact 1st Vice / Membership Sheila Benard to get signed up, and the Boys will be SAL members, see SAL Squadron Commander Randy Chilcot to get them signed up. Dues are \$8 for the year for all Jr's.

For God and Country,



Randy Chilcott
Commander
Squadron 117

sal@al117.com

Squadron 117, Sons of the American Legion

I want to thank everybody for your support over the last five years as the SAL commander. It's time to move on, please support our new commander Andy Campbell and all the new officers.

The District Constitutional Conference will be held at post 117 on May 15th registration is at 9 meeting is 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!





*Donna Walkowiak
Chaplian*

Chaplain@all17.com

Chaplain's Corner

With vaccines available and the state opening up it is so good to see everyone again. We are so blessed that our Post has come through this that the family is stronger than ever as we stood together to keep it afloat. We have wonderful volunteers without whom it couldn't have happened. We thank God for the creativity and flexibility that made it happen.

This whole ordeal has been hard on all of us emotionally as well as physically. Many either had covid themselves or know of someone that did. Sadly some were lost to us. During this past year we have had friends and family experience the pain of having a loved one pass and being isolated. No service or gathering of friends. We turned to Facebook to express our love and support. It isn't quite the same as the personal touch, that hug. We pray for all the families left behind, trying to adjust to their loss, may they remember that the Lord has their loved one in his care and they will be together again in time. We need to pray also for our members fighting the good fight against cancer. We have several who are in this battle with one type or another. Pray the Lord strengthen them and that they can feel his presence and take comfort in it. We need also to pray for our police, as they are under attack as they strive to serve and protect.

I pray now that the Lord heal the nation and allow us to return to what we had before covid 19. Some resemblance of normal.



*Kevin McGarry
Scouting Charter
Organization
Representative*

Scouts Corner

First off, I would like to thank all the members and officers for your support of our Scout Troops. This past year was obviously a little hectic, but they persevered and continued to hold meetings and camp-outs. This year we had a Scout from Troop 732 earn their Eagle Scout rank, Anthony Franqui, and our first female Scout, Alexis Woods, from Troop 117 earn her Eagle Rank.

Alexis' Eagle Service Project was done at Baby Girl Horse Rescue and Veteran Therapy Ranch in Fellsmere, FL. Alexis led her project over 3 weekends to build a shelter; the rescue will use this shelter as an Intake shelter for new patient arrivals. Baby Girl Horse Rescue and Veteran Therapy Ranch- does just what its name says it does. They rescue large animals and these animals help Veterans and those with anxiety disorders in so many ways. This is a place where the People and the Animals rescue each other.

Anthony's Eagle Service Project was to dig up all of the vegetation and dirt from the south and east sides of the Post, put down landscape fabric, which was then covered evenly with gravel. The finishing touch was provided by John Carlson and Bill "Pineapple" Whitney, which is the statue that now resides in the gravel near the front door. We currently have 20 Boys in Troop 732 and 15 Girls in Troop 117. Without the support of the Family at Post 117 they would not be able to accomplish all that they have done.



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 Thursday, 6:30 pm
- SAL EC Meeting, 4th Monday, 6:30 pm
- Auxiliary Meeting, 3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm
- Auxiliary EC Meeting, 2nd Monday, 6:30 pm
- Legion Riders Meeting, 1st Thursday, 6:30 pm
- Legion Riders EC Meeting, 3rd Monday, 6:30 pm
- Ways & Means Committee, Last 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.

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

Meat Raffle Sunday 12-2 In the Tiki Proceddi

on stage Saturday from 2-6

SOUTHERN THUNDER DUO

Along with Scott

For more information Contact Andy or MaryAnn

Sunday Brunch

May 2nd 2021

9am till 4pm



- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Frittata | Burgers | Come back |
| Scrambled Eggs | Ham | As much as |
| Chicken | Mashed Potato | You like. |
| Pancakes | Scalloped Potato | No carryout's |
| French Toast | Sausage | No Sharing |
- & More

All day Bracelet \$15
Under 12 \$6



Kentucky Derby Party 2021

7th Annual Kentucky Derby Party
In Honor of MS Gloria
Featuring The Parade of Hats
May 1st at American Legion Post 117 Tiki Bar
Party Starts 4:00PM

Ladies and Gentleman wear your best chapeau as there will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. The "Parade" will start approximately one hour before post

Food, prizes and of course the main event
The Running of the 147th Kentucky Derby

Come draw for the winning horse and collect a NICE prize. A dish to share will be appreciated.

THIS CANNOT BE A SUCCESS WITHOUT YOU.



Huge Meat Raffle

When: Sunday May 2, 2021
Where: American Legion Post 117 Tiki Bar
Time: Ticket Sales 12:00pm to 12:30
Raffle Starts at 12:30PM

FUN!

7 tickets for \$20 good for the whole raffle

Grand Prizes
1 - 5 to 6lb Prime Rib
1 - Dinner for 2 meat packages from Pettys

2 - 10 oz. NY Strip Steaks
2 Chicken Corzón Bleu
2 Stuffed Filets of Sole
(Choice of Shrimp & Garlic or Scallops & Crabmeat or Spinach & Cheese)
2 Boneless Chicken Breasts
2 Stuffed Cornish Hens
1 Slab Pork Ribs (3 - 1/2 lbs. Avg.)
2 - Twice Baked Potatoes
2 - Stuffed Flounder

Prizes include:
Whole pork Tenderloin
5 lbs of ground beef
Whole Chickens
Steaks
Brats
Big Chuck Roasts
Bacon
Sausage
And much more!

Big Meat round!

Mystery Meat Round

Gift Box Round

Steak Round

Cash Raffle at the end 70/30

All Proceeds go to Playground and Special Olympics

MOTHER'S DAY Breakfast

Please join us

Post 117



Mother's Eat Free
May 9th
All Others \$7

Free is for Post 117 Members Only

All you can Eat Brunch Buffet
10am til 2pm



Saturday May 29th
Flags Placed at Veterans Graves
at Fountainhead Cemetery
Rain or Shine
8:30am

Volunteers needed to Honor our Veterans
Legion Family and others Event

Squadron 117 Challages You



American Legion Post 117

189 Veterans Drive Palm Bay Fl

To Benefit Special Olympics of Brevard



Special Olympics

May 22, 2021

Entry Fee: \$10 per team

Categories:

- Best of Show
- Most Unique (no beef)
- Best Bean less
- Best with Beans
- Best Poultry
- Hottest

1 pm

- Tasting Fee \$5
- Entitles you to taste each Chili once
- All you can eat \$10

More Info: Tom Wood 321-729-8089

- Each Team must provide at least 8 Quarts of Chili.
- Condiments are of your choice.
- It will be a blind taste test
- Judges Decision is Final



JOIN US

FOR A



Hosted by

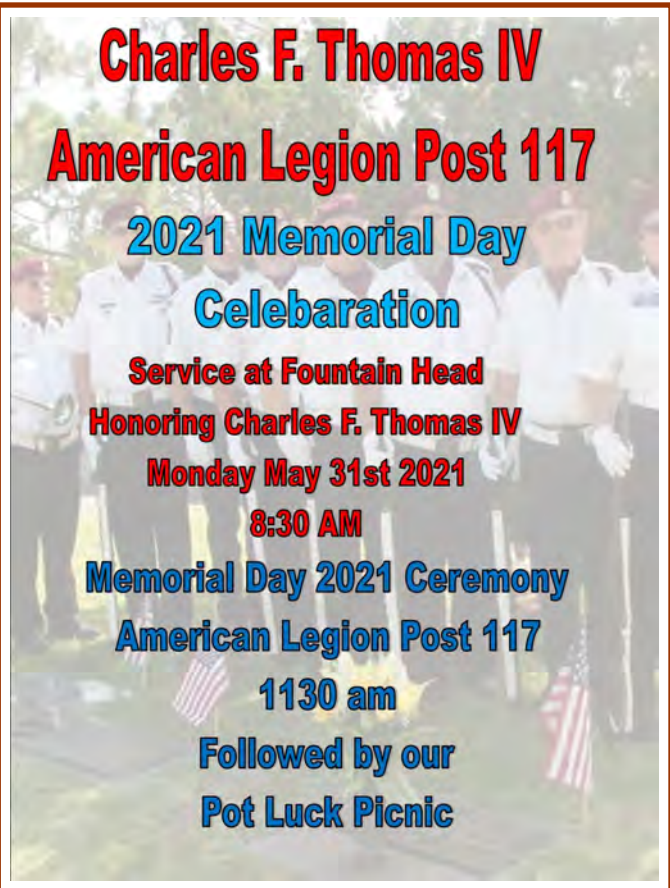
BSA Troop 732

Sunday, May 30th 12pm-5pm

BBQ Pulled Pork or Chicken Plates \$6.00


➡ Up to 3 plates @ \$6/ea, 4 or more @ \$5/ea ◀





Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117
2021 Memorial Day
Celebration
Service at Fountain Head
Honoring Charles F. Thomas IV
Monday May 31st 2021
8:30 AM
Memorial Day 2021 Ceremony
American Legion Post 117
1130 am
Followed by our
Pot Luck Picnic

SAL Squadron 117
Annual Veterans Fishing
Trip



When: June 13, 2021 (Be at the Post no later than 5:30am) Bus will leave Sharply at 6am
Where: Stuart FL. (Lady Stuart)
Whats provided:

- Fishing License
- Poles
- Bait
- Transportation to and from AL 117
- Breakfast and Lunch
- Beverages

This year's fishing trip will be a little smaller due to lack of boats that can accommodate us. We will be taking 40 Veterans on a first come first serve basis on the sign up sheet below. ID's will be checked as you sign up to assure you are a veteran.
 We will also be giving out commemorative shirts again and there will be door and raffle prizes.



In Honor of
VOLUNTEERS' WEEK
 time to say thank you

On June 5th 2021
From Noon to 4
Volunteer Appreciation
Picnic
Food & Entertainment
for the many of you who
have helped

3 Angels Ball For All
6th ANNUAL
POKER RUN
Saturday, June 19th

GREAT LIVE MUSIC BY SHOVELHEAD!
RAFFLES 50/50 BOARD LIVE AUCTION




Registration Begins at 9 am
Kick Stands Up at 10 am

Riders \$20 (Includes Lunch and Event Shirt)
Passengers \$15 (Includes Lunch and Event Shirt)
BBQ Lunch \$8 per person
Shirt Sponsors \$150 (Back of Shirt Advertising)

Location:
 American Legion Post-117
 189 Veterans Drive SE
 Palm Bay, FL 32909

Featuring
DOC HOLIDAY
 Country and Western Rock & Roll
Master of Ceremonies
 Sponsorship Opportunities Available
Everyone Welcome! Ride or Drive!
 *All Proceeds Benefit 3 Angels Ball for All Charity (Helping Underprivileged Children Play Organized Sports)

Can't Attend? We welcome all contributions to support "3 Angels Ball for All!"
For Additional Information Please Contact Us at 3angelsballforall@gmail.com