



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

# The Thomas Times

## May

May and June we busy months. In the beginning of the month we had a Mother's Day brunch from 11am to 1pm which was enjoyed by all. Before Memorial Day Post 117, Post 394 and Scout Troops placed flags at Veterans graves at Fountainhead Cemetery. On Memorial Day a service was held at the gravesite of Charles F Thomas IV, the namesake of Post 117.

## June

In the beginning of June the Post held a Volunteers Day to thank all the volunteers who worked/contributed so much time to make Post 117 successful over the last year. SAL Squadron 117 held their annual Veterans fishing trip. We may not have caught a lot of fish but everyone had fun catching the ones that we couldn't keep including a small shark. Near the end of the month the Post hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual "3 Angels Ball For All Fundraiser/Poker Run". To say it was a Huge Success would be an understatement. The auction was incredible and other donations were incredible. SAL Squadron Special Olympics Chairman Tom Wood presented Special Olympics-Brevard a check in the amount of \$10,295 from fundraising efforts in 2021.

## July

The Department of Florida Convention was held July 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>. Post 117 received several awards. The Post received an award for "Post Best Religious Emphasis Program", Post Chaplain Donna Walkowiak accepted the award. The Post also received the "Best Post Americanism Program", Commander Bruce Thurber accepted the award for Donna Swinski. Commander Bruce Thurber received the "Recruiter of the Year" award. Troop 117 Eagle Scout, Alexis Wood received a "Good Citizenship Citation". Alexis is the first female Eagle Scout in Florida from a sponsoring American Legion Post. Congratulations Alexis.

Post Directory	2
Commander's Corner	3
Heart Felt Message	4
Auxiliary	5
SAL	6
Chaplains Corner	7
Riders	8
Meetings	9
Merchandise & Services	10
Emergency Contact Form	11



## Post 117 Directory

### American Legion Officers

Commander.....Bill Davidson  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander.....Gene Pilot  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander.....Ray Wright  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander.....Jimmy Donovan  
 Adjutant.....Bruce Thurber  
 Finance Officer.....Gary Benard  
 Chaplain.....Donna Walkowiak  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Donna Swinski  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Jeannie Perry  
 Historian.....Jennie Chavis  
 Judge Advocate.....Bob Swinski  
 Service Officer.....Kevin McGarry  
 Executive Committee.....Ed Carbin  
 Executive Committee.....Jesse Suelter  
 Immediate Past Commander.....Bruce Thurber

### Auxiliary Officers

President.....MaryAnn Spellman  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.....Sheila Benard  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.....Sheila Cline Burns  
 Treasurer.....Brenda Miskow  
 Secretary.....Kim Oaks  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Beverly Hall  
 Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms.....Shellee Hutchins  
 Chaplain.....Barbara Simmons  
 Historian.....Dawn Burgess  
 Executive Committee.....Mille Donovan  
 Executive Committee.....Teresa Linton  
 Executive Committee.....Sandy Huff

### Sons of the American Legion Officers

Squadron Commander.....Andy Campbell  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Squadron Commander..Bruce Walkowiak  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Squadron Commander .Jeff Cox  
 Adjutant.....George Aichele  
 Finance Officer.....Don Bilger  
 Chaplain.....Mathew Hanline  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Terry Cox  
 Historian.....Alvin Hill  
 SAL Advisor.....Bruce Thurber

### Legion Riders Officers

Director.....Jeff Cox  
 Assistant Director.....Brian Yancey  
 Secretary.....Sheila Cline Burns  
 Treasurer.....Kim Oaks  
 Chaplain.....Leah Guljord  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Stan Wood  
 Historian.....Open Position  
 Road Captain.....Eric Spellman  
 Membership.....Shelby Kennedy  
 Merchandise.....Shelby Kennedy

### Honor Guard

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

### Ways & Means Committee

Chairman: Jimmy Donovan  
 Members: Jeff Cox  
 Andy Campbell  
 Jennie Chavis  
 MaryAnn Spellman  
 Brenda Miskow  
 Bill Davidson  
 Ray Wright

### House Committee

Chairman:  
 Members:  
 Tom Wood  
 Andy Campbell  
 Jerry Pucel

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

### Canteen Committee

**Chairmen:** Bob Swinski

**Members:**

Jeff Davis Kerry Baker  
 Tom Giampino  
 Sheila Benard Steve Chavis



## Commander's Corner

*Bill Davidson  
Commander,  
American Legion  
Post 117*

commander@all17.com

I would like to reflect on what the past year was like. At this time last year the Post was closed due to COVID, Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander and Commander came up with the idea of opening the kitchen for “Drive Thru/Pick Up” food. This was a great success with the help of our Bartender’s and kitchen volunteers.

In early Fall the Post opened with limited capacity/service. The building of the Pavilion was completed. Before Thanksgiving our capacity for seating was increased so we were able to have Thanksgiving dinner. By Christmas time we were close to being “Normal”.

After the first of the year it seemed like we were back to normal with our various events, use of the new pavilion, entertainment and good times.

As your new Commander I plan to continue the successes we have had and expand on those successes and with the help of the Post 117 Family grow in what we do.

We are the “Charles F. Thomas IV” Post 117 FAMILY.

Thank You

## Heart Felt Message to Post 117 Family

Dear friends of American Legion Post #117,

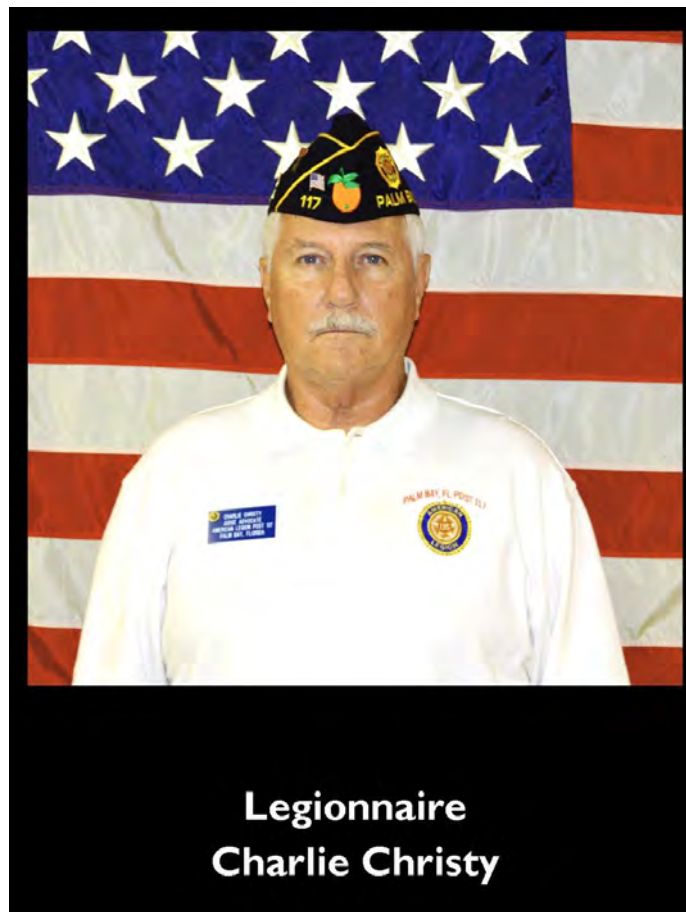
I just want to thank everyone for a very special Memorial service for my husband Charlie Christy.

His family and mine were very touched by the respect and affection shown for Charlie.

He considered the Post his second home, from being on committees, a member of the 40 & 8, to just shooting the breeze with the guys and gals. This was a place of comfort for him and I, always a friendly smile and a place to feel welcomed.

I also want to thank all the many people who donated money to the Post in Charlie's honor. I am very appreciative.

Sincerely,  
Alice Christy



**Legionnaire  
Charlie Christy**



MaryAnn Spellman  
President

[auxiliary@al117.com](mailto:auxiliary@al117.com)



## Unit 117 American Legion Auxiliary

Greeting Family,  
Let me start by thanking all of you for placing your confidence in me again this year to serve as your 117 Unit President for another year. I am honored and truly blessed to be a part of such an amazing Unit. I would like to also thank everyone for coming out to vote for this year's awesome group of incoming officers. Let us all give a HUGE shoutout and congratulate all the new and returning Unit 117 2021-2022 Officers.

**President:** MaryAnn Spellman

**Secretary:** Kim Oaks

**1st Vice:** Sheila Benard

**2nd Vice:** Sheila Cline Burns

**Treasurer:** Brenda Miskow

**Chaplain:** Barbara Simons

**Historian:** Dawn Burgess

**Executive Committee Members:**

Teresa Linton

Millie Donovan

Sandy Huff

Unit 117 had a great year, yes, we had several hurdles that we had to overcome, it was for sure a year of challenges. There was nothing, and nobody, that could stop us from what we set out to do, helping our Veterans, the community, and Our Legion Family. I am proud to say with all the restrictions and challenges we faced; Unit 117 raised more funds this year than in the past 3 years. We were able to help so many people in need this year. Thank you to all that volunteered their time, donated, supported our events, and fundraisers to make this happen, we really are a very strong, dedicated Family. I want to give a special thanks all last year's officers on a job well done.

I am so excited to see where this year takes us, I just know we are going to have another fabulous year.

Unit 117 will be putting together a bunch of fun events along with fundraisers, we need your help it takes many volunteers to achieve our mission.

Please remember to attend our monthly general meeting on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Bring your ideas, we would love to hear them.

For God & Country

Warm Regards,

MaryAnn Spellman Unit 117 President



Andy Campbell  
Commander  
Squadron 117

[sal@al117.com](mailto:sal@al117.com)



## Squadron 117, Sons of the American Legion

Hello Everyone! For those of you that don't know me let me introduce myself. I am Andy Campbell incoming 117 Squadron Commander and have been a member of SAL Squadron 117 for about 6 years now. Just to give you a little background about myself. I have been involved in Veterans organizations for about 15 years now. In Wisconsin I founded the Sons of AMVETS Department for the state.

As AMVETS began to grow in the state we were required to start a department for the Sons of AMVETS. I managed to put a great group of members together as officers and grow our membership from 4 squadrons up to 7 and it continues to grow today. Here is a link if you are interested: <https://amvets-wi.org/sons-of-amvets/>

Some folks were asking what my plans as Commander are in the coming year. Honestly in my first year I will continue to build and hold our relationship with Special Olympics, but our officers and I will start to donate to more local organizations such as 3 Angels Ball For All. This is a local Palm Bay organization that benefits underprivileged children and allows them to get involved in youth sports. Over the last few years, the American Legion Post 117 family has donated over \$30,000 to the organization. We will also continue sponsoring the veterans fishing trip every year.

I look forward to working with the Auxiliary and our Legion members and officers to make Post 117 one of the most recognized American Legion posts in the state and nationally if possible. For those of you that would like to get involved please feel free to reach out to me as I am always looking for volunteers for our once-a-month Friday dinner and Sunday Lunch.

As we move forward and folks begin renewing their memberships for the upcoming year please put your email address on your membership application so that I have way of communicating with our entire group of SAL members

I can be reached at [117squadroncmdr@gmail.com](mailto:117squadroncmdr@gmail.com)

Thanks and god bless,

Andy Campbell



Donna Walkowiak  
Chaplian

Chaplain@all17.com

## Chaplain's Corner

As we wrap up this year, I would like to thank everyone that has helped me during my year as Post Chaplain. I couldn't have done it without you stepping up to participate in and attend the programs I oversaw (Veterans day parade, Wreaths across America, and the Four Chaplains ceremony). If you missed these we will be doing them again this year.. I hope you'll attend. I need to thank the Honor Guard for their participation in these programs. They are the flair needed that we can be proud of.

I started Chaplains Corner so we could reconnect with each other after Covid shutdowns, and self isolating kept us apart. I wanted the Post family to know what was going on with our family members in their absence.. to be able to respond on face book, letting those in need receive encouragement through your remarks and prayers. It allowed us to not be so alone. I thank also those persons that got the word to me of prayers needed. □. We have a wonderful, caring, and close Post family that I am proud to be a part of. I need to also thank out going Commander Bruce Thurber for his confidence in my abilities. Before we go forward with our new year under commander Bill Davidson I'd like to say a final farewell to those that we miss as they have gone home to the Lord this past year with a final

TAPS :

LEGIONNAIRES: Keith Bennet, Charlie Christy, Bob Cooper, Daniel Hass, Beryl Krumpel, Jerry Mc Callister, Richard Miller, Harold Roger's, Lou Sink, Kenny Richert

S.A.L. : Todd Burns, Bob Humann, Ray Mohr

AUXILIARY: Kathy Belanger, Laur Eaton, Kathy Fenocchi, Josephine Marcott, Sue Phillips, Aseunta Sue Pilliti and Donna Wheelen

Thank you.

Although he was a Legionnaire at Post 1 I feel I'd be remiss if I don't remember George Taylor founder of N.V.H.S.

(If I have missed anyone I do sincerely apologize. Names are submitted to Department and they are removed from the roster immediately.)



Jeff Cox  
Asst. Director

## Riders Chapter 117

I have enjoyed my time the last year as Assistant Rider Director of the American Legion Post 117.

Over the last year we have been through many struggles with Covid-19 forcing the post to be shut down for many months. But...we found a way to keep a float and this is why I love our post!

I am extremely thankful for the volunteers, bartenders, our cook and second vice, Ray Wright, that made and served food through that trying time. And especially to all that came out to support us.

I look forward to the future as your incoming Rider Director to help those in need as best we can and to also have fun with this awesome charter we have built! A special thanks to all incoming Rider officers who have stepped up to support us and keep our chapter alive.

The best rides happen on two wheels!  
Asst. Director, Jeff Cox



Still Serving...  
And Riding!







**Post Meetings ••• Post Meetings ••• Post Meetings ••• Post Meetings**

- Legion Meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 pm
- Legion EC Meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 6:00pm
- SAL Meeting, 2nd Wednesday, 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, 6:00 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  
 June 2021  
 Thomas and Stacy Gaume

**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-Shirts .....1 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.**

The New Membership Program has added a section for **Emergency contact** information section, for Legion and SAL members. To update your information in the system please fill out the form and place in the appropriate membership box.

Member Name:

Contact Name:

Relationship:

Phone Type: Cell  Home  Business

Phone Number:

Comments:

---

The New Membership Program has added a section for **Emergency contact** information section, for Legion and SAL members. To update your information in the system please fill out the form and place in the appropriate membership box.

Member Name:

Contact Name:

Relationship:

Phone Type: Cell  Home  Business

Phone Number:

Comments: