



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

# The Thomas Times

## Aging Matters-Meals on Wheels

### January 22nd.

## *SAL Special Olympics*

### *February 5th 12pm*

## Four Chaplains Ceremony

### February 6th 3:30pm

## Guy Savage Benefit Run

## February 19th KSU 10:30am

## 12th District Commander's

## Fundraiser Dinner

## February 26th 4-7pm

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Check Facebook and bulletin boards for more details.

## 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:  
 Ed Milnor  
 Clinton Mason  
 Donna Walkowiak

Dawn Hanner  
 Bruce Walkowiak  
 Rowena Milnor  
 John Petticchie

### Ways & Means Committee

Chairman: Jimmy Donovan  
 Members:  
 Andy Campbell  
 Jennie Chavis  
 MaryAnn Spellman  
 Brenda Miskow

Jeff Cox  
 Brian Yancey  
 Bill Davidson  
 Ray Wright  
 Sheila Cline Burns

### House Committee

Chairman: Jess Suelter  
 Members:  
 Tom Wood  
 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@all17.com*



### Commander's Corner

*Bill Davidson  
Commander,  
American Legion  
Post 117*

commander@al117.com

We ended 2021 with lots of fun and activities. It's nice to be back to Normal with the various fundraisers and Poker Runs. We had a number of Hall and Pavilion rentals also.

We have approximately 100 new Legionnaire members since July. Our recruiters are hard at work to increase membership.

Sadly we lost another Legionnaire, Duane Podhola passed 117 Commander 2011-2014. The Celebration of Life for Duane will be Sunday February 20<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

There will be parking area repairs being made over the next few months. The area being repaired is the parking area near the pond on the East side of the building (toward Walmart).

We are also looking into repairing the floor in the Tiki.

We are off and running in 2022. Post 117 Family gets it done.



Andy Campbell  
Commander  
Squadron 117

[sal@all17.com](mailto:sal@all17.com)



## Squadron 117, Sons of the American Legion

[Hello everyone! And Happy New Year!](#)

As we move into the New Year We have a lot going on and everyone has New Year Resolutions. I would like you all to make a News Resolution to volunteer at least once a month either in the kitchen or just ask what you can do to assist any of us there. You have no idea how much that would help.

Right off the bat this year we had a successful Camping weekend and the whole American Legion Family was involved! I would like to thank the folks that helped out and also participated to make this a successful benefit for Special Olympics! We raised over \$3500!

With that being said, we have 2 more events happening in January and February. The first is the Aging Matters poker run happening on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is our second annual such event and please make sure you participate if you can.

The second event is our Special Olympic Event on February 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be Basket Raffles, Live Auctions, vendors and much, much more!

Please come and support the cause!

I am still working on getting these 2 money making games going and will work on these in the coming weeks

A new shake of the day game in the canteen (Upon approval of the post)

A steak platter valued at \$150 (only 100 tickets sold at \$5 a ticket)

Membership is moving along, and we are at Marches goal already so we are ahead of schedule

Keep up the good work!

Make sure to watch the TV's in the post and the bulletin board for upcoming events!

I can be reached at [l17squadroncmdr@gmail.com](mailto:l17squadroncmdr@gmail.com)

Thanks, God Bless and Happy New Year!



MaryAnn Spellman  
President

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



## Unit 117 American Legion Auxiliary

Happy New Year,

I hope everyone had a great Christmas. I would like to thank everyone for all the help with all the holiday events, we really did do some great things and without all of you it would have not been possible. The children's Christmas Party was once again great success, we had 68 kids attend and receive a gift from Santa, 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 smoothly, a special thanks to our Legion Riders, and Palm Bay Fire Department for getting Santa there safely, and of course Santa, as always was a hit. Once again, Unit 117 with the help of our amazing members, we make Christmas wishes come true for 42 Children in the community with our Angel Tree. We also filled 27 Holiday Food 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 Thursday 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 bartenders, 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



*Donna Walkowiak  
Chaplian*

*Chaplain@all17.com*

### **Chaplain's Corner**

Well; here we are again looking forward into a new year with hope and faith that it will be a healthy and happy one. 2021 saw the Lord call home so many of our Legion family. He now holds them in his grace where they are whole and no longer imprisoned in the flesh. They await the time when we will all be reunited again in fellowship. We held many celebrations of life this year which brought us together in remembrance of them. I thank all who attended and those who brought food to share as we honored them with the wonderful memories that were exchanged. They will so be missed. It was a blessing to see everyone reach out and enfold those left behind as we are truly their extended family.

This year will be a hard year for many as covid is still with us, our economy suffers run away inflation, supply chain crashes, worker shortages, a health care system that is a political battle ground, and a divisive wedge that is being used to divide our country. We need to pray for the Lords intervention to save our heritage so bravely fought for, so that we may pass it on to our children.





Bruce Thurber

## Adjutants Corner

As we move forward into the technological times The American Legion has developed a new program for Legionnaires and members of the Sons of the American Legion.



Is a free means of communication between the Post or Squadron and their members. It is also the administrative side of member-should receive the printed card when they renew for the current year. If you lose or misplace your card you go on to YOUR My legion account and print a new one. If you transfer you wait till it closes out and print the card for your new post. Also, the Newsletters and calendar's will be going onto the site.



A new era of American Legion identity has begun.

The American Legion brand mark was created to modernize our image to appeal to a new generation of veterans," American Legion Chief Marketing Officer Dean Kessel said. "We launched this vivid new design on the American Legion-sponsored 48 car during the 2021 NTT INDYCAR Racing Series, and millions of fans got to see it every race. It's clear, sharp and effective, even at 225 mph. The design has gotten rave reviews, and now we are ready to advance it to all levels of The American Legion."

The American Legion Marketing Division has established guidance to help departments and posts choose when to use the brand mark and when the official emblem is more appropriate.

The brand mark is to be displayed in all marketing communications, such as: Advertising, Lifestyle apparel (such as polo shirts and ball caps), Community service activities, Fundraising, Sponsorships, Membership recruitment materials, Digital media, Social media, Updated post signage, Event announcements, E-mail signature lines

The American Legion emblem is reserved for official organization communications, such as: Legal documents, Policy statements, Official reports, Press releases, Business cards, Traditional post signage, Financial documents, Official letterhead



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

- Legion EC Meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 6:00pm
- Legion Meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 pm
- SAL Meeting, 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 pm
- Auxiliary EC Meeting, 2nd Monday, 6:30 pm
- Auxiliary Meeting, 3rd Thursday, 7:00 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".

June 2021  
Thomas and Stacy Gaume

**Hall/Pavilion 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 .....\$20
- Hoodies..... \$30
- Long Sleeve (Black) .....\$20
- Ladies V-Neck.....\$20
- 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.**