

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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**12th District Picnic March 19th at Post 117**

**Medal of Honor Park fundraiser Sunday March 20th**

**Auxiliary Steak Shoot Thursday March 24th**

**Biker Down Fundraiser Saturday March 26th**

**Auxiliary 80's Party Saturday night March 26th**

**Kids Easter Party Saturday April 16th**



**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: Dawn Hanner  
 Ed Milnor Bruce Walkowiak  
 Clinton Mason Rowena Milnor  
 Donna Walkowiak John Petticchie

### Ways & Means Committee

Chairman: Jimmy Donovan  
 Members: Jeff Cox  
 Andy Campbell Brian Yancey  
 Jennie Chavis Bill Davidson  
 MaryAnn Spellman Ray Wright  
 Brenda Miskow 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@al117.com*



## Commander's Corner

*Bill Davidson  
Commander,  
American Legion  
Post 117*

commander@all117.com

As I said in the Jan/Feb Newsletter we are off and running for 2022. We had 5 events over the last 2 months. The weather for a couple events was not the best but a fair amount of money was raised for both. Check the bulletin boards and Facebook pages for the upcoming events for March/April.

We are only a few memberships away from making our 100% goal. Lots of new faces so let's give them a Big 117 Welcome.

The 1<sup>st</sup> round of Nominations for 2022/2023 Legion Officers will be held during the Legion meeting on Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who is interested in running for a position should look at the position descriptions which are posted on the bulletin board. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of nominations will be held during the Legion meeting on Wednesday April 20<sup>th</sup>. The date for elections will be posted on the bulletin board and Facebook.

The parking lot repair should be completed by Friday March 4<sup>th</sup>. We will probably open that area for parking on Friday March 11<sup>th</sup>. We are still gathering quotes for the Tiki Bar floor/deck repairs.

[Mylegion.org](http://Mylegion.org)

Legionnaires and SAL members should signup at [MyLegion.org](http://MyLegion.org) to update their information such as address, phone number and Emergency Contact information. One of the benefits to signing up is that if your membership card is lost or destroyed, you can print a new membership card yourself.

Keep up the good work Post 117 Family!!



Andy Campbell  
Commander  
Squadron 117

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



## Squadron 117, Sons of the American Legion

[Hello everyone!](#)

Spring is here!

Since my last communication we have had a lot going on! We had a successful Special Olympics event where we raised over \$8000 and once everything is totaled up we will present a check to the Special Olympics of Brevard County and also other benefits like Aging Matters and Guy's benefit and once again the troops showed up and supported these events! Thank You!

With Easter coming up which happens to fall on SAL weekend I will be needing volunteers to help on Easter in the Kitchen. We will be putting on a brunch from 10 to 2 on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Ray and I are putting the menu together.

This years veterans fishing trip will be on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and the signup sheet will go up on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is a veterans only fishing trip. Please be ready to show your ID card when signing up if asked. We will only have 40 spots available. I already have enough volunteers for the trip.

Membership is doing well! And expect to surpass last years numbers

If your planning on going to convention book your rooms soon as they are going fast! It is in Lake Buena Vista this year on Fathers Day weekend.

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

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

Thanks, and God Bless,

Andy Campbell  
SAL Squadron Commander



MaryAnn Spellman  
President

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



## Unit 117 American Legion Auxiliary

Greeting Auxiliary Family,

I want to start off by thanking all our AMAZING members, we have had so many events these past few months, and our Volunteers did an excellent job, as always. Thank you all for all you do.

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, they will be working to get our 2022-2023 nominations under way, with getting all names added to the ballot. If you would like to be nominated, please make sure you attend the meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** Due to convention starting on June 16<sup>th</sup> this year, which is the same day as our June meeting, and several of our outgoing and incoming officers will be attending convention. We will be moving the June meeting to the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm.

We have some really great events come up this month.

There will be a District Picnic at Post 117 on Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>. Our

Future Leaders will be doing a bake sale, all proceeds will go to ALA Girls state and TAL Boys State. If you would like to donate a baked good, it would be greatly appreciated. We will also have Our Future Leader making and presenting Blue Star banners to Blue Star Mothers that are at the picnic that day. If you are, or know a blue star Mother attending the picnic, please contact me so we can add you to our presentation list.

Email : [Maryannspellman9@gmail.com](mailto:Maryannspellman9@gmail.com) Cell: 917-834-5763.

If you have an ALA Jr. or Young SAL Member, please have them arrive at the Post by 10 to start making the banner.

Unit 117 will be hosting a Back to the 80's Party on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Post Hall, tickets are \$15.00 you can either purchase them from one of our bartenders, or an Auxiliary officer.

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 Thursday 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  
Chairman

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



## Unit 117 Juniors

Hello All,  
Spring is almost her, and we all know what that means, yep, the Easter Bunny will be visiting Post 117 on April 16<sup>th</sup> 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 April 8<sup>th</sup> signup sheet will be in the canteen.

### Calling all Family Future Leader.

Our Future Leaders will be doing a bake sale, at the district 12 Picnic at Post 117 on Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup> all proceeds will go to ALA Girls state and TAL Boys State.

If you would like to donate a baked good, it would be greatly appreciated. We will also have Our Future Leader making and presenting Blue Star banners to Blue Star Mothers that are at the picnic that day. If you have an ALA Jr. or Young SAL Member, please have them arrive at the Post by 10 to start making the banners.

If you have a child or a grandchild who is not yet a Jr member, please get them signed up to become one of our amazing Family Future Leaders. The dues for all Jr's ages birth to 18 is \$8. Girls will join under Auxiliary, contact our 1st Vice / Membership Chair Sheila Benard. Boys will join under SAL, contact 1st Vice / Membership Bruce Walkowiak. Please watch the Future Leader FB page for more information on future events and Jr. meetings, If you are not a part of the FB page, contact me to be added. We will also post flyers and notifications at the post and here in the newsletter. We will do the best we can to keep everyone posted on upcoming Jr. activities.

Warmest Regards,  
MaryAnn Spellman  
Unit 117 Jr Chairman



Bruce Thurber

Adjutant@all17.com

### Adjutant's Corner

Election time is here nominations begin at the March meeting and the Second round is in April. If you intend to run for office, it is necessary to show your DD214 to show eligibility to hold Office of The American Legion. We are required to send a report to the Department of Florida verifying this has been accomplished.



All Post Officers must register with myLegion.org with the EMAIL on file at National (this also applies to SAL) The Department has also asked that anyone holding a position at the Post has completed the Basic Training online class.

The Commander will also need to appoint several chairman: Americanism Baseball Blood Donor Boys State Children and Youth Disaster Preparedness Employment Law and Order Oratorical POW/ MIA Public Relations Religious Emphasis ROTC/Shooting Sports School Medals Scouting social media Special Olympics Youth Law Cadet.

If interested in chairing a program, please fill out the form and put it in the mailbox on the Commanders Door:

**Notice of interest in Chairmanship**

**Committee interested in:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_



*Donna Walkowiak  
Chaplain*

*Chaplain@all17.com*

## **Chaplain's Corner**

This has been one very busy Chaplain year. I want to thank everyone that came out to support the families that lost their Loved ones and to Honor those we call family. The generosity that was show in food dishes provided and the emotional support put forth has touched my heart. I know we are all weary of these sad events and need to remember that we are looking back at the accomplishments and lives touch by those the Lord has called home. We will all be together again when it is our time to go to the place prepared for us. I have to admit I was glad to erase the Chaplains board last week and turn off the light. It didn't last long enough, we have 5 names on the board and a celebration of life Sunday.

I want to also thank everyone that came out for the ride to Se-  
bastion to see the 4 Chaplains Monument and all who came to hear  
the saga of the Four Chaplains in the evening. I want to give a special  
thanks to Chaplain Chaz of the Palm Bay police department for not  
only attending but taking part in the ceremony.

I can not ignore the state of our country and of the world at this  
time. We are in need of the Lords intervention. Let us all pray for a  
miracle to change the trajectory of the events we are witness-  
ing. Lets pray it is not too late.





**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 before 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  
 September 2021  
 Tom and Diane Wood  
 March 2023  
 Jess and Rhonda Suelter

**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.**