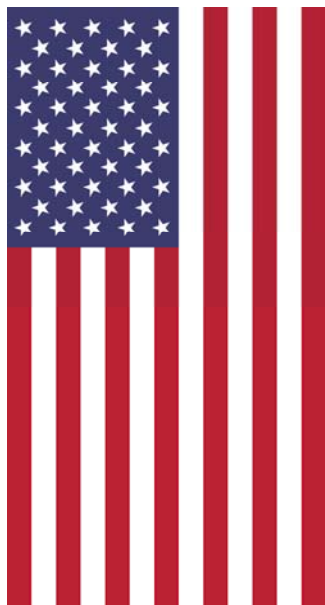


AMERICAN LEGION CHARLES F. THOMAS IV POST 117  
189 VETERANS DRIVE • PALM BAY, FLORIDA 32909 (321)729-8089



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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.....Jesse Suelter  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander.....Bob Swinski  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander.....Terry Struven  
 Adjutant.....Bruce Thurber  
 Finance Officer .....Jeanie Perry  
 Chaplain .....Donna Walkowiak  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Donna Swinski  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Jennie Chavis  
 Historian .....Bobby Dye  
 Judge Advocate.....Bob Swinski  
 Service Officer.....Kevin McGarry  
 Executive Committee .....Ed Carbin  
 Executive Committee .....Stan Wood  
 Immediate Past Commander.....Bruce Thurber

### Auxiliary Officers

President ..... Kim Oaks  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President..... Karen Humann  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President..... Donna Swinski  
 Treasurer ..... Loraine Ryan  
 Secretary ..... Sheila Cline  
 Sergeant-at-Arms ..... Beverly Hall  
 Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms..... Open  
 Chaplain..... Barbara Simmons  
 Historian..... Wendy Wood  
 Executive Committee..... Dawn Burgess  
 Executive Committee..... Barbara Ward  
 Executive Committee..... Brenda Miskow  
 Membership..... Karen Humann

### 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 .Greg Singler  
 Adjutant .....George Aichele  
 Finance Officer .....Don Bilger  
 Chaplain .....Mike Miskow  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Eric Spellman  
 Asst, Sergeant-at-Arms .....John Pettinicchio  
 Historian .....Alvin Hill  
 SAL Advisor.....Bruce Thurber

### Legion Riders Officers

Director..... Brian Yancey  
 Assistant Director..... Stan Wood  
 Secretary ..... Sheila Cline Burns  
 Treasurer ..... Bobby Dye  
 Chaplain..... Leah Guljord  
 Sergeant-at-Arms ..... Robert Smith  
 Historian..... Dana Jackson  
 Road Captain..... Jeff Cox  
 Membership..... Open  
 Merchandise ..... Open

### Honor Guard

Commander: Matt Zirwas  
 Members:  
 Ed Milnor Jr. Dawn Hanner  
 Daniel Wood Bruce Walkowiak  
 Donna Walkowiak Rowena Milnor  
 Andy Campbell John Petticchie

### Ways & Means Committee

Chairman: Terry Struven  
 Members:  
 Stan Wood  
 Andy Campbell Brian Yancey  
 Bobby Dye Bill Davidson  
 Kim Oaks Bob Swinski  
 Brenda Miskow Greg Singler

### House Committee

Chairman: Jerry Pucel  
 Jess Suelter  
 Members:  
 Tom Wood  
 Andy Campbell

*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: Bobby Dye <email: historian@all17.com*



## Commander's Corner

*Bill Davidson  
Commander,  
American Legion  
Post 117*

commander@al117.com

Well, we made it through September/October. We were very busy with numerous events such as Doc Holiday's 70th Birthday Party, 9-11 Ceremony/Remembrance for First Responders, Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce Thank You dinner for Chamber members, Palm Bay PD SWAT fundraiser and Fire Fighters Reunion. Children's Halloween party and adult Halloween party.

Football is back so the kitchen will be busy. We are now celebrating members birthday's on the second Saturday of the month with cake at 4:30pm and 6:30pm.

November is going to be very busy for us. First up is the Veterans Day Parade on Saturday November 5th starting at 9am and ending at Post 117 with a picnic to follow. Veterans drive through at Lockmar Elementary School on Thursday morning November 10th. Tim Brooks is hosting the Marine Corp birthday at Post 117 on the 10th. There will be a Veterans Day ceremony at 12 noon on Friday the 11th with picnic to follow. We will have Thanksgiving Day dinner from 1-4pm. Post work day is the Friday after Thanksgiving.

December starts off with the Palm Bay Holiday Light Parade on Saturday December 3rd starting at 7pm. The children's Christmas Party will be on Saturday the 17th. Christmas Day dinner will be from 1-4pm with the Post closing at 6pm. The year will be finished off with a big Camp Out the last weekend in December.

**If you haven't renewed your dues by December 31st you will not be served an alcoholic beverage until they are paid.**

Keep up the good work Post 117 Family!!



Andy Campbell  
Commander  
Squadron 117

sal@all17.com



## Squadron 117, Sons of the American Legion

Hello everyone!

Welcome to Fall and Winter!

As we start to roll into fall and the weather becomes more favorable and a lot of folks start coming back from their summers away we will have some great activities happening around the post. Stay tuned to the bulletin board in the canteen and the TV's for more info

This is a busy time of year for all of us including the post!

Kim and I will be out of the country from Nov 5th and returning on Nov 12th

On Nov 5th we will be taking part in the Palm Bay Veterans Day parade and having festivities back at the post after the parade. Please come and participate if you can

On Nov 19th we are having a benefit for Gene Pilot

We will also be having Thanksgiving at the post. If you can volunteer to help with this, please see one of the officers and sign up for side dishes on the bulletin board in the canteen

Dec 3rd is the holiday parade. If you would like to participate, see either myself or Commander Davidson.

Dec 29th thru Jan 2nd is camping weekend. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the canteen and you will be assigned a site. It will be a great time! We will have contests for food dishes prepared. See Terry S. for more information on that.

We will also be having our meat raffle to raise money for Special Olympics so please come out and participate!

Once again membership is starting over and would ask that you get that paid as soon as possible for next year

The Fish Fry Should start picking up and we will have 70 meals in November and go back to 90 meals in December

The district picnic was at Wickham Park in October and went over pretty well but we are going to host the picnic in March and I will need help to make this the biggest and the best picnic at Post 117 on March 22nd

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

Thanks, and God Bless,

Andy Campbell  
SAL Squadron Commander  
District 12 Vice Commander





Kim Oaks, President

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



## Unit 117 American Legion Auxiliary

Greetings Family,

Unit 117 has been very busy helping our veteran's and our community. You are all doing an amazing job coloring our town for our veterans and we really appreciate all you do.

We will be making holiday baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas for families in need again this year. If you would like to donate needed items, please reach out to our 2nd Vice President Nancy Richert. Details and sign up sheets are at the Post.

We are always in need of Christmas wrapping paper. A collection box will be located in the Post Hall.

The Christmas Angel Tree will be set up and decorated the day after Thanksgiving at 3 pm. Everyone is invited to participate, including Junior members. Details and sign up sheets will be available beginning that day.

The Children's Christmas Party is December 17th at 11 am. The sign up sheet will be posted in the canteen on the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Our General Membership meetings are held every third Thursday of each month at 7 pm. All members are encouraged to attend. Our December meeting will be a brief to allow time for our annual Christmas Party. Finger foods are welcomed and a wrapped gift for the gift exchange game. Denomination to be determined at the November meeting.

Millie Donovan will be getting the brick project started back up soon. Please see her if you are interested in purchasing a memorial brick. Thank you, Millie.

Huge shout out to the volunteers that are working the Show me the Money game every Tuesday afternoon in the canteen from 1 to 3. I am getting fantastic feedback so thank you all. Now is a great to come out and see what it all about because the Commander and Post EC have given us their blessing to throw in \$250.00 in bonus money each week thru the end of the year!

Another shout out goes to our Education Chairman Barbara Simons and her committee. They have been busy delivering back to school supplies, clothing and new undergarments and funding for the School Nurse and School Counselor for some very needed items at Rivera Elementary School. Great job Ladies!

As we near the end of the year, it is necessary to remind you all that if you have not yet paid your 2023 dues and received your 2023 Membership card that you need to do that soon. Please reach out to our Membership Chairman Karen Humann. She is doing an amazing job rocking that membership and she will be happy to help you.

Yours in Service,

Kim Oaks

C.O.L.O.R.

Continue our Legacy of Respect



MaryAnn Spellman  
Chairman

Maryannspellman9@gmail.com



## Unit 117 Juniors

Greeting all,

I hope this finds all our future leaders and their families well.

We have had had a busy year so far and have so many wonderful things planned for the next few months.

We had our annual Halloween Party, with Pizza, games, prizes, pumpkin decorating, and each child left with a candy bag. Thank you to all who donated candy, it was greatly appreciated. Thank you to our 117 Legion Riders for donating the pumpkins, and to all that helped with the party. The kids had a blast.

Our Future Leaders will be having their annual Harvest Festival on Saturday November 26th from 1-5 pm. Food, games, bake sale, pie contest and much more, fun for the whole family. Please come out and show your support.

The 117 Family Children's Christmas Party will be on for Saturday December 17th from 11am – 1pm this will be outside in the pavilion.

All Upcoming events and Information will be posted on the Future Leaders Facebook page, if you are not a part of this page, please send me a friend request so I can invite you to join the page. This is a secure page, and only invited members will be able to join. We will also be sending out emails, please make sure we have your email address you can send that to [maryannspellman9@gmail.com](mailto:maryannspellman9@gmail.com)

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 Karen Human. Boys are \$11 they will join under SAL, contact 1st Vice / Membership Bruce Walkowiak. Wishing you and yours a great Holiday season.

For God & Country

MaryAnn Spellman Unit 117 Jr Chairman  
[Maryannspellman9@gmail.com](mailto:Maryannspellman9@gmail.com)



Brian Yancy  
Director,  
Chapter 117

ridersdirector  
@all117.com



## Chapter 117, American Legion Riders

Fellow Legion Riders,

September and October are in the books and we've gotten out and rode for charities and special events. Our pancake breakfast was a test to see if folks were interested and it was a successful test, we'll be doing more of those in the future.

We helped Doc Holiday celebrate living on this blue marble for 70 years. Escorting the chicken dinners is always an honor on 9/11 for our First Responders. I am trying to support other posts, when possible, by attending their events. We had a good showing for supporting Chapter 189's Larry & Tereasa's Memorial Poker Run.

The SWAT Team Benefit Ride was successful this year due to your participation and our Road Captain, Jeff Cox, for putting together the ride and escort, great job.

I was told that the 12th District Picnic at Wickham was of the most successful ones ever held. There were more bikes riding up from the south, than I've ever seen before!

Some of our members that are retired were able to go over on a Wednesday and ride with District 6 on the Unity Ride around Lake Okeechobee which was long, but a ride is a ride. And we just completed a 12th District Unity Ride also on the Saturday before Halloween. Riders were asked to wear a costume, about half did. A good showing of different post and bikes. Thank you all that showed up. This one was for the northern part of the district. The next will be going south. We were able to complete two Merry-Go-Round rides for the month. I wish we could do more, but we get busy on so many events.

As always, stay tuned on Facebook and see my Chimpmails for more information about rides and events we will support. Also, sometimes a ride will come up in a decision made in the tiki the night before, so if you didn't hear about it, my apologies! Thank you all for your support!

Brian Yancy  
Director,  
Chapter 117

ridersdirector@all117.com



*Donna Walkowiak  
Chaplain*

*Chaplain@all17.com*

## **Chaplain's Corner**

We as a legion family need to continue to pray for the people who were hardest impacted by IAN. It will be a long road to recovery. Things will not get back to normal for them. The holiday season is upon us, what is normally a time of joy and celebration. How heart breaking it is to even try to place myself in their shoes. To feel the desperation and loss they must be dealing with. The children will not understand the sudden change in their lives, nothing is as it was.

We ask how God can let something like this happen. We don't understand it. Maybe it's to remind us how blessed we are. To bring us together with the common cause to reach out, comfort and help those effected. To show us what we are capable of when united. It re kindles our compassion for others, and takes us out of ourselves and our wants.

I am proud to be a part of an organization that is mustering to the call to duty. I look around and see people from all walks of life reaching out. Other organizations and companies working together to meet the needs. The American spirit is alive and well. I pray for all that lost lived ones and for all who lost so much, I pray for the children. I also thank God that we were spared

Donna Walkowiak  
Chaplain

Chaplain@all17.com





**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, 6:00 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) .....	\$20
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 .....	\$50

#### 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.**



Benefit Run for Gene Pilot

Saturday, Nov. 19th

Registration @ 9:30

KSU @ 10:30

\$15 rider, \$5 passenger

Stops include:

Willies, Post 189, Palm Pub

**Back to Post 117**

Doc Holiday playing

Baskets, 50/50, Auction


Hamburgers, hotdogs & sides

Come and help one of our

founding members of ALR 117







American Legion Post 117  
189 Veterans DR S.E. Palm Bay  
Hosting Mike Kelly's  
Kids Without A Christmas  
Saturday, Nov.12th  
Doc Holiday is playing  
Auction, 50/50  
Hamburgers \$7. Hotdogs \$5.  
Registration@9:30  
KSU 10:30  
\$15. Rider \$5. Passenger  
Stops are  
Camp Holly  
Kelly's Burger & Beer  
Bender's  
Post 81  
Post 117







117 Family Future Leaders

Presents....

# FALL HARVEST

## *Festival*

Saturday

November 26th  
FROM 1pm - 5pm

Walking  
Taco's  
&  
Hot Dogs

**Bake Sale**

50/50

**Pie Contest**

Games

Music by  
Doc  
Holiday

**Prizes**

Cotton Candy  
&  
Pop Corn

**Crafts**

All Proceeds will go to Jr Activites & A  
Donation to The Gary Sinise Foundation -  
Snowball Express of Central Florida