

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



# The Thomas Times

Post Directory	2
Commander's Corner	3
SAL	4
Auxiliary	5
Unit 117 Juniors	6
Legion Riders	7
Chaplain's Corner	8
Post Meetings	9
Merchandise & Services	10



**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..... Nancy Richert  
 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@all17.com

Where did 2022 go? We finished the year with Veterans Day Parade, Marine Corp Birthday, Holiday Light Parade, Kid's Fall Harvest and Christmas Party, Christmas Day Dinner and to close things out, the Campout and Meat Raffle.

We will be starting 2023 off with a fundraiser on Saturday January 14th for Legionnaire Jimmy D. Next will be a visit/luncheon with the Department of Florida Auxiliary President on Sunday January 15th. On Saturday January 21st we will be hosting the Department of Florida Vice Commander's "Hillbilly Hoedown". This should be fun.

We all need to keep working on our Membership renewals. We also need to make sure we are getting accurate information such as addresses and contact phone numbers. In MyLegion.org you can now print your own replacement membership card.

There is new information about the use of each family's Emblem and Branding. The document can be found on the National Legion web page. There will be a copy posted on our main bulletin board.

Lastly, we all need to work on our communications between each other so we all know what is being going on and who is responsible for what.



Andy Campbell  
Commander  
Squadron 117

sal@al117.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 \$2500!

With that being said, we have more events happening in January and February. The first is Jimmy D's Benefit on the 14th.

The next event is the Hillbilly Hoe down event on Jan 21st being put on by The department Vice Commanders. See the event brochure for more details

The next event is our Special Olympic Event on February 4th. There will be Basket Raffles, Live Auctions, vendors and much, much more! Please come and support the cause! Our goal is to raise at least \$8000 by May

I will be working on getting these 2 money making games going and will work on these in the coming months

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 117squadroncmdr@gmail.com

Thanks, God Bless and Happy New Year!

Andy Campbell  
SAL Squadron Commander



Kim Oaks, 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 55 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 38 Children in the community with our Angel Tree. We also filled 15 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 Karen Humann.

Hope to see you all soon, please stay well.

Yours in Service,  
Kim Oaks  
Unit 117 President



MaryAnn Spellman  
Chairman

Maryannspellman9@gmail.com



## Unit 117 Juniors

Happy New Year,

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year; Our Future Leaders had a great year and did some amazing this and will continue to strive this year.

I hope everyone had a great Christmas. I would like to thank everyone for all the help with all the Jr's Holiday events, the children's Christmas Party was once again great success, we had 57 kids attend and receive a gift from Santa, a great time was had by all. 117 was honored to have a special guest attend our Christmas Party this year. ALA Department of FI 3rd Vice / C&Y Chairman Robin Burke joined us and read the Night Before Christmas to all the children, it was truly amazing all the kids really enjoyed this.

ALA Department of FI President Jane will be visiting Unit 117 on Sunday January 15th 2023 at 12pm. I would love to fill the hall with Jr's and Young SAL Members. The kids will be doing a special project with her. Please have the kids there by 10:30 am, so we can prepare for our project. Everyone is welcome to attend this, lunch will be served. Hope to see everyone there, let's show Madam President some LOVE.

If you have a child / grandchild and would like them to be a part of our junior's girl and boys are both welcome to join up to age 17. Please speak with Auxiliary 1st Vice / membership Karen Humann to enroll any girls, or SAL Squad 1st Vice Bruce Walkowiak for the boys. The membership dues are \$8.00 for the girls ALA Junior's and \$11.00 for the boys young SAL Members.

We intend on getting all the Jr's involved in as many Post 117 family events, and programs as possible.

Please make sure, I have your contact information, phone, and email so I can make sure you are getting all updates. Send to [maryannspellman9@gmail.com](mailto:maryannspellman9@gmail.com) We do not want anyone to miss out on the amazing things our Future Leaders will be doing this year.

For God & Country

Warm Regards MaryAnn Spellman 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,

November and December are in the books and we've gotten out and rode for charities and special events.

Mike Kelly's Kids without Christmas was very successful and he has already told us he wants to do it with us next year.

On Veteran's Day Riders participated in escorting the Color Guard to three different retirement homes, the residents love us coming!

While he was still living, we held a benefit for Gene Pilot, (God rest his soul), and raised funds to help with his bills. I am very grateful that he was able to attend this event. In this theme, unfortunately we lost both Gene Pilot and Tom Ratcliffe within a week of one another.

On December 11, I am truly proud that we had our Ride By for Irwin Brown who was celebrating his 100th birthday at the Yellow Dog café. 48 bikes with 13 passengers, 15 cages which included 10 PBPD vehicles. I know my heart felt special that day! I hope yours did too, something to be proud of! On National Wreath Laying Day, Riders participated in three different events; first was the wreath laying at Fountainhead Cemetery, second was as always, escorting Santa on the PBFD truck for the Kids Christmas party. The kids love it! The third event that day was the wreath laying at the post, several Riders participated.

I am trying to support other posts, when possible, by attending their events. This one was for the northern part of the district. The next will be going south. We've been a little delinquent about the Plaque Game, however we just stay so busy and it will not slow down.

As always, stay tuned on Facebook and see my Chimp mails 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

Well, the year 2022 is behind us. We went out with great support from our members. The wreath ceremony went well with new volunteers. Yeah!!! People not afraid to get involved. Bless them. We were able to help a WWII Veteran, Irwin Brown celebrate his 100th birthday in a grand style. Our riders along with riders from other posts (48 bikes with 13 passengers), 5 cars releasing balloons as they passed, and 10 Palm Bay Police cars (many off duty) with lights and sirens did a drive by at Yellow Dog Cafe where Irwin and 24 guest were brought outside from their luncheon to watch this honor. All the guests were astonished by the display of recognition that was expressed. (The ride is on our Facebook page) Inside, Irwin was presented with 3 Challenge Coins And Pins, our own hug coin a letter from our Mayor, and a 117 Pollo and a limited edition silver minted American Legion 100 year Anniversary coin. We later delivered a ton of birthday cards, supplied by you, and several other locations, the general public, as well as PCCA that had their students make him cards. Department of Florida sent an arrangement that we delivered. His family is in awe of our Post, am so Proud of our Post family and thank everyone one of you that participated in any way. Unfortunately to close out our 2022 year we lost a main spoke in our family wheel with the passing of Gene Pilot. We are all saddened at this loss but know after a very rough time since falling out of the boat and the subsequent surgeries, he is in God's hands whole again. Riding the heavens with our other members that went before him. We were blessed to have had him enrich our lives. He will be missed. May we each remember tomorrow is not promised to anyone, we must live each day as if it's our last. Appreciate all you have, bless all you know with kindness and caring and take nothing for granted. May this new year bring joy and good health to all.

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.**

---

# Emergency Housing Programs for Veterans

## U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)

The HUD-VASH program provides HCVs for homeless veterans. The program is provided by HUD with the assistance of Veteran Affairs. It can provide housing, mental and physical healthcare services, and substance abuse counseling.

**How to Apply**-Seniors who are also veterans can apply for HUD-VASH by contacting Veterans Affairs online, in-person or by telephone at (877) 424-3838.

**Eligibility**-HUD-VASH is open to low-income seniors who have served in the U.S. military.

---

## VA Enhanced-Use Lease Program

The U.S Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) administers the Enhanced-Use Lease program, which helps homeless veterans access safe housing. This program works with state and local governments to buy unoccupied properties and transform them into shelters and transitional homes.

**How to Apply**-Homeless senior veterans who need housing can learn more by calling (877) 424-3838 to connect with their local VA office.

**Eligibility**-All homeless U.S. veterans can apply for this program.

Special Olympics benefit run/event  
at American Legion Post 117  
Registration starts at 9:30 KSU at 10:30

**Stops include:**

Willy's, Post 189

Palm Pub, Siggys  
back to Post 117

February 4th



Hosted by SAL

**Special  
Olympics**

Doc Holiday's playing  
Baskets, Auction, 50/50  
Hamburgers and Hot dogs



Made with PosterMyWall



Join us at Post 117 for a Fundraiser for our very own JimmyD on Jan 14 from 1 - 5. JimmyD will be DJing and Vince will be on vocals



Grilled chicken sandwiches \$7, Hotdogs \$5, with sides  
50/50 raffle and baskets

Riders making a ride also, Registration @ 9, \$15/bike \$5/passenger  
KSU @ 10:30, Stops are Post 359, 22, 81, and Rooney's. Return to 117.