



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
Unit 117 Juniors	5
Legion Riders	6
Chaplain's Corner	7
Post Meetings	8
Merchandise & Services	9

## Spring in Florida



**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:  
 Andy Campbell Stan Wood  
 Bobby Dye Brian Yancey  
 Kim Oaks Bill Davidson  
 Brenda Miskow Bob Swinski  
 Greg Singler

### House Committee

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

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



## Commander's Corner

*Bill Davidson  
Commander,  
American Legion  
Post 117*

commander@all17.com

January and February were busy with fundraising events in support of individuals and groups. As always, Post 117 Family stepped up to donate/contribute money and items for auction and raffles. These efforts will continue in March and April.

In March and April each Post Family member will have their nominations for officer positions. Those running for office should review the duties/requirements for the position you wish to run for. The Legion nominations will be at the Legion meetings held on Wednesday's March 15th and April 19th. The Legion election day will be Saturday May 13th in the Hall from 10am to 1pm.

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.

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.

Keep up the good work Post 117 Family!!



*Andy Campbell  
Commander  
Squadron 117*

*sal@al117.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 \$5000 and we also had an event for Tom Ratcliffe that raised over \$4200 that Tom wanted donated as well in his name. Once everything is totaled up we will present a check to the Special Olympics of Brevard County Thank You for all of those that participated and helped on those days! We couldn't have done it without all the volunteers!

This year's veterans fishing trip will be on June 4th and the signup sheet will go up on April 4th. This is a veteran 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 year's numbers.

If you're planning on going to convention book your rooms soon as they are going fast! Go to [floridalegion.org](http://floridalegion.org) and click on events and look for the Department convention to find the link.

It is in Lake Buena Vista this year on Father's Day weekend.

Make sure to watch the TVs 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  
Chairman

Maryannspellman9@gmail.com



## Unit 117 Juniors

Hello All,

Well, Spring is almost her, and we all know what that means, yep, the Easter Bunny will be visiting Post 117.

We will be doing the Easter Party a bit different this year. Our future Leaders are hosting a Spring fling on April 1st from 1-5pm. There will be a Duck Race, games, raffle baskets, 50/50, live auction, Easter egg hunt, crafts, food, and music by Doc Holiday. All proceeds will go towards Jr and young SAL activities, and a donation to the Gary Sinise Foundation of Central Florida Snowball Express.

We will also be doing a Military Child Table Ceremony in honor of Children of Military month. Each child will receive an Easter basket provided by Unit 117. This is going to be fun filled day. Please come out and show our 117 Family Future leaders some LOVE.

Our Future leader are requesting items for raffle baskets, and auction items. If you would like to help out with this, and have something you would like to donate. Please contact MaryAnn 917-834-5763.

This will take place outdoors in the pavilion, all children should wear comfortable shoes as they will be hunting for eggs in the field and on post grounds. Our 117 Family Future Leaders have been very busy this year, accomplishing some great things, and will continue to do so. Thank you to all that help with their actives, and event. It truly takes a village. They are our future; we need to keep this program alive and growing.

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. for the Girls who will join under Auxiliary, contact our 1stVice / Membership Chair Karen Humann. \$11 for the Boys who will join under SAL, contact 1stVice / 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 Un  
it 117 Jr Chairman





Brian Yancy  
Director,  
Chapter 117

ridersdirector  
@al117.com



## Chapter 117, American Legion Riders

Chapter 117, American Legion Riders  
Brian Yancey Director, Chapter 117

Fellow Legion Riders,  
January and February are finished. We've gotten out and rode for charities and special events. We helped a Legion Family member, JimmyD, with a benefit ride as well as supported the Jolly Roger Poker Run in January. Bike night in January was successful.

As February rolled in, we got a little busier. The Special Olympics ride for SAL was successful and the following week a Tom Ratcliffe Fun Poker Run as well helped Special Olympics.

During ALR Summit, we had seven members in attendance to take classes and bring back to our chapter information to make us even more successful.

And again, we are getting out and supporting other chapters with their poker runs and activities. Coming up is the District Picnic at Post 117 and the Richard Phillips Down Biker Fund Ride In. I would appreciate your support for all our 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!



*Donna Walkowiak  
Chaplain*

*Chaplain@all17.com*

## Chaplain's Corner

Well, it has been a rough time since the last newsletter.

I want to thank everyone that attended the several celebrations of Life we held and their support for the families left behind. A thank you also for all who rode in the memorial run for Tom. As usual Your prayers are appreciated when a need for prayer is requested.

We do need to pray for the people of Palestine. Ask the Lord to protect them from the effects of this poison that coats their community. Pray there will be no long-term effects from this disaster. The children will not suffer from exposure. That the cattle and crops will not infect our food supply.

I need to express my appreciation to everyone that participated in any way with the Four Chaplains ceremony. From our dedicated riders that braved the stormy weather to visit the monument, to our participants in the ceremony and all who helped with set up and break down. I hope that everyone that attended will remember these 4 chaplains and the example they set for us of faith and brotherhood.

Remember if you are in need of prayers, we are here for you. Reach out to me and we will get it done. I give thanks that I was blessed finding our Legion. So much good is done for so many. Keep up the good works.



**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.**

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# 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.

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## 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.