



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

The Thomas Times

Spring is in the Air!

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Check Facebook and bulletin boards for more details.

Post 117 Directory Auxiliary Officers

American Legion Officers

Commander Terry Struven
 1st Vice Commander Jesse Suelter
 2nd Vice Commander Ray Wright
 3rd Vice Commander Jimmy Donavon
 Adjutant Jeannie Perry
 Finance Officer Bobby Dye
 Chaplain Donna Walkowiak
 Sergeant-at-Arms Chris Livingston
 Sergeant-at-Arms Vacant
 Historian Dana Jackson
 Judge Advocate Doug Perry
 Service Officer Kevin McGarry
 Executive Committee Chris Hamrick
 Executive Committee Jim Fournier
 Immediate Past Commander Bill Davidson

President Kim Oaks
 Parliamentarian MaryAnn Spellman
 1st Vice President Brenda Miskow
 2nd Vice President Shiela Cline-Burns
 Treasurer Pat Luckey
 Secretary Loraine Ryan
 Sergeant-at-Arms Lori Lyons
 Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms Beverly Hall
 Chaplain Barbara Simons
 Historian April Tedesco
 Executive Committee Lisa Meeks
 Executive Committee Rachel Nash
 Executive Committee Rhonda Suelter
 Membership Brenda Miskow

Sons of the American Legion Officers

Squadron Commander Andy Campbell
 1st Vice Squadron Commander .. Bruce Walkowiak
 2nd 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 Jr
 Historian Alvin Hill
 SAL Advisor Bruce Thurber

Legion Riders Officers

Director Jeff Cox
 Assistant Director Kyle Nash
 Secretary Sheila Cline Burns
 Treasurer Bobby Dye
 Chaplain Leah Guljord
 Sergeant-at-Arms Robert Smith
 Historian Vacant
 Road Captain Eric Spellman
 Membership Jeff Cox
 Merchandise Shannon Fischer-Cox

Honor Guard

Commander: Chris Livingston
 Members:
 Ed Milnor Sr. Dawn Hanner
 Leo Belanger Bruce Walkowiak
 Donna Walkowiak Rowena Milnor
 John Pettinicchio Jr.
 Andy Campbell

Ways & Means Committee

Chairman: Jimmy Donavon
 Members:
 Andy Campbell Jeff Cox
 Dana Jackson Kyle Nash
 Kim Oaks Bill Davidson
 Brenda Miskow Ray Wright
 Greg Singler

House Committee

Chairman: Chris Hamrick
 Members:
 Leo Belanger
 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: Dana Jackson <email: historian@all17.com

Legion History Question:
 When was the American Legion's Constitution drafted?



Commander's Corner

*Terry Struven
Commander,
American Legion
Post 117*

commander@all117.com

Happy 2024 to all of our 117 family & friends. Time has been flying by since I was voted in as Commander of 117 and I can honestly say, it has been a very busy, exciting, challenging, and fulfilling year. It has been my honor and privilege to see how our 117 officers and other selfless volunteers work together to make sure our daily mission is completed and plans are made for future programs and projects. We can always use more volunteers around the Post and I am grateful for everyone.

BE THE ONE is our theme this year and it basically means to care enough to listen and connect with your fellow veterans by using kind words, having a listening ear, providing a ride to an appointment or just a sincere "I'm here for you". Veteran's suicide is something we all need to care about and show it when you are given the chance to make a difference in someone's life. We All Matter!

January/February have been very busy months. Besides all of our regular weekly meals, games and entertainment, we had the Department of Florida Commander's visit, birthday celebrations, Family Meeting, Super Bowl LVIII, Valentine's Party, and Vet Girls Rock hosted by our amazing Auxiliary Unit 117. We also had some improvements going on like replacing the fence which was completed by our members (sponsored by Lowe's), poles and plants were put in place along the driveway by Scouts BSA Troop 732, and concrete was poured to increase the pavilion area and some of the driveway was repaired. We also raised money by 50/50, raffle baskets, and auction items for those members in need or for charities. A Celebration of Life/Memorial Run was held for our Legionnaire/Rider Timothy Scott Morris with a record attendance including friends from all over the state of Florida.

Coming up in March/April we have more exciting programs like American Legion's 105th Birthday (March 16th) and St. Patrick's Day party March 17th, Department of Florida Children & Youth Picnic on April 6th and so much more.

We are building our membership to include a more diverse group of veterans, Sons of the American Legion, Auxiliary, and Juniors Program that I have ever seen. New members of all ages are attracted to our Post for many reasons but the one I hear the most is because they want to join a group who cares and 117 that is who we are for sure. As of February 7, we were at 88.33%. Let's keep it going in order to reach 100% by May 31st.

In March and April each Post Family member will have their nominations for officer positions. Review the duties/requirements for your desired position/office. Also, dates for nominations are March 20th and April 17th. The Legion election day will be Saturday May 11th in the Hall from 10am to 1pm. If you want to be more involved, think about stepping up and running for office. It can be very fulfilling, believe me.

When you see me around the Post, please say hello and let me know how you are doing. I am always open to new ideas and suggestions. That is how we grow to be the best-together.



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. 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 2nd and the signup sheet will go up on April 2nd. 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. We may need some volunteers for this years trip as it is a bigger boat through Blue Heron Charters.

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 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!

Also, I am moving up to District 12 Commander this year so I will need our Sons of American Legion Members to step up and help out all of our incoming officers as well as some of you taking over for what my wife and I have been doing for the last 3 years.

I can be reached at 117squadroncmdr@gmail.com

Thanks, and God Bless,

Andy Campbell
SAL Squadron Commander



MaryAnn Spellman
Chairman

Maryannspellman9@gmail.com

Unit 117 Juniors

Greeting,

I hope this finds everyone doing well. Our Future Leader had a great past couple of months joining the activities and events at Post 117.

On January 21st they attended the Hillbilly Hoedown. We had 10 Jr's in attendance. We also had a special guest, Our Department of Florida Honorary Jr President Mia Kay. Mia along with our Department of Florida Honorary Historian Averi Rose also a Unit 117 Jr went around all day and did the 50/50. All our future leaders pitched in with helping with various tasks, they all had a fun time. Special Thanks to AL Department of Florida 2nd Vice Jessica Moore for getting them all involved.

In February our Future Leaders attended the Special Olympics event. It is always a momentous day for them. They all enjoy this event every year.

We have several events coming up. Our Annual Easter Party / Spring Fling will be held on March 30th from 1-5pm. See the flyer for details.

The C&Y picnic will be held this year at Post 117. We are requesting all Future Leaders to be there to help. We will also be having a Childs Military Table Ceremony that day. Please wear your Purple. Let's all PURPLE UP for Military Children in the month of April.

We will be having a meeting in the middle of April to go over the next few months of events. I will update everyone as we get closer.

If you have a child / grandchild and would like them to be a part of our Family Future Leaders, girl Jr's and boys young SAL are both welcome to join up to age 17. Please speak with Auxiliary 1st Vice /membership Brenda Misko to enroll any girls, or SAL Squad 1st Vice Bruce Walkowiak for the boys. The membership dues are \$11 for the girls ALA Junior's and \$11.00 for the boys young SAL Members.

Please make sure I have your contact information, phone number, and email so I can make sure you are getting. All updates. Send it to maryannspellman9@gmail.com. We do not want anyone to miss the amazing things our Family Future Leader are doing this year.

For God & Country.

Warm Regards MaryAnn Spellman Jr Chairman.





Jeff Cox, Director,
Chapter 117

ridersdirector
@all117.com



Chapter 117, American Legion Riders

Fellow Legion Riders,

January was a great month. We did the department escort for "Gambler" as well as Tim Morris' Memorial ride. We had a great turn-out despite the cold weather. Bike night was a big success. We sold out of food, sold multiple shirts and had an awesome 50/50.

In February, we kicked off the month with the Special Olympics Ride/Fundraiser. I've never in my time here have seen such support for this great charity.

Remember that Tuesdays during Rider's week all proceeds from 50/50 goes to Project Vet Relief. Also, every last Thursday of the month is Bike Night at 117 from 6-9pm.

Upcoming events include a fun run in March with details to follow and Children & Youth Picnic/Benefit in April. We also have nominations for officer positions coming up in April.

Lastly, I want to personally thank all of our volunteers that cook for Rider's dinner, help in the kitchen for Rider's lunch and sell 50/50 tickets. We couldn't do it without everyone's help.

Jeff Cox
Rider Director



*Donna Walkowiak
Chaplain*

Chaplain@all17.com

Chaplain's Corner

The past couple months have been a roller coaster of highs and lows. Mother nature cancelled the Wreaths Across American Ceremonies. Volunteers were ready to honor the man and women of our armed services by placing wreaths along side their flag poles., but high winds and heavy rain made it impossible to proceed.

As chaplain, I went with the honor guard when they visited the assisted living facilities to honor our Veterans on Veterans Day. A full ceremony is conducted that lets them know they are not forgotten. I want to thank our riders for joining us on this long day. It means so much to these veterans to know someone still cares about them and the sacrifices they made.

Despite the cold and rainy weather on February 4th, a trip was made to view the monument of "The Four Chaplains" prior to the official ceremony that we held at the Post. This is a true saga of unrestricted love and sacrifice for others, regardless our differences, race, color, creed, sex, religion, or national origin; it's the love God has for us and wants us to have for each other.

Than there was the low. Plans for an event to raise funds to help Tim Morris fight cancer was changed to a memorial ride and Celebration of Life, when our Lord decided Tim had been through enough and called him home. All the lives he touched at our Post, across the District and the State came together to honor him and the life of service he lived. He has set the example and passed the wand for us to carry on. His final wishes were for others, that the funds raised go to his top two charities NVHS and Project Vet Relief. Now, as we go forward, we must lift up Willie Anderegg. He is in the Lords hands and we should pray that he comfort him with that knowledge.

As we look forward to the spring, the season of renewal and rebirth I know this Legion Family will stay strong in its faith and commitment to each other and our shared mission. May the Lord bless this Post and its members. Proud to be 117.



BE THE ONE

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



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@all17.com) for facility information, rental availability, and price

Did you Know if you purchase Florida Legion 50/50 Raffle, some proceeds benefit Post 117? Take a picture of QR code & it takes you to site to buy tickets.



MERCHANDISE SALES

Legion Items For Sale

Legion T-Shirt	\$20
Legion Polo with pocket	\$35
Legion License Plate.....	\$5

Riders Items For Sale

(For special orders contact Riders Merchandise Person)

All Men's Shirts	\$20
All Ladies Shirts	\$20
All 3x/4x shirts are special order.....	TBD
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 SAL Squadron 117
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit 117
- Legion Riders FL Chapter 117

**“Real change, enduring change, happens One step at a time.”
-Ruth Bader Ginsburg-**

U.S Veterans Holiday's and Important Events

January

Jan 25th—Anniversary of the U.S. & Allied Victory at the Battle of the Bulge

February

Feb 3rd — Four Chaplains Day

Feb 9th — Anniversary of the U.S. Victory at the Battle of Guadalcanal

Feb 28th — Anniversary of the U.S. Led Victory in the Persian Gulf War

March

Mar 3rd — Navy Reserve Birthday

March 19th —K-9 Veterans Day (US K-9 Corp)

**March 15-17th —Anniversary of the First Caucus of the American Legion
American Legion 105th Birthday**

Mar 25th — National Medal of Honor Day

Mar 26th — Anniversary of the U.S. Victory at the Battle of Iwo Jima

March 29th — Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

April

April 5th — Gold Star Spouses Day

March Events

Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117

Happy
105TH
BIRTHDAY
AMERICAN
LEGION

March 16, 2024
Ceremony at 12:00
hot dogs, chips & cake

American Legion Post 117
March 17, 2024
12:00 - ?

Music by: Jimmy D

HAPPY
St Patrick's
Day

Kitchen Open 1pm:
Chicken wings & Shrimp
Corn beef & Cabbage

Prizes & Give-A-Ways

Richard Phillips Down Biker Fund

7-Year Birthday Bash

50/50 Raffles
Vendors

Noon-5pm Saturday, MARCH 23, 2024

Music by:
Frank & The O.G.s

Richard Phillips
Down Biker Fund

DOC HOLIDAY
Country and Bluegrass Rock Roll

American Legion 117
189 Veterans Way, Palm Bay, Florida

Auction
Food Trucks

American Legion
12th District
PICNIC

Phoenix Band
12 - 4pm

Raffles/Auctions

Brisket and
Burger meals
\$12 ea

All proceeds to help pay for The American Legion Boys and Girls
State government education program transportation to Tallahassee.

23 March 1100 am - 5:00 pm
SATURDAY
American Legion Post 81
2909 South Harbor City Blvd, Melbourne, FL
PUBLIC WELCOME

117 Family Future Leaders
Spring Fling

Saturday
March 30th 2024
1pm-5pm

50/50
Annual Duck Race

Each Child gets an
Easter Basket
Provided by Unit 117

All Proceeds go to
Jr Activities / Convention
&
A Donation to AEF Florida Disaster Relief
Fund

Music by
Doc Holiday

Easter Egg Hunt

Future Leader
Art Auction

Live Auction

Raffle
Baskets

Food

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April Events

CHILDREN & YOUTH PICNIC
SATURDAY APRIL 6, 2024
 12pm - 5pm

Music by Doc Holiday

Raffle Baskets 50/50
 Carnival Games • More!

Location:
 American Legion Post 117
 18g Veterans Drive
 Palm Bay, FL 32909

1/3 Pound Burger or, 1/4 Hot Dog \$10
 Kids Under 12 1/4 Burger or Hot Dog \$5
 All Meals Served with Sides

Poker Run
 Registration 10am KSU 11am

Questions: Contact
 AL Dept C&Y Chaiman Rick Johnson 954-242-4496
 MaryAnn Spellman 917-834-5763

All Proceeds go to COTA

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**Children & Youth Picnic
 Poker Run**
April 6th 2024
 Registration 10am
 KSU 11am

\$15 Rider
 \$5 Passenger

Cages Welcome
 \$15

Starts at 117

Ends at 117

Stops

- American Legion Post 189
- Old Fish House
- Palm Pub

Children & Youth
 FLORIDA LEGION

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Please join our 117
 Family Future Leaders
*Child's Military
 Table Ceremony*




April 6th 2024 Time TBD

Made with PosterMyWall.com

STEAKS & HOOT

COME OUT & SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR
CHARLOTTE BASS
 LEAD CANDIDATE FOR
 ALA DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA PRESIDENT



- RIB EYE STEAKS
- PORK CHOPS
- SHRIMP
- BREAKFAST PKG
- SURPRISE ROUNDS
- MONEY ROUNDS

**APRIL 7, 2024
 NOON TILL...**

hosted by Unit 117
 189 Veterans Dr
 Palm Bay, FL 32909

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