



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

The Thomas Times

April Showers bring May Flowers

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Check Facebook and bulletin boards for more details.

Post 117 Directory

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

Auxiliary Officers

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 Spencer Reinking
 Membership Jeff Cox
 Merchandise Shannon Fischer-Cox

Honor Guard

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

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*

2024-2025 Officers:
Basic Training—<https://legion.org/alei>

Department Merchandise
<https://www.floridalegion.org/resources/department-merchandise>



Commander's Corner

*Terry Struven
Commander,
American Legion
Post 117*

commander@all117.com

I hope everyone has been enjoying this beautiful Florida weather and making plans to spend more quality time with your family and friends. We at Post 117 have been busy as usual planning, working and hosting events for all of our Legion family. Our driving force for all activities is to provide support to our beloved Veterans, their families and our community. We, as Legion members, cannot just talk the talk we are obligated and honored at 117 to walk the walk.

In March and April working in partnership with all of the Legion family, we hosted a District 12 meeting and welcomed Department of Florida Legion Family for the Children and Youth Picnic/Poker Run and an Auxiliary sponsored steak shoot. So excited to say the funds raised for charities like COTA, Children's Organ Transplant Association, was over \$20,000. We held fun events for our membership, St Patrick's day meal and activities, Legion 105th birthday celebration, Easter Party for the kids, Spring Fling for the families and Easter morning breakfast serving over 80 folks. We are so proud and happy to support our local community groups like the Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce Luncheon, Palm Bay Fire Department retirement party and the Palm Bay 911 Dispatchers/First Responders yearly Family event. Special event every year is the local group Richard Phillips Bikers Down Fund Fundraiser who raise funds to help motorcycle riders who are hurt in an accident. We would not have much of anything happening at our Post without all of our wonderful volunteers. All of our officers and folks you see getting things done all volunteer their time for their Post. On Saturday April 27th, we said a sincere Thank you to all of volunteers with great food, exciting entertainment and giveaways. Hosted Joint Family Picnic with our Palm Bay neighbors Post 394 on Sunday April 28th.

For May and June we are not slowing down a beat with all our weekly activities like Men's Night 2 for 1 drinks, Corn Hole Tournament, Ace of Spades, Taco Tuesday, Big Azz Burger night, Ladies Night 2 for one drinks, Wings \$1 Special, 3 nights of Live entertainment, Members Pool Tournaments, Friday night dinners, Sunday Kitchen specials wings and steamed shrimp and so much more.

We start May with Our Post Election on May 4th from 4 to 7 p.m. Would love to see all our 117 Legionnaires come out and let us know who you want for Commander and any other offices on the ballot for this coming year. Let your voice be heard. May 4th is also Kentucky Derby day, May 5th Cinco De Mayo and Vietnam Veterans Wall Escort, and May 6 is Annual Wreath Ceremony and Opening Ceremony on May 11th at Wickham Park. Other events include SAL Mother's Day Brunch, Law Enforcement/First Responder Appreciation Day, Placing flags on Veterans Grave at Fountainhead Memorial Cemetery, BSA Scout Troop 732 BBQ, honor Captain Charles F. Thomas at gravesite, Assisted Living Visit, and to finish off the month, Memorial Day Ceremony/Picnic. Check our monthly calendar for all of our special events coming up this month.

In June, SAL is hosting the Veterans Fishing Trip on Jun 2nd. we celebrate Father's Day and Department of Florida Convention June 13- 16th in Orlando and much much more.

Looking forward to seeing you around the Post. Please stop and say hello.

For God and Country always true to our Legion.



Andy Campbell
Commander
Squadron 117

sal@117.com



Squadron 117, Sons of the American Legion

Hello everyone!

Summer is coming!

Since my last communication, we have had our 1st round of nominations for all of the 2023 – 2024 officers.

As most of you know, I will be moving up to the District 12 commander this coming year. I will not be able to do both Squadron and District so I am giving up my seat as commander here at 117. I look forward to working with the incoming group of officers at Squadron 117 in 2024 and 2025.

This year's veterans fishing trip will be on June 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. I already have enough volunteers for the trip.

Membership is doing well! And we have surpassed 100%. As of this newsletter we are at 110%! Thanks Bruce W for all the hard work you do to maintain this!

Special Olympics is a wrap for 2023-24 We raised \$15,646.00 along with in kind donations came up to \$20,427.66. Great job by all of the Volunteers.

Convention is happening in June. We need delegates to go for SAL. If you want to go vote, please reach out to me or Bruce and we can get you headed in the right direction. I will be attending on Thursday thru Saturday.

Fish Fry Dinner's continue to be good as well! With the folks heading back up north for the summer I will be reducing my fish fry's to 60 meals until October. Hopefully I will have fish left over for Cod Bites and Fries on our Sundays in the kitchen.

Make sure to watch the TVs 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



Unit 117 Auxiliary

Greetings Family,

Our Department President, Dee Bell has always been completely committed to our organization and "Service not Self." This year, through her "Bells in S.E.R.V.I.C.E." theme, your service to our Veterans, Military families, Community and Children and Youth will be heard throughout Florida with the ringing of bells.

Kim Oaks
President

oaksk@bellsouth.net

The Membership theme is "Ringin' in Membership" and our First Vice President/ Membership Chairman, Brenda Miskow has been ringin' those bells loud and clear and as of April 12, 2024 our membership totals were at 112.65%! #ringyourbell

Unit 117 has been very busy helping our veterans and our community here in Palm Bay. You are all doing an amazing job and we really appreciate everything you do.

Our General Membership meetings are held every third Thursday of each month at 7 pm. All members are encouraged to attend. We'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas.

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. If you've not been yet, now is a great time to come out and see what it's all about!

We have a few upcoming events that you want to save the date for.

May 2024

2nd at 6:00 pm we will receive our Poppy Day Proclamation from the Mayor.

4th District Constitutional Conference

4th Kentucky Derby Day

5th Vietnam and all Veterans moving wall escort

6th Presentation of wreaths at the wall. Wickham Park 6:00pm

16th General Membership Meeting, final round of nominations and election of officers for 2024-2025.

17th 18th 19th Juniors will make and distribute poppy plates

26th 27th 28th 29th Unit 117 will be distributing poppies at various locations T.B.A.

June 2024

13th 14th 15th 16th Department Convention Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista

20th General Membership Meeting

20th thru 28th is the 78th Session of ALA Dept of FL Girls State

Yours in Service,

Kim Oaks

#ringyourbell





*MaryAnn Spellman
Chairman*

Maryannspellman9@gmail.com



Unit 117 Juniors

Greetings family,

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.

Our 117 Family Future Leaders made candy bags for our Police and Fire Departments. They went on March 17th to hand out their candy bags to thank these brave men and woman for all they do for the community.

On March 30th We had our Annual Easter Party / Spring Fling. Our Future Leaders did an amazing job. There were raffle baskets, food, games, and a duck race that was enjoyed by all. Each child received an Easter Basket provided by Unit 117. Thank you to all that donated candy for the baskets. We even had a visit from the Easter Bunny during the egg hunt.

The C&Y picnic was a tremendous success this year. Our Future Leaders helped in any way could, as they also played games, and had lots of fun. Our Future Leaders along with several other legion family members did a Childs Military Table Ceremony, this touched everyone's heart.

Our Future Leaders Purpled UP for Military Children on Monday April 15th .

Unit 117 Jr's along with Squadron 117 Young SAL members will be participating in the Presentation on the wreaths this year at Wickham Park for the Vietnam Traveling Wall Ceremony at 5pm on Monday May 6th.

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. Please send it to maryannspellman9@gmail.com We do not want anyone to miss the amazing things our Family Future Leaser are doing this year.

For God & Country.

Warm Regards

MaryAnn Spellman Jr Chairman.



Chapter 117, American Legion Riders

Fellow Legion Riders,

In March, the Riders did great again on dinner which is the first Friday of each month. Thank you Jojo for the delicious empanadas and all volunteers who help to make Friday night dinners a success. We supported the District 12 Unity Ride and we hosted Richard Phillips Down Biker Fund. We had a great turnout on bike night which is the last Thursday of every month from 6-9pm.

Jeff Cox, Director,
Chapter 117

ridersdirector
@all117.com



April is becoming another great month. We did awesome in the kitchen for riders dinner, Thank you Agnes for cooking the cutlets. We had a great turnout for the Department Children & Youth Picnic/Poker Run. We had two riders participate in the District 6 Unity Ride. Post 117 has the honor of being a stop for the In-State Unity Ride—Eastern Route on April 23rd.

Rider's corn hole continues to be a huge success. Thank you to all the volunteers who make it happen. We'd like to thank DJ Will The Thrill for coming out and donating his time during rider's corn hole on Tuesday nights.

In May, we have the honor to do the wall escort as well as the Wreath Ceremony at Wickham Park. We will have a Celebration Ride for Willie Anderegg on May 19th. We will end the month with escorting the honor guard to Fountainhead Memorial Park and then three living facilities to pay respect to our veterans that can't get out and about.





*Donna Walkowiak
Chaplain*

Chaplain@all17.com

Chaplain's Corner

Welcome to May: The month of May we pay tribute to those who gave all and to the Veterans that have gone before us. It's a time to remember their sacrifice and to teach our youth about honoring them. On Saturday May 27Th members of Post 117, joined now by members of Post 359, will meet at Fountainhead Memorial Gardens to place American Flags on the gravesites of the Veterans buried there. Our Post Name sake and Medal of Honor recipient " Charles F. Thomas IV" was laid to rest there. We invite The Scouts, JROTC and members of our community with their families to join us. We do provide the flags. Please consider spending an Hour or so of your Saturday morning with us.

On Memorial Day we will once again hold a brief ceremony at the grave site of Charles F. Thomas IV. At 9:00. The story of his sacrifice is told and rifle salute provided. This is opened to the community as well so do invite someone to attend. After which I will be joining the honor Guard as they bring the ceremonies of the day to our seniors in assisted living facilities in our community. These veterans and veterans' families can't get out to attend any of the community events and it's important we let them know they are not forgotten. We must all remember and remind others Memorial Day is not about BBQs and Picnics. It is a day set aside to remind us of sacrifices it took to keep us safe and free.

May God continue to Bless the United States of America.



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

"Your volunteerism has made a significant difference and has helped us to grow as a Post."

U.S Veterans Holiday's and Important Events

May

May 1st—Silver Star Service Banner Day

Friday Before Mother's Day in May—Military Spouse Appreciation Day

May 8th—Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day

The Last Monday in May—Memorial Day

June

June is PTSD Awareness Month

June 6th—Anniversary of the D-Day Landings at Normandy

June 7th—Anniversary of the U.S. Victory at the Battle of Midway

June 12th—Women Veterans Day

June 14th—Flag Day and the Founding of the U.S. Army (Army Birthday)

June 22nd—Anniversary of the U.S. & Allied Victory at the Battle of Okinawa

June 27th—PTSD Awareness Day

ATTENTION PLEASE!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

American Legion Post 117
Post Officer Elections
May 4, 2024
4:00pm - 7:00pm

Make Your Voice Be Heard & VOTE!

GRAB YOUR DERBY ATTIRE AND JOIN US FOR OUR

Kentucky Derby PARTY

SATURDAY MAY 4TH

3:30pm GAMES • PRIZES • WAGERING
 6:57pm Greatest 2 Minutes in Sports
 ☐ Prizes for Best Hat

AMERICAN LEGION POST 117
 189 VETERANS DRIVE, PALM BAY, FL 32909.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 117
 189 VETERANS DRIVE SE
 PALM BAY, FL 32909

Join in on the Festivities
 Give-A-Ways & More
 Music by Jimmy D
 12pm - ?

CINCO DE MAYO

VVB
 Vietnam and all Veterans of Brevard

Present:

Florida's 36th Annual All Veterans Reunion
 One Of The Nation's Largest Veterans Reunion
PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND
May 9th - 12th, 2024

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall on display May 5th - May 12th, 2024

LIVE MUSIC
FOOD & DRINKS
MILITARY VENDORS
MILITARY DISPLAYS

THE SOME GAVE ALL MOVING TRIBUTE

Wall Escort Sunday May 9th, 2024 Leaves at 10am
 Eastern Florida State College Cocoa Campus
 Reunion Web Page at: floridaveteransreunion.com

Wickham Park
 321-255-4307 - 2500 Parkway Dr
 Melbourne, FL
 No Cinders, Glass or Pets allowed
 in the Reunion Area
 For Wickham Park Golf Carts Permitted
 For the Handicapped Only And Must
 Abide By FL Highway Laws
 Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall
<http://travelingwall.us>

Call For Info
 321-690-0895
 321-652-4185
 Vendors call 321-652-4185
RA@vrbrevard.com
VVBSecretariat@gmail.com
 Club Escort Lineup info
vybreunionscort@gmail.com

Sunday- May 5th
 10:00am Wall Escort from Brevard Community College, Cocoa
 12:00pm Doc Holiday, Covered Dish Picnic and Wall Set-Up

Please-No Coolers, Glass or Pets in Reunion or Memorial Area.

Monday- May 6th
 6:00pm Presentation of wreaths
 7:00pm Opening Ceremonies at the Wall

Thursday- May 9th
 12:00pm Doc Holiday
 6:00-7:30pm Elgin Hooper Band
 8:30-10:00pm Absolute Blue

Friday- May 10th
 12:00pm Doc Holiday
 6:00-7:30pm Soultime
 8:30-10:00pm Joshua Campbell And The Whiskey Sunrise Band

Saturday-May 11th
 11:00am Opening Ceremonies/Massing of the Colors/
 LZ Helicopter Landing
 12:00pm Doc Holiday
 1:00pm-2:30pm The Last Call Band
 3:00pm Marines Take The Hill (Main Stage Area)
 3:30-5:00pm Blue Diamond Band
 6:00pm Suncoast Vietnam Vets "The Last Patrol"
 7:00-8:30pm Alfie Silva And Friends (From The Tangles Show Pala
 9:30-11:00pm Funpipe

Sunday-May 12th
 10:00am Church Services with Donna Steer
 11:00am Doc Holiday
 2:00-3:30pm The Groove Kids
 4:00pm Melbourne Municipal Band at the Wall
 5:00pm Closing Ceremony at the Wall

Monday- May 13th
 9:00am Cleanup Wickham Park and Wall Take Down

Brought to you by the Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard, Inc.
 Schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Post 117 Mother's Day Brunch

May 12th 10am to 12pm

Mothers eat free

All Adults \$10 per plate

Kids (under 12) \$5 per plate

Scrambled Eggs

Bacon

Biscuits and Gravy

Pancakes

Sausage

Ham

Scalloped Potatoes

Juice/Coffee

Brought to you by the Sons of the American Legion Squadron

117

American Legion Post 117
Presents

PALM BAY
LAW ENFORCEMENT
AND
FIRST RESPONDER
APPRECIATION DAY
MAY 18TH
12:00PM - 4:00PM

Music•Food




AMERICAN LEGION
12th District DCC

Due to numerous DCC's and the
Wall the 12th District DCC is
changed to the 18th of May
May 18th Post 163
registration 0900
Meeting 1000

Election of District Officers will take place


Celebration of Life



Willie Anderegg

Please join us on May 19, 2024
Where: American Legion Post 117
189 Veterans Drive, Palm Bay FL
Celebration begins at 1pm

Celebration Ride
Registration 9:30am \$0
Donations Optional
KSU: 10:30am



Live Music by The Beach Katz Band
2pm to 3pm

Side Dishes Welcome



Join us as we Place American Flags on the Grave sites of our Veterans in Fountainhead Memorial Cemetery for the Memorial Day Weekend.

Saturday May 25th
8:00 am

We welcome the Public and Youth groups
Flags are provided by the American Legion
Post 117 and 394

Happy
Birthday

Celebrating Post 117 Members
with May Birthday's
May 25th @6:00pm



Sons of the American Legion 117
Sunday May 26th
MEAT RAFFLE

2 Grand Prizes to be announced
Big Meat Round
Mystery Meat Box
Steak Round
Sausage Round
Spin the Wheel Round

70/30 Ticket Sales start at
RAFFLE 12:30pm
8 Tickets for \$20
Starts at
1pm

All proceeds go to Veterans Fishing Trip
189 Veterans Drive, Palm Bay FL



SAL Squadron 117
Annual Veterans Fishing Trip



When: June 2, 2024 (Be at the Post no later than 5:30am) Bus will leave Sharply at 6am
Where: 389 E. Blue Heron Blvd, Riviera, FL (Miss Blue Heron)

Whats provided:

- Fishing License
- Poles (You can bring your own)
- Bait
- Transportation to and from AL 117
- Breakfast and Lunch
- Beverages

We will be taking 40 Veterans on a first come first serve basis. I will put the signup sheet up 60 days prior to the event.

ID's will be checked as you sign up to assure you are a veteran.
We will also be giving out commemorative shirts again