



Yearbook of

Charles F. Thomas IV Post No. 117

The American Legion

Palm Bay, FL 32909

For 2023—2024

By: Dana Jackson





Introduction

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization. Focusing on service to veterans, service members and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at nearly 2 million in more than 13,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines.

Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth. Following is a chronology of significant dates in Legion history:

1919

March 15-17

Members of the American Expeditionary Force convene in Paris for the first American Legion caucus.

May 8-10

St. Louis Caucus. "The American Legion" is adopted as the organization's official name. The Legion's draft preamble and constitution are approved.

June 9

The National Executive Committee adopts the Legion emblem.

Sept. 16

Congress charters The American Legion.





1919 (Cont'd)

Nov. 10-12

First Legion convention convenes in Minneapolis. The Constitution and preamble are adopted. Delegates vote 361-323 to locate the Legion's national headquarters in Indianapolis, instead of Washington. A resolution is passed in support of Boy Scouts of America. *Today, the Legion is the chartering agency for more than 1,700 Scouting units made up of approximately 64,000 youths.*



1920s

Aug. 9, 1921

The Legion's efforts result in the creation of the U.S. Veterans Bureau, forerunner of the Veterans Administration. *Today, the Legion continues to lobby for adequate funding to cover medical, disability, education and other benefits for veterans.*

June 15, 1923

The first "Flag Code" is drafted during a Legion conference in Washington. Congress adopts the code in 1942. *Today, the Legion is at the forefront of efforts to pass a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. flag from physical desecration.*

July 17, 1925

The Legion creates the American Legion Baseball program. *Today, more than 50 percent of Major League Baseball players are graduates of the program. About 82,000 youths play on Legion-sponsored teams each year.*





1930s

September 1932

The Sons of The American Legion is officially recognized during the 1932 National Convention in Portland, Ore.

June 23, 1935

The first American Legion Boys State convenes in Springfield, Ill., to help youths gain an understanding of the structure and operation of the federal government.

1940s

Sept. 19-21, 1942: Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion is changed for the first and only time since it was written in 1919. The word “War” is changed to “Wars.”

Dec. 15, 1943

Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery starts to write in longhand, on Mayflower Hotel stationery in Washington, the first draft of what will later become the "GI Bill of Rights" – considered the Legion's single greatest legislative achievement.

June 22, 1944

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs into law the original GI Bill, or Servicemen's Readjustment Act, ushering in monumental changes in U.S. society. Higher education becomes democratized after 8 million veterans go to school on the GI Bill, get better jobs, buy houses in the suburbs and raise families. For every dollar spent on educating veterans, the U.S. economy eventually gets \$7 back.

May 29, 1946

The Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary present a small, struggling organization called the American Heart Association with a \$50,000 grant. The grant inaugurates a nationwide program for the study, prevention and treatment of rheumatic heart disease.





1950s

May 4, 1950

The Legion votes to contribute funds to the field of mental health, thereby playing a key role in launching the National Association for Mental Health.

July 9, 1954

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is formed. *Today, more than \$11 million has been awarded to youth organizations and projects designed to help America's children.*

1960s

Sept. 1, 1966

The Legion voices great concern over the fate of prisoners of war in Vietnam. *Today, the Legion urges a full accounting of all POWs and troops missing in action; and has formed a special group from among the nation's major veterans organizations to continue pressing for further resolution of this issue.*

Aug. 24, 1969

The Legion's National Executive Committee establishes the National Emergency Fund as a result of the effects of Hurricane Camille.

1970s

May 1, 1972

The Legion implements a Halloween safety program for children; *it remains the only national program of its kind.*

April 1, 1975

The Legion-sponsored Freedom Bell goes aboard the Freedom Train during its tour of the country in celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial. Six years later, the bell is dedicated at its permanent home in Columbus Plaza, opposite Union Station in Washington.





1980s

Aug. 26, 1982

The Legion presents a \$1 million check to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for construction of the Wall in Washington, becoming the largest single contributor to the project.

July 21, 1983

The Legion announces its sponsorship of an independent study on the effects of exposure to Agent Orange on Vietnam War veterans. Congress receives the results of the "American Legion-Columbia University Study of Vietnam-era Veterans" in 1989.

Jan. 1, 1989

The Veterans Administration is elevated to Cabinet-level status as the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Legion fought hard for the change, arguing that veterans deserve representation at the highest levels of government.

Oct. 16, 1989

The long-standing objective of the Legion to improve adjudication procedures for veterans claims is achieved when the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals becomes operational. Most of the provisions contained in the law creating the court were originally included in the Veterans Reassurance Act, written by the Legion and introduced in Congress in 1988.

1990s

Aug. 2, 1990

The Legion files suit against the federal government for failure to conduct a Congress-mandated study about the effects of Agent Orange on veterans who served in Vietnam.





1990s (Cont'd)

Oct. 11, 1990

The Legion creates the Family Support Network to assist families of servicemembers deployed for operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the Middle East. Through local posts, the network offers a wide range of assistance, including financial assistance, mowing lawns, baby-sitting and more. *Today, FSN continues to assist families affected by military activation and deployment.*

June 15, 1991

The Legion hosts its first Junior Shooting Sports National Air Rifle Championships at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. *Today, more than 2,000 high school students a year enter the contest, which teaches gun safety and marksmanship.*

Aug. 24, 1994

The Legion announces the creation of the Citizens Flag Alliance, a coalition of organizations and individual citizens united to work for a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. flag from physical desecration. Since 1995, the amendment has passed in the House by an supermajority six times: in 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2005. In 2006, the amendment fell one vote short of passage in the Senate.

Sept. 24, 1994: The American Legion announces partnership with the Smithsonian Institute's Air and Space Museum to develop an exhibit for the bomber Enola Gay, which dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Previous museum plans had drawn intense criticism from veterans, scholars and the public.

Jan. 30, 1995: The American Legion announces acceptance of scaled-down exhibit "without political commentary" for the Enola Gay, ending the greatest controversy in the Smithsonian Institute's 149-year history.





1990's (Cont'd)

Oct. 1, 1995

The Legion forms the Persian Gulf Task Force to enhance service for the newest generation of wartime veterans, thousands of whom suffer from illnesses linked to their service in the region.

Sept. 16, 1996

The Legion awards a \$20,000 college scholarship to each of the 10 inaugural Samsung American Legion high school scholars.

June 11, 1997

The National Emergency Fund surpasses the \$1 million mark in cash grants given to flood victims who belong to the Legion family. Most grant recipients reside in the flood plains of Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Minnesota and North Dakota.

Sept. 3, 1997

The Legion presents its first National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award at the 79th National Convention in Orlando, Fla.

2000s

March 29, 2000

Senate Joint Resolution 14, the constitutional amendment that would return the people's right to protect the U.S. flag from physical desecration, falls four votes short of the necessary 67 to override a presidential veto.

Sept. 5, 2000: The American Legion presents the first "Spirit of Service" Awards to active duty service members for their off-duty volunteer activities.

Aug. 28-30, 2001: The American Legion passes resolution to rekindle Blue Star Service Banner program.





2000's (Cont'd)

Sept. 12, 2001: The American Legion reactivates the Family Support Network following terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C.

Oct. 10-11, 2001: The American Legion creates the American Legacy Scholarship Fund for children of military members killed on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

Sept. 11, 2002: The American Legion takes lead in conducting "A Day To Remember" events to mark the anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the nation.

November 2002

The Legion launches the national "I Am Not A Number" campaign to identify and document the delays veterans face in obtaining medical care from VA.

Oct. 17, 2003: American Legion efforts on Capitol Hill break the deadlock on the Disabled Veterans Tax when Congress creates a 10-year phase-in for service-connected disabled retirees to receive military retired pay and VA disability compensation without subtraction from either. Legion efforts also result in passage of the Military Family Tax Relief Act.

Sept. 3, 2004: American Legion lobbying leads to more progress in elimination of the Disabled Veterans Tax with passage of PL 108-375 that eliminates the 10-year phase-in for 100 percent service-connected retirees, allowing them to immediately begin receiving both retired pay and VA disability payments.

Sept 19, 2004: The American Legion launches a national program, the Blue Star Salute, where posts across the country hold public events to recognize troops, their families and local businesses on Armed Forces Day.

May 7, 2005: The American Legion lobbied successfully to remove from VA funding legislation administration-proposed increases in VA prescription co-payments and institution of user fee for Priority Group 8 veterans using VA health facilities. Efforts focus on legislation to provide mandatory, vice discretionary, funding of VA health care.





2000's (Cont'd)

August 2005

Delegates at the 87th National Convention in Honolulu unanimously voice their support for the global war on terrorism with Resolution 169.

Oct. 17-18, 2007: The American Legion National Executive Committee passes Resolution 35 and adopts The American Legion Riders as a national program of The American Legion. The first American Legion Riders chapter was established by American Legion Post 396 in Garden City, Mich., in 1993.

June 30, 2008

President George W. Bush signs into law the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, a next-generation GI Bill strongly supported by the Legion. The bill renews the federal government's commitment to veterans by providing them with substantially better education benefits. The Post-9/11 GI Bill took effect Aug. 1, 2009, and sent an unprecedented number of veterans to college. *Today, as at its formation, the Legion remains at the forefront of efforts to improve education and other benefits for all veterans.*

Oct. 22, 2009: President Obama signs the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform Act of 2009, guaranteeing “advance funding” for VA appropriations, a formula that The American Legion has strongly supported for many years. The new law sets funding for VA one year in advance.





2010s

February 2010

The entire Legion family bands together and wins \$250,000 for Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) in PepsiCo's Refresh Everything Project, submitting the most votes in an online contest and beating out hundreds of other groups and charities to take first place in the contest's first month. A big part of getting the word out was the *American Legion Online Update* e-newsletter. This is an early example of the still growing power of online and social media to augment everything the Legion does.

October 2010

Continuing a long-standing tradition of advocating for timely and adequate medical care for veterans, the Legion forms a PTS-TBI Ad Hoc Committee to both examine current methods by VA and the Department of Defense of treating the two conditions, and investigate potential alternatives.

December 2010

The Legion officially begins a relationship with United Services Automobile Association (USAA), making the veteran-founded insurance company "The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services." The purchase of USAA products gains money for Legion programs. USAA representatives often give members helpful financial information and tips through Legion media.

May 5, 2011: The National Executive Committee authorized establishment of The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) to promote emergency communications and disaster preparedness, engage youth in math and science and facilitate public communications with our nation's federally licensed amateur radio operators who are veterans. TALARC membership opened free for members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion who are FCC licensed ham radio operators.





2010's (Cont'd)

August 2011

The American Legion Baseball World Series is held for the first time in the tournament's new permanent home, Shelby, N.C. Prior to this, the tournament had rotated to different cities. Total paid attendance at the Shelby contests soars to an all-time high of 86,000 total.

October 2012

VA guarantees its 20 millionth home loan. 1936-1937 National Commander Harry Colmery and 1943-1944 National Commander Warren Atherton escorted the original GI Bill of Rights through Congress in 1944, arguing passionately for veterans educational benefits, government-assured health care and what they called "readjustment allowances." Today Colmery and Atherton are lauded as the "fathers of the GI Bill" and its successors.

Aug. 30, 2013: National Commander James E. Koutz announced that the American Legion family raised more than \$1.1 million for Operation Comfort Warriors during the 2012-2013 fundraising year. It easily surpassed his original goal of \$500,000.

2014: in the midst of a VA waiting-list scandal that reached up to the deaths of veterans waiting for care, The American Legion calls for the resignations of several top officials, including VA Secretary Eric Shinseki. The scandal would ultimately engulf multiple facilities and offices; the Legion kept the issue in front of the public and Congress via articles and testimony.

July 2016: The Legacy Scholarship is expanded to children of post-9/11 veterans who have a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater.





2010's (Cont'd)

June 2017: Created to hold VA employees more accountable, the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017 is passed by Congress in concert with The American Legion. A longtime goal of the Legion, this legislation gives the VA secretary the authority to terminate the employment of VA employees who do not hold the standard of the VA's missions, to help veterans. The American Legion worked hard with Congress, VA and others to create and pass this much needed veteran-centric legislation.

Aug. 16, 2017: The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 – also known as the “Forever GI Bill” because it removes time limits for veterans who wish to use it for college – is signed into law by President Donald J. Trump. The legislation is named for The American Legion past national commander who in the winter of 1943-44 drafted the Servicemen's Readjustment Act that changed the nation after World War II.

Aug. 23, 2017: President Donald J. Trump signs the Veterans Appeals and Modernization Act of 2017 onstage at the 99th American Legion National Convention, in Reno, Nev. The measure offers three courses of action for veterans to appeal decisions on their disability benefits claims in an effort to reduce the number of pending appeals – at this point more than 470,000 nationwide – and speed up the process. It is the first time in history a U.S. president has used an American Legion National Convention stage to sign a bill into law.

August 2017: Denise H. Rohan of Wisconsin is elected national commander, the first woman to hold the role in the Legion's history.





2010's (Cont'd)

Jan. 31, 2019: The American Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance program completes a record-breaking month of cash-grant disbursements. Of the \$1,030,163 delivered to military and veteran families, most is distributed to U.S. Coast Guard families with children at home who were affected by the 35-day federal government shutdown.

March 15-17, 2019: The American Legion celebrates its 100th birthday in Paris, France, throughout the United States and around the world.

June 20, 2019: The U.S. Supreme Court rules 7-2 in favor of The American Legion in its case to allow a 40-foot cross-shaped memorial in Prince George's County, Md., to stay on public property. The memorial was erected in 1925 by The American Legion and Gold Star Mothers to honor 49 who gave their lives fighting in World War I. The Supreme Court heard the case after the American Humanist Association filed suit to have it removed, claiming its presence on public property violated the Constitution.

July 30, 2019: President Trump signs the Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service – the LEGION Act – which extends recognized wartime service to cover previously unrecognized periods of U.S. military conflict, back to World War II. More than 1,600 Americans were killed or wounded in armed hostilities during periods not previously recognized as wartime. The act allows veterans who served outside of the previously designated war eras to join The American Legion.





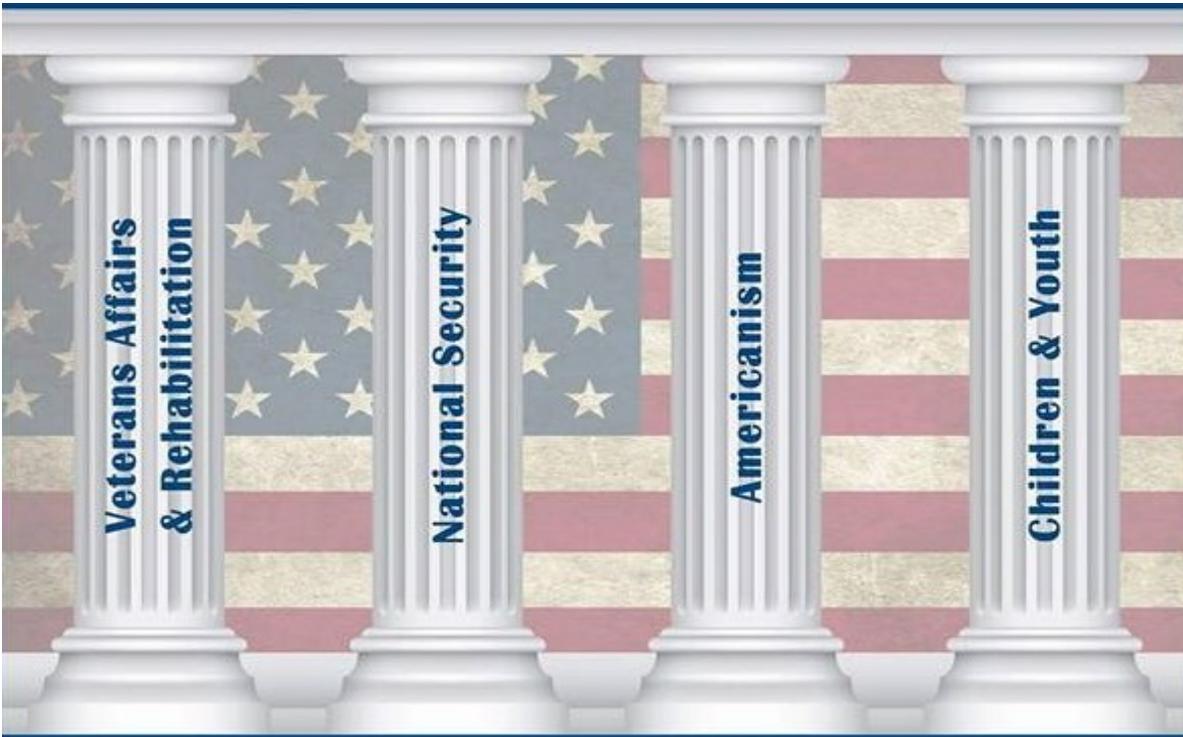
2020's

March 16, 2020: American Legion National Headquarters staff begin a period of social distancing and work-from-home procedures amid the deadly coronavirus pandemic. American Legion posts, departments and facilities worldwide are forced to temporarily close their doors to members and the public. The organization responds with hundreds of Buddy Check activities to assist older veterans; dozens of blood drives as need increases; food-delivery services; supplies for parents suddenly forced to home-school their children; protective mask making and distribution; and hundreds of other acts of community support. The pandemic leads to cancellation or postponement of national meetings, including the 101st National Convention, American Legion Baseball World Series and American Legion Boys Nation.





Four Pillars



- ◆ Access to VA Care
- ◆ Better Funding Formula
- ◆ Support for Vets with Special Needs
- ◆ Career Opportunities
- ◆ A GI Bill for a New Century
- ◆ Employment & Business
- ◆ Heroes to Hometown
- ◆ Strong National Defense
- ◆ Military Quality of Life
- ◆ Homeland Security
- ◆ Foreign Relations
- ◆ Full Accounting of POW/MIA's
- ◆ Flag Protection
- ◆ Illegal immigration
- ◆ Voter Registration & Participation
- ◆ Boy Scouts
- ◆ The Pledge of Allegiance
- ◆ Establishment Clause Lawsuits
- ◆ Catastrophic Illness
- ◆ Intellectual Disabilities
- ◆ Immunization
- ◆ Family Integrity
- ◆ Media Violence
- ◆ Drug Abuse
- ◆ Child Sexual Exploitation





American Legion Post 117
Chartered on 4 July 1984





Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117
Chartered on 19 December 1984





Captain Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117



Captain Thomas in Vietnam



Picture is from
Western Kentucky University
Hall of Fame Class of 1968

Fountainhead Memorial



Section M Veterans Garden



Palm Bay, Brevard County, Florida



6/13/46—4/8/71
Fountainhead Memorial
Park





Charles F Thomas IV

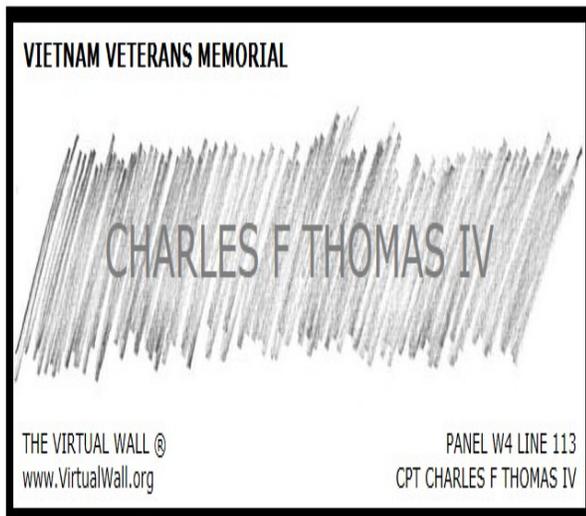
ON THE WALL: Panel W4 Line 113

PERSONAL DATA:
Home of Record: Palm Bay, FL
Date of birth: 06/13/1946

MILITARY DATA:
Service: Army of the United States
Grade at loss: O3
Rank/Rate: Captain
ID No: xxxxx5720
MOS/RATING: 71193: Field Artillery Unit Commander (Airborne Qual)
Length Service: **
Unit: HQ & SVC BTRY, 3RD BN, 319TH ARTILLERY, 173RD ABN BDE, USARV

CASUALTY DATA:
Start Tour: 01/04/1970
Incident Date: 04/08/1971
Casualty Date: 04/08/1971
Age at Loss: 24
Location: Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam
Remains: Body recovered
Casualty Type: Hostile, died outright
Casualty Reason: Ground casualty
Casualty Detail: Artillery, rocket, or mortar

Data accessed: 4/30/2015





Remembering Captain Charles F. Thomas IV



Portrait drawn by Doris Thomas
(Mother of CPT Thomas)



CPT Thomas as an ROTC cadet senior year



Far Right Charles Thomas
Graduation parade at ROTC
summer camp 1967

Photos provided by: COL (Ret.)
Greg Lowe, Best Friend of
CPT Thomas





A Story From A Best Friend Greg Lowe, COL, US Army (Retired)

“Charlie was my best friend in college. We had most all of our classes together and ran around with each other for four years. I could not have had a better friend. He graduated from Ft Knox HS and I graduated from Ft Campbell HS and since we were both Army Brats we bonded immediately. When Charlie was KIA I was in Vietnam at the same time. LTC Thomas called DA and asked for me by name to be Charlie’s escort home. I was honored to do so but it was the hardest thing the Army ever asked me to do in 30 years of AD. The Thomas family then “adopted” me and treated me like a son. I’m still in contact with my sisters after 50+ years. “



Larry Loftis, Vietnam Veteran & Retired Secret Service Agent, CPT Charles F. Thomas IV, and COL Greg Lowe ('68)



COL Greg Lowe and CPT Charles F. Thomas IV hang out right before his Extension leave in Jan '70 Vietnam



CPT Charles F. Thomas IV, COL Greg Lowe & Other classmates from Western Kentucky University . “We did everything together,” says COL Lowe. Around campus, they called themselves the “**Magnificent Seven**”. Charlie would take the boys home with him where his dad COL Thomas & Doris Thomas (better known as “MOM”) would feed them and allow them to stay in the basement where there were four sets of GI bunk beds. COL Thomas would fill the tub with beer for the boys.





What's Your Legacy? Greg Lowe, COL, US Army (Retired)



COL Greg Lowe, Retired, US Army

The CPT Charles F. Thomas IV Scholarship was started about 25 years ago and currently is now up to \$200,00.

Scholarship is awarded to 1-2 Cadets each year.

BEST FRIENDS

"I made this gift to honor one of my best friends at Western, Charles Thomas, who was killed in action on the 8th day of April 1971. For a long time, I struggled with what I could do to keep his memory alive. Immediately I did the things that you do. I got a rubbing of his name of the wall in D.C. and gave it to his parents. I collected all of his awards and decorations and had those framed and presented those to his parents. That just didn't seem to be enough. It finally dawned on me that if I created a scholarship it would serve two purposes. It would keep his name alive and would benefit some deserving students here at Western. As long as I'm alive, that scholarship will continue to exist, and even when I'm gone, I've made provisions in my estate so that a portion of that will go to fund that scholarship."

Retired COL Greg Lowe ('68)

LTC Thomas (father) paid for CPT Greg Lowe's membership at Post 117.





Charles Thomas Bio Input Greg Lowe, COL, US Army (Retired)

Charlie Thomas Bio Input

I first met Charlie Thomas when we both entered Western Kentucky University in September of 1964. He was a June graduate of Fort Knox High School and I of Fort Campbell High School. Charlie was a tall ruggedly good-looking young man who smoked unfiltered Camels and liked his beer and bourbon. We both gravitated to the Military Science department and enrolled in the Army ROTC program. After about a week we were invited to attend a smoker hosted by the Pershing Rifles, Company B-3. It was there that a lifelong friendship and bond was formed. As Army Brats we became instant friends as we suffered through a six-week pledgship at the hands of the Active Members. We learned drill and ceremonies, basic leadership skills, loyalty and brotherhood and taking care of each other. Charlie demonstrated clearly during our Hell Night. The Actives took 18 pledges out to the country where they subjected us to hundreds of pushups and other exercises while making us drink ungodly potions and pelting us with eggs, chocolate syrup, lard, and other gooey nasty things. One Active threw an egg at me, which hit me in the eye. The egg splattered and egg shells went in my eye. My immediate reaction was to charge the Active and strike back at him which surely would have meant my expulsion from the organization and wasting of six weeks of grief and aggravation. Charlie grabbed me from behind and stopped me from making a huge mistake. All 18 of us in the pledge class became Actives the next day.

By the time, the second semester rolled around we had become fast friends who had classes together, partied together and just enjoyed the college experience. Seven of us became really close. Charlie and I along with Larry Loftis, Jimmy Smith, Larry Talley, Dave Ricketts, and Bill Spining formed a tight group and dubbed ourselves The Magnificent Seven which we genuinely believed we were. It was a one for all and all for one relationship.

We often met in the snack bar of the Garret Conference Center on the Hill of Western's campus between classes for a quick bite to eat but more just to BS. I witnessed Charlie write a quick 4- or 5-page paper for somebody in less than an hour so they could turn it in at the next class. The subject did not matter, Charlie could write about anything, references be damned. One morning he was walking through the snack bar and stepped on a pickle slice that had been dropped on the





Charles Thomas Bio Input
Greg Lowe, COL, US Army (Retired)

floor. He slipped on it, jumped up in the air, came down, did a little jig, and sauntered over to our table much to our great delight.

When we had a free weekend, Charlie would invite us to go home with him to Fort Knox. Four or five of us would always go. Charlie's Dad had three or four sets of GI bunk beds set up in the basement along with a bathtub full of iced down beer for us. Those accommodations were palatial in our eyes. Mom Thomas fed us like kings. Pop Thomas loved to see boys eat. At breakfast he expected us to have half a dozen eggs each and a half a pound of bacon. One weekend Mom and Pop were having a stand-up cocktail buffet at their quarters on Fifth Avenue. Mom had prepared some sort of casserole for her guests and offered us a sample. Five of us ate the whole thing on the spot. To this day I do not know what the guests ate.

We could have anything to eat or drink that we wanted except for the Wild Turkey Bourbon. Pop Thomas declared that it was for communion purposes only and was strictly off limits.

We became members of the Infantry Drill Regulation and Exhibition Drill Teams sponsored by the Pershing Rifle Company. Great times were had riding the charter bus to and from drill meets in Tennessee, Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana. We drilled hard often winning or placing high in the competition. The bus ride back became a rolling party. Older guys bought beer and liquor for everybody which led to drinking and singing most of the way home. By the time you got to be a Sophomore you learned not to spend money on booze cause you could just wait for the freshmen to pass out and then you could take theirs.

Springtime gave rise to Keg Parties at Beech Bend Park. After drill practice we would head out to the park and drink beer until well after dark. One evening I had had a little too much beer and was convinced that there were Viet Cong in the wood line that were trying to capture me. I had apparently wandered over to the woods a couple of times and each time Charlie hauled me back to the group. Finally, he got tired of babysitting me and he sat me down in front of a tree, wrapped my legs around the tree and they used my boot laces to tie my feet together. I never left that spot until it was time to go back to campus.





Charles Thomas Bio Input Greg Lowe, COL, US Army (Retired)

Charlie and I lived in an apartment, of sorts, above a garage behind a house. We were not the neatest guys around and the apartment was always a bit disheveled. We never locked the door. On Saturday Mom and Pop Thomas made an unannounced visit. We were not home. Pop Thomas opened the door and saw what a mess the place was, and he would not let Mom come in. He left us a note that read "get this damned place cleaned up. I'll be back to inspect later"! We did clean it up, but he never came back. Just the threat of a return visit was enough to energize it.

Charlie would often walk by a mirror, stop, and gaze into it and say, "You handsome thing, don't you ever die"!

Bull sessions were often common in somebody's dorm room in our early years. Conversations ranged from girls to being warriors on the battlefield and being carried off the field on our shields if we became casualties. To say we were idealistic and full of our selves was an understatement. Pop Thomas was an Armor Officer and presented a great role model for us. We, The Mag Seven all wanted to become dashing young lieutenants of Armor and Cavalry and would purchase yellow Chevy Super Sport convertibles upon graduation and commissioning. I was the only one who got branched Armor and that was just for a one-year detail. Charlie was branched Field Artillery.

His favorite game was "barstools". Two players would face each other on barstools. A flip of a coin would determine who went first and that person would have to hit the other in the face with a closed fist. First one to fall off the stool was the looser. Needless to say, alcohol was involved. I played one time. I one the toss and hit Charlie. He just rocked back a bit on his stool. He reared back and hit me whereupon I took a dive because I knew I could not stand a second round.

At the end of our junior year we had to go to Indian Town Gap Military Reservation in Pennsylvania for ROTC summer camp for six weeks. Six of the Mag 7 went together so that we could all report in at the same time and be assigned to the same company. We piled in Jimmy Smith's Dad's station wagon with all our gear and headed out for Pennsylvania with an intermediate stop in Washington DC. Of all the sights to see in DC the only thing we did was to go to Arlington National Cemetery and watch in awe as the Old Guard marched back and forth at





Charles Thomas Bio Input Greg Lowe, COL, US Army (Retired)

the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. By night we partied in Georgetown and yelled at long haired hippies on the street.

Once we got to camp, we learned that personal desires for assignments did not trump the wants or needs of the Army. We all went to different companies and did not see each other again until the mid-camp break. Bill Spining's wife came up to see him but the other six of us piled into Smith's car again and set out for Gettysburg for the weekend. Charlie's Dad was from Gettysburg and Charlie had an aunt that lived there. She ran a dress shop in town and the six of us went in to visit her. It was akin to six bulls in a china shop, but she was delighted with the visit anyway. She pointed us to a party site for the evening with folks our age and plenty of beer. The townsfolk of Gettysburg talked about our visit for years afterward.

After camp we returned to campus and assumed the majority of the leadership roles in the cadet brigade for our senior year. Beginning in May 1968 through the Spring of 1969 we all graduated and were commissioned in the Regular Army and shipped off to our basic branch schools and some to Airborne and Ranger School. Charlie was one of the first to get orders for Vietnam. We all knew that we were going, it was just a matter of time. Charlie went in January 1970 and was assigned to the 173d Airborne Brigade up north. I followed in June of 1970 and served with the 18th MP Brigade in Long Binh. Larry Loftis left the 25th Infantry Division not too long after I got in country.

I saw Charlie one time while we were there. He spent a night or two with me at Long Binh in January 1971. He had extended his tour for six months because he liked what he was in the 173d. His extension earned him 30 days leave, so on his way to the States on leave or back from it he stopped over to see me. What a great time we had. We even figured out that we would be eligible to go home at the same time in June 1971. My roommate was the battalion personnel officer and he would work the system to make sure I left when Charlie did. Another one of those personal desires clashing with the needs of the Army probably.

Then on 8 April 1971, the darkest day of my life, Charlie was KIA in a nighttime mortar attack at his fire base. When the attack started, he left the safety of his bunker and ran across the compound to get his firing batteries into a counter





Charles Thomas Bio Input Greg Lowe, COL, US Army (Retired)

battery firing mode. He was struck in the back with exploding mortar fragments and killed.

Pop Thomas knew I was still in country and he called Department of the Army and asked for me by name to be Charlie's escort home. Clearly the greatest honor I have ever had but also the hardest thing that the Army ever asked me to do in my 30 years of active duty. I linked up with Charlie at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to begin his final trek home to Palm Bay, Florida. He was buried with full military honors. I presented the flag to LTC Thomas. After the service, we went back to the Thomas home where Pop Thomas took Larry Loftis and me into the kitchen and poured all a glass of Wild Turkey straight and we toasted our fallen warrior brother.

If Charlie Thomas was your friend, you did not need many others. There was not a thing in the world that he would not do for a friend.

We have created the CPT Charles F. Thomas IV Scholarship fund at Western Kentucky University for deserving ROTC Cadets. The fund currently stands at over \$108K.

COL (Ret.) Lowe shares this bio with the cadets that are awarded the scholarship.





More From A Best Friend
Greg Lowe, COL, US Army (Retired)

1550 South Black Branch Road
Cecilia, Kentucky 42724
19 July 2021

Commander
CPT Charles F. Thomas IV American Legion Post 117
189 Veterans' Drive
Palm Bay, Florida 32909

Dear Commander:

Enclosed is a banner honoring all Vietnam Veterans.

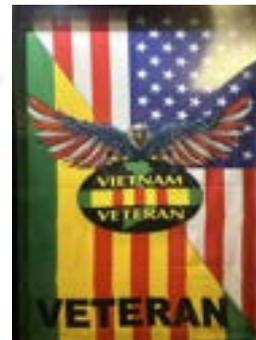
Charlie Thomas was my college roommate and best friend. We served in Vietnam together until he was KIA on 8 April 1971. His father LTC (R) Fred Thomas upon being informed of Charlie's death called the Department of the Army and asked for me, by name, to serve as Charlie's escort. Some months after that when I returned home at the end of my tour, I became the surrogate son for LTC and Mrs. Thomas and the brother to Charlie's four sisters. I think of him every day and am still in close contact with my adopted sisters. I was even a member of your post for a few years but as I continued my military career. I could not keep up with my membership there but am a member of the post here in Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

One of our fraternity brothers from Pershing Rifles at Western Kentucky University recently sent me the enclosed banner and asked that I forward it to you for display in your post as you see fit. It is meant to honor all Vietnam Veterans in your post and especially Charlie Thomas.

I thank you and your members for their service in our great Armed Forces and for honoring one of our fallen heroes.

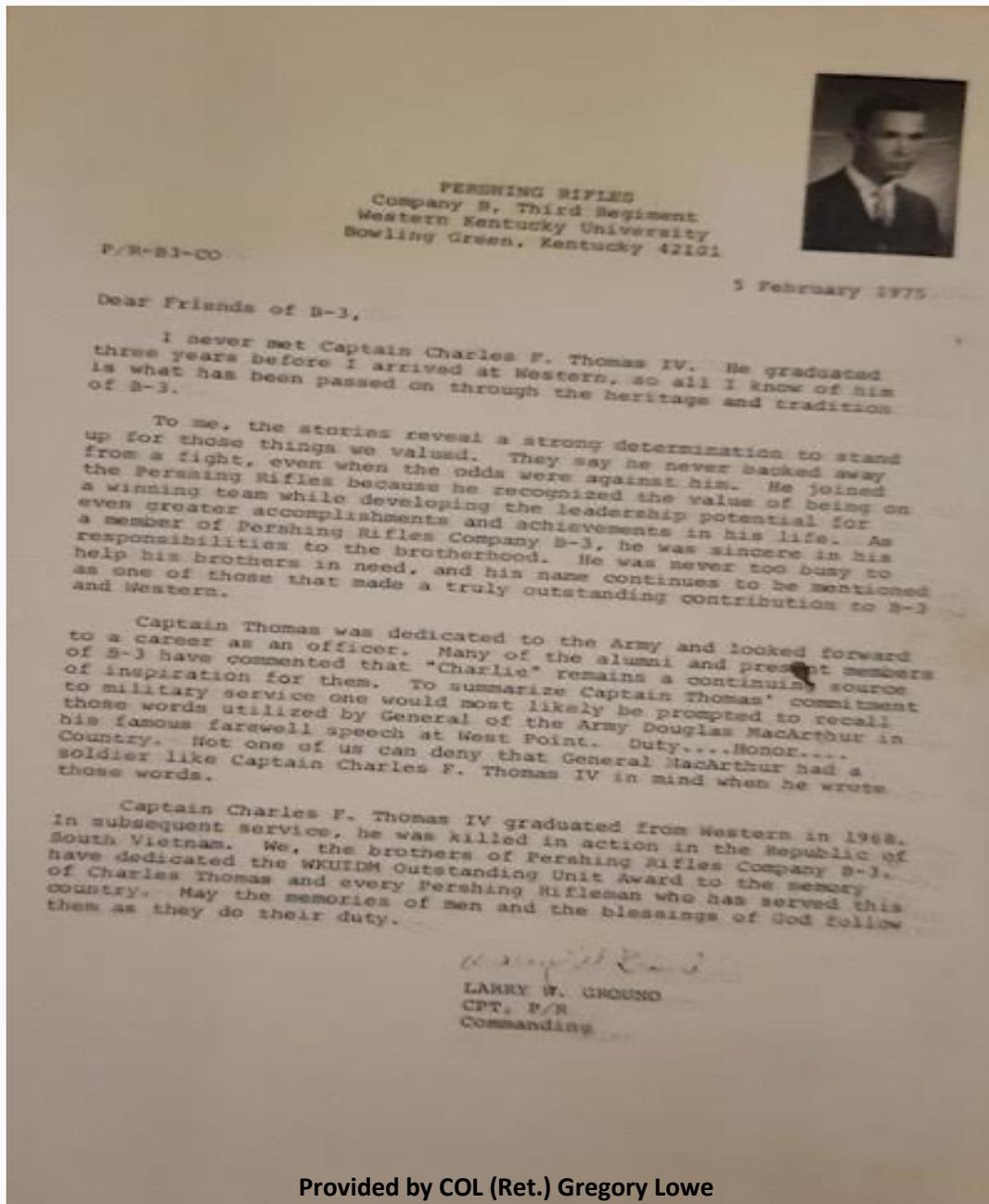
Sincerely,


Greg Lowe
Colonel, US Army (Retired)





Letter from
Pershing Rifles
Commander, Company B, Third Regiment
Western Kentucky University





Background of Captain Charles F. Thomas IV

CHARLES F. THOMAS IV

Born - June 13, 1956, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Early education - Colorado Springs, Colo. Hanover, Pa. Bad Kissingen, Germany. Columbus, GA. West Lafayette, IND.

High School. Graduate of Fort Knox High School, 1964. Played varsity Football. Life Guard at Officers' Club Swimming Pools.

College - Western Kentucky University. Member of the Pershing Rifles Championship Drill Team. Distinguished Military Graduate of W. K. U. January, 1969.

Military Service.

Commissioned 2nd Lt. Artillery January, 1969 and assigned to Battery C, 3rd Heavy Bn., 3rd Artillery, Ft. Knox, KY.

Assigned Field Artillery Basic Course, Fort Sill, Okla. Completed Basic Course June 6, 1969.

Completed Ranger School November 4, 1969

Completed Airborne School December 5, 1969.

Assigned 173rd Airborne Bde, 319th Field Artillery Bn. with duty 1st Bn (Abn) 503rd Infantry.

Decorations and Awards.

Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster
Air Medal.
Purple Heart.
Republic of Viet Nam Campaign.
Viet Nam Service Medal.
National Order of Viet Nam 5th Class.

Captain Thomas was serving his second tour of duty in Viet Nam. He volunteered for both tours.

He served in Viet Nam from January 1970 to April 8, 1971.





Dedication of the
Captain Charles F. Thomas IV Room of Honor
Western Kentucky University
April 28, 2005

*Dedication of the CPT Charles F. Thomas, IV Room of Honor
-COL (Ret) Gregory Lowe-
April 28, 2005*

We came this afternoon to specifically dedicate a classroom in honor of CPT Charles F. Thomas IV. At the same time we also honor the memory of all Western alumni and students who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. This memorial has been a long time in coming, not because the University didn't support it, but because we didn't figure out what we wanted to do. LTC Baker, I thank you for getting behind this project and making it happen. CPT Lewis thanks for your special efforts.

Charlie Thomas was our classmate, pledge brother, and most importantly, our friend. We shared a kindred spirit and belief that we were predestined to be soldiers. We pursued that dream to its fulfillment in our four great years at Western. But Charlie's career was ended all too soon in April 1971.

Brenda shared a poem with me the other day that really put all of this in perspective for me. The gist of the poem had to do with the year of our birth and the year of our death, and how we define ourselves with numbers and a dash in between. For Charlie, that dash was 1971. Not quite 25 years. The poem stressed that it is really the dash in between those years and what we do with that time that is important, not how long a time it is. In living his dash, Charlie Thomas lived it to the fullest.

He was often heard to say, "Life is just a bowl of cherries" which he sometimes corrupted into "Life is just a chair of bowlies" - which if you knew him, and heard it in certain situations, spoke volumes. He was a character. Funny, vibrant, fiercely loyal, a patriot, a brother, and a son. He did a Burt Lancaster impression better than Burt did. Or, he turned his glasses upside down and became a WWII Japanese fighter pilot. But, it was the influence he had on everybody he met that cannot be measured. Life was made better for all of us because of him. I don't know that he ever had a bad day.

When were in school, going home to Fort Knox with Charlie for the weekend was always a special treat. His dad, Colonel Fred Thomas schooled us on the warrior ethos; Mom Thomas fed us like kings; liquid refreshment was always available; and, four beautiful sisters were always close by to watch what a band of want-to-be-warriors would do next. Army bunk beds were set up in the basement of the Thomas household to accommodate our weekend visits. On one visit, Mom Thomas offered us a sample of a dish she had prepared for an evening cocktail party. I think she was expecting fifty people; six of us made short work of the dish and ate it all. Don't know what she did for her guests.

We were idealistic in those days. The country was at war. We knew we were going, and I suppose, looked forward to the opportunity. Mom, I can confess this now, Charlie and I had a pact that if we flunked out of school we were going to enlist in the Army under the Buddy Plan and go win the war. Charlie and I linked up in Vietnam in early 1971 and planned our return to the States in June, absolutely convinced that we could arrange to leave together. Leaving together is what we did some two months later, but with me serving as his escort. The war became ugly and personal, and our friend was gone. But his spirit lives on. For you see, Charlie Thomas embodied the Western motto of "the Spirit Makes the Master" in everything he did. Six of us were better soldiers because of him and because of the influence of the Thomas Family. And, for that, we thank them.

So today, we dedicate this room of honor to the spirit and memory of CPT Charles F. Thomas, and our other fallen heroes who spent any time in this great university. He will serve as an inspiration to our young folks who are leaders in training.

Provided by: LTC Struzik, Western Kentucky University, Professor of Military Science

Written by COL (Ret.) Gregory Lowe

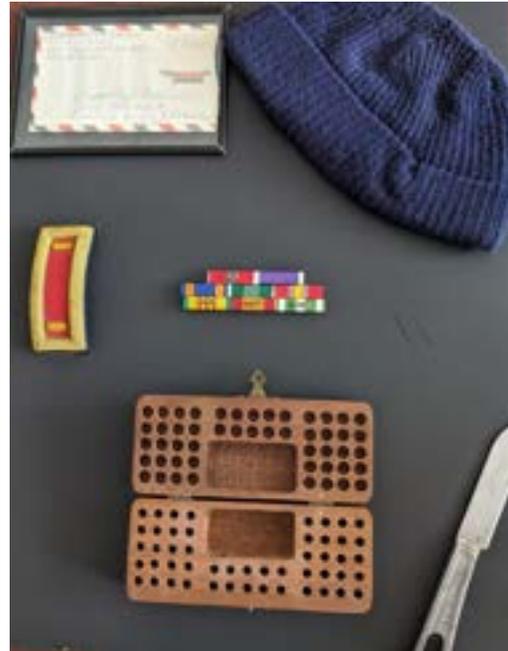




Memorabilia from Western Kentucky University
Captain Charles F. Thomas IV Room of Honor



CPT Thomas' Class A Uniform



Watch cap, ammo case, mess kit knife, ribbon rack, and dress uniform rank. The letter is from CPT Thomas to a cadet at WKU while he was deployed. There was a great tradition of past cadets communicating with the current cadets and sharing stories and experiences.

Primary instruction room for
Military Science 100, 300, and 400
level cadets



**Room
Of
Honor**

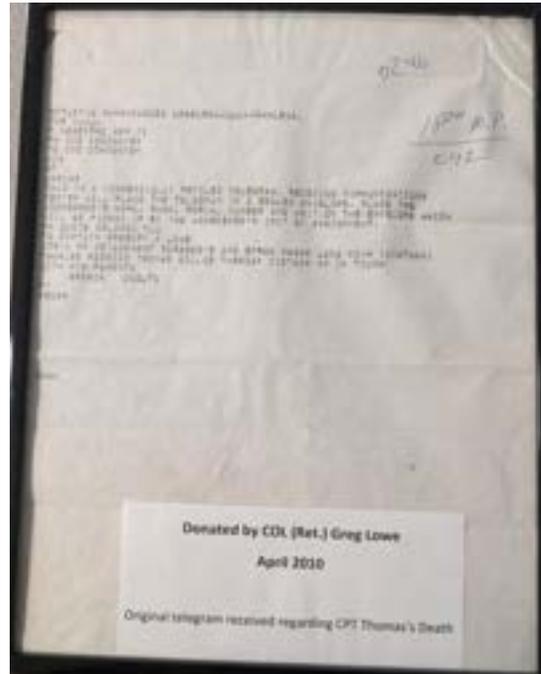




Memorabilia from Western Kentucky University
Captain Charles F. Thomas IV Room of Honor



CPT Thomas while at WKU



Telegram sent to family upon his passing.

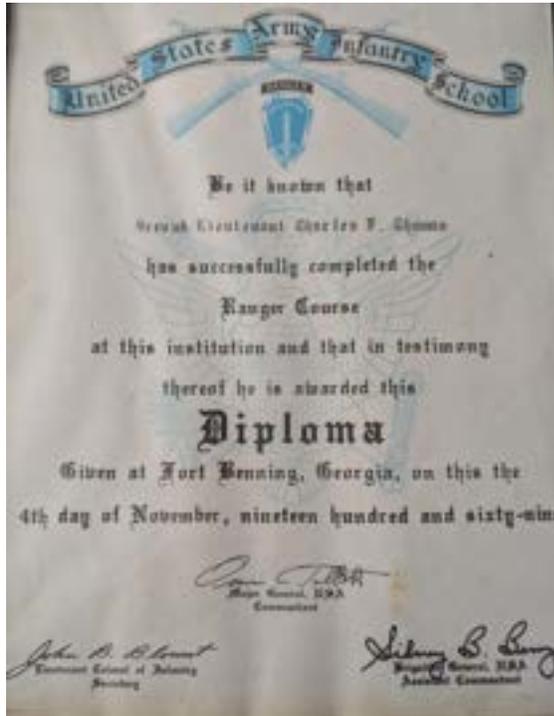


WKU Hall of Fame plaque for CPT Thomas





Memorabilia from Western Kentucky University
Captain Charles F. Thomas IV Room of Honor



Ranger Course Diploma November 4, 1969



Airborne Course Diploma December 5, 1969



WKU Bachelor of Science Degree June 1969





Update from an email dated 1/26/2024
LTC Struzik, WKU, Professor of Military Science

In the summer of 2023, the WKU ROTC department relocated from the ground floor of Diddle Arena to the second floor.

On Veteran's day weekend, the department hosted alumni and friends to a department re-dedication ceremony. For the re-dedication, the department updated the signs and displays in the four rooms of honor we host. We were proud to update and display the memorabilia of CPT Thomas provided by his family and friends and from the department archives. During that weekend, and annually on that weekend, proud Veterans of Company B-3 of the Pershing Rifles (and Rebelettes) that attended WKU take the time to remember and honor those classmates no longer with us. This is held in the Charlie Thomas room.

CPT Thomas has a scholarship presented annually to a deserving cadet, ensuring that his legacy endures as we train Army Leaders.

Scholarship Recipients



COL (Ret.) Gregory Lowe is the founder of the CPT Charles F. Thomas IV Scholarship.
Gabriel Hamilton-Canabal—



Patti Lynch (sister of CPT Thomas), Greg Lowe, & CDT Evan Alexander, Scholarship recipient





City of Palm Bay - Through The Years

1887: Early homesteaders settle in a town called Tillman, located at the mouth of Turkey Creek.

1925: The 200 residents of Tillman decide their name doesn't accurately depict the charming town and petition to change the name to Palm Bay.

1960: Under the leadership of Mayor Harry Pollak and the Town Council, Palm Bay continues to grow and is incorporated as a city with 2,808 residents.

1963: Scenic U.S. Route 1 (US 1) is completed.

1966: The city's first school Palm Bay Elementary is built.

1967: Fire Station 1 is built on Palm Bay Road. Harris-Seybold acquires Radiation, Inc., known today as Harris Corporation.

1974: The city's first bank and motel are built.

1984: The first city library opens on Port Malabar Boulevard.

1990: Palm Bay becomes the most populous city in Brevard County with 62,632 residents.

1992: Palm Bay Community Hospital opens.

2004: Hurricanes Charley, Frances and Jeanne impact the city with \$13 million dollars in damage and debris cleanup.

2006: The city's population reaches over 100,000 residents.

2009: Palm Bay receives certification as a "Green Local Government" by Florida Green Building Coalition.

2010: The City of Palm Bay celebrates 50 years.





City of Palm Bay - Through The Years (cont'd)

2011: The new City Hall Annex is completed, providing a central location for services.

2014: Harris Corporation opens the \$130 million Technology Center on Palm Bay Road.

2016: Palm Bay completes the southern portion of the St. Johns Heritage Parkway and announces the building of a new 1-95 interchange in south Palm Bay.

2018: Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville metro area named # 1 for tech salaries with the average salary of \$159,390, over three times the average state salary of \$50,560.





Military Tribute Banner Program Returns to Palm Bay

Post Date: 07/24/2023 7:59 AM

The City of Palm Bay is proud to announce the return of their Military Tribute Banner Program honoring the world's greatest defenders of freedom, the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. This will be the fourth consecutive year the city has participated in this program. Beginning this Veterans Day, active-duty military, and veterans with ties to Palm Bay, will be honored with patriotic banners displayed at one of three locations throughout the city.

Last year's program saw 17 different banners displayed at Palm Bay City Hall from Veterans Day through Memorial Day. This year there are expected to be even more banners commissioned.

Palm Bay residents and business owners are invited to honor their beloved veterans, active-duty, reserve, and National Guard members by sponsoring a beautiful 24" x 48" full color banner featuring a photo of the honoree, their name, service details, as well as the name of the sponsoring family or business. The tribute banners will be displayed at Palm Bay City Hall, Veterans Memorial Park, or Fred Poppe Regional Park from Veterans Day 2023 through Memorial Day 2024.

The cost to sponsor a banner is \$100 and reservations will be first come, first served. Participants will receive the banner after it is taken down next year as a keepsake and a "thank you" from the City of Palm Bay. Gold Star families and new enlistments will receive their banner at no cost. Banners can be ordered through Friday, October 13, 2023.

To sponsor a banner and for program details, visit www.MilitaryTributeBanners.org/florida/palm-bay-fl.html or contact Andy Dimmig at andy.dimmig@pbfl.org.

Veteran Service Officer

The City of Palm Bay, in partnership with the Brevard County Veteran Services Office, is pleased to announce the opening of a new location in Palm Bay to better serve our esteemed veterans.

The City of Palm Bay and the Board of County Commissioners aim to provide dedicated assistance and support to veterans and their families residing in the Palm Bay area. The new office is scheduled to open on January 2, 2024.

Location:

Palm Bay City Hall
120 Malabar Rd, Palm Bay, FL 32907
Community and Economic Development, Room 229

Office Hours:

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday

Appointments:

To ensure personalized attention, appointments will be required for all services. Walk-ins will be accommodated based on availability.

Contact Information:

Brevard County Veteran Service Office
Phone: 321-633-2012

The City of Palm Bay is excited to partner with the Brevard County Veteran Services Office to offer comprehensive assistance with benefits, resources, and guidance. Whether you are a veteran seeking information on benefits, healthcare, or employment opportunities, their team is there to serve you.

For more information, please visit <https://www.brevardfl.gov/HousingAndHumanServices/VeteranServices>





Palm Bay Police Department
Supports
American Legion Post 117 & Post 394





Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117
189 Veterans Dr SE, Palm Bay, FL 32909



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ BE THE ONE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ BE THE ONE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Amenities





Commander Terry Struven
American Legion Post 117
2023—2024



Military Service:

- ◆ USAF Vietnam Era—1973—1980

Civil Service:

- ◆ 1980—2009
- ◆ Retired with 35 years devoted service to our country.

I have been a proud member of the American Legion for 20 years with 17 of those years at Post 117.

Post Positions held from 2008—2012:

- ◆ 1st Vice Commander
- ◆ 2nd Vice Commander
 - ◆ Post Adjutant
- ◆ Acting Finance Officer
- ◆ Acting Canteen Manager

2019—2020—2nd Vice Commander

2022—2023—3rd Vice Commander

2023—2024—Commander





Acknowledgements

Agnieszka “Agnes” Garry, (photos)

Andy Campbell, S.A.L Commander, Squadron 117, (Special Olympic donations)

Bobby Ampezzan, Bobby.Ampezzan@HF.org, Health First Media Contact
(article)

Bobby Dye, American Legion Finance Officer, (photos)

Brenda Miskow, Unit 117 Auxiliary First Vice Commander (photos)

Chris Livingston, (reviewer)

City of Palm Bay, <https://www.palmbayflorida.org/home> (history)

Connie Koonce, American Legion Post/Chapter 137, Jacksonville, FL (photos)

David Bolduc, American Legion Post 117 Member, (photos)

Greg Lowe, COL (Retired), US Army, Best Friend of CPT Charles Thomas (photos
& documents)

Jeannie Perry, American Legion Post 117 Adjutant, (General Meeting Minutes)

Jesse Suelter, American Legion Post 117, 1st Vice Commander (photos)

John C. Kiernan, A Veteran’s Prayer

Kevin McGarry, Service Officer, American Legion Post 117 (photos)

Lauren Livingston, (photos)

Leo Belanger, Blood Donor Program Chair, (donation stats)

Lois Stachelrodt, Department of Florida, Emblem Sales (Past Post
Commanders List)

LTC Anthony Struzik, Professor of Military Science, Western Kentucky University
(photos & documents)





Acknowledgements

Malcolm Denmark, Florida Today (photo)

Maryann Spellman, Unit 117 Junior Chairman, (photos)

Terry Struven, American Legion Post 117 Commander, (photos)

The Florida Keys & Key West Keys Voices Fred the Tree: The Florida Keys'
'Celebri-Tree' (fla-keys.com)

The Four Chaplains, <https://fourchaplains.org/the-four-chaplains>

Tim Shortt, Florida Today (photos)

Tina Hubbard, District 12 Historian (photos)

Tommy Griffin, American Legion Post 117 Member, (photos)

Victor Velasquez, Hospice of Health First (photos)

Virna Luke, ALAFL Public Relations, (photos)

William "Bill" Davidson, American Legion Post 117, Past Post Commander
(photos)

www.legion.org/history (data)





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Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

**FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER
FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:**

**To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
To maintain law and order;**

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;

**To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and
nation;**

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

**To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and
democracy:**

**To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual
helpfulness.**





Chapter 1: Post Officers





Installation of Officers

Saturday

June 24, 2023

1400 hrs. (2PM)

In the Hall





Post 117 Officers
2023-2024



**Commander
Terry Struven**



**1st Vice Commander
Jess Suelter**



**2nd Vice Commander
Ray Wright**



**3rd Vice Commander
Jimmy Donovan**



**Adjutant
Jeannie Perry**



**Finance Officer
Bobby Dye**



**Historian
Dana Jackson**



**Chaplain
Donna Walkowiak**



**SGT-At-Arms
Chris Livingston**



**SGT-At-Arms
Vacant**



**Judge Advocate
Doug Perry**



**Service Officer
Kevin McGarry**



**Executive Committee
Jim Fournier**



**Executive Committee
Chris Hamrick**



**Past Commander
Bill Davidson**





Chapter 2: Program Chairpersons





Program Chairs

American Legion Riders	Jeff Cox
Americanism	Ray Wright
Baseball	Jeannie Perry
Blood Donor	Leo Belanger
Boys State	Kevin McGarry
Children & Youth	Terry Struven
Disaster Preparedness	Chris Hamrick
Employment	Jimmy Donovan
Historian	Dana Jackson
Homeless Veteran Outreach	Not Filled
JROTC/ROTC	Not Filled
Junior Shooting Sports	Kevin McGarry
Law & Order	Chris Livingston
Membership	Jesse Suelter
Oratorical	Not Filled
POW/MIA Remembrance	Vacant
Project Vet Relief	Stan Wood
Public Relations	Terry Struven
Scholarships	Not Filled
School Medals	Kevin McGarry
Scouting	Kevin McGarry
Sea Cadets	Not Filled
Special Olympics	Jeannie Perry
Women Veteran Advocacy	Not Filled
Youth Law Cadet	Jess Suelter





Chapter 3: One-Year Post History





Post Calendar June 2023

June 2023

Rev.0



Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Canteen Opens 10am every day Monday's Men's Night Free Pool All Day Wednesday's Ladies night wing night Sunday Full menu and steamed Shrimp 1pm—4:45pm Show Me the Money 1—3pm every Tuesday Ace of Spades Every Tuesday Last ticket sold 7:20pm				1	2	3
				Pool Tournament 1pm-?	Riders Dinner 5-7p Meatloaf	Pool Tournament 1pm-?
				Riders Meeting 6:30pm	Vince 6:30 - 10:30p	Double Trouble 6:30 - 10:30p
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Veteran Fishing Trip 5:30am Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Men's Night BOGO 1/2 off 6-9pm-close Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Big Azz Burger Ace of Spades 7:30pm	Wing Night 5-7pm Ladies Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm DJ - Alvin 6:30 - 9:30p	Pool Tournament 1pm-? 40&8 7pm	SAL Dinner Fish Fry 5-7p Jimmy D 6:30 - 10:30p	DI - Alvin 6:30 - 10:30p
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Shrimp & Wings Only 3-5pm Last Order 4:45 Tom Wood Memorial Service 1pm Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Men's Night BOGO 1/2 off 6-9pm-close Aux EC Meeting 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Tacos Ace of Spades 7:30pm	Flag Day Army Birthday Cake @ 4:30 Wing Night 5-7pm Ladies Night SAL Meeting 6:30pm Jimmy D 6:30 - 9:30p	Department Convention June 15th to 18th Pool Tournament 1pm-? Aux Meeting 7pm	AUX Dinner 5-7p Pot Roast & Noodles Ken Snyder 6:30 - 10:30p	Pool Tournament 1pm-? Shelley & Dave 6:30 - 10:30p
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Father's Day 9 till 2 Shrimp & Wings Only 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Men's Night BOGO 1/2 off 6-9pm-close Riders EC Meeting 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Big Azz Burger Ace of Spades 7:30pm	Wing Night 5-7pm Ladies Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm Legion EC 6pm Legion Meeting 7pm DJ Chuck 6:30 - 9:30p	Pool Tournament 1pm-?	Legion Dinner 5-7p Joe Calautti 6:30 - 10:30p	Installation of Officers 2pm in the Hall June Birthday Cake Karaoke Chuck 6:30 - 10:30p
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Men's Night BOGO 1/2 off 6-9pm-close Ways & Means 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Tacos Ace of Spades 7:30pm	Wing Night 5-7pm Ladies Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm Vince 6:30 - 9:30p	Pool Tournament 1pm-?	Scouts Dinner 5-7p Baked Ziti Jimmy D 6:30 - 10:30p	





The American Legion, Department of Florida
104th Statewide Convention
Orlando, Florida
June 15—18, 2023

Eric Nestler, Randy Holifield, Eric Lloyd, Bruce Thurber, Toni Sutherland, & Rico Thomas.



Ed Lewis, Les Martins, Chris Hamrick, Barry Roberts, Eunice Butts & her Family, Jessica Moore, Jim Ramos give Eunice her departing gift.





Department of Florida 2023 Convention

Thursday, June 15, 2023

- | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| 8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Legion Headquarters Office | Grand 1-2 |
| Post Registration, Programs Information, Membership Cards, & History Book Display. (Post Registration is mandatory before voting takes place.) Closed for lunch 10:30am – 11:30am | | |
| 8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Emblem Sales | Grand 4 |
| Visit Emblem Sales for all of your Legion and Department gear, pins, patches and more. You can also order online at floridalegionstore.org . | | |
| 8:00 am – 4:00 pm | Service Officer School – Day 1 | Palm 4-5 |
| This is a two-day informative Post Service Officer class that covers all veteran benefits. Certificate and certification card provided upon completion. Attendance required both days. *Pre-Registration required (limited seating), go to: floridalegion.org/classes | | |
| 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | Post Membership Training | International Ballroom |
| This course will review the main question: “Where do we go from here?” Course instructor will review the new electronic way to process membership, tactics, and discuss how to properly execute the membership plan and achieving 100% Membership. | | |
| 10:30 am – 11:30 am | Department Finance Committee Meeting | Narcissus / Orange |
| Open to all Legionnaires. This meeting will provide a review of the Department’s finances during the past year and address financial issues as needed. | | |
| 11:00 am – 12:30 pm | Food Handler’s Course | Camelia / Dogwood |
| This class is for food handlers to provide best practices and procedures to manage risk while handling and processing food and beverages and how to protect your Post. *Pre-Registration required (limited seating), go to: floridalegion.org/classes | | |
| 11:00 am – 12:00 pm | Buddy Check Training | Fuchsia / Gardenia |
| Class to give out information and training on the importance of performing regular buddy checks. | | |
| 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm | Internal Affairs | International Ballroom |
| This meeting will cover reports from the following Convention Committees: Amendments to Constitution & By-Laws, Credentials, Resolutions and Time & Place. Each Post having a duly qualified delegation present may send one delegate to this meeting to vote on the matters that will be decided. *All voting members must have a black ribbon in order to vote, which can be picked up at registration* | | |
| 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm | Fundraising Class | Camellia / Dogwood |
| Legionnaires can expect to learn about a variety of fundraising techniques that can boost other Post initiatives. | | |
| 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm | Department Executive Committee Meeting | International Ballroom |
| This meeting will cover current Post matters, budget approval and general Department announcements. *Only Executive Committee Members can address the Committee* | | |
| 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm | Legion Riders District Chair Meeting | Narcissus / Orange |
| All Legion Riders District Chairs will learn about their role as a District Chair and the year’s upcoming events. | | |
| 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm | 2023 Convention Kick-Off Party | Poolside |
| American Legion Family Event. Come celebrate our Convention! Enjoy music, free beer, wine and | | |





Friday, June 16, 2023

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Legion Headquarters Office

Post Registration, Programs Information, Membership Cards, & History Book Display. (Post Registration is mandatory before voting takes place.) Closed for lunch 10:30am – 11:30am

Grand 1-2

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Emblem Sales

Visit Emblem Sales for all of your Legion and Department gear, pins, patches and more. You can also order online at floridalegionstore.org.

Grand 4

8:00 am – 1:00 pm Service Officer School – Day 2

This is a two-day informative Post Service Officer class that covers all veteran benefits. Certificate and certification card provided upon completion. Attendance required both days. **Pre-Registration required* (limited seating), go to: floridalegion.org/classes

Palm 4-5

8:00 am – 1:00 pm General Session Day 1

This meeting will cover Department Officer reports & awards, Commission/Committee reports & awards, and Department Officer nominating speeches. Strongly recommended for all Legionnaires to attend.

International Ballroom

1:30 pm – 2:15 pm Area Caucuses

Central Area

Narcissus / Orange

Eastern Area

Camellia / Dogwood

Northern Area

Kahili / Lily

Southern Area

Fuchsia / Gardenia

Southwestern Area

Hibiscus / Iris

Western Area

Azalea / Begonia

Area Caucuses will cover end of year reports and the election of the new Area Commanders. Meeting is held by the current Area Commander. Mandatory for District and Area Commanders. Must be a member of the Area to vote.

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Post Adjutant’s Training

This course will cover details pertaining to the duties and responsibilities of a Post Adjutant.

Palm 4-5

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Post Historian Class

Learn how to put History Narratives and Yearbooks together and best practices to maintain your Post’s history.

Narcissus / Orange

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Post Chaplain’s Training

As a spiritual leader, the Chaplain is an integral part of all American Legion ceremonies. Learn about your role as Chaplain for Legion events, prayer writing, promoting Four Chaplains Sunday, providing spiritual leadership and submitting annual reports to outline your Post’s achievements from the year.

Camellia / Dogwood

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Post Sgt-at-Arms, Color & Honor Guard Training

This class will cover in detail the expected duties and responsibilities of a Post Sgt-at-Arms and how your Color & Honor Guard can be more involved with Legion and community events.

International Ballroom

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Womens Veterans Forum

All women veterans are encouraged to attend. Opportunity to voice concerns/ask questions.

Fuchsia / Gardenia

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm PVR Advocate Training

Attendees can expect to learn more about the PROJECT VetRelief program and how it helps Florida’s veterans with financial assistance and suicide prevention.

Hibiscus / Iris

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm Post Operations Training

This course will provide general instruction on how to run a successful Post. Topics will include an explanation of The American Legion Organization, officer responsibilities, Post programs & business, social functions, Post audits, public relations, challenges and preparation, and helpful Post resources.

Palm 4-5





Friday, June 16, 2023 Cont'd

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm 20/4 Echelon 30 Meeting

Honor Society of female members of the American Legion. Female members of the Legion are encouraged to attend and learn the benefits of becoming involved with this group. Special presentation "A Dose of Courage", all invited.

Fuchsia / Gardenia

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm FALMA Executive Board Meeting

Narcissus / Orange

5:15 pm – 6:15 pm FALMA General Meeting

Narcissus / Orange

Florida American Legion Media Association meeting. Open to all members of The American Legion family (Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL & Riders). This meeting will discuss the future of FALMA and how FALMA can assist you to develop a media/public relations/marketing program for your post. Your involvement is needed. Please attend.

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Cocktail Hour

International Foyer

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm Commander's and President's Banquet

International Ballroom

Attendees will enjoy delicious food and great entertainment. Check the covention section of our website for a detailed flyer in the near future. Ticket prices TBD.





Saturday, June 17, 2023

- 8:00 am – 3:00 pm Legion Headquarters Office Grand 1-2**
 Post Registration, Programs Information, Membership Cards, & History Book Display. (Post Registration is mandatory before voting takes place.) ****Closed for lunch 10:30 am – 11:30 am**** ****Registration closes at 9:45 am****
- 8:00 am – 3:00 pm Emblem Sales Grand 4**
 Visit Emblem Sales for all of your Legion and Department gear, pins, patches and more. You can also order online at floridalegionstore.org.
- 8:00 am – 2:00 pm General Session Day 2 International Ballroom**
 Continuation of Commission/Committee reports & awards, and Special Order of Business – Election of Officers 2023-2024. Strongly recommended for all Legionnaires to attend.
- TBD Election of Officers – Electronic Voting Crystal**
- 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Election Results International Ballroom**
- 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm ALR General Session International Ballroom**
 This will cover Area and District reports, SOP’s, Charters, EOY Report, Awards, and 2023-2024 Goals.
- 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Post Commander’s Training Palm 4-5**
 This course will cover details pertaining to the duties and responsibilities of a Post Commander.
- 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Post Finance Officer Training Narcissus / Orange**
 This course will cover details pertaining to the duties and responsibilities of a Post Finance Officer.
- 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Post Judge Advocate Training Camellia / Dogwood**
 This course will cover how to advise the different sections of the Legion and how to interpret the Constitution and By-Laws of the Post, District & Area.
- 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Legislative Training Hibiscus / Iris**
 Get ready for Legislative session! Learn how to get to know your Legislators.
- 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Homeless Veterans Training Fuchsia / Gardenia**
 Class designed to gather information to assist in helping the Homeless Veterans in the state.
- 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Veterans Benefits Kahili / Lily**
 Class to give out information about available VA benefits.
- 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Baseball Training Azalea / Begonia**
 Training class for baseball coaches, managers or volunteers covering baseball registration, background checks, safety training, insurance and rosters.
- 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm Installation of Officers International Ballroom**
 Installation Ceremony for Department Officers, Area Commanders, District Commanders & District Vice Commanders
- 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm Installation of Officers Reception Palm 4-5**
 Congratulations to our newly installed American Legion Officers. This reception is for you!





Sunday, June 18, 2023

8:30 am – 9:00 am **Religious Service**

Palm 1-2

9:30 am – 10:30 am **Department Executive Committee Meeting**

International Ballroom

First official Department Executive Committee meeting after the installation of officers. All newly elected and existing Executive Committee Officers are required to attend. This meeting will cover important and upcoming Department of Florida events throughout the year.

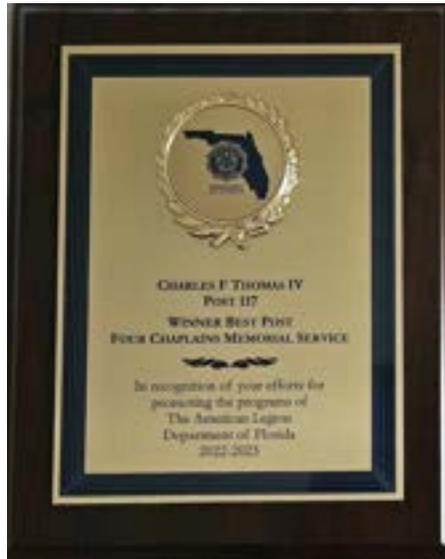




2023 Department of Florida Convention
Awards Recognition
June 2023



Dana Jackson, ALR Historian
Winner



Four Chaplains Memorial Service
Winner



Religious Emphasis Winner



Most Outstanding Unit Junior
Activities Program –Department of
Florida



Most Outstanding Unit Junior
Activities Program Southern Division



Sons of the American Legion
Squadron 117—Level of Excellence
\$16,586.16





Post Calendar July 2023

July 2023

Rev.0



Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Post opens daily at 10am Kitchen is open 1 - 5pm Sunday Look for daily food specials on Facebook Tiki opens: TUESDAY's 5pm FRIDAY's 3pm SATURDAY 's 2pm SUNDAY's 1pm						1 Pool Tournament 1pm-? New to Post 117 Ken Nixon 6:30 - 10:30p
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Independence Day Lunch 12 - 7? Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Ace of Spades 7:30pm	Wing Night 5-7pm Ladies Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm DJ Alvin 6:30 - 9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm-? Aux Steak Shoot 7pm Riders Meeting 6:30pm	Riders Dinner 5-7pm Prime Rib Vince 6:30 - 10:30pm	DJ John Pettinicchio 6:30 - 10:30pm
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm Aux EC Meeting 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Tacos Ace of Spades 7:30pm	Wing Night 5-7pm Ladies Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm SAL Meeting 6:30pm DJ Jimmy D. 6:30 - 10:30pm	Pool Tourney 1pm-? 4088 Meeting 7pm	SAL Dinner Fish Fry 5-7p Jimmy D. 6:30 - 10:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm-? Karaoke—Chuck 6:30 - 10:30pm
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm Riders EC Mtg 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Big Azz Burger Ace of Spades 7:30pm	Wing Night 5-7pm Ladies Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm Legion EC 6pm Legion Meeting 7pm Vince 6:30 - 9:30	Pool Tournament 1pm-? Aux Meeting 7pm	AUX Dinner 5 - 7p COUNTRY FRIED STEAK Shelley & Dave 6:30 - 10:30	Legion Family Meeting 10am DJ Alvin 6:30 - 10:30pm
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29
Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm 24th Ways & Means 6pm	Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Cuban Sandwiches Ace of Spades 7:30pm	Wing Night 5-7pm Ladies Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm DJ Chuck 6:30 - 10:30	Pool Tournament 1pm-? Bike Night w/ food 5pm-7	Legion Dinner 5-7p Marco's Pulled Pork Jimmy D. 6:30 - 10:30pm	July Birthdays 7pm Bring Covered Dishes Mark Canada Karaoke 6:30 - 10:30pm





Legion General Meeting Minutes



Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post #117
Family Meeting Minutes



July 22nd, 2023

Call to Order at 1005 hours. Opening Ceremonies Conducted.

Previous Meeting Minutes: None due to first meeting of year.

Unfinished Business:

1. None.

New Business:

1. LEGION: Commander Struven.
 - a. Acknowledged and thanked Post Officers and Volunteers.
 - b. Advised NFL ticket to return at discounted rate.
 - c. Advised BOGO and Seat draws may return.
 - d. 50/50 raffles will take place on Wednesday with monies raised going to appropriate weekly families.
 - e. Ice machine was replaced.
 - f. Bar stools will be replaced in Canteen. Each Family will be asked to offset the cost with a \$500.00 donation.
 - g. City of Palm Bay asked that Post 117 assist with Veterans Day Celebration at Veterans Park November 11th, 2023 with food and beverage sales.
 - h. A frozen drink machine may be purchased for the Canteen. Each Family will be asked to offset the cost with a \$200.00 donation.
 - i. Acknowledged Juniors and work accomplished by them.
 - j. Acknowledged Lisa Meeks for her work during the Cornhole tournaments.
2. SONS: Commander Campbell:
 - a. Inquired about 50/50 on Tuesday during Ace of Spades. Agreed that each family can do one during their week.
 - b. Suggested that for Ace of Spades payout be 80% of pot if winner is not a member of Post 117.
 - c. Addressed the fascia on both pavilions need installed.
 - d. Asked about the installation of the split rail fence that was approved. Stated SAL will help if needed.
 - e. Requested an annual ride/benefit honoring SAL Member Tom Wood in October with proceeds going to Special Olympics.
 - f. Bruce Walkowiak is planning a meeting with the Honor Guard in the near future. All interested should attend.

3. AUXILLIARY: Pat Lucky





Legion Meeting Minutes

July 2023 General Minutes (Continued)

- a. Requested TV's and Facebook be updated with current information in a timely manner.
4. RIDERS: Director Jeff Cox:
 - a. Nothing to add.
5. FROM THE FLOOR:
 - a. Ray Wright related that due to several members asking for the Kitchen to be open more, the hours will increase during events and busy times.
 - b. Bill Davidson spoke concerning the 911 ceremony and its status. New procedures were discussed in reference the food delivery which will be implemented this year.
 - c. Jess Suelter advised a "Membership Committee" would be forms with members from each family. Volunteers were asked for.
 - d. Bruce Thurber acknowledged Maryann Spellman and the Juniors stating that program will be moved to the District level.
 - e. Sheila Benard stated that members have spoken with the PICs who were working the Tiki reference the fans and AC. It was determined the fans will be turned on in the mornings that the Tiki will be open and only the PIC will adjust or activate the fans and AC.

Meeting Adjourned at 1112 hours. Closing Ceremonies Conducted.

SUBMITTED: Jess Suelter, Post Adjutant





Post Calendar August 2023

August 2023 Rev.0 **AMERICAN LEGION** Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Post opens daily at 10am Kitchen is open 1 - 5pm Sunday Look for daily food specials on Facebook Tiki opens: TUESDAY's 5pm FRIDAY's 3pm SATURDAY 's 2pm SUNDAY's 1pm		1	2	3	4	5
		Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Tacos Ace of Spades 7:30pm	Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm DJ Jimmy D. 6:30 - 10:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm-7 Riders Meeting 6:30pm	Riders Dinner 5-7pm Stuffed Cabbage Coast Guard Birthday Cake 4:30pm Ken Snyder 6:30 - 10:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm-7 Kitchen open 11-4pm District Training Post 189 10am DJ Alvin 6:30 - 10:30pm
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Big Azz Burger Ace of Spades 7:30pm	Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm SAL Meeting 6:30pm DJ Chuck 6:30 - 10:30	Pool Tourney 1pm-7	SAL Dinner Fish Fry 5-7p Vince 6:30 - 10:30pm	Private Party in the Hall 6 - 10pm Karaoke—Chuck 6:30 - 10:30pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Honor Guard Practice Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm Aux EC Meeting 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Tacos Ace of Spades 7:30pm	Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm Legion EC 6pm Legion Meeting 7pm Vince 6:30 - 9:30	Pool Tournament 1pm-7 Aux Meeting 7pm	AUX Dinner 5-7p Fried Shrimp Jimmy D. 6:30 - 10:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm-7 Kitchen open 11-4pm Mark Canada Karaoke 6:30 - 10:30pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm Riders EC Mtg 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Big Azz Burger Ace of Spades 7:30pm	Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm DJ Alvin 6:30 - 9:30pm	Pool 1pm Kitchen open 6 - 9pm Riders Steak Shoot 7:30pm	Legion Dinner 5-7p Double Trouble 6:30 - 10:30pm	August Birthdays Potluck 6:30pm Shelley & Dave 6:30 - 10:30
27	28	29	30	31		
Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Honor Guard Practice Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm Ways & Means 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Tacos Ace of Spades 7:30pm	Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO 1/2 off 6pm DJ Jimmy D. 6:30 - 10:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm-7		





Legion General Meeting Minutes



Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117
General Membership
Meeting Minutes



August 16th, 2023

Call to Order at 1912 hours. Opening Ceremonies Conducted with Charter uncovered.

Roll Call of Officers: All Present and Accounted for with the exception of Gary Bernard Absent Bill Davidson Excused.

Previous Meeting Minutes were read and approved.

Introduction of VIP/Guests/New Members: None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

1. Matt Zirwas was presented with an award for years of service with Honor Guard.

Reports:

Finance: Report was read and approved pending Audit.

Membership:

1. 1088 is our new goal. 429 renewed, 38 new for 39.43 %.

Chaplain: Reported on Eury Holiday, Marty and Sue Spreadbury.

Unfinished Business:

1. BOGO's to return with seat draws tabled from 071923. Motion by James Donovan, 2nd by Leo Belanger to have BOGO's and Seat Draws back. Passed 18 to 5.
2. Flag Poles that were approved are still pending.
3. Canteen barstools are arriving and being put in the Canteen.
4. Constitution By-Law rewrite.

New Business:

1. Commander appointed Jeannie Perry as Adjutant. Motion was made, 2nd and approved.
2. Commander appointed Doug Perry as Judge Advocate. Motion was made, 2nd and approved.

Good of the American Legion:

1. Kevin McGarry thanked Honor Guard for the service and support ref Marine Ceremony.
2. Stan Wood addressed pending Constitution and By-Laws rewrite to match Department/National.

Meeting Adjourned at 1950 hours. Closing Ceremonies Conducted.

SUBMITTED: Jess Suelter, Post Adjutant





American Legion National Legacy Run 2023
Kokomo, IN to Concord, NC
August 20-24, 2023



Sunrise Time!

Brent Jackson
Chuck "Tramp" Dare,
Co-founder of the
American Legion Riders
Dana Jackson
Garden City, Michigan
Post 396



Final Stop Concord, NC



Tim Morris & Department of
Florida Commander Michael
Gambler Raymond—Concord,
NC





Post Calendar September 2023

September 2023 Rev.0 **AMERICAN LEGION**

Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Post opens daily at 10am Kitchen is open 1 - 5pm Sunday Look for daily food specials on Facebook Tiki opens: TUESDAY's 5pm FRIDAY's 3pm SATURDAY 's 2pm SUNDAY's 1pm										1	2		
										Boy Scout Dinner 5 - 7pm Ken Snyder 6:30 - 10:30pm	Private Party Hall 1-5 Double Trouble 6:30 - 10:30pm		
3		4		5		6		7		8		9	
Meat Raffle 12:30pm Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm		Labor Day Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm		Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Big Azz Burger Ace of Spades 7:30pm		Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Vince 6:30 - 9:30		Pool Tourney 1pm-7 Riders Meeting 6:30pm		Riders Dinner 5-7pm Jolo's Empanadas Jimmy D. 6:30 - 10:30pm		Pool Tournament 1pm-7 District Meeting Post 81 Jr's Art Auction 1pm DJSk1/Ken Nixon 6:30 - 10:30pm	
10		11		12		13		14		15		16	
NFL Football Honor Guard Practice Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm		9-11 Ceremony 1pm Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm		Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Tacos Ace of Spades 7:30pm		Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm SAL Meeting 6:30pm DJ Alvin 6:30 - 9:30pm		Pool Tourney 1pm-7 40&8 Meeting 7pm		SAL Dinner Fish Fry 5-7p Double Trouble 6:30 - 10:30pm		Vince 6:30 - 10:30	
17		18		19		20		21		22		23	
NFL Football Private Party Hall 12-3 Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm		Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Riders EC Mtg 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm		Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Cuban Sandwiches Ace of Spades 7:30pm		Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Legion EC 5pm Legion Meeting 7pm DJ Chuck 6:30 - 10:30		Pool Tourney 1pm-7 Aux Meeting 7pm		AUX Dinner 5 - 7p Salisbury Steak DJ Will the Thrill Johnson 6:30 - 10:30pm		Pool Tournament 1pm-7 September Birthdays Pot Luck Private Party Hall 8-5 Karaoke—Chuck 6:30 - 10:30pm	
24		25		26		27		28		29		30	
NFL Football Private Party Hall 8-5 Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm		Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Ways & Means 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm		Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Tacos Ace of Spades 7:30pm		Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm DJ Jimmy D. 6:30 - 10:30pm		Pool Tourney 1pm-7 Riders cook-out in the Tiki 5:30pm-7		Legion Dinner 5-7p Schnitzel DJ Alvin 6:30 - 10:30pm		Benefit Ride For Willy Private Party Hall 12 Early Bird Dead Line Ken Snyder 6:30 - 10:30pm	





Patriot Day
Palm Bay, Florida
September 11, 2023



Kyle Nash
Rachael Nash
Kim Oaks
Stan Wood
Shelby Kennedy
PB Fire Rescue



William Whitney Jr, Gary LaMar, Karen Humann, Cheryl Jones, & Fire Department

Patriot Day at Post 117 with Mayor Rob Medina, PB Fire Chief/staff & Post 117 members.





Florida's 3rd Seven Bridges POW/MIA
Remembrance Day Ride
Jacksonville, Florida
September 16, 2023



Tim Morris



Back : Karen
Labrecque-Ortiz
Glenn Weyant
Tim Morris
Right: Brent &
Dana Jackson



Safety Brief





Legion General Meeting Minutes



Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117
General Membership
Meeting Minutes



September 20, 2023

Call to Order at 1905 hours. Opening Ceremonies Conducted with Charter uncovered.

Roll Call of Officers: All Present and Accounted for.

Previous Meeting Minutes were read and approved.

Introduction of VIP/Guests/New Members: None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

1. Department Chaplain Barry was endorsed for national Chaplain. Passed unanimously.
2. Bruce Thurber was endorsed for Eastern Area Commander. Passed unanimously.
3. Membership pins awarded.

Reports:

Finance: Report was read and approved pending Audit.

Membership:

1. 1088 is our new goal. 569 renewed, for 59.29%.

Chaplain: Reported on Marty Spreadbury, John Carlson, and Dave Fox.

Unfinished Business:

1. New uniforms for Honor Guard \$500/ member. Motion was made, 2nd and passed.
2. \$1500 to district transport for Boys and Girls State. Motion was made, 2nd and passed.
3. Parade on Veterans Day, Veterans Park for picnic after. And 1130am ceremony at Post 117.

New Business:

1. National raising dues \$5. Starting July 1st dues at \$45.00, motion made, 2nd and passed, one opposed.
2. Corn Hole rules approved by riders. Motion made, 2nd and passed.

Good of the American Legion:

1. Barry resolution to post, demand retro reopening every claim that was unfairly closed. Next month going to congress.

Meeting Adjourned at 1942 hours. Closing Ceremonies Conducted.

SUBMITTED: Jeannie Perry, Post Adjutant





Willie Anderegg Benefit Run September 30, 2023



Amy Ellis Gordon & Willie Anderegg



09/30/23 at American Legion Post 117
 Benefit run for Willie Anderegg
 Has stage 3 esophageal cancer
 Registration at 9:30
 KSU at 10:30
 \$15 for rider \$5 passenger
 Music by Doc Holiday
 50/50 Baskets
 Food
 Stops are
 Moose
 Post 189
 Palm Pub
 Post 117




Riders supporting Willie



Members came to witness what was donated to Will Anderegg and to show him support during his time fighting cancer.





Post Calendar October 2023

October 2023 Rev.0 **AMERICAN LEGION**

Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 NFL Football Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	2 Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	3 Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Big Azz Burger Ace of Spades 7:30pm	4 Wing Night 5-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm DJ Jimmy D. 6:30 - 9:30pm	5 Pool Tournament 1pm-7 Riders Meeting 6:30pm	6 Riders Dinner 5-7pm Ribs Mark Canada Karaoke 6:30 - 10:30pm	7 Pool Tournament Starts at 1 pm Double Trouble 6:30 - 10:30pm
8 NFL Football Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	9 Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Aux EC Meeting 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	10 Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Tacos Ace of Spades 7:30pm	11 Wing Night 5-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm SAL Mtg 6:30pm DJ Chuck 6:30 - 9:30pm	12 Pool Tourney 1pm-7 40&8 Meeting 7pm Aux Steak Shoot 7pm Kitchen Open 6:30 - 9:30	13 SAL Dinner 5-7pm Fish Fry Navy Birthday Cake at 4:30pm Vince 6:30 - 10:30pm	14 District Picnic Post 189 11 - 3 pm Karaoke - Chuck 6:30 - 10:30pm October Birthdays
15 NFL Football Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	16 Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Riders EC Mtg 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	17 Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Philly Cheese Steak Ace of Spades 7:30pm	18 Wing Night 5-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Legion EC 6pm Legion Meeting 7pm DJ Alvin 6:30 - 9:30pm	19 Pool Tournament 1pm-7 Aux Meeting 7pm	20 AUX Dinner 5-7pm Beef Tips & Noodles DJ Will The Thrill Will Johnson 6:30 - 10:30pm	21 Early Bird Dinner Pool Tourney 1pm Tom Woods Memorial Run DJ Alvin 6:30 - 10:30pm
22 NFL Football Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	23 Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Ways & Means Mtg 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	24 Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Tacos Ace of Spades 7:30pm	25 Wing Night 5-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Vince 6:30 - 9:30pm	26 Pool Tournament 1pm-7 Riders cook-out in the Tiki 5:30pm-7	27 Post Dinner 5-7pm Jambalaya Witches Hat Party Aux Dept. President at the post DJ Jimmy D. 6:30 - 10:30pm	28 Kids and Adult Halloween Parties DJ SK1 / Ken Nixon 6:30 - 10:30pm
29 NFL Football Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	30 Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	31 Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Big Azz Burger Ace of Spades 7:30pm	Canteen Opens 10am every day Monday's Men's Night Free Pool All Day Wednesday's Ladies night wing night Sunday Full menu and steamed Shrimp 1pm-4:45pm Show Me the Money 1-3pm every Tuesday Ace of Spades Every Tuesday Last ticket sold 7:20pm			





The 29th Annual Bruce Rossmeyer Ride for Children
Camp Boggy Creek
Eustis, Florida
October 8, 2023



Brent Jackson, Glenn Weyant, David Smitley, Ken Brody, Karen Ortiz, Leah Guljord, Linda Knoblach-Harkness, Linda's Sister Diane Irby & Dana Jackson



Karen Ortiz, Leah Guljord, Linda Knoblach-Harkness, ALA Dept of FL 3rd Vice President and C&Y Chairman & her sister Diane Irby





District 12 Family Picnic
American Legion Post 189
Sebastian, Florida
October 14, 2023



Post 117 Rider's on there way to D12 Picnic at Post 189.



Dennis Mallon, Joseph Marcheggiani, Eastern Area Commander, Bruce Thurber, District 12 Commander and Wayne Stalls "Doc Holiday"



Joseph Marcheggiani and Lin Marcheggiani enjoying their meal.





Legion General Meeting Minutes



Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117
General Membership
Meeting Minutes



October 18, 2023

Call to Order at 1900 hours. Opening Ceremonies Conducted with Charter uncovered.

Roll Call of Officers: All Present and Accounted for with the exception of Tammy Becker Thurber, excused.

Previous Meeting Minutes were read and approved.

Introduction of VIP/Guests/New Members: None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Reports:

Finance: Report was read and approved pending Audit.

Membership:

1. 1088 is our new goal. 618 renewed, for 56.43%.

Chaplain: Reported on Barry Roberts, Pat Paten, Santa John, John Carlson, Marty Spreadbury, Lauren Belbasta, Dave Fox and Daryl Padohla.

Unfinished Business:

1. Volunteers need to help at Hospice House with last days, pinning ceremony.

New Business:

1. Family meeting scheduled for November 18, 2023.

Good of the American Legion:

Meeting Adjourned at 1927 hours. Closing Ceremonies Conducted.

SUBMITTED: Jeannie Perry, Post Adjutant

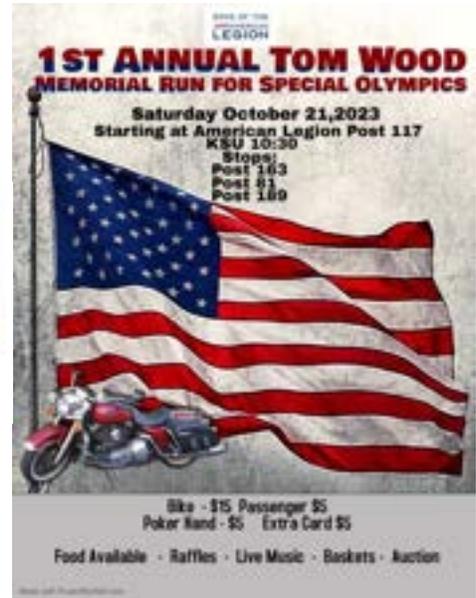




The 1st Annual Tom Wood Memorial Run
For Special Olympics
October 21, 2023



Rider's safety brief before memorial run



Rider's from multiple Posts showing "Love" for Tom Wood

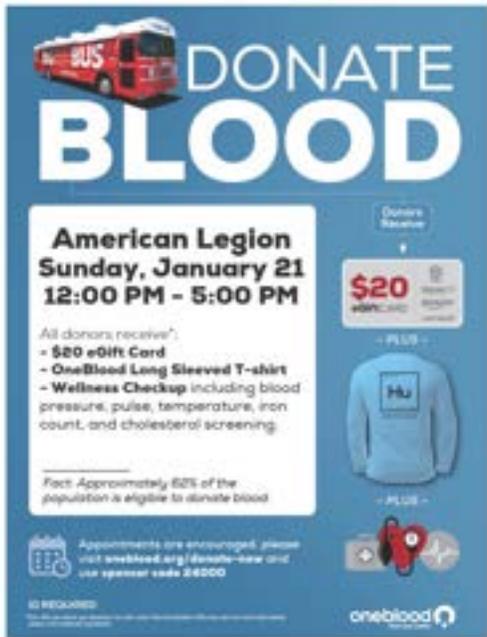


John Pettinicchio Jr & Bruce Walkowiak, SAL Members on the grill





The 1st Annual Tom Wood Memorial Run Blood Drive October 21, 2023



11 People donated a total of **9** Units. Each unit is separated into 3 components, red cells, platelets, and plasma when processed. Those components go to **3** different patients. Those **9** units once separated go to **27** patients.



Jess Suelter, 1st Vice Commander, Post 117

Give Blood & Save A Life





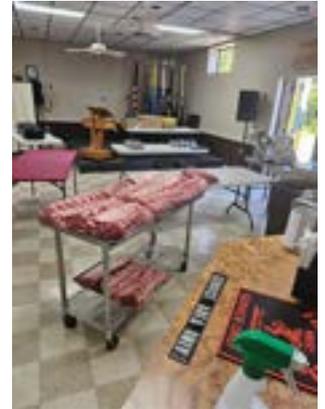
Early Bird Dinner
October 21, 2023



Jocelyn Lugo, Ray Wright & Teresa Angelico



Congratulations to everyone that renewed for 2024. Your Prime Rib Dinner is "On the Post" and will be served October 21st in the Hall. You must sign upon the board, so we can get a count. Dinner and over \$1,000.00 of door prizes will be given to Early Birds only. Congratulations and Thank You again!!



Post 117 Volunteers

Thank You Members & All of Our Volunteers that made the Early Bird Dinner a SUCCESS!



Ed Corbin & Jess Suelter





Witches Party
October 27, 2023



Dottie Vincent
Brenda Miskow
Terry Struven
Teresa Linton
Cindy Garbera



Jocelyn Lugo—Bartender

The Witches Brew Crew





Halloween Party
October 28, 2023



Shiela Cline &
Allyssia Sink



First Place Winners



Halloween group
photo



2nd Place—
Sonny &
"Woodie"
Woodrum



3rd Place





Post Calendar November 2023

November 2023

Rev. 3



Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Canteen Opens 10am every day Monday's Men's Night Free Pool All Day Wednesday's Ladies night \$1 wing night Sunday Full menu and steamed Shrimp 1pm-4:45pm Show Me the Money 1-3pm every Tuesday Ace of Spades Every Tuesday Last ticket sold 7:20pm			1	2	3	4
			\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm DJ Jimmy D. 6:30 - 9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm-7 Riders Mtg 6:30pm Steak Shoot 7:30pm	Riders Dinner 5 to 7pm Pot Pie Vince 6:30 - 10:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm-7 DJ Alvin 6:30 - 10:30pm
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
NFL Football Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm Jere Celebration of Life 1pm	Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Tacos Ace of Spades 7:30pm	\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm SAL Mtg 6:30pm DJ Will The Thrill 6:30 - 9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm-7 40&8 Mtg 7pm	SAL Fish Dinner 5-7pm Marines Birthday 4:30pm Shelly & Dave 6:30 - 10:30pm	Veterans Day Parade 10am Picnic at Veterans Park 1-5 pm DJ Jimmy D. 6:30 - 10:30pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
NFL Football Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Aux EC 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Philly Cheese Steak Ace of Spades 7:30pm	\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Legion EC Meeting 6pm Legion Mtg 7pm DJ Chuck 6:30 - 9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm-7 AUX Mtg 7pm	Aux Dinner 5-7pm Meatloaf Fall Conference 17-19 Private Party Pavilion 4-10pm DJ Jimmy D. 6:30 - 10:30pm	Family Meeting 10am November Birthdays 6:30pm Pool Tournament 1pm-7 Double Trouble 6:30 - 10:30pm
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
NFL Football Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Kitchen 5-8:30pm Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Riders EC Mtg 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm Needy Family Holiday Baskets 1pm pickup	Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Tacos Ace of Spades 7:30pm	\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Vince 6:30 - 9:30p	Thanksgiving Dinner 1-4pm	Post Dinner 5-7pm Brisket Post Clean-up 10am DJ Alvin 6:30 - 10:30pm	Juniors Harvest Fest 1-5pm Karaoke - Chuck 6:30 - 10:30pm
26	27	28	29	30		
NFL Football Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Kitchen open 5 - 8:30pm Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Ways & Means 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Big Azz Burger Ace of Spades 7:30pm	\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm DJ SK1 Ken Nboon 6:30 - 9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm-7 Rider's Cookout 5:30-7		





Jere McAleney's
Celebration of Life
November 4, 2023



Jere McAleney



Donna Walkowiak, Terry Struven, Ray Wright
& Jere's Family.

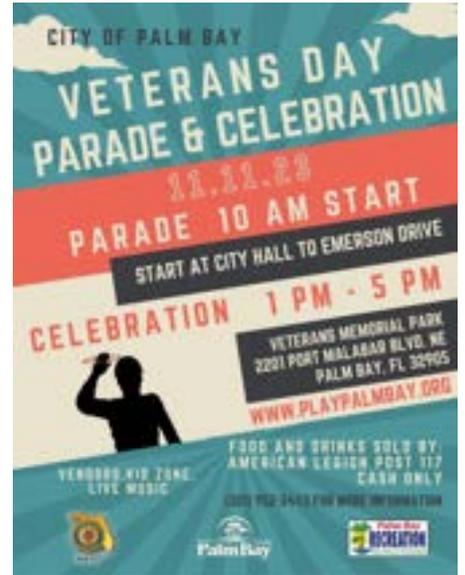




Veterans Day Parade & Picnic Celebration
Palm Bay, Florida
November 11, 2023



Post 117 members are headed to staging area for parade.



Honor Guard—Dawn Hanner, Ed Milner, and Leo Belanger walking in Veterans Day Parade.



Post 117 float

Post 117 members are staged for parade.





Veterans Day Parade & Picnic Celebration
Veteran's Memorial Park
Palm Bay, FL
November 11, 2023



Honor Guard:
Dawn Hanner
Bruce Walkowiak
Leo Belanger
Rowena Milner
Ed Milner
Donna Walkowiak

Ken Snyder &
Vince Wiersema>>



Rider's escort to
Veteran Assisted
Living Facilities
to say thank you
to our veterans



Commander Terry Struven
& Event Face Painter



Marc Suppe
Agnieszka Garry
Bob Garry
Lisa Suppe

Serving up the burgers
& hot dogs





Legion General Meeting Minutes



Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117
General Membership
Meeting Minutes



November 15, 2023

Call to Order at 1905 hours. Opening Ceremonies Conducted with Charter uncovered.

Roll Call of Officers: All Present and Accounted for.

Previous Meeting Minutes were read and approved.

Introduction of VIP/Guests/New Members: None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Thank you letter for Veteran's Day Parade read by Commander Stuvén.

Reports:

Finance: Report was read and approved pending Audit.

Membership:

1. 1088 is our new goal. 701 renewed, for 64.43%.

Chaplain: Reported on Dan Wood.

Unfinished Business:

1. Volunteers needed for Wreath Ceremony would like each branch of service represented to place wreaths on Flags.
2. Boy Scouts scheduled to put up fence.
3. 12th District meeting on Dec. 2, 2023, at post 318 Port St. Lucie

New Business:

1. New kitchen hours.
2. New grill paid by legion approved up to \$2,000.00.
3. Last year for Vietnam and all veterans event donate \$1000. 1st/2nd and passed.
4. New Years Eve camping proceeds to go to Special Olympics (SAL).

Good of the American Legion:

Meeting Adjourned at 1936 hours. Closing Ceremonies Conducted.

SUBMITTED: Jeannie Perry, Post Adjutant





The 2023 Department Fall Conference
Orlando, Florida
November 17-23, 2023



**Jim Wineland, ALR
Department Chair**
**Robert James, President,
Development &
Fundraising Chair**
**Jerry Brandt, Past
Department Commander &
Current Alt NEC**
**James A. LaCoursiere Jr,
Current Lead Candidate for
National Commander,**



Dana Jackson, Post 117 Historian

Ed Lewis, Department Historian, Historian class



**Tim Morris, MSGT Bobby Ritchey, Jim
Wineland, Rider Chairman, The American
Legion, Department of Florida. Tim
receiving plaque for PSFB Precious Gift
during Christmas.**



Project Vet Relief Class



**Stan Brown & Tim Morris;
Stan shaved his head to raise
money for Tim.**





Senior Resource Center of Brevard
Thank You, Veterans!
Melbourne, FL
November 21, 2023



Jeannie Perry
Bud Fritz
Leo Belanger
Dana Jackson



Jeannie Perry winning a door prize





Thanksgiving Dinner
November 23, 2023



Cheryl Jones, Terry Struven, Joe Little,
Ken Brody

Patricia Luckey & Leo Belanger

Happy
Thanksgiving





117 Family Future Leaders
Fall Festival
November 25, 2023



MaryAnn Spellman & Aux 117 Junior & Squadron 117 Young SAL members



MaryAnn Spellman, Unit 117 Jr Chairman, presenting our Future Leaders with the award "Best Jr Program" for Southern Division that was received at Fall Conference.





Post Calendar December 2023

December 2023 Rev.3
Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Canteen Opens 10am every day Monday's Men's Night Free Pool All Day Wednesday's Ladies Night \$1 Wing Night Sunday Full menu and steamed shrimp 1pm-4:45pm Show-Me-The-Money 1-3pm every Tuesday Ace of Spades Every Tuesday Last ticket sold 7:20pm			Happy Holidays—Kitchen Closed Dec 24th and Dec 31st		1	2
					Scouts BSA Baked Ziti 5-7pm Ken Snyder 6:30-10:30pm	Holiday Parade 5pm-10pm D12 Meeting Post 318 9am Pool Tour 1pm-7 Family Fun Day 12-3pm DJ SK1 6:30-10:30pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
NFL Football Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last order 4:45pm Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Kitchen Open 5-8:30pm Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-The-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Tacos Ace of Spades 7:30pm	\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Jimmy D 6:30-9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm-7 Riders Meeting 6:30pm	Riders Dinner 5-7pm Empanadas Vince 6:30-10:30pm	Mark Canada Karaoke 6:30-10:30pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
NFL Football Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last order 4:45pm Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Aux EC 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-The-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Ace of Spades 7:30pm	\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm SAL Meeting 6:30pm DJ Chuck 6:30-9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm-7 Holiday Steak Shoot 6:30pm Terry's Lasagna 5:30-7:30	SAL Dinner 5-7pm Fish Fry \$12 Double Trouble 6:30-10:30pm	Pool Tour 1pm-7 Wreath Across America 4pm Bartenders X-mas Party-Tiki 6pm-close Kids X-mas Party 11-1 DJ Will 6:30-10:30pm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
NFL Football Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last order 4:45pm Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Riders EC Mtg 6pm Ways & Means 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-The-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Tacos Ace of Spades 7:30pm	\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO 6pm Space Force 8Day 4:30 Legion EC 6pm Legion Meeting 7pm DJ Alvin 6:30-9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm-7 Aux Meeting 7pm	AUX Dinner 5-7pm Country Fried Steak\$9 Jimmy D 6:30-10:30pm	December Birthdays 6:30pm DJ Chuck Karaoke 6:30-10:30pm
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
24th—NFL Football 31st—New Year's Eve Vince/DJ Jimmy D 6:30-12:30	Christmas Dinner 1-4pm	Riders Corn Hole Tournament 6:30pm Big Azz Burger Ace of Spades 7:30pm	\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Vince 6:30-9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm-7 Rider's Cookout 5:30-9pm Camping Weekend Dec 28-Jan 2	Post Dinner Brisket 5-7pm \$12 Jimmy D 6:30-10:30pm	Doc Holiday 1-5pm DJ Alvin 6:30-10:30pm





Christmas Parade
Palm Bay, Florida
December 2, 2023



American Legion Post 117 Members



Mike Montalvo & Christina Montalvo



Post 117 Members
ready for the parade!





C FEC Toy Drive
Melbourne, Florida
December 3, 2023



C FEC vendor & Willie Anderegg (Post 117)



Back:
Amy Ellis Gordon &
Willie Anderegg



AL Riders from Chapter 117





The 2023 The Greater Palm Bay Chamber
Excellence in Business Awards of the Year
Palm Bay, Florida
December 7, 2023



Chamber members & Leo Belanger Post 117, receiving an award.





Commander Terry & Rob Struven's
Holiday Steak Shoot
December 14, 2023



Commander Terry Struven & Rob Struven

Members enjoying & winning in the Steak Shoot





Patrick Space Force Base-
Operation Precious Gift
Grant, FL & Patrick Space Force Base
December 15, 2023



SrA Alexis Marchi, 45 CES Emergency Management Flight & TSgt Ryan Rosa, 45 CES Prime BEEF/UDM



TSgt Samuel Fisher, 45 CES Prime BEEF/UDM;
SrA Alexis Marchi, 45 CES Emergency Management Flight; & Dana Jackson



SrA Alexis Marchi, 45 CES Emergency Management Flight & TSgt Ryan Rosa, 45 CES Prime BEEF/UDM;
Photo credits go to SSgt Jarrod Stebbins is also with 45 CES Prime BEEF/UDM



TSgt Samuel Fisher, 45 CES Prime BEEF/UDM

The Department of Florida, American Legion Riders, donated funds toward PSFB Operation Precious Gift again this year! We want to thank Tim Morris for spearheading this event last two years. Dana Jackson was able to pick it up so that Operation Precious Gift could continue. Thank you to all the Airmen that played a part in picking up and wrapping the gifts this year for the families at PSFB.





Kid's Christmas Party
December 16, 2023

Ho Ho Ho Merry Christmas !



MaryAnn Spellman
Shiela Cline
Jimmy Donovan "Santa"

Jimmy Donovan "Santa"



Thank you Palm Bay Fire
Department for always
supporting Post 117 & for
bringing smiles to the children
faces.





Bartender Christmas Party
December 16, 2023



Karen Campbell, Tina Carbin, Jess Suelter

Ho Ho Ho
Merry Christmas!



Mike Barbarino, Rhonda Suelter, Shannon Fischer-Cox, and
Jocelyn Lugo





Legion General Meeting Minutes

**AMERICAN
LEGION**

Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117
General Membership
Meeting Minutes

**AMERICAN
LEGION**

December 20, 2023

Call to Order at 1905 hours. Opening Ceremonies Conducted with Charter uncovered.

Roll Call of Officers: All Present and Accounted for except Adjutant Jeannie Perry excused.

Previous Meeting Minutes were read and approved.

Introduction of VIP/Guests/New Members: 12th District Commander Bruce Thurber

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: None.

Reports:

Finance: Report was read and approved pending Audit.

Membership:

1. 1088 is our new goal. 851 renewed, for 70.22%.

Chaplain: Reported on Ray Wright and Stan Wood. Tim Morris Passed.

Unfinished Business:

1. Boy Scouts to do fencing, \$1500 was approved a year ago. Now the fencing cost is \$3,000.00. more people to look into fencing.
2. The new flat top grill purchased by Jimmy D. will be delivered Saturday.

New Business:

1. New registers are needed for the canteen and kitchen. Motion for \$6000 by Jess. 2nd by Kevin motion passed.
2. New freezer purchased for \$779 in canteen.
3. December 14th steak shoot done, paid back for meat food made \$1600, canteen made \$1750.
4. Employee holidays are \$100 apiece. Chris made a motion for \$1000, 2nd by Jess. Passed
5. Christmas dinner 1-4.
6. New Years eve camping Thursday to Sunday, potluck. Working on a safe driving program.
7. NVHS – needs post to help \$7100. \$1500 post in South Brevard. Kevin made a motion, 2nd by Rob Bean. Motion passed.
8. Veterans walk no one has signed up from Post 117 it is on January 27.
9. Post needs to put out a news letter.
10. Motion to extend slab by grill for displays so folks have a place to sit and eat under pavilion. Devin made motion, 2nd by Rob Bean. Passed.





Legion General Meeting Minutes

December 2023 General Minutes (Continued)

Good of the American Legion:

1. Hillbilly hoedown is January 20th.
2. Tim Morris passed December 14th, celebration of life is December 21 along with a run, fund to split project net relief and NVHS.
3. Motion for \$3000 for curtains for northside of canteen. Motion from Jim F. 2nd by Kevin. Motion passed.
4. Veterans honor ceremonies about 10-15 minutes long for Hospice and Health First members. If you want to atten see Dana Jackson.

Meeting Adjourned at 1950 hours. Closing Ceremonies Conducted.

SUBMITTED: Jeannie Perry, Post Adjutant





Christmas Dinner
December 25, 2023



Ryan Little, Joe Little, Terry Struven, Ron Lawton

Thank you volunteers
for cooking a great
meal ! We couldn't have
done it without you!

Merry Christmas!



CHRISTMAS DINNER
1:00 - 4:00pm
or until gone

- Ham
- Mash Potatoes
- Scalloped Potatoes
- Vegetables
- Roll
- Desserts

Bring a favorite side dish or dessert





S.A.L New Years Campout
December 28, 2023—January 2, 2024



Lisa Meeks getting the fire pit going.



Cheryl Jones & Gary LaMar enjoying camping weekend with the pups.



Happy New Year!

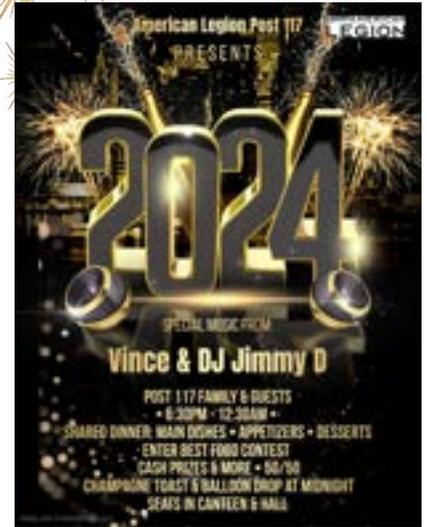




New Year's Eve Celebration 2024
December 31, 2023



New Years Eve preparation:
Shiela Cline



Brenda Miskow, Pat Luckey,
Teresa Linton



Tina Byres & Robert Rouleau



Jimmy Donovan & Vince Wiersema



Dawn Hanner & Jim Locke





New Year's Eve Celebration 2024
December 31, 2023



Shirley Sanborn



Ken Nixon



Terry Struven (Commander), Pat Luckey,
Brenda Miskow



Ed & Carol Krasky and Candice Frye-Taylor





Post Calendar January 2024

January 2024 Rev.2



Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Free Pool all Day Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm-close SAL New Year's Day- Meat Raffle 1pm	2 Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Cornhole 6:30p Tacos Ace of Spades 7:30pm	3 \$1Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Vince 6:30 - 9:30pm	4 Pool Tournament 1pm-7 Riders Meeting 6:30pm	5 Riders Dinner 5-7pm Cabbage Rolls DJ Chuck 6:30-10:30pm	6 Pool Tournament 1pm-7 Jimmy D 6:30-10:30pm
7 NFL Football Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	8 Free Pool all Day Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm-close Aux EC Meeting 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	9 Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Cornhole 6:30p Tacos Ace of Spades 7:30pm	10 \$1Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm SAL Meeting 6:30pm Jimmy D 6:30-9:30pm	11 Pool Tournament 1pm-7 40&8 7pm Aux Steakshoot 7pm	12 SAL Dinner 5-7pm Fish Fry Chuck 6:30-10:30pm	13 Joe Calautti 6:30-10:30pm
14 Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	15 Free Pool all Day Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm-close Riders EC Meeting 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	16 Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Cornhole 6:30p Tacos Ace of Spades 7:30pm	17 \$1Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm Department Commander visit 5pm Legion Meeting 7pm DJ Alvin 6:30 - 9:30p	18 Pool Tournament 1pm-7 Aux Meeting 7pm	19 Aux Dinner 5-7pm Chicken Cacciatore Vince 6:30-10:30pm	20 Pool Tournament 1pm-7 1st Vice's Hillbilly Hoedown Mark Canada Karaoke 6:30 - 10:30pm
21 Tim Morris Ride-in at 11am Celebration of Life 1p Breakfast (Eggs cooked to order) 8:30-11:00 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	22 Free Pool all Day Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm-close Ways & Means 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	23 Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Cornhole 6:30p Philly Cheesesteak Ace of Spades 7:30pm	24 \$1Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm DJ Chuck 6:30 - 9:30pm	25 Pool Tournament 1pm-7 Rider's Bike Night 6pm-9pm	26 Legion Dinner 5-7pm Rib Dinner Jeff Krick 6:30-10:30pm	27 January Birthday 6:30pm DJ Alvin 6:30-10:30pm
28 Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Last Order 4:45 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	29 Free Pool all Day Men's Night BOGO Drinks 6pm-close Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	30 Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Cornhole 6:30p Tacos Ace of Spades 7:30pm	31 \$1Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night BOGO Drinks 6pm DJ Will The Thrill 6:30 - 9:30pm	Canteen Opens 10am every day Sunday: Full menu and steamed Shrimp 1pm—4:45pm Monday: Men's Night—BOGO Drink; Free Pool All Day Tuesday: Show-Me-The-Money 1-3pm Ace of Spades—Last ticket sold 7:20pm Wednesday: Ladies Night-BOGO Drink; \$1 Wing Night		





Palm Bay Police Department's
Annual VCOP Banquet
January 11, 2023



Members of Post 117: Mario Augello, Lance Fisher, Tim Zander, and Ed Bermudez.





Legion General Meeting Minutes



Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117
General Membership
Meeting Minutes



January 17, 2024

Call to Order at 1905 hours. Opening Ceremonies Conducted with Charter uncovered.

Roll Call of Officers: All Present and Accounted for except Chaplain Donna Walkowiak.

Previous Meeting Minutes were read and approved.

Introduction of VIP/Guests/New Members: Gary Raymond District 12, David Luzander Sgt. At Arms Post 394, Dan Martin District Vice Commander, Bruce Thurber District Commander, Chris Hamrick Department 1st Vice Commander, Michael Raymond Department Commander.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: None.

Reports:

Finance: Report was read and approved pending Audit.

Membership:

1. 1088 is our new goal. 918 renewed, for 84.38%.

Chaplain: none

Unfinished Business:

1. Four Chaplains ceremony on Sunday February 4th at Post 117.
2. We need to word out via Newsletter, to sign up with the national cemetery.
3. Veterans service officer now in Palm Bay City Hall.
4. \$10,000 for slabs and repair front of tiki slab. 1st by Chris L, 2nd by Chris H. passed.
5. Tomb, we had needs to be fixed and find a permanent solution.

New Business:

1. Pool table recovered in canteen and rails were replaced.
2. Post 117 to host the mobile VA unit for Veterans that can't make it to the VA for appointments.
3. Spectrum technician Roy fixed the internet.
4. Superbowl party at post 117, potluck.
5. Wednesday 2/14, special Valentine's Day ladies' night.
6. Hillbilly Hoedown January 20 at noon.
7. Sunday 1/21 Tim Morris celebration of life (no run).
8. 12th District Suicide Awareness 5k at Post 394 on January 27.





Legion General Meeting Minutes

January 2024 General Minutes (Continued)

Good of the American Legion:

1. Historian Dana Jackson working on yearbook for the Post.
2. Three Honor ceremonies have been done thanks to all.
3. WE should be reaching out to folks we haven't seen in a while to make sure they are ok, and find out why they aren't coming see if there's anything we can do.

Meeting Adjourned at 1945 hours. Closing Ceremonies Conducted.

SUBMITTED: Jeannie Perry, Post Adjutant





American Legion, Department of Florida,
Commander Visit
January 18, 2024



**Bruce Thurber, D12
Commander**
**Michael "Gambler"
Raymond
Department of Florida
Commander**
**Terry Struven, Post
117 Commander**



BE THE ONE



General Membership Meeting





Department Vice Commanders
Hillbilly Hoedown
January 20, 2024



Michael Gambler Raymond,
Department Commander & Chris
Hamrick, 1st Vice



Jessica Moore, 2nd Vice & Don
Larson, SAL, Squadron 8,
Winter Haven



Lena Herediaperez, Northern
Area Commander

Bruce
Thurber,
District 12
Commander



Dennis Boland
Previous
Department
Commander>>

<<Terry
Anderson-
Judah
"chain"

<<Keith
Prine
"Keiffer"



Smokin'



Project
Vet Relief
Table

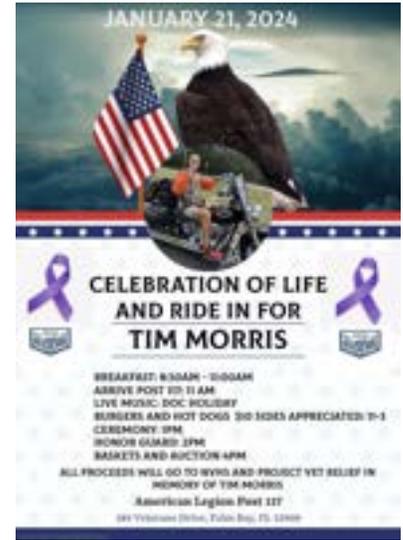




Timothy Scott Morris' Memorial Run/Celebration of Life Blood Drive January 21, 2024



Tim -Seven Bridges Ride



If you know, you know!



8 People donated a total of **6** Units.
Each unit is separated into **3** components, red cells, platelets, and plasma when processed. Those components go to **3** different patients.
Those **6** units once separated go to **18** patients.





Tim Morris' Celebration of Life
January 21, 2024



Ed Milner saluting Kim Oaks . Chris Scott (left of Kim) is the brother of Tim Morris



Tim Morris



Honor Guard:
Chris Livingston
Ed Milner
Leo Belanger
Andy Campbell
Rowena Milner
Dawn Hanner

John Pettinicchio>>



American Legion members/Riders came from across the State of Florida to say "So-long for now" to Tim Morris



Celebration of Life for Tim Morris





Coming Together Across the State of Florida

Chapter 325
Ellenton



Chapter 8
Winter Haven



Chapter 39
Vero Beach



Chapter 372
Jacksonville



Chapter 394
Palm Bay



Chapter 412
Lake Nona



Chapter 242
Orlando



Chapter 283
Arlington



Chapter 117
Palm Bay



Chapter 258
Greenacres



Chapter 22
Cocoa



Timothy Scott Morris
April 22, 1961 - December 14, 2023



Chapter 81
Melbourne



Chapter 10
Kissimmee



Chapter 35
Mount Dora



Chapter 347
Lady Lake



Chapter 40
Fort Pierce



50 Bikes
21 Passengers
87 miles

Chapter 259
Debarry



Chapter 271
Tequesta



Chapter 359
Port St. John



Chapter 72
Mulberry



Chapter 200
Satellite Beach



Chapter 129
Jacksonville
Beach



Chapter 163
Eau Galle



Chapter 323
Lehigh Acres



VFW 8191
Melbourne



Chapter 189
Sebastian





Suicide Awareness 5K Health Walk
 Post 394, Bayside Lakes
 Palm Bay, FL
 January 27, 2024



Jesse & Rhonda Suelter supporting 5k walk



Bruce Thurber,
 D12 Commander
 Karl Burtzloff
 Gary Raymond



Post 394 members/
 volunteers





American Legion Riders, 8th Annual Summit
Holiday Inn Resort, Orlando, Florida
January 31—Feb 3, 2024



John Rubino, District 12 Rider's Chairman, Victor Cotto, Rider's Director Post 394 and Hector Deitsch, Dana Jackson, Post 117 Historian



Tim Morris Memorial table



<<Opening Ceremony by Jim Wineland, Department of Florida ALR Chair





American Legion Riders, 8th Annual ALR Summit

Wednesday, January 31st, 2024

3:00pm-6:00pm	Pre-Ballroom	Registration, Pre-orders/Merchandise
3:00pm-6:00pm	Creative Room	Vendors
6:00pm-8:00pm	Ballroom	Meet & Greet

Thursday, February 1st, 2024

7:30am-8:30am		Breakfast
8:00am-6:00pm	Pre-Ballroom	Registration, Pre-orders/Merchandise
8:00am-6:00pm	Creative Room	Vendors
9:00am-9:45am	Ballroom	Instructors Planning Session
10:00am-10:15am	Ballroom	Opening Ceremonies
10:45am-11:45am	Discovery Wonder Adventure Vista Room Magic	Computer/App Tracking, S Nist, L Skobel Leadership Training, Joe Maltese District & Dept Websites, V Luke, L Camacho Finance Officer Training, Michael Raymond ALR Meeting Protocol, Jessica Moore
11:45am-12:45pm	Lunch	
1:00pm-2:00pm	Discovery Wonder Adventure Vista Room Magic	Sergeant at Arms, Jeff Hawk, Dave Hulin Event Planning, Denny Luke VA&R Veterans Benefits, Larry Roberts Adjutant Training, Melanie Caputo Chaplain Training, Loren King
2:30pm-3:30pm	Discovery Wonder Adventure Vista Room Magic	Computer/App Tracking, S Nist, L Skobel Leadership Training, Joe Maltese District & Dept Websites, V Luke, L Camacho Finance Officer Training, Michael Raymond ALR Meeting Protocol, Jessica Moore





Friday, February 2nd, 2023

7:30am-8:30am		Breakfast
8:00am-6:00pm	Pre-Ballroom	Registration, Pre-orders/Merchandise
8:00am-6:00pm	Creative Room	Vendors
8:30am-9:30am	Discovery	Sergeant at Arms, Jeff Hawk, Dave Hulin
	Wonder	Event Planning, Denny Luke
	Adventure	VA&R Veterans Benefits, Larry Roberts
	Vista Room	Adjutant Training, Melanie Caputo
	Magic	Chaplain Training, Loren King
9:45am-10:45am	Discovery	Computer/App Tracking, S Nist, L Skobel
	Wonder	Leadership Training, Joe Maltese
	Adventure	District & Dept Websites, V Luke, L Camacho
	Vista Room	Finance Officer Training, Michael Raymond
	Magic	ALR Meeting Protocol, Jessica Moore
11:00am-12:00pm	Discovery	Sergeant at Arms, Jeff Hawk, Dave Hulin
	Wonder	Event Planning, Denny Luke
	Adventure	VA&R Veterans Benefits, Larry Roberts
	Vista Room	Adjutant Training, Melanie Caputo
	Magic	Chaplain Training, Loren King
12:00pm-1:00pm		Lunch
1:15pm-4:00pm	Discovery	Road Capt./Safety, T Wieder, B Greer, W Parrott
1:15pm-3:00pm	Wonder	Reporting Procedures – Beverly Wooten
1:15pm-2:15pm	Adventure	Leadership Training, Joe Maltese
	Vista Room	Finance Officer Training, Michael Raymond
	Magic	District & Dept Websites, V Luke, L Camacho
2:30pm-3:30pm	Adventure	Sergeant at Arms, Jeff Hawk, Dave Hulin
	Vista Room	Event Planning, Denny Luke
	Magic	ALR Meeting Protocol, Jessica Moore





Saturday, February 3rd, 2024

7:30am-8:30am		Breakfast
8:00am-6:00pm	Pre-Ballroom	Registration, Pre-Orders/Merchandise
8:00am-6:00pm	Creative Room	Vendors
7:30am -12:30am	Discovery	Red Cross, Pre-Registration Required **
8:30am-9:30am	Vista Room Magic	Finance Officer Training, Michael Raymond Leadership Training, Joe Maltese
9:00am-12:00pm	Wonder	Road Capt./Safety, T Wieder, B Greer, W Parrott
9:45am – 11:45 am	Adventure	Reporting Procedures – Beverly Wooten
9:45am-10:45am	Vista Room Magic	Adjutant Training, Melanie Caputo Chaplain Training, Loren King
11:00am-12:00pm	Vista Room Magic	Sergeant at Arms, Jeff Hawk - Dave Hulin ALR Meeting Protocol, Jessica Moore
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch	
1:15pm-4:30pm	Ballroom	General Session - Reconvene

We will also offer a Red Cross CPR & First Aid Course. It will include CPR, AED, and First Aid training in addition to handling head, neck, muscle, bone, joint injuries, and splinting skills. It is a Five (5) hour course, with a minimum of 8 and maximum of 12 individuals. At the completion of the course, you will receive a 2-year Certificate covering **Adult First Aid/CPR/AED and Head, Neck, Muscle, Bone, Joint Injuries and Splinting. There will be a charge of \$45 per person and the ALR will supplement the balance as the course cost is \$90.95 per person. **The cut-off date for registering for the program is January 19th, 2024.***





Post Calendar February 2024

February 2024 Rev.0



Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY					
Canteen: Opens 10am every day Sunday: Full menu and steamed Shrimp 1pm—4:45pm Monday: Men's Night -BOGO Drink; Free Pool All Day Tuesday: Show-Me-The-Money 1-3pm Ace of Spades—Last ticket sold 7:20pm Wednesday: Ladies Night-BOGO Drink; \$1 Wing Night								1	2	3							
								Pool Tournament 1-1pm	Riders Dinner 5-7p Hungarian Goufash		Special Olympics Luv'n Life Band		Mark Canada Karaoke 6:30-10:30pm				
								Riders Meeting 6:30pm	Shelly & Dave 6:30-10:30pm								
4		5		6		7		8		9		10					
Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Four Chaplains 4pm Scouts Mtg 5-7pm		Free Pool All Day Men's Night 6p-close Scouts Mtg 7-9pm		Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole 6:30p Big Azz Burgers Ace of Spades 7:30pm		\$1Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close Chuck 6:30-9:30pm		Pool Tournament 1pm 40&8 7pm		SAL Dinner Fish Fry 5-7p Vince 6:30-10:30pm		Pool tournament 1pm Family Meeting @10am Chuck—Karaoke 6:30-10:30pm					
11		12		13		14		15		16		17					
Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Super Bowl LVIII Party 6:30pm Scouts Mtg 5-7pm		Free Pool All Day Men's Night 6p-close Aux EC Meeting 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm		Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole 6:30p Taco Ace of Spades 7:30pm		\$1Wing Night 1-7pm Valentine's Day Ladies Night 6p-close SAL Meeting 6:30pm Vince 6:30-10:00pm		Pool Tournament 1pm Aux Meeting 7pm		AUX Dinner 5 -7p Fried Shrimp Ken Snyder 6:30-10:30pm		Pool Tournament 1pm District Meeting Post 359 Aux—Vet Girls Rock 12-2pm Jimmy D 6:30-10:30pm					
18		19		20		21		22		23		24					
Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Scouts Mtg 5-7pm		Free Pool All Day Men's Night 6p-close Riders EC Mtg 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm		Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole 6:30p Cuban Sandwiches Ace of Spades 7:30pm		\$1Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close Legion EC 6pm Legion Meeting 7pm Alvin 6:30-9:30pm		Pool Tournament 1pm		Legion Dinner 5-7p Pork chops Jeff Krick 6:30-10:30pm		February Birthday's @6pm SAL District Mtng Post 22 @10am Aux District Meeting @Post 163 9am-12pm Double Trouble 6:30-10:30pm					
25		26		27		28		29									
Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Scouts Mtg 5-7pm		Free Pool All Day Men's Night 6p-close Ways & Means 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm		Show-Me-the-Money 1-3pm Riders Corn Hole 6:30p Taco Ace of Spades 7:30pm		\$1Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close Ken Nixon SK1 6:30-9:30pm		Pool Tournament 1pm Rider's Bike Night 6-9pm									





S.A.L Special Olympics Benefit Run & Fundraiser February 3, 2024



Patty Weinert, George De Angelo, AL
Department of Florida Special
Olympics Chairman



Famous chair at
Camp Holly



Eric Spellman
Jess Suelter
Having fun
beating each
other up in
the balls.



Bob & Agnes
Garry at
Camp Holly



Bobby Dye trying his luck
at golf





S.A.L Special Olympics
Presenting A Check to
Brevard County Special Olympics



Andy Campbell, S.A.L Squadron Commander presenting a check to Special Olympics for \$15,646.00 plus in-kind donations = \$20427.66





The Four Chaplains Monument Visit Riverside Park, Sebastian, FL February 4, 2024



American Legion Post 117



THE FOUR CHAPLAINS
SACRIFICE AT SEA
February 4, 2024
4:00pm

8:30am at Post 117 - Coffee/Donuts
then head to the Four Chaplains Monument
in Sebastian @ Riverside Park
Bikes & cars welcome!



Presented posthumously to the Four Chaplains





On Feb. 3, 1943, four Army chaplains – Father John P. Washington, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, and the Revs. George L. Fox and Clark V. Poling – gave up their life jackets on a sinking Army transport in the North Atlantic so that others might live.

Of the 902 soldiers, Navy armed guard, ship’s crew and civilian passengers on board the *Dorchester*, only 230 survived. They have told us of the chaplains’ efforts to restore calm in a hopeless and chaotic situation, and how they were last seen at the ship’s stern, arms linked in prayer.

The survivors’ testimony and the chaplains’ bravery are enshrined at the Chapel of Four Chaplains in the Philadelphia Navy Yard, where the Chapel Memorial Foundation honors acts of selfless service nationwide in memory of the Four Chaplains and crew of USAT *Dorchester*. ([The Four Chaplains | The American Legion](#))

When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men.

“It was the finest think I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven,” said John Ladd, a survivor who saw the chaplains’ selfless act.

Ladd’s response is understandable. The altruistic action of the four chaplains constitutes one of the purest spiritual and ethical acts a person can make. When giving their life jackets, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew; Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic; nor did the Reverends Fox and Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their jackets to the next man in line.

To read more about The Four Chaplains, go to [The Four Chaplains - Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation and Chapel](#)





The Four Chaplains Day Ceremony February 4, 2024



Donna Walkowiak, Chaplain



Honor Guard



Jim Fournier, Dana Jackson, Bruce Walkowiak, Leah Guljord, Donna Walkowiak and Terry Struven re-enact the dreadful day on the Dorchester in 1943.



“Valor is a gift, “Carl Sandburg once said. “Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes. “ That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Good, Reverend Poling, and Father Washington passed life’s ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage, and selflessness. [The Four Chaplains - Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation and Chapel](#)





February 2024 Improvements: Fence, Trees, Concrete Pad & Parking Area



Leo Belanger, Jesse Suelter, David Bolduc, Gerald Pucel putting in new post for fence



Larry Hoel, Chuck Body & Dave Fox digging holes for posts



Alpine Tree Service trimming trees at Post 117

Thank you to all volunteers in helping to beautify the outside of Post 117.





February 2024 Improvements: Fence, Trees, Concrete Pad & Parking



Increased entertainment area



New pad for airplane



Improving parking area



Airplane pad received some upgrades thanks to Chris Livingston & Jeff Cox.





Scouts BSA Troop 732 Eagle Project
February 10, 2024



Troy Becker, Mason Haiber, Conrad McAllister, Dexter Becker, Kayden Zimpfer, Andrew Whaley, Scott Kamna, Nicholas Bell, William Whaley, Patrick Whaley



Kayden Zimpfer and Conrad McAllister



The boys are working hard!



Kevin McGarry, Scouts Program Chair & Scouts working hard on the landscaping.





Auxiliary Vet Girls Rock
American Legion Post 117
February 17, 2024

*Pretty women wonder
where my secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit
a fashion model's size.
But when I start to tell them,
They think I'm telling lies.
I say,
It's in the reach of my arms,
The span of my hips,
The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.*

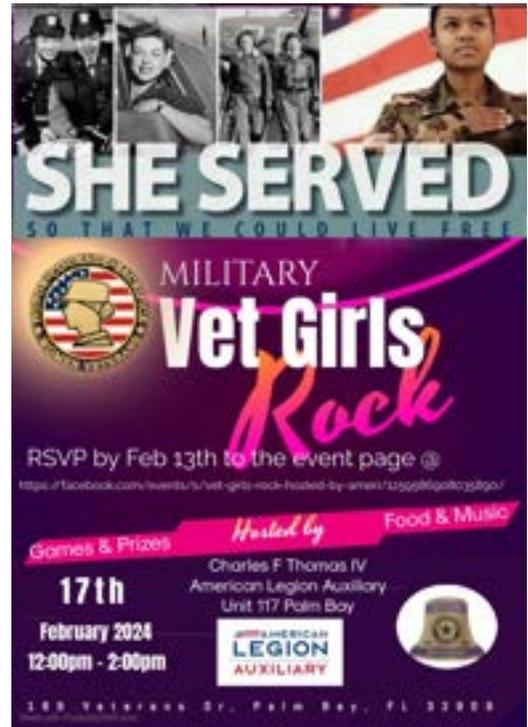
*I walk into a room
Just as cool as you please,
And to a man,
The fellows stand or
Fall down on their knees.
Then they swarm around me,
A hive of honey bees.
I say,
It's the fire in my eyes,
And the flash of my teeth,
The swing in my waist,
And the joy in my feet.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.*

Phenomenal Woman

*Men themselves have wondered
What they see in me,
They try so much
But they can't touch
My inner mystery.
When I try to show them,
They say they still can't see.
I say,
It's in the arch of my back,
The sun of my smile,
The ride of my breasts,
The grace of my style.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.*

*Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed,
I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing,
It might make you proud.
I say,
It's in the click of my heels,
The bend of my hair,
The palm of my hand,
The need for my care.
'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.*

MAYA ANGELOU



Women Veterans from Post 117 & others from District 12 attending Vet Girls Rock! Special Guest Jessica Moore, Department of Florida, 2nd Vice Commander. You are a **Phenomenal Woman!**





Legion General Meeting Minutes



Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117
General Membership
Meeting Minutes



February 21, 2024

Call to Order at 1900 hours. Opening Ceremonies Conducted.

Roll Call of Officers: All Present and Accounted for except Judge Advocate Doug Perry and Adjutant Jeannie Perry.

Previous Meeting Minutes were read and approved.

Introduction of VIP/Guests/New Members: Chris Hamrick will be new Department Commander, running unopposed.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: None.

Reports:

Finance: Report was read and approved pending Audit.

Membership:

1. 1088 is our new goal. 986 renewed, for 91%

Chaplain: Reported on Tim Morris's passing and thanks for honoring him.

Unfinished Business:

1. Space Coast Honor Flight Personnel Paula and Ted are veteran coordinators for veterans to go on an honor flight.
2. No parking area was completed by Jess.
3. Coordination of concrete was completed by Chris Livingston.

New Business:

1. \$4000 raised for Tim's charity, motion passed.
2. Be the one. Help our vets with suicide prevention.
3. SAL special Olympics charity passed for \$4000.
4. Female Veterans recognition was a big success.





Legion General Meeting Minutes

February 2024 General Minutes (Continued)

5. If you're going to the convention please make reservations now.
6. Volunteer Appreciation day event is on April 27th.
7. Saturday May 11th will be election day.

Good of the American Legion:

1. Chris made a motion to fill in the Parking area approx.. \$10,000. 2nd by Leo. Motion passed.
2. Cost to remove old trees is \$750. Motion by Chris and second by Leo, Motion passed.
3. Golf Tournament in West Palm for Vets \$300 donation motion passed.
4. Fabric for tiki windows bid for \$4500 for north and east side. To do an entire tiki will be \$8000. Motion passed.
5. Stan Wood asked for a donation for Project Vet Relief for \$2500 motion passed.
6. Jess made a motion for \$300 for plaques for police and firefighters. Motin passed.
7. Jess made a motion for \$3800 to be added to Post 394s \$1200 for suicide prevention. Motion passed.
8. Motion to get \$3000, for scholarships for high school graduates (\$250 max going to basic training.) motion passed.
9. Mobile blood unit will be here March 1st.
10. Quote for \$3000 to repair our website motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 2020 hours. Closing Ceremonies Conducted.

SUBMITTED: Jeannie Perry, Post Adjutant





Post Calendar March 2024

March 2024

Rev.1



Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Canteen Opens 10am every day Sunday: Full menu and steamed shrimp 1pm-4:45pm Monday: Men's Night—BOBO Drinks; Free Pool All Day Tuesday: Show-Me-The-Money 1-3pm Ace of Spades —Last ticket sold at 7:20pm Wednesday: Ladies Night BOGO Drinks; \$1 Wing Night Private Event: Pavilion (P); Hall Rental (H)			Women's History Month "Know what sparks the light in you, in your own way, can illuminate the world." - Oprah Winfrey		1	2
					Private Event (P) 11-4p Scouts BSA 732 Rotisserie Chicken 5-7pm Jimmy D 6:30-10:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm Private Event (H) 2-6pm Karaoke w/Mark Canada 6:30-10:30pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
SAL Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Men's Night 6p-close Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-The-Money-1p Big Azz Burger 5-7pm Riders Corn Hole 6:30p Ace of Spades 7:30pm	\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close Private Event (H) 7pm Jimmy D 6:30-9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm Riders Meeting 6:30pm	Riders Dinner 5-7pm Jolo's Empanada's Vince 6:30-10:30pm	Private Event (P&H) 4-8pm Chuck 6:30-10:30pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Riders Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Men's Night 6p-close Aux EC 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-The-Money-1p Tacos 5-7pm Riders Corn Hole 6:30p Ace of Spades 7:30pm	\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close SAL Meeting 6:30pm Alvin 6:30-9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm	SAL Dinner 5-7pm Fish Fry \$12 Double Trouble 6:30-10:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm District 12 Unity Ride AL 105th Birthday 12pm Alvin 6:30-10:30pm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
St Patty's Day Party Jimmy D 12-7 Corn beef & cabbage Post Shrimp & Wings 1-5p Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Men's Night 6p-close Riders EC Mtg 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-The-Money-1p Reuben Sandwich 5-7pm Riders Corn Hole 6:30p Ace of Spades 7:30pm	Legion EC 6pm Legion Meeting 7pm Officer Nominations \$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close Vince 6:30-9:30pm	Private Event (H) 1pm Pool Tournament 1pm Aux Meeting 7pm	AUX Dinner 5-7pm Meatloaf Jeff Krick 6:30-10:30pm	Private Event (P) 12-5pm District 12 Picnic Post 81@11a SK1 Ken Nixon 6:30-10:30pm
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
24thAux Full Kitchen Menu 24th Private Event (P) 31stEaster Breakfast 9-12p 31stPost Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm 24th/31 Scouts Mtg 5-7pm	Free Pool all Day Men's Night 6p-close Ways & Means 6pm Scouts Mtg 7-9pm	Show-Me-The-Money-1p Tacos 5-7pm Riders Corn Hole 6:30p Ace of Spades 7:30pm	\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close Chuck 6:30-9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm Rider's Cookout 6-9pm	Post Dinner 5-7pm Chicken Parmesan Will the Thrill 6:30-10:30pm	March Birthday's 6pm Kids Easter/Spring Fling 1p Shelley & Dave 6:30-10:30





The 57th Annual Grant Seafood Festival
Project Vet Relief/Membership
Grant, Florida
March 2-3, 2024



Jesse Suelter, First Vice & Marco Pops



Dana Jackson, Post Historian & Mrs. Crab



Jesse Nolan, Mike Nolan, Kim Oaks, Brad Miller



Brent & Dana Jackson



Brent Jackson





Scouts BSA Troop 117
Refurbished Charles F. Thomas IV Plaque
March 10, 2024



Charles F. Thomas IV plaque (BEFORE)



Riley Nevins and Dana Jackson, Post
117 Historian (AFTER)



Great job Girls!



Madison Bibey, Karigan Ford-Torres, Kimmie Travis, Riley Nevins, Emma Dunahee, Eliana McLendon, & Georgianna Hall

Other members not available:
Anna Brandt, Alisa Sirenko, & Lailah Tomkinson





American Legion 105th Birthday
Palm Bay, Florida
March 16, 2024

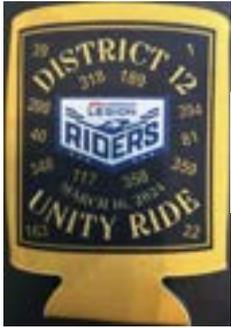


Terry Struven, Commander, Post 117 gives speech on American Legion Birthday.





American Legion Birthday Celebration
District 12 Unity Ride South
Post 318/Post 358/Post 39/Post 40/Post 189
March 16, 2024



Chapter 10 Kissimmee Crew



Chapter 117 Riders

William "Pineapple" Whitney



Ken Brody



<<John Rubino, D12 Riders Chairman
Dana Jackson, Post 117 Historian



Bob & Agnes Garry





Legion General Meeting Minutes



Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117
General Membership
Meeting Minutes



March 20, 2024

Call to Order at 1900 hours. Opening Ceremonies Conducted.

Roll Call of Officers: All Present and Accounted for except Executive Committee Chris Hamrick, excused.

Previous Meeting Minutes were read and approved.

Introduction of VIP/Guests/New Members:

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Bruce Thurber, District Commander, presented Awards for Membership to Brent Jackson, Jess s., Dana J., Chris H., and Marcus.

Reports:

Finance: Report was read and approved pending Audit.

Membership:

1. 1088 is our new goal. 1019 renewed, for 93.66%.

Chaplain: Reported on Fred (out of the hospital), Santa John (seems to be improving), and Preston Jones ceremony announcement.

Unfinished Business:

1. Repairs for Tiki screens at a cost of \$1300. Motion 1st, 2nd, and passed.
2. We saved \$3000.00 on website repair, with the help of a volunteer from the Boy Scout group, small donation to come out for that for Boy Scout group approved.

New Business:

1. A/C maintenance for \$1200.00; Motion 1st, 2nd and passed.
2. Parking lot milling came up four loads short and need to steam roll. \$3000.00 to finish motion 1st, 2nd, motion passed.
3. May 18th is the benefit for Police and Firefighters.
4. NVHS \$1200.00 donation, motion 1st, 2nd, motion passed.





Legion General Meeting Minutes

March 2024 General Minutes (Continued)

Good of the American Legion:

1. For Pinning Ceremonies for Veterans in Hospice please see Dana Jackson.
2. Website is AL117.com
3. Motion to donated \$350 to Santa John to help pay rent, Motion 1st, 2nd and passed.
4. Donation of \$250 for Children and Youth. Passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 1956 hrs. Closing Ceremonies Conducted.

SUBMITTED: Jeannie Perry, Post Adjutant





Billy Award
March 20, 2024



Bruce Thurber, D12 Commander and Kevin McGarry, Post Service Officer, recipient of Billy Award



Chris Livingston, Sergeant-At-Arms & Bruce Thurber, District 12 Commander, present Bob Garry and Shiela Cline with the Billy Award. Nancy Richert also received award (not present)

Andy Campbell, Squadron 117 Commander, also received the Billy Award at an SAL meeting.





District 12 Spring Picnic
At Post 81, Melbourne
March 23, 2024



Chris Hamrick,
Department 1st Vice &
Dana Jackson, Post 117
Historian



<<Steve Vilgats, D12 SAL Commander, Char Kinlan D12 Auxiliary President, Bruce Thurber, D12 Commander, Dan Martin, Post 81, & John Rubino, D12 Rider's Chairman (Post 189)



Phoenix Band



Raffle Basket Time!





Richard Phillips Down Biker fund
7th Birthday Bash
March 23, 2024



Notorious P.I.G



Michelle Bomalaski from Sinclair Law Office

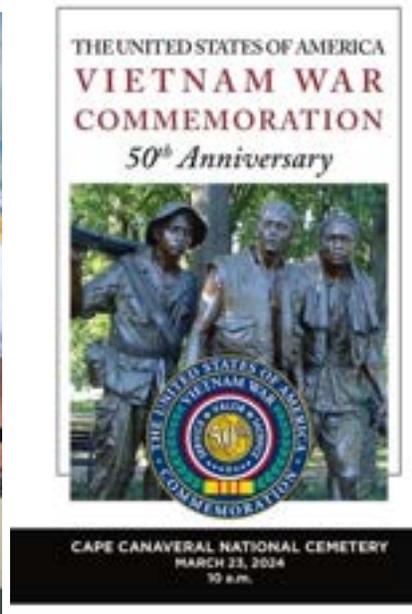




Vietnam War Commemoration 50th Anniversary
Cape Canaveral National Cemetery
Cape Canaveral, Florida
March 23, 2024



Leo Belanger (top middle) and Ed Milner (bottom right) pinned by Vietnam Unforgettable Memories Foundation Personnel.



Ed Milner (right) getting pinned.



Bruce Walkowiak, Leo Belanger, Ed Milner, Donna Walkowiak, Dawn Hanner & Commander Chris Livingston also present.
Photo by Florida Today.





The 117 Juniors—Family Future Leaders
Spring Fling
March 30, 2024



Eric Spellman, Easter Bunny & little family members



Thank you to all who donated toward the raffle baskets.



Egg hunt time by the older kids





Easter Brunch
March 31, 2024



Marco Pops & Agnes Garry



Marco Pops & Aubrey Stanley>>





Post Calendar April 2024

April 2024

Rev.0



Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Get Healthy Move More Month Sexual Assault Awareness Month Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month	Free Pool All Day Men's Night 6p-close Scouts Meeting 7-9pm	Show-Me-The-Money-1p Rider's Corn Hole 6:30pm Ace of Spades 7:30pm Big Azz Burger 5-7pm Veterans Fishing Trip Sign-up	\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close Vince 6:30-9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm Riders Meeting 6:30pm	Rider's Dinner 5-7pm Chicken Cutlets	Pool Tournament 1pm Children & Youth Picnic 12-5pm/Rider KSU 11am Karaoke-Mark Canada 6:30-10:30pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Auxiliary Steak Shoot Charlotte Bass 12pm-7 Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Scouts Meeting 5-6:30pm	Free Pool All Day Men's Night 6p-close Auxiliary EC Meeting 6pm Scouts Meeting 7-9pm	Show-Me-The-Money-1p Rider's Corn Hole 6:30pm Ace of Spades 7:30pm Tacos 5-7pm	Private Event (P) \$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close SAL Meeting 6:30pm Chuck 6:30-9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm 40&8 7pm	SAL Dinner Fish Fry 5-7pm Jimmy D 6:30-10:30pm	District 12 Meeting Post 117 9am Joe Calautti 6:30-10:30pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Honor Guard Practice 10a Private Event (P) 1pm Scouts Meeting 5-6:30pm	Free Pool All Day Men's Night 6p-close Riders EC Meeting 6pm Scouts Meeting 7-9pm	Show-Me-The-Money-1p Rider's Corn Hole 6:30pm Ace of Spades 7:30pm Pajama Day 4pm-7	Legion EC 6pm Legion Meeting 7pm 2nd Officer Nominations \$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close Alvin 6:30-9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm Auxiliary Meeting 7pm 2nd Round Nomination	Aux Dinner 5-7pm Pork chops	Pool Tournament 1pm Private Event (P) 1pm Karaoke-Chuck 6:30-10:30pm
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Earth Day -Plant a tree Scouts Meeting 5-6:30pm	Free Pool All Day Men's Night 6p-close Scouts Meeting 7-9pm	Welcome Unity Ride Riders for lunch 12pm Show-Me-The-Money-1p Rider's Corn Hole 6:30pm Ace of Spades 7:30pm	\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close Jimmy D 6:30-9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm Rider's Bike Night 6-9pm	Post Dinner 5-7pm Lasagna Will the Thrill 6:30-10:30p	D12 Training Post 394 9a April Birthday's 6:00pm Volunteer Appreciation Day 12pm-4pm Double Trouble 6:30-10:30pm
28	29	30	Can'teen Opens 10am every day Sunday: Full menu and steamed shrimp 1pm-4:45pm Monday: Men's Night—BOBO Drinks; Free Pool All Day Tuesday: Show-Me-The-Money 1-3pm; Ace of Spades—Last ticket sold at 7:20pm Wednesday: Ladies Night BOGO Drinks; \$1 Wing Night w/entertainment Friday: Family Dinners ; Music Entertainment Friday & Saturday Private Event: Pavilion (P); Hall Rental (H)			
1st Annual Post 117/ Post 394 Social 12-4pm Scouts Meeting 5-6:30pm	Free Pool All Day Men's Night 6p-close Ways & Means 6pm Scouts Meeting 7-9pm	Show-Me-The-Money-1p Rider's Corn Hole 6:30pm Ace of Spades 7:30pm				





Department of Florida, Children & Youth
Picnic/Poker Run
April 6, 2024



Rick Johnson, American Legion, Department of Florida, Children & Youth Chairperson



Ofc Joleen James & Ofc Taneisha Campbell, Palm Bay PD Community Resource Unit



Shiela Cline and Chris Livingston dishing out the delicious food.



Nana Lontakos, Linda Knoblach-Harkness, Mary Kelly Perkins helping to sell tickets.



13 People donated a total of 9 Units. Each unit is separated into 3 components, red cells, platelets, and plasma when processed. Those components go to 3 different patients. Those 9 units once separated go to 27 patients.



MaryAnn Spellman, 117 Junior Chairman
Kim Oaks, Auxiliary President





Children & Youth Picnic/Poker Run April 6, 2024



**William Whitney, Jim Fournier, Mike Ambort ,
Bobby Dye, and Johnny Langley**



**Joe Marcheggiani, Eastern Area Commander
Dennis Mallon, Past Eastern Area Commander
Russ Pacowski, Past Post Commander 189 Sebastian**



**Racheal & Kyle Nash, Jeff Cox, Nancy
Richert, Shannon Fishcer-Cox, Agnes
Garry, Terry Anderson-Judah "Chain",
Karen Humann, Post 117 Riders**

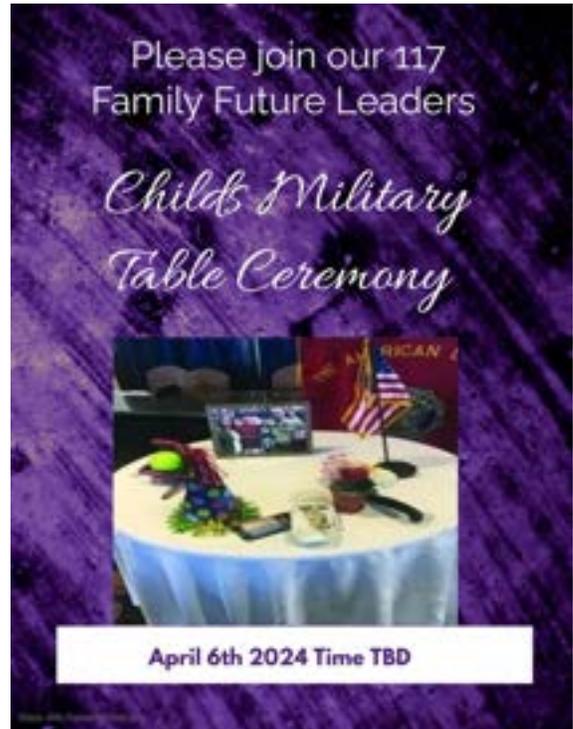




The Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony
April 6, 2024



117 Juniors



MaryAnn Spellman, Unit 117 Juniors Chairman, Linda Knoblach-Harkness, Kim Oaks, Auxiliary President & 117 Juniors



Serenity Jackson & Dana Jackson





Children & Youth Picnic
Department Commanders Past & Present
April 6, 2024



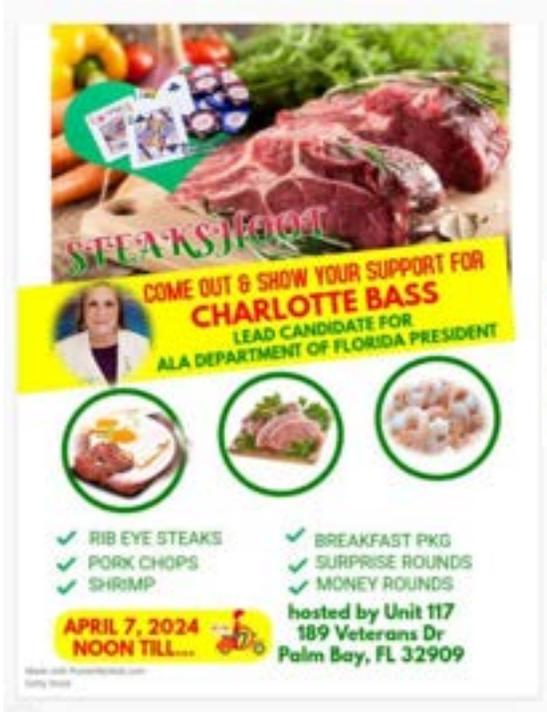
Past Department Commanders: Dennis Boland, Jim Ramos, Diane Boland, Rick Johnson, & Jerry Brandt

(Far Right) Current Commander: Michael "Gambler" Raymond "BE THE ONE"





Auxiliary Steakshoot for Charlotte Bass
Lead Candidate for ALA Department of Florida President
April 7, 2024



Tammy Zell, Kim Oaks, Charlotte Bass

Let's Play!



Andrea Sherman and Mike Sherman





Hospice of Health First
Volunteer Recognition Brunch
Melbourne, FL
April 11, 2024



Shiela Wilson



Dana Jackson & Harry Pitt



Dana Jackson & Victor Velasquez (Hospice of Health First Volunteer Coordinator)



Dana Jackson, Leon Strausser, Donna Walkowiak, Jeannie Perry, Terry Struven & Harry Pitt receiving Volunteer Appreciation Certificates from Hospice of Health First.





April 2024
Post Improvements: Outdoor Vibrancy



Chris Livingston & Dana Jackson



New flower pots, plants, soil, mulch, and lighting



Thank you Home Depot Foundation for their generous grant of \$3000. We were able to enhance the exterior and infuse much-needed vibrancy to



Shelby Kennedy putting her "green thumb" to work on the front entrance to Post 117.





District 6 Unity Ride
 Post 55, Post 43, Post 10
 April 13, 2024



Post 43, Haines City



Post 55, Clermont



Ofc Rivera, (Haines City PD), Nory Wolf, Kathy Mabbitt, (Chapter 81) Brent & Dana Jackson (Chapter 117), Ofc Rodriguez (Haines City PD), Anita Truman Hutchinson, Chapter 55 Road Captain Front Doug Bert, Chapter 81



Post 10, Kissimmee





Legion General Meeting Minutes



Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117
General Membership
Meeting Minutes



April 17, 2024

Call to Order at 1900 hours. Opening Ceremonies Conducted.

Roll Call of Officers: All Present and Accounted for except Jimmy Donovan 3rd vice, excused.

Previous Meeting Minutes were read and approved.

Introduction of VIP/Guests/New Members: Bruce Thurber and Chris Hamrick.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Presentation for pinning ceremony participants: Leon Strausser, Harry Pitt, Dana Jackson, Terry Struven, Brent Jackson and Donna Walkowiak.

Reports:

Finance: Report was read and approved pending Audit.

Membership:

1. 1088 is our new goal. 1095 renewed, for 100.64%.

Chaplain: Reported on Willy passed May 19 will be a ride for celebration of life, Santa John responsive and doing well in Kindred care. Francis Matten Jr. Passed. Dancing Bob in Atlantic Shores Rehab.

Unfinished Business:

1. 2nd Round of nominations
 - a. Commander: Terry Struven and Chris Livingston
 - b. 1st Vice: Bruce Thurber
 - c. 2nd Vice: Ray Wright
 - d. 3rd Vice: Jimmy Donovan
 - e. Finance Officer: Bobby Dye
 - f. Chaplin: Donna Walkowiak
 - g. Historian: Dana Jackson
 - h. Sgt. at Arms: Leo Belanger
 - i. Asst. Sgt. At Arms: Bob Garry
 - j. Executive Committee: Chuck Body, Jim Fournier and Stan Wood.
2. April 23 unity run donate \$2500 to suicide prevention motion 1st, 2nd and passed.

New Business:

1. Sponsor a local baseball team for \$2000(\$1000 for each team) motion 1st, 2nd and passed.
2. Thanks to volunteers Chris and Dana for post improvements.
3. April 27 volunteer appreciation day.





Legion General Meeting Minutes April 2024

April 2024 General Minutes (Continued)

4. April 28th post 117 and 394 social.
5. May 4th post election.
6. May 5th escort of Vietnam wall to Wickham Park.
7. May 6th wreath ceremony.
8. May 27th blood drive at Post.

Good of the American Legion:

1. Memorial Day weekend events: May 25th Fountain Head cemetery flags and pay respect. May 27th assisted living visiting veterans and honoring them. May 28 Recovery of flags from the cemetery.
2. Motion for post to pick up the cost for new officer dues and covers. Motion 1st, 2nd and passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 1952 hrs. Closing Ceremonies Conducted.

SUBMITTED: Jeannie Perry, Post Adjutant





Memorial Tree—Tim Morris
April 21, 2024



Chris Livingston filling in hole
Kim Oaks is watering tree

American Legion members supporting event for Memorial Tree in Memory of Tim Morris— Legionnaire/ Rider



<<Karen Labrecque-Ortiz & Glenn Weyant wearing their red sneakers and holding a pictures of Tim that they carry in the bike.



Crape Myrtle Memory Tree for Tim Morris



There's a very special garden
Where the trees of memory grow
Nurtured by the Kindness
And concern that good friends show.
The roots are cherished memories
Of good times in the past
The branches tender promises
That souls endure and last.

Author Unknown





In-State Unity Ride
#Easternroute Yo-Yo Lunch
April 23, 2024



Post 117 Commander Terry Struven & Zane Koonce, #Easternroute Leader, Chapter 137, Jacksonville

Kim oaks, Aux President, giving Zane Koonce \$300 for PVR:SPI



Zane Koonce & Terry Struven—Terry gave Zane \$2500.00 for PVR:SPI

#Easternroute



Poster provided by Kid City USA, Melbourne



Palm Bay PD always supporting Post





In-State Unity Ride
#Easternroute Yo-Yo Lunch
April 23, 2024



Patty Taegdr, Chapter 8, Winter Haven



Connie Koonce, Chapter 137, Jacksonville



Rider's taking a break and having lunch

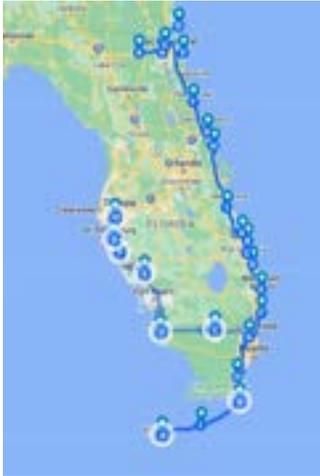


Poster drawn by Kid City USA Daycare, Melbourne, FL





In-State Unity Ride
#Easternroute
April 23—26, 2024



1,138.1 miles, 26 hours

#iRideforthe22



#endveteransuicide



#Easternroute @Post 43, Homestead, Florida— Post 43 provided dinner.



Dana Jackson, Historian, Key West

Brent & Dana Jackson at the Big Lobster in Islamorada





In-State Unity Ride
#Easternroute
April 21—26, 2024



Dennis Mallon, Stephen Follett (Post 40) and Brent Jackson and Dana Jackson from Post 117



National Navy UDT-Seal Museum Fort Pierce, FL



Fred the Tree: Fred's name is an acronym reputedly made up years ago, with the letters F-R-E-D culled from "For Real Enjoyment Driving," according to [Keys residents](#) who help tend to Fred.

#Easternroute did a ride-by for Hunter Cercy (nephew of rider Dana Jackson) at Harris Field in Homestead, FL). Hunter was diagnosed with cancer 2 years ago and had just rang the bell at the hospital the day prior. Congratulations Hunter!





Bike and Car Meetup
Doc Holiday's last 117 Bike Night
April 25, 2024

4-25-24
Bike and Car meetup
Post 117
 189 Veterans Dr.
6-9pm
Doc Holiday's
 last 117 Bike Night
Burgers & Brats \$7
 T-shirt and booze giveaway
 Rider's t-shirt sale
50/50
 Come show
 off your
Ride



Wayne "Doc Holiday" Stalls



117 Members & Friends



Wayne "Doc Holiday" Stalls Co-pilot





In-State Unity Ride Rally
 Clearwater, FL
 April 27, 2024



Post 117 Donations: \$2017 from Tim Morris Benefit Ride; \$500 from Post 22 from Tim's Benefit Ride & \$1979 from Chapter 117 Rider's monthly 50/50.



Robert Smith, Jeff Cox, Shelby Kennedy, Bobby Dye, Dave Smitley, Bill Davidson (Previous Past Commander) & Chris Hamrick (Department 1st Vice Commander at Rally to present checks.





Volunteer Appreciation Day
April 27, 2024



Thank you Volunteers!



Kim Campbell, 117 Junior, Millicent Donovan

Kim Campbell trying her hand at hoola hoop.



Kids and their hoola hoops. Millicent Donovan in the back watching the kids have fun.





3rd Annual Post 117/Post 394 Social
April 28, 2024



Food Fun Games

Kids having fun!





Post Calendar May 2024

May 2024

Rev.1 AMERICAN
LEGION

Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Canteen Opens 10am every day Sunday: Full menu and steamed shrimp 1pm-4:45pm Monday: Men's Night—BOGO Drinks; Free Pool All Day Tuesday: Show-Me-The-Money 1-3pm Ace of Spades —Last ticket sold at 7:20pm Wednesday: Ladies Night BOGO Drinks; \$1 Wing Night ; Entertainment Friday: Family Dinner; Music Entertainment Friday & Saturday Private Event: Pavilion [P]; Hall Rental [H]			1	2	3	4
			\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close Alvin 6:30-9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm Aux-Poppy Day Proclamation @Townhall 6pm Riders Meeting 6:30pm	Rider's Dinner 5-7pm Shannon's Pot Pie Tropic Bob 6:30-10:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm SAL District DCC Post 394 10amAux District DCC-Hall 10a Legion Election Day 6-7p Derby Day 3:30pm Karaoke-Mark Canada 6:30-10:30pm
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Cinco de Mayo 12-5pm Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Burritos Wall Escort KSU 0815 Scouts Meeting 5-6:30pm	Free Pool All Day Men's Night 6p-close VVB Wreath Ceremony 6:00p/Opening Ceremony 7pm-Wickham Park Scouts Meeting 7-9p	Show-Me-The-Money-1p Riders Corn Hole 6:30pm Tacos 5-7pm Ace of Spade 7:30pm	\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close SAL Election Meeting 6:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm 40&8 7pm	SAL Dinner Fish Fry 5-7pm Jimmy D 6:30-10:30pm	Massing of Colors 11am Joe Calautti 6:30-10:30p
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
SAL Mother's Day Brunch 10am-12pm Honor Guard Practice 10a Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Scouts Meeting 5-6:30pm	Free Pool All Day Men's Night 6p-close Auxiliary EC Meeting 6pm Scouts Meeting 7-9pm	Show-Me-The-Money-1p Riders Corn Hole 6:30pm Ace of Spade 7:30pm Big Azz Burgers 5-7pm	Legion EC 6pm Legion Meeting 7pm \$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close Chuck 6:30-9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm Auxiliary Meeting 7pm 3rd Round Nominations & Elections	Aux Dinner 5-7pm Country Fried Steak Alvin 6:30-10:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm Law Enforcement/First Responder Appreciation Day 11-4pm Armed Forces Day District DCC Post 117 9a Karaoke-Chuck 6:30-10:30p
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
No Kitchen Willie Celebration of Life 1pm-Luv'n Life Band Scouts Meeting 5-6:30pm	Free Pool All Day Men's Night 6p-close Riders EC Meeting 6pm Ways & Means 6pm	Show-Me-The-Money-1p Riders Corn Hole 6:30pm Ace of Spades 7:30pm Tacos 5-7pm	\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close Jimmy D 6:30-9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm	Post Dinner 5-7pm Beef Bracket Will the Thrill 6:30-10:30p	May Birthday 6:00pm Private Event 1-5pm [H] Flags on Veteran Grave site—Fountainhead Sam KSU 7:45am Vince 6:30-10:30pm
26	27	28	29	30	31	
No Kitchen Boy Scout BBQ Blood Drive 12-5p SAL Meat Raffle 1pm Honor Guard Practice 10a Scouts Meeting 5-6:30pm	Honor CPT Thomas Fountainhead Ceremony 9a Assisted Living Visit TRD Memorial Day Ceremony 1pm /KSU@65am Free Pool All Day Men's Night 6p-close Scouts Meeting 7-9pm	Show-Me-The-Money-1p Riders Corn Hole 6:30pm Ace of Spade 7:30pm Big Azz Burgers 5-7pm Fountainhead Flag Retrieval 8am	\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close Ken Nixon 6:30-9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm Rider's Bike Night 6-9pm	Scout Dinner 5-7pm Ken Snyder 6:30-10:30pm	





Auxiliary—Poppy Proclamation
Palm Bay, FL
May 2, 2024



Dana Jackson, Historian, Auxiliary President Kim Oaks, Rachael Nash, and Lorraine Carrier-Ryan



Kim Oaks, Rob Medina (Mayor of Palm Bay), Rachael Nash, and Lorraine Carrier-Ryan. Mayor Medina presenting Poppy Day Proclamation.





Legion Post Officer Election Day
4-7pm
May 4, 2024



Newly elected Post Officers 2024-2025

Commander: Terry Struven

1st Vice Commander: Bruce Thurber

2nd Vice Commander: Ray Wright

3rd Vice Commander: Jimmy Donovan

Post Adjutant: Dana Jackson

Judge Advocate: TBD

Finance Officer: Bobby Dye

Historian: Dana Jackson

Chaplain: Donna Walkowiak

SGT-At-Arms: Leo Belanger

Ass't SGT-At-Arms: Bob Garry

Service Officer: Kevin McGarry

Executive Committee: Jim Fournier & Chuck Body



Members stand in line waiting to vote in the 2024-2025 Post Election.



Terry Struven & Debbie Nixon





Auxiliary Kentucky Derby
May 4, 2024



Auxiliary President Kim Oaks & Lisa Meeks



Millicent Donovan, Pamela James, Patti Bolduc, Commander Terry Struven, Teresa Linton, Keiran Monnett-Corneail, Kim Oaks MaryAnn Spellman, Eric Spellman





Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall Escort
May 5, 2024
Cocoa, FL



117 Family!



Safety Brief





Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall
Wreath Ceremony
Wickham Park, Melbourne
May 6, 2024

Wreath Presentation by the American Legion, Auxiliary, Juniors, SAL, Riders, & Honor Guard.



<<Legion



Riders



<<Auxiliary

Unit 117 Juniors &
Squadron 117
Juniors



S.A.L



Honor Guard





Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall
Wreath Ceremony
Wickham Park, Melbourne
May 6, 2024



Florida Today photos taken by Tim Shortt capturing American Legion Post 117 Family in line waiting to present wreaths.

American Legion Post 117 Family paying their respects to those that never came home after presenting their wreaths.





Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall
Wreath Ceremony
Wickham Park, Melbourne
May 6, 2024



Auxiliary Unit 117 & Squadron 117 Young Junior Members with Maryann Spellman, Terry Struven (Commander) & Andy Campbell



Wall is 300 foot 3/5th scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Post 117 presented their wreaths.



Auxiliary & S.A.L Juniors with Palm Bay Mayor Rob Medina





Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall
Massing of the Colors
Wickham Park, Melbourne
May 11, 2024



Honor Guard



Post 117 led the way in Massing of the Colors



Brian Yancey & Patti Bolduc





Legion General Meeting Minutes



Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117
General Membership
Meeting Minutes



May 15, 2024

Call to Order at 1905 hours. Opening Ceremonies Conducted.

Roll Call of Officers: All Present and Accounted for except Chris Hamrick, excused.

Previous Meeting Minutes were read and approved.

Introduction of VIP/Guests/New Members: Bruce Thurber.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Charter was uncovered.

Reports:

Finance: Report was read and approved pending Audit.

Membership:

1. 1088 is our new goal. 1108 renewed, for 101.84%.

Chaplain: Reported on Santa John, doing well in rehab. Bob Rouleau pacemaker put in. Willie's run this weekend for his celebration of life. Memorial Day events, Saturday ceremony at the cemetery. And Assisted living on Memorial Day to honor veterans.

Unfinished Business:

1. Commander Terry Struven thanked everyone for the election day running smoothly.

New Business:

1. Dana Jackson was appointed to the position of adjutant by Commander Terry Struven.
2. DCC meeting being held at post 163.
3. Law Enforcement and First Responder appreciation date is May 18 at post 117.
4. Chris Hamrick will be the 2024-2025 Department Commander.
5. Celebration of Life will be Sunday May 19 for Willie.
6. Memorial Day events are as follows: May 25 at Fountainhead Cemetery flag placed on veteran grave sites. Monday May 27th Assisted living visits and Memorial Day ceremony at 1pm at post 117. On Tuesday May 18th will be flag retrieval at Fountainhead Cemetery.
7. Installation of new incoming officers will be on June 23rd at post 117.

Good of the American Legion:

1. Bruce Thurber nominated Dana Jackson for Legionnaire of the year. Terry Struven will take some time and nominate accordingly when has more time to weigh the decision.
2. Kevin McCarry appointed as Service Officer.
3. Kevin McCarry for wall needs to raise \$5500 for veterans and heroes' motion for post to donate \$500. Motion 1st, 2nd and passed.





Legion General Meeting Minutes

May 2024 General Minutes (Continued)

- Heritage High School has 17 graduates going into the military. Originally \$3000 was approved. Asking for \$3400 so each graduate has \$200. Motin 1st, 2nd and passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 1945 hrs. Closing Ceremonies Conducted.

SUBMITTED: Jeannie Perry, Post Adjutant





Law Enforcement/First Responder
Appreciation Day
May 18, 2024



Palm Bay Law Enforcement/First Responders



Brett Debusk,
Palm Bay PD

Chris Livingston,
Melbourne PD &
Post 117 member





Scholarships & Sponsorships May 18, 2024



Graduating students from Heritage High School receiving a scholarship from Post 117. We wish you all the best in your new career.



Jess Suelter
Admin · 18h · 🇺🇸

This year, Post 117 gave 18 scholarships to graduating seniors that have joined the military.

Please help congratulate those that have taken the oath and have committed to put others first.

USA

- Lounes Arbani
- Conner Berrios
- Isis Magrowski-Kutz
- Taylor Puzines

USN

- Arianna Alexander
- Wyatt Cushing
- Sara Menjivar
- Johnnie Rentz

USAF

- Tyler Rivers
- Nashshawia King

USMC

- Keith Cole
- Christian Degrosa
- Nelson Martinez
- Mir'rikal Nash
- Stephan Perry
- Cameron Roberts
- Maurice Scott
- Ethan St John



Heritage High School Graduates that have signed up to serve our Country.





Scholarships & Sponsorships May 2024



Jose Muniz Scholarship has been given out for years from Post 117. Jose was a member at the Post and was an intricate player within the Bayside High School JROTC Program. This picture was sent to Jocelyn Lugo who is the daughter of Jose Muniz.

Cadet of the Year—Cadet Gabriel Rosado

Pop Warner Palm Bay Rockets

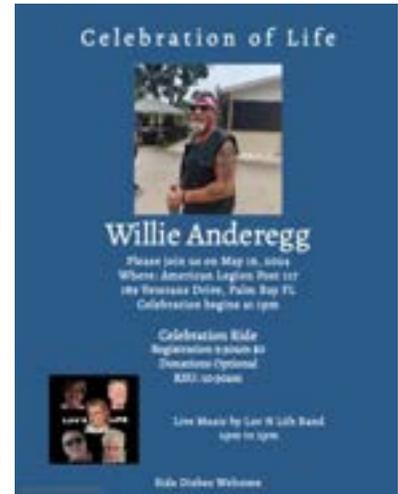


Dana Jackson, Post 117 Historian presented a \$550.00 check to Coach Joe for the Palm Bay Rockets.





Willie Anderegg Memorial Run May 19, 2024



Amy Ellis Gordon,
the LOVE of
Willie's life!

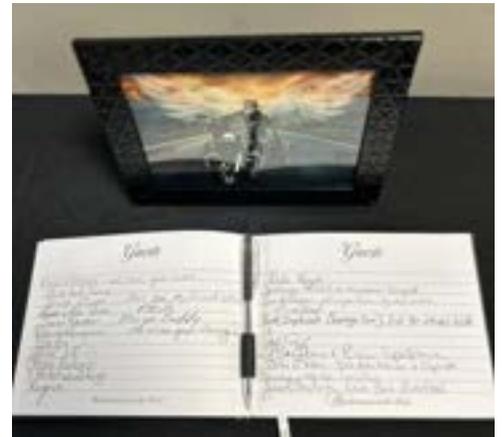
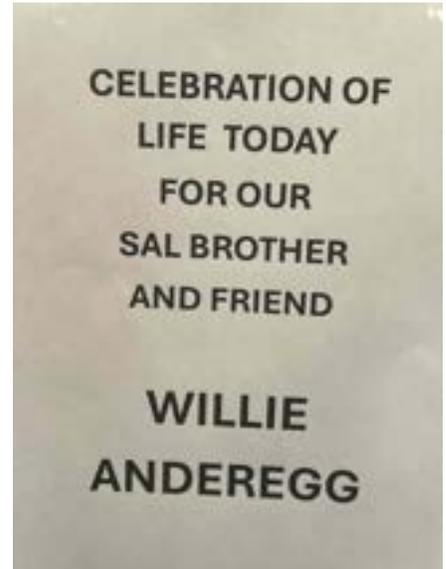




Willie Anderegg Celebration of Life
May 19, 2024



Amy Ellis Gordon & Family & Friends of Willie Anderegg



#CANCERSUCKS



Members and family honoring Willie





Flag's on Veterans Graves Fountainhead Memorial Park May 25, 2024



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



Scouts BSA Troop 732 & 314

70+ in attendance today to honor our Veterans on Memorial Day weekend.



Obed Martinez & Sebastian Martinez, Cub Scouts 525



Scouts BSA Troop 117



Channing Smith, Palm Bay Rockets

Fountainhead Memorial Park





Honor Guard
Celebration of Life at Post 394
May 25, 2024

Honor Guard rendering Full Honors at a Celebration of Life for Mike Decker at American Legion Post 394.



Donna Walkowiak, Leo Belanger, Chris Livingston (Commander), Bruce Walkowiak, Ed Milner, Andy Campbell, (Front) Rowena Milner and Dawn Hanner





Scouts BSA Troop 732
Memorial Weekend Sunday BBQ
May 26, 2024



Troop 732

Join American Legion 117
FOR A
Memorial Weekend
SUNDAY BBQ
Benefiting
BSA Troop 732
Sunday, May 26th 12pm – 5pm
Pulled Pork or Qtz Chicken Plates \$10, Buy 4 Get 3 Free!
w/ Baked Beans, Slaw, Mac n' Cheese
*** Raffle Baskets & More ***



At the
American Legion Post 117
189-1st Street Dr. SE, Palm Bay
Never Forget Their Service





S.A.L Meat Raffle May 26, 2024



Andy Campbell, Squadron 117 Commander & Kim Campbell
Raised \$2800 for Veterans Fishing Trip



Commander Mark Mavis,
AMVETS Post 34



Andy Campbell, Kim Campbell & Beth Singler





S.A.L Meat Raffle
May 26, 2024



Andy Campbell, Karen Campbell & Kim Campbell



9 Units collected



Andy Campbell, Rachael Nash & Kim Campbell



Andy Campbell, Kevin McGarry & Kim Campbell





The Honoring of
Charles F. Thomas IV
Fountainhead Memorial Park
May 27, 2024

American Legion Post 117

Come join us at
Fountainhead Memorial Cemetery on
May 27, 2024 at 9am to
HONOR CPT Charles F. Thomas IV
&
All Veterans laid to rest

American Legion Post 117 was named after Charles F. Thomas IV on
December 29, 1984.

June 12, 1946 - April 8, 1971



Commander Struven, Honor
Guard, Post Officers, Legion
Riders & members of Post
117 paying respects to
Charles F. Thomas IV





Veteran Assisted Living Escort/Visit May 27, 2024

Memorial Day Ceremonies
May 27, 2024

Join us as we start our Memorial Day with a ceremony at the grave site of Charles F. Thomas IV, at Frontland Memorial Cemetery at 8am.

We invite you to join our Honor Guard and Riders as they bring ceremonies of Memorial Day to the Veterans in assisted living facilities. They will be departing from the cemetery to head to facilities:

- Life Care
- The Palms
- Clubhawk
- The Frontiers

The Day concludes with a Ceremony at Post 117 at 1pm then a picnic.



Honor Guard



Riders escorted the Honor Guard to Assisted Living Facilities





Memorial Day Ceremony Statue Unveiling May 27, 2024



Commander Terry Struven giving opening remarks



Chaplain Donna Walkowiak giving ceremony prayer



Rob Medina, Mayor of Palm Bay

Charles F. Thomas IV



Scouts BSA Troop 732—
Raising the American Flag.



“Lest We Forget”





Memorial Day Ceremony
Statue Unveiling
May 27, 2024



Commander Terry Struven and John Carlson.



William "Pineapple" Whitney & Lorraine Carlson



"Lest We Forget"



John, Lorraine & Pineapple dedicated the statue to Tim Morris and all other Post members that have gone on before us.





Post Calendar June 2024

June 2024

Rev.0



Charles F. Thomas IV
American Legion Post 117

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Canteen Opens 10am every day Sunday: Full menu and steamed shrimp 1pm-4:45pm Monday: Men's Night—BOGO Drinks; Free Pool All Day Tuesday: Show-Me-The-Money 1-3pm Ace of Spades—Last ticket sold at 7:20pm Wednesday: Ladies Night BOGO Drinks; \$1 Wing Night; Entertainment Friday: Family Dinner; Music Entertainment Friday & Saturday Private Event: Pavilion (P); Hall Rental (H)			June is PTSD Awareness Month June 27th—PTSD Awareness Day			1 Pool Tournament 1pm Karaoke-Mark Canada 6:30-10:30pm
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
SAL Veteran Fishing Trip 5:30am Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Scouts Meeting 5-6:30pm	Free Pool All Day Men's Night 6p-close Scouts Meeting 7-9p	Show-Me-The-Money 1p Tacos 5-7pm Riders Corn Hole 6:30pm Ace of Spade 7:30pm	\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close Vince 6:30-9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm Riders Meeting 6:30pm	Rider's Dinner 5-7pm Prime Rib Jimmy D 6:30-10:30pm	Private Event (P) Joe Calautti 6:30-10:30pm
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Honor Guard Practice 30a Junior Award Ceremony 12p Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Scouts Meeting 5-6:30pm	Free Pool All Day Men's Night 6p-close Aux EC Meeting 6pm Scouts Meeting 7-9p	Show-Me-The-Money 1p Big Azz Burgers 5-7pm Riders Corn Hole 6:30pm Ace of Spade 7:30pm	\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close Women Veterans Day SAL Meeting 6:30pm Jimmy D 6:30-9:30pm	Dept Convention 13-16 Charlie F. Thomas IV Birthday Pool Tournament 1pm 40&8 7pm	Aux Dinner 5-7pm Nancy's Ribs Flag Day 249th Army Birthday 4:30pm Will The Thrill 6:30-10:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm Private Event (P) Private Event (H) Karaoke—Chuck 6:30-10:30pm
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Father's Day Brunch 10am-12pm Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Scouts Meeting 5-6:30pm	Free Pool All Day Men's Night 6p-close Rider's EC Meeting Scouts Meeting 7-9p	Show-Me-The-Money 1p Tacos 5-7pm Riders Corn Hole 6:30pm Ace of Spade 7:30pm	Legion EC 6pm Legion Meeting 7pm \$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close Alvin 6:30-9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm Auxiliary Meeting 7pm Tim Bobanic Guest Supervisor of Elections	SAL Fish Fry Dinner 5-7pm Vince 6:30-10:30pm	Karaoke/DJ—Willie 6:30-10:30pm
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29
23rd-Installation of Officers 12pm 23rd No Kitchen 30th Honor Guard 10a 30th Full Kitchen Menu Shrimp & Wings 1-5pm Scouts Meeting 5-6:30pm	Free Pool All Day Men's Night 6p-close Ways & Means 6pm Scouts Meeting 7-9p	Show-Me-The-Money 1p Big Azz Burgers 5-7pm Riders Corn Hole 6:30pm Ace of Spade 7:30pm	\$1 Wing Night 1-7pm Ladies Night 6p-close Chuck 6:30-9:30pm	Pool Tournament 1pm Rider's Bike Night 6-9pm	Post Dinner 5-7pm Ray's Roladen Alvin 6:30-10:30pm	Private Event (P) June Birthday 6pm Vince 6:30-10:30pm





S.A.L Veteran Fishing Trip Blue Heron Fishing, Riviera, Florida June 2, 2024



Boat Staff & Ed Milner



Miss Blue Heron



Boat Staff & Andy Campbell



Boat Staff & Robert Smith

Kim Campbell & Boat Staff

SAL Squadron 117 Annual Veterans Fishing Trip



When: June 2, 2024 (Be at the Port no later than 8:00am) Bus will leave shortly after that.
Where: 3891 E. Blue Heron Blvd, Riviera, FL (Miss Blue Heron)
What's provided:
• Fishing License
• Police (You can bring your own)
• Fuel
• Transportation to and from the site
• Breakfast and Lunch
• Beverages
We will be taking all veterans on a first come first serve basis (all pay the regular \$1000 up to 60 days prior to the event).
We will be checking as you sign up to ensure you are a VETERAN.
We will also be going but administrative stuff again.



Boat Staff & Lauren Livingston



Bobby Dye>>>





The American Legion,
Department of Florida
105th Statewide Convention
Lake Buena Vista Orlando, Florida
June 13—16, 2024

Thursday, June 13, 2024

8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Legion Headquarters Office	Grand 1-2
Post Registration, Programs Information, Membership Cards, & History Book Display. (Post Registration is mandatory before voting takes place.) Closed for lunch 10:30am – 11:30am		
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Emblem Sales	Grand 4
Visit Emblem Sales for all of your Legion and Department gear, pins, patches and more. Order select items online at floridalegion.org/merch .		
8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Service Officer School – Day 1	Palm 4-5
This is a two-day informative Post Service Officer class that covers all veteran benefits. Certificate and certification card provided upon completion. Attendance required both days. *Pre-Registration required (limited seating), go to: floridalegion.org/classes		
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Post Membership Training	International Ballroom
This course will review the main question: "Where do we go from here?" Course instructor will review the new electronic way to process membership, tactics, and discuss how to properly execute the membership plan and achieving 100% Membership.		
10:30 am – 11:30 am	Department Finance Committee Meeting	Narcissus / Orange
Open to all Legionnaires. This meeting will provide a review of the Department's finances to date and address financial issues as needed.		
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Food Handler's Course	Camelia / Dogwood
This class is for food handlers to provide best practices and procedures to manage risk while handling and processing food and beverages and how to protect your Post. *Pre-Registration required (limited seating), go to: floridalegion.org/classes		
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Buddy Check Training	Azalea/Begonia
Class to give out information and training on the importance of performing regular buddy checks.		
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Class	Narcissus/Orange
This course offers and overview of the FDAB&T Agency (Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco). We will discuss the alcoholic beverage and tobacco laws of Florida pertaining to club licenses such as the American Legion. The course will also cover licensing requirements and issues, the application process, enforcement rules, and more with a Q&A session at the end. *Seating is limited, and two classes will be offered.		
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Internal Affairs	International Ballroom
This meeting will cover reports from the following Convention Committees: Amendments to Constitution & By-Laws, Credentials, Resolutions and Time & Place. Each Post having a duly qualified delegation present may send one delegate to this meeting to vote on the matters that will be decided. *All voting members must have a black ribbon in order to vote, which can be picked up at registration*		
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Fundraising Class	Camellia / Dogwood
Legionnaires can expect to learn about a variety of fundraising techniques that can boost other Post initiatives.		
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Class	Narcissus/Orange
This course offers and overview of the FDAB&T Agency (Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco). We will discuss the alcoholic beverage and tobacco laws of Florida pertaining to club licenses such as the American Legion. The course will also cover licensing requirements and issues, the application process, enforcement rules, and more with a Q&A session at the end. *Seating is limited, and two classes will be offered.		
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Department Executive Committee Meeting	International Ballroom
This meeting will cover current Post matters, budget approval and general Department announcements. *Only Executive Committee Members can address the Committee*		
3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Legion Riders District Chair Meeting	Camellia/Dogwood
All Legion Riders District Chairs will learn about their role as a District Chair and the year's upcoming events. All ALR Chairs are invited.		
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	2024 Convention Kick-Off Party	Poolside
American Legion Family Event, download flyer . Come celebrate our Convention! Enjoy music, free beer, wine and refreshments. *While Supplies Last*		





Friday, June 14, 2024

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Legion Headquarters Office

Post Registration, Programs Information, Membership Cards, & History Book Display. (Post Registration is mandatory before voting takes place.) Closed for lunch 10:30am – 11:30am

Grand 1-2

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Emblem Sales

Visit Emblem Sales for all of your Legion and Department gear, pins, patches and more. Order select items online at floridalegion.org/merch.

Grand 4

8:00 am – 1:00 pm Service Officer School – Day 2

This is a two-day informative Post Service Officer class that covers all veteran benefits. Certificate and certification card provided upon completion. Attendance required both days. ***Pre-Registration required** (limited seating), go to: floridalegion.org/classes

Palm 4-5

8:00 am – 1:00 pm General Session Day 1

This meeting will cover Department Officer reports & awards, Commission/Committee reports & awards, and Department Officer nominating speeches. Strongly recommended for all Legionnaires to attend.

International Ballroom

1:30 pm – 2:15 pm Area Caucuses

- Central Area
- Eastern Area
- Northern Area
- Southern Area
- Southwestern Area
- Western Area

- Narcissus / Orange
- Camellia / Dogwood
- Kahili / Lily
- Fuchsia / Gardenia
- Hibiscus / Iris
- Azalea / Begonia

Area Caucuses will cover end of year reports and the election of the new Area Commanders. Meeting is held by the current Area Commander. Mandatory for District and Area Commanders. Must be a member of the Area to vote.

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Post Adjutant's Training

This course will cover details pertaining to the duties and responsibilities of a Post Adjutant.

Palm 4-5

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Women Veterans Outreach Training

All veterans are invited to attend. Women veterans are encouraged to attend. The goal of the outreach is to make women veterans aware of the resources available to them and urge them to sign up for them.

Hibiscus / Iris

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Post Historian Class

Learn how to put History Narratives and Yearbooks together and best practices to maintain your Post's history.

Azalea / Begonia

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Watch Stander Training – Presented by Fire Watch

After completing this course, Watch Standers will be able to: Understand the importance of suicide prevention in the Veteran community, how to direct a Veteran in crisis to either 9-1-1 or the Veteran Crisis Line, and how to recognize warning signs of Veterans in crisis.

Narcissus / Orange

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Post Chaplain's Training

As a spiritual leader, the Chaplain is an integral part of all American Legion ceremonies. Learn about your role as Chaplain for Legion events, prayer writing, promoting Four Chaplains Sunday, providing spiritual leadership and submitting annual reports to outline your Post's achievements from the year.

Fuchsia / Gardenia

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Post Sgt-at-Arms, Color & Honor Guard Training

This class will cover in detail the expected duties and responsibilities of a Post Sgt-at-Arms and how your Color & Honor Guard can be more involved with Legion and community events.

Camellia / Dogwood

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm Post Operations Training

This course will provide general instruction on how to run a successful Post. Topics will include an explanation of The American Legion Organization, officer responsibilities, Post programs & business, social functions, Post audits, public relations, challenges and preparation, and helpful Post resources.

Palm 4-5

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm 20/4 Echelon 30 Meeting

Honor Society of female members of the American Legion. Female members of the Legion are encouraged to attend and learn the benefits of becoming involved with this group. Special presentation "A Dose of Courage", all invited.

Fuchsia / Gardenia

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Cocktail Hour

International Foyer

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm Commander's and President's Banquet – Goodwill Gowns & Glam

International Ballroom





Saturday, June 15, 2024

8:00 am – 3:00 pm	Legion Headquarters Office	Grand 1-2
Post Registration, Programs Information, Membership Cards, & History Book Display. (Post Registration is mandatory before voting takes place.) **Closed for lunch 10:30 am – 11:30 am** **Registration closes at 9:45 am**		
8:00 am – 3:00 pm	Emblem Sales	Grand 4
Visit Emblem Sales for all of your Legion and Department gear, pins, patches and more. Order select items online at floridalegion.org/merch .		
8:00 am – 2:00 pm	General Session Day 2	International Ballroom
Continuation of Commission/Committee reports & awards, and Special Order of Business – Election of Officers 2024-2025. Strongly recommended for all Legionnaires to attend.		
11:00 am	Special Order of Business – Election of Officers	
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Election Results	International Ballroom
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	ALR General Session	International Ballroom
This will cover Area and District reports, SOP's, Charters, EOY Report, Awards, and 2024-2025 Goals.		
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Post Commander's Training	Palm 4-5
This course will cover details pertaining to the duties and responsibilities of a Post Commander.		
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Post Finance Officer Training	Narcissus / Orange
This course will cover details pertaining to the duties and responsibilities of a Post Finance Officer.		
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Post Judge Advocate Training	Camellia / Dogwood
This course will cover how to advise the different sections of the Legion and how to interpret the Constitution and By-Laws of the Post, District & Area.		
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Legislative Training	Hibiscus / Iris
Get ready for Legislative session! Learn how to get to know your Legislators.		
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Homeless Veterans Training	Fuchsia / Gardenia
Class designed to gather information to assist in helping the Homeless Veterans in the state.		
4:15 pm – 5:15 pm	Veterans Benefits	Fuchsia / Gardenia
Class to give out information about available VA benefits.		
6:30 pm – 7:15 pm	Installation of Officers	International Ballroom
Installation Ceremony for Department Officers, Area Commanders, District Commanders & District Vice Commanders		
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Installation of Officers Reception	Palm 4-5
Congratulations to our newly installed American Legion Officers. This reception is for you!		

Sunday, June 16, 2024

8:30 am – 9:00 am	Religious Service	Palm 1-2
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Department Executive Committee Meeting	Palm 4-5
First official Department Executive Committee meeting after the installation of officers. All newly elected and existing Executive Committee Officers are required to attend. This meeting will cover important and upcoming Department of Florida events throughout the year.		





DEPARTMENT CONVENTION 2024
Thursday, June 13, 2024 – Sunday, June 16, 2024

In order to avoid the confusion that surrounds dates and deadlines at this time of year, we are providing you with the correct information and the section of The American Legion, Department of Florida Constitution and By-Laws that governs the situation.

- DELEGATE CUT-OFF – Constitution Article V, Section 4
“A Department Convention shall be comprised of delegates and alternates from each chartered Post ... Each Post shall be entitled to two (2) delegates and two (2) alternates and to one (1) additional delegate and alternate for each additional one hundred (100) members.... provided *that the per capita membership fee is paid fifteen (15) days prior to a Department Convention.*”

Therefore, the delegate cut-off date for Department Convention is May 30, 2024.

- DISTRICT CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCES – Constitution Article IX, Sections 7 and 9
“... there shall be held in each District a Constitutional Conference *not more than sixty (60) nor less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the Annual Department Convention*, at a time and place to be designated by the District Commander.” Section 9 “... there shall be nominated one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate to the National Convention for each one thousand (1000) members or major fraction thereof in the District.”

Therefore, the District Constitutional Conferences will be held between April 15, 2024, and June 4, 2024.

- RESOLUTIONS – By-Laws Article I, Section 5 (c)
“*All resolutions shall be presented to the Department Adjutant at least (40) days prior to the Department Convention.* This time limit may be waived by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present at the Department Convention.”

Therefore, all resolutions are due by May 5, 2024.

- CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS – Constitution Article XVII, Section 1
“... a copy of such proposed amendments shall be typewritten, prepared in triplicate on forms supplied by Department Headquarters, *and be submitted to the Department Adjutant at least forty (40) days prior to the date of the Annual Department Convention. The Adjutant shall send a copy thereof to each Post ... at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Department Convention.*”

Therefore, Constitutional Amendments are due by May 5, 2024, and copies will be sent to each Post by May 15, 2024.

- CALL TO CONVENTION – By-Laws Article I, Section 1
“...The call shall be issued by the Department Commander by bulletin mailed by the Department Adjutant to each Post and to each member of the Department Executive Committee, and each Past Department Commander, *not more than forty-five (45) days nor less than fifteen (15) days prior to the first day of the Convention.*”

Therefore, the Call to Convention may not be issued before April 30, 2024, nor later than May 30, 2024.

- POST ELECTIONS – Constitution Article X, Section 12
“All officers of Posts, except the Post Adjutant, Post Service Officer and Post Judge Advocate, shall be *elected and certified to the Department Adjutant, not more than ninety (90) days, not less than ten (10) days prior to the Annual Department Convention...*”

Therefore, Post Officers may not be elected before March 16, 2024, nor later than June 4, 2024.



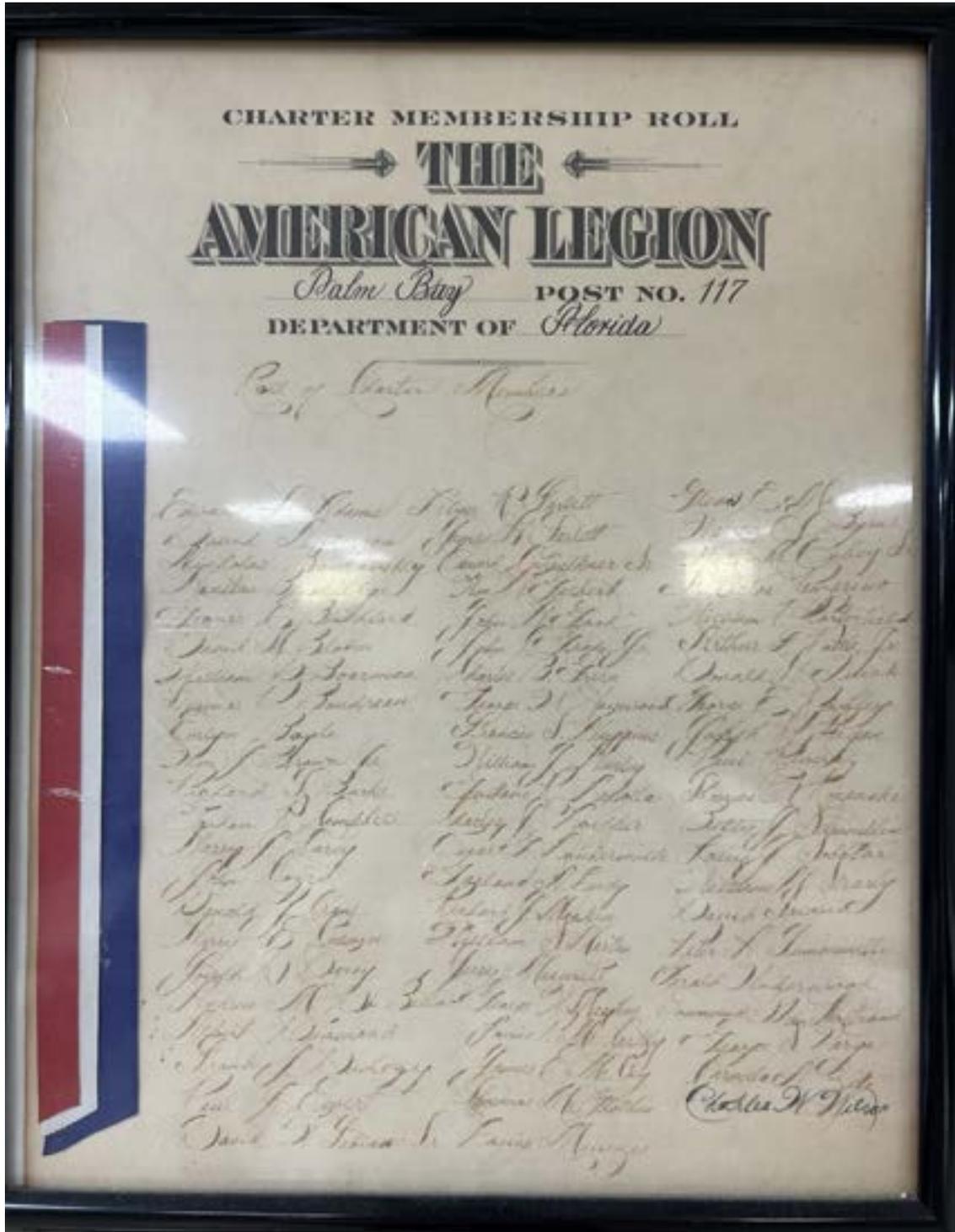


Appendix





Charter Membership Roll
American Legion Post 117





Past Post Commanders

- 1988—1989 Jim Glass
- 1989—1990 William Palmer
- 1990—1991 Kenneth L. Dunn
- 1991—1992 Richard Burke
- 1992—1994 Wilma Rashley
- 1994—1995 J. McAllister
- 1995—1997 George Kallas
- 1997—1998 Calvin Sanchez
- 1998—1999 Joshua Duncan Jr.
- 1999—2000 Harry Winnie
- 2000—2001 Joshua Duncan/Calvin Sanchez
- 2001—2002 Arthur McGill
- 2002—2003 Gerald J. Boutte
- 2003—2005 Conley Evans
- 2005—2006 Harry E. Winnie
- 2006—2008 George C. Maldona
- 2008—2011 Ronald Miskow
- 2011—2014 Duane Podhola
- 2014—2017 James Fournier
- 2017—2019 Eugene Baker
- 2019—2021 Bruce Thurber
- 2021—2023 William Davidson





District 12
Events/Meeting Dates

6/24/2023	District EC	Post 394
8/5/2023	District Training	Post 189
9/9/2023	District Meeting	Post 81
9/23/2023	SGT-At-Arms Trng	Post 22
9/26/2023	Special Installation	Post 332 KSC
10/14/2023	District Picnic for Boys & Girls State	Post 189
10/17/2023	Special Installation	Post 366 BFB
Nov 17-19, 2023	Fall Conference	Caribe Royale Orlando
12/2/2023	District Meeting	Post 318 PSL
1/20/24	1st Vice Dept HillBilly Hoedown	Post 117
2/17/2024	District Meeting	Post 359 PSL
3/23/2024	District Picnic	Post 81
4/13/2024	District Meeting & Candidates Call	Post 117
5/11/2024	District DCC	Post 163





Collaboration with Hospice of Health First Veteran Honor Ceremony

Calling All Veterans! A Final Salute.

Hospice of Health First performs 10 to 15 Honor Ceremonies for veterans a month, an outreach of five-star Forever a Hero program.

BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA – Americans stand ready to honor veterans, none more so than fellow veterans who know both the valor and the sacrifice of serving. As a Level Five partner in the national We Honor Veterans program, Hospice of Health First is committed to giving veteran patients their final salute as it serves them near the end of their life.

The five-star Forever a Hero performs Honor Ceremonies for veterans in Hospice of Health First, and earlier this month, Hospice of Health First invited veterans – and anyone interested in learning more – to an informational meeting.

The program currently performs about 10 to 15 Honor Ceremonies a month. It is not looking to expand the number of ceremonies – any Hospice of Health First who is a veteran may receive an Honor Ceremony – but the number of veteran volunteers to staff them. Recently, the program partnered with active-duty servicemen at Patrick Space Force Base and members of the American Legion Post 117 in Palm Bay to attend Honor Ceremonies.





Collaboration with Hospice of Health First Veteran Honor Ceremony

"Our veteran volunteers add a very special context to the occasion," said Susan Miller, Volunteer Coordinator at Hospice of Health First, and a U.S. Air Force veteran herself. "When the patient can meet and talk to someone who has this same background of military service, their eyes light up. Being in the service sticks with you for a lifetime."

Forever a Hero has mobilized for an Honor Ceremony in a matter of hours. It has performed ceremonies for hospice veterans who did not live to see them.

"We're trying to make Forever a Hero more prevalent so we don't ever miss one. That's always been our goal. We don't want to miss a single opportunity to honor a veteran," says Stephanie Larkin, Manager, Hospice of Health First.



Susan Miller, Volunteer

'TO RECOGNIZE AND SHOW UP'

At an Honoring Ceremony, the honoree is presented with a folded American flag, a certificate acknowledging their service, and an American flag pin along with other items. As meaningfully, they are asked to open up about their service – the duration of their service, deployments, duties and memories. Profoundly, the honoree's family is also invited to dialogue with their loved one.

"Their service is something they carry with them their entire life," says Rob Lape, a 26-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force who retired at the rank of Master Sergeant. "They will tell you stories about it. They have developed core values that they apply to every job, every relationship they have."

"These ceremonies are the best," says Dana Jackson, representing American Legion Post 117 in Palm Bay. "These ceremonies allow the veterans to be seen and heard in their last moments of life, and for us to recognize and show up – they maybe haven't seen a veteran in a while."

"I served 25 years" in the U.S. Army, retiring at the rank of 1st Sergeant, Jackson says, "but so did my family. So did their families."



Quote by Dana Jackson, Post Historian





Collaboration with Hospice of Health First Veteran Honor Ceremony

This helps the families put themselves at peace with what is about to happen.”

A MILITARY COMMUNITY

Miller says that Brevard County residents should know that, if it seems like residents in this area are more eager to honor service members – active, retired and no longer with us – it’s not a coincidence.

“It’s my experience at Patrick [Space Force Base] that officers and senior staff made Patrick their last duty station because they wanted to retire in Brevard County. Why? I think it’s this community. Even if you’re not in the military, you have a connection to our nation’s armed forces that’s very strong.”



For 12 years, Hospice of Health First has honored our nation’s veterans with ceremonies and recognitions as part of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization’s We Honor Veterans program. Five years ago it created its Forever a Hero program, now a Five Star-rated veterans’ recognition and aid program, according to the organization.

Miller has led veterans’ recognition services for more than a decade. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, she served from 1997 to 2001, and again from 2005 to 2011, finishing with the 45th Security Forces Squadron out of Patrick Space Force Base.

To consider making a gift to the Health First Foundation to sustain Forever a Hero, visit HF.org/foreverahero. Visit HF.org/news to keep up with the latest at Health First.

CAPTIONS

ONE OF THE ITEMS commonly given to Forever a Hero honorees are U.S.-flag-themed hand-stitched quilts or knitted blankets done by Love Stitches, a ministry based out of Our Saviour’s Catholic Church in Cocoa Beach.





Hospice of Health First Veteran Honor Ceremony



Dana Jackson & Robert Stonesifer,
WWII Vet Army Air Corp



WWII Vet Robert Stonesifer and his
family



Harry Pitt & Robert Stonesifer,
WWII Vet Army Air Corp



Robert Scott, Marine, Dana Jackson
& Tom, nephew-Marine 22 yrs.



Robert Scott & Dana Jackson





Hospice of Health First Forever A Hero Ceremony

Retired Army vet Colonel Donald Paul, of Palm Bay, is celebrated as he turns 105. Members of the [Charles F. Thomas IV American Legion Post 117](#) were on hand for the celebration.

Dana Jackson presented Paul with a commemorative pin. With his permission Jackson fastened it to Paul's blue cardigan.

Harry Pitt gave the decorated vet a folded American flag, which he clutched to his chest while saying "thank you" after the men saluted each other.



**Dana Jackson presenting COL Paul
with commemorative pin**



Harry Pitt presented American Flag to COL Paul.





Auxiliary—The Support Our Troops® Troopons®
May 2024



Maria Russo & Millicent Jochum

Auxiliary President: Kim Oaks

Chairman: Millicent Donovan

Unit 117, District 12

Report dates: April 1, 2023—March 31, 2024

Coupon Volume Hours: 485

Postage \$110.00

Value: \$162,456.00

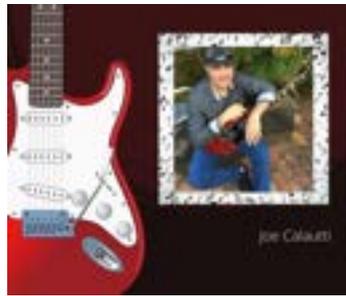
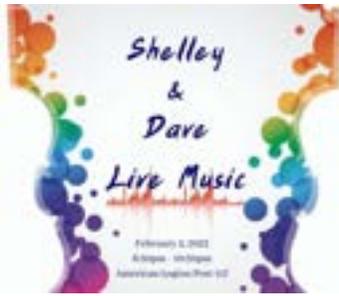
Volunteers: 12

All coupons are sent to: Troopons Support Our Troops, PO Box 70, Daytona, FL 32115





Entertainment





Food

Auxiliary Friday Night Dinner
FRIDAY JANUARY 19TH 2024
 5-7pm While Supplies Last
CHICKEN CACCIATORE
 WITH LINGUINE
 Served with
 Caesar Salad, Garlic Bread & Dessert
\$8

AGNES' DELICIOUS CABBAGE ROLLS
5-7 ON 1-5-24
RIDER'S DINNER
 COMES WITH SALAD, BREAD
 AND HOMEMADE BLUEBERRY CRUMBLE
\$10

WEDNESDAY \$1 WINGS

Order in Quantities of 5, 10, 15
 1 pm—7 pm

Mild	Manito Habanero
Medium	Sweet Teriyaki
HOT	Teriyaki & Garlic
Extra HOT	Sweet Red Chili
HOT Honey	Ghost Pepper
Tiki Sauce	KIM (but not all...)
BBQ	Garlic Parmesan
Garlic Buffalo	Flaming Honey Gar-

TACO TUESDAY
2 FOR \$5
 OR
NACHOS \$5

CUBAN SANDWICH
 February 20th
\$8

BIG-AZZ BURGER
\$7
FEB 6TH
5-7PM

SET yourT
 \$10.99
 \$12.99
 \$14.99
 \$16.99
 \$18.99

Post Dinner
 December 29th
 5-7pm
 Brisket
 Homemade Mac & Cheese
 Green Beans
 Southern Style Potatoe Salad
 Garlic Bread
\$12

Fish Fry
Friday, Dec 15th
5 - 7pm
\$12





Rider's Corn Hole



Bruce "Buzz" Cherwinski & Tommy Griffin



Lisa Meeks and Randy Carr





Post Everlasting

Rest in Heaven



Legionnaire

Kenneth Arcieri
Thomas Baker
Walter Best
Dawn Crenshaw
Rawleigh Hartwell
Ralph C Hunckler
Preston Jones
Philip McCann
George Morrell
Timothy Scott Morris
Donald Rodgers
Dean Rund
Robert Shumaker
Rodney Stevens
Harry Varounis

S.A.L

Willie Anderegg
Harold Bennitt Jr.
Vincent "Vinny" Busemi
Norman Linton
Thomas Saylor

Auxiliary

Jill Afonso
Penny Hamrick
Elizabeth Kimber
Jere McAleney
Mark F. Walton





A Veteran's Prayer

Dear Lord, I've served my country,
My love for her is strong.
I've stood behind "Old Glory" ...
When others thought her wrong.

I've joined in celebration
And raised a toast in cheer.
I've pledged her my allegiance
And sung her anthem dear.

I've wept for fallen comrades
Who proudly fought and died.
The freedoms they defended...
I cherish deep inside.

I'm proud I'm an American.
For her strength and peace, I pray.
There is no greater country...
God Bless the USA!

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Contribution

It takes a village to run a Legion!



Thank you for contributing to Post 117's yearbook!





A Special Thank You!

As I delved deeper into the world of Charles F. Thomas IV, a fascinating story began to unfold. After contacting LTC Struzik, the Professor of Military Science at Kentucky Western University, he provided a window into CPT Thomas's life through shared photos and anecdotes. Through him, I was fortunate to cross paths with COL (Ret.) Greg Lowe, CPT Thomas's best friend, who graciously opened the doors to more historical records and photographs, each one offering a glimpse into CPT Thomas' military career.

Thank you for sharing Charles "Charlie" F. Thomas IV with us LTC Struzik, COL (Ret.) Greg Lowe, and Charlie's sisters, Peggy Toussant, Patti Lynch, Nancy Williams, and Maryann Quimby. These documents and photos not only shed light on the namesake of our post, but will allow all of our members to see who their post is named after and to learn more about him.

It was through the pages of an old American Legion Post 117 yearbook and the words "Honor Room" where this incredible journey began thus the amount of documents and photographs of Charles F. Thomas IV.

Thank you!



Patti Lynch, Peggy Toussant, Greg Lowe, Nancy Williams, & Maryann Quimby.





 AMERICAN
LEGION
**BE THE
ONE**





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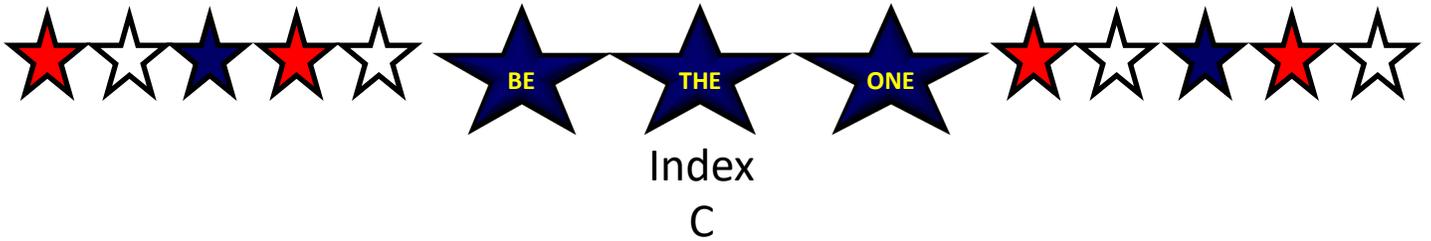
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