



November/December 2024

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

The Thomas Times

Tis The Season—Happy Holidays

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HAPPY
THANKSGIVING
DAY



Check Facebook and bulletin boards for more details.

Post 117 Directory

American Legion Officers

Commander.....Terry Struven
 1st Vice Commander.....Bruce Thurber
 2nd Vice Commander.....Ray Wright
 3rd Vice Commander.....Jimmy Donavon
 Adjutant.....Dana Jackson
 Finance Officer.....Bobby Dye
 Chaplain.....Donna Walkowiak
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Leo Belanger
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Bob Garry
 Historian.....Dana Jackson
 Judge Advocate.....Stanley Wood
 Service Officer.....Kevin McGarry
 Executive Committee.....Chuck Body
 Executive Committee.....Jim Fournier
 Immediate Past Commander.....Bill Davidson

Auxiliary Officers

President.....Kim Oaks
 Parliamentarian.....MaryAnn Spellman
 1st Vice President.....Brenda Miskow
 2nd Vice President.....Vacant
 Treasurer.....Pat Luckey
 Secretary.....Rachael Nash
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Lisa Meeks
 Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms.....Averi Krogh
 Chaplain.....Barbara Simons
 Historian.....Karen Humann
 Executive Committee.....Lorraine-Carrier Ryan
 Executive Committee.....Barbara Ward
 Executive Committee.....Rhonda Suelter
 Membership.....Brenda Miskow

Sons of the American Legion Officers

Squadron Commander.....Greg Singler
 1st Vice Squadron Commander..Bruce Walkowiak
 2nd Vice Squadron Commander .Keith Prine
 Adjutant.....Andy Campbell
 Finance Officer.....Don Bilger
 Chaplain.....Mike Miskow
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Eric Spellman
 Asst, Sergeant-at-Arms.....Terry Cox
 Historian.....Alvin Hill
 SAL Advisor.....Bruce Thurber

Legion Riders Officers

Director.....Robert Smith
 Assistant Director.....Stan Wood
 Secretary.....Sheila Cline
 Treasurer.....Bobby Dye
 Chaplain.....Brian Yancey
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....David Bolduc
 Historian.....Dana Jackson
 Road Captain.....Spencer Reinking
 Membership.....Vacant
 Merchandise.....Vacant

Honor Guard

Commander: Chris Livingston

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

Ways & Means Committee

Chairman: Jimmy Donavon

Members:
 Greg Singler
 Dana Jackson
 Kim Oaks
 Brenda Miskow

House Committee Chair: Leo Belanger

Robert Smith
 Stan Wood
 Bill Davidson
 Ray Wright
 Bruce Walkowiak

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*The opinions expressed herein are solely those of the
 authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the
 American Legion, Post 117 or its affiliates.
 Editor: Dana Jackson <email: historian@all17.com*

2024-2025 Officers:

Basic Training—<https://legion.org/alei>

Department Merchandise
**[https://www.floridalegion.org/
 resources/department-merchandise](https://www.floridalegion.org/resources/department-merchandise)**



Commander's Corner

*Terry Struven
Commander,
American Legion
Post 117*

commander@all17.com

We are so ready for Hurricane Season in Florida to be over. It has been a stressful time but we have been blessed at the Post to not receive any damage at this time. September and October were busy months as usual and now the weather is turning cooler helping to make outside events more pleasant.

On September 11th, we had our 9/11 Patriots Day where we prepared, escorted, and delivered food to local Palm Bay Fire, Law, and Medical Departments in order to thank them for all they do for the community. We also held a ceremony remembering all whose lives were lost. On September 21st we paid tribute to POW/MIA Remembrance Day with a beautiful ceremony with 8 117 female veterans participating. I was so touched and very proud to be a part of this touching ceremony as Commander of 117. We had the Veteran Food Pantry on Sep 12 and 28th and again on Oct 12 and 26th. It is a lot of work but so worth it to host these free food events to help give our Veterans and families a break from food prices. We also celebrated members who had a birthday in September and October. We can't forget our 77th U.S. Air Force and 249th U.S. Navy Birthday's. We had a great turnout for the annual Early Bird Dinner with over 200 people being served and eligible for wonderful door prizes to include the Future Junior & SAL Leaders. On Sunday Oct 20th, we had a fundraiser for the new Veterans Healing Gardens that will have the grand opening in November. Check out all the work done so far but these caring volunteers. We want to pressure wash the fence and get it ready for the beautiful mural of the 6 branches of the military that will be painted in early November. The Halloween parties in Oct 26 were hosted by the Auxiliary out at the Pavilion and the overflow was inside the canteen. Great costumes for the children at 1 pm and the adults at 630p.m.

In November and December, we will be doing all of our regular programs (see calendars on Facebook or pick up a copy in the canteen) for Veterans, families and their children and grandchildren and much more. The Veterans Day Parade with City of Palm Bay will take place down Port Malabar Rd at 10am due to the construction at City Hall. On November 11, Veterans Day, we will have our ceremony at 1pm to be followed by picnic free to all members. Doc Holiday will be back to play all your favorite songs. We will have the Veterans Food Pantry twice in November 9th and 23rd and December 28th at 10:00 am. Food goes fast so plan to bring your Veteran or legion card and your own bags for groceries. On Thanksgiving, we will be serving a traditional turkey dinner to our members starting at 1pm. We will celebrate the next military branch of service with the Marines 249th Birthday on November 10th at 430pm. For Christmas day dinner we will be repeating the meal giveaway for our members at 1pm. The final branch of service birthday for the year will be celebrated on December 20th at 430pm- U.S. Space Force 5th Birthday.

Round out the 2024 year with us at our Annual New Years Eve Celebration. Food Contest for members with wonderful prizes. Exciting entertainment and much more. All starts at 6pm. Drop off food for competition NLT 445pm for judging.

Many thanks to all of our volunteers who work so hard all year to keep things going at Post 117. It is impossible to do all that we do at our wonderful Post without the daily support of some fantastic folks. Believe me we appreciate you. Watch for details about upcoming 117 Volunteers Recognition Day in the beginning of March.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas season enjoying your families at home and your Legion Family here at Post 117.

For God and Country. Always stay true to our American Legion

Commander Terry



*Greg Singler
Commander
Squadron 117*

gregsingler@yahoo.com



Squadron 117, Sons of the American Legion

From the desk of Gregory J. Singler, SAL Commander:

Wednesday, September 11th SAL had their monthly meeting where we discussed Tom Wood Memorial event and that volunteers were needed for the September 11th event to distribute meals.

Thank you to all volunteers who cooked, packed and distributed the meals to first responders.

October's SAL meeting and fish fry were cancelled due to hurricane Milton.

October 8th, 50/50 raffle during the Ace of Spades grossed \$610 with \$305 going to the winner.

The Tom Wood memorial ride was a big success netted a lot of proceeds for Special Olympics.

Mike Kelly's Kids without Christmas event is Saturday, November 2nd at 10am. November 13th, SAL meeting is at 6:30pm. All new members are encouraged to attend for a meet and greet. The monthly Fish Fry will be held on November 15th; please see Andy Campbell for volunteering to help out with the fish fry.

Gregory J. Singler
SAL Commander



MaryAnn Spellman
Chairman

Maryannspellman9@gmail.com



Unit 117 Juniors

Greetings,

I hope this finds all our future leaders and their families well. We have had a busy year so far and have so many wonderful things planned for the next few months.

At our September Meeting. Our Future Leaders made cards for the Space Coast Honor Flight and learned what Honor Flight was all about. In October, they made get well cards for one of our members, distributed Breast Cancer earrings for donations at the Post home, on their way after their meeting, they came across several Linemen and gave them water, snack pack and gift cards, thanked them for all they do and asked them to please stay safe.

Our Future Leaders will be having their annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, November 30th from 1-5 pm. Food, games, bake sale, pie contest and much more. Fun for the whole family. Please come out and show your support. If you would like to donate a basket or auction items, please contact me.

The 117 Family Children's Christmas Party will be on Saturday, December 14th from 11am – 1pm. This will be outside in the pavilion.

All Upcoming events and Information will be posted on the Future Leaders Facebook page. If you are not a part of this page, please send me a friend request so I can invite you to join the page. This is a secure page and only invited members will be able to join. We will also be sending out emails, Please make sure we have your email address. You can send that to maryannspellman9@gmail.com.

If you have a child or a grandchild who is not yet a Jr member, please get them signed up to become one of our amazing Family Future Leaders. The dues for all Jr's ages birth to 18 is \$11. Girls will join under Auxiliary, contact our 1st Vice / Membership Chair Brenda Miskow. Boys are \$11 they will join under SAL. contact 1st Vice / Membership Bruce Walkowiak. Wishing you and yours a great Holiday season.

For God & Country
Warm Regards MaryAnn
Spellman Jr Chairman





Robert Smith, Director,
Chapter 117
smittypj@gmail.com



Chapter 117, American Legion Riders

Hello Riders and Friends,

As we transition into the fall season, we want to share some important updates and upcoming events with you.

Bike Night Update:

Please note that there will be no more bike nights until next year. We look forward to resuming this beloved tradition in the spring!

Recent Events Recap:

We had the honor of escorting SSgt Tristan Wright on September 7th for the return of his remains and provided a funeral escort on September 27th. These events remind us of the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women.

On September 21st, we participated in the Palm Bay SWAT Ride and Benefit, supporting our local heroes and fellowship among riders. Thank you to everyone who joined and contributed!

Upcoming Events:

Looking ahead, we have several important events scheduled:

- **Mike Kelly's Kids Without Christmas:** Join us on November 2nd as we support this wonderful cause.
- **Memorial Ride and Celebration of Life for John Minutillo:** We will gather on November 9th to honor and celebrate John's memory.
- **Veterans Day Celebration:** On November 11th, we will escort the honor guard to local assisted living facilities to celebrate Veterans Day and show our appreciation for their service.

Thank You to Our Volunteers:

A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers whose dedication and hard work make these events happen. Your support is invaluable!

Membership Renewal:

As a reminder, we are currently at a 40% renewal rate for 2024. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. Your continued support is crucial to our mission!

Thank you for being part of the Chapter 117 Riders family. Together, we honor our veterans and contribute to our community.

Ride safe,
Robert Smith
Riders Director



*Donna Walkowiak
Chaplain*

Chaplain@all17.com

Chaplain's Corner

As we head into the Holiday season we need to remember all those that were victims of the hurricane season. We need to keep them in our prayers as they try to pick up the pieces of their lives and carry on. Parents that are trying to bring a sense of normalcy and security to their children who have had their lives disrupted. Pray for the families that lost loved ones as they enter what should have been a joyous season. We must give thanks for our fortune of being blessed with minimal damage and disruption to our lives. If you can, reach out to others in need. Donate to food drives and the collection of personal items needed. You will be blessed in return. I am so very proud of our members for the time they put in as volunteers to raise money for causes that help our veterans, community, youth and nation. Keep up the good work. You are making a difference.

Keep in mind the families and friends of those that have gone before us. This month we lost Michael Dowdy (Legion) and Ellen Davidson (Auxiliary). May they rest in peace and their loved ones be comforted in the knowledge that they were loved and are now in the Lords arms.

God Bless,
Donna Walkowiak
Chaplain



BE THE ONE

Click on the Be The One to go to the website to learn more!

Post Meetings • • • Post Meetings • • • Post Meetings • • • Post Meetings

Legion EC Meeting, 2nd Thursday, 5:30pm

Legion Meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 pm

SAL Meeting, 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 pm

Auxiliary EC Meeting, 2nd Monday, 6:00 pm

Auxiliary Meeting, 3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm

Legion Riders Meeting, 1st Thursday, 6:30 pm

Legion Riders EC Meeting, 3rd Monday, 6:00 pm

Ways & Means Committee, Last Monday, 6:00 pm



Hall/Pavilion Rental

Our Post Hall or Pavilion are available to rent for special functions, weddings, anniversary & birthday parties, etc.

Please contact the Canteen Manager at (321) 729-8089 (canteen@all17.com) for facility information, rental availability, and price

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



fllegion.fanthem.io

MERCHANDISE SALES

Legion Items For Sale

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

Riders Items For Sale

(For special orders contact Riders Merchandise Person)

All Men's Shirts	\$20
All Ladies Shirts	\$20
All 3x/4x shirts are special order.....	TBD
Small Riders Patch	\$10
Medium Riders Patch	\$20
Large Riders Patch	\$50

SAL Items For Sale

US Flag (3x5)	\$25
POW/MIA Flag	\$30
SAL T-Shirts (Red or Blue)	\$10

AUX Items For Sale

Auxiliary Ladies V-Neck T-Shirts	\$15
Black Half Staff Ribbon	\$15

See the bartender to purchase merchandise!

Visit the Post 117 Facebook Pages & Website

[American Legion Post 117](#)

[American Legion SAL Squadron 117](#)

[American Legion Auxiliary Unit 117](#)

[Legion Riders FL Chapter 117](#)

www.all17.com

Volunteers of the Month

August—Agnes Garry (Rider/Aux)

September—Kristy Walton (Legionnaire)

September—Serenity Jackson (Junior)

U.S Veterans Holiday's and Important Events

November

Month of November—Military Family Month

Month of November—Warrior Care Month

November 10th—Marine Corps Birthday

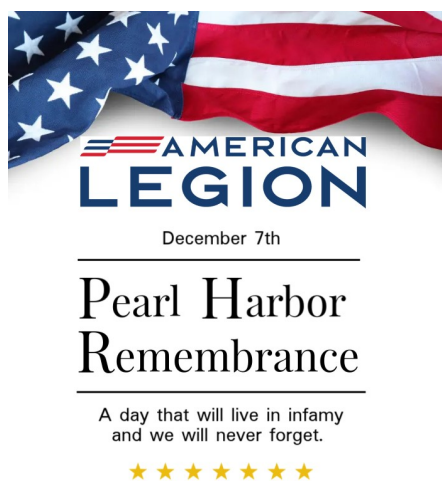
November 11th—Veterans Day

December

December 7th Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December 13th—National Guard Birthday

December 20th—Space Force Birthday



Photos from September & October Event



District 12 Important Dates for 2024-25
Updated as of 8/5/24

DATE	ACTIVITY	CITY	Post
8/17/24	SAL Meeting	Melbourne	394
8/31/24	Dinner @1700	St John	359
9/7/24	AL Meeting	Palm Bay	117
10/19/24	District Picnic	Melbourne	81
11/30/24	SAL Meeting	Port St Lucie	318
12/14/24	AL Meeting	Melbourne	81
1/18/24	Dinner @1700	Palm bay	117
2/8/25	SAL Meeting	Cocoa	22
2/8/25	Eastern Area Ball @1500	Palm Bay	117
2/15/25	AL Meeting	Cocoa	22
3/15/25	District Picnic	Palm Bay	117
4/26/25	Home Coming After AL DCC	Palm Bay	117
5/3/25	SAL DCC	Palm Bay	394
4/27/25	AL DCC @1100	Palm bay	117

American Legion post 117
189 Veterans DR S.E. Palm Bay

Hosting Mike Kelly's Kids
Without A Christmas

Saturday November 2nd
Ride registration starts @ 09:30
KSU @ 10:30

15\$ per rider, 5 per passenger

Stops include:
Camp Holly
Kelly's Burger and Beer
Post 81
Post 117

Doc Holiday Playing Auction and 50/50

Hamburgers 7\$
Hotdogs 5\$

American Legion Post 117
189 Veterans Dr SE
Palm Bay, FL 32909
PRESENTS

FOOD PANTRY
FOR ALL AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERS,
VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES

NOV 9 & 23 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

2ND & 4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
A COMMUNITY SHARING VEGGIES, FRUIT & MORE
FIRST COME FIRST SERVE
PLEASE PROVIDE ID UPON REQUEST
BRING A BAG
POC: COMMANDER TERRY STRUVEN, 321-729-8089

CITY OF PALM BAY
VETERANS DAY PARADE & CELEBRATION
11.9.24
PARADE 10 AM START
START AT TONY ROSA COMMUNITY CENTER TO VETERANS PARK
CELEBRATION 11AM - 3PM
VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
2201 PORT MALABAR BLVD. NE
PALM BAY, FL 32905
WWW.PLAYPALMBAY.ORG

FOOD TRUCKS, VENDORS, KID ZONE, LIVE MUSIC

(321) 952-3443 FOR MORE INFORMATION

VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY & PICNIC

NOVEMBER 11, 2024
CEREMONY BEGINS AT 1PM
MUSIC BY DOC HOLIDAY 12-4PM
FOOD AFTER CEREMONY FOR MEMBERS ONLY (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

AMERICAN LEGION POST 117
189 VETERANS DR SE PALM BAY, FL 32909
POC: TERRY STRUVEN, 321-729-8089

American Legion Post 117
189 Veterans Dr SE
Palm Bay, FL 32909

Join us for an exciting
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
for the
Veteran's Healing Garden
Saturday, November 23, 2024
12pm - 4pm
Music by DJ SK1 - Door Prizes
Kids Planting Station
#stompoutsuicide through
therapeutic gardening
POC: Deb Nixon, 321-536-7441
hors d'oeuvres provided

November 29, 2024
10:00AM
Signup below

Post Clean-Up
This is our annual Cleanup day, please come help us clean up our post.

What to Bring:
Rakes
Pressure Washer
Gloves
What are we cleaning?
Pressure wash Bike Pad
Rake and pick up debris from Hurricanes

117 Family Future Leaders!
Presents....
FALL HARVEST Festival
Saturday November 30th
FROM 1pm - 5pm

Walking Tacos & Hot Dogs
Bake Sale 50/50
Pie Contest
Games
Prizes
Music
Crafts

All Proceeds will go to Jr's and Young SAL Activities, Convention & A Donation to Operation 300 ALA Dept President Charlottes Special Project

MaryAnn 917-834-5763

Happy Birthday
November Birthday's
November 30th @6:00pm



American Legion Post 117
Presents the:

Bartender's Christmas Party in the Tiki

December 14, 2024
Time | 06:00pm
Music by Jimmy D

Bring your favorite covered dish

189 Veterans Dr SE Palm Bay, FL 32909
POC: Shiela Benard, 321-729-8089



KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

12. 14. 2024
Saturday 11am - 1 pm

Please sign up and return letter to Santa by 12/08 Sign up sheet in the canteen, Santa Letters in the lobby

117 Family Members ONLY!



All Proceeds go to Special Olympics of Brevard

New Years Campout at the Post

Dec 27th - Jan 1st

Bonfires
Cookout
New Years Eve Party
Meat Raffle December 29th

REGISTRATION FOR \$20 ONLY
Signup at the post on the Bulletin board

American Legion Post 117
189 Veterans Drive, Palm Bay FL

Pay your registration to Andy Campbell, Bruce Walkowiak or Ed Milner when you arrive




American Legion Post 117
189 Veterans Dr SE
Palm Bay, FL 32909
PRESENTS

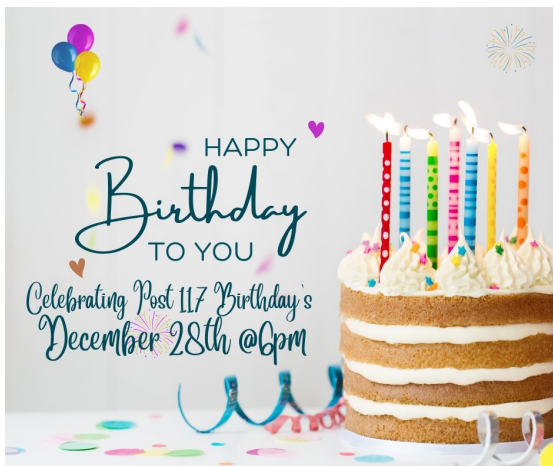
FOOD PANTRY

FOR ALL AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERS.
VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES



DEC 28TH | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

2ND & 4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
A COMMUNITY SHARING VEGGIES, FRUIT & MORE
FIRST COME FIRST SERVE
PLEASE PROVIDE ID UPON REQUEST
BRING A BAG
POC: COMMANDER TERRY STRUVEN, 321-729-8089




Sons of the American Legion 117

Sunday December 29th, 2024

MEAT RAFFLE

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

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

Starts at 1pm

All proceeds go to Special Olympics
189 Veterans Drive, Palm Bay FL

2025

— HAPPY NEW YEAR —

American Legion Post 117
189 Veterans Dr SE
Palm Bay, FL 32909

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31st

2025
NEW YEAR'S EVE

Music By
Vince & DJ Jimmy D

POST 117 FAMILY & GUESTS
• 6:30PM - 12:30AM •

SHARED DINNER: MAIN DISHES • APPETIZERS • DESSERTS
MEMBERS CAN ENTER BEST FOOD CONTEST
SIGN-UP SHEET IN CANTEEN
CASH PRIZES & MORE • 50/50
CHAMPAGNE TOAST & BALLOON DROP AT MIDNIGHT
SEATS IN CANTEEN & HALL

Made with PosterMyWall.com

POC: Dana Jackson, 719-459-6334