



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

# The Thomas Times

## Hurricane Season is upon US. Be Prepared!

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**Check Facebook and bulletin boards for more details.**

## Post 117 Directory

### American Legion Officers

Commander ..... Terry Struven  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander ..... Bruce Thurber  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander ..... Ray Wright  
 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 ..... Vacant  
 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  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President ..... Brenda Miskow  
 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Squadron Commander .. Bruce Walkowiak  
 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 John Pettinicchio Jr.  
 Andy Campbell

### Ways & Means Committee

Chairman: Jimmy Donavon  
 Members:  
 Robert Smith  
 Greg Singler Stan Wood  
 Dana Jackson Bill Davidson  
 Kim Oaks Ray Wright  
 Brenda Miskow 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>**



## Commander's Corner

*Terry Struven  
Commander,  
American Legion  
Post 117*

commander@all117.com

A bright Hello to all of our Post 117 Family members. We are gearing up for a very busy and satisfying year with 2024-2025 beginning already. I am so honored and happy to be chosen as your Commander for another year and the sky is the limit as to what we can achieve for our members and local veteran brothers and sisters. I don't like to hear the word NO but who does. I am doing my best to keep an open mind and embrace new ideas and stay open to the wonderful suggestions that come at me every day from our members. I want to hear from you all. I promise to keep an open mind and I know that often change is a good thing as long as we are true to our Legion obligations and guidelines.

In May and June, we sure got a lot done and had a great time working together as always. We had our elections for new officers in the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders. Thank you so much to everyone who stepped up to serve and those that came to vote and continue the process of running our Post. Now we are ready for a wonderful year working together as a strong Post 117 team. We participated in Vietnam Veterans Wall Escort, Wreath Ceremony and Color Guard Closing Ceremonies at Wickham Park. SAL hosted a fabulous Mother's Day Brunch as they do every year. We hosted a Law Enforcement/First Responder Appreciation Day and rounded out the month with our Memorial Day Annual events - placing flags on veteran's graves at Fountainhead Memorial Cemetery, The Boy Scouts troop 732 Annual BBQ with the SAL Exciting Meat Raffle fundraiser, Honoring Captain Charles F. Thomas IV at gravesite, AL 117 Riders and Honor Guard Visit, to local assisted care facilities, Memorial Day ceremony/Picnic. June started with the SAL sponsored Veterans Fishing Trip and they had a fabulous time and caught some beautiful fish. We were asked to be a drop off point for a local food giveaway program and are proud to say we stepped up to help our Veterans and our Community. We will be a place for all local Veterans and their families to come to pick up some FREE veggies, fruits and more twice a month (right now 2nd and 4th Saturday from 10am till 1200). With the price of groceries going up for everyone this is truly a blessing, and we are honored to help. Bring your shopping bags. Started off with the first Birthday celebration of the new year with the US Army cake on June 14. Thanks to Sherri and Pam for stepping up to make that happen. Several of us were out of town in Orlando for the Annual Legion Department of Florida Convention from June 13-16 June. I was so proud to be there to see our dear friend and 117 Member Chris Hamrick installed as our new Department of Florida Commander. He worked hard for this honor and when you see Chris be sure to congratulate him. Well deserved.

July and August are two of the hottest months of the year, but life and programs go on and we make the best of anytime we are blessed to be members of the best Post in Florida. Please enjoy yourselves but remember to keep hydrated and take advantage of the cool AC whenever possible. July 4th will be exciting as always with the Best Homemade Food contest. Please bring a food item to share and if you want to enter the contest for Best Homemade dish, appetizer or dessert please drop off item NLT 1200. (members only). Lunch will be after judging and awards. Games, prizes, Vince Performing and more. Commander hosted Post 117 Family Meeting Sat July 20 at 10am. This is a great time to speak with the Commander about what is happening at an informal setting. Let's talk. Be sure to check your monthly calendar for all the activities coming up on a weekly basis.

I will see you around the Post. Please stop and say Hello.

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



Andy Campbell  
Commander  
Squadron 117

sal@al117.com



## Squadron 117, Sons of the American Legion

Hello everyone!  
Summer is here and elections are over!  
Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!  
Here are your 2024/2025 officers for SAL!

- o Commander – Greg Singler
- o 1<sup>st</sup> Vice – Bruce Walkowiak
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice – Keith Prine
- o Finance Officer – Don Bilger
- o Sgt at Arms - Eric Spellman
- o Asst Sgt at Arms – Terry Cox
- o Chaplin – Mike Miskow
- o Historian – Alvin Hill
- o Adjutant – Andy Campbell

Congratulations to you all and thanks for supporting the SAL.

I am officially the new District 12 commander and will be stepping back from my duties at 117 to make sure that all of our squadrons in the district are running good and helping them where I can.

Bruce Walkowiak has also moved up to District as our new Judge Advocate so congratulate him when you see him.

At Convention we were presented with a trophy for Special Olympics donations of \$15,646 plus in-kind donations valued at over \$20,000.00. We were also given our Diamond award as well.

Membership is starting over again and we are getting in renewals already. The problem is we don't have our membership cards so if you paid your dues for this coming year be patient you will get your cards in the next month.

The Fish Fry has been slowing down and will pick up again in the fall so we are only going to have 60 dinners available for July and August.

This years veterans fishing trip was a huge success as we went to a new boat and drift fished catching over 17 keepers as I am sure a lot of you have seen the pictures.

Make sure to watch the TV's in the post and the bulletin board for upcoming events!

I can be reached at 117squadroncmdr@gmail.com

Thanks, and God Bless,  
Andy Campbell  
SAL Squadron Commander  
District 12 Commander



## Unit 117 Auxiliary

I bring you greetings from the 2024-2025 Department President Charlotte Bass. This year, her theme, Securing Our Foundation to Build a Stronger Future. #buildingthehouse. #secureourfoundation

Through her theme we will be working together “Building the House” and encouraging all to Build a Stronger Future. The Membership theme is Membership is the Key to Securing Our Foundation. Her hashtag is #membershipisthekey.

Each District is a tool. Our District is a Utility Knife.

Her color is teal. She chose this color because of its meaning. Teal is a calming, restful, rejuvenating color that represents open communication, clarity of thought and balance. President Charlotte’s Special Project is Operation 300. It was established in Honor of SOC (SEAL) Aaron Vaughn who was KIA on August 6, 2011, when a chopper carrying 30 Americans was shot down in the Tangi River Valle of Afghanistan while rushing into battle. Aaron left behind 2 children; a son who was not quite 2 years old and a daughter who was only 9 weeks old. Aaron’s story, life, and legacy inspired the creation of Operation 300. They believe that when a member of our armed forces gives their life in defense of our country the least, we can do is to honor that sacrifice by caring for their family. This is the heart behind Operation 300, a registered 501(c)3 not for profit organization that hosts weekend adventure camps for children who have lost their parent as a result of military service, pairing each child a father aged mentor who spends the weekend doing things with the children that they might have done with their parent. Let’s Build this House together!!

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

July 2024

7th Juniors & Young S.A.L. meeting at 12:00 pm

8th Auxiliary EC 6:00 pm

11th Auxiliary Steak Shoot 7:00 pm

18th Auxiliary General Membership 7:00 pm

19th Auxiliary Friday Night Dinner 5:00 – 7:00 pm

21st Auxiliary in the kitchen for lunch 1:00 - 5:00 pm

19th Auxiliary; 20th Auxiliary Workshop, Hilton Altamont Springs

August 2024

12th Auxiliary EC 6:00 pm

15th Auxiliary General Membership 7:00 pm

16th Auxiliary Friday Dinner 5:00 – 7:00 pm

18th Auxiliary in the kitchen for lunch 1:00 – 5:00 pm

24th – 29th Auxiliary National Convention in New Orleans

Yours in Service,

Kim Oaks

#buildingthehouse

#secureourfoundation

#membershipisthekey

Kim Oaks  
President

[oaksk@bellsouth.net](mailto:oaksk@bellsouth.net)







*MaryAnn Spellman*  
Chairman

*Maryannspellman9@gmail.com*



## Unit 117 Juniors

Greetings All,

Yes, it is that time of year again for our Family Future Leaders to do what they do best, help support our veterans and our community.

Our Jr's had a great year and did so many amazing things last year. We had 8 Jr's and 5 Young SAL members at the convention this year. With the support, and love of our Legion Family, Unit 117 was awarded the with Best Jr program for the State of Fl. Averi Rose Krogh also won Jr of the Year for the State of Florida. She also entered her Department Jr History Book and won an award for that as well. We had 3 Jr's run for Department Honorary Jr office, all 3 were elected. Department of Fl. Honorary Jr President Averi Rose Krogh, Department of Fl. Honorary Chaplain Emily Veasey, and Department of Fl. Honorary Sgt-at-Arms Riley Veasy. We are all so very proud of our Jr's and Young SAL for all they do all year.

We would love to grow this program. Our children and Grandchildren are our FUTURE LEADERS (Juniors & young SAL members). Let's get them involved now, so they can grow, learn just what our Legion Family is all about and what we do for our Veterans and the community.

My plan for this year is to have one meeting a month at the post home. Our 1st meeting will be on Sunday, July 7th at 12pm. I will keep everyone updated regarding future meetings and events. We intend on getting all the Jr's involved in as many Post 117 family events and programs as possible.

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

Please make sure I have your contact information such as phone and email so I can make sure you are getting all updates. Send to [maryannspellman9@gmail.com](mailto:maryannspellman9@gmail.com) We do not want anyone to miss out on the amazing things our Future Leaders will be doing this year.

For God & Country  
Warm Regards

MaryAnn Spellman Jr Chairman



Jeff Cox, Director,  
Chapter 117

ridersdirector  
@all117.com



## Chapter 117, American Legion Riders

Fellow Legion Riders,

Let me start off by saying thank you for a Great year as your Director. I couldn't have done it without you. It take everyone to make the Rider's Program a success.

May and June were good months for the Riders. The first Friday is Riders dinner and thank you to those who stepped up to work in the kitchen. The last Thursday of the month, we do Bike Night and always a good time to get out and have a fresh cheeseburger as well as to listen to some music and relax. The riders will still continue to do Bike Night and Friday dinners.

Welcome to all the returning and new Officers.

- \*Director — Robert Smith
- \*Assistant Director — Stan Wood
- \*Secretary — Shiela Cline
- \*Finance Officer — Bobby Dye
- \*Chaplain — Brian Yancey
- \*Safety Officer — Spencer Reinking
- \*Road Captain — Spencer Reinking
- \*Sergeant-at-Arms — David Buldoc
- \*Historian — Dana Jackson
- \*Member/Merchandise— Vacant

Have a GREAT year & thank you again,

Jeff Cox  
Director





*Donna Walkowiak  
Chaplain*

*Chaplain@all17.com*

## Chaplain's Corner

I want to thank everyone for a good year. Without your support, the runner-up plaque for religious emphasis, State of Florida, would not be in our entry way. It took communication with me when prayers were needed and attending the ceremonies we hold. I truly appreciate those that volunteered to participate on any of the ceremonies or events. They were all well attended.

We had the largest number of participants placing flags at Fountainhead Memorial Park this year with 18 groups containing a total of 73 persons. I couldn't have been prouder. We took in our community and taught our youth about honoring veterans.

I am looking forward to serving you again as your 2024-2025 Chaplain. I feel a great year coming on. American Legion Post 117 proud.

May God continue to Bless the United States of America.

Your Chaplain,  
Donna Walkowiak







# BE THE ONE

## Post Meetings ••• Post Meetings ••• Post Meetings ••• Post Meetings

- Legion EC Meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 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@all117.com) for facility information, rental availability, and price

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



**MERCHANDISE SALES**

**Legion Items For Sale**

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

**Riders Items For Sale**

**(For special orders contact Riders Merchandise Person)**

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

**SAL Items For Sale**

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

**AUX Items For Sale**

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

**Visit the Post 117 Facebook Pages**

- American Legion Post 117
- American Legion SAL Squadron 117
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit 117
- Legion Riders FL Chapter 117

**“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” — Mahatma Gandhi**

## **U.S Veterans Holiday's and Important Events**

### **July**

**July 4th—Independence Day**

**July 25th—National Hire A Veteran Day**

**July 27th—National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day**

**July 28th—National Buffalo Soldiers Day**

**July 29th—Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary**

### **August**

**August is Antiterrorism Awareness Month**

**Aug 4th—Coast Guard Day**

**August 7th—Purple Heart Day**

**August 10th—U.S. Department of Defense Birthday**

**August 10th—Agent Orange Awareness Day**

**August 14th—Navajo Code Talkers Day**

**August 16th—National Airborne Day**

**August 29th—Marine Corps Reserve Birthday**

Annual July 4th Holiday Celebration at Post 117  
for 117 Members, Families & Friends

Vince will be performing from 1-5pm

Fun, Games, Prizes & More

50/50 Drawing

badminton

volleyball

hoola hoops

corn hole

water balloon toss

# Happy FOURTH OF JULY

Annual Best Homemade Dish Contest  
(contest for members only)

Please bring a food dish to share

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

Annual July 4th Holiday Celebration at Post 117  
for 117 Members, Families & Friends

Get ready & start preparing for the  
Annual Best Homemade  
Dish Contest  
with great prizes for BEST main dish,  
appetizer, or dessert.

Food items must be entered by 12pm.  
Food will be served inside. Lunch  
begins after judging & awards at  
approximately 1:15pm.

Please bring a food dish to share

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

HAPPY  
Birthday  
TO YOU

Celebrating Post 117 Birthday's  
July 27th @ 6pm

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

All American Legion Members & their Families  
Food Pantry

Everyone can use a break from grocery prices!  
A Community sharing food, veggies, fruit and more  
First Come First Serve  
We do not know quantity, so please be patient.

2nd & 4th  
Saturday of the  
Month

July 13th 10am - 12pm  
July 27th 10am - 12pm  
August 10th 10am - 12pm  
August 24th 10am - 12pm

Bring a shopping bag.

Helping Veterans & Families one day at a time!

HAPPY  
Birthday

Celebrating Post 117  
Members with August  
Birthday's  
August 24th @ 6:00pm



District 12 Important Dates for 2024-2025  
Updated as of 6/25/24

DATE	ACTIVITY	CITY	Post
8/17/24	SAL Meeting	Melbourne	394
8/31/24	Dinner @1700	St John	359
9/7/24	AL Meeting	Cocoa	22
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 TBD****	Palm Bay	117
5/3/25	SAL DCC	Palm Bay	394
5/3/25	AL DCC @1300	Palm bay	117

All meetings open at 9:00am for sign-in and coffee; Meetings begin at 10:00am. Dinner will start at 1700. Prices to be determined from the cost of the food. Eastern area Ball advance tickets prices \$30 for Single person, \$55 for a Couple, if paying at the Door will be \$40.

All Squadrons and Legion Posts will be asked to share about activities/events/programs going on in the quarter.

Daniel Martin  
District 12 Commander  
[District12@legionmail.org](mailto:District12@legionmail.org)

Andy Campbell  
SAL District Commander  
[District12@floridasons.org](mailto:District12@floridasons.org)

Hurricane Preparedness Tips

GET READY FOR HURRICANE SEASON

**ANTICIPATE THE RISK**  
STORM SURGE - STRONG WIND - FLOODING - INTENSED RAINFALL  
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation

**STOCK YOUR SUPPLIES**  
FOOD & WATER - MEDICINE - FULL GAS TANK - CASH ON HAND  
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**PLAN FOR EVACUATION**  
EVACUATION ZONE - ROUTES - BAG FOR SUPPLIES - PETS  
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FOR MORE INFO: [WWW.WEBSITENAME.COM](http://WWW.WEBSITENAME.COM) CALL: +123-456-7890

## Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

- \$10 or less**
  - Wet dog or cat food if sold individually or the equivalent if sold in a box or case
- \$15 or less**
  - Manual can openers
  - Collapsible or travel-sized food or water bowls for pets
  - Cat litter pans
  - Pet waste disposal bags
  - Hamster or rabbit substrate
- \$20 or less**
  - Reusable ice
  - Leashes, collars, and muzzles for pets
  - Pet pads
- \$25 or less**
  - Cat litter weighing 25 or fewer pounds
- \$40 or less**
  - Portable self-powered light sources
  - Pet beds
- \$50 or less**
  - Portable self-powered radios, two-way radios, or weather-band radios
  - Gas or diesel fuel tanks
  - Batteries, including rechargeable batteries, listed sizes only:
    - AA-cell
    - AAA-cell
    - C-cell
    - D-cell
    - 6-volt
    - 9-volt
- \$60 or less**
  - Nonelectric food storage coolers
  - Portable power banks
- \$70 or less**
  - Smoke detectors or smoke alarms
  - Fire extinguishers
  - Carbon monoxide detectors
- \$100 or less**
  - Tarpaulins or other flexible waterproof sheeting
  - Ground anchor systems
  - Portable pet kennels or pet carriers
  - Dry dog or cat food weighing 50 or fewer pounds
  - Over-the-counter pet medications
- \$3,000 or less**
  - Portable generators used to provide light or communications or to preserve food in a power outage

June 1-14, 2024  
August 24-September 6, 2024