

# The American Legion Winter Park Memorial Post 112 Family



Winter Park Memorial Post 112  
4490 North Goldenrod Road  
Winter Park, FL 32792  
www.wpflpost112.org  
407.671.6404

2024—2025  
Officers

**Commander**

James Middlekauff

**1st Vice**

**Commander**

Ted Costello

**2nd Vice**

**Commander**

OPEN

**Adjutant**

Bob Colbert

**Finance Officer**

Bob Colbert

**Sgt. at Arms**

Ron Gagne

**Judge Advocate**

OPEN

**Asst. Judge Adv.**

Terry Brown

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Jim Middlekauff

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**Chaplain**

Billy Dover

**Historian**

Larry Middour

**Sons of the Legion  
Commander**

Jim Carten

**Auxiliary  
President**

Marge Berrios

**Newsletter Editor**

Nell Colbert

**Website**

<https://wpflpost112.org>

## COMMANDER'S MINUTE

Greetings fellow Legionnaires of Post 112:

I hope everyone had a healthy start to 2025. Life is a challenge at times, but we must “keep the faith” and hope for the best.

Our “blended” meetings continue and we’re seeing more members attend the meeting at the Post. Past Commander Costello is doing a great job with membership, but it is also up to all of us to recruit/renew members.

Our Four Chaplains ceremony was a huge success at the First Baptist Church and we plan on doing it again next year. Thank you to past Commander and Chaplain Dover for putting this all together. February brings the Four Chaplains ceremony to many Posts and is also a National recognition for the American Legion. Pictures from our ceremony are on another page in this newsletter.

We held our Boys State interviews at the end of February and will begin our school awards programs again, so join in with these rewarding programs if possible.

Perhaps when our Flag Retirement area is completed, we can also use that area for get-together type things weather permitting.

Talk to other Veterans about us, the Legion is going strong. “*Anyone who has served honorably in the US Armed Forces since December 7, 1941 are now eligible to join, including Active Duty*” so bring them to a meeting and check out our awesome Post.

Until next time, take care and God Bless.

For God and Country, Jim Middlekauff  
Commander, Post 112

Volume 17, Issue 5

March-April 2025

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

To continue getting Post 112 family emails, please send your correct email address to Bob Colbert (bcolbert@usa.net) ASAP

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## From Ted's Table—Ted Costello

As of this writing, our 2025 membership is 91 paid members for a total 91.99%. The remaining few are the hardest, but I am hopeful that we will reach our 100%. Again, I reach out to every member to ask your friends or someone you are having a conversation with, if they are a veteran. If they are, ask them to join our American Legion Post and also invite them to one of our meetings either in person or via Zoom. You will be amazed how many vets were never asked to join.

Thank you!

**2025 Legion Dues are now DUE!**  
**Please send your \$45 check to**  
**PO Box 910, Goldenrod, FL 32733**  
**TODAY!**

## Americanism—Ted Costello

The American Legion educated youths on U.S. Flag etiquette to build patriotism and create respect for the flag. The Legion provides education materials that cover a range of topics such as the proper ways to fold, display and dispose of U.S. Flags.

I want to share a poem from a young person entitled "The Best Flag" by Lenore Hetrick

I know my flag is a good flag,  
It represents my land!  
The best land in the world!  
So proudly here I stand  
With a smile upon my face,  
And my dear flag in my hand





## Notes From the Adjutant's Desk

The new year is underway! Our Four Chaplain's Ceremony was outstanding – thanks to the fantastic efforts of Chaplain Dover and the team that he was able to get to help him! We hope to have a video copy of the ceremony soon and will post it on our Website! There are pictures elsewhere in this newsletter, but you really would have had to be there to get the full effect – to quote so many veterans.

Nominations for the 2025-2026 officers start at the March meeting. There are only a few positions, but they are vitally important. The positions are Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, Sgt at Arms, Finance Officer, Chaplain and Historian. Other positions are appointed and there are several that are open.

The difference between 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander is in the individual duties. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander sees to the recruitment of members and renewal of members. He also assists with the program and would be the person to run the meeting in the absence of the Commander. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander handles the physical plant, overseeing the building and grounds and organizing the maintenance or repair of the Post. An example of this would be setting up volunteers to stop by the Post to empty the dehumidifier in the office. He also shares helping with the programs of the Post. The other

positions are fairly self-explanatory.

The slate will be finalized at the April meeting and the election will be held in May. So, as you can see, there is something going on throughout the Spring.

We have an opportunity to hold a Memorial Day activity as well as a Fourth of July event, and other special events but they need a chairman to spearhead them. There are other events and activities that the Post could hold but they also need someone to "champion" them. If you have an idea or would like to help, please let the Commander or myself know. There are a lot of events that the Post could hold if only we had someone to "champion" them. Some areas for events fall under Americanism, Children & Youth, and Community Service.

This year, the Department of Florida American Legion is hosting the National American Legion Convention in Tampa in August of 2025. This doesn't happen all that often as the National Convention moves from State to State each year. This could be the year that you can actually visit and participate in a National Convention. I will give you more information in the next newsletter.

Until the next issue.



**It's that time  
Again!  
Daylight Savings Time  
Begins March 9th**



## ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Would your business like to advertise in our Post newsletter? This newsletter, with distribution via email and USPS to over 200 members and organizations, is now accepting advertising for our monthly newsletters.

### Advertising rates per issue are as follows:

- 1/4 page - \$ 15.00 (3 3/4"w x 4 3/4"l)
- 1/2 page - \$ 25.00 (7 3/4"w x 4 3/4"l or 3 3/4"w x 9 3/4"l)
- Full page - \$ 40.00 (7 3/4"w x 9 3/4"l)


Copy MUST be emailed to the editor as a jpg or PDF file and payment MUST be mailed to Post 112 at PO Box 910, Goldenrod, FL 32733-0910

and received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

### COPY DEADLINES:

- Jan-Feb issue—10December
- Mar-April issue—15February
- May-June issue—15April
- July-August issue—15June
- September-October issue—15August
- November-December issue—15October

**QUESTIONS**—Contact the editor at 321.303.7445 or email [necolbert@usa.net](mailto:necolbert@usa.net)



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## Our House Building Auxiliary—Nell Colbert

After a very busy November and December, our Unit took a minute to regroup before beginning work on our spring projects.

Marge was hard at work contacting our local high schools to obtain their top candidates for our Girls State interviews. By the time you see this newsletter, our selection committee will have interviewed about eight amazing candidates. Pictures of our candidates and the delegates we selected will appear in the next newsletter. Thanks to the help from the Oviedo American Legion Post 243, we were able to select one over-quota delegate and one alternate in addition to our delegate and alternate. We will have at least two of our young ladies attend the 2025 Girls State program and we hope that both of our alternates will be picked to attend as well. Over the years, we have had great success with having our alternates picked up by other Units around the state who paid for someone to attend but who did not have any girls from their high schools interested in attending.

Nell was also busy in January contacting our elementary schools about our annual Americanism Essay Contest. The theme this year was “What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?” We received entries from Eastbrook and Dommerich Elementary Schools and we judged the essays submitted at our February meeting.

Also in February, Debi, Lisa, Christine, and Nell attended the Post 112 Four Chaplains ceremony that was held at the First Baptist Church of Winter Park.



Our very own Chaplain, Debi Shannon participated in the ceremony as one of the Four Chaplains.

About one-hundred people Attended: American

Legion Family members from several Post's as well as members of the church community in addition to our Winter Park Legion family. Pictures from our ceremony can be found on page 9 in this newsletter.

For anyone wanting to learn more about the Four Chaplains and their unselfish acts during WWII, please see:

<https://fourchaplains.org/the-four-chaplains/>

March will see the beginning of our process for the election of officers for the 2025-2026 Auxiliary year with the formation of our Nominating Committee. The task of this important committee is to select candidates to fill our leadership roles for the upcoming year. The slate of officers will be presented at our April meeting where nominations from the floor can be accepted. Elections

will be held during our May meeting per our Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules. These governing documents can be found on our website at:

<https://amlegionaux112fl.com/official-stuff/>

Our installation is usually held as a joint Legion Family event in July.

April brings the Scholastic Achievement awards that fall under our Education program. Nell will be contacting our elementary schools requesting the names of one boy and one girl from the 5th grade class to be recognized as of Scholastic Achievement award recipient for 2025. At the end of May we will need help from our members to present these awards as the schools hold their awards/graduation ceremonies for their students moving to middle school on essentially the same days, usually the last few days of school. If you would like to help make these fun presentations, please contact Nell by email or phone.

**We welcome all Veteran spouses along with the mothers, sisters, grandmothers and granddaughters of Veterans who would like to actively support our military, our youth and our community through our community service projects. To become involved, please call Nell at 321.303.7445.**

**Check out our Facebook page at:**

<https://www.facebook.com/ALA112FL>  
or our website at:

[www.AmLegionAux112FL.com](http://www.AmLegionAux112FL.com)



## Notes from Our Service Officer

### Reminder for VA Secure Sign In:

**Reminder for VA Secure Sign In:** VA has issued changes for signing into your VA.gov or My HealtheVet accounts. Currently, there are four ways to sign in to your VA accounts: LOG-IN.GOV, ID.ME, My HealtheVet, and DS Logon. Both My HealtheVet and DS Logon will be discontinued for accessing VA accounts. My HealtheVet sign in will be available until Jan. 31, 2025. Veterans, family members, caregivers, and survivors with VA accounts are encouraged to transition how they sign in to access these accounts prior to that date.

✦ You'll have 2 sign-in account options that meet modern security standards: a **Login.gov** or **ID.me** account.

#### ✦ New Deadlines

The deadline to stop using **My HealtheVet** for VA.gov and other online VA services has been **extended to March 4, 2025**. After that, you'll need to use **Login.gov** or **ID.me** to sign in.

The deadline to switch from **DS Logon** to **ID.me** or **Login.gov** is still **September 30, 2025**.

### TRICARE Pharmacy Network Expands With Kroger Pharmacies:

**Good News!** If you use TRICARE for your prescriptions, there are now more pharmacy options available to you. As of February 5, 2025, the Kroger Family of Pharmacies has rejoined the TRICARE Pharmacy Program. This means that over 2,200 new pharmacies are now part of the network across 35 states!

### Doug Collins Becomes New VA Secretary

On February 4, 2025, the U.S. Senate confirmed Doug Collins as the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Collins is the first post-9/11 veteran to lead the VA. His background as a former Republican congressman from Georgia and an Air Force Reserve Colonel gives him both military and government experience. He also served as a military Chaplain, helping service members during difficult times.

The Defense **POW/MIA Accounting Agency** announced 4 identifications and 3 burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II and the Korean War.



# Happy St. Patrick's Day!





## The Chaplain's Prayers : Billy Dover



"Security is having the Word of God in your own language. Peace is having the Word of God in your own heart: Corrie ten Boom.

In the Bible: Psalm 119:105 "**Your WORD is a lamp for my feet a light on my path**" Psalm 30 "**I have treasured YOUR Word in my heart so that I may not sin against you.**" Psalm 30:5 "**Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.**"

On February 2, 2025, we held our Four Chaplains service, and it still allows me to reflect on what they did as the USAT Dorchester sank. After they gave their life jackets and gloves to those without, they locked arms and sang in their own language hymns. Just as Corrie ten Boom stated you need the Word of God in your own language. The chaplains knew that they had the WORD of God in their hearts and every word of God was pure. Instead of correcting ourselves, we need to rely on God to lead us in Good times and Negative times.

God is in control all we must do is follow the Holy Spirit in allow it to guide us. As we wake up do one simple thing, Thank God for allowing you to have another day and use it to help others.

Let Us Pray:

Our most heavenly Father, thank you for being a light for my feet. Today we ask that you guide us in EVERYTHING in our lives both mentally, physically, and spiritually. Protect our service personnel and their families as well as our First Responders and their families. Guide our government leaders that they may look to you for guidance. This we ask in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

For God and Country,  
Billy Dover Jr., Chaplain Post 112



**March 5, 2025**





## Son's of the of the Legion: Jim Carten



Our Squadron is small but our members are our strength. We are currently over 75% for membership renewals. For those who have yet to renew, it can be done online quickly and easily.

Is seems like prices keep going up and budgets keep getting

cut. It's all over the news. Now more than ever is the time to check in on our vets. A simple visit to a VA hospital or a call to a vet can make all the difference between despair and happiness.

Keep in mind that March 1 is our 6th District Meeting at Post 347 in Lady Lake and our District Constitutional Conference on May 6 at Post 80 in St.

Cloud. Check out the District Calendar for updates and take part in your SAL

For God and Country  
Commander Jimbo



## School Medals — Bob Colbert

School medals are presented in May (end of the school year) and the Winter Park Post presents medals at several schools. One challenge that we are often faced with is the lack of “presenters” for these medals. In some extreme cases, the schools have presented them for us, but that is not the same as having someone from the Post present the medals to the deserving students. Our presence helps to emphasize Americanism in addition to promoting the American Legion family.

I won't have the actual dates until early to mid April, but we are asking the schools to send us there two nominees so that the certificates can be prepared. The presentations are usually made at about 9 AM at each school and they usually will put us at the beginning of their program so we can leave right after our presentation. On some days we may have a second school at which to present so including travel time, if we have a second school, we are done by or before 11 AM. It really means a lot to the students, their parents, and the school's faculty to have a Legionnaire in their Legion cap present those medals.

Another challenge is that both Seminole and Orange County elementary schools present on the last few days of the school year. With eight elementary schools to cover, it can present a coverage issue. Our Auxiliary Unit also presents their Scholastic Achievement medals at these same schools and they, too, have only a few volunteers available to cover multiple schools. We work as a team with the Auxiliary to be sure each school is covered.

Contact me if you are interested and we can keep you informed as the presentations get closer.







## Four Chaplain's Ceremony Pictures

The 2025 Post 112 Four Chaplains ceremony was held at the First Baptist Church of Winter Park on Sunday, February 2nd. Post Chaplain Billy Dover coordinated the efforts of not only American Legion Family members from several Legion families, but also the Audio-Visual Tech team from the church to produce an amazing program. The church team recorded the entire program and as soon as it is available, it will be posted to the Post 112 website: <https://wpflpost112.org/>

Below are just a few of the pictures taken during the program. More pictures are on our Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/150539906911/?sorting\\_setting=CHRONOLOGICAL](https://www.facebook.com/groups/150539906911/?sorting_setting=CHRONOLOGICAL)





## Scouting America—Bob Colbert

Yes, the program that started out as the Boy Scouts of America has morphed into Scouting America. Such is progress.

One of the boy's Eagle Projects is building a Flag Retirement area beside the Post where we can respectfully retire used and damaged American Flags. There is a specific process in retiring the American Flag with respect and once this area is completed, the Post and Scout Troops will be able to do it. Currently, we are temporarily taking the American Flags that are dropped off at the Post to another service organization for their disposal. Once this area is completed, we will post pictures in a future newsletter for all to see.

One of the girls has recently completed her Eagle Project where her team of volunteers replaced the worn-out benches at the Audubon Society. They did the actual construction of the benches here at the Post. Pictures of this project were in the November/December newsletter.

So, you can see, the Scouting movement is alive and well and growing here at the Post.

## Boys State — Bob Colbert

Boys State 2025 is just a few months away. The Post will have screened eight candidates to fill the four delegate slots and three alternate slots. The actual selection was made on February 22<sup>nd</sup> which is after our newsletter deadline. We will have the results of the selection process in the next newsletter.

At the selection meeting, each delegate and alternate will be given a packet explaining what they must do to complete their application. This must be completed by March 19<sup>th</sup>. When this is done, the boys move on.

Their next step is to participate in the Boys State Orientation session where the details of how things work will be explained as well as giving the actual departure and return times for the trip.

Finally, they board the bus and go to Tallahassee.

The four delegates will become part of the fictitious state in Tallahassee for a week. The youth will be using the actual chambers of the legislature and other government facilities. Each candidate is asked to prepare a "bill" that he would like to see implemented and during the week, he will be able to "lobby" for his bill to try to get it passed by the legislature and signed off by the governor.

The three alternates will probably go to Boys State in place of a delegate or fill a vacancy for another Post who was not able to procure a delegate. In years past, we have seen all of our alternates go to Boys State.

We ask the delegates and, if possible, the alternates to return to the Post for our August meeting to give us a report on their experiences. The delegates that attended Girls State will also make a presentation.

Good luck to the delegates!





## Happy Birthday to YOU!

*Happy Birthday to YOU!  
Happy Birthday to you!  
Happy Birthday dear \_\_\_\_\_  
Happy Birthday to YOU!*

### MARCH

- 3 DiMarino, Anthony
- 3 Miles, Milton D
- 6 Sears, Perry W
- 9 Brown, Richard C
- 10 Rosa, Juan M
- 12 Padgett, Aunita E
- 14 Dover, Billy G Jr
- 14 Thompson, Madelda
- 16 Coleman, Charles Jr
- 18 Braga, Cirilo B

### MARCH cont'd:

- 18 Cain, Laurie
- 25 Nazario, Rafael
- 26 Carden, James W Jr

### APRIL

- 5 Squire, Billy L Sr
- 6 Rosado, Antonio
- 7 Agosto, Epifanio
- 10 Shoff, Sherwood A
- 17 Hanna, Leo C
- 24 Kelly, Patrick J



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# THE AMERICAN LEGION



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## CALENDAR

### March

### Event

- 3 S A L Meeting - 7 PM - ZOOM only  
Nominations for Squadron Officers begins
- 11 Post General Meeting - 7 PM - Post & ZOOM  
Nominations for Post Officers begins
- 18 Auxiliary Meeting - 7 PM - ZOOM only  
Nominating Committee Established

### April

- 7 S A L Meeting - 7 PM - ZOOM only  
Slate of Candidates if completed
- 8 Post General Meeting - 7 PM - Post & ZOOM  
Slate of Candidates if completed
- 15 Auxiliary Meeting - 7 PM - ZOOM  
Slate of Candidates presented

**See our website for additional dates and more detailed info about each event.**

## OFFICER'S DIRECTORY

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