

# 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

**2025—2026  
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

**Service Officer**  
Jim Middlekauff  
Ted Costello

**Chaplain**  
Billy Dover

**Historian**  
OPEN

**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 is doing well. Summer is just about over but it brought us plenty of heat and storms. We're now looking forward to the cooler temperatures that come with fall. Hurricane season is here, and activity is picking up, so we must get prepared now. Remember that emergency prep supplies like batteries are tax free.

Our hybrid meetings are working well, making it very convenient for those who cannot travel to be in-person at the Post for meetings. Zoom works great and is very easy to use. Please let us know if you need help with the technology.

We have made lots of improvements at our Post home, so please try to attend a meeting or an event to see everything that's been done. Let us know if there is something that we could add that would interest you.

At our installation ceremony in July, it was announced that I was selected as **Legionnaire of the Year** at the last convention. I could not attend sadly, but past Commander Dover accepted the award for me. I thank past Commander Costello for submitting all the paperwork for our officers for recognition. I could not have won this most prestigious award without the support of our fellow members who step up to help. I especially want to thank our Post Adjutant, Bob Colbert, who carried many hats and does an exceptional job at all of the assignments he handles.

The Flag Retirement Area is complete! Stand by for a date when we can have a ceremony at the Post with everyone invited, including the Sea Cadets, Scout troops, and 4-H Silent Shooters who help put flags out every Memorial Day and Veterans Day for us. The Eagle Scout project turned out great. Every year June 14<sup>th</sup> is Flag Day and commemorates the adoption of the U.S. Flag, which was on June 14, 1777, so proudly display your U.S. Flag. Perhaps we can have a flag retirement ceremony next year on this date.

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 18, Issue 2

Sept.—Oct. 2025

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

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## From Ted's Table—Ted Costello

I am pleased to announce Post 112 is off to a good start, our membership is at 57.5%. I sound like a broken record but I need all the help I can to increase our membership with younger people to carry this post on to better things in the future. Our past has proven itself with successes and we can do even better with strong leadership as we have in the past.

Ted Costello, 1st Vice Commander  
Winter Park Memorial Post 112

**2026 Legion Dues are now DUE!**  
**Please send your \$45 check to**  
**PO Box 910, Goldenrod, FL 32733**  
**TODAY!**

## AMERICANISM—Ted Costello

Just a note, Americanism is each of our responsibility which includes fostering patriotism, teaching flag etiquette, and encouraging civic engagement which is all essential to the future of Florida and our nation. With dedication our Americanism Program will continue to be a powerful force for good in our community and Florida.

Ted Costello, Americanism, Chairman  
Winter Park Memorial Post 112





## Notes From the Adjutant's Desk

Well, you missed a great meeting in August. We had the Boys State and Girls State delegates at the meeting to give us their take on both of their events and celebrated the birthday of the U S Coast Guard!

We are now into our new "year" with the newly elected officers installed. And I would like to welcome our new Judge Advocate, David Shields. He has transferred to our Post from Post 208 which was the Cyber Post that is being discontinued. Welcome, David.

The Fall season is here. There is a potential for several events to be planned and held, all we need is the help of a "champion" to get them going. If you have the time, contact the Commander for details. The beginnings of planning for the Post Family Holiday Dinner are underway. The date has been on the second Friday in December in the past [years](#) but we have not made the reservation at the restaurant. Veteran's Day is a potential event, if someone has the interest.

With the completion of the Flag Retirement Area to the rear of the Post, we are working with our youth groups to get a retirement ceremony scheduled. It will be after the hot weather is over, but the date will be announced once it is set.

I am looking for amateur radio operators who are members of the Post Family. I know of four of us but there may be more. If we have enough, I am wondering if there would be an interest in establishing an Amateur Radio Club at the Post. If you are a "ham," please let me know either by email or text.

Did you know that there is training available online for Legion members who want to learn more about the Legion and the various programs? Check out <https://www.legion.org>. If you have not established an account on <https://www.mylegion.org>, now would be a great time to do it. Among the things that you can do there is renew your membership, change your basic information like address, phone number and email address, and even print a duplicate Membership ID card should something happen to your membership card. There is no charge for establishing an account at "mylegion.org."

Are you receiving the newsletter by regular mail? Postage is going up again for the second time this year but we don't want you to be left out. If you DO NOT HAVE EMAIL, we will continue to mail the newsletter to you. We realize that not everyone has or can use email, but if you have an email address and we are still sending the newsletter to you by US Mail, please let us know so that we can avoid duplication. By the way, you can go to our website to view this and past newsletters if you want to be able to "get rid" of the paper.

Until next time.







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

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

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



Dear Valued Customers, Thank you for your support over the last 29yrs, and as the new owners we value that loyalty. We want to reassure you that our dedication to quality and customer service is our #1 Priority. Our business hours are still 9am-4pm Mon-Fri.

We have a new email address that we will be using moving forward.  
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## Our REDDY Auxiliary—Nell Colbert

**Congratulations and a BIG THANKS to our 22 members who have already paid their 2026 dues as of 8/20 when this newsletter went to the printer!** We are at just under 63% of our membership goal for 2026. If you have not sent in your check for \$45, please mail your check payable to Unit 112 to PO Box 2246, Goldenrod, FL 32733-2246. Or simply follow the instructions below to pay your dues online through the national website:

NOTICE

**How to RENEW Membership ONLINE**

Go to the National website and log in to your My Aux Account.  
 Click pay dues on your profile.  
 Pay with a credit or debit card.  
 Print your membership card from your profile.  
 Receive an email receipt.

**If you don't have an account, you can create one by clicking the Login button and selecting 'Create Account.'**

You can also call ALA National Headquarters  
 (317) 569-4570 M-F 8 am -4:30

**www.legionaux.org**

One of our Junior Auxiliary members, Karen, has been very busy this summer. Karen is on the Winter Park Swim



team and competed in a meet in Ocala in July where she took 2nd place! Congrats, Karen.

Not only did Karen compete in the swim meet, she also gave an outstanding presentation at the Orange County East Rotary in early August explaining how the ideals of Rotary and the



Girls State program are very similar. The Rotary Club presented our Unit with a donation to support our programs.



Another of our Juniors, Phil, just made the bowling team at Lake Highland Prep and one of our youngest Juniors, Braelyn, started Kindergarten this year.

At the Legion's August meeting, our Unit provided a huge birthday cake celebrating the

birthday of the US Coast Guard. We will have another birthday cake to celebrate the birthday of the Air Force in September.



Please see the information on Page 9 about our Auxiliary's newest Children and Youth project—*Tushies and Toes*. We are collecting new socks and underwear for the students at one of the elementary schools we support. Please bring your donation to Post 112 on Tuesday, September 9th, from 7-8pm. This is the Legion's regular meeting night and we'll have Auxiliary members there to receive your donations.

Until next time ...

**#PassionForVeterans**

**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:** The deadline to switch from **DS Logon** to **ID.me** or **Login.gov** is still **September 30, 2025**. You can still use MyHealthVet, just need to access it through Login.gov or ID.me accounts.

Retirees should check their card's expiration, ensure dependents upgrade too, and act soon to stay compliant. A non-compliant ID could block air travel or base access after May 7, 2025. For more details or support, visit [dfas.mil](https://dfas.mil) or [cac.mil](https://cac.mil). Plan ahead to secure your benefits without interruption.

Calling customer service for help can be a chore! To make it easier to get straight to the heart of the matter, we've added a new option for confirming your identity when you call DFAS. Customers who opt in can now use a verification one-time PIN sent to the mobile phone number registered in myPay to securely and quickly complete verification.

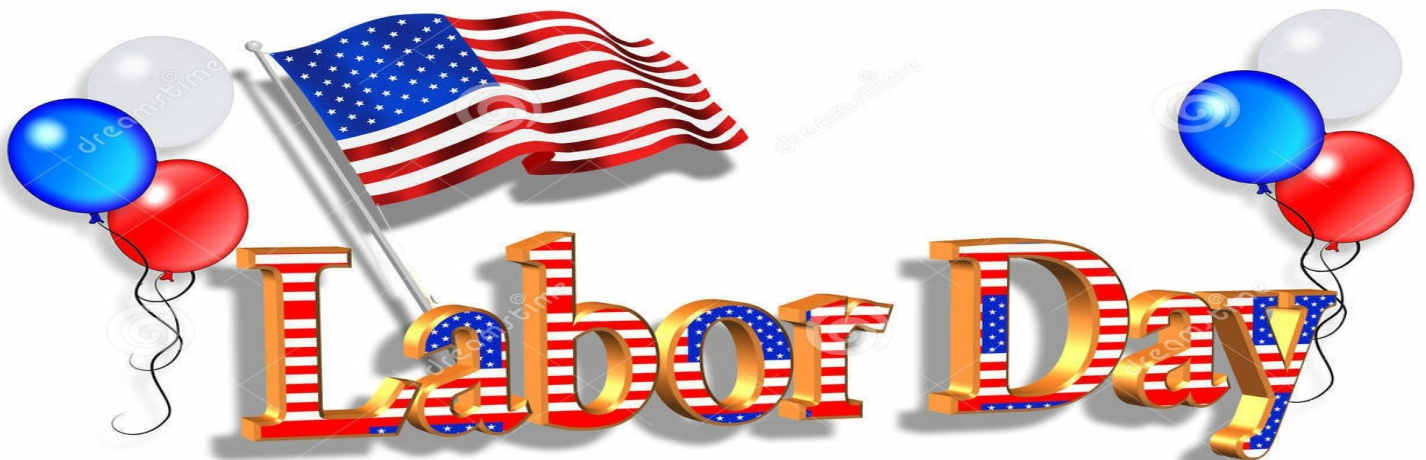
The next time you log into myPay, you will be prompted to review your verification methods and opt in.

If you have questions about this communication, you may contact a customer service representative by calling 1-888-332-7411.

President Donald J. Trump signed H.R. 1815, the VA Home Loan Program Reform Act, into law, marking a significant victory for veterans. The new law establishes a partial claim program, enabling veterans to catch up on missed mortgage payments without facing foreclosure. This reform corrects inequities that left veterans without access to mortgage relief tools available to non-veterans under federal loan programs. The act protects American taxpayers from undue financial burdens while providing sustainable solutions for veterans grappling with high interest rates and post-pandemic recovery challenges.

The *Major Richard Star Act* filed as an [amendment](#) to the Senate's draft version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. If adopted, the amendment would eliminate the dollar-for-dollar offset that currently denies more than 50,000 medically retired combat veterans – many with fewer than 20 years of service or disability ratings below 50% of their full DOD retirement and VA disability compensation.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced nine identifications and five burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.







## The Chaplain's Prayers : Billy Dover



**Malachi 3:16**

**Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored HIS name.**

Fellowship is both a horizontal and vertical relationship. The horizontal relationship is person to person, whereas the vertical relationship is person with God. God created man to have a relationship, so that each person can be supported or be a support to the other person. Today, more than ever, we need to be the person who listens actively when we are spoken to. You may find out how the person is not by their words but by their tone or actions.

We all need a relationship with God because he is our comforter in times of stress, sadness, troubles with oneself, or with other family members. God is not going to leave you, but you must ask God for his help and guidance.

Those individuals who commit suicide are usually trying to find a way out, but taking your own life is not an option. We must be willing to listen and work with all individuals, especially those going through hard times, either mentally or physically. Key things to remember and assist those who are thinking of suicide is the 988, which allows an individual to call or text.

We all must have a horizontal relationship with our family and friends, especially in times of stress, grief or other issues. Be that person-to-person contact.

We must all have a vertical relationship with God, who can get us through all times, good and bad. You are just a prayer away from speaking with God and asking for HIS help.

### **Let us Pray:**

Thank you, Lord, for everything you have given me both mentally, physically, and emotionally on a daily moment by moment. We desire to maintain a relationship with God and also with our fellow veterans and family. God, please protect me, my family, and all of our elected officials when they make decisions. Be with all our military, both active and veterans, as well as their families. Finally, be with all our first responders and their families, and thank you for their willingness to protect us. This we ask in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, AMEN.





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

First of all, congratulations are in order! For the first time in SAL history, our national membership has topped 400,000. We may be a squadron of 21, but we are part of a massive organization organized for our community, state, and nation. Quoting our National Commander Joseph Navarette, our members "show how much our generations, from our oldest member to our youngest, value the service and sacrifice our veterans have made so that we all can live free in the greatest nation in the world." As we say at our meetings, let us dedicate ourselves to this vital endeavor.

We need to remember that we are the torchbearers of a proud legacy. Our commitment honors the service and sacrifice of generations past, while also shaping the future. All our actions, big and small, embody the same spirit of courage, dedication, and community that defined the veterans we support. Our legacy is in your hands.

Pictured on the right are our officers being installed at our joint Winter Park Memorial Family Installation ceremony.

For God and Country,  
Commander Jimbo



**2026 SAL Dues are now DUE!**  
**Please send your \$20 check to**  
**SAL Squadron 112**  
**PO Box 910, Goldenrod, FL 32733**  
**TODAY!**

## BOYS STATE—Bob Colbert

The August meeting had our Boys State delegates, and the Girls State delegates give us reports on their activities in Tallahassee. Each delegate had a few minutes to give us the high points of what they learned and the experiences that they had.

One of the Girls State delegates, who has also joined our Auxiliary, gave us a very well received Power Point presentation about the Girls State program. She had done a similar presentation at the Orange County East Rotary meeting a few days earlier as well as a similar presentation at another American Legion Post..

This closes out the 2025 Boys State and Girls State activities for us. It will soon be time to begin searching for out 2026 Boys State and Girls State candidates. Selection by the Post members and Auxiliary members will be done in February but with the number of holidays between now and then necessitates that we start the search in the next couple of months.

Pictures of the meeting will be published elsewhere in the newsletter.

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## Tushies and Toes at Post 112



Our Auxiliary Unit is beginning a new project to help the students at one of our local elementary schools. Tushies and Toes is a collection of new socks and underwear for these young students. Both little boys and little girls sometimes have accidents and need a clean, dry pair of underwear to put on for the rest of the day. And, often times older students come to school without socks, even in the coldest of temperatures.



**We are asking for all our Auxiliary, Legion, and SAL members to please pick up boys and girls underwear for the kiddos aged 5-12 along with boys and girls socks for the same aged students. Bring your donations to the September Post meeting on**



**September 9th at 7pm —our Auxiliary will have members present to accept your generous donation.**

This project is part of the Legion family's Children and Youth program so your donation will also be shown in the Post's Year End reports where we have to show how we have supported the Legion programs throughout the year.

**And best of all—not only will you feel good about supporting the youth in our community, you can also enjoy some birthday cake as our Auxiliary Unit thanks our Veterans as we celebrate the 78th birthday of the US Air Force.**

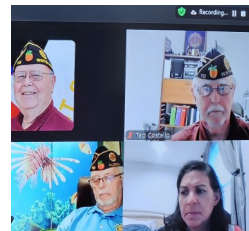
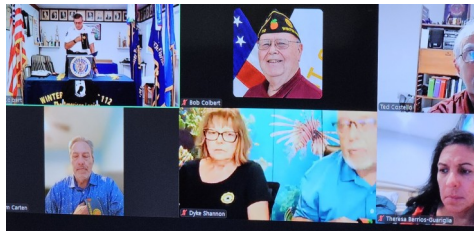






## Legion Family Installation of Officers

Our July meetings were combined on July 15th as we installed our Legion Family officers for 2025-2026, several of whom were online via Zoom. The 6th District Installation teams presented awards earned by our family and surprised Commander Middlekauff with the Department's Commander of the year award!



## Boys State and Girls State Presentations



In August, the Legion and the Auxiliary again combined meetings to hear from our Girls State and Boys State delegates. All of our participants shared how much fun they had, how many now life-long friends they made and how much they learned from their experiences that will help them in the future. One of our Girl State delegates (who is also one of our Unit members) presented an updated power point presentation outlining how Girls State is structured. Each delegate received certificates of appreciation and Girls State or Boys State medals that they can wear at their high school graduation.







## Happy Birthday to YOU!

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

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 Shakes, Harry S
- 5 Riordan, Robert J
- 6 Fox, Ira T
- 7 Mendez, Gary
- 14 Hawley, John H
- 18 Shields, David G
- 21 Pollack, Robert A
- 22 Richardson, Francisco J
- 23 Russell, Joanne W
- 25 Costello, Christine
- 27 Carten, Finnley J
- 28 Gomes, Manny W

### OCTOBER

- 3 Saunders, Virginia
- 8 Graham, George B
- 9 Costello, Ted J
- 14 Beltz, Leslie
- 14 Buckley, John G Jr
- 14 Hickman, Thomas
- 19 Colbert, Ashton A
- 21 Shannon, Deborah
- 22 Hester, Jonathan D
- 24 Colbert, Nell E
- 27 Norton, Thomas J
- 28 Coll, Nelson





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# THE AMERICAN LEGION



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[www.wpflpost112.org](http://www.wpflpost112.org)

## CALENDAR

### SEPT

#### Event

- 1 Labor Day
- 6 6th District Meeting - P63 - 10 AM
- 7 SAL Meeting - 7 PM on ZOOM
- 8 Post General Meeting - 7 PM at Post
- 11 Patriot Day
- 15 Auxiliary Meeting - 7 PM on ZOOM
- 18 Happy Birthday US Air Force

### OCT

- 6 SAL Meeting - 7 PM on ZOOM
- 13 Happy Birthday US Navy
- 14 Post General Meeting - 7 PM at Post
- 15 Newsletter articles are due
- 21 Auxiliary Meeting - 7 PM on ZOOM
- 31 Halloween

**Please see our website for additional dates.**

## OFFICER'S DIRECTORY

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407-977-0521 - [racenut478@aol.com](mailto:racenut478@aol.com)

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352-394-7719 - [tcostello18@cfl.rr.com](mailto:tcostello18@cfl.rr.com)

Adjutant: Bob Colbert  
407-619-9611 - [bcolbert@usa.net](mailto:bcolbert@usa.net)

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