

# 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](http://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

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**Service Officer**  
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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 had a Merry Christmas and healthy start to 2026. WOW, 2026 already just hard to believe! This past year was much easier as far as hurricanes go than in the past and feel really blessed for that. Christmas is a time to spend with family and friends as much as possible, so hope that was able to happen for everyone. Life is a challenge at times, but we must keep the faith and hope for the best.

We have had some good results with our "blended" meetings and hope for more members to attend the meetings in person at the Post since we have made many improvements to the meeting area, the building in general and now our awesome Flag Retirement area, thanks to the Eagle Scout Project by Dylan Lester. We will be conducting flag retirements starting in January with assistance from the Scout Troop and Sea Cadets. We have four new members that transferred into our Post and appreciate having them join us in our programs.

We had our Annual Christmas Party/Dinner at Perkins again. Always a good night to be together and enjoy some friendship as well as great food. The Post and Auxiliary supported the VA Angel Tree program again where we supply items in need for a Veteran family. As always, the Auxiliary ladies step up to assist. Thank You!

We also had a good showing from our Legion family at Pineywood Cemetery for the 12/13 Wreaths Across America ceremony. Bob Colbert and Pat Brown were asked to place two of the ceremonial wreaths during the ceremony. After the ceremony, everyone helped place wreaths on the graves of fallen Veterans.

As far as future ceremonies/programs, we will be discussing these at the January meeting. February brings the Four Chaplains ceremony, which is a National recognition for the American Legion. As we did last year, the ceremony will be conducted again at the Baptist Church in Winter Park. More information in the Newsletter to follow.

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.— Jim

Volume 18, Issue 4

Jan-Feb 2026

### **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

As of this date we have 80 paid members 79.2% for 2026. We should shortly have another 6 members paid. We have met the District goals to date. I still want to emphasize that we as members should try to get young members to join the post to carry on the programs of the post and carry on the traditions of our 1934 Charter. If you have possibilities and don't want to call, get their information and I will take care of it. Appreciate your help

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

## AMERICANISM—Ted Costello



Remember, Americanism is one of the four pillars and the most visible within our communities. Americanism is also the cornerstone of the American ideals of freedom, justice, democracy and individual rights. It embraces the freedoms we cherish and the rights to each of us under the Constitution.

Each member can participate in one or more of the Americanism Programs that our post participates in (if able). I assure you that will enjoy and feel a sense of pride in doing so. Thank you.

Ted Costello  
Post 112 Americanism Chairman



Happy New Year

.....



## Notes From the Adjutant's Desk

Hopefully everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

As we start off 2026, let's take a look at 2025. We had the best Four Chaplain's Ceremony that we have ever had! Chaplain Dover went all out to make certain that it was a memorable event, and everyone that attended thought it was fantastic! Great job Chaplain Dover! **SAVE THE DATE – FEB 1, 2026** – for the next Four Chaplain's Ceremony. The flier is elsewhere in the newsletter and on the WEB site.



We had a terrific turnout for Wreath's Across America this year. I want to thank Leslie and Russell



Beltz, Pat  
Brown and his  
wife, Tom  
Wiggins and  
Bob and Nell



Colbert for helping to see that all of the wreaths were placed at Pineywood Cemetery. Of course, there were plenty of other volunteers, but

this was the best turnout that Post 112 had at such an event.

Don't forget the VA Giving Tree. This year, the Post Family supported TWO families with gifts and the fixings for a great holiday dinner plus a third meal for another deserving veteran family. The Legion donated the money for the gifts, and the Auxiliary purchased the food for the meals with contributions from both the Auxiliary, Legion, and S A L. The Legion Family did the shopping for the gifts, and we took them to the VA at Lake Baldwin for distribution.

Veteran's Day at Eastbrook Elementary was a "blast" literally! November 11<sup>th</sup> was one of the first cold days this winter and the ceremony was held

inside. Lake Howell High School's jazz band performed the music along with the students from Eastbrook Elementary Chorus, and the Lake Howell NJROTC fired their traditional cannon – just outside the door to the cafeteria – and it was loud! In the past, the event was held outside but to protect the children (and adults) from the cold, the school moved it inside.

The normal Elementary School medals were presented in May, and the ROTC medals were presented in April at both Lake Howell High School NJROTC and the University of Central Florida Army ROTC. This coming year, we could use a couple more presenters. Several of the regular schools did not send us a list this year for one reason or another, but we look forward to a better response in the Spring of 2026.

Don't forget Boys' State and Girls' State! There is an article elsewhere in the newsletter talking about them.

Our Scout Troops and Sea Cadet Battalion have been busy throughout the year, too. There is an article on another page about one of the Boy Troop's Eagle Project, and you can see it behind the building.

Let's make 2026 a FANTASTIC YEAR with new activities and ideas! Contact myself or the Commander with your thoughts. We're already off to a good start with the Four Chaplains Ceremony on the calendar (FEB 1, 2026).





## 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.

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## Our REDDY Auxiliary—Nell Colbert

Over the last two months, our Unit has welcomed three new members, Pat Harshman, an Air Force veteran and dual member, along with Grafton Day and her mom, Elizabeth, who live in Indiana. Welcome aboard ladies—we are so very glad you've joined us.



Congratulations are in order for our Junior member, Karen, who just graduated from Valencia with her Associates Degree, all while continuing as a Junior at Winter Park High School.

Our last couple of months have been very busy:



We submitted the National Auxiliary Good Deed Award for three Scouts BSA

Boy Troop members for their Eagle service projects.



ed in the Eastbrook Veterans Day program where the Auxiliary presented Poppies and an American flag to each veteran attending the breakfast while our other Legion family members talked with the families about the Le-

gion programs to encourage membership.



Debi, Marge, and Nell shopped for the items for our Eastbrook Friday Backpack project and our Veteran food boxes for the Lake Baldwin

VA's Giving Tree program.



We had help from our Post Adjutant and the school's Resource Officer with unloading all the bags and getting them inside the school.



we delivered three huge Veteran food baskets along with the items for the two families the Post supported.



Two of our members are runners. Terry recently completed the *Every Woman's Marathon* in AZ as one of her Legion USA 250 Challenge fitness projects and Maria

completed the New York City marathon and raised more than \$3000 for youth programs.



In early December Nell and Marge presented a \$2500 check to the Central Florida

Chapter of MOAA that our Unit received through a grant from the ALA Foundation.



On 12/13 our Legion Family participated in Wreaths Across America at Pineywood Cemetery.

We're looking forward to Girls State interviews and Americanism essays coming in February.

**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

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (FY26 NDAA), extending Congress's decades-long tradition of approving the annual defense policy bill. Authorizing roughly \$900 billion in spending, the legislation outlines national security priorities while placing clear emphasis on improving quality of life for service members, veterans, and their families.

Subcommittee Chairwoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA) praised VA leadership for eliminating a backlog of 60,000 CHAMPVA applications. VA officials and veteran advocates agreed that although CHAMPVA helps fill gaps between TRICARE and VA care, families still face serious challenges getting timely and reliable access to services. The VA shared several improvements already underway, thanks to overtime work, new automation, and faster electronic processing, they cleared a 70,000-application backlog and now process 90% of claims in just a few days. Appeals have also dropped dramatically, from more than 20,000 cases to roughly 1,000. Beginning in December 2025, the VA plans to fully automate CHAMPVA claims.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced a significant update to the Accelerated Benefit Option (ABO) under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), Family SGLI (FSGLI), and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI). For the

first time since the ABO was established in 1998, the VA is expanding eligibility and modernizing the rules to better support terminally ill servicemembers, insured spouses, and their families during critical times. The ABO allows eligible individuals to receive up to 50 percent of their life insurance benefit, paid in increments of \$5,000, before death if they are diagnosed with a terminal illness. Previously, only the insured member could apply for this advance payout, which created barriers for families when a member was medically unable to initiate the request.

Under the newly amended regulation, the VA now permits an alternate applicant to apply for ABO benefits on behalf of a terminally ill insured member who is medically incapacitated. This ensures that families can access much-needed financial support even when the servicemember or veteran is unable to complete the paperwork themselves. The update also authorizes insured members to apply for an ABO payout when their covered spouse is terminally ill, expanding flexibility for families navigating overwhelming circumstances.

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

## BOYS STATE—BOB COLBERT

We are warming up for the selection of our delegates to the 2026 Boys State event that is held in Tallahassee from June 21 to 27. We recruit from Winter Park High School, Trinity Prep School and Lake Howell High School. Emails went out before Christmas to alert the schools that we will be looking for candidates, and the actual selection process will occur on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 1 PM at the Post. We will also be looking for members to evaluate candidates during the selection process. Let the Adjutant know if you will be available to assist. We will provide the scoring sheets for the selection.

Our Post selects four delegates and three alternates to attend Boys State. Each school can provide up to four candidates so that the process can be done relatively quickly.

For those not familiar with Boys State, it is a full week of immersive instruction in State, County, City, and local government. They will be housed in the dormitory at FSU and will be meeting in the capital and other buildings nearby. You can find much more detailed information at the Department of Florida WEB page by going to <https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/boys-state/>.

The youth attend this event at no cost to the delegates. Each sponsoring Post pays the fees for their delegates to attend, and there are usually over 450 delegates attending. Our delegates will depart from Post 286 in Pine Castle and return there, too.

If you have any questions, please ask.







## The Chaplain's Prayers : Billy Dover



As a NEW YEAR 2026, let us heed the words written in **Galatians 6:2-5**

**Gal 6:2 Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.**

**Gal 6:3 If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.**

**Gal 6:4 Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else.**

**Gal 6:5 For we are each responsible for our own conduct.**

Just as in the book of Galatians 6:2, "we need to carry each other's burdens." At the American Legion, we achieve this through our programs that benefit those in need. This may include helping those who cannot pay their

rent, or the children of veterans who need a helping hand. Our Post continues to help others through the Christmas baskets, Giving Tree gifts, and helping the Auxiliary with providing items for children at different schools.

In Galatians 6:3, "if you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important."

We, as American Legion members, need to remember that our fellow veterans and the work of the Post must be placed before ourselves. I would like to thank each member of the executive committee for providing the services for our members by taking care of the members and the post. Especially thank you, Commander Middlekauff and Adjutant Colbert.

Gal 6:4 "Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else."

This is probably the hardest thing to do because we often compare ourselves with others. We all have special talents, and each is important for keeping our Post functioning daily.

Gal 6:5 "For we are each responsible for our own conduct."

This is a self-explanatory statement that we must be on guard for our conduct both in public and in our daily lives. All too often, we see individuals who know better but still do things to embarrass themselves or others.

### Let us pray:

Our most gracious Heavenly Father, we ask that you allow us to carry each other's burdens. Allow us to continue to service our veterans, active duty, and first responders along with their families. Be with our government leaders, and we pray they will follow your WORD just as you have stated. May we continually serve our fellow man and protect them.

This we ask in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. AMEN





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

Comrades, as we ring in the New Year, let us never forget the legacy that binds us. We are the male descendants of the brave men and women who fought for our freedom, and it is our duty to carry that banner forward.

Let this year be one of vigilant hearts and courageous action—a year where we deepen our involvement, strengthen our communities, and ensure that the needs of our veterans and their families are always met.

Together, we are the future of The American Legion Family. May your new year be filled with peace, joy, and the contagious spirit of devotion to God and Country. **#SALSTRONG**

Commander Jimbo

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

## POSTAGE AND EMAIL—Bob Colbert

If you are among the 30 members who are receiving this newsletter by US Mail, I have a question.

**Do you have an email address, and can you receive the newsletter by email?**

With the cost of postage and now paper continuing to go up, we are trying to be frugal with your dues. Postage is currently \$0.78, and the printing of the newsletter is just under \$1 each. It was announced at the National meeting that the portion of your \$45/year that comes back to the Post is going to shrink even more in the near future. We try very hard not to increase the dues amount and reducing the number of newsletters that must be printed and mailed helps the Post to save money.

So, literally the bottom line is that if you can receive the newsletter by email, please send me an EMAIL from the address that you want the newsletter sent to, and we will make the change in our roster. If you do not have an email address, WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAIL YOUR COPY TO YOU! NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND!







## FOUR CHAPLAINS SERVICE

Winter Park Memorial American Legion Post 112

Is pleased to host the 2026

Four Chaplains Service

Sunday, February 1, 2026

First Baptist Church of Winter Park

1021 North New York Avenue

Winter Park, FL 32789

2pm

Please join us to honor these brave men!

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## Happy New Year! Welcome to 2026



**While I have your attention, check your membership card.** Does it have 2026 on it? If not, you can be denied access to American Legion Posts after December 31, 2025. The 2026 membership cards became available in July 2025 and members who renew after July 1<sup>st</sup> will get the card for the NEXT calendar year until the end of December. Your 2026 membership card is valid from the time that you receive it until December 31, 2026.

You can renew your membership ONLINE or by mail unless you are transferring your membership to another Post (both in state and out of state). If you are transferring, contact the new Post and see what their dues are and pay them directly. That way, they will get credit for your transfer immediately. If you have already paid for 2026, you can still transfer but the process is slightly different. Your new Post can fill in the details.

## Scouting is Alive & Well at Post 112



Troop 613, the boy troop, put in a Flag Retirement Area on the North side of the Post last Fall. We are working with the Troop to dedicate it by holding a Flag Retirement Ceremony in mid-February. Unfortunately, we will not have another newsletter before then, but you can check the WEB calendar at <https://wpflpost112.org/events/month/2026-02> to see what is happening at the Post. We will also send out a special email to the membership when we have a date so that you can save the date and attend.

## Legion Family Holiday Party FUN!



Our Legion Family gathered at Perkins Restaurant on Friday, December 5th to celebrate our 2025 accomplishments and look forward to 2026 with some good food, and fellowship. We celebrated the birthdays of the US Space Force and the National Guard with a cake provided by our Auxiliary Unit. As

always, our optional gift exchange was fun!







## Happy Birthday to YOU!

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

### JANUARY

2 Smith, Rhonda M  
12 Smith, Stephen A  
15 Brasher, Lawrence A  
15 Colbert, Braelyn A  
17 Roberts, Wayne D  
21 Travers, Charles  
25 Colbert, Russell C  
26 Hester, Jonathon W  
26 Shaver, Timothy L  
27 Paquin, Joseph E

### FEBRUARY

3 Kayne, Patti  
6 Flanagan, Donald E  
7 Ackley, Wayne S  
8 Dearden, Miles C  
8 Posada, Eduardo  
10 Colbert, Robert C  
12 Mercado, Gil A  
12 Warren-Tormey, Coleen  
17 Colbert, Victoria L  
18 Sines, Irvin A  
21 Gagne, Lisa  
23 Colbert, Brynlee S  
26 Hoefler, Karen





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# THE AMERICAN LEGION



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## CALENDAR

### **JAN** Event

- 1 Happy New Year!
- 5 SAL Meeting - 7 PM - ZOOM only
- 13 Post General Meeting - 7 PM - ZOOM & at Post
- 20 Auxiliary Meeting - 7 PM - ZOOM only

### **FEB** Event

- 1 Four Chaplains Ceremony - 2 PM  
See flyer in newsletter
- 2 SAL Meeting - 7 PM - ZOOM only
- 10 Post General Meeting - 7 PM - ZOOM & at Post
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 17 Auxiliary Meeting - 7 PM - ZOOM only

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

## OFFICER'S DIRECTORY

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

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