

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

2026—2027 Officers

Commander
Leslie Beltz

**1st Vice
Commander**
Ted Costello

**2nd Vice
Commander**
James Middlekauff

Adjutant
Bob Colbert

Finance Officer
Bob Colbert

Sgt. at Arms
Ron Gagne

Judge Advocate
David G. Shields

Asst. Judge Adv.
Terry Brown

**Veteran Resource
Officer**

Jim Middlekauff
Ted Costello
Bob Colbert

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. Please reach out to our Chaplain or any officer if you are in need of assistance. Chaplain Dover makes many visits to hospitals and ill Veterans.

We still need to schedule a Flag Retirement Ceremony, so stay tuned for information and date on that. With the burn bans and weather, it is challenging to get setup. Along with that, we need to get a plan of events put together for the rest of the year to prevent last-minute issues. If any member would like to have a certain ceremony at the Post and would want to chair that event, please let us know. We have great facilities and need to use it more.

Elections have been completed and the next step will be the installation of the officers. This will be my last Commander note as Leslie Beltz has agreed to step up as our new Commander and greatly appreciated. I want to thank everyone who has helped support me in the last 8 years, past Commanders, Chaplain, Sgt At Arms and especially our awesome Adjutant Bob Colbert. Nell Colbert also does an outstanding job with our newsletters, so BZ to her as well. I will continue as the Second Vice Commander supporting the Post in whatever way I can. We do many good things during the year and can always use assistance in one way or another. I will be scheduling a Post "work day" some time in the future to knock out some small projects.

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 19, Issue 1

July-August 2026

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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Welcome Commander Beltz



Greetings! As the incoming Commander, I've been asked to say a few words.

Most of you probably are not aware of my background or qualifications to fill this honored position as incoming Commander, so please read the following BIO to get to know me. I am looking forward to getting to know you.

The military opened its doors to married women with children in 1974 when I enlisted in the U. S. Army as a WAC. After basic, I transferred to the regular Army and was assigned to the 46th Engineer Battalion, Ft. Rucker, Alabama where I earned the Military Occupational Skill, Welder having served three years in heavy equipment repair, from 1974-1977. I was attached to the 4th Infantry where I was the first woman to train with the 509th Pathfinders in Air Assault.

In 1982, I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of West Florida and later formed a career in Higher Education Administration in Scholarships & Financial Aid at colleges, universities and retired from the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Originally from Jacksonville Beach, FL, Russell and I retired to Orlando, Florida, where I joined the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) in Winter Park with the William P Duval Chapter. My DAR service includes many years as Chair of the Veterans Committee. I currently chair the National Defense Committee and am a Past Regent.

I was appointed a VA Volunteer Service (VAVS) Deputy Representative for 6 years and currently serve as a VAVS Representative. The DAR also honored me with the Women in American History Medal which was presented to me at a Post meeting earlier this year.

In Service to Veterans,
Leslie Beltz

Happy Independence Day



From Ted's Table—Ted Costello

We have 91 members that have paid their 2026 membership dues, we are at 91%. We need nine more members to pay their 2026 dues for us to be at 100% membership this year. If you have not paid for 2026 yet, please pay this month. If you don't remember if you've paid or not, please give me a call me at 352-394-7719 or email me at tcostello18@cfl.rr.com.

You can mail your check to the Post's PO Box, bring your check (or cash) to a meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, or you can pay online at www.legion.org—just look for the tab to renew. If you use your desktop, the "RENEW" tab is in RED lettering across the top. If you use your Smartphone, click on the three parallel lines at the top of your screen and then click on Member Services. The second item under Member Services is "Renew Membership" where you can pay by credit or debit card.

We can now get a jump on our 2027 membership. If you have already paid for 2026, you can begin paying 2027 dues as of July 1st. You can also avoid possible dues increases by paying for 2028 and 2029 at this time.

Let's get Post 112 to 100% for both 2026 and 2027!

**2027 Legion Dues are DUE as of July 1.
Please send your \$45 check to
PO Box 910, Goldenrod, FL 32733
TODAY!**

2nd Annual *Tushies & Toes* Service Project

Tushies and Toes

Auxiliary Service Project To Benefit Local Elementary Schools

Please bring girls and boys socks and underwear to
Any Post 112 meeting now through September.

Youth sizes small to extra-large

PLEASE take advantage of the FL tax free holiday in July!

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Notes From the Adjutant's Desk

Hail but NOT farewell!

Welcome to our new Post Commander, Leslie Beltz! She is a relatively recent addition to the Post. She came to us in March of 2019 from Post 243. I won't spoil the fun since she has an article in the newsletter talking about herself.

NOT farewell to our outgoing Commander Jim Middlekauff, who has been handling the job of 2nd Vice Commander all this time. Jim will continue as our 2nd Vice Commander and will still be here to coach the new Commander if needed.

Our Winter Park Legion Family Installation will take place on July 14th at 7 PM at the Post. It will also be available on ZOOM, and the link is included with the EMAIL that carries the newsletter. If you miss the link, text me before 6:30 PM on the 14th and I will send it to you.

Don't forget about our Post's WEB page – <https://wpflpost112.org> - for up to the minute events and calendar information. We also have a Facebook page (please like the page) at: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067557012917> and a Facebook Group that you can subscribe to. The link is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/150539906911>

We have been trying to schedule a flag retirement ceremony for the last several months, and it seems that "Mother Nature" doesn't think it is a good time, yet. The Fire Ban has interfered with it, but there will be information put out to the membership, hopefully through the newsletter when it will occur. If you are internet capable, watch the Post's calendar on the WEB.

Events and ideas are always welcome! Bring them up to the Commander, myself, or the new 2nd Vice Commander. It would be best if you had something written out beforehand. That way, you won't miss something important. It also gives us something concrete to look at and discuss. We want to see more events at the Post and look forward to the suggestions. Remember, every sug-

gestion needs a "Champion" to make it happen. And the more people that we can get involved with, the easier it will be for all. We have a new Commander, and we are starting a "new year." WE CAN DO THIS!

Everyone remember the Installation of Officers on July 14th starting at 7 PM and welcome Commander Beltz in her new position!

Do you have an email address and forgot to tell us? Every other month we mail about 30 newsletters to members who do not have an email address on file. This is understandable where the member does not have internet, a computer or the desire to learn how to navigate the complexities of today's computers/email. For you, we will continue to US Mail your copy of the Post's newsletter because **we want no member to be left behind!** But for those who have an email address but may have forgotten to let us know, it would help the Post if you would send me your email address so it can be added to our distribution list. The printed newsletter costs about \$1 per copy to print and almost \$1 to mail it. Our advertisers do help to partially offset the printing costs. Your patronage helps keep them with us. So, if we can help reduce the number of USMail copies that we send, it helps the Post, too. If you are NOT receiving the newsletter by email, please send your email address to us at FLPost112@gmail.com and we will update our list.





Mission Auxiliary Serving our Heroes (MASH) —Nell Colbert

2027 Auxiliary Dues are now DUE!
Please send your check TODAY to
PO Box 2246, Goldenrod, FL 32733
Senior Dues are \$45
Junior Dues are \$12



The 2026-2027 theme adopted by our new Department President, Linda Knobloch-Harkness

is Mission Auxiliary Serving our Heroes (MASH) - Success is the Only Option!

This will be a FUN year, beginning with our Department Workshop on July 24 and 25 being held at the Altamonte Hilton. Every Auxiliary member is invited to attend and you do not have to stay on site. Friday evening beginning at 7pm is a meet and greet where you can meet all the new Department Officers and Program Chairs. Saturday morning begins at 8:30am and the day will feature presentations by all the program chairs so we can learn more about their special projects. There is a lunch break—you can purchase lunch at the hotel or you can bring your own lunch.

For our newer members, another great opportunity to learn more about our programs is the 6th District School of Instruction. This year, this training is being

hosted by Post and Unit 55 in Clermont and will be held on August 15th. Registration begins at 8:30am and the training starts at 9am. Please plan to attend these great learning opportunities.

In May, we had the opportunity to present two Eagle Scouts from Troop 613 with the National Auxiliary Good Deed Award to recognize their superior efforts in completing their Eagle scout service project. One of the boys built the flag retirement area at Post 112. The second scout built a small book library and reading area at his former elementary school.

Our third Good Deed award recipient is a young man from Ohio



who built twelve picnic tables for his troops' sponsor. His award was presented at

his recent Eagle Court of Honor.

In early April, we submitted another Good Deed Award nomination for a young lady in Troop 4613 and her certificate was presented to us at the recent Department Convention. We're looking forward to presenting her award at the troop's next Court of Honor in the fall.

Marge and Nell represented our Unit at Convention and they shared lots of great information at our June meeting, including that we won an award for our Education program for this past year.

Remember—Our Installation of Officers is 7pm on July 14.

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



Notes from Our Veteran Resource Officer

The Senate Armed Services Committee this week advanced a provision in its version of the fiscal year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would officially rename the Department of Defense as the Department of War, restoring a title the Pentagon last carried in the 1940s. The committee folded the language to formally change the Department of Defense to the Department of War into its version of the bill, which cleared committee on an 18-9 vote, a far sharper split than the strongly bipartisan NDAA typically draws. The original title was retired under the National Security Act of 1947, which unified the armed services into what was first called the National Military Establishment and then renamed the Department of Defense in 1949. The action follows the House Armed Services Committee, which approved a measure to legally rename the department a week earlier.

The Department of Veterans Affairs took a major step forward in its ongoing digital infrastructure overhaul by successfully deploying its new Electronic Health Record (EHR) system to four additional sites across Ohio and Kentucky. The mid-June rollout introduces the modernized platform to the Cincinnati VA Medical Center,

the primary hospital facility in Fort Thomas, Kentucky, and secondary clinics operating in Bellevue and Florence, Kentucky.

This multi-site expansion marks a significant operational achievement for the VA's health informatics teams, who worked through complex software validation procedures to ensure patient data remained secure and fully accessible during the network transition. The modernized EHR architecture replaces a patchwork of decentralized legacy tracking platforms, unifying patient medical histories, prescription schedules, and clinical notes into a single, cloud-based stream.

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced on June 10 that it has processed more than two million disability benefits claims for veterans in fiscal year 2026 as of June 1, shattering all previous speed records. According to updated VA data, the department has successfully slashed the net claims backlog by over 72% since early 2025, maintaining the total volume below 75,000 claims for over a month. Furthermore, the average duration to finalize a disability decision has dropped from 141.5 days down to 78.6 days.

Winter Park Memorial Legion Family

Installation of Officers

**July 14th, 2026
7pm at Post 112
and on Zoom**





The Chaplain's Prayers : Billy Dover



Ecclesiastes 1: 3-11

3: What do people get for all their hard work under the sun?

4: Generations come, and generations go, but the earth never changes.

5: The sun rises and the sun sets, then hurries around to rise again.

6: The wind blows South and then turns North. Around and around it goes, blowing in circles.

7: Rivers run into the sea, but the sea is never full. Then the water returns again to the rivers and flows out again to the sea.

8: Everything is wearisome beyond description. No matter how much we see, we are never satisfied. No matter how much we hear, we are not content.

9: History merely repeats itself. It has all been done before. Nothing under the sun is truly new.

10: Sometimes people say, "Here is something new!" But actually, it is old; nothing is ever truly new.

11: We don't remember what happened in the past, and in future generations, no one will remember what we are doing now.

These words were written by King David's son, who ruled in Jerusalem, and are just as true today as during David's time. As we enter the 250 years of the United States, we can look back at the history of how we have made it. Everything under heaven is under God's control, not man, and we need to remember the Past and Present to understand the Future. We live in a great country that allows more freedoms than any other country, but it came with a sacrifice of both men and women over the past 250 years.

Unfortunately, we forget about history and listen to the media to make up our decisions, when we should make our own decisions. Just as in vs 8, everything is wearisome beyond description because we are never satisfied. Vs 9 History merely repeats itself, and we need to remember it is our responsibility to look at the facts before we make our individual decisions.

Our job is to keep the faith and know that GOD is in control of all things under heaven. Many of us are dealing with getting older, and we need to help those younger than us because history is important. May GOD continue to bless the United States of America.

Let's Pray:

Our most gracious Heavenly Father, thank you for allowing us to live in a great nation and continue to bless the United States of America. Continue to guide our leaders at all levels of government and all levels of the American Legion, that they may seek your will. Dear Lord please protect our troops both at home and abroad, protect our first responders and the families of both. This we ask in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN





Son's of the of the Legion: Jim Carten

Hapy Birthday America! We've come a long way in 250 years with many struggles and many triumphs. Our freedom and democracy were built upon the backs and blood who have served our nation and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

As we celebrate the July 4th, let us be thankful for those who served and continue to serve to protect and defend justice, freedom, and democracy.

July 1 is also the beginning of our membership year. Please remember to renew as soon as possible and know that we are a small but mighty squadron!

Wishing you the best for a safe and happy summer!

For God and Country
Commander Jimbo



**Son's of the
American Legion
Installation of Officers
Tuesday
July 14th
7pm
at Post 112**

**2027 Sons Dues are now DUE!
Please send your \$20 check to
PO Box 910, Goldenrod, FL 32733
TODAY!**

Americanism—Ted Costello

Nothing more signifies Americanism to me than the flag of our country. Flying proudly, it represents so much including the symbolism of freedom, our way of life, and a reminder of the sacrifices and bloodshed by those who serve to defend her. It would be great to see every house on your street flying it proudly.

After a period of time our flags will become tired, tattered and torn. It then comes time for the flag to be retired. It is our responsibility to remind people if you can, that the Post has a

drop box for flags and they can stop by and drop it in and it will be retired honorably. Thanks for your help!

Do you know how to get half-staff notifications?

To be notified of when the flag is to be flown at half-staff:

- Sign up for the Flag Alert e-newsletter at legion.org/newsletters for notification when the U.S. flag is to be displayed at half-staff.
- Subscribe to the Flag Alert

text notifications. First, text Flag to 534466. You will receive a text asking for a valid email address for the two-step authorization. Once that is complete, you will receive the text alerts.

June 14th was Flag Day, hope all of you honored our nations symbol.

June 21-27 82nd Boys State session. Our delegates will be sharing their adventures at our August Post meeting.

Ted Costello,
Post Americanism Chairman



School Medals Presentations

Our Legion and Auxiliary members were very busy at the end of May presenting school medals at six elementary schools, one high school NJROTC, and UCF's ROTC cadets. Below are just some of the pictures that captured Auxiliary members Nell Colbert, and Marge Berrios, Legionnaires Bob Colbert, Jerry Reedy, Ron Gagne, and Jim Middlekauff as they presented the Americanism Essay Contest medal and certificate at Dommerich Elementary (Auxiliary), Scholastic Achievement medals and certificates at Brookshire, Dommerich, Eastbrook, Lakemont, and Rainbow Elementary Schools (Auxiliary) and Citizenship medals at Aloma, Brookshire, Chickasaw, Dommerich, Eastbrook, Lakemont, and Rainbow Elementary Schools (Legion.) Bob Colbert presented NJROTC medals to cadets at Lake Howell High School and Jim Middlekauff handled the presentations at UCF.





Scouting at Post 112—Bob Colbert



Our Scout troops are active

Troop 4613 (girl troop) went to Tree Hoppers in May, and here are a few pictures of the activity. While they are now on summer break, there will be more fun coming up soon. Our Auxiliary unit was presented with a Good Deed Award at the American Legion Auxiliary Convention for one of the troop's new Eagles at their June Convention and they will be presenting the award to the scout at the Troop's next scheduled Court of Honor.



One of the Troop 613's (boy troop) Eagle projects was a Flag Retirement area on the North side of the Post. With the "Burn Ban" going on and off, the Troop has not been able to hold a proper Flag Retirement to "christen" the new site. We will put the information out to you as soon as we can set a date. This is the third Eagle project that has been done at the Post. One project was the Four Chaplain's Monument next to the flagpole and the other was the "Flag Retirement Box" that is on the porch of the Post.

Troop 613 (boy troop) held a Court of Honor in May where our Auxiliary Unit present two Eagle Scouts with the Auxiliary Good Deed Award, this award is presented on behalf of the National American Legion Auxiliary. You can find out more about this award in our auxiliary article in this newsletter.



SCAM

No member of the Post Family will ever ask you for gift cards or money by email or text message! Ignore any such message and send a text to the Adjutant letting us know that it has happened.

ALERT



Happy Birthday to YOU!

Happy Birthday to YOU!
Happy Birthday to you!
Happy Birthday dear _____.
Happy Birthday to YOU!

JULY

1	Beltz	Russell
2	Ross	S Scott
3	Yost	Thomas
5	Fonseca	David
6	Ungerman	Joyce
7	Mays	Deborah
10	Berry	Peter
14	McCollum	Bill
15	Wiggins	Thomas
21	Settles	Ronld
21	Tickal	Clara

27	Evans	Douglas
28	Brown	Terrance
28	Wartell	Lawrence
29	Colado	Guy
29	Ross	Laurel

AUGUST

2	Pizzuro	Janice
4	Colbert	Ryan
6	Schwab	Lorraine
8	Belcher	Charles
10	Brown	Patrick
10	Cicerelle	John
19	Knapp	John
20	Knapp	Cheryl
20	Phillips	Elizabeth
21	Kuhn	Charles

24	Smith	Donald
27	Matteson	Robert
28	Colbert	Robert
29	Middlekauff	James
29	Middlekauff	James
30	Lomax	Daniel
31	Bryant	Frederic



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.
orders@perfectprintingfl.com

Thank You from Scott & Tawny Saunders.
 We look forward to working with you and making your printing needs Perfect.

Please also review our other pages.

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- ✓ Envelopes
- ✓ Promotional
- ✓ Signage
- ✓ And Much More

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 25 years in the United States Air Force

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THE AMERICAN LEGION



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CALENDAR

JULY	Event
4	Independence Day
6	Sons meeting moved to 7/14
14	Installation of Post Family Officers - 7 PM
21	Auxiliary meeting moved to 7/14
AUG	Event
3	SONS meeting - 7PM ZOOM only Post General Meeting - 7 PM - Post and
11	ZOOM—Boys State and Girls State Delegate Updates
15	Newsletter articles due today.
18	Auxiliary meeting moved to 8/11

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

OFFICER'S DIRECTORY

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