



Commander's Comments

Greetings Legion Members,

I would like to announce that starting on April 19, 2026, the Canteen hours of operation will be adjusted for all American Legion meeting days moving forward. On the 3rd Sunday each month, when we hold the Legion executive board or general meetings, the canteen will open at 5pm. This will limit interruptions and distractions and help to keep everyone focused on our primary goal during these meetings.

Also, I would like to invite all our post #317 members to attend this month, as we will be holding Executive Board nominations for all positions.

Sign up forms will be posted in the Non-Smoking area until May 17, 2026, meeting, at which time our Adjutant Larry Raper will certify each member who has signed up, meets the eligibility criteria.

The 17 May 2026 meeting will be the last time Nominations will be accepted, as the Election is to be held on 21 June 2026 meeting.

Joe Sprague- Post Commander

In Country Vietnam Motorcycle Club (ICVMC) IV-Corp Chapter



Photo submitted by Lynda Wallace, ALA member.

Front: Danny Palmer (Second Chance);
left to right back: Ronnie Wallace (Axle); Larry McCoy (Banjo); Claud Dalrymple (Prayer); Larry Raper (Cowboy); Bill Merry (Pirate)

*Names in parentheses are their ICVMC road names.

We want to Thank all these gentlemen for their service in Vietnam.

Chaplain's Corner

As everyone is aware by now, we are involved in a major conflict concerning Iran. Like most Americans I hate to see any of our brave men and women put their lives on the line for freedom, but when duty calls these people step up and answer the call. Coming from a military family, I know first hand how their leaving home to fight hurts the loved ones left behind. Jesus said in John 15:13; Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for his friends.

I encourage all who read this will make it a priority to pray everyday for the protection of all our troops! James 5:16 states; The prayer of a righteous person is effective and powerful.

Our heavenly father hears and will answer his children's cry for help. He is faithful and will send his angels to watch over our loved ones.

Anthony Van Noy- Post Chaplain

EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Next Meeting
April 19, 2026 at 2PM**

Commander- Joe Sprague
First Vice- Don Christy
Second Vice- Jon MacLerran
Adjutant- Larry Raper
Judge Advocate-
Bill Hassiepen
Finance Officer- Ken McLain
Chaplain- Anthony Van Noy
Service Officer (s)-
Jim Wilson
SGT at Arms- Bobby Lewis
Historian- open
Members at Large-
Mike Hamilton,
Jason McJimsey



Upcoming Election Information for Executive Board 2026-2027

Provided by Post 317 Adjutant, Larry Raper

Elections this year will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026 from 12PM to 3PM at the Post, 201 FM487, Jarrell, TX. The Membership meeting will be opened by the Commander at 11AM and will conduct any business that is necessary and then the meeting will be recessed until after the election is over.

After the election results are certified, the meeting will be called from recess and the election results announced to the membership.

Bring your identification that can be matched to our roster to receive a ballot. If available the new officers will be sworn in by the District Commander at the June 13 Membership meeting but not later than July 6, 2026.

At the April 19, 2026, Membership Meeting, nominations will open for the following 13 Executive Board Positions.

A Candidate may run for only one position.

- **Commander-** Shall preside at all meetings of the Post and has general supervision over the business and affairs of the Post, and such officer shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Post.
- **1st Vice Commander-** Shall assume the duties of the Post Commander in the absence of, or when call upon by the Post Commander, and shall be fully involved in, and responsible for, all aspects of Post membership.
- **2nd Vice Commander-** Chairs Post House Committee and responsible for social events planning of the post. May be called upon by the Post Commander to assist in other programs.
- **Adjutant-** Shall have charge of and keep a full and correct record of all proceedings of meetings, keep records as the Department and National Organizations may require. Shall comply with Article V, Section 5, Department Constitution.
- **Finance Officer-** Responsible for all financial reporting and accountability of funds.
- **Service Officer-** The Service Officer duties shall be generally that of: coordinating all Post 317 veterans assistance programs; assist in processing veterans claims.
- **Judge Advocate-** Shall supply professional advice in the conduct of the Post business, or to retain proper counsel. Provides Robert's Rules of Order, legal and bylaw advice to the Post.
- **Chaplain-** Shall be charged with the spiritual welfare of the Post comrades and will offer non-sectarian service in the event of dedications, funerals and public functions.
- **Sergeant At Arms-** Shall preserve order during Post meetings and in charge of Post Colors.
- **Historian-** Maintains chronology and history of the Post, informs Commander of important dates and curates museum.
- **Executive Board Members At Large-** These elected officers may serve on multiple committees at the discretion of the Commander. 3 positions available.

May 17 Membership Meeting- The Adjutant will certify nominated individuals. Only a current member of Post 317 that is paid up will be certified; the Candidate shall not be on a temporary or permanent ban from Post 317. Certified candidates will be announced, and they may start campaigning after they certify they are eligible and willing to serve in that position.



SAVE THE DATE
4/19/2026 AT 2PM

AMERICAN LEGION

AUXILIARY

Next Meeting April 19, 2026 at 2PM

President- Mary Christy

Vice President-

Belinda Robertson

Secretary- Shawna Sprague Treasurer-

Juanita McLain Historian-Jan Boepple-Wilson

Chaplain- Elvira Salizar

Sgt at Arms- Kiffani Smith

Note from our President of the Auxiliary Mary Christy

I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather. A quick reminder that we will be nominating officers at our next meeting. Hope to see everyone on April 19th at 2PM. We will be serving the senior luncheon on April 22nd in the Banquet Hall. Happy Birthday to our members of the month of April: Kiffani Smith- 4/7, Lynda Wallace- 4/11 and Shawna Sprague- 4/14.

Post 317 Choice Awards Nominations are IN!

The Auxiliary wants to thank all of you for participating in the nomination process. On Wednesday, April 1st and Thursday, April 2nd there will be a Voting table in the canteen where you can cast your vote for the nominees. An Auxiliary member will be available to assist with this process. You will also be able to RSVP for the event on where the winners will be announced. ONE Ballot per member/patron and ALL VOTE BALLOTS are confidential. If you missed the nomination process, you can still vote! To the right are the categories that will be listed on the ballot. Each person on the Ballot had to receive at least **2 nominations** from a members or patron of the post. If you have been nominated you will notified by an auxiliary member.

In the Banquet Hall
**1ST ANNUAL AMERICAN LEGION
POST 317 AWARDS NIGHT**
Presented by Auxiliary Unit 317

April 25th 2026

Join us as we recognize and honor our Executive Board of 2025-2026 and those who keep Post 317 running with fun for all! We will also announce the winners of the Post 317 Choice Awards! Lets celebrate our American Legion Family and Patrons who love to hang out at Joe Kott American Legion! As a family we have all contributed to helping our veterans and community. We honor you and celebrate you!

- Cocktails , Appetizers and Dinner 5:30PM
- Awards Ceremony 6:30PM
- Karaoke with Mad Mike at 8PM
- BYOB- Mixers Provided
- Prizes and Giveaways

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- ✦ Star-Spangled Service Award- Bar Staff Member of the Year
- ✦ Karaoke Command Center- Karaoke King/Queen of the Year
- ✦ Chalk and Awe Award- Pool Table Shark of the Year
- ✦ Commander in Chips Award- Poker Player of the Year
- ✦ United States of the Union Award- Couple of the Year
- ✦ Ambassador of Good Times Award- Canteen Patron of the Year

Upcoming Events at Post 317

Wednesday, April 1 and Thursday, April 2- Voting for Post 317 Choice Awards

An Auxiliary member will be available to assist with this process at a booth table set up in the canteen.

Sunday, April 5- Easter Egg Hunt / Party

ADULT Egg Hunt and prizes, Come have some fun!!!

Saturday, April 11- SAL Crawfish Boil

It's Crawfish time, come join us for some great Crawfish, Taters, Corn, and Mushrooms. We will start at 1:00 and serve until they are gone. Come Early, Don't miss out -- Plates \$20.00 (3lbs of Crawfish)

Sunday, April 12- Dive Inn Movie Time - Film is Midway (1976)

In this dramatization of the Battle of Midway during World War II, U.S. Navy Adm. Chester Nimitz (Henry Fonda) leads an outnumbered unit in the Pacific to break Japanese encryption codes. They soon discover that Adm. Yamamoto (Toshirô Mifune) plans an ambush of the U.S. base on the island of Midway. Capt. Matt Garth (Charlton Heston) helps devise the Navy's strategy, while his pilot son, Tom (Edward Albert), falls in love with a Japanese-American woman who is headed for an internment camp. Come join us for a little history lesson in the non-smoking banquet hall. Drinks and Popcorn available.

Sunday, April 19-American Legion Nomination for 2026-2027 Officers

REMINDER: It's important to remember that the AL, SAL, and ALA have your support, vote, and participation for the upcoming elections to ensure we are able to continue serving our Veterans, Your vote counts! Thank You.

Wednesday, April 22- Senior Luncheon

Once a month in the Baquet Hall.

Saturday, April 25- 1st Annual American Legion Awards Night

Lets celebrate the family of the American Legion Post 317 in a night of appreciation for our board members, the staff and fun entertainment that keep us all coming back!

Monday, April 27- ALA Paint Party with Art Adventures



Next Meeting April 19, 2026 at 4PM

Squad Commander-Loren Dixon

Vice Commander- open

Adjutant- Ken McLain

Finance Officer- Jeff Kneisler

Chaplain- open

SGT at Arms- Cary Doss

Vietnam Veterans Day March 29

**Welcome Home to all of our
Vietnam Veterans here at Post 317.**

A FEW FACTS ABOUT THE VIETNAM WAR

There are 58,267 names on the wall.

39,996 were just 22 or younger.

8,283 were 19. 33,103 were 18.

12 were 17 years old.

5 soldiers were 16.

There are 3 sets of fathers and sons on the wall.

31 sets of parents lost 2 of their sons.

997 were killed their first day.

1,448 were killed on their last day.

8 women were on the wall, nurses.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the war and 153 of them are on the wall.

April Observances



Wednesday, April 1- April Fools' Day.

April Fools' Day, celebrated annually on April 1, is an unofficial holiday dedicated to playing practical jokes, hoaxes, and harmless tricks on friends, family, and colleagues. It is a day characterized by mischief and lighthearted deception, often culminating with the prankster revealing the joke by shouting "April Fools!".

Friday, April 3- Good Friday.

Good Friday, observed on the Friday before Easter, is a solemn Christian holiday commemorating the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ at Calvary. It is a day of deep sorrow and reflection, representing Jesus' sacrifice for the salvation of humanity and his ultimate love, often marked by fasting, special church services, and the Stations of the Cross

Sunday, April 5- Easter Sunday.

The Easter season begins with Lent on Ash Wednesday, which is on February 18, 2026. Lent is a 40-day period of fasting and repentance observed by many Christians, ending on Holy Thursday, April 2, 2026.

Thursday, April 9- National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day.

National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day is observed annually on April 9 to honor Americans who suffered as captives. In 2026, this day falls on Thursday, April 9. It commemorates the start of the Bataan Death March in 1942, recognizing the courage and sacrifice of former POWs.

Monday, April 13-Thomas Jefferson's Birthday.

This day marks the 283rd anniversary of the birth of the third U.S. President (born April 13, 1743).

Tuesday, April 21, San Jacinto Day.

Texans Observe San Jacinto Day April 21 in Texas, commemorating the anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto. On this date in 1836, General Sam Houston and the Texas Army defeated Santa Anna's Mexican troops, winning independence for Texas in a battle that lasted only eighteen minutes.

Thursday, April 23- Army Reserve 118th Birthday.

Established in 1908, this date honors the specialized, combat-ready force that supports active-duty Army missions.

APRIL 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
 <p>Joe Kott American Legion Post 317, 201 FM487, Jarrell, TX 76537 (512) 746-5445 SUN-FRI 12PM-12AM SAT 12PM-1PM WI-FI: American Post 317 Password: jarrell317</p>			<p>1 Beef Tips & Noodles, Green Beans 5PM-7:30 Sit Fit 2PM Karaoke-Bar 7:30PM VOTING-Post 317 Choice Awards 4PM-7PM</p>	<p>2 Buy a drink & get a FREE Pizza 12P-3P Legion Loyalty Night 7PM-CLOSE VOTING-Post 317 Choice Awards 4PM-7PM</p>	<p>3 Catfish Plate or Burger & Fries 5PM-7:30 Sit Fit 2PM Free Jukebox 7PM-CLOSE</p>	4
<p>5 Church 10:30AM Easter Egg Hunt 12P-6PM Texas Holdem 6:30PM</p>	<p>6 Sit Fit 2PM Line Dance Lessons 7PM</p>	<p>7 Tacos 5PM-7:30 Texas Holdem 7PM</p>	<p>8 Chicken Tenders and Gravy 5PM-7:30 Karaoke-Bar 7:30PM</p>	<p>9 Buy a drink & get a FREE Hot Dog 12P-3P Legion Loyalty Night 7PM-CLOSE National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day</p>	<p>10 Catfish Plate or Burger & Fries 5PM-7:30 Sit Fit 2PM Free Jukebox 7PM-CLOSE</p>	<p>11 SAL Crawfish Boil Fundraiser \$20 a plate (3lbs of Crawfish) 1PM till gone</p>
<p>12 Church 10:30AM Dive-Inn Movie (Midway 1976) 1PM-3PM Texas Holdem 6:30PM</p>	<p>13 Sit Fit 2PM Line Dance Lessons 7PM Thomas Jefferson's Birthday</p>	<p>14 Tacos 5PM-7:30 Texas Holdem 7PM</p>	<p>15 Pork Chop, Mashed Potatoes, Corn 5PM-7:30 Sit Fit 2PM Karaoke-Bar 7:30PM</p>	<p>16 Buy a drink & get a FREE Pizza 12P-3P Legion Loyalty Night 7PM-CLOSE</p>	<p>17 Catfish Plate or Burger & Fries 5PM-7:30 Sit Fit 2PM Free Jukebox 7PM-CLOSE</p>	18
<p>19 Church 10:30AM ALFamily Meetings: GENERAL 2PM ALA 2PM SONS 4PM Texas Holdem 6:30PM</p>	<p>20 Sit Fit 2PM Line Dance Lessons 7PM</p>	<p>21 Tacos 5PM-7:30 Texas Holdem 7PM</p>	<p>22 Burgers & Fries 5PM-7:30 Sit Fit 2PM Karaoke-Bar 7:30PM</p>	<p>23 Buy a drink & get a FREE Hot Dog 12P-3P Legion Loyalty Night 7PM-CLOSE Army Reserve 118th Birthday</p>	<p>24 Catfish Plate or Burger w/Fries 5PM-7:30 Sit Fit 2PM Free Jukebox 7PM-CLOSE</p>	<p>25 1st Annual American Legion Post 317 Awards Night Cocktail Party 5:30PM Awards Ceremony 6:30 PM Mad Mike-Karaoke 8PM-11PM</p>
<p>26 Church 10:30AM Texas Holdem 6:30PM</p>	<p>27 Sit Fit 2PM ALA Paint Party Event Poppy & Butterfly on 9x12 \$30 per artist 7PM-9PM</p>	<p>28 Tacos 5PM-7:30 Texas Holdem 7PM</p>	<p>29 Garlic Beef Tips, Roasted Potatoes, Buttered Carrots 5PM-7:30 Sit Fit 2PM Karaoke-Bar 7:30PM</p>	<p>30 Buy a drink & get a FREE Pizza 12P-3P Legion Loyalty Night 7PM-CLOSE</p>	<p>31 Catfish Plate or Burger w/Fries 5PM-7:30 Sit Fit 2PM Free Jukebox 7PM-CLOSE</p>	