

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Year-End Unit Report 2024 – 2025

Unit # 112 Unit Name Winter Park Memorial District# 6

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1. How do you support rehabilitation and healing of veterans through arts, crafts, and hobbies? We supported the Military Officers Assoc of America, Orlando Chapter in their efforts to obtain a grant from the National American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.
2. How do you support veteran caregivers, family members, and survivors? One of our newer members volunteers at a local Veterans home about 30 hours each month - about 250 hours since joining our Unit in October 2024.
3. How have you supported your local VA facility? We support the Lake Baldwin VA by providing three holiday food gift baskets at Christmas time for their Giving Tree families. We also assist our Post with their Giving Tree family shopping. See Narrative for more information.
4. How have you helped The American Legion, State Department of Veterans Affairs, and Chamber of Commerce to promote job fairs for veterans and their families? We did not support these activities this year.
5. How have you supported veterans and their families in the community by collaborating with external like-minded organizations such as Honor Flight, Quilts of Valor, etc.? One of our members supported the Oviedo Women's Club in their efforts to raise money to support a local Honor Flight.
6. What other opportunities have you taken to support your local veterans and their families in your community? One of our members is the editor for the Legion Family newsletter. She also provides bookkeeping and photography services for the Post since they have no Historian. She also manages their Facebook page and group. See narrative for more info.

These are narrative questions.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

American Legion Auxiliary
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March 28, 2025

Our small but growing Unit has been able to continue to support Veterans in our community even though we hold our monthly Unit meetings via Zoom. We have several major projects that we do each year that fall under VA & R:

- For Christmas each year, our members shop for traditional Christmas dinner non-perishable food items like



cranberry sauce, instant mashed potatoes, stuffing mix, candied yams, marshmallows, and canned vegetables

that are placed in three huge baskets to be given to Veteran families in need. The baskets have at least \$125 in food items each, including basic staples like flour, sugar, dry cereal, peanut butter, jelly, and much more. This year, our three food baskets were delivered to the Lake Baldwin VA and given to Giving Tree families. Total amount spent for Christmas 2024 was just under \$400 not including the cost of the storage baskets purchased and donated to hold the food items.

- One of our members whose husband is a member of another American Legion Post is highly active with the DAR and her husband's Post and gives service to Veterans through these activities.

Auxiliary Unit 112 is recognized by the IRS as a 501-C19 non-profit corporation. Unit 112 also holds a valid permit from the State of Florida, Department of Agriculture number CH 33580 allowing us to solicit and collect donations.
NOTE: A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

- A member whose husband was in another Post before his passing continues to provide home-cooked food items for her husband's former Post's special events like installations and various Veterans events held at the Post.
- One member provides bookkeeping services for Post 112 and the SAL 112 Squadron, making daily Post Office runs, paying bills, making regular bank deposits, and maintaining QuickBooks. In addition, she produces the Post and Sal monthly Finance reports as well as filing the Post's IRS 990, and the State of Florida annual Corporate report. She also makes periodic office supply runs for items needed by the Post. This same member is the newsletter editor for the Legion Family newsletter that is published six times per year. She also provides photography services for the Post for their scrapbook since the Post no longer has a Historian. In addition, she maintains the Post's Facebook page and group. This year, she has dedicated more than 550 hours to supporting the Winter Park Post and SAL.
- Two of our members are Veterans who are active in a post with no Auxiliary Unit. They are continually active supporting the VA & R activities conducted by their American Legion Post.

- Two members assisted the Post members when they shop for their VA Giving Tree family each Christmas. While much of this shopping can be done at Target, sometimes the children in the Giving Tree family want items not available at Target so the shopping continues at multiple stores until all the items are purchased.



- One member of our Unit is a practicing psychologist, and she donated from \$100 to as much as \$400 per month in pro bono counseling services to Veterans.
- One of our members has attended all the Department VA&R Zoom sessions this year.

- This year, our Unit decided to recognize the Post members with birthday cakes at the Post meeting in



which each branch of the military was established. Beginning in October, we recognized the birthday of the Air Force and in December we celebrated the birthdays of the Marines and the Space Force. In March, we celebrated the birthday of the American Legion. We spent \$110 on



birthday cakes during this program year.

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- Unit 112 added a new program this year – we supported Wreaths Across America by purchasing three wreaths for Pineywood Cemetery near the Lake Baldwin VA. We spent \$102 for wreaths and one member attended the ceremony and helped place wreaths on Veteran graves.



- This year, our Unit was asked to again partner with the Central Florida Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) to help them secure a grant from the American Legion National Foundation to help them fund their "Healing Through Expression" creative arts project. We worked with MOAA to help them receive a grant in late 2023 and we are looking forward to their application for a 2025 grant being successful. These pictures are from our check presentation in February 2024.



In total, our members provided more than 800 hours of service to Veterans and more than \$1000.00 in goods to Veterans. All this was accomplished by the active participation of our five local members.

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