



Commander's Message



James R. Best (JR)
Commander

Fellow Legionnaires

As your new commander I want to take a moment to thank everyone who attended the August General Membership meeting/election. I also want to thank every member who ran for office. Whether successful or not it is important to have volunteers willing to support our American Legion Post.

I am proud to be your Commander, and I will do everything in my power to ensure we live by the four pillars of the American Legion and support our Veterans with honor and integrity.

For those of you who may not know me, here's a short bio. I enlisted in the Air Force in 1972 and made it a career, retiring in 1992 as a Master Sergeant. Throughout I was involved in security police duties in the U.S. and overseas bases. One of my proudest moments came in 1982 when I was selected to join the 89th Security Police Squadron at Andrews Air Force Base and assigned to protect Air Force One and other special mission aircraft.

After retirement from the Air Force I started a career in federal law enforcement and served as a Capitol Policeman and Federal Air Marshal. I retired from federal service in 2012 and served as a volunteer firefighter in North Carolina and Maryland for 20 years. In 2022 I was elected First Vice Commander of the Post. Enough about me. Now back to our Post.

Most of us know that our general membership meetings are the fourth Monday of every month unless otherwise scheduled. It would be great to see everyone again at these meetings, and others who do not regularly attend. I would like to see more of you at the meetings that begin at 1900 hours. Of course an incentive in addition to all the important things that happen at the meetings, is the complimentary dinner we serve starting at 1600 hours.

Finally, I would like to personally apologize to the new members who came to our August meeting to vote but were unable to cast a ballot because of an administrative error. I assure that will not happen again under my tenure as your Commander. We will do everything in our power to ensure membership is handled on a monthly basis moving forward!

Thank you again for allowing me the privilege of serving you, it is an honor.

James R. Best (JR), Commander

ELECTION RESULTS

In accordance with the Constitution By-Laws of Synepuxent Post 166, the Post is required to post the vote counts for winning candidates who ran contested in the August 26 election. The result follow:

For Commander, the final two of five candidates were J.R. Best and Joe Kundrat. J.R. Best received 51 Votes and Joe Kundrat 37.

There were two candidates for Chaplain. Dave Kline received 38 votes; Don Piarulli, 20,

For Executive Committee, the winning four candidates were: Ben Dawson 58 votes, Bob Broderick 44 Votes, George Spicer and Harry Rey 37 votes each.



The 2024-2025 Officers and Executive Committee



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

From the Adjutant



Bruce Capecci
Adjutant

Taking Over as Adjutant with a Big Thanks

I have to start my first newsletter article as Adjutant by thanking former Adjutant John Bussard for his three years of dedicated service to Post 166. John has been a good mentor for me the past year and a half years as I worked with

him in my capacity of 1st Vice. He is a dedicated, detailed oriented individual who will be missed. Thank you, John.

I also want to congratulate our new commander, James Best, on his election. I'm sure JR will do a fine job. Congratulations also to our new 1st and 2nd Vice, David Carey and Robert Thompson, respectively.

Now to the business of being the Adjutant one of which is looking after our membership. Our membership goal for this year is 1,100 members and we are off to a good start. As of September 13, we had 657 renewals, new members or transfer, which equals 59 percent of our total goal.

As the year progresses, I'll keep you informed of our progress.

Bruce Capecci
Adjutant Post 166

MEMBERSHIP

Sixty-one new members joined Post 166 in the second quarter of the year. Another 18 transferred into the Post during those three months. Following are the names of our new Legionnaires and military affiliation.

NEW MEMBERS

- Jorge AguileraArmy
- Michael AnsleyMarines
- Dennis Ayres.....Army
- Charles Bach.....Marines
- Alfonso Bell.....Army
- William Bray Air Force
- Craig Carroll..... Navy
- Connie CorbettArmy
- Jeffrey CosterMarines
- Paul CriglerArmy
- Michael Ditzler.....Army
- John Daddazio.....Marines
- Fred Damron.....Army
- Brad Dionne.....Army
- David Ferrara Air Force
- Clifton Garrett..... Air Force
- Michael Garrett..... Air Force
- Scott Gerber Navy
- Gary Getman Air Force

- Daniel GonolesArmy
- John Harvey..... Air Force
- Scott Harvey.....Coast Guard
- Kelly HazzardArmy
- Gerhard Heeg.....Army
- Gene HelfrichArmy
- John HendersonArmy
- David Hinrichs Air Force
- Regina Jewer.....Army
- Cale Johnson.....Marines
- David JonesCoast Guard
- Lisa Leto..... Air Force
- Louis Lugo.....Army
- Kerri Keehn..... Navy
- Ralph Mace Navy
- Robert MalloyArmy
- Mark Mansfield Air Force
- Carol McCurdyArmy
- Michael McDonnell.....Marines
- Howard McNeill Navy
- John Meehan Navy
- Joshua Mick.....Army
- Basil Moncrief..... Navy
- Richard Offutt.....Army
- Kenneth Paine Navy
- Ronald Pasko..... Air Force
- David Pitts Navy
- Richard PriceArmy
- Royal Paulsen..... Navy
- David Reeve..... Navy
- Daniel Reynolds..... Navy
- Grant Schneider..... Air Force
- James SnowArmy
- Eric Tambini..... Air Force
- Dane TaylorsonArmy
- Hannah TerhuneArmy
- James Trimbur.....Army
- Raymond VavrekArmy
- Daniel Vincent..... Coast Guard
- Richard White..... Navy

TRANSFERS

- Allan Davis..... Marines
- Lester CurtianNavy
- Donald Hess..... Air Force
- Brian Julian.....Navy
- Richard Fortkiewicz.....Navy
- Brian Harwood Air Force
- Andrea Gudat Army
- John Kidd Air Force
- Gregory Kirkpatrick..... Army
- Charles Kropp..... Army
- John McInerney..... Air Force
- Jeff Mumford Army
- Richard Pounsberry Marines
- Richard Price Army
- Juan Rodriguez..... Army
- Harry Rummel..... Army
- Clifford Gledhill..... Army
- John Whitehead..... Marines



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

From the Editor



Ed Pinto
Editor

Why I Decided to Join the Leathernecks

With so many changes happening at our Post, including a new Commander and new members of the Post Executive Committee, I thought I would focus my remarks this issue on a change I made, why I decided to affiliate

with the newest Post Family unit, the Post 166 Leathernecks.

Last year at our Post a number of former marines organized a new organization dedicated to community service. And while the organizers chose give it a Marine Corps nickname they made sure that its membership was open to all members of the Post Family, men and women, and all branches of service, as well as Sal members. It's an all-inclusive group that came together to focus on community service to veterans and local charities, with a twist.

We don't just raise money, we get out into the community and provide volunteer services as well as fund-raising for veterans and civilian service organizations. That is exactly the reason I chose to affiliate with the Leathernecks. I wanted to do more, actively, in the community. As Leathernecks we recently celebrated our first anniversary. Here are a few examples of how active we have been outside the four walls of our Post during that year.

We supported the annual Bethany Beach Arts Festival, arriving at Zero Dark Thirty to chalk out the lines for festival booths. We joined with Believe in Tomorrow at the foundation's fund raisers, including Sunfest in Ocean City, selling raffle tickets for an electric bike. We have been at Jeep Week under the American Legion tent, again selling raffle tickets. We were volunteers at the annual Worcester County Veterans Memorial annual golf tournament. Of course we had our own American Legion/Leathernecks golf tournament held earlier in the year.

Money raised from all of these and other events were distributed to veteran and local charities. We made our most recent distribution, \$10,000, in August. This is why I am a Leatherneck. With the Leathernecks I satisfy my craving to get out into the community with hands-on work that benefits veterans' groups and local charities. Along with that has come a sense of camaraderie among us, not quite as intense as we had while serving in uniform, but it's there, nonetheless.

Membership in the Leathernecks is not for just a Few Good Men. Membership is open to any Post member in good standing. It's for any of us who want to play an active role in service to the community.

If this explanation gets you to thinking the Leathernecks might be something for you also, let me know. I'll get you the paperwork to join.

Color Guard Looking for a Few Good Men and Women

The Post Color Guard is equal opportunity and it is always looking for volunteers

We have the uniforms. We have the rifles.

We are a special group that represents the Post at Patriotic functions and as an Honor Guard for those of us who transfer to Post Everlasting

Here's your chance to put on a uniform again and help out in a meaningful way.

If you are interested in feeling that special pride that comes with a sense of a accomplishment and continue service then you are one of us Contact Post Commander Color Guard Captain Mike Higdon at mwhigdon@comcast.net or calling 443-944-7050.



Mike Higdon, Color Guard Captain



From the Post Resource Officer



Tom Ottenwaelder
Service Officer

Name Change, Same Game: Post Resource Officer

As the leaves turn from green to gold and the weather gets crispier than a freshly fried turkey, we are ready to brace ourselves for the inevitable pumpkin spice invasion. We're excited to bring you some timely news to get you ready for Fall.

New Name... Same Mission

American Legion leadership voted to change the Service Officer title Post Resource Officer during the most recent National Convention. This new title better reflects our community outreach mission and local service and support that we provide. While it is a new name, Scott Woodson, the Resource Volunteer Team, and I will continue to work like squirrels in a nut factory supporting our Post 166 Family.

Good News About VA Health Care

A new quality assessment of U.S. hospitals by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services gave nearly 58 percent of Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers the highest four- or five-star ratings -- down 9 percent from 2023. The VA scores were still significantly higher when compared to private medical centers, only 40 percent of which earned four or five stars. The department announced September 3 that its hospitals also outperformed non-VA facilities on patient satisfaction surveys, which gave 79 percent of VA hospitals four or five stars, compared with 40 percent of non-VA hospitals. Please take a moment to congratulate the staff at our local clinics in Pocomoke, MD and Georgetown, DE.

You can find out if you are eligible and sign up for this healthcare by visiting a clinic, calling 877-222-8373, or registering at www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply.

Get Ready For College

As we send our loved ones, or maybe venture ourselves, off to college this fall, don't forget to check on updates to the VA Educational Benefits. A recent U.S. Supreme Court decision gave veterans who served multiple tours the right to access all educational benefits that they are entitled to under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the Montgomery GI Bill. You can learn more at <https://www.legion.org/veteransbenefits/261816/supreme-court-gives-huge-victory-veterans>.

Also, don't forget about the other scholarships and education funds available to qualifying veterans and their families in Maryland. Here are a few:

Conroy Memorial Scholarship that provides https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/pages/financialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_conroy.aspx

American Legion Legacy Scholarship <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy>

Synepuxent Post 166 Scholarships <https://www.alpost166.org/index.php?id=8>

Volunteers Are Awesome

Our busy season in Ocean City would not be complete without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. Thanks to everyone who signed up to volunteer to help our members in need and during our recent staff shortages. We are planning another Fall Yard Clean-up for some of our local veterans again this year. Please contact us if you know a veteran who could use help cleaning up their yard this fall and/or if you want to join a team to help these veterans by calling the main Post 166 phone number or emailing alpost166.pso@gmail.com.

So here's to a fall filled with fun, laughter, and the occasional awkward family photo by the pumpkin patch.

Tom Ottenwaelder,

Post Resource Officer

MEGA 50/50 Drawing Underway

The VVA and the AVVA are holding a MEGA 50/50 raffle. The drawing will be held Veterans Day at Post 166, following the Veterans Day ceremony. The winner does not have to be present to win. Tickets were mailed to all members of the Legion Family. Additional tickets are available from the VVA or AVVA. Tickets are \$5 each, or five for \$20. Fifty percent of the proceeds will go to the winner. The balance will be used to support veterans and veteran support organizations.



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

DONATIONS



June, July, August

The Post 166 Family, in the second quarter of 2024, donated in charitable contributions and scholarships more than \$152,00. Here's a list of who you, as a member of the Post Family, helped.

POST 166	
4 Steps Therapeutic Riding	\$ 3,000
Atlantic General Hospital	\$24,000
Atlantic United Meth. Church	\$ 2,000
Believe in Tomorrow	\$ 6,000
Berlin Police Department	\$ 1,500
Coastal Hospice	\$ 4,000
Cricket Center	\$ 8,000
Diakonia	\$ 2,000
Furnace Town Historic Site	\$ 1,000
Habitat for Humanity (Wor. Cty.)	\$ 3,000
Jesse Klump Memorial Fund	\$ 1,000
Joan Jenkins Foundation	\$ 1,000
Henry Hotel Foundation	\$ 2,000
Lions Club, Ocean City	\$ 1,100
Marlin Club Scholarship Fnd.	\$ 1,000
OC/Berlin Yth Optimist Found.	\$ 1,000
Ocean Pines Golf Member Couns.	\$ 1,000
Perry Point Medical Center	\$ 2,000
Salvation Army	\$ 2,000
Scholarships	\$48,000
Semper-Fi & America's Fund	\$ 2,000
St. Paul by the Sea	\$ 7,000
Worcester Cty. G.O.L.D.	\$ 2,000
Worcester Cty. Devel. Ctr.	\$ 4,000
Worcester Cty. Tech HS	\$ 3,000
Worcester Cty. Vet. Memorial	\$ 2,750
Worcester Cty. Youth & Fam. Couns.	\$ 3,000
Quilting by the Sea	\$ 1,000

RIDERS	
Ocean Pines Golf Memb. Couns.	\$ 60
Post 166	\$ 500

SAL Unit #166	
Believe in Tomorrow	\$ 1,260
Chesapeake Health Care	\$ 800
Ocean Pines Golf Memb. Couns.	\$ 500
Stephen Decatur Football Club	\$ 500
VFW Golf Association	\$ 420

LEATHERNECKS	
Believe in Tomorrow	\$ 1,000
Cricket Center	\$ 1,000
Easter Seals of Eastern Shore	\$ 1,000
Live Wire Media	\$ 500
Post Mutual Assistant Fund	\$ 500
Semper Fi & America's Fund	\$ 5,000
Worcester Cty. G.O.L.D.	\$ 1,000
Worcester Cty. Vet. Memorial	\$ 1,100



Checkout Page 16.

Your contribution helped make it happen!

Surfers for Healing Snacks Donated

On Aug.14, the Surfers Healing event took place at Castle in the Sand Hotel in Ocean City. This Surfers' group travel around the Country and, taking kids with autism out on surfboards. To say these children have a good time is a great understatement. As is the case every year, Post 166 donated snacks for this event and was greatly appreciated. -- Nelson Kelly

Synepuxent Post 166, Fall 2024

Post 166 Again Helps at the Casino Air Show Party

Every year the Friday night before the Air Show starts flying in the Ocean City skies, the Ocean Downs Casino hosts a party for the performers and every year Post 166 helps out, with our Bob Smith as a host. Here are a few photos from this year's event.



West Point Paratrooper Damon King landing with his American Flag



West Point Paratrooper Sgt. First Class Anthony Rucker honors WWII veteran Morris Semiatin, U.S. Marine Corps, presenting him with the flag. Morris served with the 5th Division on Iwo Jima.



Marine Semiatin saluted by SFC Rucker



Bill Walsh, Master of ceremonies, and Post 166 Robert Smith with Morris Semiatin.



The colors were presented by a joint American Legion Color Guard accompanied by Ocean City Drum and Pipes. L-R are Larry Duffy, Post 231, Mike Higdon, Post 166, Vince Holloway, Post 123, Gilbert Morris, Post 231, Bob Paul, Post 166, Steven Carmean, Post 67, Mary Higdon, Post 166, Kenny Morris, Post 231. Pam Showell is the drummer Drums, Bill Magargle is on the bagpipe.



The next day, hours before the first airplane flew, members lined up outside the Post on Airshow Saturday to get a good seat on rooftop bar, one of the best viewing locations in Ocean City.



WORCESTER COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL

School Visit Program a Success, Veterans Day Up Next at Memorial

School is back in session. That means the Veterans Memorial will be putting a wrap on our 2024 school visits with our final school, Worcester Prep, on October 11. This year, more than 650 students, from each of the Worcester County Schools, visited the Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines. The Director of our Educational Outreach is busy lining up the schedule of school field trips for 2025. We have a newly revised Student Handbook to give each student and a new video, Heroes All, that they will see at their school prior to their field trip. You can view the video on YouTube.

Veterans Day will be here before we know it. We are planning a fitting ceremony to honor all who have served, beginning promptly, at 11 a.m. on November 11 at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines. Some seating will be provided. But you are encouraged to bring a chair.

We are looking forward to dedicating a new gazebo in Veterans Memorial Park, on just prior to the beginning of our Veterans Day ceremony. This was a joint venture between Ocean Pines Association and the Veterans Memorial Foundation. We will finally have a "quiet" area to instruct some students

as they wait their turn to tour the Memorial during their school visits.

The annual flag retirement and disposal will take place Saturday, November 16, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Memorial. Scout Troops will properly retire the flags and burn them according to flag protocol. Bring your worn flags to Post 166. There is a flag receptacle in the lobby of the building.

This time of the year marks several anniversaries. The third Friday in September each year, this year the 20th, we remember that there are nearly 82,000 Missing In Action service members. The state of Maryland has 961 MIAs. Happy Birthday to the U.S. Air Force on September 18; we honor our Gold Star Mothers on September 29; Happy Birthday U.S. Navy on October 13. Friday, September 20th is POW/MIA Recognition Day. Never Forget! The birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps is November 10.

See you at the Veterans Memorial at 11 a.m. and Post 166 at 1 p.m. on November 11.

Marie Gilmore
President
Worcester County Veterans
Memorial Foundation



Join Color Guard posts the Colors at the 2023 Observance



A father and son with heads bowed at last year's observance



AUXILIARY NEWS



Emily Nock
President-Elect

Greetings Fellow Legion Family Members.

It's hard to believe that Fall is here already. It's been such a fantastic summer, and I don't think I've ever seen so many flocking to our Post. I'm sure that our gorgeous deck and friendly staff have added a lot to that. If you haven't had a chance to visit yet, make sure you do before the weather

turns too cold. You won't regret it.

Your Auxiliary has remained busy throughout the summer as well. In July, we attended the Department of Maryland conference, where the unit was presented with several awards, including National Recognition for Membership. We also hosted the Juniors Department of Maryland annual meeting. Our own Delaney McDaniel served as the Juniors Honoray President last year and she did an amazing job. Our entire unit is extremely proud of her and all of our Juniors, who were once again awarded the Greenbelt Cup for best Juniors Program in the State.

We also held a special meeting in which we installed our new officers, paid tribute to those we had lost, and presented the award for the Auxiliary Member of the Year. This year's honor went to Debbie Sautter. If you don't know Debbie personally, I am sure you've seen her down at the Post either working the door or selling Queen of Hearts tickets. She can always be counted on to volunteer or lend a helping hand when needed. Debbie is an individual who truly embodies what it means to be a member of the ALA and possess the spirit of service and not self. We are extremely lucky to have her as a member of our Unit.

Our Unit breakfasts have continued throughout the summer and will go through the fall and winter as well. On the first Sunday of every month, come on out to the post for an All-You-Can-Eat breakfast

for only \$12. The money raised helps support both community and veteran projects.

In the past few months, we have been able to donate to things like the Worcester County Veterans Memorial, charities that help underprivileged children in our community, and even support veterans right in our own post. We even held a Saving Sammy Happy Hour to help one of our legionnaires, Samuel Wiley, who is in need of a kidney transplant. The event served not only to raise some funds, but also awareness of kidney donation and the Kidney Exchange Program.

With our first meeting of the 24/25 year in Sept-

ember, our Unit only has plans heating up. Some things to look forward to include planning for the 3rd Annual Putting for a Cause, Veterans Day celebrations, packing of boxes to mail to our troops deployed overseas, the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, and the WCDC Christmas Party. We'll also have numerous chances to support our Ocean City Coast Guard Unit, as well veterans in our local nursing home. We will also continue with some of our social events, like our monthly book club. Make sure you come out to one of our membership meetings on the 3rd Thursday



Debbie Sautter proudly displays her Auxiliary Member of the Year Award

of every month to hear about everything we have in the works!

Before closing let me also offer my congratulations once again to our new Post Commander, J.R. Best. This was a truly historic election, with so many interested in taking on the position. Something that is a true testament to Past Commander Tom Wengert and all that he accomplished in his years at the post. I have every confidence that Commander J.R. will make us all proud as he continues to build upon the legacy that all those before him have created.

The 24/25 year is definitely shaping up to be a great one. I look forward to seeing you all at the Post as we continue to show that at 166, We Are Family.

In the Spirit of Service, and not Self,

Emily F. Nock

President, ALA Unit 166

AUXILIARY NEWS



ALA Unit 166 members at the Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City in July where the unit received Maryland National Awards for Membership. (L-R) Jessie Parsons, Kirsten Brown, Penny Matthews, Deb Helme, Marie Gilmore



New officers and executive committee members for (L-R) Lois Barstis, Bonnie Strawbridge, Jessie Parsons, Lisa Capecci, Deb Helme, Emily Nock, Marie Gilmore, Tina Preziotti, and Teddy Rozzano



Auxiliary members Marti Marron, Alicia Timmins, Emily Nock, Adele Deaver, Pat Ottenwaelder celebrate a job well done at the Saving Sammy Happy Hour. See page 18 for more about that event



The book club at Windmill Creek Winery



While working as volunteers serving at a private party at the Post, Auxiliary members Emily Nock, Penny Matthews and Marti Marron took advantage of a caricaturist who was sketching guests



AUXILIARY JUNIORS



Jessie Parsons
Junior Advisor

Junior Brooklynn Paul Honored

Our Juniors were on break from meetings over the summer, but returned on September 8 when a good part of that meeting was spent catching up on what the first week of school was like. Then it was back to business, making cards for Gold Star Mothers to be sent to them on the occasion

of Gold Star Mother Day, September 9.

We have some exciting news to share. Our very own Brooklynn Paul was chosen as the Junior Member of the Year for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maryland. She received the award during the Department Convention in July. Brooklynn delivered a heartfelt acceptance speech to the state membership. She also was awarded the Unit 166 Junior Member of the Year for her participation in Junior activities, coming up with new ideas, and her active involvement in her school and community.

Our Junior meetings are usually the first Sunday of every month, but we are active on other days also. A tentative schedule looks something like this. In October we have our meeting, but also on October 26 we will join the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. Later that day be at be at the local Coast Guard Station for Make a Difference Day and distributing candy. It's almost Halloween, after all.

At the November meeting we plan on making Veterans Day cards, and Cards for Teachers for American Education Week. November 11 is Veterans Day and we will be at the Veterans Memorial and at the Post. That is followed by the annual Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial on November 16. Finally in November we are looking forward to decorating the ALA Juniors Tree at the Ocean Pines Recreation Center and then the tree lighting ceremony in Ocean Pines.

December will also be busy. Besides our regular meeting will help trim the Post Christmas Tree and of course, as we do every year, pack boxes at the Post to be sent to our deployed troops.

Let's end with a public service announcement. We are looking to get the word out to the Post Family and recruit new members. If you know of any female under 18 who is the sister, daughter, granddaughter, or great granddaughter of an active duty soldier or a veteran, consider having them check out our program. We offer opportunities to make new friends, help our community and military members, and learn leadership skills. Please contact me by email or phone at jessie_wolfe@hotmail.com or 443-235-4930 so I can tell you more about this great program.

Jessie Wolfe-Parsons

Junior Advisor and District 2 Juniors Rep



Brooklynn Paul of the Unit 166 Juniors was awarded the Dept of MD Junior of the Year. Pictured with Department of Maryland ALA President Joanne Weis



Brooklynn Paul with her family at the Department of Maryland ALA Convention



Brooklynn Paul accepting her Department of Maryland Junior of the Year Award



Kenneth Ingram Jr.
Director

Busy Summer for Riders Starting with the Crab Feast

As usual, the Riders' summer kicked off with the annual Crab Feast, this July 18. A special thank you to the Riders, Legionnaires, Sons, and Auxiliary for all the support that made this year's Crab Feast another huge success. I want to especially thank the kitchen staff for

coordinating with the servers to keep the buffet items stocked with food. They worked hard and made this a terrific event. Everyone who supported the crab feast is looking forward to the 2025 event in July.

Then came Bike Week and that was an event not to miss. Motorcycle riders from the entire mid-Atlantic region swarmed into Ocean City September 11-15, enjoying clear skies, cool weather, and ideal riding conditions. Our Post hosted an open house on September 14 from noon until 4 pm. A delicious buffet luncheon was served by the kitchen staff, featuring pulled pork sliders, sausage with green peppers/onions, baked beans, mac 'n cheese, coleslaw and pasta salad. A special thanks to the entire kitchen staff and especially to Jay for coordinating a delicious meal enjoyed by all.

What is a Bike Week without a Basket of Cheer and plenty of door prizes? A special shoutout to Mina and Ron Engle along with their able assistant Christie for coordinating those fabulous door prizes. This year's door prizes were donated by Chrome World of Selbyville, and Rommels Harley-Davidson Delmarva, Salisbury. A heartfelt thank you to DJ Mikey for coordinating and delivering door prizes donated by Rommels.

A lot more thank yous are needed so here goes. A special thanks to Lois Barstis and Alisha Timmins for providing armbands for our guests, issuing door prize tickets, and directing everyone to the buffet. A shoutout to Wendy and Rob Milewski, Lois Ingram, Don Piarulli, Lois Barstis, and Bob for selling Bike Week T-shirts and other Legion items. Another shoutout to DJ Mikey for providing the music that we all love. Finally, a special Thank You to bartender, Robin. We also thank Harry Rey, Derrick Swartz, Mike Bradley, Little Joe Verdura, Bo Spicer,

Lois Barstis, Alisha Timmons, Don Piarulli, Lois Ingram, Rob and Wendy Milewski, and Tina Preziotti for donating their time and effort in making this another successful ALR event.

Rider Donations

The Riders donated \$500 to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament, which supports the Educational Outreach Program for Worcester County's Fifth Graders' Field Trips to the Memorial. During their visit to the WCVVM, students are introduced to flag history, flag etiquette, and flag folding by a JROTC cadet from a local high school. They also come away with an understanding about the importance of the Veterans Memorial and the reality that Freedom Is Not Free. The students, guided by trained docents, are also shown many Memorial pavers, with an explanation about why they are there.

A \$500 donation was also made to the Towson ALR Legacy Run, and a \$1000 donation was made to the ALA #166 Putting For A Cause.

Gun Raffle



The Riders have decided to continue the gun raffle tradition, which is scheduled to be drawn at our annual Crab Feast in 2025. Tickets can be purchased at the bar. Just ask any bartender, they will be glad to assist you. This raffle is an important part of our fundraising, providing the funds we need to continue donating to charitable organizations in our community.

Kenneth Ingram Jr.
Director American Legion Riders



In the wings ready to work serving hot crabs were (L-R) Ron Engle, Rob Milewski, Joe Verdura, Harry Rey, Jeff Jaras



George and Lois Barstis volunteering at the Crab Feast with Don Piarulli



Festival patron Jamie Linebaugh getting her serving of hush puppies from Lois Ingram



If crabs were not to your liking, here's Jay Scott getting ready to bring out a tray of hot dogs



Bo Spicer with a loaded tray



This guest looks stunned as George Pickrell delivers a trayful of steaming crabs



The Hall was filled as usual



Milt Warren couldn't resist holding up a jumbo



George and Lois Barstis and Don Piarulli working the check-in desk



SAL NEWS



Joe Verdura
SAL Commander

Next SAL Popular Bull and Oyster Roast Date Set

As we promised in the Summer newsletter we will work to keep you informed as to the status of the SAL's Bull and Oyster Roast. Unfortunately, the date in October we had planned for the event proved to be unworkable so we quickly secured everything needed for the Bull and Oyster Roast to take place on January 11, 2025 from 3 p.m.

to 6 p.m. Again proving the truth in the expression "Man plans and God laughs!" The positive in the new date is our Commander will get to use his new Christmas jacket as the cooks the pit beef outside. The menu remains the same – oysters on the half shell, oyster stew, coleslaw, potato salad, dessert and beverages. Look for tickets to go on sale in October.

The SAL's Post 166 charity work continued during the last quarter. We donated to the Berlin American Legion, Stephen Decatur High School, and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial. The needs of the community were not forgotten by your SAL during the summer.

As you all know by now the Post is requiring membership cards be shown for admission. With this in mind, please do not argue with the door monitors about showing your card. The volunteers rotate and the one that was there when you came in one day, may not be the person who is there the next time you come in.

If you can help out and work any of the door shifts, please sign up at the Post. Just ask any officer on how to go about volunteering or just sign up on the calendar that is posted on the bulletin board in the bar. This is a wonderful chance to meet and greet your fellow members. In addition, you will be helping the Post tremendously.

I also want to say thanks to our membership for their response to all the requests for volunteers needed in the Post. The turnout was very impressive and did not go unnoticed. Thanks again.

As another quarter closes, the SAL membership continues to grow. Since July 1, the SAL has received 103 new applications or transfers.

Membership cards for 2024 are good until December 31, 2024. After December 31, your card will no longer be valid. To stay current and keep your continuous years membership, we ask that you remit \$35 as soon as possible. Please make checks payable to: SAL Squadron 166. If you are mailing your dues, send to: P.O. Box 63, Ocean City, MD 21843. If it is more convenient, you can drop dues off at the Post.

You will need your new 2025 membership card to enter the Post on January 1, 2025. Again, dues for the new year, 2025, are \$35 and should be paid by December 31. We are asking that you do not wait to pay your dues until you receive a reminder from the Department of Maryland or that you do not wait until the last week in December to renew your membership. The earlier the renewals are received the easier they are to manage. Since it does take a few weeks to process, I would suggest sending your dues in as soon as possible. Memberships are processed by volunteers and helps to get the new membership cards back to you when they are not all sent in at the end of the year. Also door cards will turn off automatically on January 1 for any member who has not paid their 2025 dues.

If you want to become a SAL member or become a more active member, we meet at the Post on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. with a social hour before the meeting at 6 p.m. Food and drink specials are available prior to the meeting. All are welcome and I hope to see you there.

Also, we share information with our members by regular mail as well as email. Please let us know if your address, phone number or email has changed. If you are unsure of what we currently have on file, please email your information to SALpost166@outlook.com and we will make sure records are updated.

Many thanks again and God bless our veterans and keep them safe.

Submitted by *Ray Kudobeck*,
Finance Officer





VVA / AVVA



Nelson Kelly
VVA President

Kids Table Back at the Post, Annual Picnic Held

As usual I hope everyone enjoyed the summer. VVA 191 decided not to hold meetings in July and August because of traffic and crowds, but we met September 8 at our annual picnic at the Moose Lodge. What a great time, as the photos show.

Our Kidz table at Post166 is up and running again. Check it out the next time you are in the Post. For the grown-ups we sponsored a Happy Hour at the new Post 166 rooftop bar and had a great time. The chapter provided Pizza.

On Flag Day, June 14, I went to the boardwalk and handed out 144 handheld flags to kids and adults. I had my Bose speaker blasting It's a Grand Old Flag the whole time. The day also was the U.S. Army's 249th birthday.

If anyone knows of a deceased or sick member or member in distress, please let our Chaplain Victor Freeman or me know. Call VVA1091 at 410-213-5228 and listen to the prompts. Also, check your VA card for expiration date. I did not know they expired. Mine expired in September. Check with the local VA office to see if they issue new cards.

An explanation of Why is there a VVA and AVVA

I would love to take this opportunity to share with you a brief history of AVVA. First, we are not an auxiliary to the VVA. We began as a group of people dedicated to advancing the work of the VVA. For many years, prior to 1999, people who were friends or family members of Vietnam Veterans of America

were members of VVA as non-voting associate members. We assisted with all manner of events and tasks. By 1998, VVA was notified by the IRS that they had exceeded their limit of non-veteran members. A sister organization was formed, entirely dependent on the parent organization. In January 1999 AVVA formally incorporated as a separate organization from VVA, but we have never separated ourselves in spirit or in activities.

Over the years we have grown from a sister organization to an independent membership and support organization, working side-by-side with the VVA and on our own. The AVVA supports and encourages military and veteran related legislation and runs programs that are intended to support all veterans, their families and our local communities.

In the not too distant future, there will be major changes in the VVA. Our AVVA Chapter is now fully incorporated and is preparing to meet those challenges. Many VVA chapter 1091 members have joined AVVA Chapter 1091 as dual members. As an active AVVA chapter, we are always looking for helpful information that will guide our veterans to the services they deserve. Our wish is to continue to ensure that our military and our veterans are never pushed aside again.

We meet the first Monday of each month, at 4:30 p.m., except for July and August. Immediately following our meeting there is a social hour, with a dinner provided by Post 166. The regular meeting of the VVA follows at 7 p.m.

I hope you will attend one of our meetings and share in the comradery as we endeavor to fulfill our mission of mutual helpfulness for veterans and active duty military.

Our next meeting will be October 7. I hope to see you there.

Marie Gilmore



At the VVA 1091 the Pavilion was packed



Food was Served



Cake was served and Nelson got his slice



LEATHERNECKS



Bob Broderick
Commander

Leathernecks Celebrate First Anniversary

Post 166 Leathernecks celebrated our first anniversary in July and have graduated from our early beginnings as a Post 166 Club to a Post 166 program. From the beginning we have strived to identify as Legionnaires and establish a brand that exemplifies the values of the American Legion through volunteerism and patriotism. We are

proud of our accomplishments and look forward to supporting our new commander and making his term of office a productive year for our Post home.

The summer was productive for the Leathernecks. Our commitment to the community was on full display at our August Meeting where we donated \$10,000 to six local charities. The funds were raised from our successful golf tournament and Bourbon raffle and represent our commitment to a continuing mission of community service.

We've introduced a new "Cheetah" Electric Bike and commissioned Mark Brown, a talented local artist, to provide the patriotic paint job to the tank and fenders. We've begun selling raffle tickets at the Post and will continue selling them at the Post and local fund raising events until we draw the winning ticket at the Post Memorial Day observance.

We rolled out the new bike at the Ocean City Convention Center for Jeep Fest where the Ocean City Jeep Club honored our own Don Coffin, recognizing his selfless contributions of time and resources to Ocean City as a long-term member of the club. We're proud of Don and grateful to the local Jeep community for the support they show to our local veterans' community.

We kicked off September at the Bethany Beach Art Festival. Leathernecks volunteered for the "Dawn Patrol," arriving in the dark to chalk out vendor spaces for this annual Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of commerce event. Then we manned the American Legion tent for a successful day of fund raising. As we continue to participate in offsite events we hope to recruit new members to our Post and the Leatherneck program, supporting veterans, their families, and civic needs throughout our region. Any Post 166 member in good standing, regardless of branch of service, can join us. We meet the first Thursday of each month at 1000 right here at Post 166.



Some of the crew at Jeep week at the American Legion tent, including Emerson Reese, granddaughter of Leatherneck Chuck Schaub, who helped us sell electric bike raffle tickets



Leathernecks Bob Broderick (C) and Milt Warren present ceremonial \$10,000 check to (L-R) Marie Gilmore, Worcester County Veterans Memorial; Lauren Cooper, the Cricket Center; Linda Forte, Community Marketing Representative, Easterseals of Delaware & Maryland Eastern Shore; Amanda Koontz and Mary Decker Brown, Believe in Tomorrow. The Semper Fi & America's Fund also shared in this donation.

Bob Broderick
Commander Post 166 Leathernecks



SCOUTS

Wilderness Canoeing, Henson Summer Camp and New Eagle Scouts.

Our sponsored Scout Troop 261 was busy this summer, with a Summer Camp at Henson Scout Reservation in Nanticoke, a wilderness trip to Minnesota, and Eagle Scout ceremonies.

The first week of August saw a group of five scouts and three adults head for northern Minnesota. Scouts in attendance were Bryce Gill (crew leader), Parker Gill, Colton Grevey, Kasch Johnson, and Jonathan Smith. Leaders in attendance were Jeremy Gill, Greg Grevey and James Smith. They stayed in Ely, MN for a couple of nights before checking into the Northern Tier basecamp to meet their guide, Nate Cooper, who shared his experience and knowledge with the boys.

From there the group canoed into the Canadian wilderness for the next several nights. The

group caught over 120 fish and traveled almost 70 miles by canoe. Everyone had a great time on this memorable trip.

Earlier in the summer the troop spent time at the Henson Scout Reservation. When they weren't outdoors the boys participated in Courts of Honor investing new Eagle Scouts.

Becca Smith: korasmomma17@gmail.com for all kids grades kindergarten through age 11.

James Smith: vmijesmith@gmail.com for boys ages 12-18

Jeremy Gill: jeremyfgill@gmail.com for girls ages 12-18

James Smith. Scoutmaster, Troop 261



Left to right: Nate Cooper, Bryce Gill, Jonathan Smith, Parker Gill, Kasch Johnson, Colton Grevey getting ready to jump of the rocks into Tuck Lake.



Around the table for a fish fry on a wet day from left are Parker Gill, Jonathan Smith, Kasch Johnson, Greg Grevey, Nate Cooper, Bryce Gill, James Smith, Colton Grevey



Relaxing after the trip at the closing ceremony: left to right Kasch Johnson, Bryce Gill, Nate Cooper, Parker Gill, Jonathan Smith, Colton Grevey



Checking in at the Henson Scout Reservation were (L-R) Alex Pace, Joe Coleman, William Coleman, Kenny Nichols, Daniel Nazari, Bennett Brown, Alex Nazari, Mason Foxwell



SCOUTS



Tammy McCabe pins Eagle Scout badge on her son, new Eagle Scout Chase Ponton.



Tonya Hurley pins the Eagle Scout badge on son Evan Hurley.



Eagle Scout Evan Hurley with grandparents, Patty Trueax, Lois and Lee Hurley



Scouts and leaders at the Court of Honor, from left, Scoutmaster James Smith, Greg Grevey, Colt Grevey, Jonathan Smith, Kash Johnson, Sonny Gill, Mason Foxwell, Parker Gill, VVA Member Bob Smith, Bryce Gill, Assistant Scoutmaster Jeremy Gill



Representing our Post to make presentations to the new Eagle Scouts were Leatherneck Vic Freeman, Post Chaplain Dave Kline, and Robert Smith

How to Join Post 166's Scout Troops

Post 166 sponsors three Scout Troops. Cub Scout Pack 261, Scout Troop 261 of boys, and Troop 621, girls. If you know any youth who would be interested in joining one of the units, have them or their parents reach out to the unit leaders.

Becca Smith: korasmomma17@gmail.com for all kids grades kindergarten through age 11.
James Smith: vmijesmith@gmail.com for boys ages 12-18
Jeremy Gill: jeremyfgill@gmail.com for girls ages 12-18



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



Heavenly Father,
We thank you that we live in a country
where we are free to choose.
We also thank you that there are those
who would choose to leave their families
behind and give their lives to fight
for freedom. For those who are
wounded in battle, we ask for strength
and wisdom to carry on. Amen

Legionnaires, we have had an awesome summer. It's been wonderful welcoming so many members, friends, and visitors to our new rooftop bar. The new space has been a blessing to everyone who has been able to enjoy it. It was especially exciting to celebrate our nation's independence together, all while enjoying the view from upstairs. We've been fortunate to have such incredible weather and the ability to be outdoors.

Now as we enter the fall season we've got even more beautiful weather to look forward to and a lot of activities to share together. We hope that our members remember that there are many volunteer opportunities to be involved in our Legion family. Your support helps our Post run smoothly and helps us to build relationships with each other.

If you become aware of any of our members who are sick or in the hospital, please notify me so that I can reach out. I want to also encourage you to be in prayer for those individuals, as well as for our local law enforcement and leaders. In addition, we should continue to lift up our military, especially for the safety of those in active service.

We have so much to be proud of and thankful for. It is my pleasure to serve you as chaplain. May God bless you and your families in this new season.

Dave Kline

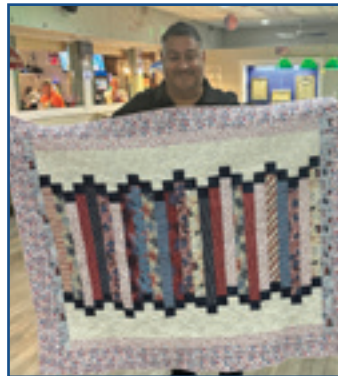
POST EVERLASTING

Howard G. Jenkins
John E. McDermott
Harry Tillman

Auxiliary Sponsored Saving Sammy Success

A large crowd turned September 26 to celebrate and support our former Post Stewart Sam Wiley at the Auxiliary-sponsored Saving Sammy Happy Hour, organized to raise funds as Sammy battles stage 5 kidney disease. Sammy undergoes dialysis twice daily as he waits for a kidney transplant. The Auxiliary paid for drinks, sold by the Post at lower Happy Hour prices, held raffles, a 50-50 drawing, and accepted cash contributions.

Auxiliary President Emily Nock said the evening was also intended to raise awareness about kidney diseases. An official of the National Kidney Foundation, Nicole Stewart, a living kidney donor, spoke about kidney donations and the years-long waiting list in Maryland for a kidney to become available.



Quilters by the Sea presented Sammy with a quilt made specially for him. Post 166 supports Quilters by the Sea, which makes quilts for veterans, with donations

One of the raffle buyers for a basket of cheer was Post member and Leatherneck Jeff Cywinski, handing his payment to Lisa Rummel



POST OFFICERS

Commander	James R. Best
First Vice Commander	Dave Carey
Second Vice Commander	Bob Thompson
Adjutant	Bruce Capecci
Judge Advocate	Don Coffin
Finance Officer	George Barstis
Resource Officer	Tom Ottenwaelder
Historian	Ed Pinto
Chaplain	Dave Kline
Sergeant-at-Arms	Bob Gilmore
Ex-Officio	Tom Wengert

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bob Broderick • Ben Dawson • Harry Rey
George Spicer

Quarterly Calendar Fall 2024



OCT.

Date Event

- 3rd Leathernecks Meeting 1000hrs
- 6th Aux AYCE Breakfast 0800hrs-1100hrs
- 6th Auxiliary Juniors Meeting 1300hrs
- 6th Ravens Roost Football Watch Party 1300hrs
- 7th AVVA Meeting 1630 Followed by Social Hour and Dinner
- 7th VVA Meeting, 1900hrs Social Hour and Dinner, 1800hrs
- 8th ACSA Meeting 1800hrs
- 10th Ravens Roost Meeting 1930hrs
- 13th Ravens Roost Football Watch Party 1300hrs
- 14th Auxiliary Book Club 1800hrs
- 14th SAL Meeting Social Hour 1800hrs Meeting 1900hrs
- 15th Auxiliary Membership Meeting Social Hour/Dinner 1800hrs Meeting 1900hrs
- 21st Executive Committee Meeting 1730hrs
- 21st Riders Membership Meeting Social Hour 1800hrs Meeting 1700hrs
- 25th ALA Department Fall Conference in OC
- 26th ALA Department Fall Conference in OC
- 27th ALA Department Fall Conference in OC
- 28th Ravens Roost Football Watch Party 1300hrs
- 28th Post Membership Mtg Social Hour/Dinner 1800hrs Meeting 1900hrs
- 31st Halloween Party With DJ Mikey



NOV.

Date Event

- 2nd ACSA Fishing Flea Market 1000hrs-1500hrs
- 3rd Aux AYCE Breakfast 0800hrs-1100hrs
- 3rd Auxiliary Juniors Meeting 1300hrs
- 3rd Ravens Roost Football Watch Party 1300hrs
- 4th AVVA Meeting 1630 Followed by Social Hour and Dinner
- 4th VVA Meeting, 1900hrs Social Hour and Dinner, 1800hrs
- 7th Leathernecks Meeting 1000hrs
- 11th Veterans Day Ceremony, 1100hrs Veterans Memorial, OP
- 11th Veterans Day Observance 1300hrs Post 166 Main Hall
- 11th Auxiliary Book Club 1800hrs
- 11th SAL Meeting Social Hour 1800hrs Meeting 1900hrs
- 14th Ravens Roost Meeting 1930hrs
- 12th ACSA Meeting 1800hrs
- 16th Troop 261 Flag Retirement Ceremony 0900hrs Veterans Memorial, OP
- 17th Ravens Roost Football Watch Party 1300hrs
- 18th Executive Committee Meeting 1730hrs
- 18th Riders Membership Meeting Social Hour 1800hrs Meeting 1900hrs
- 19th Auxiliary Membership Meeting Social Hour/Dinner 1800hrs
- 25th Post Membership Mtg Social Hour/Dinner 1800hrs Meeting 1900hrs
- 28th Thanksgiving



DEC.

Date Event

- 1st Aux AYCE Breakfast 0800hrs-1100hrs
- 1st Auxiliary Juniors Meeting 1300hrs
- 2nd AVVA Meeting 1630 Followed by Social Hour and Dinner
- 2nd VVA Meeting, 1900hrs Social Hour and Dinner, 1800hrs
- 5th Leathernecks Meeting 1000hrs
- 9th Auxiliary Book Club 1800hrs
- 9th SAL Meeting Social Hour 1800hrs Meeting 1900hrs
- 10th ACSA Meeting 1800hrs
- 10th ACSA Holiday Party 1700hrs-2300hr
- 12th Ravens Roost Meeting 1930hrs
- 15th Ravens Roost Football Watch Party 1300hrs
- 16th Executive Committee Meeting 1730hrs
- 16th Riders Membership Meeting 1700hrs Social Hour 1800hrs
- 17th Auxiliary Membership Meeting Social Hour/Dinner 1800hrs Meeting 1900hrs
- 25th Christmas
- 23rd Post Membership Mtg Social Hour/Dinner 1800hrs Meeting 1900hrs
- 31st New Years Eve



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Synepuxent Post 166, Fall 2024

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James R. Best - Commander



Kenneth Ingram Jr. - Director



Emily Nock - President



Joe Verdura, Commander



For all of you that have computer access to the Internet there are some places you may want to visit:

- <http://www.legion.org> - Legion National Web Site
- <http://www.mdlegion.org> - Department of Maryland
- <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html> - request copies of military records
- <http://www.mdva.state.md.us> - MD Department of Veterans Affairs
- <http://www.va.gov> - US Dept. of Veteran's Affairs
- <http://www.opvets.com> - Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines

Hey you Internet surfers, we not only have a website at <http://www.alpost166.org>, we also have our own "Face Book" Page at <http://www.facebook.com/alpost166> and if you "Like" us you will receive news as it happens.

Look for some "Drink & Food Deals" coming over Face Book. Also, send us your email to receive an electronic copy of the Observer.

PHONE NUMBERS IMPORTANT TO VETERANS:

- Baltimore VA Medical Center 1-800-463-6295
- Charlotte Hall Veterans Home 1-800-522-8387
- Perry Point 1-800-949-1003
- Maryland Veteran's Cemetery 1-410-943-3420
- Pocomoke City VA Clinic 1-866-441-0287
- Elsmere VA Hospital 1-800-450-8262
- Cambridge VA Clinic 1-877-864-9611

ATTENTION POST #166 LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS

To make sure you are receiving your Synepuxent Observer by speedy email delivery, we need your email address.

If your newsletter is still coming by regular mail, we don't have it, so let's change that, Send your email address to airpinto166@gmail.com and we'll take care of the rest.

RENEW MEMBERSHIPS

at <http://www.legion.org/renew>

ALL Active Duty Members should submit their 8"x10" Photos to American Legion Post 166, P.O. Box 63, Ocean City, MD 21843 to replace the current Active Wall at Post 166 Contact Ed Pinto at airpinto166@gmail.com