

★ ★ ★ AMERICAN LEGION POST 166 ★ ★ ★



Synepuxent Observer
Summer 2023



Commander's Message



Tom Wengert
Commander

After months of chilly and rainy days, summer is finally starting to come to Ocean city. The start of summer also brings the June Bugs, high school graduates vacationing here in Ocean City. With the June Bugs, sometimes comes destruction of private property and the American Legion has already been a victim. A construction cone was thrown

through our side window to our entrance hallway. The good part is with all of our security cameras, the suspect was caught on 44th Street and arrested.

Now to the good news, construction of our rooftop patio bar is well underway. As I was writing this article, concrete for the floor was being poured. Things will start to move rather quickly now, with construction of the bathrooms and the bar the next step. As of the middle of June the contractor said completion is still on target for the end of August. That's a look ahead. Time now to look back at what was happening at our Post in the spring.

April was a rather slow month. The Auxiliary held its annual Fish Fry on Good Friday, and we had our traditional Easter Sunday dinner. Many families were fed, and the cost of the meal was whatever donation you could afford.

In May the Sons held their traditional Mother's Day breakfast. As usual it was well attended, and everyone got their bellies full. Next came Memorial Day and this year like year's past, it was very eventful. Our Post Memorial Day observances began on the beach at the Hilton Garden Manor, for a traditional wreath-laying ceremony in the waters off Ocean City, in memory of the men and women who lost their lives at sea during our conflicts. We then went to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial for its 11 o'clock program and that was followed by a 1:15 service here at Post 166. As it is most years, our service was well attended. Light refreshments

for everyone who attended. You will see pictures from all three Memorial Day events elsewhere in the newsletter.

June has been pretty busy. We had our 10th Annual Honor a Veteran Program and Reception at the Casino at Ocean Downs. Three Golden Knights jumpers based at West Point parachuted from a helicopter and landed on a specific spot in the infield of the track. As is usual, a veteran, this year Lorenzo Bowen from Post 231 in Berlin, received a ceremonial American Flag from one of the parachutists. Prior to the

jump, our Riders from Post 123, 166 and 231 rode around the track on their motorcycles displaying the American flag. What a sight to see. For the next two days, we had the honor of watching the

Continued on Page 2



Another great thing happened in June. The First State Detachment Marines donated \$10,000 to our building fund for furniture for the roof-top patio bar. Presenting the check to Commander Wenger was FSD Commandant Al Soto (L) and former Commandant Bob Broderick



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

From the Editor



Ed Pinto
Editor

I have to admit, of all the newsletter issues I work on all year for Post 166, the summer issue is my favorite. It's the one issue where there are so many articles and photographs of men and women in uniform, and so many onlookers at ceremonies and observances honoring our veterans, culminating in the very special

observances of Memorial Day, where we solemnly pay homage to our fallen.

When I look at the photographs, I can't help but be moved by the generations that I see remembering our fallen, from those of us getting on in age, to younger men and women still in service, to the young Junior ROTC students who Present the Colors, and the Scouts and the Cub Scouts from the troops and pack that Post 166 supports who participate on honoring our fallen. For me the military aspect of the Summer newsletter begins in April.

That is when the Ocean City Elks Lodge sends me the photographs of the 40 banners of Hometown heroes that are displayed on lampposts on the Ocean City Boardwalk. As I process the photographs for publication I get to look at each one. I tend to linger a lot on the pictures of the veterans

who chose photographs of themselves while they were young men and women in uniform. It takes me back to my time in service and reminds me each year how much I appreciated it, and learned from it, and how my service had a lot to do with who I am today many years later. It never leaves you.

The next military milestone is Memorial Day, and no one who attends those services can be left unmoved. They begin on the beach at 28th at the Hilton Gardens Hotel (formerly the Dunes Manor), with a special early morning commemoration in honor of the men and women who lost their lives at sea during our conflicts. The Post Color Guard is there, and fires a gun salute. The hotel then serves breakfast to the participants. After that there's the large commemoration at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial, followed by the afternoon observance at the Post.

By the time the last rifle salute is fired on 23rd Street outside the Post, I can say for myself that I feel a profound debt of gratitude to those who could not be here to hear the riles fired in their honor, and a renewed sense of obligation to never forget their sacrifices.

Ed Pinto
Editor

COMMANDER'S REPORT CONTINUED

Thunderbirds put on a spectacular show in the air along with some Warthogs, F-16s and F 35s.

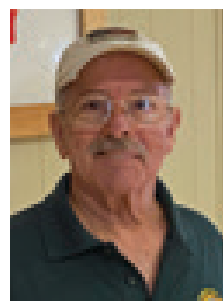
Again, I would like to take this time to thank all our volunteers, our kitchen staff and our bartenders who have worked tirelessly through some of our busiest times so far this year. They have put in some very long hours trying to give you the best service that we can give. I would like to apologize if you came in for some of our specials and we were sold out. That's a mark of a successful kitchen but we have taken steps to see that this doesn't happen again.

In closing, I would like to say thanks again for everyone who visits our Legion. We try our best to make your stay here one that you will always remember. We want you to go home and tell your Post

members that Post 166 is the Best and Friendliest Post on the East Coast. Have a safe trip to and from Ocean City and be sure that if you are a little tipsy call Uber. Do Not Drive!

May God bless you and keep you safe and may God bless America.

Tom Wengert,
Commander, Post #166



SAL Has a New Commander Unit #166 SAL Has a New/ Old Commander

Returning to the leadership post he had held for years is Joe Verdura. Joe was elected SAL Commander at the Unit's June meeting.



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

From the Adjutant



John Bussard
Adjutant

Post 166 Exceeds
Membership Goal
for 2023

After having completed my second year as Adjutant, and looking forward to the coming year with some trepidation, you, the members of Post 166, have made the Post look good. We will finish the year exceeding our membership goal of 895, with a total active membership of 930 at the time of this writing. The membership goal for 2024 will increase by 1 percent over our ending membership number this year.

Dues renewal notices for the 2024 Legion year will begin going out in early in July. Our first registration target will be 50 percent of our members registered by mid-September 2023. Early Bird registrations and our second registration target will be October 20 by when we are expected to have 55 percent of our members registered. The goal for our Eastern Shore Region is 100 percent by December 31, a daunting but doable task.

As mentioned before, we exceeded our membership goal for 2023, but unfortunately our retention rate for existing members was only 86.5 percent, a drop of about 125 members who did not

renew. Had they done so our Post would have moved into the 1,000 or more members category in the State, joining three other Maryland Posts with more than 1,000 members: Francis Scott Key Post 11 in Frederick, Carroll Post 31 in Westminster, and Harford Post 39 in Bel Air.

Here's a reminder for you. When you receive your dues notice, if you respond to that notice promptly, you will likely not be bothered by repeated notices. The closer to the next due date that you submit your renewal dues, the more likely that you will get an additional notice because it takes about two to three weeks for the records to be updated in the National database.

Also, keep in mind that your active 2024 membership extends to December 31, 2024. On January 1, 2025, your membership will be in default and will become expired as of February 1, 2025, disqualifying you as a "Member in Good Standing" and therefore access to American Legion Posts.

Finally, I would remind you again that if you renew your membership online at MyLegion.org (the link is printed on the dues notice) the National Database will be updated more quickly and will therefore eliminate subsequent dues notices. All you need is a computer link, your email address and a secure password.

John Bussard, Adjutant



Local Toys for Tots coordinator Sharon Ruest presented Post 166 Commander Tom Wengert a certificate of appreciation for the Post's efforts in collecting toys for the 2022 campaign



Commander Tom Wengert accepts a donation to the Post from Raven Roost member Beth Quinn. The Ravens Roost holds meetings and events at the Post



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

**New Members to Post 166
March, April, and May 2023**

Marshall Bacot	Army
Norman Benton	Army
Bernard Bittle	Coast Guard
Mary Cooper	Navy
Cory Drass	Army
Brian Erdek	Marines
Kathleen Feichter	Army
John Freund	Air Force
Wilmer Glock	Army
Scott Lantz	Army
James Latona	Marines
Steven Lentz	Army
Sodeth Man	Army
Paul Metal	Army
Patrick Nascak	Navy
Ronald Pasko	Navy
William Rink	Air Force
Kenneth Seig	Army
Frank Shaulis	Army
Richard Smith	Army
Keith Spaid	Army
John Sushinsky	Army
Michael Todd	Air Force
Emmit Vaeth	Air Force
Carol Ward	Army

TRANSFER

**Transfers to Post 166
March, April, and May 2023**

Jose Colon	Air Force
Lawrence Daugherty	Air Force
Camillo Dibiaso	Army
Joseph Halley	Navy
Anthony Herlihy	Army
Michael Horn	Army
Jeffrey Little	Army
John Pearl	Marines
George Saur	Marines
Paul St. Andre	Navy
David Susen	Air Force
Barry Thompson	Navy
Kevin Wenrick	Navy
Robert Woodward	Marines

From the Service Officer



Tom Ottenwaelder
Service Officer

Thank you to everyone for being patient with me as I get started as your new Post Service Officer. This is a challenging job, but something I am enthusiastically diving into. I met with representatives from the local county health department to update our contact numbers and ensure we are connected locally to support veterans who need services in the Ocean City

area. I also met with the local Coast Guard Station's Officer-in-Charge to extend our support to their members and dependents.

Maryland has a new VA Veteran's Benefits Specialist in Salisbury. Jodi Satterfield is now on board full-time and ready to help our Post members navigate various VA and state benefits. Her office is conveniently located at the Salisbury Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration building just off Route 50. Jodi can be reached by phone at (410) 219-7256 if you want to set up an appointment with her.

Speaking of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, did you know that they publish an online tool to help veterans who are moving to or retiring to the state? This tool provides information about special services for veterans like healthcare, housing, tax exclusions, career support, and a host of other services. If you are new to the area, or want a refresher on the services our great state provides, check out the Maryland Landing Zone at <https://veterans.maryland.gov/landing-zone-maryland/>.

I plan to be at the Post most Monday evening's from 1700 to 1800 hours for walk-in meetings, and available for individual appointments outside of that time. To make an appointment, call me at (443) 684-3814 and we will schedule a time to meet.

Tom Ottenwaelder, Service Officer

Accredited American Legion service officers are specially trained to provide free expert assistance to veterans and their families. While the majority of a service officer's work involves application for VA disability benefits, these professionals also provide information, referrals and resources on education, employment and business, death benefits and other important topics.



Maryland Enacts Legislation to Benefit Veterans



Vincent J. Troiola
Commander

The state's 2023 General Assembly passed six pieces of legislation, all signed into law by Gov. Wes Moore, to benefit Veterans. Here is a rundown on all six.

Keep Our Heroes Home Act increases the military retirement state income tax exemption for veterans, spouses, or anyone receiving military pensions

in Maryland. For individuals under the age of 55 the exemption is increased from \$5,000 to \$12,500. For individuals over 55 the exemption is increased from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Health Care for Heroes Act of 2023 establishes the Tricare Premium Reimbursement Program within the Maryland Military Department. The program provides members of the Maryland National Guard who utilize the DoD-provided Tricare Reserve Select health care plan and the Tricare Dental Program up to \$60 in reimbursements monthly to cover the costs of premiums. This \$60 is enough to cover the full individual costs for health care and dental care.

Department of Veterans Affairs – Burial in State Veterans' Cemeteries – Spouses and Dependents, requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to bury the eligible spouse or dependent of a veteran in a State veterans' cemetery without charge.

Income Tax Checkoff – Maryland Veterans Trust Fund establishes a certain income tax checkoff for voluntary contributions to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund.

Study on the Utilization of the Expedited Licensing Process for Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses, requires the Maryland Department of Labor, in consultation with the Department of Veterans Affairs, to conduct a study on the utilization of the expedited licensing process for service members, veterans, and military spouses for certain occupational and professional licenses in the State. This legislation requires the Maryland Department

of Labor, in consultation with the Department of Veterans Affairs, to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by June 30, 2024.

Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Autism Waiver – Military Families, requires, unless the child's family requests that the child be removed, that a child on the registry for the Autism waiver remain on the registry if the child's family relocates out of the State for military service. If a child on the registry for the Autism waiver becomes eligible for services while the child's family is out of the State for military service, the child shall be eligible for services through the waiver if the family relocates to the state.

Deadline Changed for VA Travel Reimbursement

The following information has come from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The deadline for VA Travel reimbursement claims for medical appointments was affected when President Biden in April signed legislation ending the national emergency related to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Effective June 9, veterans submitting a claim for travel reimbursement now must submit the claim within 30 days of the appointment.

The end of the Covid-19 emergency also means the end, on June 9, to the extension of Veterans Health Administration Claim and Filing Deadlines. As a result, veterans now submitting travel reimbursement claims must submit them within 30 days of their VA medical appointments.

Also, Beneficiary travel claims can now be submitted online through the Beneficiary Travel Self-Service System. The electronic claims system is intended to make it convenient for veterans or their designated caregivers to submit a claim and speed up reimbursement.

To find out if you are eligible, visit <https://eauth.va.gov/accessva/> and select the Veteran Travel Claim Entry icon to get started. You will then be able to choose to log on using a DS-Logon Level 2 account, with a VA PIV card with ID.me or with your My HealtheVet credentials.



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

DONATIONS

Contributions March, April, May

4 Steps Therapeutic Riding	\$1000
AGH Regional Cancer Care Ctr	\$2,000
AL Riders Legacy Fund Schol.	\$ 500
Believe in Tomorrow	\$4,000
Big Brothers, Big Sisters	\$2,000
Boys and Girls Club/Delaware	\$3,000
Boys and Girls Club/Rehobeth	\$3,000
Cedar Chapel School	\$2,000
Cricket Center	\$3,000
Christian Shelter Mag Fund	\$1,000
Coastal Hospice	\$1,000
Diakonia	\$2,000
Dove Point	\$1,000
Elks	\$1,200
Flags for Heroes	\$1,000
Girl Scout Troop 649	\$1,000
Habitat for Humanity	\$5,000
Jesse Klump Memorial Fund	\$2,000
McVets	\$1,000
National MS Society	\$1,000
Quilting by the Sea	\$1,000
Habitat for Humanity	\$5,000
Life Crisis Center	\$3,000
OC Chamber of Commerce	\$2,000
Ocean City Rec. and Parks	\$2,000
Ravens Roost	\$2,000
Rosaries and Scapulars	\$1,000
Semper Fi Fund	\$2,000
Stephen Decatur HS Booster	\$2,000
WC Youth and Family Counsel	\$1,000
Worcester County Gold	\$2,000
WC Development Center	\$1,000
WC Technical High School	\$1,000

Scholarships Available for Graduating High Schoolers

Got a child or grandchild graduating from high school? Are you a member of Post 166 in good standing? Then this is for you.

Post 166 offers scholarships to graduating high school students. The Post 166 website has the application for graduating high school students interested in applying for the fall 2023/spring 2024 scholarships.

Go to the website at alpost166.org. Then Post Activities on the left-side menu. Click on Scholarships. That's where you will find the application.

A current Post 166 member in good standing must be identified on the application, along with the school the applicant will be attending.

Students should also identify their school ID number along with the mailing address of the school's financial office. The scholarship will be sent directly to the school.

Returning college students reapplying for the scholarships should send a letter indicating their intention to continue their education, along with their most recent transcript. The letter should be mailed to Post 166 at PO Box 63, Ocean City, MD 21843. Mark it Attn: Scholarship Committee.

Bob Gilmore
Scholarship Chair



Golf is a part of the comradery at the Post. Here, playing in a tournament to benefit Worcester Gold is (L-R) Newsletter editor Ed Pinto, Commander Tom Wengert, and Chaplain Ben Dawson, who, apparently, didn't get the uniform memo.

Synepuxent Post 166, Summer 2023

Memorial Day Observances Began on the Beach and Ended at Post 166



Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at the Veterans Memorial Observance; First State Detachment Marines placing the POW wreath



As is the custom, Memorial Day Observances begin with an early morning tribute to those who have lost their lives at sea in our conflicts. It starts on the beach at 28th Street outside the Hilton Gardens Hotel (formerly the Dunes Manor). After the commemoration and the scheduled wreath laying in the Ocean off Ocean City, the hotel hosts a breakfast for participants. Next, the observances move to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial, and then end with an observance at Post 166.

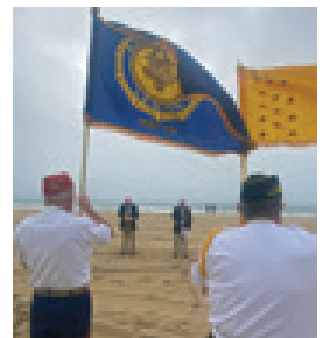
Here are some photographs from each event.
Beach Observance



Combined Color Guard of Post 123, Post 166 and the First State Detachment Marines marches from the hotel to beach to present the colors



Post 166 Commander Tom Wengert, with Chaplain Ben Dawson beside him, pays tribute to the fallen at sea



Heads bowed



Rifle Volley



Early morning attendees



Synepuxent Post 166, Summer 2023

Worcester County Veterans Memorial Observance



Presenting the Colors



Color Guard in place



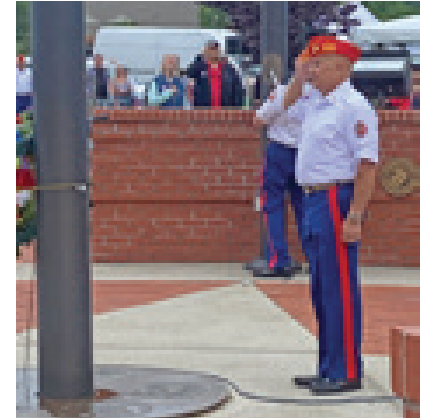
Ocean City Pipe and Drum band papers



Among those honored at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial was WWII Marine 97-year-old Morris Semiatin.



Also honored, Gold Star Mothers (L-R) Toni Coffland, Sharon Hilty, Vina Bailey, Lynda Kundrat

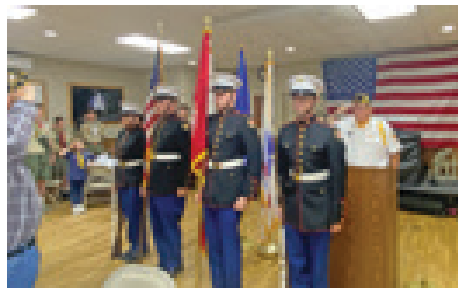


Saluting the American Flag was Keynote Speaker Marine Corps Maj. (Ret) Al Soto, also Commandant of the First State Marine Corps League Detachment

POST 166 Veterans Memorial Observance



Emcee Bob Paul welcomes guests



Marine Corps JROTC from Snow Hill High



Chaplain Ben Dawson gave the Invocation



Cub Scouts, Pack leaders, and Scouts salute for the Pledge



Taps

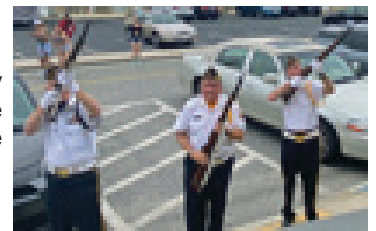


Bob Smith lost his brother in Vietnam. He spoke about him in a moving speech

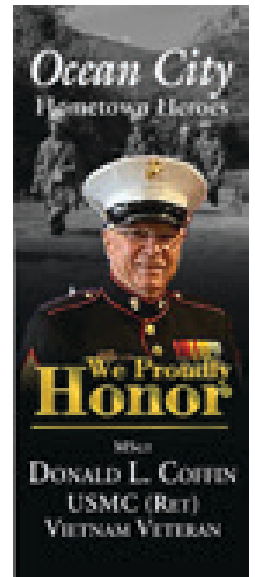


Guest stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

Getting ready for the rifle salute



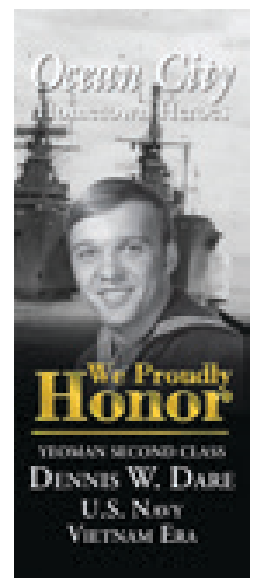
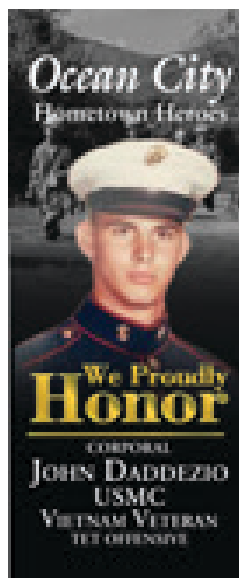
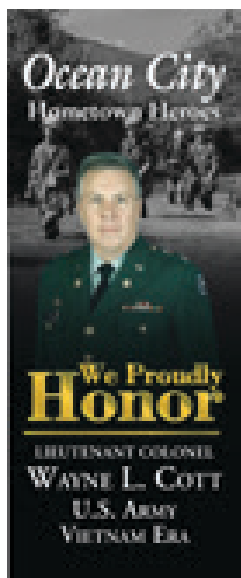
Synepuxent Post 166, Summer 2023



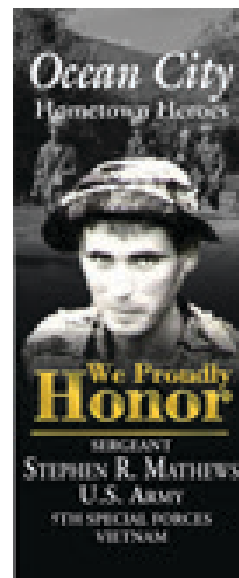
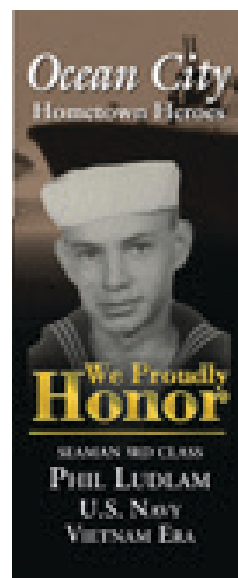
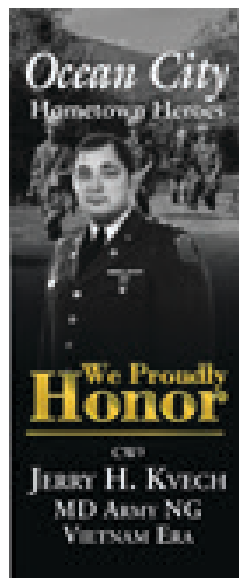
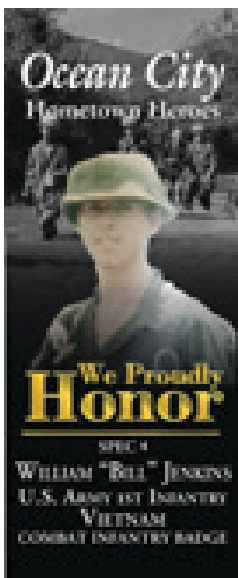
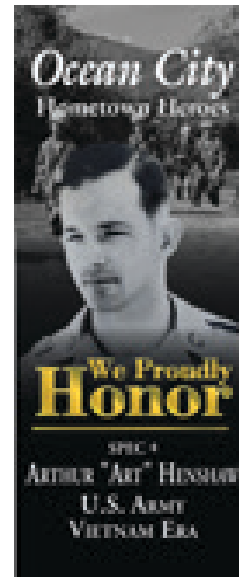
The Tradition Continues as Elks Honor Hometown Heroes

Once again, as they have done annually for the past 9 years, Ocean City Elks Lodge #2645 is hosting the 2023 Hometown Heroes Military Banner Program. In this 10th year of the program the Lodge is honoring living local active-duty military veterans who served from WW II through the Vietnam Era and who now make Worcester County, Maryland, their primary residence. To date, the Lodge has honored at 360 service members with banners that are flown from light poles along the iconic Ocean City Boardwalk, from the Amusement Pier at the Inlet north to 4th Street. The banners are sponsored by local businesses, veteran groups, fraternal organizations, auxiliaries, property owner associations and patriotic citizens who wish to show their appreciation for our Hometown Heroes. The Elks thank them for their continued support of the program.

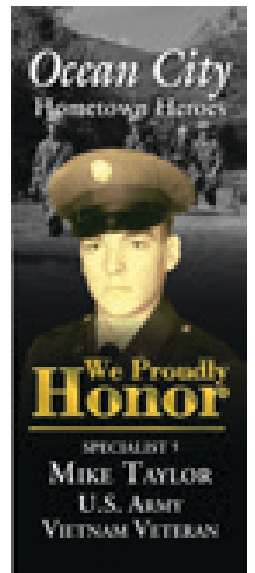
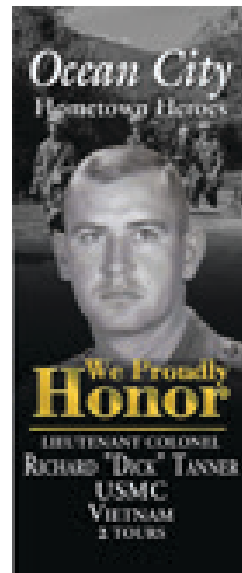
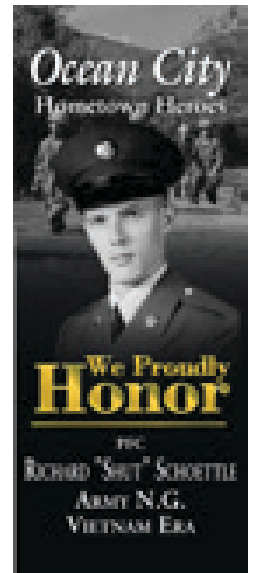
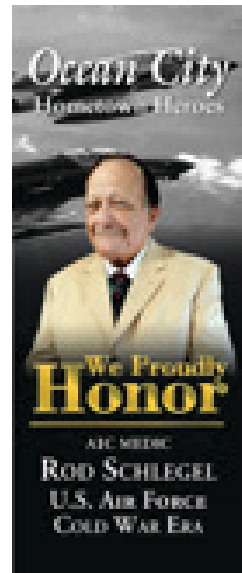
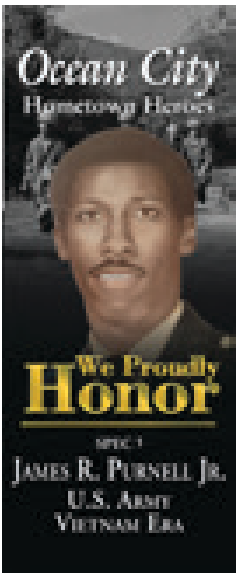
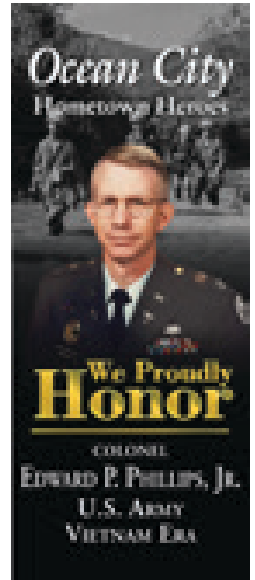
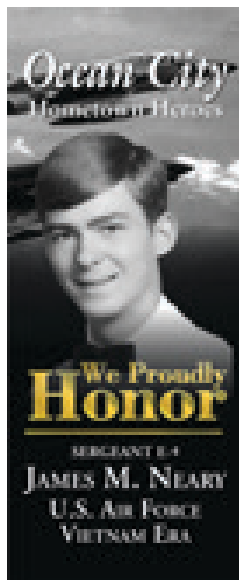
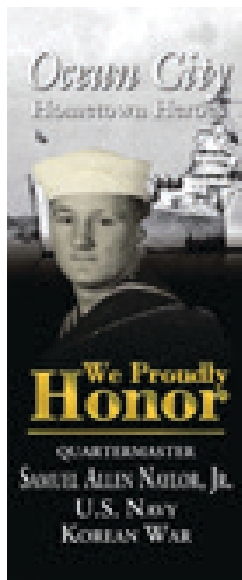
The banners fly from mid-May through early October, weather permitting. At the end of the summer, they will be taken down, cleaned and presented to the honorees and family members. This year the Banner Presentation Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, October 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Elks Flaig-Wagner Banquet Hall, 13708 Synepuxent Avenue. The Presentation Ceremony is open to the public. Guests are asked to please use the double doors on the west side of the building and take the elevator up to the second floor.



Synepuxent Post 166, Summer 2023



Synepuxent Post 166, Summer 2023



Synepuxent Post 166, Summer 2023

OCEAN CITY AIR SHOW

As they have done for years now, local American Legion Posts have played a central role in the opening ceremonies of the Ocean City Air Show. It was no different this year, with Post 123 and 231 of Berlin, and our own Post 166, with member Robert Smith an emcee at the Ocean Downs Casino event. The three Legion posts joined for a combined Color Guard, along with two members of the Ocean City Pipes and Drum band, to open the celebration held every Friday before the Saturday opening of the Air Show. The party at the casino is held every year before the flying starts on Saturday for the Air Show participants. The Thunderbirds were there, pilots and ground crew. The celebration began at 7 p.m. and continued through the evening with a free concert from an Eagles Tribute Band.



At the ready prior to the commencement, the OC Pipes and Drums and the combined Color Guard of Posts 123, 166, and 231



Presenting the Colors



The combined Color Guard and Robert Smith of Post 166 at attention as the Pledge of Allegiance is recited by Ambrielle Baine, 11, the granddaughter of Post 231 Commander Michael Foreman.



Our Riders arrived by ground transportation. Lois and Ken Ingram pulling up to the reviewing area



Honored guests at the party, Thunderbird pilots (L-R) Bobby Gully, Travis Grindstaff, Ryan Yingling, Daniel Katz, Jake, Impellizzeri, Justin Elliott, Zach Taylor, Laure Schlichting, Eric Tise, Jeff Downie, Randi, Winther, Katy Toner



The Golden Knights presented Cpl. Lorenzo Bowen of Post 231 with a ceremonial American Flag. Bowen served two years in Korea with the Army 3rd Division, 7th Regiment, 3rd Army. Also saluting his service was Post 166 member Bob Smith



The Army Golden Knights Parachute team arrived as they always do, from the sky



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

First Responders Honored at Post's Annual Awards Ceremony

First responders from throughout the region were honored on April 5 at the Post's First Responders Awards dinner. Police officers and fire fighters, EMT, and School Resource Officers, and Coast Guardsmen were celebrated. We are proud to show you some of the men and women who make our daily lives safer, often at the risk of their own.



Bo Spicer presents the award for Worcester County Sheriff's Deputy Mark Shaye to Sheriff Matt Crisafulli



An award was presented to the Stockton Fire Department by the Post's Bob Smith (R) in memory of Chief Neil Payne. Accepting it, from left was Stockton Fire Chief Tim Jerscheid, Dawn Payne (Chief Payne's wife), and Brock Payne, his son



Bob Smith presented the Stockton Fire Department award to Chief Tim Jerscheid



Boatswain mate Nicholas Saldivar was name Coastie of the Year. He brought his family, daughter Zoe and wife Tara, to receive his award from Auxiliary member Kirsten Brown



Deputy Charles Boland was recognized for outstanding work in his assignment to the Ocean City Elementary School. "Bo" Spicer presented the award with Worcester County Sheriff Matt Crisafulli



Bob Paul of Post 166 presents the School Resource Officer of the Year Award to Worcester County Deputy Sheriff Patricia Donelson, at Showell Elementary School. Leon Miller from Post 231 looks on. She was unable to be at the Post presentation



Worcester County Fire Marshall Matt Owens receives a Department Recognition Award from Post 166's Bob Smith



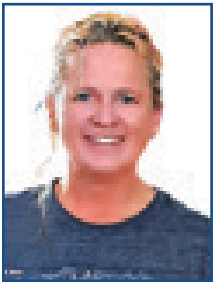
Berlin Police Chief Arnold Downing accepts the award for Berlin Police Officer Kevin Lloyd, from Post Chaplain Ben Dawson



CPL Rudell Brown was the Snow Hill Department Police Officer of the Year. Chuck Schaub of Post 166 made the presentation



AUXILIARY NEWS



**Karen Thompson
President**

**New Leadership as
Marti Marron succeeds
Karen Thompson**

As my last official newsletter article as your American Legion Auxiliary Unit 166 President, I am happy to share with everyone that your new Unit 166 President for the 2023-2024 membership year is Martha "Marti" Marron. Her

name should sound familiar to everyone as she has been a valuable asset to our unit and to post 166 as our Volunteer Coordinator.

Although I am saddened to be stepping down from this prestigious position of leadership I need not to worry as I know Marti has accepted this honored highest position for our unit with the same passion and commitment that she did when she accepted agreed to become volunteer coordinator. Everyone, let's give Marti a warm welcome as she steps into her new office position.

For me it was a simple choice to say yes to joining the auxiliary five years ago. I had just been hired by Post 166 as a part-time cleaner and I was new to the area so why not join? At least I would get to know some locals and have a place to hang out. Little did I know what my decision to join would mean to me today. Honestly, all I knew about the American legion was that it held a bingo night once a week and the public was allowed to play. I had no idea what this amazing organization brings to so many, including me. From the moment I walked through the kitchen door for my first day of work I felt like I was home. Within a couple of months, I had volunteered to be the Unit 166 Poppy Chairperson. Shortly after that it was onto First Vice President, and Membership Chairperson. Of course, the next step after two years as First Vice President and just three years after my first time walking into any American Legion Post I accepted the position of Unit 166 President. With each office came new commitments and more duties to fulfill. The position of membership chair was a challenge all by itself.

To my surprise membership records were for the most part kept as they had been for years, on paper! With my prior commitment as Poppy Chairperson, my morning cleaning position at the post, and my nightshift hotel management position along and our unit having close to 300 members, the time-consuming process of managing membership on paper was not an option. After many, many phone calls, emails, letters, and meetings attempting to get department approval to process membership

online I was able to pass the baton onto the incoming first Vice to finalize the switch of our membership processing from paper to online. As Unit 166 president my first goal was to increase the number of members who attended our monthly meetings. Brainstorming different ideas with my officers and executive committee members to entice members to attend meetings, I am pleased to say now that our meeting attendance has more than doubled over the past two years.

There have been times when my seemingly simple decision to join the auxiliary has been overwhelming to me, but I have never once regretted it. In fact, I must be thankful for the opportunity to lead a few of the most dedicated and passionate auxiliary members I will ever know. Some of these ladies dedicate every free minute of their time to this organization and those few members are the very reason our mission of Service, not Self stands true. Thank you for allowing me to lead you these last five years.

**Karen Thompson
President**



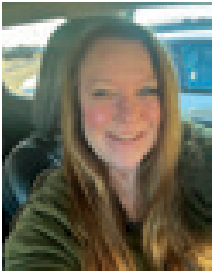
In addition to giving poppies at the Outlets, Karen was at one of ocean City's car cruisin' events where she also gave out poppies, and was lucky enough to pose in this fun photo on a bike on a vintage truck.



In this other photo, these lucky out-of-town visitors to the Post were chosen by DJ Mikey to receive a lighted poppy wreath that was hand made by Unit 166 members.



AUXILIARY JUNIORS



Jessie Parsons
Junior Advisor

Welcome to Summer. Our Synepuxent Unit 166 Juniors had their last regular monthly meeting on May 7. It was a time to discuss our upcoming summer activities, such as Memorial Day with ceremonies at the Post and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial, the Junior Annual Meeting that was scheduled for June 4 in Baltimore, the Salute to Veterans event at the

Shorebirds Game, and the Annual ALA Dept of Maryland Convention in Ocean City in July.

Two of our Juniors, Sophia Hume and Delaney McDaniel, attended the Girls State Program at Salisbury University in June where they learned about governmental processes. We reviewed the proper way to fold a flag at our May meeting, with a reading to accompany the meanings of each fold. Poppy bookmarks and coloring books were shared for National Poppy Day on May 25.

Our April meeting included a ceremony to celebrate Military Children's Month by setting a military child table. We were fortunate to be able to hear from Kirsten Brown, currently serving in the Coast Guard and stationed at Chincoteague. Kirsten grew up as a military child and shared her blessings and difficulties that being a military child holds. She reminded our group to remember that the dandelion is the flower of military children, as it can flourish wherever it is planted. We also used our April meeting to assemble Easter baskets with donated items from the Juniors to take to Diakonea, our local shelter.

Our Juniors submitted a Unit History Book and Unit Book of Prayers to be considered for awards this year. We also had three entries for the Poppy Poster contest and McKenna Birkhead-Thompson completed her entire packet of patches for the patch program.

We are also proud to announce that two Juniors from our unit were chosen as Ben Carson Scholars. Both Addison McDaniel and Sophia Hume were awarded this honor.

Our Juniors have had a fantastic year participating in many activities, such as attending the Junior Graduation celebration in Cambridge; contributing to Give 10 for Education for school supplies for children; Make a Difference Day with the Coast Guard; packing boxes for the troops with Operation We Care; making cards for Gold Star Mothers; delivering Christmas stockings and cards to veterans in the local nursing home; attending the Junior Fall Conference; participating in the Four Chaplains Ceremony; and being honored at a ceremony at our Post by our city, county, and state representatives to celebrate their National Award for Best Junior Activities Program in the Eastern Division .

Our Juniors continue to be active in the community and at their schools. I am so very proud of the way they conduct their own meetings and participate in activities to enhance our community and help our veterans. Here's to another successful year for our Juniors. We have four active Junior members who will be seniors in high school next year, and we look forward to watching them move towards the next chapter of their lives as senior members of our unit.

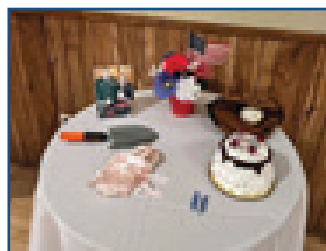
Jessie Parsons, Post 166 Juniors Advisor



Setting the table for Military Child's Month, from left McKenna Birkhead-Thompson, Saylor Amos, Delaney McDaniel, Addison McDaniel, Brooklyn Paul



Juniors donated items and assembled Easter baskets for children at Diakonia. From left are Delaney McDaniel, Brooklyn Paul, Addison McDaniel, McKenna Birkhead-Thompson, Jessie Parsons, and Saylor Amos



The Military Child's Table

McKenna Birkhead-Thompson learns how to fold the flag, taught by Delaney McDaniel





Scott Brown
Director

Finally, it is summer. The weather this spring did not cooperate all that much, but now, with the warmer weather, it's riding season. Remember, look twice, save a life. Your Legion Riders are working hard with upcoming events. We're always looking for volunteers and riders. Check your email and the Riders Facebook page! American Legion Post #166 Riders can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/220651638019064>

We have a lot coming up. Here's a look at what's ahead.

The Crab Feast

Returning in July by popular demand. Always a great time. But get your tickets early. They will sell out again.



American Legion Riders
Post 166

Annual Crab Feast

Thursday, July 13th, 2023
"All You Can Eat"
(While supplies last)



\$60 Per Person
Only 220 Tickets Available

Crabs, Fried Chicken, Corn on the Cob,
Hot Dogs, Dessert, Draft Beer and Soda

50/50 and Wagon of Cheer Raffles
(No Food to Leave the Premises)

See Bartender for Tickets or Call 410-289-3166
Email: steward166@comcast.net

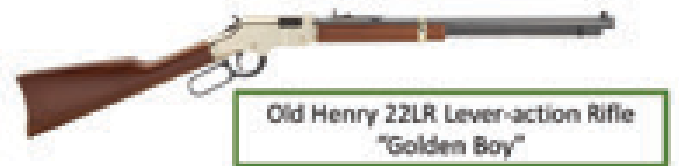
Rifle Raffle

Our new rifle raffle will be held on **Super Bowl Sunday, February 11, 2024**.

This raffle we are giving away a Beretta A300 Ultima 12-gauge shotgun and an Old Henry 22lr "Golden Boy" lever-action rifle. The first winner chosen will have his/her choice of rifles.

American Legion Riders Post #166 Gun Raffle

Drawing will be held on
"Superbowl Sunday," 11 Feb 2024



First winner can
select their choice.

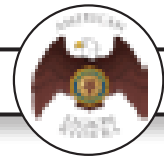


Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00
See your bartender for tickets!

ALR Membership Drive

We are actively looking for new riders to add to the group. If you know any motorcycle riders, please reach out, so we can grow and better support the community. We have other events in the planning stage so keep an eye out. Also, if you have any suggestions, let us know. We meet the third Thursday of every month (except December and July). Come by and see what it's about.

Riders Continued on Page 21



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

PFC Morris Semiatin, USMC Retired, Birthday Ride

On June 2, the Riders helped celebrate Morris's 97th Birthday with a ride at a parade held in his honor. Many others were included in the ride as well,



Our Riders lined up before joining the parade for Morris Semiatin

Ocean City Air Show Ride at Ocean Downs

The Riders helped support the Ocean City Air Show on June 9. That support began with a ride around the Oceans Downs racetrack in support of the Air Force Thunderbirds. We lined up our bikes and watched the Special Operations Command (SOCOM) Para-Commandos sky dive to the ceremony. After a few words from the hosts, everyone got to meet the pilots and the crew.



Bo Spicer, George Pickrell, Lois and Ken Ingram at the OC Air Show ride at the Ocean Downs Air Show opening party.



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Sgt-at-Arms	Bob Gilmore	(410) 726-5690	opbobgil@aol.com



From the Commandant



AL SOTO

First State Marines have been busy supporting various Sussex and Worcester counties Veterans groups and community service organizations the last three months. Our continued partnership with American Legion Post 166, "the Friendliest Place in Town," has enabled FSD to grow in membership and expand our support to local community events. I want to thank

Commander Tom Wengert and all American Post 166 members for making us always feel right at It was fun to start off our community service in the second quarter if the year by recruiting and fund-raising activities with the First Annual Mini-golf tournament at Buxy 48 Dry Dock. FSD expanded its community service network and had fun supporting this event.

The major events for FSD in April were the election of new officers and our ever-popular Marine Corps League Youth Physical Fitness Day at Most Blessed Sacrament School. I don't know who had more fun. From all the pictures taken, there were big smiles on everyone's faces. The new leadership members are myself, Al Soto, as Commandant, Tom Redding as Senior Vice Commandant, Milt Warren as Jr. Vice Commandant, Don Coffin as Judge Advocate, and of course, Bob Broderick is our immediate

Past Commandant. We all thank Bob for his outstanding leadership this past year, and look forward to his wise counsel in his new post as FSD Past Commandant.

To say we just did a thing or two in May would be the biggest understatement of the year. Everywhere you looked, there were the FSD members with their red shirts and hats. We started off helping with Ocean City/AGH/AARP Health Fair, the OC Spring Fest with Believe in Tomorrow, the OC Custom Car Show, Worcester Veterans Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony, and finished with a Parade to honor an Iwo Jima survivor, Morris Semiatin on his 97th Birthday. It was a great day for him and an honor for FSD to participate in a United States Marine Corps tribute to this outstanding WW II Marine FSD was recognized by the Mayor of Ocean City, Rick Meehan, on May 19 at a Bike Rack Dedication ceremony. FSD was the first donor, contributing \$2,478, to the Ocean City Bike Committee for its initiative for new bike racks on the Boardwalk. The Bike Committee is committed to raising funds to replace aging bike racks along the length of the Boardwalk. Our rack has the honor of being the first and it was installed with a recognition plaque at North Division Street.

If you would like to join the fun with FSD, please contact Milt Warren @ milt.warren@comcast.net.

Al Soto
MCL FSD Commandant



Milt Warren presents Bob Broderick with Flag as outgoing Commandant.



Under the tent at Morris's Birthday Parade.

WORCESTER COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL

Moving Memorial Day Observance Caps Busy May for Veterans Memorial



Now that summer is here with its much slower pace, we can look back with pride at a busy May at the memorial, with school visits, Flags for Heroes, and a moving Memorial Day observance. This year more than 700 fifth graders from Worcester County schools visited the memorial and learned about our armed services, veterans' stories, flag history, flag protocol, and the history of the U.S. involvement in conflicts, nationally and internationally.

Flags for Heroes returned to Veterans Memorial Park on Armed Forces Day. More than 240 flags were planted, to fly until July 4. Each flag was sponsored by an individual, some businesses and other organizations. Each flag had a removable medalion containing the name of a "Hero" and his/her sponsor. A hero is defined as anyone who has made a difference in their life. Many of the flags honored veterans. Others flew for first responders and business associates. American Legion Post 166 was well represented, as was Auxiliary Unit 166, Legion Riders 166 and Vietnam Veterans of America.

May concluded with our annual Memorial Day ceremony. A large crowd helped us honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Our Gold Star families were recognized, and the stories of their children

lost to war were told. American Ex-POWs were remembered, and a wreath was laid in their honor. Patriotic music filled the air and our hearts. We vow to never forget!

So now summer is here! We get to relax a bit, but are looking forward to September 20, when we hold our annual golf tournament. This is always a fun-filled day of golf, food, auctions and awards. We hope you will consider joining us this year. The tournament always sells out, so be on the lookout for an application on www.opvets.org.

We are always looking for docents to help with the educational program or able bodied men and women to help with flag raising/lowering and maintenance of the memorial. If you wish to get involved, email me at OPMarie@aol.com. Have a happy and safe summer!

Marie Gilmore, President,

Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation





AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Behind the Scenes in the Kitchen

Everybody talks about out kitchen and the great food and variety. But not everyone gets a chance to spend time in the kitchen watching how it all happens. Here's a glimpse in this photo montage.



Who wants flame-grilled burgers compliments of Head Chef Tommy O'Meara



Tom has great help from under chef Peach, in blue, and even assistant Steward Johnny M, both making subs.



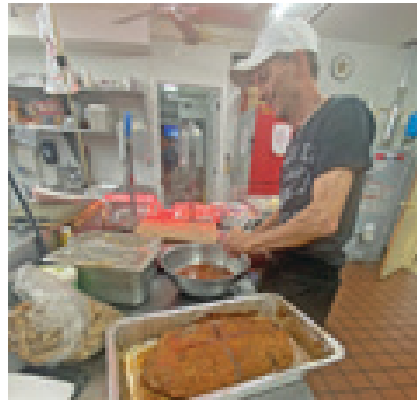
Peach also has help, from Deb Sautter.



Help also comes from volunteers, from left, Joann, Vi, Lisa, Marty, and Little Joe in the back.



In the summer Sierra comes to help out in the kitchen



Meatloaf anyone. That's what Check Tom is cooking up here



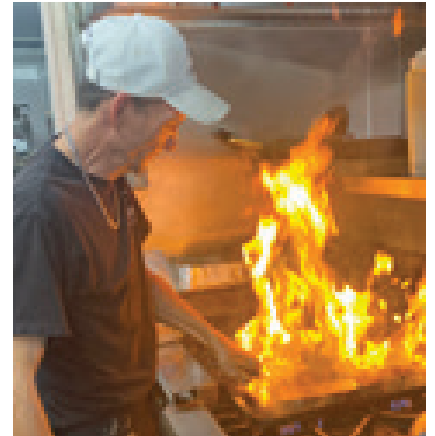
Where's the beef? That's what Chef Tom is carrying. It's what the main ingredient in cheese steak subs look like before the beef is carved



We serve fresh pizza also. That's what Peach is topping in this photo



Versatility is the name of the game. From pizza to subs, all Peach as to do is move to the other side of the food prep table



And then there are those burgers. They've just been flipped again and the flame is still going strong.



The boys of Troop 261 had been busy this spring.

On a day trip to Shad Landing State Park, they worked on the fishing merit badge. They learned about regulations, knots, and types of fishing gear. Attending were Will Coleman, Parker Gill, Alex Pace, Reece Solomon, Kasch Johnson, and Jonathan Smith. Unfortunately, the fish did not play their part well, but the boys enjoyed the day of comradery.

On May 6 they volunteered at the Maryland Coast Bike Festival, manning comfort stations and serving lunch at the finish line. Evan Hurley, William Coleman, Alex Pace, Kasch Johnson, Jonathan Smith, Bennett Brown, and Mason Foxwell were on hand for that event.

Later in May they camped with Cub Scout Pack 261 on a local farm in Bishopville that was owned by one of the Pack 261 parents. During the outing they instructed the Cub Scouts in attendance (Kora, Romeo, and Sam) on scouting skills in the areas of first aid, fire building, archery, bb guns, and nature. It was a wet weekend, but everyone had fun. Boy Scouts in attendance were William Coleman, Alex Pace, Mason Foxwell, Parker Gill, Kasch Johnson, Jonathan Smith.

The same weekend as the camping trip with the cub scouts, the boys with the help of one of Cub Koraline Kelly, also worked the Neon Car Show. This is a local fundraiser that allows the boys to earn money for the troop and their personal scouting accounts. The boys are allowed to use the money from these personal accounts for any scouting need.

The Court of Honor was held on May 22. This Court of Honor was organized and presented by scouts Parker Gill and Colton Grevey, to fulfill a communication merit badge requirement. They did a great job. The boys earned numerous merit badges along with the following ranks: William Coleman - Second Class; Bryce Gill - Second Class; Alex Pace

- Second Class; Bennett Brown – Star; Mason Foxwell – Star; Jonathan Smith – Life.

In June, the troop had a local camping trip where the Scouts were able to kayak along and explore Assateague Island. They boys enjoyed the trip even though the day ended up windier than originally predicted. While searching for a fishing rod that fell out of a kayak they found a bucket full of clams. They never did find the rod, but the bucket of clams was a tasty tradeoff.

The schedule for the rest of June was just as busy. Many of the boys planned to volunteer at the Cub Scout Day Camp, a week-long camp located at Shad Landing State Park. There the program was for them to help instruct the cubs in various scouting skills. Next they were to head to Camp Powhatan in Hiwassee, Virginia to spend a week working on various scouting skills and merit badges.

Finally, I would like to thank Post 166 for all the support that they supply the Troop. It is greatly appreciated.

James Smith, Scoutmaster



At the Bike Festival were (L-R) Alex Pace, Mason Foxwell, Kasch Johnson, Bennett Brown, and Jonathan Smith



Kayakers (L-R) Nick Coleman, Matt Coleman, Jeremy Gill, William Coleman, Bryce Gill, Sonny Gill, Jonathan Smith, Parker Gill, Alex Pace, Kasch Johnson, Mason Foxwell, Reece Solomon



Posing at the Neon Car Show were (L-R) Scoutmaster James Smith, Kasch Johnson, Parker Gill, Koraline Kelly (Cub Scout Pack 261), Alex Pace, Jonathan Smith, Mason Foxwell, and Matt Coleman

Synepuxent Post 166, Summer 2023

AMERICAN LEGION SCOUTING NEWS



Court of Honor participants (L-R) Assistant Scoutmaster Joe Coleman, Scouts Evan Hurley, Parker Gill, Colton Grevey, Johnathan Smith, Bennett Brown, William Coleman, Reece Solomon, Mason Foxwell, Bryce Gill, Chase Ponton, Brantley Curtis, Steve Tamalavicz, and Scoutmaster James Smith



The race track

Brantley Curtis (C) holding his race car with Daniel Nazari (L) and Steve Tamalavicz



Happy award winners were Wesley Grimes, Max Trimper, and Koralline Kelly

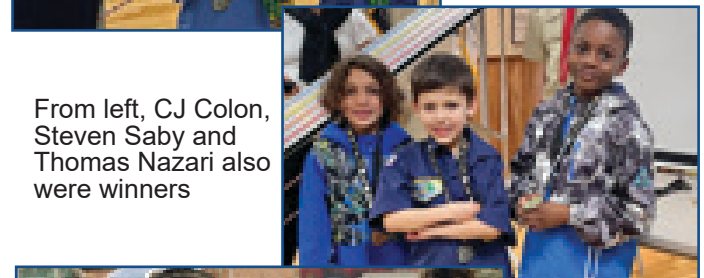
Busy Spring for Pack 261, From Farm to Car Racing, to Memorial Day

There was no grass growing under the feet of Pack 261 Cub Scouts this Spring. March began with a visit to a local farm, Ard Brac Acres, where they spent the day petting calves and goats, and chasing chickens. After the farm, a more modern activity was next up in March, the annual Pinewood Derby at Post 166 on March 24. The next day the Pack hosted the District Pinewood Derby.

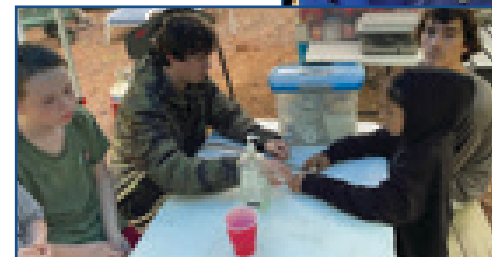
When May came around the Pack enjoyed a camp at the Bishopville property of one of the Cub's parents. In addition to camping, the time there was spent learning about local wildlife, how to start a campfire, and lessons in first aid. The girls and boys also had an opportunity to fire bb guns and take shots at a target with bows and arrows.

At our local Memorial Day observances, the Pack assisted Troop 261 and Troop 621 at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines, and then attended and helped at the ceremony held afterwards at the Post. At the Veterans Memorial service State Senator Mary Beth Carozza stopped by to pose for a picture.

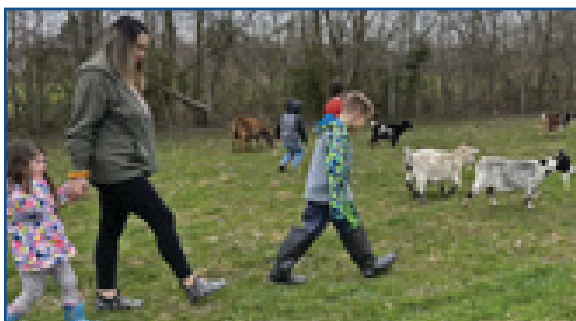
When June came around it was time for the Pack to have its final meeting and awards night of the year.



From left, CJ Colon, Steven Saby and Thomas Nazari also were winners



Romeo Valdez listening while he learns about first aid from Evan Hurley, William Coleman and Alex Pace



Charlotte Grimes, Jessica Grimes, Wesley Grimes, Dominic Cappello and Sam Empson checking out the goats on the farm.



At the Memorial Day ceremonies State Senator Mary Beth Carozza stopped to take a picture with Pack 261 and Troop 261 members Jenaya Colon, Bailey Herrmann and Koralline Kelly and Kasch Johnson. In the back from left were Scouts Alex Pace, Jonathan Smith and Mason Foxwell



AMERICAN LEGION SCOUTING NEWS



Left Photo: CJ Colon, Thomas Nazari and Steven Saby with Den Leader Becca Smith and Cub Master Joe Coleman
Right Photo: Den Leader Diana Nazari and Webelo Daniel Nazari



Active and Busy and Fun Describe Troop 621's Spring

The girls of Troop 621 troop were active and busy while having a great time in the past few months. We had several adventures, including rank advancement, a white water rafting trip, service activities, and a lot of activity with the Order of the Arrow (OA).

In late March, Cristina Esch was elected to represent her peers as a member of the OA. Then over the weekend of April 14-16, Christina survived her ordeal to become an OA member, and Nicole Kiser, Penny Lavezzo, and Megan Kiser became Brotherhood members in the Order. Cristina and Megan also were elected to be the Tri-County's OA Chapter District Chiefs, responsible for organizing and managing the chapter events.

They also had some time to fulfill their duty of service at Rodney Scout Reservation, and are looking forward to the next OA adventure.

April 21 to 23, the Troop camped at Greenbelt National Park in Maryland and took a trip to Washington D.C. Some scouts found new ways to camp that Saturday. Some used tents, but others used hammocks. The following day was an adventure on the DC Metro to the National Zoo, where we saw some cool animals. After another Metro ride and lunch, we visited and learned much at the Holocaust Museum. When it started to rain, the Troop didn't let that stop them having fun. It was on to the National Museum of American History where we learned even more. From May 19 to 21, Cristina, Megan, Penny, Nicole, and Emery Busko represented Troop 621 at OA Conclave for a weekend of fun and leadership activities.

Recently the Troop participated in Memorial Day services. Bailey Hermann and Jenaya Colon attended the ceremony at the Veteran's Memorial in Ocean Pines, where they helped to set up and take down chairs and decorations, and hand out programs. Penny Lavezzo, Bailey Hermann, and Cristina Esch read poems at the Memorial Day service at Post 166 commemorating lost veterans.

The troop took a trip to the Poconos in Pennsylvania the following weekend, June 2 to 4. Everyone had a blast playing in the river and white-water rafting. Senior Patrol Leader Penny Lavezzo put a lot of time into planning the trip and it was such a fun adventure.

Troop 621 Scouts are really coming together when it comes to motivating each other. The older girls teach by example to help the younger, newer girls gain success. The Troop has become successful in working together to encourage each other to earn new merit badges and achieve rank in the scouting program. On June 11, the Troop held a Court of Honor at the Carousel Hotel in Ocean City, hosted by Second Class Scout Bella Sbriglia, at which all 12 Scouts were recognized for earning new merit badges. The following scouts were recognized also for earning new ranks: Brook McCowan earned Tenderfoot and Second Class, Ollie Gill earned Star, Naomi Ulrich earned Tenderfoot, Jenaya Colon earned Second Class, and Cristina Esch earned First Class. Additionally, Ollie Gill was elected to serve the next six months as Senior Patrol Leader, replacing Penny Lavezzo, who did a fantastic job leading the Troop since December of 2022.

We can't wait for the upcoming summer camp the week of June 25th at the 100th anniversary of Rodney Scout Reservation and the Troop's next upcoming adventures!

Historian and First Class Scout Cristina Esch.



Bailey and Jenaya at The Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day.



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

For months we've lived without parking spaces on the side of our Post but as these photos will show in sequence, that's beginning to end. Some of the spaces are coming back as the construction of our new roof-top patio and bar progresses. From early on in the construction cycle to the middle of June, here's a look at how it progressed.



Oh, no. They've dug up our parking lot, and didn't even strike oil or find gold.



In come the trucks to take out debris



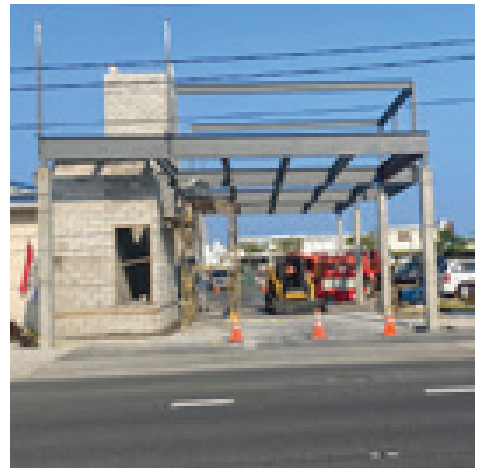
Leaving space to start building the foundation



Delivery of steel beams for to support the floor



It didn't take too long to put them in place



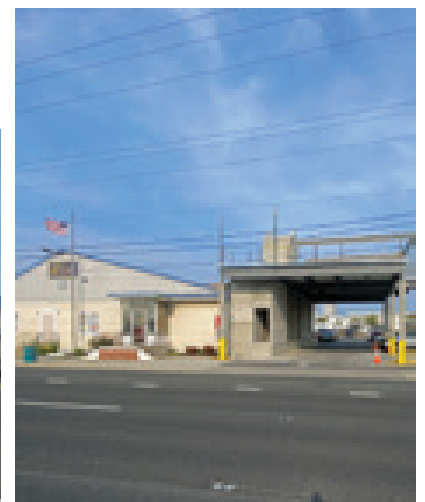
Here's another view from across Coastal Highway



That's not a new Trimper ride. It's how the construction crew got the concrete to where it was needed



From the parking lot of Old Pro Golf, here's what it looked like on June 15



Another view, again from across Coastal Highway looking at the front of our Post



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

American Legion Family History

Do you know when the American Legion started? When the Auxiliary started and why. When was SAL organized? When the Riders began riding? Here's a short history lesson about our American Legion Family that will answer these questions.

The American Legion

The American Legion, itself, was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization, focusing on service to veterans, service members and communities. The Legion evolved from a group of WW I war-weary veterans who met in Paris on March 15-17 for the first American Legion caucus. Two months later, May 8-10 in St. Louis the name American Legion was adopted, and the emblem designed and adopted in June. On September 16 Congress charters the Legion, and the first convention is held in Minneapolis November 10-12 where the Constitution and Preamble were adopted.

Today the Legion has more than 13,000 Posts worldwide with a membership of more than 1 million. The oldest Post is the George Washington Post in Washington, DC, organized March 7, 1919, and chartered on May 19 of that year.

American Legion Auxiliary

The Auxiliary was also founded in 1919 and today has almost 1 million members. It was originally founded to assist the American Legion but quickly took on its own identity. The Auxiliary administers hundreds of volunteer programs, provides thousands of hours of service to communities and veterans and raises millions of dollars to support its own programs and charities.



The Auxiliary membership is made up of female and male spouses of Legionnaires, grandmothers, mothers, sisters and direct and adopted female descendants of Legion members. Nearly 10,500 units are located in every state and some foreign countries.

How important is the Auxiliary? Just take a look at our own Post 166 and think about how we would operate without the active participation and volunteerism of our own Unit 166.

The Sons of the American Legion.

On September 15, 1932, in Portland, Oregon, the Sons of the American Legion came into existence. The membership is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. armed services. Unlike the Auxiliary, which men can join, membership in the Sons is restricted to males. Adopted sons and stepsons qualify.



Although SAL has its own membership, the organization is not a separate entity but a program of the American Legion. The Preamble to the SAL

Constitution is similar to that of the Legion Preamble. SAL Members may hold dual membership with the Legion if they qualify.

The Riders

The youngest of the American Legion Family, the Riders were chartered in 1993. The first Chapter was at American Legion Post 396 in Garden City, Michigan. Major elements of the Riders' purpose are riding to honor fallen military men and women, and to protect the sanctity of their funerals from those who would dishonor their memory. Escorting military units to departure airfields and airports for combat tours overseas, and welcoming them home upon their return.



The Riders have a motto: "I will persevere against any and all things that prevent my success. My resolve and strength will overcome all obstacles. Each rider is first a member of the American Legion Family."

From its Midwest beginning, the Riders have grown into a national program with more than 100,000 members – Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons – meeting in more than 1,000 chapters in every U.S. state and at least three foreign countries.

ALA Scholarships

ALA Unit 166 Awards Scholarships

ALA Unit #166 has awarded a \$1,000 per year scholarship to **Madeline Pusey**, an active member at Post 123 in Berlin. Her Father is a retired Army Veteran, and her mother is active in the ALA at Unit 123. Madeline will study Fitness and Wellness Management and Dance at Towson University. Scholarship renewal for succeeding years up to \$4,000 is based on funds availability.

Our AL Post Riders has generously donated to the ALA Unit 166 scholarship fund for two additional one time scholarships. **Rina Dirickson** from Stephen Decatur High School will receive \$500. Rina is pursuing a degree in Neuroscience and Biophysics at Johns Hopkins University.

Isabella McConnell from Barton, MD will receive \$500. Isabella will major in Music Production at Frostburg State University.

Congrats to our Scholarship recipients!

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



Ben Dawson

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

Greetings again Comrades. Here we go again with another summer upon us. A time to enjoy what brought most of us here to the Eastern Shore if we were not born here. Sun, fun, relaxation and time to spend some quality time with family and friends. A time to get out, enjoy and share what God has given us. We truly are blessed to live in a country that provides so many freedoms that so frequently are taken for granted. As military folks, each of us has played a part in maintaining our freedoms, and I thank each of you for your service.

This will be my last communication in the Synepuxent Post as Chaplain. After seven years I stepped down as Post 166 Chaplain on 30 June because I believe it's time to make way for a new face. Although I am leaving the position, I won't be leaving the Post. Please welcome Dave Kline as your new Chaplain. I can't think of anyone at this Post more qualified to take over. Dave is not new at being Chaplain. He is a Vietnam vet, was Chaplain of our First State Marine Corps League Detachment, and is always ready to step forward when called on. He is a true volunteer.

These past seven years have been quite a learning experience for me, and I enjoyed every minute of it. I have met many new friends, had the opportunity to participate in Memorial Services, visit and pray for the sick, assisted in any way I could with the bereaved and others in need. We don't have to be a Chaplain to do those things and I will continue to, if and when the need arises.

Comrades, we are all the face of the American Legion and this Post in particular. We have an obligation to wear that face with pride and dignity so that the light that God shined on us will in turn shine through us when coming in contact with others.

Please continue to pray for our members on sick call and for the family members of those transferred to Post Everlasting.

GOD Bless, **Ben**

**POST
EVERLASTING REPORT**

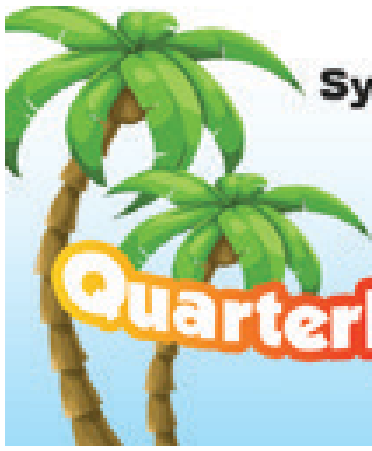
The following members
transferred to
Post Everlasting

William A. Aument
Robert E. Crook
Emory J. Fuller
John Staley
William Brooks



*Lord, we thank you for all who have
served and sacrificed for freedom.*

John 15:13



Synepuxent Post 166, Winter 2023

Quarterly Calendar Summer 2023



JULY



<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
4th	Independence Day
4th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
5th	Special Crab Feast Meeting 1900hrs
10th	Southern Md Fish Fry Convention Center
11th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
12th-	Legion Convention 0800hrs-1200hrs
12th	Dept Post Everlasting Program 2000hrs
13th	Riders Crab Feast 1600-1900hrs \$60 p/p
17th	House Committee Meeting 1030hrs
17th	Post Executive Committee Meeting 1730hrs
18th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
18th	Auxiliary Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
24th	Post Membership Mtg 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
25th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
26th	1st State Detachment Marine Corp League Meeting 12 Noon



AUG.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
1st	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
8th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
10th	Ravens Roost Meeting 1800hrs-2100hrs
15th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
17th	Riders Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
21st	House Committee Meeting 1030hrs
21st	Executive Committee Meeting 1730hrs
22nd	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
23rd	1st State Detachment Marine Corp League Meeting 12 Noon
28th	Post Membership Mtg 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
29th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs



SEPT.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
4th	Labor Day
5th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
10th	Junior Auxiliary 166 Meeting 1300hrs
10th	VVA Party & Meeting 1300hrs @ Moose Lodge, Roxanna
11th	SAL Meeting 1700hrs Social 1800hrs
12th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
13th-17th	Bike Week 
18th	House Committee Meeting 1030hrs
18th	Executive Committee Meeting 1730hrs
19th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
19th	Auxiliary Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
21st	Riders Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
25th	Post Membership Mtg 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
26th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
27th	1st State Detachment Marine Corp League Meeting 12 Noon

Synepuxent Post 166, Summer 2023

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American Legion

Synepuxent Post 166

Quarterly

July, August, September 2023

Volume 50 No. 3



Tom Wengert - Commander



Scott Brown - Director



Marti Marron - 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

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[Http://www.ALPost166.org](http://www.ALPost166.org)